

S P R I N G 2 0 1 6

SYNTHETIC
SOLUTIONS
FOR REAL-LIFE
MYSTERIES

Research at Concordia's Centre
for Applied Synthetic Biology
explores ways to artificially create
environmentally friendly biofuels,
disease-fighting drugs and more

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

Concordia

REASONS TO GIVE > SEEING DOUBLE > DIGITAL U

TD Insurance
Meloche Monnex

Chart the best course for your life in the years ahead.

Start with **preferred insurance rates.**

Take advantage of
your group privileges:

You could **save \$415***
or more when you
combine your home and
auto insurance with us.

Home and auto insurance program recommended by



Supporting you...
and Concordia University.

Your needs will change as your life and career evolve. As a **Concordia University** graduate or student, you have access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program, which offers preferred insurance rates, other discounts and great protection, that is easily adapted to your changing needs. Plus, every year our program contributes to supporting your alumni association, so it's a great way to save and show you care at the same time. **Get a quote today!**

Our extended business hours make it easy.
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET)
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (ET)

HOME | AUTO

Ask for your quote today at 1-888-589-5656
or visit melochemonnex.com/concordia



The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY. It is distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Quebec, by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in Ontario, and by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. in the rest of Canada. Our address: 50 Place Cr emazie, Montreal (Quebec) H2P 1B6.

Due to provincial legislation, our auto and recreational vehicle insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

*Nationally, 90% of all of our clients who belong to a professional or an alumni group (underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY) or an employer group (underwritten by PRIMMUM INSURANCE COMPANY) that have an agreement with us and who insure a home (excluding rentals and condos) and a car on July 31, 2015 saved \$415 when compared to the premiums they would have paid with the same insurer without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile.

  The TD logo and other TD trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

**DONATIONS WITH
A PURPOSE**

We give readers a glimpse of how donors' contributions help the university.

By Luke Quin



A PERFECT MATCH

Concordia's research partnerships benefit the companies involved, students – and the university.

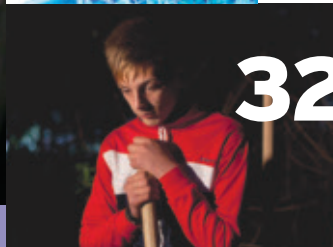
By Wayne Larsen



**SYNTHETIC SOLUTIONS
FOR REAL-LIFE MYSTERIES**

The researchers at the Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology are paving the way to artificially produce environmentally friendly biofuels, disease-fighting drugs, and more.

By Vanessa Bonneau



**ROLOFF BENY
FOUNDATION
FELLOWSHIP IN
PHOTOGRAPHY:**

Bogdan Stoica

**GIVING FROM
THE HEART**

Canadians – and Concordians – are generous. Experts examine the roots of that philanthropy.

By Julie Gedeon



PLUGGED IN TO THE FUTURE

Concordia's students and professors will continue to benefit from an advancing digital reality.

By Jesse Staniforth

DYNAMIC DUOS

Don't adjust your set! These five sets of Concordia alumni do indeed look alike – they're twins.

By Maeve Haldane



**52 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
ARTS AND SCIENCE**

The principal of Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute asks, what defines a feminist university?

By Kimberley Manning

spring 2016 volume 40 number 1

concordia.ca/magazine

Cover credit: Thinkstock

- 3** EDITOR'S VOICE
- 5** CONCORDIA NEWS
- 17** FROM THE ARCHIVES
- 54** ALUMNI NEWS
- 58** CLASS ACTS
- 62** WORDS & MUSIC
- 64** ENOUGH SAID

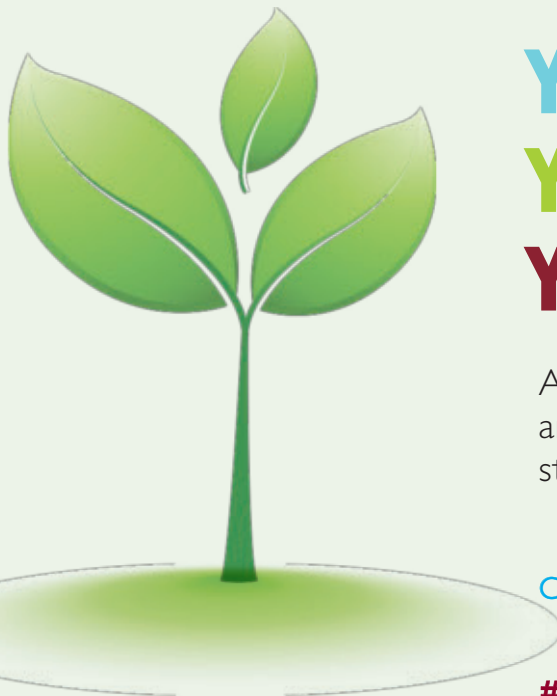
“I was 25 when I graduated, just in time to marry Al Mikalachki. We had three children and have all been successful in our goals. Since he died, I have used some of our money to help others.

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO HONOUR OUR ALMA MATER THROUGH A PLANNED GIFT.”

– Dorothy Martin Mikalachki, BA 59



Al Mikalachki, BComm 58, and Dorothy Martin Mikalachki, BA 59, with their children Sandy, Jodi and Rob.



YOUR GIFT YOUR LEGACY YOUR PLAN

A planned gift can help fulfill your financial, philanthropic and estate planning goals. Concordia's Planned Giving staff can meet your unique financial needs.

CALL 514-848-2424, ext. 8945, OR 1-888-777-3330, ext. 8945.

#CUGiving

concordia.ca/plannedgiving



Some things change, some don't

When I was preparing this issue, I realized that this is volume 40, number 1. Wow!

This doesn't mark the magazine's 40th anniversary, just the start of its 40th year. Sort of. The beginnings of *Concordia University Magazine* were not linear. The first issue of *Extra, Concordia University Magazine* was published in 1975. The initial *Concordia University Magazine*, with its current name and format, actually appeared in 1978 as volume 1, number 2 — with one edition each for alumni of Concordia's founding institutions, Loyola College and Sir George Williams University.

I too am approaching a milestone: I arrived at Concordia in June 1996, meaning that I'll soon hit two decades at the university and magazine. It also means it's been my privilege to be editor, after my predecessors Joel McCormick and Kathleen Hugessen, for more than half the publication's life.

I'm not even the magazine's longest-serving staffer. That would be Christopher Alleyne, BA (comm. & cultural studies) 09, lead creative at Concordia's University Communications Services. Although Chris is significantly younger than I am, he arrived two years before I did, three years after graduating from the design program at Montreal's Dawson College. He was first part of the magazine's design team and then became its senior designer in 1998. It's been a true pleasure working with Chris, who's talented, professional and, thankfully, patient. (He's a pretty good goalie, too.)



Chris and I have witnessed many changes through the years. Back in 1996, each issue was 32 black-and-white pages, plus a colour cover. We mailed about 50,000 magazines quarterly. Today we send our 64-page (or more) glossy three times annually to more than 140,000 Concordia alumni, faculty and staff, and donors. As readers can imagine, the technology to produce the magazine has changed much in that time, too — after all, the internet was in its infancy back then. Today, most of our exchanges are done online.

Technology has changed things at Concordia as well. As we point out in "Plugged in to the future" on page 40, technology makes it easier for students to communicate with faculty, access course material and watch videos of lectures, among other benefits. In line with one of Concordia's nine new *Strategic Directions*, "Teach for tomorrow," the university will continue on its path of technological advancement as it seeks to deliver education that's "connected, transformative, and fit for the times."

Two other stories also relate to our *Strategic Directions*: for "Double our research," "Synthetic solutions for real-life puzzles," on page 20 highlights the futuristic investigations at Concordia's Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology into how yeast can be used to grow valuable molecules;

and "A perfect match" on page 26 is in line with the direction "Get your hands dirty" — deepening students' learning experience outside the classroom — describing the mutually beneficial relationship of Concordia's industry partnerships.

As the magazine moves into its fifth decade, we can all expect more changes in our world and on these pages. One question remains for now: will Chris and/or I be here when the magazine turns 50? ■

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. Please address editorial correspondence to: The Editor, Howard Bokser
Concordia University Magazine
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
FB 520, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8
Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 3826
email: Howard.Bokser@concordia.ca

For advertising information, call 514-848-2424, ext. 3876.

Student intern: Katelyn Spidle, Debora Coelho
Design: University Communications Services
T16-31456

TRY ONE MONTH
FOR JUST
99¢

\$19.99/month thereafter*

ENJOY FULL DIGITAL ACCESS
TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

**GLOBE
UNLIMITED**



SUBSCRIBER-ONLY FEATURES

Enjoy exclusive business, investor and politics content



POWERFUL INVESTMENT TOOLS

Track and manage your portfolio



EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

Enjoy exclusive events with Globe Recognition**



MUST-READ BOOKS

Download a selection of complimentary Globe eBooks

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

VISIT: **GLOBEANDMAIL.COM/CONCORDIA**

*Plus applicable taxes. All prices in Canadian dollars. **BC and Ontario residents only. Restrictions apply.

MEET MILIEUX, CONCORDIA'S NEW INSTITUTE FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

A world increasingly defined by our relationship with technology requires innovative approaches to deal with social, economic and political uncertainties. To meet the challenge head-on, Concordia has launched the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology.

Intersecting art, design, culture and technology, Milieux is a platform for creative experimentation, interdisciplinary training and progressive imagination. It is a crossroads for an international network of researchers, artists, graduate students and collaborators who will contribute to Montreal's creativity and productivity in media arts and technologies.

"People are no longer simply consumers of new technologies; we can all be producers and innovators, thinkers and makers," says Milieux's interim co-director Bart Simon. "Our main focus is on creative and expert articulations of new technologies for the benefit of everyone through the production of tangible, playable and accessible research."



Spread over two floors in Concordia's Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex, Milieux's configuration is unique to Canada. It features open studios and labs facilitating the flow of people, materials and ideas across diverse domains such as interactive textiles, digital games, Indigenous futures, media history, photography, and critical disability studies.

With more than 80 faculty members and 100 graduate students across Concordia's four faculties, Milieux provides a model to incubate cross-cutting research creation while encouraging student participation and ownership of projects.

"Milieux builds off our considerable research strengths in digital arts by actively connecting key thinkers and makers in this domain," says Graham Carr, Concordia's vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies. "This is technology that combines creativity, imagination and social engagement in novel and distinctive ways." ■

—Fiona Downey

Accelerate the transformation of Concordia Libraries
Support the next generation of student learning



Discover how you can help Concordia reinvent the library experience.

Contact our development staff at:

514-848-2424, ext.4856
giving@concordia.ca

Read our brochure:

concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications

#CUGiving

NEW FOCUS FOR THE CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

LESLIE SCHACHTER

Concordia's Centre for Continuing Education has been an integral part of the university for more than 40 years. Dedicated to the educational enrichment of its students, the centre offers a wide range of innovative, non-credit programs and courses that cover business and administration, communications and public relations, computer skills, personal development, photography and language skills.

Yet as with most educational institutions, there is a constant need to re-evaluate program offerings and find new and innovative ways to meet the needs of today's students. That's why the Centre for Continuing Education has recently been given a new, more focused mandate.

Enter Isabel Dunnigan, the centre's new director. With over 25 years of experience in various capacities, including coordinating all kinds of programs at Université de Sherbrooke, Dunnigan oversaw extended learning as its director of development of Continuing Education for the last six years. She arrived at Concordia in June 2015 and has been asked to refocus and expand the Centre for Continuing Education's offerings beyond the traditional courses, with more tailored content in a variety of formats, while reaching out to new student populations.

"We're entering a new



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ISABEL DUNNIGAN, DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION, WILL OVERSEE THE CENTRE'S EXPANDED ROLE.

phase, and I'm confident that the timing is excellent," says Dunnigan. "Concordia is in the midst of developing a new strategic plan for the next five years. We have many new faculty members, new deans, a very dynamic direction — the timing couldn't be better. We have everything to succeed."

The Centre for Continuing Education, which has welcomed more than 45,000 students from Canada and around the world in the last 10 years alone (see the sidebar, "Cont Ed by the numbers"), continues to provide popular programming and courses using traditional methods. Yet changes in technology and students' expectations are helping to spur on some modifications in how it can best serve its students.

"We're seeing that the format of learning has changed so we have to change our model to accommodate these changes," says John Dickson, BEng 83, the

centre's assistant director. "Students, alumni, potential students — they all have different needs and we're trying to satisfy all their needs in the format they're looking for. We constantly need to adjust along with the evolution of the workforce."

Some of these new formats include online courses, one-day sessions tailored to a specific area of study, boot camps and week-long seminars. "Professional development can be much shorter than a traditional eight- or 10-week course," says Dunnigan. "We're finding that professionals are looking to meet specific needs rather than get a full program certificate. It's a 'competence profile' approach. Students need a more *à la carte* option that's related to a project they are working on or a knowledge gap they are looking to fill."

The centre has begun to

CONT ED BY THE NUMBERS

Over the last decade, Concordia's Centre for Continuing Education has welcomed **45,800** students

Of those, **2/3** are Canadians and **1/3** are international students from 191 different countries

These students have taken **84,475** courses

That's an average of **4,580** students per year, with course enrolments of **8,475** per year

53 per cent of the centre's students are female; the average student age is **30**

develop daylong, specialized seminars in a variety of disciplines in conjunction with the university's faculties, aimed at meeting the specific needs of students and professionals. "The strategy that we're developing is all about institutional collaboration," says Dunnigan. "We are in the process of planning over 60 one-day seminars because we know there is a big demand for it.

She adds, "We've heard from professionals in various fields and they want specific short-term, skill-set development. We have the capacity to manage and implement these one-off trainings because we already have the infrastructure in place to offer parallel learning that the faculties themselves are not quite set up to do. We are working with the faculties to develop these seminars, geared towards graduate students and professionals."

Many of these seminars will be offered in English and French at both the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses and will cover themes ranging from legal and business matters to human resources and engineering, including a one-week Aerospace Summer School.

Many of the tried and true programs will continue to be available. One of the Centre for Continuing Education's cornerstones is its language programs, which help newcomers and established professionals alike acquire



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

THE CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION'S AEROSPACE SUMMER SCHOOL WILL WELCOME INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS, GRADUATE STUDENTS AND PROSPECTIVE GRADUATE STUDENTS TO MONTREAL IN JUNE 2016.

the competencies they need to succeed. The intensive English program has attracted many international students throughout the years and continues to serve a growing demand. "We're very proud of our French conversation program, which has grown the most in the last year or two," says Dickson of the Centre's ministry-recognized program. "It's just exploding."

While many of the popular career-oriented programs like photography, business essentials, entrepreneurship and marketing, desktop publishing and web programming will remain, there will be a process of finding ways to refine them through development with professionals in the field.


Aside from specifically targeted career-oriented seminars, the Centre for Continuing Education will also offer more in the way of soft-skill options, such as health and nutrition and mindfulness courses, topics that may have a broader appeal to students at various stages of their careers or even post-career.

"Continuing education is a concept of lifelong learning," says Dunnigan. "It's not necessarily related to specific programs or courses or grades — it's human development and can be broader in scope than a specific educational path." ■
— Leslie Schachter, BA o3, GrDip (journ.) 13, is a Montreal freelance journalist.

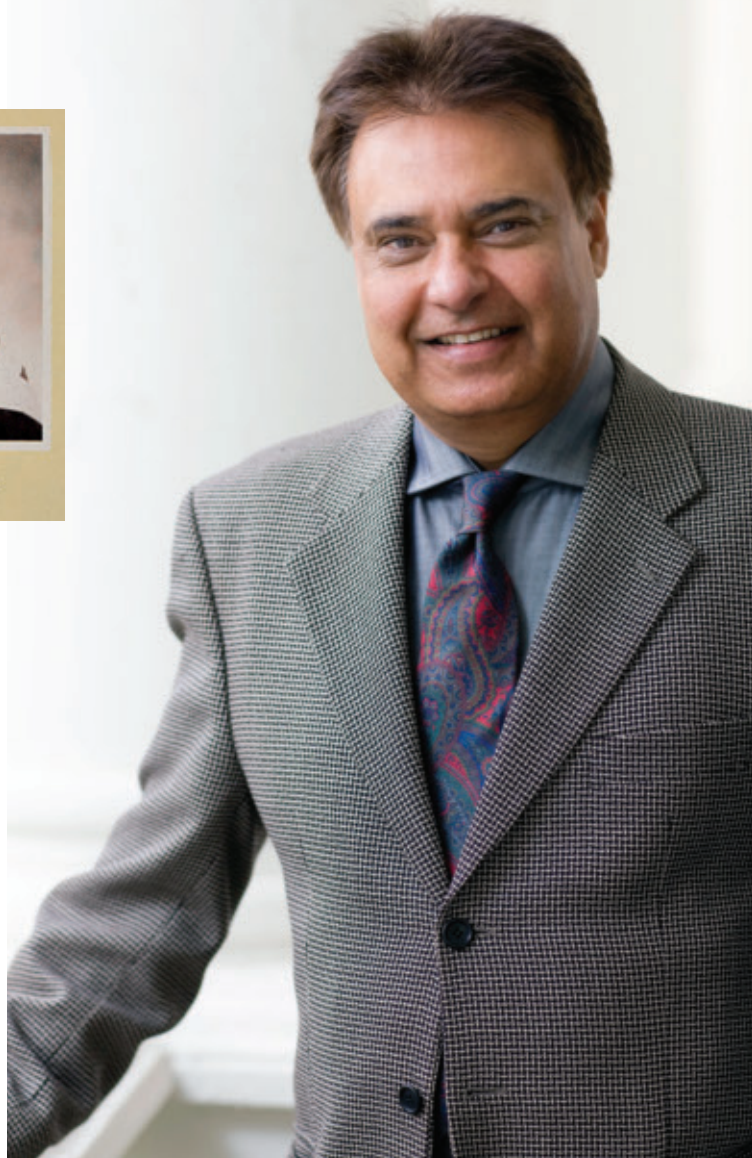
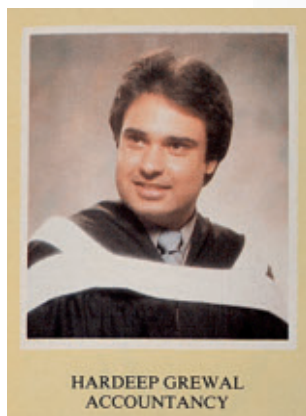
Recently moved?

Update your records at
concordia.ca/keepintouch.

Keep in touch.



HARDEEP GREWAL'S
1983 CONCORDIA
YEARBOOK PHOTO.



HARDEEP GREWAL, BCOMM 83, HEADS LOS ANGELES-BASED OHCAL FOODS — ONE OF THE LARGEST SUBWAY RESTAURANT DEVELOPERS IN NORTH AMERICA.

**DONOR WAS STUDENT BY DAY,
CABBIE BY NIGHT**

JAMES GIBBONS

Hardy Grewal, BComm 83, had only \$7 in his pocket when he arrived in Montreal from his native Punjab, India, in 1972. Today he is a highly successful businessman who has donated \$1 million to endow scholarships at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB). To make ends meet as an immigrant and student, Grewal drove a taxi around the bustling streets of Montreal. Concordia's flexibility made it possible for him to pull double duty: business classes by day, picking up commuter fares by night.

