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GREAT CONCORDIANS

The university community can be proud of their association with these four exemplary alumni.



THROWING THEIR HATS INTO THE RING

As Canada prepares to vote in the fall, these alumni vie for their first House of Commons seats – and aim to make a difference.

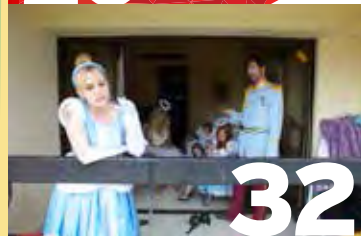
By Isaac Olson



VICTIMS NO MORE

Concordia experts examine the evolving challenges of – and solutions to – bullying.

By Julie Gedeon



ROLOFF BENY FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP IN PHOTOGRAPHY

By Eugénie Cliche



IMMIGRATION NATION

Canada's population is increasingly being augmented by those born elsewhere. University researchers look at the special challenges created by that reality.

By Beverly Akerman



CONCORDIA FOODIES

From specialty wines to American-style baked goodies, alumni are cooking up new ways to share their passion for food and drink.

By Maeve Haldane

48 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Engineering and Computer Science students make impressive showings at competitions.

By Laurence Miall

spring 2015 volume 39 number 1 concordia.ca/magazine

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setting an example

A tribute to Mom

“My mother Alice is really smart. Had she had the opportunity, she probably would have gone on to university as a much younger woman, but circumstance dictated a different path.

She became a single mother when my father died and my brothers and I were very young. Working as a school nurse, she supported us through our childhood and teenage years. After my brothers left home for university, she decided to go back to school, too.

Mom is naturally curious and always wants to learn more. She’s adventurous and loves to be challenged. So she enrolled at Concordia, taking night classes in science as a part-time student, while she worked full time during the day.

Remembering how hard she worked — the number of Sundays she spent shut in her room studying — and how she was inspired by what she was learning, I decided with my daughters Emily and Lily to honour my mother, their grandmother, with a special gift.

We created the Alice LeCouvie Bursary in her name to support newly admitted students who are also single parents.

It was a very emotional moment when we presented a bursary certificate to Mom at Christmas. She was moved to tears. She is so

proud and delighted that the bursary will help people in situations similar to her own so many years ago.

Mom always used to say to me, ‘A woman needs education because you never know what’s going to happen.’ She always felt greatly relieved that she never had to depend on anybody else.

Not only did I want to make a meaningful gift to my mother — who has inspired me so much — as Concordia’s new senior director of Alumni

Relations, I wanted to lead by example and make a gift to the university that will have a lasting impact.”

— Leisha LeCouvie, senior director of Alumni Relations, Concordia University



Find out how to join Leisha LeCouvie in contributing to Concordia.

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A matter of trust

HOWARD BOKSER, MBA 85

It can't be easy being a politician — being the butt of jokes and snide remarks are among the many hazards. In a 2014 survey conducted by Ryerson University's Jim Pattison, politics ranked ninth out of 10 professions listed when Canadians were asked, "In general, how much do you trust members of the following professions to live up to both public and professional standards in fulfilling their duties?" Only 13 per cent said they trust politicians. (Doctors ranked at the top, with 78 per cent of Canadians giving them thumbs up, while lobbyists scraped the bottom.)

So why do so many people still strive for public office? Clearly the pros outweigh the cons for most.

At the federal level the money isn't bad, but the appeal to run for public office clearly is more than monetary — top-level corporate jobs offer a lot more, for instance. It's safe to say that most candidates looking to be elected to the House of Commons really are trying to make our country a better place. In the article "Throwing their hats into the ring" (page 20), five Concordia alumni representing the three major parties explain why they're taking their best shot at becoming first-time Members of Parliament. (There are currently four sitting alumni MPs.) Journalist Jennifer Hollett, BA 97, sums up the sentiments of the others when she says, "I got into journalism to make a difference and realized I wasn't making enough of an impact, so I decided to move from asking questions to finding answers."



This issue features many Concordians making an impact in their own ways, from alumni in the food and drink industry (see "Concordia foodies" on page 40) to researchers trying to understand the immigrant experience ("Immigration nation" on page 34) and help youth who are verbally and psychologically abused ("Victims no more" on page 26). And then we have an individual — another politician — who certainly had an impact on our country. We cover the lecture delivered by Jean Chrétien, LLD 10, Canada's 20th prime minister, who entertained and informed an audience of 750 at Concordia on March 4 (see "Concordia news" on page 6).

Years ago I read that when Canadians were asked if they trusted life insurance agents, they responded quite negatively. Yet when asked if they trusted *their* life insurance agent, the confidence level shot way up. I suspect the same is true for elected officials — we may not have faith in politicians in general, but we do for our own.

And Concordia alumni politicians are indeed our own. No matter their

political stripe, we can entrust them to seek the best answers to our national questions. ■

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE 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 association or of the university.

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Design: University Communications Services
T15-24667



BRAM FREEDMAN IS THE UNIVERSITY'S TOP REPRESENTATIVE TO ALUMNI AND DONORS.

Meet Concordia friendraiser Bram Freedman

Concordia's vice-president of Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General, describes the art of overseeing Advancement and Alumni Relations

Bram Freedman wears many hats at Concordia. In July 2013, his portfolio expanded to the Advancement and Alumni Relations sector and he now serves as vice-president of Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General.

Pivoting between his responsibilities with ease, Freedman also oversees external relations and university governance, legal affairs, institutional records management and archives, translation services and the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, as well as the Ombuds Office.

Up at 6 a.m. to hit the treadmill, Freedman is a family man who is out and about, as he says, nurturing strategic relationships with donors, potential donors and alumni. Aside from a brief hiatus at the Federation Combined Jewish Appeal between 2003 and 2008, the McGill University law school graduate has been at Concordia for nearly 20 years.

After law school, what brought you to work in university administration?

Bram Freedman: "My father was dean of medicine and then provost at McGill, so I like to joke that I went into the family business. Public service and making a contribution to society is something that I was raised with, so it seemed a natural fit."

How has the university changed since you first started in 1992?

BF: "There have been many changes since then, but the biggest difference is simply our sheer size and magnitude. We've grown exponentially in 20 years. With a community of 46,000 students plus 7,000 faculty and staff, we're the size of a mid-sized Canadian city."

After nearly two decades at Concordia, what do you love most about the university? What makes it special?

BF: "Without a doubt, I love Concordia's diversity and dynamism. This is a fascinating and complex place. I like action and I am a firm believer that the biggest curse is being bored. That's never a problem here! What makes it special is our unique DNA — the combination of the Jesuit liberal arts tradition from Loyola College and the YMCA tradition behind Sir George Williams University, which started as a night school for working people."

In 2013, your responsibilities grew to include overseeing Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations (AAR). Please describe your role.

BF: "I'm Concordia's top representative to alumni, managing the planning and execution of all fundraising activities and campaigns and alumni stewardship, as well as the cultivation of donors. I oversee a great AAR team ranging from fundraisers to alumni relations officers and all the "back office" people in between who actually make the place run! I also serve as president of the Concordia University Foundation, which manages funds donated to the university. It's a big ship."

As well as overseeing AAR, I have a number of other

responsibilities as secretary-general. The only way I can manage it all is because of my great team of directors who support me and do a great job every day.”

What has impressed you most in your dealings with alumni and donors?

BF: “They’re so accomplished in their respective fields. Whether they’re working on Wall Street, on Bay Street, in the oil industry, at *The New York Times* or in the arts, they’re doing fascinating things. It’s extremely gratifying. I’m also impressed by their affection and affinity for Concordia. Many of them found their life partner at Concordia, or they found their calling or a mentor who changed their lives.”

What have been Concordia’s greatest challenges?

BF: “The biggest challenge has been the Quebec funding model for universities and the difficult financial situation that the current Quebec government finds itself in, leading to reductions in government support. I believe we get — and will probably continue to get — enough money from the province to be a good university, but we want to be a great university. That means we have to look at alternative sources of funding, such as philanthropy and private giving. We’re focusing our efforts more and more in that direction.

At AAR, we’re in the people business. With 193,000 alumni, it takes people to make personal contacts with alumni and donors, and finding enough time to make those contacts is always a challenge but one that we relish.”

Is there a secondary challenge?

BF: “Yes. We strive to maintain a sense of community and culture when we’re large. We’ve been successful by insisting on smaller class sizes whenever possible. Plus, we have the college model, meaning the Liberal Arts College, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, the Loyola College of Diversity and Sustainability, for example. The colleges allow students to identify with and become part of a smaller group.”

How do you see the university changing over the next decade? What will be the challenges?

BF: “With the funding model that exists, we have to ask ourselves, will we be able to do everything that we’re doing now in the next 10 years? I’m not sure. We’ll have to do things differently. Concordia is well positioned to take advantage of these coming changes because, as universities go, we’re actually remarkably unbureaucratic and we leave room for individual innovation. Plus we have a reputation for being well managed, with one of the smallest deficits of any Quebec university. That means we can adapt more easily than more entrenched, slow-moving bureaucracies.”

What opportunities are on the horizon?

BF: “Because Concordia is a pioneer in online education, with the founding of eConcordia in 2000, we can continue to take the lead in the delivery of online education in Canada.”

Can you describe your fundraising expectations of the next few years?

BF: “We’re currently planning our next comprehensive campaign. To do that, we create a table of needs and priorities, working closely with the deans, provost and vice-president of research as well as the president. I’m pleased to say that our fundraising numbers are up significantly in the last couple of years. I credit President Alan Shepard with a lot of that. He has really invigorated Concordia. I think Concordia is more and more on people’s minds and they’re more and more comfortable supporting Concordia financially.”

What are your current fundraising priorities?

BF: “While they’re still under development, it’s safe to say our priorities will include greatly enhancing student financial support at both the undergraduate and graduate level (both merit-based and needs-based), as well as support for innovative programs such as our District 3 Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and our PERFORM Centre.”

How are you and your team working to reach these fundraising goals?

BF: “For the last year and a half since I came on duty at AAR, we’ve been building a really top-notch team. We’ve also ramped up our visits to donors and alumni, doing whatever we can to get the Concordia story out there.”

You work closely with Concordia President Alan Shepard. What’s that like?

BF: “My colleagues at other institutions are envious because I’m fortunate to have a president who is unbelievably enthusiastic about fundraising. He’s tireless, taking trips to meet alumni, attending functions and hosting events at his home as often as twice a week. We’re constantly in touch over the phone, by email or by texting and have an excellent relationship. That’s critical in this job.

What are Concordia’s strongest selling points?

BF: “The way we balance our tradition of accessibility with our commitment to excellence. We’ve undersold our excellence in the past. That’s changing. Our John Molson School of Business is second to none. Our Faculty of Fine Arts is world renowned. In the faculties of Arts and Science and Engineering and Computer Science, we have excellent programs and produce agile thinkers. It’s time to stand up and say that unabashedly.” ■

—Joanne Latimer

“We’ve undersold our excellence in the past. That’s changing. It’s time to stand up and say that unabashedly.”



1 JEAN CHRÉTIEN WAS INTERVIEWED BY MUTSUMI TAKAHASHI, CHIEF NEWS ANCHOR OF CTV MONTREAL NEWS. **2** FORMER CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRÉTIEN SPOKE POWERFULLY – AND OFTEN HUMOROUSLY – AT THE HENRI P. HABIB DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS’ SERIES LECTURE AT CONCORDIA ON MARCH 4. **3** FROM LEFT: SYLVAIN-JACQUES DESJARDINS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS, JEAN CHRÉTIEN, MUTSUMI TAKAHASHI, ALINE CHRÉTIEN AND BRAM FREEDMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS, AND SECRETARY-GENERAL.

JEAN CHRÉTIEN DELIVERS MEMORABLE TALK AT CONCORDIA

Before Jean Chrétien, LLD 10, served as Canada’s 20th prime minister from 1993 to 2003, he had already gained a reputation as one of the country’s most passionate, colourful and outspoken public figures.

On March 4, in front of a packed Sir George Williams University Alumni Auditorium in Concordia’s Henry F. Hall Building, Chrétien proved his wisdom and wit are as sharp and biting as ever. The audience of 750 included Concordians as well as several Members of Parliament, candidates for the upcoming federal election, journalists and other guests.

Chrétien delivered a lecture called “Canada: Its own flag. Its own destiny.” for the Henri P. Habib Distinguished Speakers’ Series on Peace, Conflict and Global Politics in the 21st Century. It was followed by a Q&A with Mutsumi Takahashi, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, chief news anchor of CTV Montreal News.

Chrétien provided his take on a number of historic Canadian moments to an exuberant audience, which gave him four standing ovations.

First elected as Liberal MP in 1963, Chrétien recounted his feelings when the Canadian flag was officially adopted in February 1965. “It was a great day on Parliament Hill. It was

cold, but it was very warm in our hearts because we had our flag, at long last.”

He said he was gratified by Canada’s world standing during his tenure. “The United Nations had a report every year on the quality of life in Canada. We were always number one, but one time we dropped to number three – and *The Globe and Mail* gave me hell,” he said. “And now we’re number nine, 10, 11,” he added. It was one of several pokes he took at the current Conservative government, although never by name – revealing his continued loyalty to the Liberal Party.

Chrétien recalled going to Europe and listening to the other leaders discuss their problems with immigration: “I was proud to tell them I don’t have any problem with immigration in Canada. For me an immigrant is not a problem, an immigrant is an asset.”

The lively Q&A with Takahashi included a discussion about the 1995 Quebec referendum, which was narrowly won by the “non” side.

Chrétien admitted he had underestimated the “oui” side after the arrival of Lucien Bouchard as negotiator, shortly before the vote. “Of course, the question was so confusing... It was 90



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4 MEMBERS OF CONCORDIA'S GARNET KEY SOCIETY MEET WITH THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER (FROM LEFT): DAVE ORAM, VERONICA TAMBURRO, ALEXANDRA BUONANNO, ALEXANDRA MIEKLEHAM, PATRICIA HACHEY, JEAN CHRÉTIEN, LEO COLLARD, NOOR MADY, OREOLUWA AJAYI, RÉMI MIREAULT AND JUAN WONG. 5 FROM LEFT: HENRI P. HABIB, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, JEAN CHRÉTIEN AND ANDRÉ ROY, DEAN OF CONCORDIA'S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE.

words, something like that. 'Do you want happiness?' It was difficult to vote no," he quipped. "After that I said, 'This will not happen anymore.' And we passed the law that we called the Clarity Act. There would be no negotiation according to this law if the question is not clear," Chrétien said. "'Do you want to separate from Canada? Yes or no.'"

The Henri P. Habib Distinguished Speakers' Series on Peace, Conflict and Global Politics in the 21st Century was established in 2005 in honour of Distinguished Professor Emeritus Henri Habib, who founded Concordia's Department of Political Science and served as chair for 24 years. Past speakers include former Liberal Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and former Canadian ambassador Raymond Chrétien, Jean Chrétien's nephew.

The lecture was organized by Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations in collaboration with the Department of Political Science. Bram Freedman, vice-president of Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General, served as master of ceremonies, and Marlene Sokolon, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science, also addressed the audience. ■

To view and share photos, listen to and share our podcast, view and share our video or peruse our social media coverage, visit concordia.ca/jean-chretien-2015.

—Howard Bokser

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JOSEPH DRESDNER

AT CONCORDIA FOR THE FEBRUARY 5 GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT (FROM LEFT): KATHERINE YUTONG LIU, MBA STUDENT; STEVE HARVEY, DEAN OF THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS; SEBASTIAN VAN BERKOM, BCOMM 69, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF VAN BERKOM AND ASSOCIATES; CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD; AND BRAM FREEDMAN, CONCORDIA VICE-PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS, AND SECRETARY-GENERAL. DEAN HARVEY HOLDS A COMMEMORATIVE RECREATION OF STUDENT NEWSPAPER *THE GEORGIAN*.

VAN BERKOM INVESTS IN HIS ALMA MATER

As a young child of Dutch immigrants, J. Sebastian van Berkomp, BComm 69, came from humble beginnings. Decades later, he's happily investing a tidy sum in his alma mater.

Through a \$1 million donation, the Montreal investment manager will help top-rated John Molson School of Business (JMSB) students manage small-cap portfolios — with real money. Van Berkomp's transformational gift will establish the Van Berkomp Small-Cap Investment Management Program, where eight students per year will manage funds with a view to achieving above-average returns long term.

Why give to his alma mater? "It's pretty simple," says van Berkomp, whose companies Van Berkomp and Associates Inc. (Canada) and Van Berkomp Golden Dragon Limited (Hong Kong) employ 20 people and manage a portfolio of international small-cap stocks worth \$4 billion. "Sir George accepted me as a student and I've done tremendously well ever since." Van Berkomp has to date donated \$2.3 million to Concordia. "There's only a certain amount of money one needs in life," he says. "After that, I believe in giving back to society."

His gifts at Concordia support the Van Berkomp Chair in Small-Cap Equities Endowment, the Van Berkomp JMSB Small-Cap Case Competition, the Van Berkomp and Associates Inc. Bursary, the Frederick Lowy Scholars Endowment and now the Van Berkomp Small-Cap Investment Management Program.

"Sebastian's latest contribution to the John Molson School of Business builds on a legacy of tremendous generosity towards his alma mater," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "Students will gain exceptional experience — knowledge that opens doors to careers in global capital markets, thanks to his remarkable gift."

A champion of healthcare and the arts, van Berkomp made headlines last November when his \$500,000 gift to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts enabled the institution to

permanently acquire a popular bright yellow blown-glass sculpture — *The Sun* — by American artist Dale Chihuly. The decision, van Berkomp says, was a no-brainer. "My father was a commercial artist through whom I learned to love art. I saw this as a great opportunity to save *The Sun* for the museum and Montrealers."

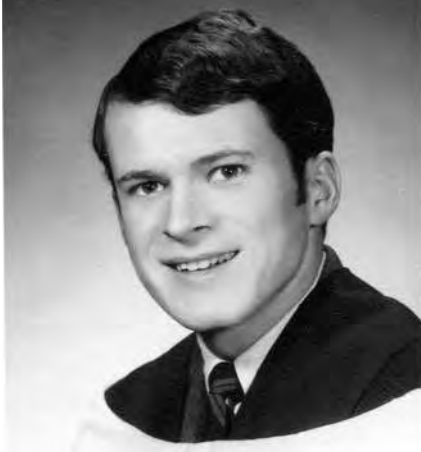
Back in the 1950s, when van Berkomp's family emigrated from the Netherlands, cash flow was tighter. "We were poor," he recalls. "If I needed something I had to make the money myself."

That work ethic resonates with Steve Harvey, dean of the JMSB, who calls van Berkomp ethical, hardworking and committed. "Sebastian represents what we want our students to be when they graduate," Harvey says. "He appreciates the support he received at Concordia. One of the best ways to thank his supporters — and to ensure support continues for others — has been for Sebastian to give back."

Van Berkomp learned the value of a dollar growing up in Rosemère, Que. He shovelled driveways and delivered newspapers. "I needed money to go to dances on Saturday nights," he says.

As an entrepreneurial undergraduate, van Berkomp and classmate Danny Rafman, BComm 69, sold shirts in the corridors of the Henry F. Hall Building. Profits from their garments funded van Berkomp's commerce degree.

He's grateful to Concordia. "I was a terrible high school student. I did everything but study." Yet the day came, van Berkomp recalls, "I wondered where I was going in life." He applied to Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions. Gumption won him a place as a marketing major. "The admissions officer said: 'Mr. van Berkomp, we're going to give you a chance.' I was ecstatic. I graduated with top marks. My professor said, 'Sebastian, you've got to go to Harvard.'"



SEBASTIAN VAN BERKOM, BCOMM '69

I said, 'I don't have the money, I'm going to work.'

Van Berkom landed a job at DuPont Canada in 1969. Incredibly, he wanted to be president from day one. "I wanted to run the show." Instead, he left for a marketing job at CN. "I had to find the right place where I could do what I wanted to do — put things together,

find a direction." At CN he got wind of an opening at Bell and, by 28, was running the Canadian equity portfolio of the firm's pension fund. "We worked 18-hour days," van Berkom recalls. It was at Bell where Scott Fraser, a mentor, offered him a partnership in LRM Investment Management. "Scotty really loved the way I chose stocks."