"I started at McGill, though I left because I couldn't manage class and work at the same time," says Grewal. "Concordia understood my situation. They took me in. That's why I've always been loyal to the university." Three decades after graduating from Concordia, Grewal has achieved immense business success as the overseer of 2,100 Subway restaurant franchises in the United States and Canada. He is

president and CEO of Los Angeles-based OhCal Foods — one of the largest Subway developers in North America.

Grewal's family — including wife Patwant and his three sons — are expressing their gratitude to Concordia with a gift to create the Hardeep Grewal MBA Scholarship Endowment at JMSB, which will produce opportunities for future students.

"Concordia's MBA program is a gold standard, in Canada and internationally," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "There's a circular effect. Many JMSB graduates do incredibly well. One way they show appreciation is by supporting Concordia students, who are in turn equally successful, and it keeps perpetuating."

"Hardy's life was transformed through education," says Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement and External Relations. "Such a significant gift has the capacity of creating a multiplier effect. There will be future generations of business leaders who will be traced back to this generous donation."

**PROMOTING
FAMILY VALUES**

For Grewal, doing well by his alma mater aligns with his family's values and aspirations. "My father and mother were farmers in India — with only elementary school learning," he says. "Their dream for my three siblings and me was to get an education. It lasts your entire life."

They also instilled values Grewal says have served him throughout his career: to work hard and to be honest with others.

Those qualities inform the selection criteria for

Hardeep Grewal MBA Scholarship recipients. Three awardees will be chosen each year on the basis of commitment and spirit that reflect Grewal's determination — not to mention his family's.

Even though their income was limited, Grewal's parents — Baldev and Gurdev — saved their money to send their son to Canada, a country they felt would offer him more opportunities and social mobility.

He left India at age 17 to join an uncle and his older brother, Gurcharan, who

had arrived in Canada in 1969. "I came to Montreal and three days later I was in high school," says Grewal. "I couldn't speak English or French. I was terrified and didn't want to go."

Because of the language barrier, Grewal was too discouraged to attend class and eventually dropped out. Though it wasn't all for nothing. He married his high-school sweetheart, Patwant, in 1981.

At age 19, Grewal attended Dawson College, then located in Montreal's Saint-Henri district. Upon graduating from Dawson, he began driving for what would become Angrignon Taxi.

"There are wild stories I can tell you about my days as a cabbie," says Grewal. Among his experiences was becoming an unwilling getaway driver — he was held up at gunpoint by someone fleeing the scene of a bank robbery. Through it all, and after three years of taking classes year-round, Grewal received "the gift of a Concordia education."

"As a recent graduate I began working for an investment company in Montreal," says Grewal. "I would see income slips of people making \$120,000 a year. I thought to myself, can't I do that?"

SUBWAY RESTAURANT POWERHOUSE

One of Grewal's distant relatives was the owner of tech company Indus Systems in Chatsworth, Calif. Grewal was offered a job as an accountant and moved to the United States with Patwant in 1984.



HARDEEP GREWAL (RIGHT) WITH HIS FRIEND HARJINDER JETHA ON THE LOYOLA CAMPUS IN THE EARLY 1980S.

"I came to Montreal and three days later I was in high school. I couldn't speak English or French. I was terrified and didn't want to go."

"I could get a green card in part because I had a university education," says Grewal. The couple left most of their family and friends when they made the move. "My wife didn't like being away from Montreal," says Grewal. In 1989, partly to provide Patwant with a diversion, the couple purchased their first Subway restaurant in Los Angeles.

As Grewal relates, "The restaurant my wife was running made about \$50,000 each year. That's more than I was making at the time. So, I quit my job and we put everything into purchasing more locations."

After a few decades and three sons — named Jess, Amaran and Shawn — Grewal sold all his locations to purchase OhCal Foods. With it, he gained oversight of all franchise development in Los Angeles County and neighbouring Orange County. In 2009, Grewal bought the rights

for Southwestern Ontario. Then in 2015 he added Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia. "It's hard to manage something that's so far away," says Grewal, who has racked up over 4 million kilometres of air travel on the job.

A TRIUMPHANT RETURN

Thanks to all that hard work, a bright, inviting space on the fourth floor of Concordia's John Molson Building — where students come together — has a new name. The Hardeep (Hardy) Singh Grewal and Patwant

Kaur Grewal Atrium was titled in recognition of the Concordian's seven-figure donation.

"All students who come to Concordia hope to have an impact of some kind," says Stéphane Brutus, interim dean of the JMSB. "The naming of spaces at the John Molson Building is a high-water mark that all can be encouraged by." Grewal says he was partly motivated to give for that reason: "I visited one of my sons at UCLA. It struck me that everything was named after someone. I find that very inspirational."

He realized he wanted to do the same for his alma mater. "I know where I came from," says Grewal. "I'm proud to have my name attached to the school that was a building block for me."

The entrepreneur says it's special for his entire family. His parents moved to California when Grewal could afford to support them.

"My father, Baldev, passed away in January at age 99," says Grewal. "He knew what this gift meant to me as a graduate and what it says about our family's story." ■
— James Gibbons, BA 11, MA 13, is a writer at Concordia.



We really like hearing from **YOU.**
Want to hear more from **US?**

Like us on [Facebook.com/Concordia.Alumni](https://www.facebook.com/Concordia.Alumni).
Join the conversation!

#CUalumni

setting an example



Claudine and Stephen Bronfman, centre, with several past and present recipients of Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art.

Montreal's emerging artists deserve support

“We believe that, as part of the Montreal community, we must ensure that the strength of the visual and media arts in the city is protected through the participation of the public in cultural activities, as well as financial investment across sectors.

Artists who live and work in our city are essential to the success of these investments. Their presence in Montreal contributes to our reputation as a cultural hub. Their inspired ideas for the use of technology and their fresh take on sociopolitical discourse ensure that the work produced in our city is cutting-edge.

Statistics Canada reported that culture, defined as a creative, artistic activity, the goods produced by it and the preservation of heritage, generates billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs. This cultural production made up 3 per cent of the total Canadian economy in 2010.

Yet increasing pressure on limited public funds makes public-sector investments in the arts a constant challenge. We are deeply committed to ensuring our city thrives and finds prosperity from the incredible work being done here. One of the most powerful ways to do this is by supporting emerging artists.

That's why we have funded the annual Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art since 2010 — to support the work of one graduate student from Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts and one graduate student from the faculty of arts of Université du Québec à Montréal.

With an open heart, we invite you to walk around our city imagining “who” is behind each artwork you encounter. We are certain that, in at least some small way, you will be not just enriched by the arts, you may be transformed.”

— Claudine and Stephen Bronfman are Montreal philanthropists.

Find out how to join Claudine and Stephen Bronfman in contributing to Concordia.

Info: concordia.ca/giving | 514-848-2424, ext. 4856 | 1-888-777-3330, ext. 4856 | giving@concordia.ca

#CUGiving

\$1 MILLION IN NEW STUDENT SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES



Concordia’s School of Canadian Irish Studies will benefit from a \$1-million endowment for student support. The newly created Brian O’Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund will provide financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in the university’s Irish Studies major.

“Brian is a force of nature,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “Over two decades, he propelled Concordia’s Irish Studies program to the forefront in North America in terms of creating new opportunities, celebrating the past and creating the future. This new scholarship will recognize his impact for generations to come.”

Established by the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, the Brian O’Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund will provide approximately \$50,000 annually in support of nearly 20 student awards.

Concordia graduate Brian O’Neill Gallery, BA 57, LLD 10, co-founded the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation in 1995 to support the study of Irish history and culture at the university. Gallery retired as chair in 2015, and was succeeded by Pamela McGovern. Gallery

helped build an \$8-million endowment for the School of Canadian Irish Studies. A former mayor of Westmount, Que., Gallery was named one of the university’s Great Concordians in 2014. “We are very thankful that our donors keep Irish studies on a solid financial footing,” says Gallery. “We welcome all donations, no matter how modest, not only because we need the help but because it reinforces a belief in our goals.”

Michael Kenneally, principal of the School of Canadian Irish Studies, views the donation as homage to Gallery: “This scholarship fund will perpetuate Brian’s legacy, as he is a central figure in the growth and development of Irish studies at Concordia.”

For Gabe Gilker, a third-year Irish studies student, the award helps further her research into the 1916 Easter Rising — which overthrew British rule and established the Republic of Ireland. “It’s been the biggest blessing ever,” says Gilker. “I can actually buy my books and not have to count my credit card and debit card spending.” ■

—James Gibbons



**CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
GIFT AT A TIME**

HELP SHAPE CONCORDIA BY
SUPPORTING THE
**2016-17
COMMUNITY
CAMPAIGN!**



Powered by gifts ranging in size and purpose, Concordia’s annual Community Campaign bolsters teaching, research and student life at Canada’s next-generation university.

concordia.ca/communitycampaign

#CUGiving

REBECCA DUCLOS'S EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND INCLUDES A PHD IN ART HISTORY AND VISUAL STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

Meet Rebecca Duclos, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts

LESLIE SCHACHTER

When Rebecca Duclos began her five-year term as dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts in August 2015, she brought a wealth of experience — and enthusiasm. Duclos had been dean of Graduate Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and previously held faculty and research positions at a number of institutions, including the University of Manchester, McGill University, Deakin University and Concordia.

She sat down to share her thoughts on her dynamic faculty and its students, Concordia and its place within the cultural landscape of Montreal.

Can you share a bit about your own background?

Rebecca Duclos: "I started out studying ancient Greek and Latin. From there I moved into archaeology at the University of Toronto, where I completed a double major in classics and Near Eastern archaeology. I realized that I was more interested in an object's life after it had been unearthed and how it circulated — as not only a piece of material culture but also as a piece of history that could be continually reinterpreted.

That led me into a graduate degree in museum studies at the University of Toronto. As part of that I did an internship at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and then left to teach in Melbourne, Australia, for a year before returning to Canada to work at various cultural institutions for a decade. The history of my career has been following my passions. That's why I returned to school as a 40-year-old to take my PhD in England. It's been a really interesting mixture of continually teaching, taking various degrees, independently curating, writing, researching, working with artists and being an administrator in these different realms."



LESLIE SCHACHTER

What drew you back to Concordia?

RD: "Its DNA. I taught at Concordia for three years. I fell in love with the university, its boldness and its history. And I was further attracted back by the terrific momentum it has. Also, living in Montreal — it's really the cultural nexus of Canada and it's probably one of the best places to be involved with a faculty of fine arts. Because I worked in the cultural field for years, was an independent curator, and have been in numerous academic institutions as both student and teacher for two decades, I have neither a strict academic background nor a strict administrative one. Montreal and Concordia have the guts to hire people like me. They're open. Trusting. And unfettered by tradition."

What are your impressions of Concordia since you've returned?

RD: "In the arts generally in Montreal, we really have a climate of collaboration and conversation. At Concordia, many of the students and the faculty take on a huge amount of solo, independent work, but there is also a tradition of the ensemble and of the collective.

There is a communal idea of what it means to generate knowledge and activity together that simultaneously appreciates and acknowledges separate, individual, unique contributions. It's an interesting and challenging way to work — and characterizes the way many arts practitioners move through the world."

What is your vision for the Faculty of Fine Arts?

RD: "We have the benefit of this extraordinary faculty with a rich array of programs in the performing arts, cinema, design, studio, and the major academic and professional areas. And we also have access to so many other perspectives and practices and to the astonishing research that goes on in the rest of this university. You name it: social innovation, theology, nanoscience, geography, electrical engineering, poetry. It's amazing!"

Our students have so many more potential connections at their fingertips. Now is the time to build relationships across the faculties so that those who are interested can have the opportunity to find out how other people think, how other disciplines work and what the issues of concern are that bring many of us together."

What is the biggest challenge for the Faculty of Fine Arts?

RD: "We have what I would call good problems — trying to figure out how our ideas and ideals and desires can be matched with structures that can be morphed and moved so that our actions are responsive and can become real — so they can be actualized."

Another good problem is the burden of choice felt by many of our students. It's difficult for some of them because, on the one hand, society says you should have a plan and you need to be very practical and determined about your education. On the other hand, many of us in the arts and culture field are highly responsive and shape-shifting and are used to living with certain kinds of ambiguity about what's next. This can feel stressful for students because the rest of the world is trying to lock them down. Yet it's those very qualities they feel as creative practitioners that will let them be malleable and amenable to whatever life is going to throw at them."

How are Montreal's cultural and artistic qualities reflected at Concordia?

RD: "We're so lucky here. It's a very symbiotic relationship with the cultural landscape of the city and we're just beginning to map out what some of our networks are. I would say that every single one of our faculty and most of our students have some connection to artist-run centres, museums, galleries, performance sites — and have relationships with critics, designers, curators and writers. It's phenomenal the kind of interconnections that happen. So the next step would be not only to recognize these linkages but actually to build on them so that the university can become an even more overt part of the cultural fabric in Montreal."

"I love all of it! What job lets you choose from a performance or a vernissage or a symphony or a play every night?"

Can you talk about Concordia's partnerships with other cultural institutions?

RD: "There are so many. But I can speak about at least one aspect of the relationship we are specifically developing with the Musée des beaux arts around what might loosely be called 'arts and health.' One of the main missions for the Musée is to think deeply about community and cultural health in both a physical and a metaphysical way. How do the arts function not just *in* society but *for* society? How do cultural institutions become not just destinations but caring entities contributing to civic life? Many of our faculty have long been asking these questions and will be part of the museum's projects going forward."

I am also excited to think about the future physical, architectural

connections between Concordia and the Musée through what I imagine as a contiguous campus that uses the Bishop Street corridor as a space for public programming, urban experimentation, street theatre, design innovation — a social space that links these two great institutions."

What do you like most about your job?

RD: "I love all of it! The 70-hour weeks can be a bit punishing. On the other hand, what job lets you choose from a performance or a vernissage or a symphony or a play every night? There's just so much going on. The job has two communities, one inside the university and also one out in the city."

I love this constant stimulation, and every day is still a wonderful, whole new surprise." ■

—Leslie Schachter, BA 03, GrDip (journ.) 13, is a Montreal freelance writer.



CONCORDIA'S BIG THINKING

Concordia's ideas festival, Thinking Out Loud (concordia.ca/tol), returned in 2016 with another successful series of talks. The university's public engagement series brought together Concordia researchers and faculty members with external thought leaders for discussions about ideas, big and small. The talks, with the exception of Being Instrumental, were held at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre.

Games, ethics and how we connect, January 28:

Clive Thompson (right), author of *Smarter Than You Think: How Technology Is Changing Our Minds for the Better*, joined **Mia Consalvo**, professor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, in conversation about games, who's cheating and how your tech helps you connect. **1**

Connecting and wellness – your brain matters, February 11:

Author and psychologist **Susan Pinker** (*The Village Effect: Why Face-to-Face Contact Matters*, left) and **William Bukowski**, professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology, discussed



face-to-face contact in a time of virtual connections. **2**

Connecting your tech future – a conversation about what's next, March 1:

Nora Young (right), broadcaster and author (*The Virtual Self: How Our Digital Lives Are Altering the World Around Us*), joined **Jeremy Clark**, an assistant professor in Concordia's Institute for Information Systems Engineering, to discuss what privacy means when self-tracking and monitoring are routine. **3**



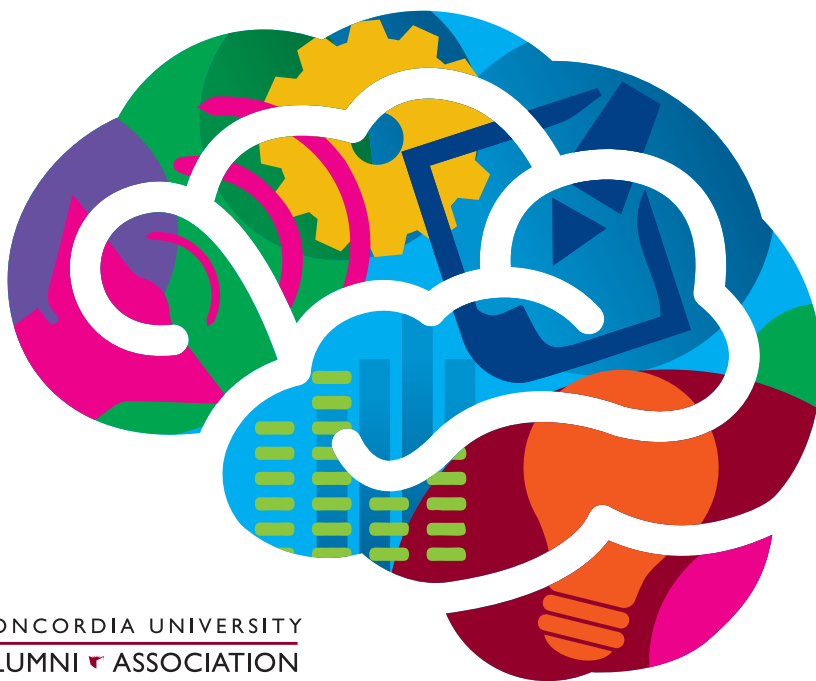
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Reader's Digest Annual Lecture Series in Journalism: The post-election landscape – can Quebec and Canada really get along? March 2:

CBC commentator and award-winning journalist **Chantal Hébert**, LL.D. 14 (right), discussed the shifting post-election Quebec-Canada landscape, moderated by *Le Devoir's* **Francine Pelletier**. **4**

Talking liberal arts, March 7:

(From left) **Rebecca Duclos**, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, Giller Prize-winning author **Joseph Boyden** (*The Orenda*) and **Jill Didur**, an associate professor in the Department of English, considered the future and challenges to the liberal arts. **5**



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



3



4



6



7

Connect the dots – the science of crime, March 14:

(From left) Moderator **André Picard** of *The Globe & Mail*, **Kathy Reichs**, forensic anthropologist and best-selling novelist (*Déjà Dead*), **Cameron Skinner**, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and PhD student **Brigitte Desharnais** discussed the real deal on *Bones*-style science and crime solving. **6**

Mary-Ann Beckett Baxter Memorial Lecture: Being instrumental, March 30:

The influential Québécois director, playwright and actor **Robert LePage**, LLD 99 (right), joined **Silvy Panet-Raymond**, professor in Concordia's Department of Contemporary Dance, to discuss his creative process and views on new directions in performance creation. **7**

An evening with Ann-Marie MacDonald, April 19:

The award-winning author, playwright and actor and Concordia's Richler Writer in Residence, 2015/16, presented a dynamic multimedia debrief on the writing life, literature and Richler's legacy.

The second part of Thinking Out Loud once again included The Walrus Talks series, which featured Concordians and was organized in different Canadian cities, in collaboration with *The Walrus* magazine:

Calgary, March 21:

The Walrus Talks Health at Theatre Junction Grand, with **Kristen Dunfield**, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology, and **Louis Bherer**, professor of Concordia's Department of Psychology and director of the PERFORM Centre;

Ottawa, April 21:

The Walrus Talks The Future at the National Gallery of Canada, with **Joanna Berzowska**, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Design and Computation Arts, and Concordia President **Alan Shepard**.