Irrepressible, van Berkom grew frustrated. "We had only \$200 million in assets under management," he says. "I wanted to build this investment counselling firm into something big."

The growth he sought came in the form of Montrusco, an investment management company that grew out of Montreal Trust. "I was one of the founding partners and I did that for

seven years," van Berkom recalls. "We grew it substantially. I made a lot of money. However, my love for small-cap investing and being a master of my own destiny became so compelling that I quit Montrusco to start Van Berkom and Associates Inc. in 1991 to concentrate my efforts solely on small-caps."

Three years ago, van Berkom founded Van Berkom Golden Dragon Limited, in Hong Kong, to begin investing in Asian small-cap equities.

The future? "My dream is to build a global small-cap equity management firm," van Berkom says, adding that he plans to retire at 80. "Eighty is the new 60. I think if you stop working you die." ■

—Scott McCulloch

CQG DONATES \$1.6 MILLION OF SOFTWARE

John Molson School of Business (JMSB) students will learn to trade like pros thanks to a \$1.6 million software gift from data analytics and trading technology provider CQG. Denver-based CQG has donated 24 licenses of its Integrated Client, high tech software designed for charting and analyzing derivatives markets.

"We are grateful for CQG's investment in the John Molson School of Business," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "This gift will allow our finance students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-market situations, giving them an edge as they transition from their studies to the business world."

About 150 Department of Finance

students will benefit annually and gain a competitive edge in financial services job markets. JMSB Dean Steve Harvey says the software will give students a leg up in the business world. "By providing our students access to professional trading technology and learning opportunities, CQG is increasing their ability to compete in the financial sector," he says.

Concordia is the first Montreal-based university to possess the technology to be used in the John Dobson – Formula Growth Investment Room. "This software is great for research. It provides students with data on foreign exchange rates, stock prices, bond prices and commodity prices," says Thomas Walker, associate professor in JMSB's Department of Finance.

"This type of software is typically used by financial traders. They can look for price patterns that help them make trading decisions," adds CQG vice-president Brian Vancil. "Professors can show the price history of the financial markets and how prices move. It's a great educational tool." ■

—James Gibbons and Scott McCulloch



PATRICK KENNY, VICE-PRESIDENT, CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS, CQG, AND CHRISTINA FATSIS, SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER, CQG, AT THE JANUARY 12 GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT AT CONCORDIA.

JOSEPH DRESNER

In terms of prestige, it's equivalent to getting the call-up from the NHL. A team of Concordia alumni, coached by experts in Concordia's District 3 Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, has received backing from Y Combinator, the world's biggest business accelerator.

Charles-Éric Gascon, BComm 12, Mikhail Levkovsky, BEng 13, and Cristian Asenjo, BEng 13, started work on Spoil, an online gift concierge, in September 2014. They'd already developed quite a different application called Airborne, but were not satisfied with its pace of growth.

Spoil seemed to be headed for greater things when, after they developed the initial coding during a weekend "hackathon," 50 subscribers signed up immediately.

In November, the founders applied to Y Combinator. The idea behind the accelerator is to vastly speed up the process of taking business ideas to the market. Y Combinator invests \$120,000 in startups in exchange for a 7 per cent share in equity. More than 500 companies have received close to \$60 billion in investment so far.



JOSEPH DRESNER

SPOIL'S CO-FOUNDERS (FROM LEFT): JAMES TRAF, CRISTIAN ASENJO, CHARLES-ERIC GASCON AND MIKHAIL LEVKOVSKY.



Spoil's founders had only 10 minutes to make a good impression with Y Combinator. Yet District 3 coaching and the founders' innate talents clinched the deal, and within weeks, the team had relocated to Mountain View, Calif., a requirement of the accelerator's program. They are now working around the clock to build a company that can deliver results. "We live next to the office, and we work seven days a week," Gascon says. "We've been given three months to show investors something wicked."

So what exactly is Spoil? In short, it takes the "hunt" out of gift giving. You visit the site, describe the person you're buying for and where he or she lives, pick a price point, and Spoil does the rest. The eventual gift will be a surprise to both parties — the "spoiler" and the "spolee." The company filled a large number of orders in the lead-up to Christmas, selling out of inventory by December 19.

Spoil curates gifts in two ways. First comes the number-crunching phase, during which marketing information provided by Spoil's suppliers gets processed. The second filter is the human touch: Spoil has identified expert bloggers in several gift categories who make the final picks on what gifts are available.

The process clearly works, since Spoil has seen very few gifts returned.

"It's nice to have stories like ours," Gascon says. "We're definitely on the right road, and Concordia helped us every step of the way." ■

—Laurence Miall

KEEP IN TOUCH

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concordia.ca/keepintouch

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

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

By email: records.alumni@concordia.ca

Subject: **Class Acts**

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

Search for the Concordia University Alumni Association group on LinkedIn.



STUDENTS AT THE 2014 WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AT CONCORDIA.

WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH GOES INTO SEVENTH YEAR

ANTONI NERESTANT

The seventh edition of the Workshops on Social Science Research (WSSR), taking place at Concordia from May 4 to June 29, will once again provide an extraordinary opportunity to hear from those who have lived and experienced the world of public policy and governance.

WSSR participants gain access to current and former public figures and prominent academics speaking openly about their personal experiences, the problems they've encountered and

their solutions. This year's lineup includes former Members of Parliament Bob Rae, Stéphane Dion and Stockwell Day, as well as prominent public servants such as Graham Fraser, Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages. Through the speakers' frontline accounts, attendees develop critical thinking skills needed to find 21st-century solutions to 21st-century problems.

Launched in 2008 with one workshop, this year's WSSR features more than 35 workshops that focus on democratic governance, public policy and research

methodology, serving as a welcome complement to participants' conventional training in these areas. For the first time, the WSSR has also collaborated with the European Consortium for Political Research.

These workshops are open to everyone, including students, faculty and the general public. Undergraduate and graduate students from across Canada who attend workshops can earn up to three credits towards their degrees.

For more information or to register, visit concordia.ca/wssr.



Kate Pickett



Richard Wilkinson

Department of Psychology Associate Professor Jennifer McGrath will host the

International Network for Research on Inequalities in Child Health Workshop

June 26, 2015, 2 p.m.-5 p.m., Loyola Campus

Join us for a conversation on social equity with special guests

Richard Wilkinson and **Kate Pickett**, authors of *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*. The authors' discussion will follow presentations by key speakers. Open to the public, registration required.



For more information, contact epoch@concordia.ca.

#CUtalks

BUSINESS LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST NORMAN D. HÉBERT, SR., PASSES AWAY

Quebec philanthropist, business pioneer and friend of Concordia Norman D. Hébert, Sr., LLD 05, passed away on March 16, 2015. He was 89 years old.

Over the past two decades, the automotive industry titan and his family have fostered student advancement through over \$1 million in scholarships at Concordia, including the Norman D. Hébert Engineering Scholarship and the Norman D. Hébert Business Scholarship. He also funded the Norman D. Hébert Master's Fellowship for research in automotive engineering.

As well as his legacy at Concordia, Hébert inaugurated the Montreal Auto Show in 1969, the first auto show in Canada.

"He was a devoted member of the Concordia community," says Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General. "His recurring



NORMAN D. HÉBERT, SR.

presence at university events, such as donor student awards, attests to his commitment."

An astute businessperson, Hébert bought Park Avenue Chevrolet in 1959 — then a fledgling business. From there, he developed an expansive and successful network of dealerships, collectively called Groupe Park Avenue.

Concordia's dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) affirms the magnitude of Hébert's support. "The biggest meeting room ENCS has is named after Hébert for a very good reason," says Amir Asif. "He was instrumental in securing an \$8 million donation from Hydro-Québec for the faculty." As well, Asif says Hébert was behind the largest undergraduate scholarship in Canada — at the time of its initial offering — for Concordia ENCS students.

Concordia recognized Hébert with an honorary doctorate in 2005 for his achievements as an entrepreneur and devotion to higher education. He was also named a Great Concordian (concordia.ca/greatconcordians). His son, Norman E. Hébert, Jr., BComm 77, is chair of Concordia's Board of Governors. ■

—James Gibbons

CONCORDIA MOURNS PASSING OF ROBERT J. BRODRICK

Robert J. Brodrick, BA 43, LLD 87, doctor, lecturer, athlete and former member of the Loyola College Board of Governors, died on February 22, 2015. He was 92.

A distinguished college athlete, Brodrick received the Loyola Sportsmanship Trophy and was among the first 10 inductees into the Loyola Sports Hall of Fame (now the Concordia University Sports Hall of Fame) in 1967.

After Loyola College he enrolled at McGill University, where he earned his medical degree specializing in internal medicine and radiology in 1947.

While at McGill Brodrick captained the Redmen to the 1945-46 Intercollegiate Hockey Championship. He went on to play for the Montreal Royals and South London's Streatham Hockey Club in the United Kingdom. In



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

DR. ROBERT J. BRODRICK

1951, Brodrick wrote *Ice Hockey*, a book that was used for several years as a hockey reference by *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Brodrick combined his love for athletics and his medical expertise before sports medicine formally emerged as a distinct field. In 1969, he joined the

Montreal Expos as medical director for the newly formed Major League Baseball expansion team. He also became president of the league's Physicians' Association. He worked as a physician at Montreal's Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Canadair.

An active Concordia alumnus, he served on Loyola College's Board of Governors and as president of the Loyola Alumni Association. He co-wrote the criteria for the Loyola Medal, a prize awarded to outstanding Concordians who enrich Canadian society.

In 1987, Concordia bestowed an honorary doctorate upon Brodrick, calling him a "distinguished athlete, community leader and lifelong friend." ■

—Scott McCulloch

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Looking back at a half century of Communication Studies at Concordia

LESLIE SCHACHTER

The first of its kind at any university in Canada, Concordia's Department of Communication Studies celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. A variety of special events throughout the 2015-16 academic year are being planned, starting with the kick-off during Homecoming 2015 weekend September 24-27, an open house on September 26 that will highlight the last five decades and a media gallery show for the fall 2015 semester.

Hopeful attendees include the Reverend John O'Brien, BA 45, who founded the Department of Communication Arts – renamed Communication Studies in 1975 – at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions.

Retired professor Dennis Murphy, BA 67, also plans to be there. Murphy was a faculty member in the department for 40 years until 2010 and continues to teach an online course on propaganda at Concordia.

He came into the program by chance after taking Father O'Brien's Overview of Communications course in 1965. "I found it to be my passion," says Murphy of his then-newfound love of media. He went on to become part of its first graduating class in 1967. "What made it special is that it offered people a chance to produce material for media and also offered a chance to analyze and think about it," he says. "It was the integration of theory and practice, philosophy and ethical understanding that didn't exist in other schools in North America." ■

For more information on the Department of Communication Studies' 50th anniversary celebrations, watch for updates on concordia.ca/alumni-friends/events and concordia.ca/homecoming.



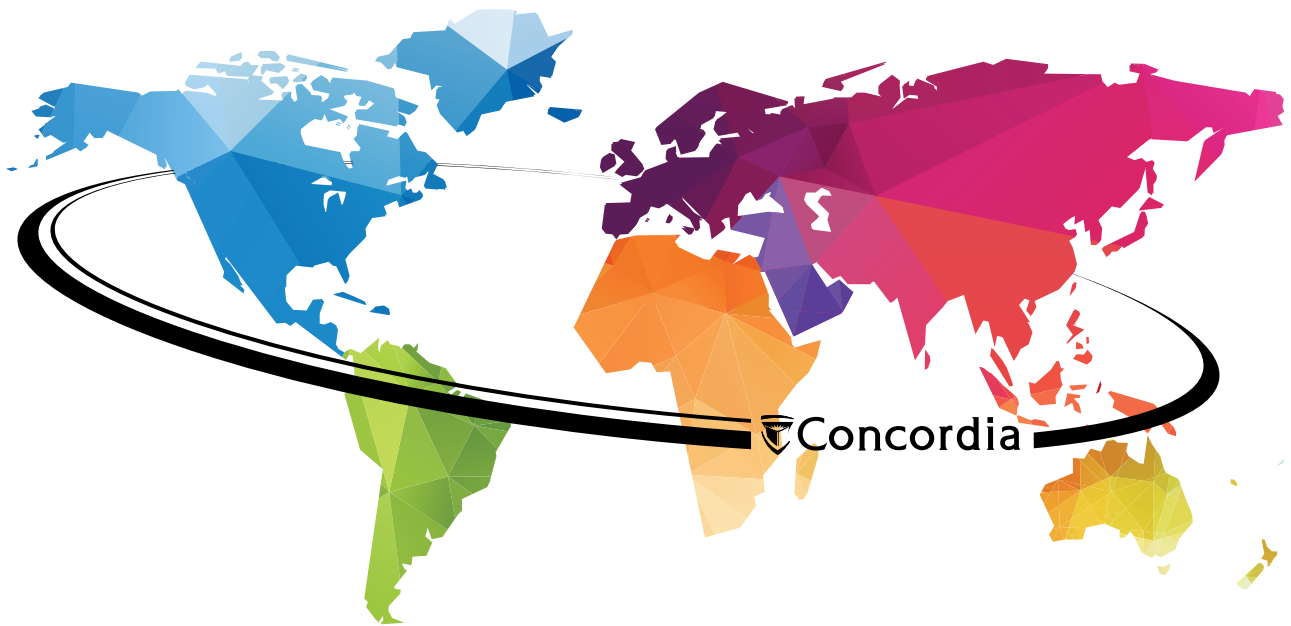
IMAGES: CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

- 1 LOYOLA COLLEGE'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS AD IN TIME MAGAZINE, JUNE 9, 1967
- 2 FILM EDITING LAB AT COMMUNICATION ARTS OPEN HOUSE, MARCH 1974
- 3 SOUND LAB AT COMMUNICATION ARTS OPEN HOUSE, MARCH 1974
- 4 COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDENTS, 1979
- 5 COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDIO, C. 1980
- 6 COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDIO, 1990

Every spring Concordia welcomes more than 5,000 new graduates into its alumni family. With this year's new cohort, there are now 193,000 alumni worldwide. Here is a snapshot of where you'll find Concordia alumni (for those whose addresses are known) around the globe.

193,000 CONCORDIANS!

A SAMPLING OF WHERE OUR GRADUATES LIVE



North America

Total: 136,500

Canada: 131,000
U.S.A.: 5,500



Europe

Total: 1,125

UK: 390
France: 350
Switzerland: 100
Spain: 50
Italy: 55
Greece: 180



Asia

Total: 1,040

Russia: 10
China: 570
Japan: 95
South Korea: 40
India: 90
Taiwan: 40
Singapore: 90
Australia: 105



South America

Total: 325

Mexico: 70
Bahamas: 60
Trinidad & Tobago: 120
Venezuela: 15
Brazil: 30
Peru: 10
Chile: 20



Africa

Total: 135

Egypt: 45
Nigeria: 50
Kenya: 20
South Africa: 20



Middle East

Total: 445

Lebanon: 80
Israel: 70
Saudi Arabia: 85
UAE: 210



GREAT CONCORDIANS

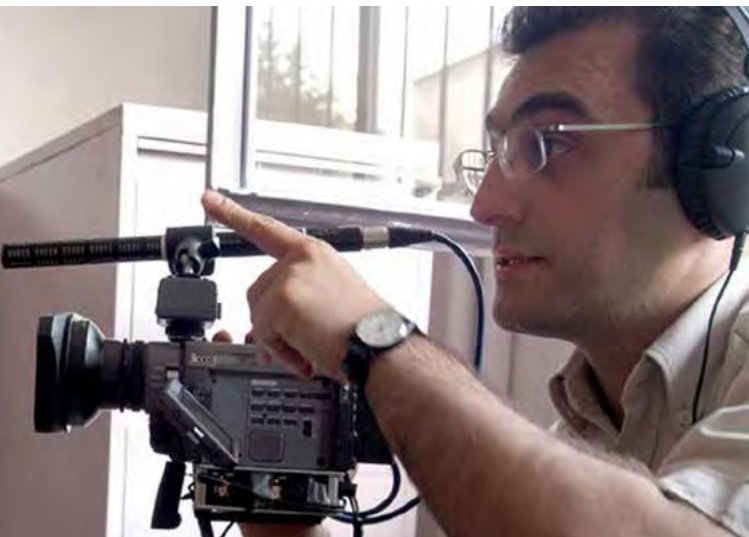
MEET FOUR MORE
OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF
THE UNIVERSITY FAMILY

The university began to share
its impressive list of Great
Concordians in fall 2014

— one each week over 40 weeks — as
part of the celebration to mark its 40th
anniversary.

We once again present four more in-
spiring Concordians who have shone
in various fields. For the fully updated
Great Concordians list and more details
on each individual, visit [concordia.ca/
greatconcordians](http://concordia.ca/greatconcordians).

**MAZIAR BAHARI:
HEROIC STORYTELLER**



**RÉGINE CHASSAGNE:
LIGHTING A FIRE**



Filmmaker and journalist **Maziar Bahari**, BA 93, emerged from unbearable duress to continue to spread his message of justice and human rights.

Iranian-born Bahari moved to Canada to study at Concordia in the late 1980s. Soon after graduating he embarked on a career directing documentary films. He also served as *Newsweek* magazine's Iran correspondent between 1998 and 2011.

Bahari was in Tehran during the 2009 civil uprising following the disputed presidential election victory of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. On June 21, Bahari was arrested and incarcerated under charges of espionage. For 118 days he was held in solitary confinement, tortured and submitted to constant interrogation. He was released at the end of October.

He swiftly fled the country and reunited with his pregnant wife in London. Bahari was subsequently tried in absentia and sentenced for crimes he did not commit.

Bahari retold his story in the *New York Times* bestseller *Then They Came for Me* (2011), described by *The Guardian* as "a unique achievement" and *The New Republic* as an "important and elegant book." His memoir was the subject of *Rosewater* (2014), a movie directed by political satirist and television host Jon Stewart.

Montreal-born **Régine Chassagne**, BA 98, is a multi-instrumentalist and founding member of indie rock band Arcade Fire. Since its inception in 2001, the band has achieved international stardom and picked up numerous awards, including two Grammys and eight Junos.

Chassagne told *Concordia University Magazine* in 2006 that Iain Cook, BA 93, MA 97, sound composition instructor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, played a role in her decision to carve her own musical path. "I loved the fact that he gave us specific assignments but let each of us come up with the answer in our own style," she said.

Chassagne's parents emigrated from Haiti during the dictatorship of François Duvalier. She continues her work as grand ambassador and sits on the board of directors of KANPE, an organization she co-founded in 2010 to "play an integral part in the fight to help Haiti break free from a vicious cycle of poverty."

She is also a member of the board of trustees of Partners in Health, an organization that helps treat the sick and prevent diseases throughout Haiti. With Arcade Fire, Chassagne has helped raised more than \$500,000 for the two organizations.

LUCA “LAZYLEGZ” PATUELLI: “NO EXCUSES, NO LIMITS”



With his brilliant breakdancing performance, Montreal's Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli, BComm 09, was one of the shining stars of the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics Opening Ceremonies. In 2013, he performed on the *Ellen DeGeneres Show* and received a standing ovation.

Patuelli was born with a rare condition known as arthrogryposis, a disorder characterized by joint contractures and a lack of muscle development. It affected his lower body but didn't prevent him from taking on skateboarding.

When knee surgery forced Patuelli to abandon the sport in his mid-teens, he turned to breakdancing — using his strong upper body and crutches to assert himself on dance floors across the city, the country and the world.

He joined the Illmatic Styles in 2004 and performed with the group on NBC's *America's Got Talent*. Patuelli then travelled incessantly as he refined and expanded his inventory of dance moves. In 2007, he founded ILL-Abilities (illabilities.com), a crew of differently-abled dancers from the Netherlands, Chile and the United States.

Patuelli's unflinching drive also helped him complete an undergraduate degree at Concordia's John Molson School of Business. He also is co-founder of Project RAD, a Montreal-based organization that offers dance programs for kids with disabilities.

LOUISE ARCHAMBAULT: HOMEGROWN FILMMAKER



Award-winning filmmaker Louise Archambault, BFA 93, MFA 00, began her career in the Quebec film industry holding a variety of posts, including still photographer, line producer and assistant director.