Toronto, April 27:

The Walrus Talks Vice at the Isabel Bader Theatre, with **Nadia Chaudhri**, professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology, and **Rebecca Duclos**, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts. ■

—Howard Bokser

Keep an eye out for videos of the talks to be added in the coming months at concordia.ca/tol.

TAKE PRIDE in your alma mater



Show your
CONCORDIA COLOURS!

As a graduate, your network offers an opportunity to boast about your connection to Concordia's signature big thinking.

SMALL PLANET  BIG THINKING



Join **@ConcordiaAlumni** on social media

#CUalumni



MUSICIAN DAVID USHER (PICTURED) AND CONCORDIA PROFESSOR DAMON MATTHEWS SHOW US WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE COULD MEAN – IN OUR LIFETIME – AND HOW WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

TICK TOCK... MIND THE CLIMATE CLOCK

Climate change is a threat to our planet — and our species. The scientific community has determined the most dangerous effects of global warming occur when global temperatures rise two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

What does this two-degree threshold mean to you and me?

Musician David Usher and leading climate expert Damon Matthews, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, collaborated to demonstrate in real terms.

They created a climate clock to show how current greenhouse gas emissions affect our planet's trajectory to reach two degrees. Emission data feeding the climate clock's projections will be updated, ultimately showing how our collective behaviour advances or slows the clock.

In a video, produced by Melodie Le Siege, BA 10, they explain what the two-degree scenario could look like, and use the climate clock to show how soon we'll get there.

Share the video if you care about our planet. Visit concordia.ca/countdown2degrees.

— Louise Morgan

Concordia now and then

Concordia alumni will have strong memories of their university days, whether five years ago or 50 years ago. Yet even more recent grads may be surprised by how much the university has changed. Even familiar settings, like libraries and classrooms, have evolved through the years.

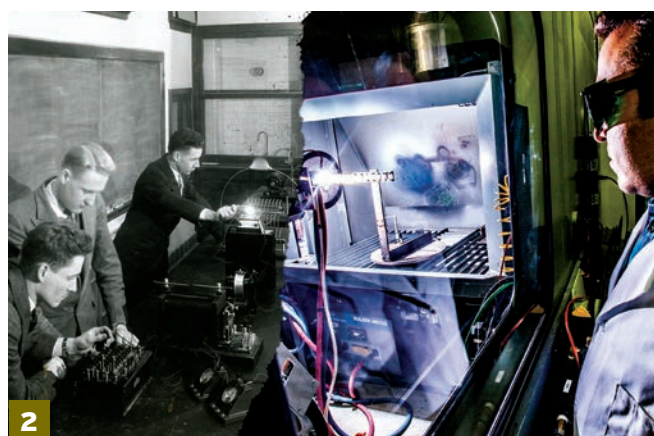
The following juxtaposed images provide a sense of those changes in vivid fashion.

Share your #CUalumni memories and tag us @ConcordiaAlumni.

THE NORRIS BUILDING LIBRARY AT SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY IN 1952 PROVIDED A SIMILAR SETTING TO TODAY'S MODERN GREY NUNS READING ROOM. **1**

RESEARCH WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY EVEN BACK IN 1938 AT SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY, AS IT IS NOW IN THE THERMAL SPRAY LAB IN THE RICHARD J. RENAUD SCIENCE PAVILION. **2**

LOYOLA COLLEGE STUDENTS ENJOYED TAKING A BREAK IN THE GUADAGNI LOUNGE IN THE MID-1960S, JUST AS TODAY'S STUDENTS DO IN THE LOUNGE ON THE LOYOLA CAMPUS. **3**



A man in a white lab coat is shown in profile, looking down at a piece of equipment, possibly a microscope. The image is overlaid with a circular diagram consisting of several overlapping circles. The entire image has a warm, orange-red color cast.

DONATIONS WITH A PURPOSE

CONTRIBUTIONS TO
CONCORDIA PLAY A
VITAL ROLE IN HELPING
ADVANCE ITS MISSION

LUKE QUIN

This is the first in a series that will depict the costs of running a university like Concordia and how the university is funded.

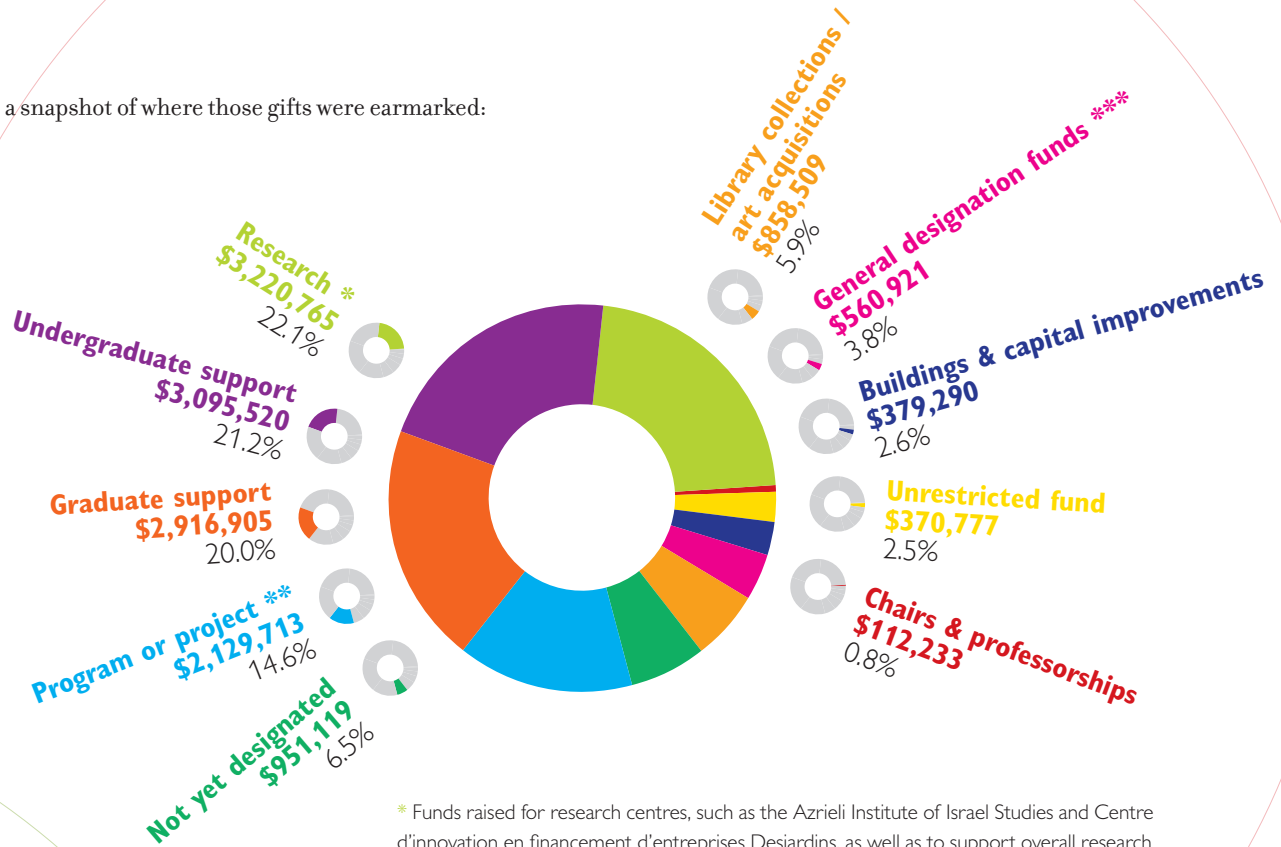
Donors to Concordia are generous. Their contributions allow the university to expand its mission and advance big thinking among students and researchers who tackle today's important questions.

Annually, Concordia benefits from more than 10,000 gifts — ranging in size and purpose — that propel achievements in labs, studios, libraries or on playing fields. This figure is a reflection of confidence in the university's mission, pride in Concordia and its contribution to society, as well as alumni gratitude.

Thanks to ongoing philanthropic commitments from alumni, corporate leaders, faculty, staff, parents, retirees, friends and even students themselves, Concordia continues to define the next-generation university.

In 2014-15, Concordia raised more than \$14.5 million toward students, libraries, research, academic programs and other projects, and university activities.

Here's a snapshot of where those gifts were earmarked:

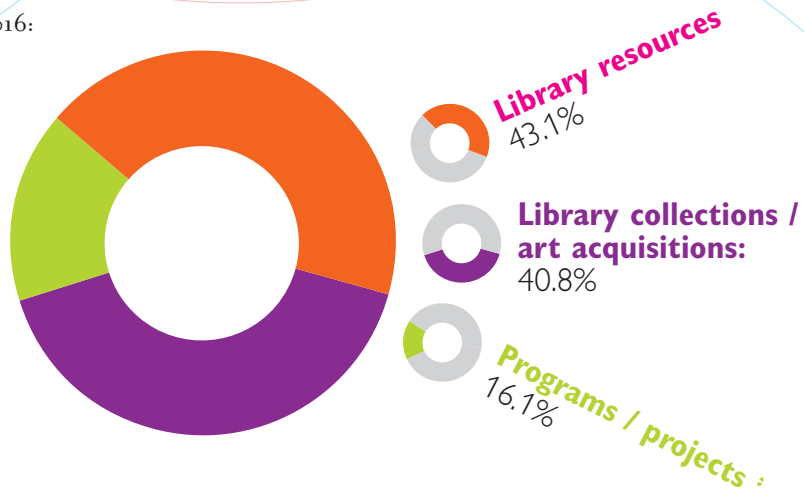


* Funds raised for research centres, such as the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies and Centre d'innovation en financement d'entreprises Desjardins, as well as to support overall research activities of the university.

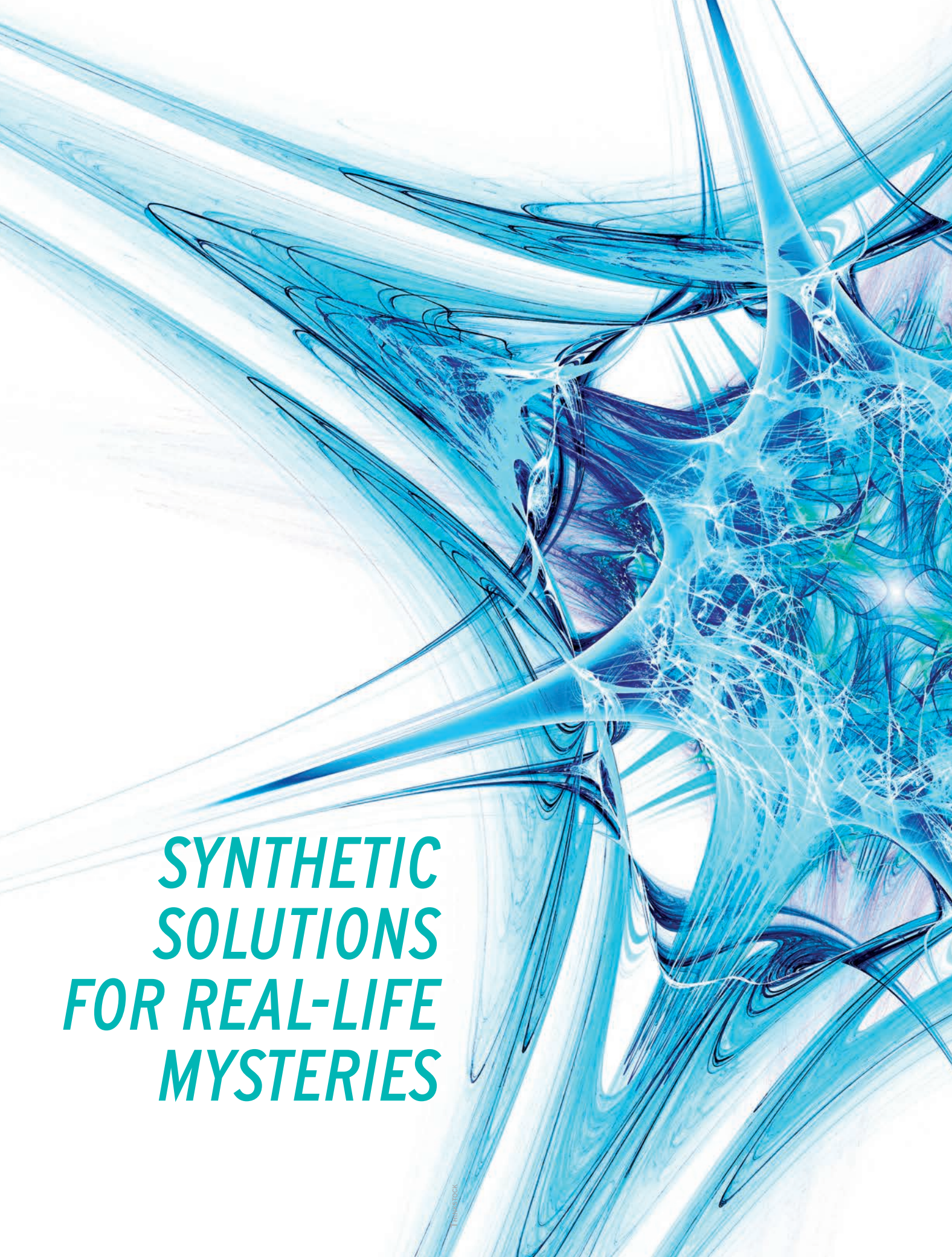
** Funds raised for an academic program or project, such as the School of Canadian Irish Studies Program, the Sustainable Investment Professional Certification Program, or La Ruche d'Art Community Studio Project Fund.

*** Funds raised to support general activities for a particular faculty or department, such as the Faculty of Fine Arts Development Fund or the Psychology Department Endowment Fund.

Donations to specific areas can be more specifically directed. Here is a breakdown of how funds to Concordia Libraries were divided from June 1, 2015, to February 28, 2016:



* Funds raised for academic programs or projects, such as the School of Canadian Irish Studies, the Sustainable Investment Professional Certification Program or La Ruche d'Art.



***SYNTHETIC
SOLUTIONS
FOR REAL-LIFE
MYSTERIES***



At the Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology, yeast is being used to grow molecules that will prove valuable for health, energy, business and a growing range of fields

VANESSA BONNEAU

Scientists have identified 2,500 little-understood plant molecules that are of great pharmaceutical interest — as cancer and heart disease drugs, painkillers, muscle relaxants and cough suppressants. The problem is they aren't naturally abundant and it has not been easy to make enough of them to properly study their potential medical benefits.

The good news: synthetic biology researchers at Concordia are on the case.

"We're really the first-ever centre in Canada to be doing this research," says Vincent Martin, co-director and co-founder of Concordia's Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology.

Synthetic biology is the fusion of engineering and more traditional biology. "We know enough — not that much, but enough — in biology that we can start thinking about manipulating it, modifying it, engineering it," Martin explains.

The centre was founded in 2012, and its 16 members come from a range of Concordia departments including biology, electrical and computer engineering and journalism, and even from other universities across the country.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

VINCENT MARTIN, WHO CAME TO CONCORDIA IN 2004, IS A PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND THE CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN MICROBIAL GENOMICS AND ENGINEERING. HIS RESEARCH COULD LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BIOFUELS.

“We don’t need to rely on oil and gas anymore. We can get organisms to take carbon dioxide, or glucose, and make these molecules.”

Martin, a professor in the Department of Biology, leads about a dozen research projects at the centre. His lab includes 13 postdoctoral researchers, research associates and graduate students. In his work, Martin changes the DNA of yeast or bacteria in order to get it to produce molecules with a pharmaceutical or commercial application.

For instance, he leads a number of projects that use natural products to make it faster and cheaper to produce environmentally friendly biofuels. One such project has researchers working to create a strain of yeast that can use the sugars in spent sulfite liquor, a toxic wood pulp by-product, to make ethanol. The research could potentially be used to engineer yeast to generate other biofuels such as butanol and biodiesel.

Another vein of research concerns the production of plastics, including, in one project, nylon for stockings. Nylon, a polymer, is made up of two different components derived from petroleum products. Its traditional production is energy intensive, results in toxic by-products and is reliant on the price of oil. Martin’s research looks at how to get

yeast to produce the two starting molecules. “We don’t need to rely on oil and gas anymore,” says Martin. “We can get organisms to take carbon dioxide, or glucose, and make these molecules.”

He also works on molecules that are used by the pharmaceutical industry, including painkillers and opiates, and alkaloids used to treat cancer and heart disease. “Our competition is the big Ivy League schools,” says Martin. “We’re really at the forefront of this research.”

UNKNOWN MOLECULES

One researcher is Lauren Narcross, BSc 10, a current PhD student in Martin’s lab. Working with yeast, she produces molecules with a pharmaceutical application. The goal of the project is to expand the total number of molecules available for research in the world.

Poppies, Narcross explains, are really good at making a few compounds — such as morphine, noscapine, papaverine, codeine and sanguinarine — that have been developed into pharmaceuticals such as painkillers, muscle relaxants and cough suppressants.

Unfortunately poppies are not as good at making thousands of other compounds, which are therefore greatly understudied. By taking the genes that make these compounds from the poppy and other plants and putting them into yeast, Narcross and fellow researchers at the synthetic biology centre hope the yeast will make a high number of those molecules and provide an alternative source for them. She reports that there are 2,500 molecules identified or predicted in a variety of plants, not just the poppy, that are potentially of interest. “The goal of the project is to create an alternative technology that will allow pharmaceutical companies to study these other compounds,” says Narcross.

Researchers at the centre work with a lab that grows and tests opium poppies. “We’re really good at the ‘working in yeast’ part,” she says.

ROBOTS IN THE LAB

To conduct the research, Narcross and her colleagues must take the identified genes out from the plants — including poppies — and put them into yeast to see if they will start producing a lot of the



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

LAUREN NARCROSS EARNED A BSC IN CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY FROM CONCORDIA IN 2010 AND IS NOW A PHD STUDENT AT THE CENTRE FOR APPLIED SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY WORKING WITH YEAST TO ENGINEER THE PRODUCTION OF MOLECULES WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS.

desired molecule. However, this process is difficult, time-consuming, tedious and unpredictable.

Luckily, automation of that process is coming soon. A \$2.5-million grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation to develop a biofoundry at the centre means a good deal of new equipment that will help researchers make and manipulate DNA. "There's a lot of automation that can be put into place to give our scientists, who are trained in how to think, more freedom," says Narcross.

She was awaiting the arrival of the biofoundry's first piece. "I'm really excited to see this technology completely change the research we do here," she says. "The process is very satisfying. We get to problem-solve for a living. It's cool to be making molecules that can make a difference to people."

Standardization is one of the goals

of the centre under Martin. "That way, you're hoping the outcome is very predictable. You want to be able to go around the design-build-test-learn loop as fast as possible."

Martin says that a testament to the centre's work is its ability to attract world-class researchers in the field of synthetic biology. One is Steve Shih, who builds microfluidics — or lab-on-chip technology. "If my research is successful, we'll be able to program an experiment on a computer that will automate the process on a chip," Shih says. "It could take days or weeks when a researcher conducts the experiment manually. On the chip, it takes a few hours," which means saving time and money for other research.

Shih studied engineering but did his postdoctorate in a synthetic biology lab. "This centre was the only place in Canada where I could research microfluidics, do the engineering, work on the chemistry and study the biology at the same time. That's what attracted me," he says. "I have an interdisciplinary background and I wanted to be in an interdisciplinary environment, so I thought it was a perfect match."

He's currently working on microfluidics projects with both Martin and the centre's co-director and co-founder, Nawwaf Kharma.

A FUNDAMENTALLY MULTIDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVE

Kharma, an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, sees the centre's multidisciplinary team as one of its greatest assets. "A high density of highly qualified people all working in the same area — that's what will guarantee we'll get very good research done," he says. "When you get so many good people, like our recent hires, into a very well-defined area — in this case, synthetic biology — and they share lab space, meet regularly and have inspiring leadership, it works very well."

His path from engineering into synthetic biology is a novel one. "I was doing research in evolutionary computing already, so I thought, I'll just learn a bit more about evolution," he explains. That was just the beginning.

Kharma took a course at Concordia in molecular biology and became friends with the prof, Luc Varin, BSc 87,



THINKSTOCK



Concordia University

“We get to problem-solve for a living. It’s cool to be making molecules that can make a difference to people.”

PhD 91, an associate professor in the Department of Biology and now also a member of the centre. Through Varin, Kharma met Martin and became increasingly interested in how he could apply computational engineering to biology.

Kharma also signed up for a master’s degree in biology, which he’s completing this year. Though he’s found it demanding, he says the structured learning was invaluable to his biology knowledge.

Martin too is a classically trained biologist, although his postdoctoral research was in an engineering department — which makes the co-directors a good match. “I spent enough time with engineers to realize their thought process is completely different from biologists,” says Martin. “It’s a lot more structured, in most instances, and to me it was very important to have that aspect in the centre. Nawwaf certainly brings that.”

He adds that the centre’s biologists recognize real-world boundaries of what’s physically doable, as opposed to what calculations or models theoretically show what’s possible. That includes Malcolm Whiteway, a professor in the Department of Biology and Canada Research Chair in Microbial Genomics, Biology. His research concerns the fungal pathogen *Candida albicans*, and the new biofoundry will be crucial to several projects he leads.

Whiteway sees many benefits to the centre’s multidisciplinary nature. “It’s good to be able to talk to smart people who have different backgrounds than you do about questions that are of relevance to you because they can provide novel insights,” Whiteway says. “Being able to direct your grad students to the Martin lab on a question, for example, is extremely useful.”

He points out that one of the centre’s mandates is to spread knowledge about

synthetic biology. “It’s not just about researchers,” Whiteway says. “There’s also a journalistic element regarding ethics and how the information is presented to the general public.”

Whiteway refers to David Secko, an associate professor in the Department of Journalism and centre member. Secko, who trained as a molecular biologist before becoming a science journalist, studies and promotes biotech literacy to the general public. He recently hosted a panel discussion regarding CRISPR, a new technology for editing genes that’s raised a number of ethical questions.

Another centre member, Tagny Duff, MFA (studio art) 05, PhD 14, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, uses biology as a medium for design and art. She’s currently working on a project that will be displayed at the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics on the Loyola campus, where the centre is located.

Like Whiteway, Martin sees a need to educate the general public about synthetic biology. "Go out there and try to engage. Describe what it is you're doing, along with the potential benefits and pitfalls," he says. "It's a really interesting way to bring synthetic biology into popular culture."

A CHANGING FIELD

Because the field of synthetic biology is growing and changing exponentially, it's crucial to train graduate students how to think and be creative, says Martin. "That way they can use that expertise wherever they end up."

Corinne Cluis, PhD '14, knew pretty early on in her career that she wanted to translate what she liked about research and biology into products that were useable for society. As a PhD student in Martin's lab, she produced coenzyme Q10, an antioxidant that's been shown to alleviate symptoms related to heart diseases, diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. It's also well known as an anti-wrinkle agent. The goal was to produce the molecule cheaply, using a non-pathogenic form of the bacteria *E. coli* and cheap substrates like glucose. Cluis managed to multiply the production of Q10 in *E. coli* 20 times.

Today she works in the strain development lab at Lallemand in Montreal, a company that specializes in producing yeast and bacteria products needed to make wine, animal feed, nutritional products, probiotics, biofuels and baking and food products. There is a cohort of four or five former students of Martin's working at the company.

Cluis says the centre and Martin were crucial to the scope and success of her project: "He gave me a lot of freedom to think about my project, to try different things, to give it the direction that I wanted."

Martin also challenged Cluis to do the best she could. "He was also great at making me push boundaries, and encouraging me to be ambitious, not to do things that have been done in the past or that weren't very original."

A lot has changed in synthetic biology since 2014, but Cluis says what she does now is a direct application of what she learned during her PhD. "My way of thinking, trouble shooting and approaching research projects was really developed through my interactions with Dr. Martin."



CORINNE CLUIS'S CONCORDIA PHD RESEARCH WAS ON THE COENZYME Q10, AN ANTIOXIDANT THAT'S BEEN SHOWN TO ALLEVIATE SYMPTOMS RELATED TO HEART DISEASES, DIABETES AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS.

Martin hopes that's the case. "What I can bring to my students, having spent and still spending time with these companies, is that I understand how they work, I understand what they're looking for," he says. Martin himself co-founded Amyris, a renewable products company that provides sustainable alternatives to a range of petroleum-sourced products. He continues to serve as its scientific advisor.

THE FUTURE

The centre is looking at developing programs for engineers and biologists, and that means crossing departments and faculties.

To do this, Kharma and Martin are applying for an educational Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. "It's the best way we can leverage our expertise into a training program," says Kharma. "It's not a degree program; it uses existing structures and courses to train somebody in a particular area. That way our research will benefit teaching."

Martin adds, "You have to build your academic programs to be adaptable and flexible so that when things change you can modify them."

What will future research in Martin's lab look like? Some projects will be moving into non-model systems. "We're starting to biologically engineer things that people have never engineered before: different types of micro-organisms, different types of yeast," he says.

Automating more and more of the lab processes is also a priority. "The biofoundry is going to be a big part of developing tools and technology to speed things up. This is where it's heading," Martin says. "We're all going to be on computers, building, designing and creating biological systems and pushing a button and some assembly line somewhere will build it."

His aspirations go beyond the centre. "Our hope is to get the seeds of automation going here at Concordia, and we want to push that into a national platform," Martin says. "It's not just for my lab. It's for labs across the university, province and country." ■

— Vanessa Bonneau is a Montreal freelance writer and editor.

"This centre was the only place in Canada where I could research microfluidics, do the engineering, work on the chemistry and study the biology at the same time."



A PERFECT MATCH

Concordia's research partnerships merge academics with industry

WAYNE LARSEN

The last thing you want to hear from your phone service provider is that it'll be shutting down for a few hours while it upgrades its system, and you won't be able to use your phone during that time.

"That would be unacceptable; a company cannot afford that, especially in such a competitive business environment," says Ferhat Khendek, a professor in the Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering in Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS). "Failures will always happen, but when they happen, we have to take care that the user should never see them because they'll switch to something else."

AS THE NSERC/ERICSSON SENIOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CHAIR IN MODEL BASED SOFTWARE MANAGEMENT, FERHAT KHENDEK DIRECTS GRADUATE STUDENTS' WORK WITH ERICSSON CANADA.

Khendek is the NSERC/Ericsson Senior Industrial Research Chair in Model-Based Software Management. He works in close partnership with Ericsson Canada. He's supervising a group of graduate students who collaborate with the telecommunications giant's software engineers to develop techniques and applications that accomplish such things as upgrades while their system remains up and running.

It's just one ongoing project from the many research partnerships between the faculty and a list of high-tech industry leaders that includes Bombardier, Bell Helicopter, Pratt & Whitney, Hydro-Québec and Siemens.

Khendek, who has nurtured a close research relationship with Ericsson over the past 20 years, says that collaborations between academics and their related industries have benefits for everyone. Students get valuable hands-on experience working in state-of-the-art facilities under the guidance of insightful and experienced industry professionals, while the companies often benefit from their research.

"At Ericsson, my students in that partnership are all co-supervised by an industrial researcher," says Khendek. "We have meetings there every Wednesday with their researchers. Each student has an access card that allows them to use Ericsson facilities. If they have a specific problem on the platform or something else, an Ericsson internal contact will guide them to other internal contacts who will help them."

Khendek proudly points out that some software research work carried out by Concordia students, specifically a way to automatically generate a configuration for a system, has found its way into Ericsson's operating platform — and the company couldn't be happier. "They said this work has given them a lead of two years over their competitors," he says.

"They've been a wonderful partner; they're very engaged in the training of graduate students," says Shelley Sitahal, Concordia's director of Research Partnerships and Innovation, when describing Khendek's long-term collaboration with Ericsson.

She points to the advantages to both sides. "It really brings relevance to the research we're doing here," Sitahal says. "Instead of guessing at what problems industry may potentially have, they actually tell you, 'Hey, we have this problem — how do we work together to solve this issue?' And one of the greatest benefits for our students is they have the opportunity to work alongside these industry engineers who normally have been around for 20 or 30 years and really know their stuff."

This experience also makes the participating students more employable when they graduate; many end up working for the partner company for which they did their research.



THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY ANDREAS ATHIENITIS'S TEAM OF GRADUATE STUDENTS WORK ON PROJECTS SUCH AS OPTIMIZING BUILDINGS' ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR LOCAL COMPANIES INCLUDING HYDRO-QUÉBEC.

AEROSPACE IS A BIG DRAW

Along with other leading telecommunications companies like Ericsson, ENCS faculty members are engaged in research partnerships in high-tech industries such as electronics and software development. Especially prominent on the list is the ever-growing aerospace industry, which has several companies established in or near Montreal. "In terms of partnerships in ENCS, aerospace is the big daddy of them all," Sitahal says, pointing out that more than 50 per cent of her department's engagement is with aerospace companies.

This is in keeping with the growing emphasis on aerospace engineering at the university. Last February the Quebec government approved Concordia's new Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in Aerospace Engineering. "In consulting with our industry partners it was clear that what the aerospace industry in Montreal needed were technically trained engineers with specialized interdisciplinary skills unique to aerospace," Amir Asif, dean of the faculty, said at the time of the announcement.

"A lot of our partners right now are not just partners in research, but partners in education as well," says Sitahal. "The recently awarded NSERC Chair in Aerospace Design Engineering is primarily focused on the development of undergraduate curriculum supported by six companies. We're engaged in training a new breed of engineers. So companies are really investing their time and resources to help us, which is new and exciting and really a commitment to changing the way we do things."

Robert Fewes has been in the aerospace industry for 50 years and has seen a dramatic evolution in the technology. "They were flying with elastic bands when I started," quips Fewes, who worked at British Aerospace — he was on the tarmac when the first Concorde took off — before moving on to Canadair and Bell Helicopter. His expertise in the field



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

of the expertise we have to offer, the availability of specialized infrastructure and government funding programs. We have to build that business case for them to show what the financial and intellectual leveraging opportunities are and why it makes sense to do that research in Canada.”

WORKING TO SAVE ENERGY

For Andreas Athienitis, a professor in Concordia’s Department of Building, Civil, and Environmental Engineering, the burgeoning field of solar energy has opened research and development opportunities that have put the institution well ahead of most universities — including a home-grown project that produced a groundbreaking environmental model.

Athienitis is the NSERC/Hydro-Québec Industrial Research Chair in Optimized Building Operation and Energy Efficiency and scientific director of the NSERC Smart Net-zero Energy Buildings Strategic Research Network. He led the design and implementation of the John Molson School of Business Building’s “solar wall” installation, which uses a single façade surface to generate both heat and electricity from the sun. It was the first of its kind in the world when the building opened in 2009.

His current team of 12 graduate students, six of whom are PhD candidates, works with a network of local companies, the main partner being Hydro-Québec, the province’s energy utility. “We are doing two kinds of things

“In Ericsson’s own words, they said this work has given them a lead of two years over their competitors.”

brought him to Concordia in 2009 as special aerospace advisor to the dean.

He says that graduate students’ research collaborations are a step up from undergraduate internships, where students get to learn from on-the-job experience. (See the sidebar, “Co-op integrates undergrads,” on page 30.) That means that for economic reasons, all universities must bring their A-game when it comes to being partnered with companies, Fewes adds.

A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE FIELD

“From an industry perspective, the university collaborative research environment is extremely competitive,” says Fewes. “Industries try to be as competitive as they can in terms of where they place their research. They want to find the number-one best technical resource that’s available in Canada. They also want to find the most appropriate funding leveraging they can get their hands on.”

Much of what Sitahal’s Research Partnerships and Innovation team does is to identify and structure funding proposals for research projects with partners, an intricate process in itself that involves extensive collaboration and involvement from both parties. There is also the matter of selling a company on the idea of using local research resources — not always an easy task in such a highly competitive environment.

“It’s not Daddy Warbucks sitting over here with a pocketful of cash saying, ‘OK, where am I going to dole this money out?’” she says. “The companies also have to make the business case to their head offices. Most of the companies we deal with don’t have their head offices in Canada, so making the argument that research should be done here involves putting together a very strong rationale for that, which includes leveraging opportunities such as the uniqueness

“Our students have the opportunity to work alongside these industry engineers who normally have been around for 20 or 30 years and really know their stuff.”

with Hydro-Québec,” says Athienitis, who arrived at Concordia in 1987. In addition to development of building-integrated solar systems, he explains, “We are optimizing building operations to reduce and shift peak demands for electricity, especially when it gets very cold or very hot.” Athienitis’s group attracts top students from several disciplines, and several of his graduates have gone on to faculty positions at Canadian and American universities such as Purdue.

Since Hydro-Québec often has to import electricity from the United States in order to meet increased heating demands whenever winter temperatures drop considerably, it has a strong financial interest in reducing those demands during peak periods. “We can do that by optimizing the way buildings operate,” Athienitis says. “A lot of the work we are doing is based on predictive control. We use predictions of the weather — two

days or even a few hours ahead — and based on the occupancy of buildings, we can adjust their operation to reduce the projected upcoming demand for electricity for both heating and cooling.”

Apart from Hydro-Québec, Athienitis’s students work within the NSERC Smart Net-zero Energy Buildings Strategic Research Network that includes partners from a diverse range of industries including manufacturing, engineering and building-automation companies. “We are also connected with companies that make solar panels to produce electricity. We are now working with a company to design windows that have solar cells built into them to generate electricity.”

Aside from the Molson Building, Athienitis proudly points to the recently built new municipal library in Varennes, Que., as an outstanding example of his research team’s contribution to the

integration of a solar-energy system in an ultra-modern building.

A more recent project involves research into preheated fresh air for buildings, whereby outside air is drawn in through the façade, heated by solar energy and then directed into the building’s indoor fresh-air system. “This is an area in which we are ahead,” Athienitis says.

REWARDING FOR STUDENTS

Mehran Khan, who completed his MSc in fall 2015, has been collaborating with Ericsson for more than two years. He remembers his research partnership as demanding yet extremely rewarding. “The biggest advantages are that you face challenges you wouldn’t expect in a master’s program,” says Khan. Much of his work at Ericsson involved developing techniques for middleware to ensure that the system doesn’t fail, and to monitor load on the system in order to optimize its resources — identifying periods when higher call volume necessitates greater load capabilities, and vice versa.

CO-OP INTEGRATES UNDERGRADS

While experiential learning forms a big part of graduate students’ experience in the various research partnerships, it is the very foundation of Concordia’s Institute for Co-operative Education, which sends out undergraduates from the four academic faculties to companies to gain on-the-job experience in a field they’re studying.

Though they can be loosely described as internships for which generally no academic credits are offered, they are actually formal arrangements whereby the students are paid for their work. “The philosophy of Co-op is that students take what they learn from the classroom and apply it in a real job situation in the workforce,” says Gerry Hughes, BComm 74, director of Co-op. “The work terms are defined as anywhere from 12 to 17 weeks and the idea is that an employer would hire a student just like a regular employee. The student has to do 35 or 40 hours per week and often generates project-type work. Sometimes it’s a replacement situation, but for the most part it provides key benefits to the employer — and certainly to our students.”

Co-op’s program coordinators function as crucial liaisons between students and employers, setting up the work situations and offering guidance to students. In all, more than 1,800 students are involved in Co-op work programs with a wide range of employers, from Bombardier — described by Hughes as consistently the largest employer each year — followed closely by Pratt & Whitney and the pharmaceutical companies, right down to entrepreneurial startups and fast-growing companies such as Genetec Inc.

As in the graduate research partnerships, there are many mutual advantages for both the Co-op students and the companies that employ them. “One of the value-added benefits to the student is that it gives them confidence,” Hughes says. “They usually do three work terms,

He also points out that his presentation skills improved considerably thanks to the weekly routine. "You have to present whatever you've contributed to your research on a weekly basis," he says. "You have a supervisor from Ericsson and you have a supervisor from Concordia; you have to present your work progress in front of them — and each quarter you present to the higher-ups at Ericsson so they can see what research and development is doing."

Networking is also a big plus, says Khan, who now works as a full-time research professional with Khendek. "You get to meet a lot of people in the industry, and that helps with the job hunt. That wouldn't have happened had I not been in this program."

A BRIGHT FUTURE

From a reliable telecommunications network to abundant heat and energy efficiency to safe air travel, it's easy to take for granted the everyday comforts and services made possible by our high-tech industries. It's even easier to overlook the young university researchers who work well behind the

scenes and contribute to the overall effectiveness of these services. Yet as Concordia continues to establish and maintain solid relationships between faculty members across the university and a wide range of industry research partners and companies willing to help train students, that win-win situation agreed upon by both academics and professionals is likely to keep the university's name prominent among high-tech industry leaders.

"We have some great programs and an excellent research community within Concordia, and we have been able to put together some very powerful programs, both from a university perspective and an industry perspective," said Fewes. "We have a very good reputation." ■
— *Wayne Larsen, BA (journ.) 98, MA (journ.) 14, is a Montreal freelance writer.*

ROBERT FEWS, SPECIAL AEROSPACE ADVISOR TO THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE, HAS DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

and by the time they finish, their confidence has gone from X to Y to Z — they've really expanded. They get a good understanding of themselves, the recruitment process, and learn how they have to sell themselves."

There's also a financial benefit, as all work terms are paid. Valuable networking opportunities are cited as major enticements to Co-op students as well; a student who impresses a supervisor may be invited to apply for a job at that company upon graduation.

"We're always challenging students to enhance their professional skills as well as their technical skills," Hughes says. "We work hard to make sure the students understand the importance of balance between the academic knowledge they acquire, combined with key soft skills such as how to work in teams, leadership, and how to communicate effectively in a workplace environment."

For the employers, Hughes says, the gain is working with enthusiastic, energetic students who can fill staffing needs and gaps — not to mention the financial value of a provincial tax credit of between 24 and 40 per cent of the student's wages.

"Another key benefit for the employer is that it's an effective interview process; the employer really gets to see the student in action," says Hughes, himself a former human resources recruiter. "As opposed to standard recruitment processes, this way the employer gets to see how the students handle themselves, their attitudes, how they integrate themselves into the team, and their learning capabilities. This takes the mystery out of the recruitment equation and gives them the ability to maybe say, 'We have a job for you when you finish school.'"

Hughes adds that he was especially pleased to see more emphasis on experiential learning being integrated into one of the university's nine new *Strategic Directions* — to "get your hands dirty" — an initiative in which Co-op will no doubt play a crucial role.