She started work on her own creations in the late 1990s while completing a graduate degree at the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema. Her artistic vision materialized through a steady output of short documentary and fiction films.

Archambault's brilliant foray into the world of commercial cinema, *Familia* (2005), was followed by *Gabrielle* (2013), a multi-award-winning production. A touching and mesmerizing film, it introduces the talented Gabrielle Marion-Rivard, a young actress and singer with Williams syndrome. It won prizes at the Locarno International Film Festival, the Festival International du Film Francophone de Namur and the Festival du film canadien de Dieppe.

Gabrielle then received multiple honours at home: Best Picture and Best Actress at the Canadian Screen Awards and five awards, including best director, at the 16th Soirée des prix Jutra.

"A success like Louise Archambault's *Gabrielle* really inspires everyone here — students, staff and professors — to maintain that tradition of excellence," said Daniel Cross, BFA 91, MFA 98, chair of Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema.

Discover what Concordia achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world at concordia.ca/concordiafirsts.

“ I CONTACTED PLANNED GIVING TO ESTABLISH
A BURSARY TO HELP WOMEN

LIKE MY MOTHER WHO CHOOSE
TO RETURN TO SCHOOL IN LATER
YEARS. I HOPE THAT THE FUTURE
RECIPIENTS OF THIS BURSARY WILL
UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THEIR
EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED.



Tania Shamy's mother,
Yolande Tomiuk, BA 70

**EDUCATION WILL
BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS,
BETTER THEIR LIVES AND THE
LIVES OF THEIR FAMILIES.”**

– Tania Shamy, BFA 69, GrDip 72, MA 84



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THROWING THEIR HATS
INTO THE RING

FIVE CONCORDIA ALUMNI VIE TO BECOME FIRST-TIME MPs



Voters across the country will be hitting the polls for Canada's 42nd general election on October 19, 2015, unless the Governor General of Canada makes the call for a federal election in the coming months, which is highly unlikely, or the current Conservative government led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper opts for an early election.

Concordia alumni have long been active in politics at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. There are currently four Concordia alumni who are Members of Parliament: Gordon O'Connor, BSc 65, Costas Menegakis, BComm 82, Massimo Pacetti, BComm 84, and Francis Scarpaleggia, MBA 84.

As of early April, the leading political parties haven't yet chosen candidates in all of Canada's 338 federal electoral districts (30 more than the 2011 election). Those that have been nominated are already gearing up for what will likely be another hard-fought, closely matched battle for the House of Commons.

The candidates include five Concordia graduates making their first run for a parliamentary seat in Ottawa. *Concordia University Magazine* asked each rookie candidate five questions about their initial foray into federal politics.

BRENDA SHANAHAN, MBA 88

Brenda Shanahan has been nominated by the Liberal Party to run in the Châteauguay–Lacolle riding south of Montreal. She earned an MBA in 1988 from what is now the John Molson School of Business (JMSB). She is now a financial educator, investment advisor and columnist for a variety of Montreal-based publications, including the Montreal Gazette. Shanahan is also a renowned public speaker who hosts conferences on financial literacy while continuing to counsel individuals and families in personal finance management.

Why are you running for federal office?

BS: "Because it is an opportunity to get my ideas out on the national stage — my ideas about financial education, income security and wealth distribution. I would like to see every Canadian have access to the kind of independent, financial education that fosters economic opportunity and, at the same time, I would like to see a fairer 'leveling of the playing field' so that more Canadians can enjoy a measure of income security and a share of our nation's wealth."

What steps should the government take to improve the national economy?

BS: "My particular concern is at the individual, personal level. To help people do better, we need people to be better educated with financial and economic skills. I would start with a national financial education program. That's on my wish list. It would help people to have the knowledge, the skills and the confidence to better manage their own finances and to take advantage of programs and benefits that are offered by the different levels of government. At the same time, the federal government, in conjunction with the provinces, has a duty to ensure that the playing field is level for everyone. That's where we need to look at the consumer protection laws and ensure ordinary Canadians are getting a fair deal."

Is Canada doing enough to address global climate change?

BS: "No. Absolutely not. Nowhere near enough. It's been well reported that the current government has neglected to address climate change and that is something that the Liberal Party will address in collaboration with the provinces so that we can once again be a leader in this area."



BRENDA SHANAHAN IS THE LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE IN THE QUEBEC RIDING OF CHÂTEAUGUAY-LACOLLE.

How do you plan to address national security concerns?

BS: "National security in Canada is a concern of each and every one of us and I would like to foster more awareness amongst citizens about how we can mutually improve our public security."

Public security is not just about laws and police and armed personnel. It's about each and every one of us looking out for our neighbours and being vigilant about our mutual security."

How did your Concordia experience prepare you for political leadership?

BS: "I was an inadvertent MBA. I was a free spirit doing non-profit work with Amnesty International. Life was great and then I became a single parent. Life got very serious all of a sudden. I went to Concordia, to one of the counsellors, and asked what certificate I could get to get a better job. It was that counsellor who gave me a competency test and told me I could do an MBA. Nobody had ever said that to me — said that I could do better than what I was doing. That's what got me into the MBA program. It showed me that anything is possible in Canada and, while I never thought I'd get into politics, it gave me the confidence to say, 'I can do this. I can use my skills and make a difference for other people.' I was given that opportunity. I can make that happen for other people."

JENNIFER HOLLETT, BA 97

A long-time television personality, journalist and political activist, Jennifer Hollett is representing the New Democratic Party (NDP) in the Ontario-based University–Rosedale riding. Back in 1997, Hollett earned her bachelor’s degree from Concordia in journalism and communication studies. She is now a digital strategist, showing businesses and organizations how to use digital tools like social media to create engagement, share stories and take their work online.

Why are you running for federal office?

JH: “I am worried about Canada. Working as a journalist for the last 15 years, my job has been to cover the world around me and ask questions. I discovered issues like climate change, political apathy, human rights and rising inequality. One of the challenges, working as a TV reporter, is that you get, at best, a minute and a half to cover a story and then you move on. I got into journalism to make a difference and realized I wasn’t making enough of an impact, so I decided to move from asking questions to finding answers.”

What steps should the government take to improve the national economy?

JH: “The NDP believes a strong economy depends on strategic investments in both physical and social infrastructure as well as proper regulation with a sustainable, long-term economic-growth strategy. Along with investing in cities, we are also proposing tax cuts for small businesses as well as a plan to support precarious workers, which is becoming the new normal for Canadians.”



JENNIFER HOLLETT WILL REPRESENT THE NDP IN THE ONTARIO RIDING OF UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE.

Is Canada doing enough to address global climate change?

JH: “No. Canada is moving backwards. Climate change is a defining issue of our time. I think, around the world, when people think of Canada, they think of our environment. Stephen Harper has really damaged our international reputation on this issue. The NDP’s Climate Change Accountability Act, which is supported by all the opposition parties, is a law that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and hold the government accountable. We need to be reducing our emissions by a third over the next decade. We also need to be investing in renewable energy projects and clean technology. This is a top priority for our country.”

How do you plan to address national security concerns?

JH: “Canadians know that Bill C-51 [the government’s proposed anti-terrorism legislation] is campaigning on fear and it goes far beyond security. It’s threatening our privacy, our freedom, our human rights, and these are things that we’re very proud of as Canadians. We do have real terror threats right now, but we don’t have to choose between security and our rights. Right now we have to protect both. Existing measures are already sufficient to address suspected threats. More resources can be provided to support police and security agencies in their work, but we need to protect our civil liberties.”

How did your Concordia experience prepare you for political leadership?

JH: “Concordia really provided me with a hands-on education and student experience and that’s the style of politics we need more of. Hands on, getting involved, direct face-to-face, going out there and doing it. The biggest thing that Concordia taught me was to get out there, and that’s the biggest job as a politician — to get out there, knock on doors and connect with voters. We work for voters.”

“Concordia taught me to get out there, and that’s the biggest job as a politician – to get out there, knock on doors and connect with voters. We work for voters.”

ANTHONY HOUSEFATHER, MBA 02

Now representing the Liberal Party in the west-end Montreal riding of Mount Royal, Anthony Housefather earned his MBA from the JMSB in 2002. He is executive vice-president corporate affairs and general counsel for Dialogic Corporation in Montreal. Housefather has been active in municipal politics for more than 20 years in a variety of roles. Since 2005 he's been mayor of the City of Côte Saint-Luc, Que., a Montreal suburb of 32,000 people.

Why are you running for federal office?

AH: "After 20 years in office at the municipal level, I think that, because of my experience and background, there's a lot I can contribute at the federal level. There have been a number of issues at the municipal level related to infrastructure and transport that I would like to see resolved at the federal level. I have developed a very keen sense of and appreciation for the needs of Mount Royal riding residents and I would like to work on addressing those needs at the federal level."

What steps should the government take to improve the national economy?

AH: "Given the recent fall in the price of oil, we've again seen the perils of not having a diversified economy and ignoring our manufacturing sector. While we're very lucky as a country to have natural resources such as oil and timber, we need to ensure that we have a diversified economy with a strong manufacturing sector that can give reliable jobs to people outside of the natural resource areas so we don't have a budgetary crisis when oil prices go down. We want to have economic policies tailored towards the average Canadian."

"I believe the education that I received at Concordia was a great assistance not only in my work for my company, but in my political role as well."

Is Canada doing enough to address global climate change?

AH: "I think most environmental experts are saying that Canada, under the Harper government, has not done very much in regards to climate change and has not been a leader when it comes to environmental issues. In fact, we have been almost nonexistent in terms of trying to protect the environment and this is certainly something, if we want to protect our globe, that we need to focus on. I would say the answer to that is 'no.'"

How do you plan to address national security concerns?

AH: "We support Bill C-51. We think one of the most sacred duties of a country is to protect its citizens and residents against terror attacks. We disagree on Bill C-51 where there is a lack of parliamentary oversight and some of the definitions are too broad. There has to be some sort of sunset clause where there is a commitment to review the law within a certain period. There has to be coordination between all the different agencies, municipal, provincial, RCMP and CSIS."

How did your Concordia experience prepare you for political leadership?

AH: "The multifaceted education I received in areas such as finance, marketing and organization has assisted me in running a city as mayor because, essentially, the job of mayor is like that of a company's CEO. You have to budget, spend your resources in the most efficient way possible and deliver the greatest possible return to your residents who are essentially your shareholders. I believe the education that I received at Concordia was a great assistance not only in my work for my company, but in my political role as well."



LIBERAL PARTY DELEGATES FROM MONTREAL'S MOUNT ROYAL RIDING CHOSE ANTHONY HOUSEFATHER AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR THE UPCOMING FEDERAL ELECTION.

BENJAMIN WOODMAN, BA 10

Benjamin Woodman, a reservist with the Canadian Armed Forces, is flying the Conservative Party banner in western Quebec's Pontiac riding. He earned a Concordia BA in political science in 2010. He has since held a variety of roles in federal politics ranging from his earlier days as an intern to his more recent work in the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, where he earned the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal.

"I spent most of my life in my riding and I wanted to use the skillset that I have to do my best for the region that helped raise me."

Why are you running for federal office?

BW: "Well, I spent most of my life in my riding. I grew up in Pontiac. I was supported very well and I want to support it right now. I wanted to use the skillset that I have now to do my best for the region that helped raise me."

What steps should the government take to improve the national economy?

BW: "The economy is my biggest priority and the Conservative Party is the only party that is committed to keeping federal taxes low. I think people are much better at managing their money than governments are. More money in the pockets of the population is always a good thing. Politicians can do a lot to stimulate local economies by

communicating to their constituents about federal funding opportunities that are available to them. For example, there's Canada Summer Jobs and the government recently announced a new Canada Apprentice Loan program [esdc.gc.ca/en/esdc/initiatives/apprenticeship]. Programs like that can have a big impact on local communities."

Is Canada doing enough to address global climate change?

BW: "I think we are because one of the strongest areas of the Conservative platform is one that you don't necessarily hear of all the time. Since 2005,

How do you plan to address national security concerns?

BW: "The priority of any government should be to protect its people and that is exactly what the government is doing with Bill C-51. It proposes measures which stop terrorist activities before they're acted upon. Bill C-51 doesn't give new powers to police or intelligence agencies, but rather to judges and courts who can order the detention of a suspected terrorist for up to seven days. I'm certainly on board with that."

How did your Concordia experience prepare you for political leadership?

BW: "I was VP of the Conservative Concordia club right when we were getting it off the ground around 2008 and, through that club, it was nice to debate and converse with people that shared an interest in politics. For me, I was a poli-sci major and I had some really exceptional professors like Marvin Hershorn and Marcel Danis, a former member of parliament. The club and professors certainly helped cultivate my love for politics."



BENJAMIN WOODMAN IS RUNNING FOR THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN QUEBEC'S PONTIAC RIDING.

Canadian greenhouse gases have decreased by about 5.1 per cent and, at the same time, the economy has grown by 10.6 per cent [as reported on the Government of Canada

website, Canada's Action on Climate Change, climatechange.gc.ca]. We see the reduction of emissions while the economy has actually grown. The sector-by-sector approach the government has taken towards greenhouse gas emissions has proven to be very effective."

SHERRY ROMANADO, EMBA 11

Currently the assistant director of continuing education at Champlain College in Saint-Lambert, Que., and a lecturer at McGill University's School of Continuing Studies, Sherry Romanado is the Liberal Party candidate vying for the Longueuil-Charles-LeMoine riding south of Montreal. She completed Concordia's Executive MBA program in 2011. Along with her busy career and work as a community volunteer, Romanado is the vice-president of the Laporte Provincial Liberal Association and the Longueuil Charles-LeMoine Federal Liberal Association.

Why are you running for federal office?

SR: "My family has a long history of service. My father was a firefighter for the local community and my husband was a firefighter for the local community. My two sons both serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. So I thought it was my turn."

What steps should the government take to improve the national economy?

SR: "I think we need to be looking at our economy in a very different way. In Canada, we need to work in a collaborative way — to look at a holistic approach to our economy while keeping in mind



SHERRY ROMANADO IS THE LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE FOR THE MONTREAL SOUTH SHORE RIDING OF LONGUEUIL-CHARLES-LEMOYNE.

that, if you're going to make one initiative in one area, you need to have the system and infrastructure in place to support it. If you're going to be, for example,

focusing on a manufacturing strategy, you need to have the education system working with you

to make sure there is enough manpower to go into that area. It seems to be, because of the disconnect between federal, provincial and municipal governments that ideas are not being executed because all the partners aren't around the table to bring it to fruition."

Is Canada doing enough to address global climate change?

SR: "No. In a recent article in *The Globe and Mail* (March 18), a group of academics were saying that Canada can really shift to renewable sources of technology by 2025 and eliminate 80 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century. It was quite an interesting article and I think that is something we should be looking at. We should be looking at alternative energy sources and we should be looking at sustainable ways of bringing our resources to market."

"My family has a long history of service. My father was a firefighter and my husband was a firefighter. My two sons both serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. So I thought it was my turn."

How do you plan to address national security concerns?

SR: "I think we need to be working lockstep not only with our Canadian forces, but also our local forces and the RCMP to identify and mitigate risks while keeping in mind the rights of Canadians."

How did your Concordia experience prepare you for political leadership?

SR: "Completing an Executive MBA with 24 brilliant, Type-A personalities, you have to find your space and make sure you have a voice. Teamwork was one of the most important lessons I learned in the program. It's a very intensive, full-time program, and while most people are working full time, as I was, while raising a family and so on, you learn you cannot do it on your own. You learn that you have to trust your colleagues. You bring others to the table in areas that you might not be as strong at so, in working together, you're able to achieve a lot more than you would on your own. The program really did drive that home." ■

—Isaac Olson is a Montreal freelance writer.



Victims **NO MORE**

CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS AIM TO REDUCE
BULLYING AMONG CANADIAN YOUTH

Bullying has existed for centuries yet only began to receive serious academic research attention in the 1970s. While our society now encourages individuals who don't fit into majority norms to be themselves, they often face verbal and/or physical confrontation from others who feel threatened by increasingly liberalized social values or don't realize the potentially serious consequences of their picking on differences.

Social media plays an increasingly key role. Facebook, Twitter and other platforms often work towards positive change by connecting individuals who form a minority and giving them a louder social voice. The internet, however, can just as readily be used to increase or magnify victimization. Media reports about teen suicides related at least in part to social-media bullying have emphasized the need for action.

To help address these issues, Concordia co-hosted an anti-bullying symposium for teachers and school administrators in November 2014. As Concordia President Alan Shepard told guests, a number of faculty are spearheading important research aimed at making it easier for all children to grow up in a world that embraces differences rather than targeting and victimizing individuals. As Shepard said, "Bullying research is the perfect example of knowledge translation helping make an immediate difference on the front lines."



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM BUKOWSKI, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CONDUCTS RESEARCH ON YOUTH PEER RELATIONSHIPS. ONE OF HIS STUDIES LOOKS AT ELEMENTARY AND HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS' LEVEL OF EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND FEELINGS OF VICTIMIZATION AND EXCLUSION.

or aggressive tend to run a greater risk of being victimized. "People don't like to hear this because they think you're blaming the victim, which is not the case," he emphasizes. "What they also don't like to hear is that people who are victimized are often victimizing others as well."

Bukowski's latest research indicates that children who are picked on but have friends don't suffer feelings of depression or withdrawal to the same extent. "Given that it's difficult if not impossible to eliminate all the reasons that youths bully or victimize others, this new research is encouraging in that it shows that we can take real steps to minimize the impact," Bukowski says.

who feel victimized often have much higher levels of anxiety, which can make them hypersensitive to an experience that isn't totally positive, while other individuals will more readily dismiss what happened."

What many people may find even more surprising about the new research is that being excluded — denied access to a group and its resources — has a much greater and lasting negative impact than being victimized. "We are social animals," Bukowski explains. "Except perhaps for the last 600 years, being excluded meant almost certain death. So it doesn't surprise me that being excluded would have a larger negative impact than being treated badly."

MAKING FRIENDS

Friends can make a world of difference for coping with verbal aggression, according to William M. Bukowski, a Concordia University Research Chair in Psychology (Tier 1) and director of the Centre for Research in Human Development. Students with close friends tend to get over an episode of bullying or victimization more quickly than individuals who feel isolated.

Longstanding research indicates that individuals who are withdrawn and/

"A few studies indicate that you can implement a very time-consuming set of procedures to reduce bullying, or simply arrange to have a bully and victim sit next to each other in class."

He's now looking at other factors affecting those feeling victimized. "Our current study — which has yet to be published — indicates that people

Being disliked by some or all is tough, yet being cut off by a group and its resources is often more devastating. "The best predictor of negative

outcomes is exclusion,” Bukowski reports. “Someone who is excluded at any particular time — even after you factor in victimization — is going to show higher levels of depression than children who have not been excluded. An excluded child will also show higher levels of lingering distress up to two months later.”

The research further indicates why it is so difficult to pinpoint a single cause of bullying or victimization for most of the tragic cases of youth suicide that capture media attention. “These are always terrible occurrences, no matter what the circumstances,” Bukowski says. “However, it is often difficult to learn from these tragic cases because they are often also excluded from their peers and tend to have very bad family relations.”

While having a network of friends is a powerful ally, just getting students to know each other to some extent can significantly improve circumstances. “A few studies done by my colleagues in the Netherlands indicate that you can implement a very expensive, complicated and time-consuming set of procedures to reduce bullying, or you can simply arrange to have a bully and

victim sit next to each other in class,” Bukowski says. “When the bully and victim have to co-exist under a relatively well-monitored situation, they begin to get to see each other differently.”

Bukowski is impressed with how teachers at one Montreal school dedicate substantial time to group activities during the initial weeks of each school year so students can bond to some extent. “This kind of getting to know each other builds empathy that helps to minimize victimization,” he says.



JOSEPH DRESNER

HILARY ROSE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES, IS INVOLVED IN A CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH-FUNDED PROJECT THAT IS SURVEYING 146 CANADIAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SEE HOW THEY'RE DEALING WITH ISSUES INVOLVING HOMOPHOBIA.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES

Hilary Rose, an associate professor in Concordia's Department of Applied Human Sciences, has been examining how bullying, harassment and other kinds of victimization can lead to suicidal thoughts and even attempts. Rose is a member of the research team being led by Elizabeth Saewyc at the University of British Columbia. The team is using survey data collected by the McCreary Centre Society of more than 23,000 B.C. high-school students — a large enough sample to adequately represent lesbian, gay and bisexual youth.