Roloff Beny Foundation Fellowship in Photography: **Bogdan Stoica**

HOWARD BOKSER

Photography by Bogdan Stoica, BFA 10, MFA 16

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

In 2014, MFA student Bogdan Stoica, BFA 10, won the \$10,000 fellowship. Stoica used the funds to travel to his native Romania for two months in summer 2015 to work on a film project, trying to capture life in the countryside. "Part of the Romanian identity is travelling through the landscape, seeing sheep and mountains," says Stoica, who earned his BFA in film production.

"I started creating a part-fiction, part-documentary movie," Stoica says. However, he changed his strategy while on location. "I really like documentary and fiction, but doing fiction means you have to have a plan, and it stops you from seeing what's around you. I like to have my eyes open. I stopped thinking about the project, looked around and interacted with the landscape, and took it from there."

Stoica is now in the midst of completing the film, called *Catherine et ce qu'il reste à traduire de cet été qui a assoupi la terre*. Once done, he plans to continue working in video and cinema and further pursue his studies.

As his artist's statement says: "My artistic approach builds on a deep-rooted desire to understand and explore the intimate and emotional facets of our existence. Through the mediums of photography, film and sculpture, I aim within my work to both mirror and conceptualize the intrinsic links between memory and identity."

- 1 STILL LIFE
- 2 TEENAGER FROM ISLAZ (01)
- 3 TEENAGER FROM ISLAZ (02)
- 4 COSTEL



1



2



3



4

Giving



from the



heart

Concordia experts discuss the varied reasons people donate, which stem primarily from the desire to make a difference

JULIE GEDEON

Why do people donate to charitable causes? What is it that prompts individuals to open their wallets, write out a cheque and even set up a charitable foundation?

Philanthropy in all its forms is being actively researched and discussed at Concordia as an issue that pertains to the vast majority of Canadians on either the giving or receiving end.

Canadians are generous. Almost 90 per cent donate to charities in some way, according to the most recent National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating prepared by Statistics Canada and Imagine Canada. However, less than 25 per cent take advantage of the allowable deduction when filing their tax returns. These figures also exclude the numerous times people stuff money into a jar, buy raffle tickets, make in-kind donations or volunteer time or services without asking for a receipt.

"Philanthropy is about the joy of giving," Elizabeth Gomery, co-founder of Philanthropica, a charity-oriented consultancy, told colleagues at a panel discussion called "The secret of giving: Why people donate — from boomers to

millennials" held by Concordia and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. "People understand that it's an inherently selfish act that makes us feel good because it's one of the few ways that we, as individuals, can actually make a positive difference in the world."

Gomery also noted that individuals who regularly donate money and/or give of their time enjoy longer and healthier lives for the most part. They generally are grateful to be able to help others.

PARENTAL FOOTSTEPS

Some follow the example set by their parents or other relatives. Reginald Howard Webster saw his father, Senator Lorne Webster, donate money to keep the YMCA in Quebec City open during the Great Depression so that hot soup could be handed out daily to people in need of a meal. Highly successful at various enterprises in his own life years later, R. Howard Webster gained tremendous satisfaction by assisting worthy causes, often doing so anonymously.

MICHÈLE PAULIN, A PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING AT CONCORDIA'S JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, WAS ONE OF THE PANELLISTS AT "THE SECRET OF GIVING: WHY PEOPLE DONATE — FROM BOOMERS TO MILLENNIALS," A PANEL DISCUSSION HOSTED BY CONCORDIA AND THE COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION IN 2015.



The R. Howard Webster Foundation is one of Canada's leading private grants organizations that have been pivotal in helping Concordia and other institutions and organizations realize their goals. For instance, the foundation supported Concordia's R. Howard Webster Library, which opened in 1992 and is named after its benefactor.

"We carefully research how we can strategically donate money to achieve something that government isn't doing so that all Canadians benefit," Howard Davidson, BComm 80, said at "The secret of giving." Davidson is the Webster Foundation's president and trustee, as well as chair of the Concordia University Foundation and its investment committee. "We always want to make the greatest possible impact with our grants," he added. "So we particularly like initiatives that involve funding that will be matched by the requesting organization and the government to achieve a significant undertaking."

MAJOR DONORS

Individual contributions tend to be reflective of the country's wealth concentration. Top donors provided

83 per cent of all donations in Canada, according to the latest Statistics Canada data, with the average donation among this highest percentile being at least \$358. That figure may not seem like a lot but it averages out donations that range from less than a hundred dollars to millions.

"People donate money when they can see how a cause aligns with and achieves their own philanthropic goals," says Shaun G. Lynch, who founded Adventum Philanthropic Marketing in 2006 and teaches marketing at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB). "For example, I can't do heart surgery but I can financially assist the hospital that saved a relative's life with a triple bypass."

Honing successful negotiation skills with the goal of obtaining donations is one of Lynch's main topics. In his 27-year career, Lynch has consulted for a number of large fundraising efforts, including Concordia's Campaign for a New Millennium, 1996-1999, which generated \$77 million for the university. He joined the Department of Marketing when he was invited to teach fundraising at JMSB in 2001.

"A business school that wants a complete approach to management in all sectors must include a course on fundraising to address the major revenue-generating stream of most not-for-profit organizations," Lynch says.

He launched Adventum Philanthropic Marketing to help smaller organizations in the greatest need of effective fundraising techniques but unable to afford most consultancies. "Too many small organizations make contact with donors just twice a year: once to ask for money, and then again only to send each donor a tax receipt."

MESSAGE RELEVANCE

A key aspect of fundraising is the actual message that organizations convey. "There's a tendency to state how brilliant they are and the wonderful things they're doing, instead of factually conveying how they meet their *donors'* objectives to make the world a better place," Lynch says.

It's not enough, for example, to say that a renovated children's library will look nicer for young readers. "I was able to present some independent research that demonstrated how early literacy



HOWARD DAVIDSON, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE OF THE R. HOWARD WEBSTER FOUNDATION, AND ELIZABETH GOMERY, CO-FOUNDER OF PHILANTHROPICA, SPOKE AT "THE SECRET OF GIVING" PANEL DISCUSSION AT CONCORDIA.



JOE DRESNER

RICHARD J. RENAUD (BOTTOM LEFT) IS PICTURED IN 2013 WITH SOME OF THE MANY STUDENTS WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM HIS GENEROSITY. RENAUD SAYS HIS FIRST GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY WAS A CHRISTMAS BASKET THAT HE AND HIS WIFE CAROLYN (TO HIS RIGHT) DONATED TO A LOYOLA CHAPEL DRIVE SOON AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE.

“I can’t do heart surgery but I can financially assist the hospital that saved a relative’s life with a triple bypass.”

programs contribute significantly to children’s social and intellectual development,” he says. “That’s authoritative proof that the library is doing something that works.”

Every donor shares three common elements. The first is *ability*, inasmuch as people who don’t have money are unlikely to donate. “Ability in itself is insufficient,” Lynch says. “Bill and Melinda Gates could probably fund every charity in the world at this point without batting an eyelash, but unless your organization has a way to get through to them from among the thousands of requests, it’s unlikely to be successful.”

The second is *interest* or the donor’s concern for a particular cause — which goes back to conveying the way the organization can show how its efforts align with the donor’s intentions.

Finally, there’s *linkage*. For example, alumni give to their university knowing that earlier donations helped them to get their quality education.

Michèle Paulin, a professor in JMSB’s Department of Marketing who holds the Royal Bank of Canada Distinguished Professorship in Strategic Relationship Marketing, says that long-term affiliation is highly dependent on the student’s actual experience at a school. “It’s so important for universities to minimize paper and online bureaucracy and ensure that students instead obtain the face-to-face assistance they need to graduate with a positive feeling about their education.”

YOUNGER TENDENCIES

Social media facilitates reaching out to new people. Yet those individuals who, for instance, click ‘Like’ on a Facebook page must additionally be enticed to visit a website where they can be encouraged to make a small donation through CanadaHelps.org or PayPal, or to agree to provide an email or civic address to be contacted directly.

“Once people have taken an active step in showing interest in a cause, there’s

opportunity to regularly communicate how that organization is meeting an individual’s philanthropic vision,” Lynch says. “Then occasionally that person could be asked to consider making a donation.”

And once people make a donation — even a small one — they are more likely to contribute again.

When it comes to younger generations, the messaging on social media has to specifically resonate with individuals for them to participate in a fundraising event or to donate time or money. Take, for example, the way students at many universities across Canada have responded to the plight of homeless people. “They’re not only willing to donate money but to sleep outdoors on a cold night in March to raise awareness and obtain donations from other people,” Paulin says, referring to the 5 Days for the Homeless campaign, which at Concordia was initiated by Josh Redler, BComm 08, in 2008.

Snail mail is still the most effective means of solicitation, with three quarters of donors indicating they initially responded to a letter. Yet email campaigns are on the upswing, with one quarter to a third of recipients being responsive, according to Lynch.

However, the rules of engagement are definitely changing with the younger generations, especially with the increase of online giving and access to information. “Millennials are very savvy these days when it comes to greenwashing by corporations, or companies adopting a charitable symbol but donating relatively very little to that cause,” Paulin explains. “They have constant access to online experts, so when an organization is not being genuine and transparent, word spreads quickly through their social networks.”

The research by Paulin and her students indicates that, despite their reputation to the contrary, millennials are ready to give money, time and other

resources when a cause rings true and can make a social or environmental improvement. "However, millennials can't all be thrown into the same large interest group to the extent that perhaps previous generations were," Paulin adds. "They have very distinct and varied interests that extend to differences in social and environmental causes as well."

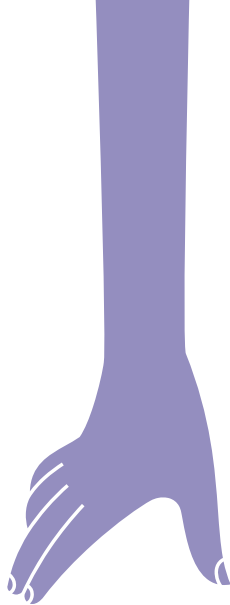
FORMING HABITS

Giving is a question of finding and pushing the right button, according to Richard J. Renaud, BComm 69. "I'll have people tell me they're not in a position to donate, but then I call them up a week later to invite them to a charity golf tournament costing \$1,000 for a foursome and they immediately sign up because they love to golf," says Renaud, who is co-chair of Dundee Sarea LP.

Over many years Renaud has both fundraised on behalf of Concordia and donated generously to the university and to other organizations and institutions. "Making that personal connection with individuals to find out their exact interests is so important to aligning their generosity with specific fundraising campaigns and events," he says.

His own multiple contributions to Concordia include the Carolyn and Richard J. Renaud Endowment and Adopt-a-Student campaign, and his work as past chair and director of the Concordia Foundation. The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex opened in 2003 and was named as a tribute to his efforts to revitalize the Loyola Campus.

"Father David Fitzpatrick of the St. Ignatius of Loyola Chapel would always say that we express our spirituality through giving," Renaud recalls of his Loyola High School days. "The Jesuit motto of 'a man for others'



has been engrained in me as I think it has been in a lot of past and upcoming Loyola graduates."

He notes that social media and online technology have made administration of a greater number of smaller donations more feasible, especially in the current economic downturn. "Every bit really does help," he says.

Renaud lauds Concordia's Graduating Class Gift Fund, an initiative that asks graduating students to donate a minimum amount — \$20.16 this year, with the aim of making that amount a monthly gift in perpetuity. "The program initiates the idea of these graduates donating as soon-to-be alumni," he says. "It gets them into the habit at a time when they're really aware of what their education at Concordia has afforded them."

BOOMERS PLANNING AHEAD

While millennials are looking to their future, many boomers are reassessing their lives and legacy. "Forty per cent of Canadians say they're not being asked for a planned gift, with a lot of them adding that they would make one if approached," Gomery said. "The

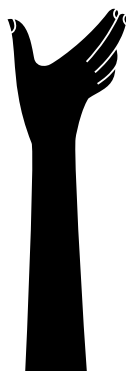
conversation needs to take place and to start with asking boomers how much of their hard-earned but unused RRSP and RRIF savings they want to see go to government taxes rather than leaving a meaningful legacy.

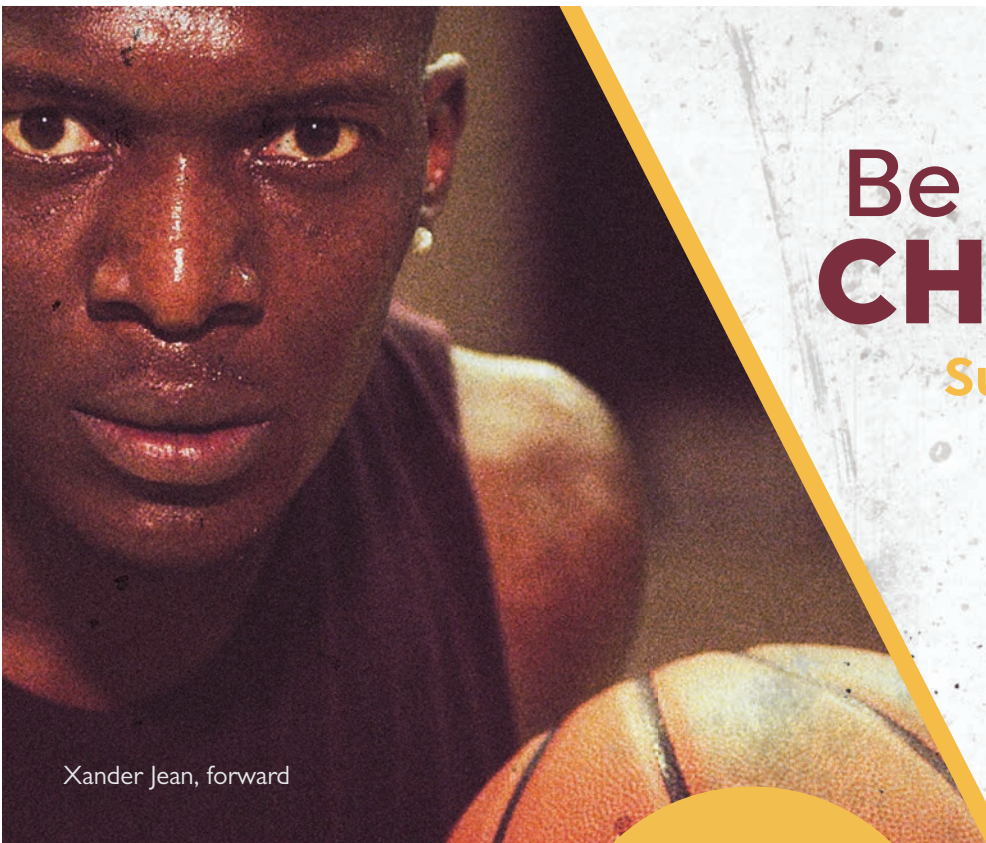
"Boomers are radicalizing," she added. "With more time on their hands and a sense of their own mortality, they're looking at the kind of world they're leaving to their children and they aren't very pleased with it. So they're becoming active in social movements, especially concerning social causes and the environment. It's something that they're coming to late in life and feel very passionate about."

The role of women in gift-giving is also being more recognized and better understood. "Women have always played an active role in helping families to decide how to engage in philanthropy," Gomery said. Fundraisers increasingly realize that if they don't involve the women of the family when soliciting a gift, she added, "they won't get very far."

An increasing number of career women earning and spending their own income are becoming more interested in philanthropy on their own terms. "Again, however, you must be really genuine and transparent in what you do, because women seem to have a stronger intuitive sense when something is not quite right or seems to differ from the way it's being presented," Paulin says. "A discrepancy will steer them away very quickly."

Paulin adds that the best strategy for any organization attempting to raise money these days is straightforward: "Promise less in terms of what you will accomplish with the donated funds but then fully deliver on that promise." ■
—Julie Gedeon, BA 89, BA 01, MA 09, is a Montreal writer, editor and writing instructor/coach.





Xander Jean, forward

Be a **GAME CHANGER**

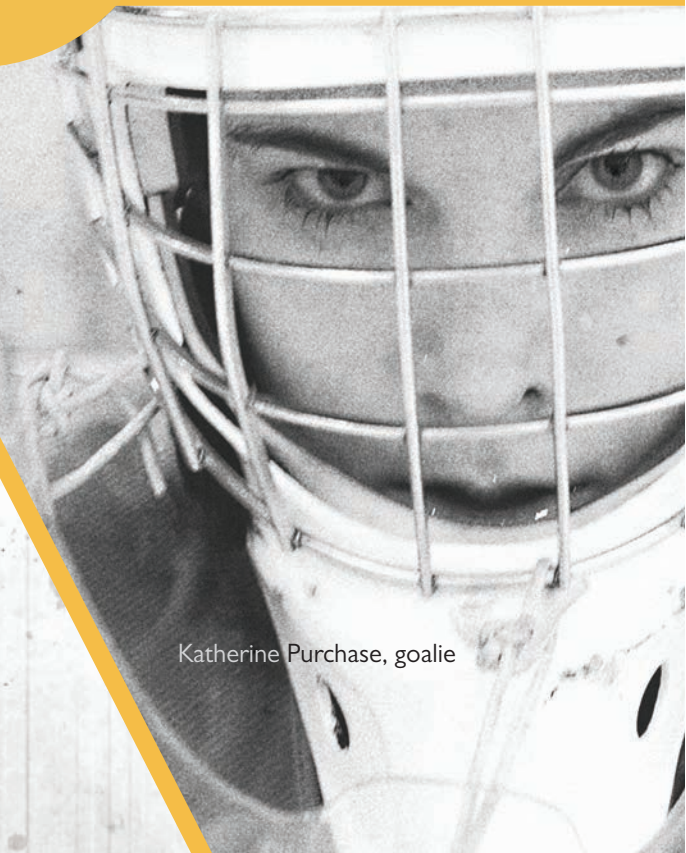
Support a new era
in Stinger sports

Give now at
concordia.ca/giving



Stinger roots run deep.

Help our student athletes raise their game by showing your Stinger pride this season. To see our schedule of games, visit stingers.ca.



Katherine Purchase, goalie



#StingersUnited #CUalumni #CUGiving



PLUGGED IN TO THE

FUTURE



Following its new *Strategic Directions*, Concordia is moving towards tomorrow by becoming a digital university today

JESSE STANIFORTH

Maybe it started with the introduction of Moodle.

A decade or so ago, Concordia introduced the web-based software, a combination bulletin board and paper-and-file storage space that allowed students to contact their professors at any time, and vice versa, and making course materials constantly accessible from literally anywhere with an internet connection.

No longer did professors arrive at every class with pounds of photocopies, whether it was for syllabuses, handouts or readings. No longer did students have only a few opportunities to speak to their professors per week. Suddenly, in the online space, the very nature of the classroom had changed. The university became digital long before anyone really planned for that possibility — or were

necessarily prepared for it.

“Thank heavens, we always have early adopters — that’s fantastic,” says Catherine Bolton, Concordia’s vice-provost of Teaching and Learning. “But for people who had been at Concordia a long time, this was something completely different. We always treat technology with a little bit of trepidation.”

Bolton recalls she arrived at Concordia 26 years ago without even a computer — she still used a typewriter. So she wasn’t surprised that not everybody was quick to start using Moodle.

Things did change, however. “Today everyone’s got their own Moodle site and they can do what they need to on it,” she says.

Quickly following Moodle at Concordia was the introduction of WiFi throughout

both campuses, new buildings featuring the latest high-tech classrooms, the libraries lending laptops to students, and much more along the way toward becoming a digital university.

THE RIGHT DIRECTION

When Concordia announced its set of nine *Strategic Directions* in 2015 (see the article “Our nine strategic directions,” fall 2015, or concordia.ca/directions), the goal to “Teach for tomorrow” might have sounded like a jargon. Instead, it’s

“Thank heavens, we always have early adopters — that’s fantastic.”

“It’s almost unimaginable what the transformative power of digitization will be, in terms of our capacity not just to access and generate information but reconceptualize how we do things and with whom we can now begin to do things.”



CATHERINE BOLTON, CONCORDIA'S VICE-PROVOST OF TEACHING AND LEARNING, HAS WITNESSED A VAST SEA CHANGE IN HOW TECHNOLOGY IS USED AND VIEWED BY PROFESSORS IN HER 26 YEARS AT CONCORDIA.

really a mantra for a digital overhaul that’s changing both the physical and mental space of the university, from classrooms to libraries to the way students and professors communicate. “It’s been interesting to see the *Strategic Directions* evolve in a way that takes into account both our history and strengths on the one hand, but also the fast-changing nature of the educational and social landscape on the other,” says Benoit Bacon, BA 95, Concordia’s outgoing provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs. “I think we have evolved a roadmap that will guide Concordia’s continued evolution further on its distinctive path as an innovative, forward-thinking and socially engaged, next-generation institution.”

Graham Carr, Concordia’s vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, says that the university is simply following the steady rush toward digitization that’s taking place in all of our personal, home and work lives. For him, the notion of a *digital university*

is one in which all aspects of student and faculty life are channelled through digital media in order to maximize content quality, network opportunities and prospects for learning and discovery. How, he wonders, could the university not mirror the essential nature of a society that is now so incredibly plugged in?

“I see it as a huge opportunity that’s already here — we’re already living it,” Carr says. “To me, it goes beyond the classic questions about online education or bringing digitization increasingly into classroom activities. The reality is that it’s a *sine qua non* of 21st-century research activity, of collaboration and partnership. It’s almost unimaginable what the transformative power of digitization will be, in terms of our capacity not just to access and generate information, but reconceptualize how we do things and with whom we can now begin to do things.”

So the process of Teaching for Tomorrow isn’t so much attempting to imagine the university of the future but keeping up with technological progress as it occurs, being willing to try out new ideas and thinking as much as possible about how to bring cutting-edge technologies into the service of student-faculty relationships.

This instinct is part of the university’s DNA, going back to its roots. Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia’s founding institutions, began life in the 1920s through night courses — providing access to advanced learning to those who otherwise may not have had it. Online courses are another next step in that process of knowledge delivery.

LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

As was the case at many universities, the digital revolution at Concordia began in the library — a long time ago. After beginning to use computers for cataloguing and acquisitions in the 1960s, reports university librarian Guylaine Beaudry, university libraries began to see a boom in online publications as of the mid-1990s.

“2004 was the year when Canadian university libraries, collectively, first spent more money on digital journals compared to print,” Beaudry says. “And now most of us are spending between 85 per cent and 95 per cent of our multimillion-dollar budgets for our collections on digital resources. At Concordia, it’s 85 per cent of our \$6-million budget.”

The vast majority of that 85 per cent chunk is spent on e-journals, she notes, though every year more and more of the digital budget goes toward e-books as well.

“The reason is that the scholarly journal as a genre made this transition from print to digital much earlier than books,” Beaudry says. However, she adds that the physical collection still plays an important role, as materials for some subjects — such as art history and other humanities and social sciences — are significantly less heavily digitized than others. As well, an expert committee of the Royal Society of Canada on the future of libraries and archives recently estimated that only between 3 per cent and 5 per cent of what has been published on paper in Canada has been digitized to date — making the library both an irreplaceable storehouse of traditional information and a means for cutting-edge knowledge delivery.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Indeed, while they still have the stacks of glue-and-paper books synonymous with centuries of study, Concordia's Libraries are increasingly home to some of the most dramatic changes in information technology and relations — offering students large-scale computer visualization studios, multi-function rooms with projection and video-conferencing capacities and group-study rooms designed to serve students with a variety of technological needs.

"We really believe that since Alexandria [in ancient Egypt], the library is a centre of shared resources, and we simply continue that tradition," says Beaudry. "We've been doing that with manuscripts, with print, with the digital collection and also with resources, equipment and infrastructure."

That's why Concordia has begun to transform the R. Howard Webster Library on Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus, adding 88 per cent more student study space, 27 per cent more public space, doubling the number of study seats and bringing it to the highest technological standards.

Beaudry says this increase breaks down into two individual surges in use and interest. On the one hand, a

DIGITIZATION IN PRACTICE

How digital technology is reimagining the classroom experience

MOODLE

When this versatile, open-source e-learning software first came into use a decade ago, not everyone knew what to do with it or how to best take advantage of its wide array of options. A combination bulletin board and repository for files, its value was not immediately clear to many professors, who were often comfortable at first only using it as a storehouse for course syllabuses. However, over increasing years, it has come into wide use at both the university and CEGEP level, so students and professors alike have come to expect Moodle to be a part of every class, whether in terms of providing files and readings, offering forums for virtual group work or allowing them to be in constant contact.

E-JOURNALS

Especially in technical fields such as engineering, the idea of a printed journal in 2016 is anachronistic. Today, scholarly journals are mostly electronic, which allows for portability and ease of text searches. Even outside technical fields, e-journals have become increasingly popular. Their widespread adoption has also changed the way that libraries occupy physical space: now hundreds of complete journal sets can be stored on a single hard drive.

LECTURE CAPTURE

In the past, it was sometimes possible to record classroom lectures with a video camera and watch the tape later on. Yet this was difficult to make widely available, and fast-forwarding and rewinding to the necessary spot was time-consuming. Advances in audio-video technology have made it possible today for lectures to be instantly accessible online once they're finished, easy to watch and scroll through and easy to return to. In practice, this means students don't have to write down every word of the lecture and can focus instead on the greater arc of the class while knowing they'll be able to come back to the content later on.

VISUALIZATION STUDIO AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOMS

Today's physical classrooms can look very different from last year's and last decade's. Nowhere is this as clear as within the Visualization Studio, part of the Concordia Libraries system, a room with three complete walls made out of high-definition screens. The totally immersive display environment allows visitors to experience images such as maps, plans and blueprints in extraordinary detail. The libraries also offer multifunctional rooms with projection capability and capacity for video conferencing, meaning a student's research partners no longer need to be in the same room — they don't even need to be in the same time zone.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY





CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

GRAHAM CARR, CONCORDIA'S VICE-PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES, SAYS THAT A MOVE TOWARD BECOMING A DIGITAL UNIVERSITY MEANS FULLY MEETING STUDENT AND FACULTY'S NEEDS FOR BETTER LEARNING AND DISCOVERY.

recent redesign of the Webster Library returned the space to the early 20th-century style of the reading room and continues to attract waves of students daily. Yet the library also exists in a virtual realm that accordingly attracts an enormous virtual presence.

"We have brick-and-mortar libraries that are like hives, it's very animated," she says. "One day we can have 12,000 visits in a 24-hour cycle at Webster. But in parallel to this physical universe, we have a digital library that we make available and that's where most of our

users are going. When we're doing our jobs properly as librarians, we've created a very good interface and we're helping our users to find what they need without our intervention. In the digital space, our intervention took place *before* they use this system — so they can find what they need when they need it."

Importantly, Beaudry and her team aspire to making the full array of library offerings not just available but also attractive to students from many different disciplines. "Just because you're a business student, you don't have to confine yourself to reading only publications related to your field of study," she says. "We want to do exactly the opposite, because it's how we contribute to the development of good citizens."

For specialists, though, Carr says there's never been a better time to be working in the library, thanks to the aggregation of Big Data — extremely large data sets that can be analyzed to reveal patterns, trends and associations — which is enormously useful in the study of subjects like genomics.

This widening of access to information, Carr says, "has created resources people can access today that they could never previously have imagined accessing beforehand. The capacity is both to gather the information and to archive, curate and store the information, and also to make that information accessible through open access sources."

TEACHING FOR TOMORROW

As for the role of teachers, it has stayed roughly the same even as the process of digitization has been picking up speed. It's important for universities to embrace technological advances, yet to do so in a discerning way that constantly considers the educational value of technology, rather than tech for tech's sake.

The fundamental roles of professors, says Carr, remain teaching, training graduate students and engaging in research — knowledge creation and knowledge transmission — while serving the university, the academic community as a whole and the public. There has been no change in those orientations.

However, he adds, "The capacity of professors to execute those roles and think of them differently as a result of digitization has changed. Of course, if I'm thinking about a classroom context, part of their responsibility is to meet with students and answer questions they may have outside of class hours — so faculty members still keep office hours. But email works 24/7. The role hasn't changed, in terms of interacting with students, but the pathway for that interaction has changed."

None of that is unfamiliar to most people — students, professors or staff. Our daily lives are full of digital information in ways we couldn't have dreamed of just a decade ago. For that reason, the process of becoming an increasingly digital university is less foreign and more intuitive than even the most technophobic person might have imagined. While there remain hold-outs, Bolton says that's the reason the *Strategic Directions* laid out its goals so plainly. "I hope we get to a point where we don't think twice about incorporating technology into our classes," she says. "Some faculty members have done that immediately, no problem or hesitation — but part of the strategic direction is to encourage *everyone* to join in that journey with us." ■

—Jesse Staniforth is a Montreal freelance writer.

@ConcordiaAlumni



#CUalumni

The Concordia University Alumni Association lets you:

- Keep in touch with fellow graduates
- Enjoy exciting programs and activities
- Take advantage of special benefits and savings

Find out more: concordia.ca/alumni

Celebrate the Concordia University Alumni Association's best at
The 25th Annual Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet

Thursday, May 19, 2016, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Sofitel Hotel Montreal, 1155 Sherbrooke St. W.

Information: alumnievents@concordia.ca

Or visit concordia.ca/alumni

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



These five sets of
Concordia alumni twins
shared their university
experiences – and more

DYNAMIC

DUOS

MAEVE HALDANE

Starting university is an exciting step full of promise, although it can be a little scary. So imagine being able to make such a stride with someone at your side who knows you better than anyone — your twin.

The following five sets of twins attended Concordia. Even the ones not believed to be identical are tough to tell apart. Some took every course together, some started at different times, but each was the other's biggest booster and sharpest critic, and valued sharing this coming-of-age experience with their closest confidant.

And as Lesley Haley, BSc 96, says, "We're twins, we're sisters. I don't know if it can get any closer."

**LESLEY JORDAN and
LISA JORDAN HALEY**

JORDAN JORDAN



STEVE GOODWIN, THE ADVOCATE

ON CHOOSING CONCORDIA:

Both **Lesley Jordan Haley**, BSc '96, and **Lisa Jordan**, BSc '96, were avid all-round athletes in their high school in Westville, N.S., with Lisa favouring hockey. While playing at the Canada Winter Games in Charlottetown in 1991, Lisa was approached by Concordia Stingers women's hockey coach Les Lawton about coming to Montreal. "I was interested in going to play hockey and study sports medicine," says Lisa. Lesley adds, "My mom said if one of us goes, we both go together." Lesley joined her sister at Concordia and both made the hockey team.

Though Lesley says Lisa is "definitely the leader," Lisa was encouraged by having Lesley with her. "Moving away from home was intimidating, to a large city and large school. There are more people at Concordia than in our home town!" The Jordans chose to live in residence but not together. Lisa laughs, "Mom felt we wouldn't get along well enough to share a bedroom."

"Making the decision to go there was a life changer," says Lesley. "Les was phenomenal, as was assistant coach Julie Healy [BSc '83], who's a strong female leader."

ON BEING A TWIN:

"It was a huge advantage; we had a great time for five years. Having one person by your side being brutally and objectively honest is great. You always have support and someone to lean on," says Lesley. "We each had our best friend there," Lisa adds. "We both studied exercise science and it was fantastic that there was always someone to relate to."

LESLEY JORDAN AND LISA JORDAN HALEY CELEBRATE THE GOLD MEDAL LISA TOOK HOME AS ASSISTANT COACH OF THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM AT THE 2014 SOCHI OLYMPICS.

During their studies, Lisa played forward for the Stingers while Lesley worked her way up to being goaltender. Lisa claims that her sister is largely to credit for their 1995-96 team making the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame. "She moved up to being the shining star," Lisa says.

SINCE CONCORDIA:

Both moved back east to Halifax to work as athletic therapists. Lisa soon became Saint Mary's University women's hockey coach. Five years ago she took on coaching at Ryerson University in Toronto, where she lives with her husband and son.

Lesley was an assistant coach with Lisa at Saint Mary's, then became head coach at Dalhousie University for nine years. She now works as a paramedic in the Halifax region.

"We really were each other's biggest fans and supporters in our sports careers, even when coaching against each other," Lisa says. Lisa's career pinnacle so far, though, is bringing home a gold medal as assistant coach of the Canadian women's hockey team at the Sochi Olympics in 2014.

BILL CONROD and SCOTT CONROD

CONROD



ON CHOOSING SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

(one of Concordia's founding institutions):

Having been happily in the same high-school classes for the previous three years, **Bill Conrod**, BSc 62, and **Scott Conrod**, BSc 62, wanted to stick together and were considering their options, from joining the Armed Forces to working in a bank. Medicine had also caught their imagination. So they met with their sister's friend, Jim McBride, BA 59, who worked in the Sir George Williams registrar's office and told them that the faculty of science had spots available and they could apply for a bursary. The twins enrolled together and took exactly the same courses at university.

ON BEING A TWIN:

To help fund school, Bill got part-time work in the emergency ward of the Royal Victoria Hospital on weekends. "Because we looked so much alike we alternated the job for the next three years," says Scott. They participated in another deception years later, when Bill was suddenly laid up in the hospital for surgery on his daughter's wedding day. Refusing to let his daughter cancel the event, he had Scott walk her down the aisle. No one realized the switcheroo until Bill delivered a message by video.

"Being a twin was a great help at university," says Scott. "We got to know everyone and became active in various committees." The Conrod boys took part in the annual variety shows and helped plan orientation week and Winter Carnival. They were also members of the Garnet Key Society.

WHILE BILL CONROD LIVES IN OTTAWA AND SCOTT CONROD IS IN MONTREAL, THEY KEEP IN TOUCH DAILY AND VISIT EACH OTHER SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR.

SINCE UNIVERSITY:

After completing their degrees, each decided to go into education. Bill taught high school and then at Montreal's Dawson College, where he eventually became an administrator. He then worked in Prince George, B.C. and Algonquin College in Ottawa, where he retired in 2000. He is also the author of two books, *Memories of Snowdon in the '50s* and *More Memories of Snowdon in the '50s*. "I'm still married to my college sweetheart, Jill Foote, with four children and 10 grandchildren, all causing some mischief somewhere," Bill says.

Scott's education career wound through Montreal elementary schools, and he then became director general of the Laurenval School Board (now Sir Wilfrid Laurier). He allegedly retired 16 years ago but still worked at various education jobs. He is now teaching education nearly full-time at McGill University. Scott is married to Beverley White, BA 81, MA 84, PhD 92, who has a thriving psychology practice. They have three children and five grandchildren. "Bill beat me on that," quips Scott.

FAYE ASSEE and CHRYSTAL ASSEE GIGNAC

ASSEE



FAYE ASSEE AND CHRYSTAL GIGNAC ASSEE FREQUENTLY TAKE VACATIONS TOGETHER, MOST RECENTLY TO ST. MAARTEN IN THE CARIBBEAN. THEY BOTH RUN AND GO ON HIKES WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY.

ON CHOOSING CONCORDIA:

Chrystal Assee Gignac, BA 09, and Faye Assee, BA 06, each says the other inspired her to follow her dream of higher education. Faye had originally considered studying social work at Dawson College. When that didn't work out she worked as a team leader for a pharmaceutical company. Chrystal helped her find a suitable degree at Concordia, in applied human sciences. Then, a few years later, Faye urged Chrystal to enter the same program. "I have a learning disorder and fell on Concordia due to its humanity in helping students achieve," says Chrystal.

"We both wanted to be in the helping field, as we were inspired by our parents," Faye says. "They were always helping out friends, family and strangers. Our mother had us do volunteer work when we were young, and the values in our upbringing focused on empathy, generosity and helping others," Chrystal adds. "We both believe that volunteering is core to compassion. Our mom and dad had enormous hearts and souls."

The Assees were raised speaking both English and French. They had done their primary and secondary education in French and were keen on taking their next educational steps in English.

ON BEING A TWIN:

"We were both known by different teachers and students, so it made it easier to enter relationships with people," says Faye. Frequently, one twin would be approached by someone who assumed she was the other, Faye says. "We had a deal that we'd acknowledge people all the time, even if one or the other did not know that individual."

SINCE CONCORDIA:

Faye did become a social worker as well as a yoga teacher and therapist. She lives in Montreal, where she trained at Naada Yoga and Yasmin Yoga. Chrystal is a mental health counselor and a yoga therapist and teacher, and did her training at Amazing Yoga in the United States. She lives in Hudson, Que., and is the proud mom of two "beautiful" pre-teen boys.

Together they founded Yogalogy, which offers yoga therapy services and encourages people to find strength in nature. True to their values, they offer free yoga therapy for certain clients who couldn't afford it otherwise. "We both fell in love with yoga for so many reasons and decided to add it to our careers in the helping fields," Faye says. "Yoga seems to reach a different part of the body and mind that traditional psychotherapy and medicine doesn't." They particularly like working with adolescents. "They are so receptive and still so enthusiastic and innovative about life," she says.

**ANDREA PERREULT and
NANCY PERREULT**

PERREULT



ISABEL HELLEUR

NANCY PERRAULT
PAINTS WATERCOLOURS
WHILE ANDREA
PERRAULT DESIGNS
GREETING CARDS ON
THE COMPUTER AND
HOLDS WORKSHOPS FOR
OTHERS. "WE'RE BOTH
TECHNOLOGICALLY
SAVVY AND CREATIVE,"
ANDREA SAYS.

ON CHOOSING CONCORDIA:

Andrea Perreult, BSc 80, BSc 85, and Nancy Perreult, BSc 87, were attracted by Concordia's flexibility and strong science programs, although they didn't want to take the same classes. Andrea studied biology (and, briefly, German), then switched into computer science.

Nancy pursued biochemistry full-time for a year and then continued at night while finishing a college diploma in architectural technology during the day. She greatly appreciated how the university accommodated her needs.

ON BEING A TWIN:

Nancy found it fun to have someone she was so close to at university. "We got to meet each other's friends and make new friends, and ended up in a big group together," she says. Nancy did find the inevitable mix-ups sometimes tiresome. Once at the Louvre Museum in Paris someone came up to her and asked if she had been in his biochemistry class last semester. "I thought, wow, I can't even escape being mistaken for my sister even in another country all the way across the ocean!"