“We looked at what the impact is of a school having an explicit anti-homophobic policy as well as a Gay-Straight Alliance [GSA], which is a student-run club where everyone is welcomed regardless of sexual orientation,” Rose explains. “So there are members who are straight allies of the gay kids and help normalize being a member of a sexual-minority orientation or transgendered within the school.”

The research will help address the need for Canadian data that has largely been lacking about heterosexual and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning (LGBTQ) youth to date. The project forms part of a five-year initiative that has Canadian and international researchers focusing on bullying, victimization and suicide, as well as health inequalities in sexual-minority youth. In 2012 the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) provided a \$2 million grant, the largest-ever such grant given by CIHR.

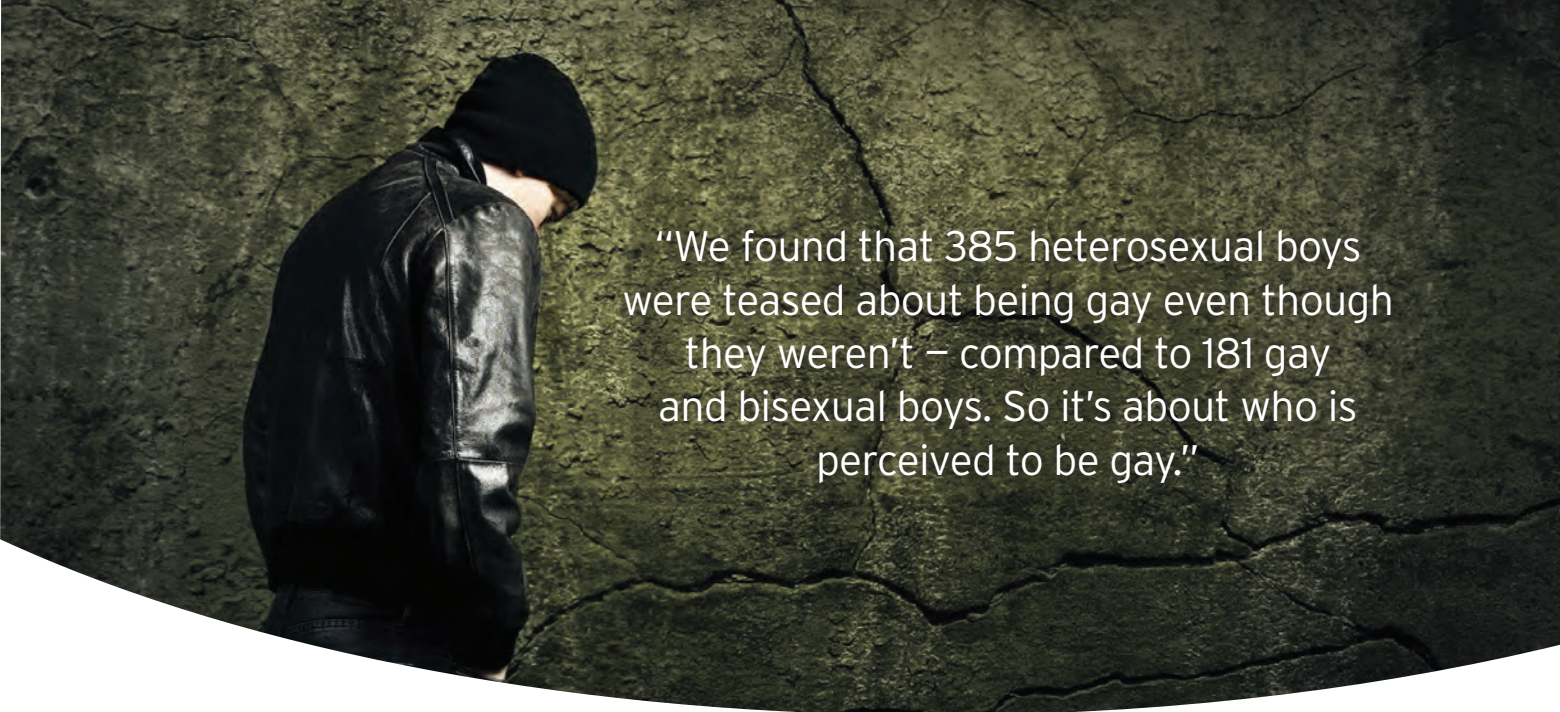
Rose's research indicates that schools that have a clear anti-homophobic policy and a GSA club not only helped to protect LGBTQ youth against bullying, harassment and suicidal thoughts or attempts, but also straight kids.

“When a school had this kind of policy and a well-established GSA club for a period longer than three years, they influenced the overall school climate,” Rose says. “They send a real message to all the students at the school that it is a more accepting place, which can reduce the stigma for heterosexual boys who don't fit the usual stereotypes for masculinity,” Rose explains. “In general, boys are more likely than girls to be teased about being gay, even if they aren't.”

With about 90 per cent of most student populations being heterosexual, the number of straight males who are teased for not conforming to traditional ideas about masculinity is usually quite large. “We found in our study that 385 heterosexual boys were teased or bullied about being gay even though they weren't — compared to 181 gay

Concordia students and professors recorded a video called *Bullying hurts... Education makes it better* to build on the It Gets Better Project, a social movement that advocates against the bullying of LGBTQ youth. The 2010 video was the first of its kind from a Canadian university. To watch the video, visit itgetsbetter.org and search for “bullying hurts.”





“We found that 385 heterosexual boys were teased about being gay even though they weren’t – compared to 181 gay and bisexual boys. So it’s about who is perceived to be gay.”

and bisexual boys,” Rose states. “So it’s not just about who is gay but who is perceived to be gay.”

Anti-homophobic policies and GSAs therefore help a wider student population at a school. A survey conducted by the Égale Canada Human Rights Trust found that 90 per cent of high-school kids hear the terms “you’re so gay” or “that’s so gay” regularly, with approximately 70 per cent of them hearing it daily. And 80 per cent of high-schoolers regularly hear pejorative words such as faggot, queer, lesbo or dyke – 50 per cent of them daily. In addition to the LGBTQ youth, a majority – 60 per cent – of the heterosexual survey respondents found these homophobic comments disturbing.

The Égale Canada data indicates that one in four heterosexual students is teased about how they convey their masculinity or femininity. “They are more likely to be teased about their gender expression than about their perceived sexual orientation,” Rose notes. “It really comes back to boys facing harassment if they don’t fit society’s expectations of masculinity. And boys are under much greater pressure about their body image than ever.”

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GILBERT ÉMOND WORRIES ABOUT YOUTH AT SCHOOLS WHERE HOMOPHOBIC ACTS GO UNPUNISHED. “THEY HAVE THEIR BRAND-NAME CLOTHING OR SHOES TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM. IN SOME CASES, THESE ITEMS ARE BURNED.”

COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION

Rose is collaborating with Gilbert Émond, associate professor in the Department of Applied Human Science, as well as colleagues at other universities on another aspect of the CIHR initiative. The project involves virtually every school board in Canada asking what each of them has in place in terms of programs and resources to help teachers and school administrators relate LGBTQ

information and acceptance.

“This is not merely observational research,” Émond says. “It’s proactive to establish what there is and where the holes in the system continue to exist, so that we can address them.”

Once the inventory is completed, efforts will be made to find ways to integrate the highly effective resources of existing community organizations into programs and perhaps speaker tours to help address homophobia among students and make LGBTQ youth feel welcome at school.

Émond notes that some of the school boards have clearly refused to participate. Others stated they were overwhelmed with administrative responsibilities and therefore did not have the time or resources to answer. “If some do not want to answer these basic questions under the protection of anonymity, I think it says a lot about their avoidance of the entire topic,” he states.

Quebec’s education law actually requires school boards to have policies to address homophobia in their schools, but the refusal to address the subject indicates that a lot of work remains to be done towards having effective policies implemented everywhere.

“If some [school boards] do not want to answer these basic questions under the protection of anonymity, I think it says a lot about their avoidance of the entire topic.”

Émond is also looking to determine how to reduce stigma and promote resilience for LGBTQ youth regarding health interventions. “If you feel discriminated against, you’re less likely to disclose information that might be important to your health,” he explains. “This could be relevant to a person’s treatment or protection against particular sexually transmitted diseases.”

Émond has witnessed the dire consequences of homophobia during his

previous HIV studies. “A lot of people only went to the hospital when they were already dying from AIDS because they feared being ostracized if others found out that they had HIV,” he says.

A major difference in overall societal attitudes can start at schools. “What students learn to be acceptable behaviour in their school is often what they take with them as acceptable elsewhere, too,” Émond says. His previous studies reveal how casual remarks in schools and elsewhere can

have further negative implications. “When you have a school or a hospital where people are permitted to say things like, ‘That’s so gay,’ it sends out a message that homophobic discrimination is permitted and it warns individuals that they may not be welcomed if they give any indications of being different from the majority.”

The discrimination at schools where homophobic remarks go unchecked often results in LGBTQ youth being aggressively targeted. Émond still worries about a 13-year-old who related being shoved into a locker, where he remained trapped for two hours until a janitor overheard his attempts to get out. “He did not attend school afterwards, which can have a profoundly negative impact,” Émond recalls.





PHD CANDIDATE JIHAN RABAH IS WORKING ON A DOCUMENTARY THAT WILL REVEAL THE EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS MARGINALIZED ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

CYBER-MARGINALIZATION

The lack of face-to-face communication on social media is one of the reasons that cyber-bullying has proliferated. Jihan Rabah, a doctoral candidate in Educational Studies, is a co-investigator on a two-year project funded by Public Safety Canada to research hate speech on social media, with the goal of developing educational materials about online violence among Canadian youth.

"We're aiming to collect and develop curriculum materials that encourage the use of social media to counteract online hate speech," says Rabah, who

researchers are embarking on individual projects to expand and improve existing curriculum resources regarding online victimization for use with high school, college and/or university students.

"I am also involved in making a documentary about the dark side of social media," says Rabah about the project she is doing in collaboration with the principal investigator, Adeela Arshad-Ayaz, assistant professor in

"People want others to know that while social media is an important tool for empowerment, it can also be used as a means to marginalize people."

is collaborating with Department of Education associate professor Vivek Venkatesh, assistant professor Robert McGray from Brock University, doctoral candidate Tiejia Thomas and 11 other Canadian academics.

Along with identifying and coordinating the best current information to share via an online

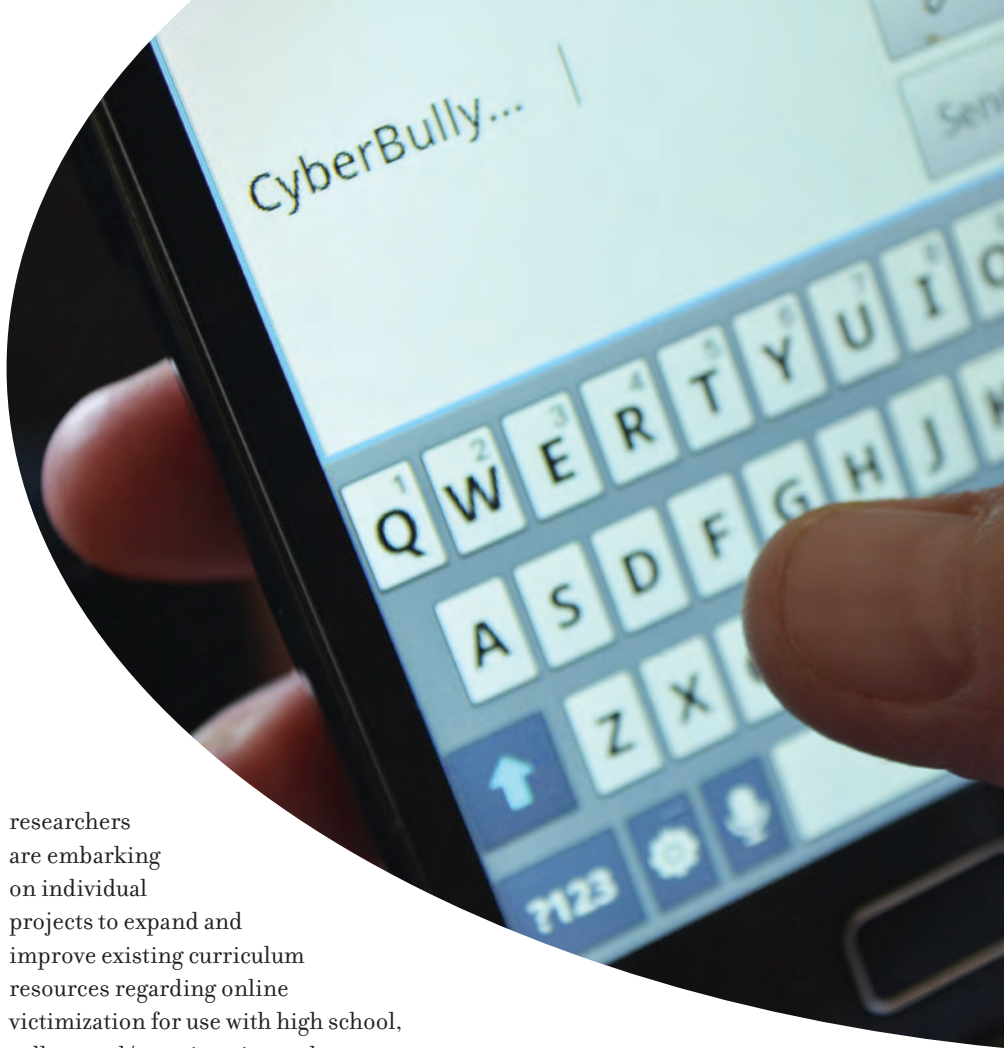
the Department of Education. "The objective is to explore and make evident the effects of hate speech through social media."

The documentary will relate what it feels like to be victimized or excluded by hate speech on social media. Actors will portray the individuals and leave out details that can identify those who were

victimized. A number of individuals have already signed up for the project. "People want to talk about how they have been excluded or marginalized," Rabah says. "They say that it's important for others to know that while social media is an important tool for empowerment, it can also be used as a means to marginalize people."

As a mother, the potential negative impacts of social media particularly concern Rabah. She has to remind her own children that texting messages to friends or posting Facebook statuses is not the same as casually talking with friends in person. "They think being online is just another ordinary conversation," she notes. "They don't realize how they are documenting their lives and how that information can be spread." ■

—Julie Gedeon, BA 81, BA 89, MA 09, is a Montreal freelance writer.



Photography by Eugénie Cliche, MFA 15

Each year, the Concordia Department of Studio Arts' photography program awards the Roloff Beny Foundation Fellowship in Photography to a graduate student for their outstanding artistic and academic achievement.

MFA student Eugénie Cliche received the fellowship, worth \$10,000, in 2013. With those funds, the photographer/videographer and multidisciplinary artist headed to an all-inclusive resort in Cuba with her family, where she produced a series of satirical images that play on the theme of fairy tales and challenge the idea of the contemporary nuclear family. The resulting work, a combination of photographs and embroidery, will be on display at the Maison de la Culture Côte-des-Neiges in Montreal in fall 2015.

"I already knew that my family was unconventional," says Cliche. "And especially multigenerational: Max, 42; Eugénie, 34; Elfi, 22; Rose, 14; Lio, 4; Roméo, 3. It reflects a surprising array of ages, a cross-section of modern society."

Cliche describes the project: "It talks about the family in itself, playing a role among your own family, being yourself, being the mother, being the artist. When you are in a family you are expected to behave in a certain way. But you also play a role within that family. It's all about confronting stereotypes which exist in mass culture."

Cliche earned a BFA in Visual Arts at Université Laval in 2003 and completed her MFA this spring at Concordia. Her work has appeared in galleries across Canada as well as in the United States and Europe.



Roloff Beny Foundation Fellowship in Photography: Eugénie Cliche

- 1** EUGÉNIE CLICHE
- 2** FAMILY
- 3** STORY
- 4** UNIVERS PÉRILLEUX 3 (EMBROIDERY AND MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER)
- 5** UNIVERS PÉRILLEUX 1 (EMBROIDERY AND MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER)
- 6** L'ARCHE (EMBROIDERY ON LINEN)



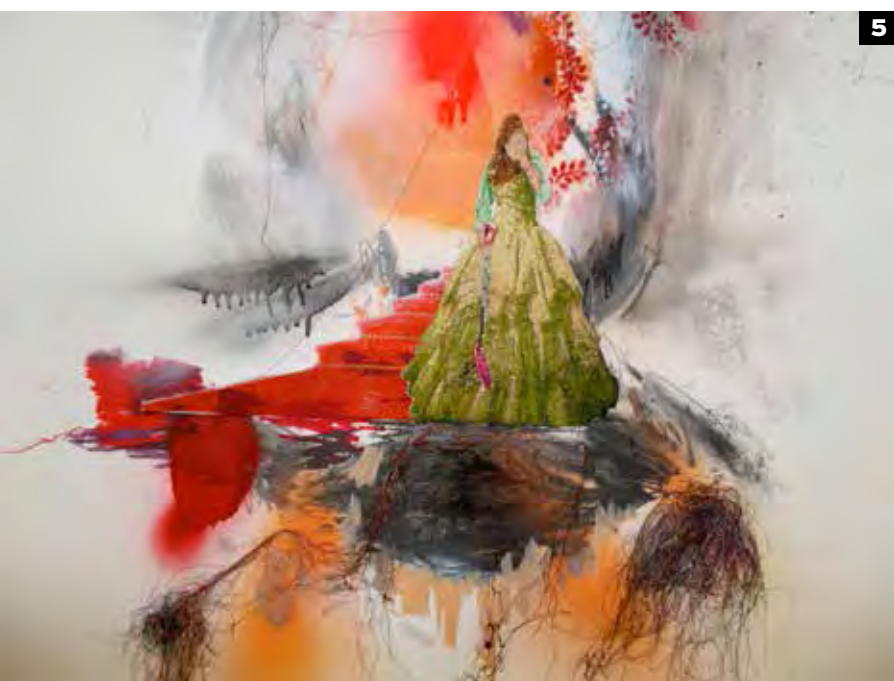
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IMMI



GRATITUDE NATION



Concordia experts examine social, psychological and political implications of Canada's growing number of new arrivals

BEVERLY AKERMAN

When former Canadian prime minister Jean Chrétien spoke at Concordia on March 4 (see the story on page 6), he showed that time has diminished none of his style or pith. Chrétien told the audience packed into the Sir George Williams Alumni Auditorium: "I was proud to tell [European leaders] I don't have any problem with immigration in Canada. For me an immigrant is not a problem, an immigrant is an asset."

The venue was an appropriate place to relate that story, because a number of Concordia faculty across departments are addressing the challenges and opportunities that form part of the Canadian immigrant experience.

PROFESSOR DEATH METAL

Vivek Venkatesh, MA '03, PhD '08, is one busy guy. He's associate dean, Academic Programs and Development, at Concordia's School of Graduate Studies, acting director of the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance, director of the Graduate Certificate in University Teaching and associate professor in the Department of Education.

Originally from India, Venkatesh came to Canada by way of Singapore. He has a layered understanding of what it means to move between countries, languages and cultures. He studied French as a schoolboy, married a woman from Paris and is now pleasantly surprised to discover himself able to deliver keynote addresses and white papers in *la langue de Molière*. "I'm an unabashed proponent of the interculturalism Quebec is known for," he says.

As successful as his personal immigration experience has been, some of his research looks at the flip side. "It focuses on how digital media is used in the creation, dissemination and propagation of online hate including misogyny, homophobia and racism in multicultural societies," he says.

Venkatesh wants to "sensitize Canadians to the deleterious effects of hate speech," he says. To this end, he received a two-year Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada grant — under their Kanishka Project, a five-year \$10 million initiative to invest in research on terrorism and counter-terrorism, including how to prevent and counter violent extremism.

Venkatesh and his team are championing the SOMEONE project, an acronym for SOcial MEDIA educatiON Every day.

The vision: "To build awareness, create space for dialogue and combat online hate." An online portal of learning materials — multimedia, digital and social — will be created to sensitize Canadian students, parents, teachers and the general public and designed to prevent hate speech inciting violence and violent extremism. The goal is to foster resilience and develop digital literacy and critical thinking. The developed material — blogs, podcasts, videos, comic books, graphics and other media — will help educators, community members and government stakeholders encourage the use of social media to counter hate speech.

"We need to better understand how hateful messages are propagated and interpreted by various members of these music scenes."

The project brings together principal investigators from each of Concordia's four faculties and other Canadian- and American-based researchers. Collaborators include experts in consumer consumption and cultural theory, peace education, terrorism risk assessment, textual analysis, psychoanalytics, feminism and a host of other specialties.

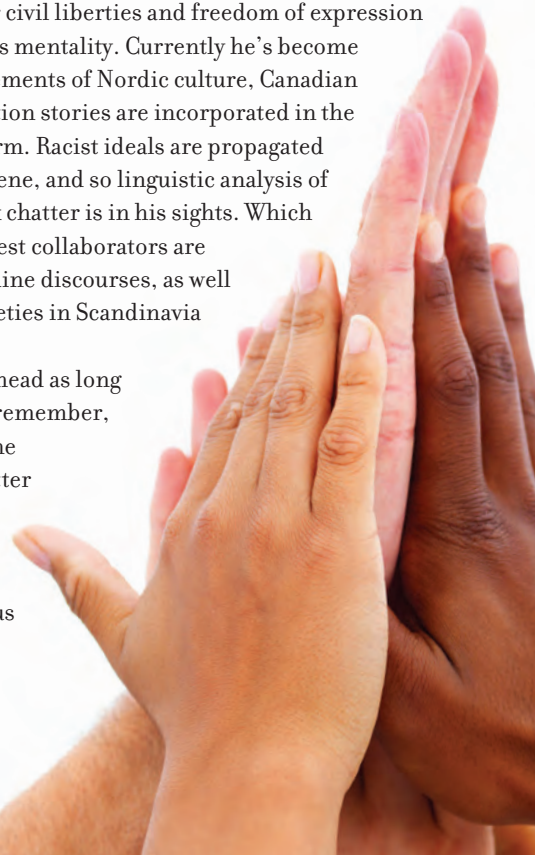
SOMEONE grew out of concerns about social media and the propagation of hate online — an awareness that arose during some of Venkatesh's other research on extreme metal music. Venkatesh stresses the fine line that exists between building a culture of respect for civil liberties and freedom of expression and an anything-goes mentality. Currently he's become interested in how elements of Nordic culture, Canadian history and assimilation stories are incorporated in the extreme metal art form. Racist ideals are propagated through the metal scene, and so linguistic analysis of Reddit and Facebook chatter is in his sights. Which means among his latest collaborators are people who study online discourses, as well as the history of societies in Scandinavia and North America.

"I've been a metalhead as long as I can consciously remember, probably 30 years," he says. "We need to better understand how hateful messages are propagated and interpreted by various members of these music scenes."



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ONE RESEARCH FOCUS OF VIVEK VENKATESH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (AMONG OTHER ROLES), IS MESSAGES OF HATE FOUND IN METAL MUSIC CULTURE. HE RECENTLY SPOKE AT THE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE OF THE INFERNO METAL FESTIVAL NORWAY.



THE WAY OF ALL FLESH

Lorna Roth, BA 72, PhD 94, professor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies and fellow in the School of Community and Public Affairs and Simone de Beauvoir Institute, has been deeply concerned with minority communications and cultural rights throughout her wide and varied career.

Her work over the years with Aboriginal groups eventually led to the creation of the Aboriginal People's Television Network in 1999.

Since finishing her book on the history of First Peoples media in Canada in 2005, she has been working on two research trajectories. Roth was a member of the Montreal Life Stories Project team at Concordia (2007–2013), which produced oral histories of 500 Montrealers who emigrated to escape from mass violence and conflicts in their home countries. She and Caroline Kunzle, MA 03, compared the impact of video (as opposed to audio-only) recording of oral histories in the "About Face" project. "What are the reasons you would or would not want to show your face?" Roth questions.

"People tend to assume that the product designs are deliberately racist. But people emerge out of a context, a time, a history."

Her second research focus has shifted to one "much more subtle and nuanced," she says. "I consider the ways in which skin colour is embedded in manufactured products, and the recognition by designers and producers that not all skin is light in colour."

Roth is interested in understanding what goes into design decisions affecting various products one wouldn't immediately associate with race. Kodak stock photographic film was a classic example: it was developed for light skin colour. Surprisingly, her research indicated that problems associated with this weren't pointed out by people with darker skin but by advertisers, such as those manufacturing wood-grained products who couldn't get properly exposed "photographs of their beautiful furniture," she says.

Over the years, she discovered much international evidence that confirmed the light flesh bias in stock films of all brands. Roth notes, "Once you start researching, these concerns become ubiquitous: from



DAVID WARD

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES PROFESSOR LORNA ROTH IS IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING AN E-BOOK, *COLOUR BALANCE: SKIN TONES TECHNOLOGIES PRODUCT*. IT WILL EXAMINE THE HISTORY OF THE COLOUR "FLESH," ITS MULTIPLE MEANINGS AND COMPLEX PLACE IN SOCIETIES.

Crayola's 'flesh' coloured crayons to the film industry's Shirley colour-balance cards used in the calibration of photo prints (which had been dominantly white until the mid-nineties), to 'nude' pantyhose designed for Caucasian skin, to the colours of makeup, mannequins, dolls and Band-Aids, not to mention the colour correction and adjustment processes inherent in video and filmmaking."

To complement her case studies, Roth has formulated a framework to analyze the emergent theoretical questions from her material evidence and international interviewees. "People tend to assume that the product designs are deliberately racist," she says. "But I'm not certain how skin colour-conscious manufacturers have been. People emerge out of a context, a time, a history; these products began appearing prior to the civil rights movements around the world." She favours the term *dysconsciousness*, "a low level of awareness that such issues exist," and a more nuanced interpretation of the typical embedded racial bias. She goes on: "Nonetheless, these products have had major consequences on the development of a colour complex for peoples with darker skin colours."

Beginning in the early 1990s, many product designers became more inclusive of all skin tones, Roth notes. "The change is fairly recent, and it's not quite fast enough for me, but it is happening," she says. "I'm looking for a different kind of equity, not based on statistics, policies, or legislation, but rather on the embeddedness of a range of skin tones in all the products and technologies that I have been studying."

Roth remains devoted to the push for inclusiveness, for social justice. "It's very important," she says. "All visual aspects of our environment, for kids especially, should be equitable."



JOSEPH DRESNER

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDREW RYDER IS ALSO AN AFFILIATE RESEARCHER WITHIN THE CULTURE AND MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT AT MONTREAL'S JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL. HIS RESEARCH INCLUDES LOOKING AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR CULTURAL CONTEXT.

DEPRESSION AND NEWCOMERS

How do newcomers make the psychological adjustment when they arrive in Montreal?

That's one of the areas of research for Andrew Ryder, associate professor in the Department of Psychology and a licensed clinical psychologist. Ryder looks at the relationship between individuals and their cultural context and how this affects mental health — for example, recent findings showed that minority groups in the United States are less likely to receive treatment for personality disorder, possibly due to their socioeconomic status.

His current work explores differences in how Chinese- and Euro-Canadians present depression, as well as research into immigration and acculturation. "I'm interested in the psychological processes that people experience as they shift cultural environments," he says.

“Studying their social networks lets us predict the difference between someone who can use new language skills to get what she/he needs and someone who can share a few beers and talk hockey.”

Ryder is looking at the way immigrants at various points along the journey of becoming Canadian adjust their values, emotions and attitudes. In collaboration with psychology professor Catherine Amiot of Université de Québec à Montréal, Ryder is working on a multi-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada project on how international students adjust to Montreal.

The students come with differing goals, running the gamut from those who intend to immigrate to those who only want to spend a short period abroad. "They're eager to access the blend of English and French, the unique urban context," he says. "People see the Montreal identity as a discrete, salient thing," Ryder reports. There's an initial excitement that lasts until "a dip at midterms," which tends to pick up as the one-year mark approaches. "Newcomers adjust in terms of their comfort and confidence. It's about practical and emotional things, their interpersonal competence, comfort using a new language," he says.

Social networks are especially important — "the entry to a real social life," Ryder explains. "The single best way to learn a language is to speak it, but how are you going to convince people you are worth talking to? Studying their social networks lets us predict the degree of high-level comfort in the language, the difference between someone who can use new language skills to get what she/he needs and someone who can go out and share a few beers and talk hockey."

He explains that different groups experience psychological symptoms in different ways; for example, among some groups stress and depression is experienced more in physical symptoms such as fatigue while others emphasize psychological symptoms such as guilt.

Being in Montreal has advantages in Ryder's field of study. While Toronto is more culturally diverse on certain technical measures, "Montreal is one of the two or three best centres in the world for the study of immigrant acculturation and mental healthcare," he says.



LOOKING AT IMMIGRATION POLICY

Mireille Paquet, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Political Science, researches and teaches immigration, public policy and public administration.

Co-founder of Concordia's Centre for the Evaluation of Immigration Policies (CEIP), her current research focuses on the governance of immigration in federal countries and the roles bureaucrats play in formulating immigration and integration policies.

Her research demonstrates that all Canadian provinces are largely on the same page. "The kind of message that Mr. Chrétien put forward in his talk at Concordia of immigrants as an asset, starting in about the mid '90s, diffused out of the federal government," she says. "It's become extremely popular in all 10 provinces. This whole idea that we need immigrants, they're needed for the economy, they're needed for our demography, they're needed because they're educated, really began to motivate provincial governments to develop new immigration policies during this time period."

"This whole idea that we need immigrants [in the '90s] really began to motivate provincial governments to develop new immigration policies during this time period."

Prior to that, Paquet notes, only the Quebec government was really active in this domain. Immigrant selection was devolved to the province in 1991, as was responsibility for integration. Now Quebec is no longer the sole province having "unlimited selection capacity," she says.

For the longest time, Quebec immigration policy was mostly driven by concerns about the need to secure the French language. She reports that since the 1990s this has gradually changed, with economic consideration now also on top of the province's immigration agenda.

Over the past two decades, Paquet has found that economic concerns have been paramount for the provinces. Her findings feature prominently in her upcoming book,

Les provinces et la fédéralisation de l'immigration au Canada 1990-2010 (Presses de l'Université de Montréal). The need to buttress economic growth, to ensure a strong population base for taxation,

demographic and population renewal are all important drivers of immigration policy across Canada, Paquet says.

Overall, though, she says: "The message our country broadcasts is, 'Canada is open to immigration, but we expect you to access employment very quickly.' Economic integration is a primary goal."

She points to the federal government's new Express Entry program, which matches qualified and semi-qualified immigrants with employers to generate job offers prior to immigrants' arrival in Canada. "It used to be that immigrants were looked upon in human capital terms, they were bringing in their education and experience, and were expected to integrate easily. But these newer programs address real hurdles that exist in getting into the job market," she says.

These barriers include difficulty having foreign credentials recognized by Canadian organizations and professional associations and "the refusal of some Canadian employers to hire immigrants lacking Canadian job experience," she adds. "Canada sends a strong message: we recruit based on qualifications. But then qualifications aren't recognized. This is unfair." Problems associated with racism and ethnocentrism remain, too.

In her book, Paquet finds many similarities in policies among all provinces, although there are differences related to language concerns, of course. Overall, Quebec takes a larger role in the provision of direct services to new immigrants. The other provinces are more likely to provide funds to community groups to accomplish similar goals. "Employment is the big thing," she says. ■

—Beverly Akerman is a Montreal freelance writer.



MIREILLE PAQUET, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, LOOKS AT CANADIAN IMMIGRATION POLICIES. SHE'S CO-DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE FOR THE EVALUATION OF IMMIGRATION POLICIES, CREATED IN 2013. "WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN WHETHER A POLICY IS 'GOOD' OR 'BAD,' BUT IN STUDYING WHAT GOVERNMENTS ACTUALLY DO, AND HOW TO MEASURE THE IMPACTS OF THESE POLICY CHANGES."



Concordia

Food & Drink

These alumni have
turned their passion
for food and drink
into thriving careers

MAEVE HALDANE

The food industry is fickle, tough and, for those who succeed at it, tremendously rewarding. To provide a transporting – albeit fleeting – gastronomic experience requires determination and a profound respect for the value of the evanescent. The following Concordia graduates have the acumen and good taste to thrive in their businesses – and educate our palates in the process.

JACQUELINE BERMAN: EASY AS PIE

Even on a cold day, the warm homey smell of good baking wafts down Notre-Dame St. in Montreal's St-Henri district. That's thanks to **Jacqueline Berman**, BComm 11, co-owner of Rustique Pies (rustiquepiekitchen.com), which is, at heart, a country pie stand in the city. With a dozen pie offerings, plus other tasty treats, Rustique has a fervent following for their classic pies like the apple, as well as the renowned lemon meringue, and the addiction-friendly flavours like bonfire (topped with giant homemade marshmallows) and peanut butter cup.

Three years ago, Berman was invited by Ryan Bloom and Tamera Clark to join a business venture inspired by their meeting in the Cayman Islands, where he was developing real estate and she was working as a pastry chef. Berman had been working in marketing for a law firm for a year and a half, was ready for a change – and appreciates the value of dessert.

The trio decided to “pick one thing and do it well,” Berman says. The bakery offers not just traditionally sized pies but also four-inch personal size pies, mini pies and even pies-as-lollipops. Roughly a third of the business is catering for weddings and special events, and they are expanding the space to include a showroom next door.

Berman points out that while Montreal boasts fabulous French pastries, there's



LESLIE SCHACHTER

JACQUELINE BERMAN IN HER RUSTIQUE PIES BAKERY. “CONCORDIA GAVE ME A GOOD SENSE OF SMALL BUSINESS. I REALLY LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE VALUE OF DOING RESEARCH.”

a dearth of homemade, American-style treats. “Everything is made here, by hand, on site, every single day,” she says of Rustique. “We peel our apples, juice our lemons. Montreal is a place that understands and appreciates that.”

Rustique exults in the local and seasonal, roasting pumpkins in fall, selling strawberry-rhubarb pie in summer. “Whenever we have access to what Quebec has to offer, we go for it!” she says.

Berman was diagnosed with celiac

“We peel our apples, juice our lemons. Montreal is a place that understands and appreciates that.”

disease four years ago, so she offers gluten-free options, even if they can't be advertised as such due to the possibility of cross-contamination with the regular flour dusting around the kitchen. “Our coconut macaroons are seriously the best macaroons you've ever eaten,” she swears, and their divine chocolate sparkle cookies are made with almond flour.

People often underestimate the amount of work and challenges that go into starting a business, says Berman, who was 25 when Rustique opened.

“We didn't anticipate how quickly things would take off,” Berman says. It was hard to keep on top of inventory, from ingredients to packaging to take-away cups. They aim to be as environmentally friendly as possible in the packaging, too, while maintaining the integrity of the product.

Despite the amount of work, Berman sees the reward. “You can learn a lot more as an entrepreneur than you would in a more traditional job,” Berman believes.

“And for a lot of entrepreneurs, the harder you work, the better off you are.”

Berman's husband, David Bloom, BComm 08 (see his story on page 42), Ryan's brother, owns the restaurant Sumac, a few blocks away. Jacqueline met David through a third Bloom brother, Jon, who owns Tuck Shop across the street from Rustique. They all hope that the stretch of Notre-Dame St. between the two establishments becomes a walking destination for locals and tourists.

Berman credits David for fostering her passion for food. “Their mom did us wives a wonderful service by having them involved in the kitchen,” she says.

DAVID BLOOM AND RAQUEL ZAGURY: MID-EAST TASTES

Sumac (sumacrestaurant.com) on Notre-Dame St. in Montreal has been open for less than a year, yet it's already known as a great mid-priced spot with easy, flavourful fare, plus possibly the best falafel in town. The restaurant is co-owned by **David Bloom**, BComm 08, and chef **Raquel Zagury**, BFA 01. Both have family in the Middle East and are keen to expand the palates of Montrealers.

While doing his degree at Concordia's John Molson School of Business, Bloom knew he eventually wanted to be a small-business owner, though he wasn't necessarily thinking of a restaurant. Upon graduation, he followed his passion for sport and became the assistant coach for Concordia's men's

basketball team for six years. Yet he has always had a passion for food, too, and saw a gap in the market for good meals served up in a place that was neither too casual nor that qualified as fine dining.

Bloom had worked at many restaurants, including Monkland Tavern with his brother, Jon. That's where he first asked out Jacqueline Berman (see story on page 41), who co-owns Rustique Pie Kitchen with his other brother, Ryan. Now married, Bloom and Berman live in the up-and-coming neighbourhood

"I'm from a sports background so I like the competitive nature, the fast pace of the restaurant industry."

of St-Henri, so when he got the itch to open a restaurant he looked for a locale there.

A large open space that used to be a reptile wholesaler became available.

Now the room is warm and welcoming, beautiful with exposed brick walls and high ceilings. It looks so organically comfortable that one doesn't think of the difficulties that went into its creation.

"Everything's a challenge in the beginning," Bloom says, from finding the right location, financing, construction and "just getting everybody to show up on time and do quality work." Overall, Bloom considers himself and Zagury lucky. "We got our permits relatively quickly and there were no huge nightmares," he says.

The owners embrace the role that Sumac places in culinary education. Many Montrealers know Middle Eastern food from late night shish taouk sandwiches, and probably haven't even heard of some of the spices or dishes at Sumac. "We're not doing anything incredibly avant-garde, but we're adding to the dialogue with Middle Eastern food," he says.

Preserved lemons, smoked paprika and cumin are unusual enough, but dukkah and s'rug generally require explanations (a savoury Egyptian spice mix and a Yemeni hot sauce, respectively). Bloom heartily encourages customers to explore, and often recommends sabich, a combination of hard-boiled egg, fried eggplant, and fermented mango sauce called amba. They often fall in love with the Iraqi street food. And, a bonus for some, everything except the pita is gluten free.

The hectic multitasking of the business doesn't faze Bloom. "I'm from a sports background so I like the competitive nature, the fast pace of the restaurant industry," he says. He's convinced that Concordia schooled him well in the field, particularly in his favourite classes that analyzed real businesses, their problems and successes.

For now, Bloom is happy to be firmly establishing Sumac with Zagury as a destination restaurant. He fervently hopes to travel more in the Middle East, which will no doubt bring an even wider range of tastes to the restaurant.

DAVID BLOOM CO-OWNS SUMAC IN MONTREAL. BLOOM SAYS OF HIS DAYS AT CONCORDIA: "IT WAS FUN TO BE WITH PEOPLE WITH A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES, TO GET TO KNOW THEM AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM."



LESLIE SCHACHTER



LESIE SCHACHTER

COOKING TEACHER JULIANA ESPAÑA KELLER STARTED SMALL BUT WENT BIGGER UPON MOVING TO HER CURRENT LOFT-STYLE APARTMENT. WORD OF MOUTH AND MEDIA COVERAGE BRING HER CLIENTS.

JULIANA ESPAÑA KELLER: THE ART OF COOKING

Tall, tattooed, with long black hair and an easy authority, **Juliana España Keller**, BFA 00, MFA 03 (*cargocollective.com/CGEL*), is quite comfortable providing direction. Keller is a part-time studio arts professor at Concordia and a part-time cooking instructor out of her home.

Keller's vast loft apartment in Montreal's Mile End district has a community dining table that comfortably seats 16 and a kitchen island that can easily accommodate a small horde of eager culinarians. Large contemporary photos and paintings hang about the bright room, which seems designed to foster creativity and open minds.

Recently, Keller has taken on evening

cooking soirées. Having agreed beforehand on the type of food, she divides a group of students into teams: one station works on appetizers, one on entrées and another on dessert. "I wanted to create an original format where the person who's hosting invites their own friends, for an occasion," she says. Birthday parties are popular, as are holiday times, and she's held a class for

"I'm able to delegate and make people feel comfortable around the kitchen. You have to have a knack for making people understand it's not as hard as they think it is."

Ubisoft workers from France who wanted to learn English cooking terms.

The multilingual Keller was born in England, lived in and was married in New York City and moved to Venezuela, where her daughters were born. Her husband's work led them to Montreal in 1991, and Keller eventually studied

painting and drawing at Concordia, then earned her MFA in sculpture. "Because I travelled a lot, I entertained a lot and learned about food in many different countries," Keller says. "I've been influenced by so many things, so many cultures, languages and ways of living. And of course food was part of that."