Now, when Andrea stands at the back of her Montreal West Island home, she can see the front of Nancy's house. Andrea's mother-in-law is also an identical twin, so Andrea's husband Pierre Helleur, BComm 76, knew the importance of the twin relationship and helped find the place nearby. This is one

astute husband: Andrea says that when they met at Concordia he sought her out at her locker. Nancy instead showed up, but after a moment of conversation he said, "You're not Andrea, are you?" He didn't even know she had a twin.

SINCE CONCORDIA:

Nancy worked in a research lab and as a teacher, spent time at home with her family and now proofreads English as a Second Language textbooks.

After graduating, Andrea set up computers for an office and then stayed at home with her family, and later was a substitute teacher. Her first-born was autistic, and Andrea was initially told he was unlikely to ever go to school. She worked hard with him over the years and he went on to attend Concordia's John Molson School of Business, before deciding it wasn't for him. "It has been an interesting and rewarding journey even though it was fraught with many unknowns," Andrea says.

Andrea is now studying to be a massage therapist using the energetic polarity technique. "This is a profession which I can do at my own pace and I really enjoy," she says. "I intend to work until the day I die."

Nancy and Andrea's daughters are almost like sisters, only three months apart. The girls, Nancy says, "have a great time telling everyone they could almost be half-sisters because their mothers are identical twins."

DIONNE



PIERRE DIONNE RESIDES IN TORONTO WHILE MICHEL DIONNE LIVES IN THE MONTREAL REGION. "WHEN POSSIBLE, WE TRY TO TAKE VACATIONS TOGETHER AND MANAGE TO SEE EACH OTHER AT LEAST FOUR TIMES A YEAR," SAYS MICHEL.

PIERRE DIONNE and MICHEL DIONNE

ON CHOOSING CONCORDIA:

When **Michel Dionne**, BSc 90, and **Pierre Dionne**, BSc 90, started university in the 1980s, Concordia was the only Montreal school to offer a degree in actuarial mathematics. Yet the twins saw two huge advantages in attending Concordia. "First, being French-speaking, we knew that this would help improve our English language skills, which is a must if you want to work anywhere in North America," says Michel. The other was that Concordia's co-operative education program let them try out different actuarial internships, which really helped them figure out where they wanted to specialize.

Another reason? They enjoyed each other's company — and studying together — so of course wanted to be at the same university.

ON BEING A TWIN:

Deciding what field to study is stressful, Pierre and Michel admit, as it will have an impact on the rest of one's life. "But we always had a lot of communication between each other, and this helped in choosing," says Michel. "That we have the same aptitude and taste also made these discussions much easier." They came to a decision together, to study actuarial mathematics with a minor in computer science. After a year, they re-evaluated and both decided that dropping the minor and taking economics, management and other business courses would be better for their careers.

Being in the same classes was a tremendous help for exchanging ideas and studying. Yet they're also very competitive. "Neither one of us wanted to end up with a lower mark!" Michel says. This resulted in exceptional GPAs of 4.26 and 4.20, out of a maximum of 4.30 — politely, they don't mention whose was whose. "However, since we had similar handwriting, thought processes and aptitude, some teaching assistants thought we were copying each other's homework," Pierre says. "One teacher decided to sit us at the opposite ends of the classroom during exams, remarking, 'I know you will write the same thing anyway, but let's split you up just to be safe.'"

SINCE CONCORDIA:

Pierre lives in Toronto with his wife DeDe and a dandy hairless Sphynx cat, while Michel is married to Sylvie Beauchemin, has two teenage daughters and lives on Montreal's South Shore. Both have reached high levels in their fields: Pierre is senior vice-president and chief agent for the Canadian branch of the international reinsurance company CCR, and Michel is vice-president and appointed actuary for Intact Financial Corporation.

Both are wine enthusiasts and have cellars that boast bottles from all over the world. No doubt they continue to compare notes as they did at university, but these days over grape varietals rather than statistics.



Maeve Haldane is a Montreal freelance writer and mother of twin boys. She is pictured with her sons enjoying Rockefeller Center, steps from the Lego Store, in New York City in summer 2011.



KIMBERLEY MANNING BECAME PRINCIPAL OF CONCORDIA'S SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE IN JANUARY

What defines a feminist university?

KIMBERLEY MANNING

Kimberley Manning is principal of Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute and associate professor in the Department of Political Science

Quebec universities are at a turning point.

How do we survive hefty budget cuts, maintain ambitious research programs, service the prospective professional needs of undergraduate students and create opportunities for critical intellectual engagement both within and outside our academic institutions?

prides itself on creating access and opportunity for any student desiring an undergraduate education, that develops innovative strategies to rectify institutional inequities — for example, between full-time and adjunct faculty, between faculty and staff, and between women and men in academic leadership — and that, with community partners, offers best practices of transformation for other institutions similarly striving to rectify historical injustices.

A feminist university is one that is deeply attentive to what Canadian political theorist Rita Dhamoon calls the production of difference. When one

“My department had early on committed to the importance of work-life balance and to reward creative professional development.”

This is a tall order with which many in higher education are currently contending. In 2016, I'd like to think about how a feminist university might be able to respond to these 21st-century challenges — and, in so doing, open up new possibilities for social innovation.

A feminist university is a next-generation university that places social justice at the centre of its mission and practice. It is a university that

starts from the assumption that there is a mainstream to which others must conform, an identity becomes “a symbol of difference” in which histories and practices of oppression are effectively erased. Rather than celebrating “diversity,” therefore, Dhamoon’s project calls for a disruptive practice in which “meaning-making processes that create and sustain relations of domination” are brought fully to light.

Building from Dhamoon's insights, a feminist university does not call for the inclusion of marginalized others, such as women, racialized minorities and sexual minorities, into a pre-existing hierarchy. Rather, it disrupts and reshapes the forces of knowledge production, the relationship between teaching and learning, and the means by which creative output is measured and valued.

So how might a feminist university address one example of a major problem in the North American academy today: "the baby penalty"? Research suggests that men with children are about 20 per cent more likely than women with children to secure tenure. Research also suggests that collective solutions, namely paid parental leave and affordable quality daycare, can go a long way to resolving this deep inequity. That has certainly been the case with respect to the development of my own career at Concordia, where three year-long parental leaves and the availability of excellent daycare have enabled me to mature as a scholar, teacher and parent.

Yet Concordia offered something more: the opportunity to become a social innovator. Five years ago when I came to my home Department of Political Science and said that I wanted to work on the challenges faced by Canadian transgender children and their families, my colleagues didn't blink. Indeed, although I was hired as the "China specialist," I was given the flexibility and support necessary to carve out a whole new niche of study and activism. This nurturing response was not accidental: indeed, my department had early on committed to the importance of work-life balance and to reward creative professional development in its many unique variations.

Rethinking the university project and its social value through a feminist lens, I would argue, alerts us to the importance of collective solutions to individual dilemmas. In this sense, the drastic provincial cuts to education, to public daycare and to so many of our service sectors seriously undermines

our capacity to reimagine ourselves as a society. In fact, with upstart universities such as Concordia fostering new models of collective excellence, it may be time to appreciate how far feminism has taken us, in order to appreciate how far it can take us next. ■

Learn more about Women's Studies offered at Concordia and about the Simone de Beauvoir Institute at concordia.ca/sdbi.



MARTIN ALLOR (1954-2016): "A FORMIDABLE INTELLECTUAL"

Martin Allor, a professor and former chair of Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, died in Montreal on February 26.

Allor joined the department in 1984. He taught cultural studies, media criticism, documentary and television studies, video production and discourse analysis, media criticism, reception theory and cultural policy.

"Marty was a formidable intellectual who made a significant mark on the development of cultural studies in North America," says Sandra Gabriele, current chair of the department. "He was a tremendous, important part of the history of our department, shepherding us into our new building and always on the ready to serve the university."

Allor's influence in his field extended well beyond Concordia. "Marty was a gentle, incredibly smart man who changed the lives of innumerable young scholars, artists, activists and media creators," says Will Straw, of McGill University's Department of Art History and Communication Studies. "His teaching wove together the most exciting and progressive currents in cultural scholarship from around the world. Few newcomers have become a Montrealer so quickly, or understood Quebec so well. In his modest, institution-building way, he brought communications studies in Canada into an exciting new phase in its history."

Allor passed away several days after suffering an aneurysm. He was surrounded by friends and colleagues throughout his final hours.

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

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



DONORS AND STUDENTS AWARDS

Concordia President Alan Shepard and Bram Freedman, vice-president of Advancement and External Relations, welcomed award-winning Concordia students and generous donors to the Donor and Student Awards Celebration on March 23, 2016. The gathering, attended by some 300 people at the Sofitel Montreal Hotel, was organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations in association with the Financial Aid and Awards Office.

Among those who enjoyed the festivities were **David Gawley**, who established the Marjorie McInnes Grant Cooper Bursary, **Linda Leith** and student recipient **Sydney Sullivan** **1**; student **Steven Papadakos** (centre), recipient of the Fariborz and Roya Haghghat Entrance Scholarship in Engineering, with benefactors **Roya** and **Fariborz Haghghat** **2**; student **Suparna Barai**, recipient of the Sandhya and Swati Sharma Memorial Scholarship, and benefactor **Mahesh Sharma**, professor of Supply Chain and Business Technology Management in Concordia's John Molson School of Business **3**, and students **Ardalan Sabamehr** and **Kallol Barua**, Avtar Pall Graduate Award in Earthquake Engineering recipients, and **Tripair** and **Avtar Pall**, MEng 76, PhD 79. **4**



7 Kathy Reichs



8 Florida

SUPERBOSSES

Sydney Finkelstein, BComm 80 (left), shared insight on what makes exceptional leaders — like fashion maven Ralph Lauren or Oracle founder Larry Ellison — with more than 80 guests at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB) on March 8. Finkelstein is the Steven Roth Professor of Management and faculty director of the Tuck Executive Program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. He is also author of *Superbosses: How Exceptional Leaders Master the Flow of Talent*, which was named to *Forbes* magazine's list of 16 must-read books for 2016.

Stéphane Brutus, interim dean of the JMSB, introduced and moderated the event. **5**

SHE TALKS DINNER

The exclusive networking event She Talks Dinner featured **Mary-Anne Carignan** (front, centre), president of Purkinje, in conversation with **Jamie Orchard**, BA 91 (front right), senior anchor of Global News Montreal, at Montreal's Branzino Restaurant on March 10. Also at the sold-out event was **Anne-Marie-Croteau** (front left), associate dean of Professional Graduate Programs and External Relations, General Administration, in the JMSB. **6**



9 New York

KATHY REICHS MASTER CLASS

There are 206 bones in the human body — a fact **Kathy Reichs**, LLD 11, knows better than most. A best-selling author (*Déjà Dead*) and forensic anthropologist, Reichs's business is identifying human remains. The popular *Bones* Fox TV series is loosely based on her character Temperance Brennan. Reichs delivered Concordia's first-ever "master class" presentation, emceed by **Caroline Van Vlaardingen**, BA 84, a reporter with CTV News Montreal, to more than a dozen Community Campaign leadership donors and Heritage Society members on March 15. The event followed a sold-out Thinking Out Loud talk at Concordia on March 14 (see page 14). **7**

FLORIDA

Susan Raymer, BA 71, and **Ben Wygodny**, BA 69 (fourth and fifth from left), welcomed some 40 alumni for a cocktail dinatoire at their Bal Harbour home on March 3. Among those in attendance were **Xavier-Henri Hervé**, BEng 87, DSc 11, founding director of Concordia's District 3 Innovation Center, **Bram Freedman**, vice-president, Advancement and External Relations, **Leisha LeCouvie**, senior director of Alumni Relations, and Concordia President **Alan Shepard**. **8**

NEW YORK

At the President's Signature Event at New York City's 92nd Street Y on March 30, guest speaker **Patti Sonntag**, BA 00, managing editor of *The New York Times* Syndicate and Concordia's first journalist-in-residence, discussed "The Future of Journalism" with **Brian Gabriel**, associate professor and chair of Concordia's Department of Journalism. Some 50 alumni and friends were joined by Concordia President Alan Shepard, Bram Freedman, vice-president of Advancement and External Relations, and Temi Akin-Aina, associate director of Alumni Relations. **9**

EIGHT 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 both locally and abroad. Their efforts will be formally recognized at the 25th Annual Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Concordia University Alumni Association and organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations, on May 19 at the Sofitel Hotel Montreal. Congratulations to the 2016 honourees:

Humberto Santos Award of Merit

Emilio B. Imbriglio, BComm 81, GrDip 82, is the CEO of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and one of the foremost public-private partnerships experts in Canada. He has long been associated with Concordia as a part-time accounting teacher, business coach and financial strategist. He was chairman of the board at Montreal's Santa Cabrini Hospital, a co-founder of the Rivière-des-Prairies Chamber of Commerce and a long-time member of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada. He was named Cavaliere dell'Ordine d'Italia in 2010.



Honorary Life Membership

Henry Beissel, a renowned playwright, poet, author, essayist and translator, is the founder of Concordia's Creative Writing program. In 1966 he joined the faculty of the Department of English at Sir George Williams, one of Concordia's founding institutions. Against all odds, he established the Creative Writing program that continues to flourish today. His most well-known and successful work is *Inook and the Sun*, which premiered in 1973 and has been performed all over the world. He retired in 1996 as distinguished professor emeritus.



Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award

Caroline Van Vlaardingen, BA 84, recently celebrated her 30th anniversary as a reporter for CTV Montreal News. She has won four Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) awards for her work as a journalist and has lent her support to numerous community causes including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Missing Children's Network, St. Columba House and



Celebrate the Concordia University Alumni Association's best at

The 25th Annual Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet

Thursday, May 19, 2016,
6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Sofitel Hotel Montreal, 1155 Sherbrooke St. W.

Information: alumnivevents@concordia.ca

Or visit concordia.ca/alumni

Equitas. She has been teaching journalism at Concordia since 1996 and enjoys working alongside several of her former students.

Alumnus of the Year

Louis Hugo Francescutti, BSc 80, has made it his mission to raise awareness of public safety and the promotion of injury prevention. In addition to his dedication as an emergency physician in two of Edmonton's most challenging hospital environments, Francescutti has spearheaded various public safety awareness initiatives and campaigns, including an award-winning multimedia injury prevention program for teenagers called HEROES and an emergency medical response electronic medical record.



Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching

Giuliana Cucinelli, BA 03, is an assistant professor in the Educational Technology program in the Department of Education, and the co-director of the Communities and Differential Mobilities research cluster of the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture, and Technology at Concordia University,



and a research associate of the Mobile Media Lab. Her research-creation program focuses on the social, cultural and educational impacts of technology. She is particularly interested in digital media theory and production, social media, youth culture and digital media practices, intergenerational storytelling, social justice, critical disabilities, and technology and mobilities.

Outstanding Staff Award

Les Lawton won over 500 games as head coach of the Concordia Stingers women's hockey team, a position he held for more than 30 years. During his tenure, he guided the Stingers to victories in the inaugural CIAU (now CIS, Canadian Interuniversity Sport) women's



ice hockey championships in 1998 and 1999, in addition to 15 Quebec championships. Lawton was also head coach of Team Canada's women's team in 1994, when they defeated the United States for the gold medal at the World Championship in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Young Alumnus of the Year

Jonathan Lachance, BAdmin 11, is the general manager of Equium Inc. in Calgary, where he oversees the management of a \$200-million real estate portfolio across Alberta. He is an award-winning environmental steward within the real estate industry. Lachance is actively involved in affordable housing development and community engagement through a furniture



recycling program in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Outstanding Student Award

Alexis Lahorra is a communication and cultural studies and Spanish student at Concordia. She is the founder and president of the local chapter of Jack.org, a student group that supports and sustains mental health awareness at Concordia. The group's goal is to engage Concordia and the surrounding community in a conversation on mental health through loud, positive and fun initiatives. Lahorra is also a student ambassador for Concordia's Alumni Relations. She hopes to graduate in 2018. ■



HOMECOMING 2016

Save the Date:
September 22-26, 2016

Return to Concordia for reunions, lectures, tours — and to connect with friends, old and new.

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

@ConcordiaAlumni

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- **Resolute Forest Products** keynote lecture with award-winning journalist/author **Mohamed Fahmy**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- **CEED Concordia** (formerly Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program) **10th Anniversary Reunion**
- **Shuffle 27 and President's Picnic**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- **Homecoming Football Game** from the exclusive **Alumni Zone**
- **Department of Physics Anniversary Reunion**
- **Engineering and Computer Science Reunion**
- **Tour the historic Grey Nuns Building**
- **Celebrate in style at the President's Homecoming Dinner:** for reunion year classes, including special honours for the Classes of 1966 and of 1991

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- **Concordia Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**

#CUalumni #CUhomecoming

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

79 Robert Boisjoli, BComm, GrDip 81, was recently appointed chief financial officer at Canadian Metals Inc. in Montreal. Robert was CEO of AKESOgen, Inc., and is chairman of Palos

Management Inc., managing director of Atwater Financial Group, and a partner at Robert Boisjoli & Associates S.E.C.

35TH REUNION

81 Gavin Thomas Lumsden Brown, BEd (TESL), was promoted to full professor in the Faculty

of Education and Social Work at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, in February 2016. He is also director of the faculty's Quantitative Data Analysis and Research Unit.

93 Walter Levitt, BA (comm. studies), was selected as one of the 2016 Entertainment Marketing

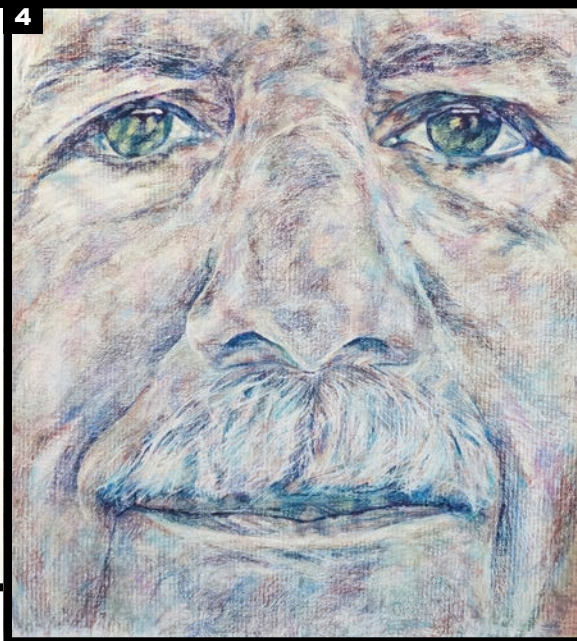
Impact honorees by *Variety*, the weekly American entertainment trade magazine. Walter is chief marketing officer at Comedy Central in New York City.

99 Apostoly Peter Kouroumalis (Toly A.K.), BFA (cinema), received an award of recognition from the IndieFEST Film Awards in January for his experimental film, *Velvet Dreams*. IndieFEST is a worldwide competition that aims to give exposure to directors, producers, actors, creative teams and new media creators.

07 Nicole Rigillo, MA (social and cultural anthro.), earned her PhD in anthropology from McGill University in June 2015. Her dissertation, *Doing Well by Doing Good: Logics of Corporate Social Responsibility in Bangalore, India*, was awarded the Margaret Lock Prize by McGill's Faculty of Medicine. Nicole is currently conducting research with an international team based at Université du Québec à Montréal on the topic of global philanthropy.