She keeps a fine balance between giving classes and having time for her own art, though Keller definitely sees parallels between the two. "It's about being creative with materials," she says. "And my teaching experience comes in handy because I'm able to delegate and make people feel comfortable around the kitchen, which is what you do when you teach somebody painting or drawing. You have to have a knack for making people understand it's not as hard as they think it is."

Keller is keen on demystifying food from different countries, teaching people how to use unfamiliar ingredients, and urging them to support local grocery stores. She imparts the skills of bringing the food to the table at the right times, how to work as a team and to clean as you go. She wants cooking to be about preparing healthy foods, bringing together family, sharing recipes and passing on good habits to kids. As a child, Keller's Spanish chef father introduced her to rarities such as asparagus and pomegranates. Her summers were spent in Spain next to the sea and watching her aunts cook paella and calamari.

And she desperately wants people to

get out of culinary ruts. "We always tend to eat the same things," Keller decries, citing the gamut of veggie burgers in her hood, or the trend of bacon on everything.

"Bacon is the next best thing in Canada. I don't know why everyone's infatuated with bacon. Not that it's not tasty, just that there's so much more variety out there. There are things you can make that are just as easy but way more interesting in terms of flavour and texture and all the rest."

**ROBERT KAUFFMAN
AND GABRIEL
MALBOGAT:
DELIVERING
TOP QUALITY**

Robert Kauffman, BComm 08, and Gabriel Malbogat, BA 09, had eaten more than their fair share of mediocre delivery food as undergraduates. Not only was the food usually previously frozen and lacklustre, the phone service was

After graduating, Kauffman came up with the idea for Chef on Call, and Malbogat came on board along with three close friends. Now just Kauffman and Malbogat own Chef on Call, with two corporate locations — one near McGill, one near Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus — and a central kitchen in Old Montreal. They have 40 to 50 part-time employees, and franchising is available.

The top sellers are chicken tenders ("hand-breaded every day," boasts Kauffman) and burgers. Milkshakes are

policies in place for staff to be understanding when they're not.

Kauffman and Malbogat are also proud of their donation campaign. Each month one dollar from a specialty burger goes to a community-based non-profit group such as Dans La Rue, school programs and Head and Hands. "We wanted to connect with the local community and were at a point where we can give back," says Malbogat. Not only do they market test new combos but also support causes close to their hearts. Malbogat was in after-school programs as a child and remembers how badly governmental budget cuts affected them.

The cramped basement location near McGill gets hectic when orders come in at the rate of 60 an hour during prime times. Kauffman and Malbogat are looking for a nearby space to move to that could also house the off-site kitchen and accommodate walk-ins.

As for the vagaries of running a business, "Nothing surprises us anymore," Kauffman says. Electricity goes out, water gets cut and when the internet goes down, he admits, "we're paralyzed." Yet they have not only worked smoothly together the past six years — they were also roommates for four of them.

During school, Kauffman ran a business installing security cameras for retail businesses. His dad worked in the clothing industry so, as Malbogat jokes, Kauffman was "an entrepreneur from day one" — although his food industry experience was "just the eating side," Kauffman concedes. "We didn't work one

shift in a restaurant before. We just took a dive in the deep end."

Malbogat, however, says food is in his bloodline. His Italian grandmother opened a delivery restaurant in Montreal's Little

Italy in the 1940s. "When I first moved here I visited my grandma often," he says. "She'd put one thing in the pot and it'd taste way better than anything else I tasted. She always wanted me to open up a restaurant." Though she's no longer around, he adds, "She passed knowing I did what she wanted me to do."



GABRIEL MALBOGAT AND ROBERT KAUFFMAN AT THEIR CHEF ON CALL PREMISES.

rushed. So they knew the hungry masses would appreciate fresh, quality meals brought to their doors, and in 2009 started up Chef on Call (chefoncalldelivery.com), billed as a home-cooked delivery service.

Kauffman and Malbogat met through their work as promoters, having seen each other around the neighbourhood and at the DJ parties they marketed. Although each went to Concordia, they lived in the McGill University ghetto (Montreal's Milton Parc district).

"We didn't work one shift in a restaurant before. We just took a dive in the deep end."

popular and come in flavours from mint to marshmallow. If you're seeking perk-up nutrients over late-night comfort, salads are vivid with dried cranberries and toasted walnuts, or cherry tomatoes and red onions.

Prices are reasonable. Though students are good tippers, there are

PENELOPE YOTIS: PROHIBITION-ERA GOOD TIMES

There's a sweet-secret feel to the subterranean bar En Cachette Speakeasy (encachette.ca), like a wink from a stranger. With a prohibition-era vibe and good classic cocktails, the bar has been drawing habitués from all over Montreal since it opened in 2012. Owner **Penelope Yotis**, BA 10, may have studied political science and history yet she says she's "an entrepreneur at heart."

While a Concordia student, Yotis and her mother ran the well-established Greek restaurant Rodos in Montreal's Côte-des-Neiges district for the last seven of its 30 years. When the landlord bulldozed it illegally to build condos, Yotis decided to look for a business elsewhere instead of getting mired in costly and draining legal proceedings. Before long she was looking at a space that used to be a Polish restaurant with a liquor license, centrally located on St. Denis St. Since she felt that bars make more money than restaurants and are a little less competitive, she chose to open a speakeasy-styled place, inspired loosely by some of her favourite haunts in New York City.

Her handyman father helped renovate, keeping the old stone walls and some wood banisters, adding flocked wallpaper and building a wood bar from scratch. Her mother works part time in the kitchen, ensuring "the best calamari in town," Yotis swears, for the 5-à-7 crowd.

"You can't be static when it comes to improving," Yotis says. She experimented with menus and being open for lunch before settling into a groove. En Cachette now attracts the pre-theatre and post-work crowd and really picks up after 10 p.m.

Priced for young professionals, the customers are heavily multiracial and from as far as the West Island and South Shore, lured by the quality music spun by well-known DJs. "I've heard us called the 'ethnic' bar," says Yotis, because of the diverse, mostly Anglophone crowd.

She met her husband at En Cachette.

Yotis loves the history behind cocktails. When people made their own hooch during the prohibition era, the results weren't exactly smooth, so they'd add different mixes to cover up the taste. To go with the branding of the bar, Yotis "keeps to the classics" with simple recipes done well that are easy to teach to new staff. She's partial to rye-based Old Fashioneds. "Rye is such an old man's drink, but I find it really good compared to blended scotches or harsh bourbons," she says.

She grew up steeped in political discourse and could talk for hours on the subject; her communist Greek grandparents hung pictures of Che, Marx and Lenin on the wall in lieu of

family photos. They'd been guerrillas in Greece and fled for their safety to the former Soviet Union after the Second World War. Yotis's parents were born there before making their way to Montreal.

Yotis feels her education helps her to connect to others. "You know people when you know their history," she says. Such interpersonal skills are invaluable for a bar, especially one for which blatant marketing tactics are antithetical to its underground image. When En Cachette opened, Yotis relied heavily on word of mouth, social media, her network of friends who would host celebrations at En Cachette — and her reputation. "I was a party girl," she laughs, "I throw a good party."

"I find [rye] really good compared to blended scotches or harsh bourbons."

PENELOPE YOTIS OWNS EN CACHETTE SPEAKEASY BAR IN MONTREAL. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN OPEN TO EXPERIMENTING. "AT THE BEGINNING, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO WORK. YOUR COCKTAILS, EVERYTHING."



THOMAS BACHELDER AND MARY DELANEY: TRIPLE-THREAT WINEMAKERS

Although they make wine that is praised by internationally acclaimed critic Jancis Robinson, **Thomas Bachelder**, BA 81, and **Mary Delaney**, BFA 91, don't own their own vineyard. Instead, they are what are called *micro-négociants*, or small-scale wine producers (thomasbachelder.com).

Bachelder and Delaney buy grapes (organic when possible) in three regions — Burgundy, Oregon and the Niagara Valley, Ont. — and turn them into wine using the very same techniques, style and mindset for each. Focusing on pinot noir and chardonnay, they rent equipment and cellars in each country, create the same conditions and use the same barrel stock for aging. The substantive change is the terroir (roughly, sense of place), which allows for each wine to truly show the

essential characteristics of their grape's homeland and climate so a drinker can compare among regions.

Bachelder, a wine journalist and ace home winemaker, applied for wine school in 1991, just two years after he and Delaney were married. They took the plunge to change their lives and moved to Burgundy, where they'd honeymooned. "All I wanted to do was live in France," he says. Many friends visited, and Bachelder likes to say it was there that pinot noir and chardonnay grapes chose him. But work beckoned. They moved to Oregon to work on Ponzi Vineyards, then returned to Burgundy to join Meursault, then bounced back to

"[Concordia] was a great fermenting ground. Half the students were French and half English, half were men and half women. The degree gave me a framework on how to approach the world."

America's west coast to help start Lemelson Vineyards.

Then in 2003 Bachelder got the call to be the winemaker for the new enterprise of Le Clos Jordanne in the Niagara Valley. "When you're a Quebecker you don't want to take the 401 and just go for opportunity in Ontario. You think it's going to be Americanized. But after leaving the real America for Ontario, you find it profoundly Tim-Horton's-Canadian," he says. By now, the couple had two young daughters that they wished to send to French school, and realized that Niagara is a seven-hour drive to Montreal, a seven-hour flight to France and just another handy flight

in the other direction to Oregon. They've stayed in the region since, establishing Bachelder wines with the 2009 vintage.

Before this life of wine, Delaney's degree was in art history, which was well suited for taking over her father Dan Delaney's Westmount, Que., art gallery. Bachelder

says Delaney has "business in her veins," evident not only in their shared operations but also in her sideline of selling barrels to winemakers.

Bachelder did a communication studies major because he loved TV and radio, and a music minor (he played jazz guitar). Graduating in the recession of 1981 meant that the coveted CBC and Radio-Canada jobs were just out of reach and he did corporate communications for some years. "I had to learn about business, spreadsheets, Excel, delivering a production on budget," he says. He became comfortable around powerful people, useful for when he had to approach investors for his business.

Bachelder says his professors instilled critical thinking and taught him well, on everything from the Gutenberg galaxy to modern merchandising. "It was a great fermenting ground. Half the students were French and half English, half were men and half women," he says. "The degree gave me a framework on how to approach the world." ■

— Maeve Haldane, BFA 91, is a Montreal freelance writer.



THOMAS BACHELDER AND MARY DELANEY BUY GRAPES FOR THEIR WINES IN BURGUNDY, OREGON AND THE NIAGARA VALLEY. "WE THOUGHT WE'D WANT TO BUY OUR OWN WINERY SOMEDAY, BUT WE LIKE WORKING IN THE THREE REGIONS."

LESUE SCHACHTER



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COOL CITIES AND STAR STUDENTS

Hashem Akbari is on a mission to change the world. The professor in Concordia's Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering wants to transform the City of Montreal's roofs and pavement into white or lighter colours. White reflects a good portion of the sun's rays and helps prevent what are known as heat islands — an intense build-up of heat in urban areas. This afflicts northern cities such as Montreal as much as it does any southern city.

"For me, I don't measure the success of my work just in terms of the number of research papers published," Akbari says. "I measure it in terms of number of kilowatt-hours of energy saved."

In 2010, in collaboration with leading experts and colleagues, Akbari founded the non-profit foundation Global Cool Cities Alliance, whose mandate is to work with cities and countries worldwide to adopt relatively inexpensive measures against heat islands. The group cultivates relationships with governments and provides the necessary tools to help with the implementation of technology and new techniques.

In most cities, pavement and roofs together comprise over 60 per cent of urban surfaces. Akbari has calculated that replacing 10 square metres of dark roofing with white roofing can offset one metric ton of CO₂. In other words, the temperature reduction due to radiation not being absorbed by the earth is equal to the increase in temperature caused by one metric ton of CO₂ in the atmosphere, effectively counterbalancing any change.

That means if Montreal resurfaced 60 per cent of the island's 500 square kilometres with reflective materials, the city alone could offset over 12 million metric tons of CO₂.

Other Concordia researchers are approaching the problem of heat islands from a different perspective. Extreme temperatures aren't just hard on humans — buildings suffer too. The effects of high temperatures on buildings can be enormous, creating rapid demands on air conditioning and other systems that consume lots of energy.

Under the supervision of Fariborz Haghighat, a professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, two undergraduate students, Michael Torjan and Dave Olsthoorn, are hoping to create a predictive tool that can help municipalities better strategize how to reduce the impact of urban heat islands on buildings. The students' work was supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) summer scholarships program and the NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program.

In summer 2014, the students used pre-existing data that measured the indoor temperature of 55 buildings in Montreal and created a model that would predict future temperatures in buildings based on surrounding neighbourhood characteristics.

During an early September heat wave, they tested this model and were able to predict building temperatures within 1.5 C°. "Until now, municipalities are



measured as a whole when it comes to how much heat they give off," Olsthoorn says. "But as we know, neighbourhoods can be vastly different from one another. Things like green space, wind and proximity to water act as variables. That's why it's important to create tools that can gauge heat on a more local scale."

—Laurence Miall

QUEBEC ENGINEERING GAMES SUCCESS

Concordia's 40-member delegation returned from the Quebec Engineering Games, hosted by Université de Sherbrooke from January 3 to 7, with its best competition results in over a decade. The team finished third overall and first in several categories.

James Fradette, a fourth-year building engineering student and president of the delegation's executive, attributes the success to the intelligence and dedication of the students and their diversity of skills, not to mention several years of



ANTOINE RAYTELLE-COLLABORATOR, LES SERVICES PHOTOGRAPHIQUES ET MÉDIAS PHOTO VOLTAIC S.E.I.N.C.

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- 1 HASHEM AKBARI, PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING, CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING.
- 2 CONCORDIA RESEARCH IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO REDUCE HEAT BUILDUP IN THE CITY OF MONTREAL.
- 3 CONCORDIA'S SAE AERO DESIGN TEAM DESIGNED TWO AIRFRAMES, FINISHING SECOND IN THE ADVANCED CLASS AND THIRD IN THE REGULAR CLASS.
- 4 THE 40-MEMBER DELEGATION CELEBRATES THEIR PODIUM FINISH AT THE QUEBEC ENGINEERING GAMES.

contest experience. "It was fantastic," he says. "We have a real feeling of being like a family."

Also on the executive planning team was second-year mechanical engineering student Carole-Anne Trudel. "You have to be outgoing," she says. "The games are a lot about team spirit." She's proud that the students were able to raise more than \$20,000 from sponsors to support their equipment, transportation and registration costs.

—Laurence Miall

TWO PODIUM SPOTS AT SAE AERO DESIGN COMPETITION

When a team of Concordia engineering students ventured down to Florida last year to test their abilities to design and build high-performance, remote-controlled airplanes at the annual SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Aero Design Competition — their hopes and dreams ended in pieces by the runway. This year they were determined not to let that happen.

"We were 100 per cent prepared when we got there," says Kyle Petrunik, a first-year student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the coordinator of Concordia's SAE aero design team (sae.encs.concordia.ca).

The team decided to enter planes in both the regular and advanced classes in this year's competition, held March 13 to 15 in Lakeland, Fla. They built two airframes for each class, then drove to Georgia for several days of warm-weather testing prior to the event.

By the time the Concordia contingent arrived in Florida they had worked out any technical issues and felt more than ready to battle it out with the other 75 competing teams. "Every person had their job to do and we worked like a well-oiled machine," Petrunik says.

In the advanced class, competitors are faced with designing an aircraft capable of accurately dropping a three-pound (1.3 kg) humanitarian-aid package from a minimum height of 100 feet (30 m). After two rounds, not one team

had managed to hit the target. "Many teams' aircrafts struggled to fly at all and most could not climb to 100 feet," says Concordia's advanced team leader Elias Clark, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student. "It was looking like it would only take one good drop from us to take home the gold."

In the next round, both the Georgia Institute of Technology and Concordia hit the target — then Concordia again hit the mark, but Georgia missed.

In the end Concordia's overall score, which included points for its design report and oral presentation, earned them second place in the advanced class behind the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Planes in the regular class are judged by how much weight they are able to lift while observing power, length, width and height requirements. Concordia's team finished in third place overall behind University of Cincinnati and Brazil's University Federal de Itajubá. ■

—Tom Peacock

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1

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2

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To listen to podcasts or watch videos of these and other Advancement and Alumni Relations events, please visit concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts.

DONOR AND STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATION UNITES BENEFACTORS AND STUDENTS

Concordia’s hard-working students and the generous donors who fund their awards got better acquainted on March 31 at the Donor and Student Awards Celebration at the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure Hotel.

The annual gathering, organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations in partnership with Concordia’s Financial Aid and Awards Office, welcomed 300 guests who took in stirring videos and speeches on the values of philanthropy. “All of you in this room, our award winners and donors, are Concordia’s leaders into the next generation,” said Concordia President Alan Shepard.

Howard Davidson, BComm 80, president of the R. Howard Webster Foundation, wove a similar narrative. “Everyone has potential given a chance,” he said. “I encourage you to give back so Concordia can move into the future stronger than ever.” R. Howard Webster Foundation doctoral fellow **Lisa Ndejuru** 1 thanked Davidson’s philanthropic organization. “In my case, the support I’ve received has meant being

able to take a break from my work as a psychotherapist and devote all my energy to my PhD research,” Rwandan-born Ndejuru said. “A lot of what goes on at Concordia these days is about looking for creative ways to fit together the puzzle piece in new ways. That’s what I do all day long. It would not be possible without support like yours.”

Bram Freedman, vice-president of Development and External Relations, and Secretary-General, acted as master of ceremonies.

—Scott McCulloch

READER’S DIGEST LECTURE SERIES IN JOURNALISM WELCOMES FRANCINE PELLETIER

In the 25 years that have passed since Montreal’s École Polytechnique massacre, when 14 women were killed because of their gender, **Francine Pelletier** wonders whether feminism has truly progressed.

On March 27, Pelletier delivered a talk called “Breaking the silence 25 years after École Polytechnique: women, violence and media” as part of the Reader’s Digest Lecture Series in Journalism. It was followed by a Q&A with former *Montreal Gazette*

reporter **Sue Montgomery** (at left, with Pelletier), 2 co-creator of the #BeenRapedNeverReported hashtag, which achieved 10 million postings.

A veteran journalist and filmmaker, Pelletier traced feminism’s rocky road — from its labelling as “dangerous” by detractors in the 1980s to its nadir in the 1990s when the movement “had become a bit of an F-word,” she said. “Despite visible progress, the past 25 years have not been that kind to women,” said Pelletier. “After Polytechnique, the feminist revolution — not only here in Quebec but elsewhere as well — definitely stalled.”

Pelletier ran the gamut of feminist themes, from the media’s “hypersexualization” of women to allegations against Jian Ghomeshi, the fired CBC radio host. She grimly noted that sexual harassment, violence against women and misogyny are alive and well. “That’s bad news.” The good news? “Feminism is coming back because of it.”

The sell-out lecture at Concordia’s John Molson School of Business Building was organized by Concordia’s Advancement and Alumni Relations in collaboration with the Department of Journalism. Brian Gabriel, chair of the Department of Journalism, served as master of ceremonies.

—Scott McCulloch

EIGHT TO BE HONOURED WITH ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS

With this year's slate of Alumni Recognition Award winners come distinguished alumni, faculty, staff, students and volunteers who have made significant contributions to the Concordia community locally and abroad. Their efforts will be formally recognized at a banquet sponsored by the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) and organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations at the Westin Montreal on May 26. These are the 2015 honourees:

Alumna of the Year:

Lauren Small, MA 97, BA 95

Lauren Small joined the federal public service in 1997 and has served in both science and international portfolios. She is currently senior manager of International Relations for the Canadian Space Agency. Small has been instrumental in three major legislative projects, including the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Species at Risk Act and the Remote Sensing Space Systems Act.

Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching: Rhona Richman Kenneally

Rhona Richman Kenneally is a professor and immediate past chair in Concordia's Department of Design and Computation Arts, and a fellow of the School of Canadian Irish Studies. She is also editor of the *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*. She holds a BA in English Literature, an MA in Canadian history and a PhD in architecture.

Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award: Francesco Ciampini, BA 72

Francesco Ciampini opened his law practice in 1982. In addition to volunteering as a legal counsel he is also very active in the Montreal Italian community, serving on the executive boards of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association and A.L.M.A. Canada Inc. Ciampini has been the CUAA's corporate secretary since 1998 and its representative to Concordia's Board of Governors since 2008.

Honorary Life Membership:

Nick Tedeschi

Nick Tedeschi is the proprietor of a Montreal-based construction company and owner of Parisian Laundry, an art gallery in Montreal's St-Henri neighbourhood. Through a \$1 million donation in 2006, he established the Dale and Nick Tedeschi Studio Arts Fellowships to benefit graduate students in Concordia's Department of Studio Arts.

Humberto Santos Award of Merit:

Xavier-Henri Hervé, BEng 87, LLD 11

Xavier-Henri Hervé is a co-founder of Mechtronix Inc., a Montreal-based flight-simulation technology company. Hervé also founded District 3, an innovation centre at Concordia that brings together student and alumni entrepreneurs from a variety of disciplines. In 2011 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the university's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science in recognition of his contribution to innovation in the aviation community.

Outstanding Staff Award:

John Dore, BSc 75

John Dore was head coach of the Concordia Stingers men's basketball

team for 26 seasons, and took them to the national championships 13 times. In addition to leading several national teams, he is also a past president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches of Canada and was an international committee member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, U.S.A.

Outstanding Student Award:

Alexandra Meikleham

Alexandra Meikleham entered Concordia in 2012 to pursue a degree in the Department of Civil Engineering. She recently represented the university at the Engineering and Commerce Case Competition, where her team placed first out of 11 universities from around the world. In 2014 Meikleham led the development of the Global Engineering Initiative — the first phase of a networked learning platform. She is also actively involved in the 57th Garnet Key Society at Concordia.

Young Alumnus of the Year: Awel Uwihanganye, BA 08

Awel Uwihanganye is co-owner and managing director of Silverback Travel Company, which specializes in safari tours in Uganda. He recently served as



GREGORY TONDARO
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CEO of the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A social entrepreneur, he initiated the Young Achievers Award in Uganda and the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program and is founder and CEO of LéO Africa Forum, an organization promoting responsible leadership and building a strong voice for Africa around the globe.

—Leslie Schachter

STINGERS MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH SAYS FAREWELL

The 500 fans packing the Stingers gym for the game against McGill University on February 22 were there for more than just basketball. Many in the crowd — former players, alumni and friends — wanted to pay tribute to head coach **John Dore**, BSc '75, in his last home game before retirement.

Dore held the position for the past 26 seasons, and through the course of his career led the Stingers on 13 trips to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championship tournament. He won the title in 1990 and placed second in 1995 and 2005. In 1991, he was named CIS Coach of the Year.

Before Saturday's game, **Patrick Boivin**, Concordia's director of Recreation and Athletics, presented Dore (left) ³ with a plaque to commemorate his time as the Stingers' head coach. Fans in the gym gave Dore a standing ovation as he headed back to the bench. The Stingers went on to beat McGill 69-61. After the win, Dore found himself at a surprise event in his honour. Among the guests were friends, old colleagues and former players who came from all over Canada to attend.

Gregory Todaro

ANGELA GRAUERHOLZ SHORTLISTED FOR SCOTIABANK PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Angela Grauerholz, MFA '82, ⁴ joined an elite group of three finalists in March for the 2015 Scotiabank Photography Award, one of Canada's largest art prizes.

The winner of the annual peer-reviewed national award, to be announced May 6, will land \$50,000,

a published book of their work and a major solo exhibition at the Ryerson Image Centre, in next year's Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival. The two others receive prizes of \$10,000 each.

This is Grauerholz's second time on the shortlist; she was also a finalist in 2013. Her co-finalists for the 2015 award are Isabelle Hayeur and Rafael Goldchain.

Juror Robert Bean described Grauerholz's contribution to the contemporary history of the medium as "evocative and thoughtful." "Her explorations of the materiality and contexts of images have renewed our aesthetic and cultural understanding of photographs," he said. "Utilizing genres that include vernacular photographs as well as the

function of the archive, Grauerholz has approached the value that photographs retain to memory through a uniquely personal and philosophical insight."

A veteran photographer, Grauerholz has worked at Université du Québec à Montréal since 1988. Her photos are exhibited and collected nationally and internationally, and she has represented Canada at contemporary art exhibitions worldwide, including the Sydney Biennale in Australia. Just last year, Grauerholz received a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Pictured is Grauerholz's *Travellers* (1987). ⁵

—Jasmine Stuart



MARTIN LIPMAN, CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

ALUMNA'S HEALTHY AGING TIPS

Though people are living longer than ever, are they living better?

The topic is explored by **Arezou Azarani**, BSc 92, ⁶ and her husband Mehrdad Ayati, a medical doctor. Together, the duo wrote *Paths to Healthy Aging* (self-published, 2014). The book is a guide to quality of life for older adults. "We wanted to write something the general public could understand," says Azarani. "The majority of books on the subject are too technical."

The San Francisco resident says the work took over a year to produce. "Our knowledge is quite complementary," says Azarani on teaming up with her husband, who specializes in geriatrics. Azarani holds a PhD in physiology from McGill University and completed post-doctoral fellowships at Université de Montréal and Stanford University.

At Concordia, Azarani studied bio-chemistry and took advantage of the university's Institute for Co-operative Education. "It was wonderful. Concordia is my favourite university," says Azarani.

The Concordian offers four tips for healthy aging. Be wary of marketing, she says. "Vitamins and over-the-counter supplements have millions of dollars of advertising behind them. Data suggests most people get everything they need from a balanced diet." Azarani notes the same can be said of exercise: "Fitness is highly commercialized. We're encouraged to join gyms, buy equipment and workout strenuously. Moderate exercise is usually enough."

Too much medication is a problem. "As we age, we deal with multiple chronic illnesses," says Azarani. "As a result, lots of medications are prescribed." Citing the United States as an example, nearly 40 per cent of seniors take over five medications. Drug interactions and side effects can be fatal, Azarani adds.

She warns to think about nutrition. "With age, we lose our appetites and taste buds. The amount of muscle we have decreases," says Azarani. "The best practice is to eat a range of foods that we enjoy and that are healthy." The book itself emphasizes the importance of consuming fats, carbohydrates and



COURTESY OF AREZOU AZARANI

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protein — warning against diets that eliminate one of these groups.

Finally, Azarani advises choosing a physician wisely. "You should find someone you trust, who cares about your specific needs," says Azarani. She notes that in the U.S. it can be difficult to find a primary care physician.

—James Gibbons

IN SEARCH OF A NEW LOOK FOR THE STINGERS

Whether or not you recognize his name, odds are you've seen the work of **John Londono**, BFA 11: from his award-winning advertising photography for Adidas to his work shooting bands like Oasis or Arcade Fire and even the cover of *Elle Quebec*, Londono has been building a notable career since his graduation from Concordia's Photography program. He's shot for many companies during his career, including Montreal-based apparel and fashion company Rudsak. ⁷

Now, Londono and locally based international marketing company Cossette are coming together to help revamp the Concordia Stingers brand and they're looking for students to help in the process.

Students with a passion for film-making, music, photography, design,

creative writing and sound mixing are needed to help create a series of web-based videos over the spring and summer to promote the changes coming to the way we'll look at the Stingers.

Londono had a chance to play around with digital photography right after graduation while developing the photography side of Concordia's Creative Media Services (CMS), a part

of Instructional and Information Technology Services. CMS began when there was a need to film classes and create videos that would be embedded in class websites, but the team became bigger and started to do promotional videos for different departments and various campus

events. Londono worked to create an image bank of Concordia for the university to use.

After about a year, Londono bought his own digital camera and started freelancing. "There was a mental wall I had to cross, and it was right when I finished school," he says. "For a lot of people, it's their first and most important reality check. You can be very successful in academics and very successful in a department, but if you're studying to become an artist it's another ballgame to face reality and to work without obligation or the support of a department. The main stress was that."

Londono will give students who come aboard this new project a chance to learn the reality of the business by working directly with him. Student involvement is needed at all stages of production during the summer. The selected students could be involved in some or all stages of production, depending on their availability.

To apply to participate in this historic Stingers rebranding project, or to find out more information, send an email to stingerbranding@concordia.ca.

—Gregory Todaro





Jonik Lougouo

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MUCH MORE THAN A BEAUTY QUEEN

Stephanie Siriwardhana, BA11, never imagined she could become Miss Sri Lanka, much less a contestant for Miss Universe. Like many, she considered beauty pageants to be a vain pursuit. Yet when she was crowned Miss Sri Lanka in 2011, it gave her the opportunity to help others in a meaningful way.

While completing her undergraduate degree in journalism, communication studies and political science at Concordia, Siriwardhana became involved in student politics. She also helped organize Living Your Legacy: A Youth Summit on Community

Engagement in 2011, which featured prominent speakers including Free the Children youth advocate Craig Kielburger.

After hearing Kielburger's talk, Siriwardhana decided to get involved in a similar pursuit. After graduating, she returned to her family in Sri Lanka. The unexpected Miss Sri Lanka pageant victory slowed her down, but only a bit. "Now that I suddenly had a crown on my head, people actually wanted to hear what I was saying," Siriwardhana says.

During her year as Miss Sri Lanka, she founded the Stephanie Siriwardhana Foundation, whose goal is to inspire, educate and empower individuals to

become socially responsible and foster positive change both locally and globally. "Now we are working on having a transitional shelter for sexually abused young girls," she says. "We're also initiating a drug prevention program where we're hoping to go into schools."

—Leslie Schachter

THE SECRET OF GIVING

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District 1, and Concordia co-hosted a panel discussion on March 31 called "The Secret of Giving: Why people donate — from boomers to millennials." It was moderated by **Caroline Van Vlaardingen** (inset), BA 84, CTV Montreal News reporter and lecturer in Concordia's Department of Journalism. The panel featured Howard Davidson, BComm 80, president of the R. Howard Webster Foundation, Elizabeth Gomery, co-founder of consulting firm Philanthropica, and (from left) **Niamh Leonard**, member of the board of directors of Apathy is Boring, and **Michèle Paulin**, professor in the Department of Marketing at Concordia's John Molson School of Business. 9



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HOMECOMING 2015

Celebrating

25

years

**Save the Date:
September 24-27, 2015**

Visit concordia.ca/homecoming for more info and updates.

For questions or to update your contact information: homecoming@concordia.ca,
514-848-2424, ext. 5647, or toll-free: 1-888-777-3330.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Commemorative Ceremony

Chancellor Jonathan Wener and President Alan Shepard will confer honorary Concordia University degrees on Sir George Williams University and Loyola College alumni.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

Shuffle 26

Join the Concordia community for the 26th annual walkathon from Sir George Williams Campus to Loyola Campus to raise funds for student scholarships and bursaries. Visit concordia.ca/shuffle.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

Celebratory Service

Loyola Chapel, 7141 Sherbrooke St. W.

Alumni Zone pre-game party and Homecoming football game

Concordia Stingers vs. 2014 Vanier Cup Champions
Université de Montréal Carabins | Concordia Stadium,
Loyola Campus, 7200 Sherbrooke St. W.

Department of Communication Studies' 50th Anniversary | Department of Journalism's 40th Anniversary | Institute for Co-Operative Education's 35th Anniversary

Alumni, faculty, staff and students are invited to celebrate their special anniversaries at an open house, special cocktail receptions and the President's Homecoming Dinner.

Engineering and Computer Science Reunion

Engineering and Computer Science alumni from pre-1964 and years ending in zero and five ('65, '70, '75, '80 ... '95, 2000, etc.) will be celebrated.

President's Homecoming Dinner

Concordia President Alan Shepard honours alumni who graduated in years zero and five ('65, '70, '75, '80 ... '95, 2000, etc.) and departments celebrating an anniversary.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

Concordia University Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2015 inductees:

- Gary Cummings, builder
- Gilles Hébert, BEng 83, EMBA 89, Concordia men's hockey
- Maureen Maloney (Kearns), BA 84, Concordia women's hockey
- Arthur Niederbuhl, BA 75, Loyola football
- 1973-74 Sir George Williams men's hockey team
- 1980-81 Concordia women's hockey team

Mount Royal Guided Tour & Lunch

Enjoy a guided 3.5-km walk atop Mount Royal followed by a meal at the scenic Pavillon du Lac-aux-Castors.

Check out concordia.ca/homecoming
for programming updates.

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

50TH REUNION

65 David N. Nettleship, BSc, is editor-in-chief of the recently published *Voyage of Discovery: Fifty Years of Marine*

Research at Canada's Bedford Institute of Oceanography. David writes: "It is a fascinating review of the history and marine research accomplishments at Canada's premier oceanographic laboratory, the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO). The book features the history of Canadian oceanography before BIO and a broad cross-section of the institute's work from 1962 to

2012. Its well-written accounts and over 500 illustrations (most in colour) will appeal to a broad readership. To order the book, visit bio-oa.ca or send an email to dnnlundy@navnet.net."

69 Gregory P. Katchin, BSc (bio. & chem.), retired in January after a 43-year professional career in Toronto. He recently spent 10

years as director of Finance and Operations with the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario. After earning an MBA, Gregory spent the first 10 years of his career with KPMG in Toronto, where he obtained his chartered accountancy designation. He and his wife plan to relocate this summer to southwestern



Ontario to spend more time with their grandchildren.

40TH REUNION

75 Corinne Charette, BSc, LLD 11, recently joined Industry Canada as senior assistant deputy minister of Spectrum, Information Technologies and Telecommunications. Before that, she had been chief information officer of the Government of Canada, Treasury Board Secretariat, since 2009. Corinne was recently named a Great Concordian (concordia.ca/greatconcordians).

81 Cyd Courchesne, BSc (bio-phys. ed.), recently retired from the Canadian Armed Forces after a 30-year career. She has accepted the position of director general of Health Professionals with the Department of Veterans

Affairs Canada in Ottawa. Cyd, a medical doctor, was also recently appointed as chief medical officer for the department.

93 Ariel Fielding, BA (rel. & women's studies), is a cultural producer, administrator and documentarian. She works as the marketing director at Duke Performances, the professional performing arts presenting organization at Duke University in Durham, N.C. Her documentary work on alternative school teachers and graduates, with photographer Michael Barker, has been covered by *Huffington Post*, *Toronto Star*, Yahoo, *Daily Mail*, *National Post* and CBC Radio, and can be viewed online at notesfromthefield.ca.

97 Mohammed Nasirul Islam, BComm. (int'l. bus.), earned an MBA in finance from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., in 2001. He is now director of

budgets and finance at Baruch College of City University of New York, Division of Enrollment Management & Strategic Academic Initiatives.

15TH REUNION

00 Liz Lautard, MA (soc.), lives in Fredericton, N.B. "I now work with the Women's Equality Branch (of the New Brunswick government), and my little guy recently turned four. More reasons to hit the trails for a run! Please keep in touch: liz.lautard@gnb.ca."

03 Kofi Sonokpon, AMBA, is head of programs and editor of *Airline Profits*, an aviation-industry magazine devoted to airline profitability launched in February. airlineprofits.com.

5TH REUNION

10 Katie Nolan, BFA (theatre), is co-writer and co-founder of the creative collective Babe Nation, which is looking for funding for a full web series, *Sugar Sisters*. The series, whose trailer is available on YouTube, looks at the world of sugar dating — an arrangement where a younger woman agrees to date a wealthy (and usually older) man who in turn gives gifts and/or money.

13 Riddhi Jhunjunwala, BComm. writes, "I recently launched a start-up called Your Local Cousin [YourLocalCousin.com], which connects travellers with local experts in cities around the world. We have a network of over 300 experts globally and are expanding our customer base each day. Our service helps travellers plan a unique vacation with a local in city who provides tailor-made travel advice." ■

1 Peggy Curran, BA (Eng. & hist.) 78, and **Susan Semenak,** BA (journ.) 82, participated in a group exhibition, "5," at Galerie Espace in Montreal from April 9 to 12. Peggy and Susan displayed their mosaic art. During the show, visitors helped construct a communal version of the Montreal skyline for the city's 375th anniversary in 2017. 1) *Blue Plate Special #4* by Peggy Curran

2 Ann McCall, BFA 78, held a solo exhibition of collagraphs, "Configuration," at the Fine Art printmaking centre Open Studio in Toronto from April 10 to May 9. 2) *Dualité*

3 Diane Collet, MA (art ed.) 03, **Joseph Dunlap,** MA (art ed.) 09, **Roxanne Dyer,** BFA (studio art) 98, **Branka Marinkovic,** MA (art ed.) 12, and **Georgia Priniotakis,** BSc 72, participated in the group exhibition "Through the Artist's Eye" at Galerie de la ville in

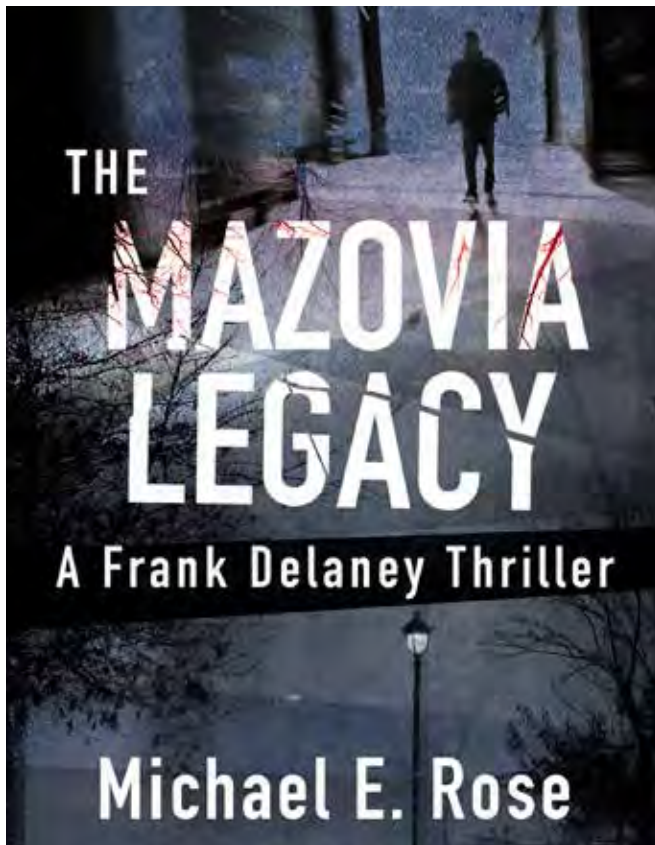
Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., from February 14 to March 15. 3) *Contemplating Breakfast* by Diane Collet.

4 Leslie Schachter, BA 03, GrDip (journ.) 13, held his first solo photography exhibit, "The Maple Palace," at Boulangerie Chez Fred in Montreal from April 4 to May 1. 4) *Tap*

5 Marie-Eve Martel, BFA (painting & drawing) 06, held her master's exhibition, "Beinecke," at Université du Québec à Montréal's La Galerie from January 9 to February 21. 5) Installation view of "Beinecke"

6 Raymonde Jodoin, BFA 83, participated in a group exhibition, "Parle-moi d'amour," at Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur in Montreal from February 5 to March 18. 6) *Shima # 2*





Michael Rose, BA (Eng.) 77, writes, "I'm happy to report that the three books in my Frank Delaney spy thriller series — *The Mazovia Legacy*, *The Burma Effect* and *The Tsunami File* — are now available again and have been re-launched by Momentum Books, a division of Pan. They each have great new covers. *The Mazovia Legacy* was named Book of the Week on iBooks on February 2." michaelrosemedia.com

SAVE THE DATE

Concordia Co-op's 35th anniversary

Concordia's Institute for Co-operative Education is proudly celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2015. Nearly 2,800 alumni have walked through Concordia Co-op's doors and are now pursuing exciting careers. Keep an eye open for updates on the celebratory cocktail reception during Homecoming 2015 at Concordia.ca/homecoming.

SAVE THE DATE

Department of Journalism 40th anniversary

Join us as the Department of Journalism celebrates 40 years of educating great Canadian and Quebec journalists. Watch for updates on the celebratory cocktail reception during Homecoming 2015 at Concordia.ca/homecoming.



Vittorio Rossi, BFA 85, a prolific Montreal-born playwright, wrote and directed *The Envelope*, which ran at Montreal's Centaur Theatre from March 24 to April 19. The comedy, set in an Italian restaurant, features two producers jockeying for the film rights to a new play by a talented local playwright. The writer must decide between big-budget mediocrity or small-budget artistry. *The Envelope* also starred (pictured above, from left) **Guido Cocomello**, BComm 10, Mélanie Sirois and **David Gow**, attendee 86.



Emma Tibaldo, BA 93, BFA (theatre) 99, is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's directing program, where she continues to be a guest artist. She is the artistic and executive director of Playwrights' Workshop Montreal. Emma is a founding member of Talisman Theatre, where she recently directed the META (Montreal English Theatre Award) nominated *The Medea Effect* by Suzie Bastien, at the Segal Centre for Performing Arts in Montreal from February 3 to 7 (pictured above, with Jennifer Morehouse). Emma also recently directed *The Flood Thereafter* by Sarah Berthiaume, which was nominated for three Mecca Awards.



Kakim Goh, BFA (painting & drawing) 09, is the curator and vice-president of the board of directors of the Festival Accès Asie. The 20th Festival Accès Asie will be held in Montreal from May 1 to 24 (accesasie.com). The festival promotes Asian art, culture and history through a diversity of artistic disciplines. It has an extensive history of providing opportunities for emerging and professional Asian Canadian artists, including a number of Concordia alumni, faculty and students such as award-winning filmmaker Yung Chang, BFA 99, and Alice Ming Wai Jim, MFA 96, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Art History. Kakim is curating two exhibitions associated with the festival, "Checkpoints" and "The State of Origin: REEL & IMAGINED," at Maison de la culture de Côte-des-Neiges in Montreal from May 9 to June 14.



Patricia Chica, BFA (film prod.) 95, directed the short film *Serpent's Lullaby*, which screened as part of the Little Terrors Short Film Showcase in Toronto on January 28. *Serpent's Lullaby* has had a successful run of screenings that started at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival. American film critic Jay Kay of *The Horror Happens Radio Show* included *Serpent's Lullaby* in his Top List of the Best Shorts of 2014.



Christine Lengvari, BSc 72, was recently selected by trade magazine *The Insurance and Investment Journal* as one of the top 50 women of influence in the Canadian life insurance industry, based on her pioneering and precedent-setting work in the field. Christine is president and CEO of Montreal-based Lengvari Financial Inc, an insurance brokerage that specializes in retirement and estate planning. Among a number of volunteer engagements, she served on Concordia's Board of Governors from 1998 to 2007 and now sits on the Concordia University Foundation board. She is also chair of the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program Client Committee at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.



Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, BSc (phys. chem.) 89, was named one of the recipients of a prestigious Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts on March 24. Born in Mexico City, Rafael's artistic pedigree and his drive for innovation are rivalled by his sense of social responsibility. One such example is *Level of Confidence (Nivel de Confianza)*, which uses a face-recognition camera on the faces of 43 students from a teacher training college in Ayotzinapa, Mexico, who disappeared in September. Rafael's work is featured in the collections of many institutions. His show, "Level of Confidence," was exhibited at Concordia's FOFA Gallery from March 27 to April 10 to commemorate the six-month anniversary of the disappearances.



Alice Ming Wai Jim, MFA (art hist.) 96, received the Artexte Prize for Research in Contemporary Art in March. Alice is associate professor and graduate program director in Concordia's Department of Art History. She earned the Artexte Prize, which was established in 2012, in recognition of her contribution to the study of contemporary art in Canada. Alice's work focuses on contemporary Asian art and Asian Canadian art; she is co-editor of the *Journal of Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*.

Murray Bertram Shantz, BA 43, January 11, 2015, St. Catharines, Ont. He was 93.

Gerald J. Sarwer-Foner, BA 45, February 7, 2015, Montreal. He was 90.

John (Jack) Leslie Harrison, BA 49, October 1, 2014, Toronto. He was 95.

Peter Paley, BSc 52, January 21, 2015, LaSalle, Que. He was 83.

Thomas Alec Whyte, BSc 52, November 2, 2014, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 93.

Maxwell Shenker, BA 53, January 6, 2015, Montreal. He was 83.

Robert Gaudet, attendee 54, November 7, 2014, Toronto. He was 83.

William P. Lonc, BSc 54, December 2, 2014, Pickering, Ont. He was 84.

Karl J. Petruch, BComm 56, January 21, 2015, Montreal. He was 86.

Stewart S. Sutcliffe, attendee 59, October 22, 2014, Mississauga, Ont. He was 76.

Helen Mavis (McNicol) Dubeau, BSc 61, February 8, 2015, Guelph, Ont. She was 74.

Peter David Yuile, BComm 61, December 1, 2014, Victoria. He was 76.

Dieter Loerick, BComm 62, BA 67, February 18, 2015, Montreal. He was 74.

William T. West, BA 62, November 30, 2014, Toronto. He was 84.

Walter Bidler, BSc 64, December 25, 2014, Pointe-Claire, Que.

Kent D. J. Garrett, BA 64, January 3, 2015, Woodstock, Ont. He was 77.

Claude Levy, BA 65, February 15, 2015, Victoria.

Bryan L. Volstad, BComm 65, December 22, 2014, Calgary. He was 72.

Stephen David Hart, BA 67, February 2015, Westmount, Que.

John D. Persaud, BComm 67, December 2, 2014, Montreal. He was 80.

Michael V. Cromie, BA 68, February 15, 2015, Kanata, Ont. He was 81.

Ryna Levin Pinsky, BA 68, November 21, 2014, Montreal. She was 86.

Catherine Mary Scerbo, BA 68, February 9, 2015, Montreal.

Karyna Swinarska, BA 68, November 4, 2014, Montreal. She was 68.

Stephen Sugar, BA 70, December 16, 2014, Montreal. He was 71.

Guy Zenaitis, MTM 70, January 19, 2015, Montreal. He was 77.

Joseph Zaganczyk, BA 71, January 9, 2015, Woodbridge, Va. He was 65.

Emese M. Lehotay, BA 72, Cert 92, December 24, 2014, Kingston, Ont. She was 73.

Hymie Milberg, BA 73, December 1, 2014, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que. He was 67.

Theresa Monahan, BA 73, December 24, 2014, Sutton, Que. She was 62.

Roman Jaskolski, BComm 74, January 7, 2015, Montreal. He was 63.

Susan B. Mowat Perry, BComm 75, February 9, 2015, Mississauga, Ont. She was 62.

Allan John Lavoie, BA 76, January 11, 2015, London, Ont. He was 71.

Mary I. Galarneau, BA 77, February 13, 2015, LaSalle, Que. She was 85.

Clifton A. Jones, BComm 77, January 13, 2015, Montreal. He was 60.

Antoine Bassal, BEd 78, December 25, 2014, Montreal. He was 83.

Peter Mayer, BComm 78, January 7, 2015, Montreal. He was 60.

Nina Paperman, BA 79, October 21, 2014, Montreal. She was 97.

Georgina Fahrer, BComm 80, February 9, 2015, Hollywood, Fla. She was 60.

Rev. Thomas E. Furlong, GrDip 81, December 10, 2013, Bradenton, Fla. He was 86.

Orysia Papadatos, BComm 81, MBA 90, January 10, 2015, Toronto. She was 56.

Edward Humphrys, BSc 84, November 25, 2014, LaSalle, Que. He was 75.

Chaia Libstug, BA 84, January 6, 2015, Montreal. She was 81.

Diane Ellen Cruickshank, BA 85, January 2, 2015, Montreal. She was 53.

Tieman Korvemaker, Cert 85, October 21, 2014, Morin-Heights, Que. He was 59.

Francine M. Perkal, BA 85, December 21, 2014, Montreal. She was 52.

David G. Johnston, BA 86, January 22, 2015, Montreal. He was 58.

Velma M. (McEvoy) Valleau, BA 86, January 6, 2015, Pointe-Claire, Que. She was 85.

Drew MacCandlish, BA 90, November 27, 2014, Kirkland, Que. He was 55.

Nancy Anne Skelly, BFA 91, January 12, 2015, Lachine, Que. She was 70.

Rona Violet Leacock, BA 92, December 20, 2014, Montreal. She was 80.

Genevieve Marilley, BA 95, October 26, 2014, Derry, Northern Ireland. She was 44.

David M. Aronson, BFA 96, January 10, 2015, Montreal. He was 47.

Naomi Kahane, BA 97, MA 99, February 20, 2015, Montreal. She was 82.

Kathy Felli, BComm 98, January 5, 2015, Montreal. She was 45.

Elizabeth Munn, PhD 99, November 23, 2014, Windsor, Ont. She was 56. ■



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Paradoxes, Habitats and Paradise

ANTONI NERESTANT

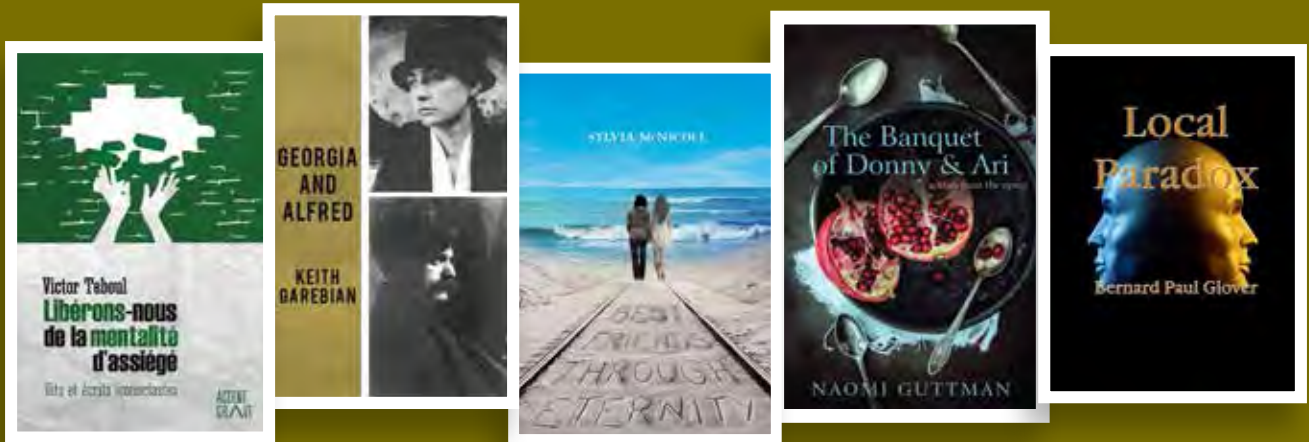
Victor Teboul, BA (Fr.) 69, explores the suppression of critical thinking in Quebec and Canada in his new French-language book, *Libérons-nous de la mentalité d'assiégé* (Accent Grave, \$19.95). Highlighting the debate around Quebec's

with dialogue between two groundbreaking American artists, painter Georgia O'Keeffe and photographer Alfred Stieglitz, who were married to each other. The book features a collage of snippets of their correspondence — encompassing art and desire — capturing O'Keeffe and Stieglitz's complex relationship. Garebian

bullies. After her accident, she is transported to a surreal world where she meets Kim, who died seven years before. Convinced she is only dreaming, and desperate to return to her former life, this encounter is the start of a journey in which Paige uncovers part of her past and her identity. McNicoll, a resident of Burlington, Ont.,

and Onno. Guttman is a professor of English at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. Her first book of poems, *Reasons for Winter* (1991), won the A.M. Klein Award for Poetry.

Bernard Paul Glover, BA (psych.) 86, brings readers into a world where catastrophic mistakes can be undone by going back



proposed Charter of Values. Teboul believes that attempts to promote secularism were falsely interpreted as an attack on the rights of various ethnic groups. He provides examples to show that this siege mentality is not specific to any nationality, ethnicity or religion. Teboul (victorteboul.com) is the founding editor of the online magazine *Tolerance.ca*.

In *Georgia and Alfred* (Quattro Poetry, \$18), **Keith Garebian**, MA 71, seamlessly blends his poetry

(stageandpage.com) is the author of five other poetry collections including *Frida: Paint Me As a Volcano* (2004).

Best Friends Through Eternity (Tundra Books, \$11.99) is a young-adult novel inspired by the true story of a teen who was killed at a railway crossing. Much-published young-adult fiction author **Sylvia McNicoll**, BA (Eng.) 78 (sylviamcnicoll.com), tells the story of 14-year-old Paige, who is tragically hit by a train after she takes a shortcut alongside the tracks to avoid school

has won numerous awards for her work, including the Burlington Creative Artist award for Literary Arts in 2011.

Through her novella-in-reverse, *The Banquet of Donny & Ari: Scenes from the Opera* (Brick Books, \$20), **Naomi Guttman**, BFA 85, juxtaposes the challenges of family life with a pending environmental disaster. Set in Montreal, this collection of poems delves into the myriad of emotions felt by Donny and Aria and its impact on their sons, Stephan

in time. In *Local Paradox* (self-published, \$16), Roy Brannock accidentally killed the woman he loved. When he gets a chance to go back in time and make it right, his plan is to kill his younger self to guarantee that the two of them never meet. The novel follows Brannock's paradox and how it will alter the fabric of time and space. Glover, formerly of Concordia's Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, was ordained in 2011 to the permanent diaconate by Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte of the Catholic Church of Montreal.

In **Reconciling and Rehumanizing Indigenous-Settler Relations** (Lexington Books, \$96), **Nadia Ferrara**, BA (child studies) 89, presents a rich and honest account of her experience working with Canada's indigenous peoples as a clinician, university professor and public servant. Through her stories, Ferrara highlights the importance for all North Americans to ac-

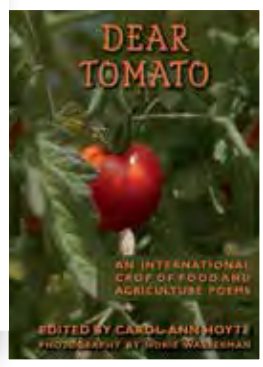
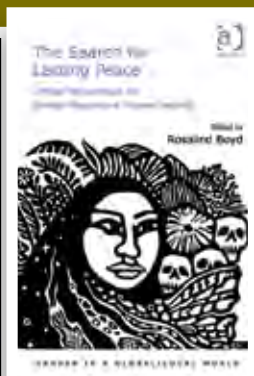
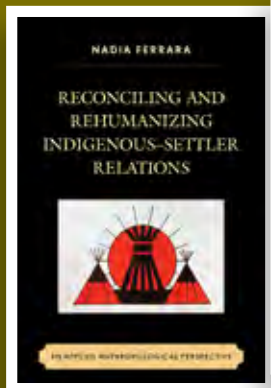
quire **Gender-Responsive Human Security** (Ashgate, \$119.95), a collection that traces the evolution of the human security agenda from a gender perspective. Drawing from cases from throughout the world, the book offers a critical look at the concept of the human security agenda and an analysis of initiatives for peace and justice. Boyd is an independent researcher,

a mix of humorous and thought-provoking tales for readers aged eight to 12 about the food we eat. Hoyte is the creator and co-editor of the award-winning international children's anthology *And the Crowd Goes Wild: A Global Gathering of Sports Poems* (2012).

Montreal-based band Sunfields was the brainchild of **Jason Kent**, BFA (art

with elements of folk, indie rock and psychedelic undertones." Sunfields (sunfieldsband.com) have toured England and played in showcases in New York City and Paris, and they continue to tour Quebec and Ontario.

The Promise of Paradise (Vij Books India Private Ltd., \$19.95) is a collection of Persian-language poems by **Lina Rozbih**, BA (poli-



quire knowledge the injustices from the past and present that continue to affect the land's original peoples. The book stresses self-reflection, open dialogue and collaborating toward a better future. Ferrara is the senior policy manager in the Government of Canada's Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

Rosalind Boyd, PhD (hum.) 95, is the editor of and a contributor to **The Search for Lasting Peace: Critical Perspectives**

writer and lecturer based in Montreal and affiliated with McGill University. Her research and publications focus primarily on conflict situations, gender, labour, globalization and human rights.

Canadian children's poet **Carol-Ann Hoyte**, BA (jour.) 97, is the editor of **Dear Tomato: An International Crop of Food and Agriculture Poems** (self-published, \$8.46). The collection of 51 poems penned by 34 writers from seven countries provides

hist.) 01, and includes **Chris Roberts**, BFA (int. mus. studies) 99, Philip Burns and Michael B.B. Wright. They describe their style of music as "acid-laced pop." While the band was formed in 2009, three of its members have been intermittently playing together for nearly two decades. Sunfields' latest release is **Habitat** (available to download through bandcamp or iTunes, \$8.99). The music, according to the band, "draws on dreamy lyrics, disarming melodies, moody instrumentation and sonic undercurrents

sci.) 03, that chronicles the hardships that imposed conflicts have inflicted on the people of Afghanistan. The collection largely draws from Rozbih's personal struggles as an Afghan refugee in Iran and Pakistan and relates it to the overall plight of the Afghan people, especially women, over the last decade. Rozbih is an acclaimed and award-winning writer and poet in the Dari language and is the main news anchor for the Voice of America on the Dari Ashna Television network. ■

Getting to the right place

CAROLE DASTOUS, BA (SOC.)
81, BA (PHIL.) 84, MA
(PHIL.) 93

It took me a while to get there, but then I always say to myself, "Better late than never."

I graduated three times from Concordia. After my first degree, in sociology, I wasn't sure where I was headed with my studies or with life in general but I knew one thing for certain: I liked to study and I liked to write. I took a couple of courses with Professor Bogdan Czarnocki, who was the first to compliment me on my writing.

Another compliment later came from Professor Martin Reidy, who some of us nicknamed "Running Shoes Reidy" for his footwear choice in class. After one of my mid-terms, he observed to me, "Writing comes easily to you, Miss Dastous."

During my undergraduate studies in philosophy, I shadowed Professor Vladimir Zeman, the Kant and Hegel expert at the time. He was my guide through my difficult exploration of the role of ideas in society. I had hoped to do my MA thesis on this until Professor Zeman advised me that such an ambitious and nebulous topic would be more suited to a PhD thesis than to an MA. He was right.

After my final graduation from Concordia in 1993, still not sure what to do, I carried on with lifeguard jobs, moved back in with my father in Outremont, joined the Canadian Ski Patrol as a volunteer weekend patroller and the Canadian Armed Forces' reserve army as a medic. In September 1997,



CAROLE DASTOUS

AFTER A SERIES OF PROFESSIONAL STOPS AND STARTS, CAROLE DASTOUS MADE A CAREER CHANGE INTO JOURNALISM IN HER 50S.

still without a clear idea of my career, I drove to Calgary in search of a new life and job and to ski in Banff.

In June 1998, I wrote a story about my drive cross-country and my settling down in Calgary. I sent the story to the *Calgary Herald*. As I never expected it to be published, I didn't put much effort into polishing it. Lo and behold, the *Herald* gave my story the headline "Westward Ho!" and published it that June. The next month my story also appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*.

Today, I know better than to send publishers anything less than my best effort!

So, in 1998, I got a hint of where I belonged and what I ought to be doing for a living, or at least for a hobby, but I didn't pay attention. All I did was frame the *Herald* and *Gazette* clippings on a wall.

For the next decade I worked at a series of unrelated jobs. But after being laid off by Bell, I decided to apply to the journalism program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). "This is your chance to look into

journalism, and to see how good a writer you really are," I thought to myself. "You were good at Concordia, you should be good there too." I was admitted and began in September 2010. I was 51.

My first few weeks at SAIT were a succession of Eureka moments: at last, I was (again) in a place where words and ideas mattered, and in the company of people for whom those things mattered too.

I graduated from SAIT in May 2012 and spent the next two years at weekly newspapers in small towns in northern Alberta. As I write this, I am making plans to take my better-late-than-never career back to Calgary to, I hope, a new job in communications, and to jumpstart a freelance-writing career (the latter as part of my retirement plan).

At the end of the day, all the writing, research and thinking I did while at Concordia helped prepare me for SAIT and for work that I enjoy so much that it doesn't really feel like work. I'm not a square peg in a round hole anymore.

Better late than never, indeed. ■

In 1998, I got a hint of what I ought to be doing for a living, but I didn't pay attention. All I did was frame the *Herald* and *Gazette* clippings on a wall.



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