5TH REUNION

11 Kevin Gallagher, GrDip (journ.) 11, temporarily stepped into the role as news reporter at CTV National News in early 2016. He is a news reporter at CTV Montreal, where he works in front of and behind the camera, shooting, editing, writing and tweeting.



1 Jackie Rae Wloski, BA 71, will be among 42 artists from the Women's Art Society of Montreal participating in its juried art show, which will be held May 28-29, 2016, at Concordia's Grey Nuns Building. 1) *Toad Hiding*

2 Raymonde Jodoin, BFA 83, held an exhibit, "Les Toris gris," at Senthé, salon de thé et de go in Montreal from January 11 to February 15, 2016. 2) *Toris gris # 1*

3 Chrissy Cheung, BFA (design art) 00, held an exhibit, "Stairway," at Galerie LSB in Montreal from April 19 to 25, 2016. 3) *Stairway*

4 Hoda Ackad, BFA (studio art) 01, held an exhibit of her large-scale paintings, "The Power Behind the Scenes – Culture Montreal," at Galerie Luz in Montreal from March 9 to April 2, 2016. The portrait series depicts designers, impresarios, architects, directors and visionaries who shape Montreal's cultural landscape. 4) *Moshe Safdie*



Sandra Paikowsky, BA (fine arts) 67, Concordia professor emeritus of Art History, was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in January "for her contributions to the development of Canadian art history as a discipline." About 40 colleagues, friends and family gathered at Concordia's Department of Art History on February 16 to celebrate Sandra's achievement.



Jacques Chagnon, BA (poli. sci.) 75 (left), is the current speaker of the National Assembly of Quebec. He represents the electoral district of Westmount-Saint-Louis and is a member of the Quebec Liberal Party. Jacques delivered a lecture called "The interaction between elected officials and the civil service" at Concordia's Department of Political Science on March 21. At a reception following the lecture, Concordia President **Alan Shepard** presented him with a gift to acknowledge his 30 years as an MNA. Also pictured is Jacques' Concordia yearbook photo from 1975.



Chloë Bellande, BA (Spanish) 07, is an award-winning screenwriter (*While The Village Sleeps* and *Will of Fortune*). She co-produced and co-directed the short film *Searching for Paradise* with actor **Chris Young** (pictured). The film was screened for the press at Concordia's J.A. DeSève Cinema on April 21. *Searching for Paradise* is a controversial drama inspired by the story of Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik. Young stars as Ace, a contract killer who works with a group of vigilantes dedicated to eliminating the worst criminals on the planet.



Rami Wazir, BComm (acct.) 07, is president of the Concordia University Alumni Association chapter in Qatar. He is pictured (right) atop Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest point, in February. During his time at Concordia, Rami was a counsellor for the Concordia Student Union, and later worked for Concordia's Financial Services. He moved to Qatar in 2012. Rami tackled Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for One Acre Fund, a non-profit organization that supplies smallholder farmers in East Africa with asset-based financing and agriculture training services to reduce hunger and poverty.

Joyce Napier, BA (journ.) 81, **1** joined CTV News as Ottawa Bureau Chief in March. Joyce will tap into her lengthy journalistic resumé and extensive contacts, overseeing political news from Ottawa for CTV News across all of its platforms. Joyce was Washington Bureau Chief for Radio-Canada from 2003 to 2014. In August 2015, she returned to Canada to become Radio-Canada’s Senior Political Correspondent for the network’s parliamentary bureau.



William (Bill) Vazan, BA (fine arts) 70, **2** and **Suzy Lake**, MFA 83, **3** were among the eight Canadian artists named as recipients of the 2016 Governor General’s Awards in Visual and Media Arts from the Canada Council for the Arts. The awards recognize outstanding career achievement and carry a \$25,000 prize. The awards presentation ceremony took place at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on March 23, 2016.



Suzy, an American-born resident of Toronto, was also recently nominated for a Scotiabank Photography Award. Bill was born in Toronto and now lives in Montreal. He has taught at Université du Québec à Montréal’s École des arts visuels et médiatiques for more than 30 years.

Nathalie Dubé, BComm 90, **4** became ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco in December 2015. Nathalie headed up the trade and investments section at the Canadian embassy in Paris from 2009 to 2013, and from 2013 to 2015 was director of Invest in Canada at the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service.

Carol McQueen, BA 95, **5** was appointed ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia in December 2015. Carol has spent most of her career living and working in Africa — far from her native Montreal neighbourhood of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. She earned a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship in 1995 and travelled to England and eventually pursued a PhD at Oxford University.



Sina Queyras, MA (English) 95, an assistant professor in Concordia’s Department of English, won the 2015 ReLit Award for Poetry for her collection *M&T* (Coach House Books). The ReLit Awards are the country’s pre-eminent literary prize recognizing independent presses.

Michelle Richardson, BA (journ.) 04, **6** assumed the top editorial post of the newly merged newsrooms of the *Ottawa Citizen* and *Ottawa Sun* newspapers on March 28. Michelle was assignment editor and city editor at the *Montreal Gazette* before jumping into the managing editor’s chair in 2014.

Charles J. Boltuck, BA 47, December 26, 2015, St. Cloud, Minn. He was 92.

Frank Lipari, attendee 47, October 27, 2015, Montreal.

Reilly Watson, BA 50, February 6, 2016, Ottawa. He was 86.

Margaret M.B. Borden, BA 51, October 20, 2015, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was 89.

William G. Hamel, BComm 53, October 22, 2015, Oakville, Ont. He was 83.

Bernard Woloshen, BA 53, January 25, 2016, Montreal.

James Ellemo, BA 56, October 11, 2015, Montreal. He was 83.

Edward J. Shrimpton, BA 56, December 5, 2015, Greenfield Park, Que. He was 80.

Jenny Goldman, BA 57, January 8, 2016, Montreal. She was 81.

Alexander M. Hryshko, BComm 57, February 19, 2016, Montreal. He was 85.

Zigmas Lapinas, BSc 57, January 2016, Montreal. He was 91.

William M. Lawlor, BComm 57, February 15, 2016, Montreal.

Donald J. Weeren, BA 57, September 14, 2015, Halifax, N.S.

Michael Laplante, BA 58, December 14, 2015, Montreal. He was 78.

James Yelland, attendee 58, August 9, 2015, Burlington, Ont.

Douglas I. Yeudall, BSc 58, December 3, 2014, Kirkland, Que. He was 84.

Kevin Moore, BA 61, February 4, 2016, Dorval, Que. He was 77.

John R. Lafave, BA 62, January 19, 2016, St-Sauveur, Que. He was 74.

Leonard M. Croft, BA 65, October 20, 2015, Hilton Head, S.C. He was 85.

The Rev. Canon Brian K. Prideaux, BA 65, February 8, 2016, North York, Ont.

Charles C. Sandiford, BComm 65, October 15, 2015, Montreal. He was 81.

Ralph Kachanoff, BA 66, October 26, 2015, Montreal.

Kevin Hammill Johnson, BA 67, December 1, 2015, Montreal. He was 70.

Fraser William Adams, BA 68, December 11, 2015, Sherbrooke, Que. He was 69.

Walter Allan Garrett, BA 68, November 3, 2015, St-Basile-le-Grand, Que.

Michèle M. Gorry, BA 68, December 10, 2015, Montreal. She was 57.

Arnold Raymond Dagenais, BSc 69, January 8, 2016, Vancouver. He was 82.

William J. Barkas, BSc 71, December 24, 2015, Dorval.

Steven White, BA 72, February 2, 2016, Montreal. He was 66.

Carol-Ann Tetrault Sirsly, BComm 73, BSc 74, MBA 75,

PhD 12, January 29, 2016, Montreal. She was 64.

Shirley Perlman, BA 74, October 14, 2015, Montreal. She was 84.

Robert Michael Zacharko, BSc 74, January 4, 2016, Ottawa. He was 63.

Michael J. Dwyer, BComm 75, MTM 85, November 7, 2015, Newmarket, Ont. He was 70.

Bonita Ann Rinahan, BA 75, October 19, 2015, Toronto. She was 71.

Robert Nathan, BA 76, November 10, 2015, Montreal.

Richard Oana, BComm 76, December 17, 2015, Montreal. He was 61.

Rosalia Szewczuk, BA 78, October 26, 2015, Montreal. She was 69.

Rosslyn Tetley, BFA 79, January 14, 2016, Montreal. She was 82.

Deena Eliosoff-Chernoff, MBA 80, November 1, 2015, Montreal. She was 68.

Gerard Hackshaw, BA 80, MA 89, February 13, 2016, Montreal. He was 59.

Harriet E. Campbell, MBA 81, November 13, 2015, Ottawa. She was 89.

Daniel Joseph Dumont, BSc 82, MSc 86, December 17, 2015, Hamilton, Ont. He was 55.

Nicole M. Marchessault, BCS 82, October 13, 2015, Pointe-Claire, Que. She was 60.

Hon-Ying Wong, BComm 82, October 19, 2015, Hong Kong. He was 58.

Owen Carter, GrDip 83, November 8, 2015, Montreal. He was 81.

Helen (Opperman) Doutre, BA 87, February 9, 2016, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que. She was 92.

Shelly Shoub, BA 87, January 7, 2016, Montreal. She was 56.

Roger A. Balk, PhD 88, October 10, 2015, Montreal. He was 85.

Peter H. Lynch-Staunton, BA 88, December 4, 2015, Magog, Que. He was 53.

Virginia Nixon, MFA 88, PhD 97, December 9, 2015, Montreal. She was 76.

Angela Sorbara, BA 89, Cert 10, January 22, 2016, Montreal. She was 50.

Gwinn D. Bradley, BFA 90, January 10, 2016, Montreal. He was 73.

Bernice Thorneycroft, BFA 90, November 23, 2015, West Bay, N.S. She was 83.

Margaret Ann Hall, BA 91, MA 99, November 12, 2015, Montreal. She was 49.

Naim Shohet, BComm 92, December 11, 2015, Montreal. He was 86.

Diana Jamieson, BFA 98, October 18, 2015, Montreal. She was 91.

Catherine Zoccoli, BSc 01, October 21, 2015, Lachine. She was 37.

Corinne D. Corcoran, BAdmin 03, January 17, 2016, Orleans, Ont. She was 55. ■

Leggings, latitudes and the water of life

KATELYN SPIDLE

Monique Polak, MA 84, is having quite a year. The professor of English and humanities at Montreal's Marianopolis College is an active freelance journalist who writes about subjects that impact society, like mental health, community

In **Leggings Revolt** (Orca, \$9.95), Eric transfers from an all-boys to a co-ed high school and joins the student life committee. By having to enforce the school's dress code, Eric learns about gender inequality and its consequences.

In her first non-fiction book, **Passover: Festival of Freedom** (Orca, \$9.99),

on the planet. Equipped with an old digital camera, Zegeris likes to camp out for days awaiting the perfect lighting to capture his large-format images. He is a former biology teacher who currently resides in Peterborough, Ont.

For the second book in his Montreal series, **Mackay**

In **Interpol Confidential** (SilverWood Books, \$22.99), the world's largest global police organization is plagued by strife and treachery. With the general assembly fast approaching, the infighting is bound to come to a dramatic head. This is the first work of satire by novelist **Michael E. Rose**, BA 77. The author is best known for his spy thrill-



initiatives and abuse. She's also the inaugural CBC/Quebec Writer's Federation writer-in-residence. Yet her true passion shines through writing books. Polak has published 19 books for young adults, three of which have been released in 2016.

Forensics Squad Unleashed (Orca, \$9.95) is about a girl named Tabitha who attends a summer forensics camp with her friend Mason. When her dog is stolen by a neighbourhood dog-napping ring, Tabitha puts her detective skills to use to solve the crime.

Polak explains the cultural, historical and social significance of Passover while also exploring her personal relationship with Judaism.

Arnold Zegeris, BSc 69, travelled to the earth's southernmost continent five times over 13 years to create his second book of photography, **Antarctica: South Of 60°S Latitude Parallel** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, \$75). Following *On the Labrador* (2015), Zegeris once again offers a rare glimpse into one of the most isolated geological regions

Smith, BA (poli. sci.) 76, sends readers back in time to the glory days of the city's storied Golden Square Mile. Using archived images, contemporary photos, maps and informative descriptions, **Montreal's Golden Square Mile** (InfiniteBooks, \$46.95) uncovers the neglected histories of many of this historic neighbourhood's landmark buildings. Researched over 18 months, Mackay visited dozens of sites and interviewed countless historians, curators and archivists to produce the 168-page hardcover.

ers, including *The Mazovia Legacy* (2003) and *The Tsunami File* (2009), which were both shortlisted for an Arthur Ellis Award. Formerly chief of communications for Interpol in France, Rose now lives with his wife in Sydney, Australia.

Readers hoping to explore some of the city's lesser-known exhibition spaces will delight in **Montreal's Other Museums: Off the Beaten Track** (Vehicule Press, \$12.95). The 100-page illustrated pocket guidebook, meant for

Montrealers and visitors alike, lists museums by subject and neighbourhood and includes practical information like entrance fees and opening hours. A first by Montreal-based freelance writer **Rachel Alkallay**, BA 82, MA 91, the topics covered in *Montreal's Other Museums* include computers, aviation, ecology, music, rare books, printing, religion, sports, history, the circus and the military.

employee at the shelter. Through this friendship, Moineau finds the strength to believe in herself, rise to life's challenges and even make her dreams a reality. Arsenault is a past president of the Concordia University Alumni Association.

From his "Intrigues et amitié" series, **La face cachée** (\$13.98) is the newest book by **Claude André Poirier**, MBA 86. Drawing on his

Son (FriesenPress, \$19.99) is the second book by **Erin Scullion**, BA 86. Through a touching collection of personal stories, essays and poems, Scullion offers her son advice on life, family and the universe. While she acknowledges that he may not appreciate the gesture right away, ultimately she hopes he will never lose sight of how much he is loved. While she once longed to become a farmer,

screened at the Antigonish International Film Festival (2013) and the Montreal First Peoples Festival (2014). The film explores the ancestral stories of four fictional characters whose families form part of Canada's diverse cultural heritage.

Marie-Christine Arbour, attendee 15, tackles the heavy topic of mental illness in her latest novel, **PsychoZe** (Annika Parance Éditeur,



Author **Elaine Arsenault**, BA 83, explores the sad reality of Alzheimer's disease in her latest book, **Moineau** (Éditions du Phoenix, \$11.95). An 11-year-old girl decides to spend her summer holiday helping her grandmother paint the railing outside her family's dilapidated Montreal duplex. Sensing that her grandmother is headed for an institution, Moineau goes to the local animal shelter with hopes of finding the perfect pet to console her. Instead, she befriends Gadoue, an

own life experience as a trained engineer and business administrator, the story follows a young engineer named Anouk Beauregard as she devises a plan to uncover the identity of a menacing character who has it out for her. After finding a suspicious receipt on her office printer one Friday night, Anouk turns to her brother and childhood friends to help her solve the mystery.

Part memoir, part love letter, **I Need You to Know: A Bouquet of Stories for My**

Scullion is now a professional writer for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

After four years of collaboration, artist and filmmaker **G. Scott MacLeod**, BFA 03, MA 13, and storyteller and writer Mike Burns hope their animated film series **The Water of Life** (MacLeod 9 Productions, \$199.99) will be welcomed into Canadian curriculums, libraries and museums. It was chosen as the official selection for the American Indian Film Festival (2013) and the Kerry Film Festival (2014), and

\$24.95). While working on her MA thesis in literature, protagonist Marie-Christine begins to experience the first symptoms of schizophrenia. Plagued by paranoia and loneliness, she finds a small group of self-proclaimed God seers who, despite their supportive friendships, only propel her deeper into her illness until she can no longer distinguish reality from fantasy. Arbour is an accomplished novelist who has published widely in French and English newspapers. ■

Concordia taught me to succeed

ELIZABETH DARLINGTON,
BA 01

I love my job. Were it not for Concordia, I'm certain I never would have found my path teaching English as a second language (ESL).

While I haven't exactly put my degree in sociology and Jewish studies credits to discipline-specific work, my enriching global experience helped shape me. Today, that great learning experience is passed along to my own students.

I've never heard of a child telling his or her parents that they want to be an ESL teacher when they grow up. I know that my aspirations to be a cashier at the local grocery store made it a highly unlikely career prospect.

Before Concordia, I graduated from the theatre program at Dawson College in Montreal, with strong encouragement *not* to continue down that artistic road. The curtain closed before my career began. After CEGEP, I took a job at a diner and quickly discovered that food service wasn't my cup of tea. I spent the next few years working in a pub, finding myself and fretting about my future.

After enrolling in various independent study courses, I spent 1995 to 2001 in wide-eyed amazement of Concordia professors who cultivated my patience, academic self-esteem and determination to finish my degree while doing my best.

My university studies were the most revelatory days of my 20s — I shudder to think where I'd be today without higher education and my professors. Yael Glick of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology taught me to have more self-confidence in my intellectual process, Frank Chalk from the Department of History inspired me to pay attention to precision, and late sociology

professor Cary Boucock showed me how important it is to have passion for your work. I think of these three regularly. It is because of them that I teach with pride and gusto.

How I fell into ESL is literally a story for the pub. Upon my graduation from Concordia in 2001, I once again felt a surge of panic. I was 28, well-educated, yet had no real skills — unless you consider pouring the perfect pint of Guinness an asset on the world stage. I had been working at an Irish pub throughout my university days and a co-worker told me about some online classes she was giving to Europeans.

"I was able to make them relax, laugh and, in the process, improve their English without much heartache at all."

My own teaching career began by giving telephone lessons. I loved it, because the learners on the other end of the phone were expressing the same anxiety about learning that I once voiced. I was able to make them relax, laugh and, in the process, improve their English without much heartache at all.

I then earned my TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) certification. I gradually made my way to giving corporate lessons and finally arrived at the Montreal International Institute for Language Arts (MIILA). At MIILA, I teach teenagers and adults from all over the world to understand, speak, write and feel comfortable with the English language.



MELODIE LE SIEGE

ELIZABETH DARLINGTON TEACHES ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE AT THE MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LANGUAGE ARTS.

Many of my students come to the school feeling much like I did at Concordia. They are fish out of water, unsure they can succeed, fearful of defeats and public failure. (OK, that last one was my own fear.)

I know exactly how intimidating education can be when you don't believe in yourself. Concordia taught me to realize that I am just as qualified to succeed as anyone else. My university experience showed me that encouragement, effort, perseverance and support are critical ingredients in meeting my life objectives.

I keep in touch with many of my ESL students once they return to their countries. I'm greatly validated by their good memories. Gratitude never stops from them. Nothing says you've done a great job more than "Thank you so much!"

I don't think I'd be a very compassionate teacher if I hadn't lived through terror — terror of discovering I could realize my ambitions with the help of my professors.

Thank you, Concordia! ■

Imagine
that



ALUMNI

TERM LIFE INSURANCE

To a child, anything is possible. With **Alumni Term Life Insurance**, you can help your loved ones live their dreams. Get a quote today and see how affordable it is to protect their future.

To learn more visit www.manulife.com/concordiamag
or call toll-free **1-888-913-6333**



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Get an online quote
for Alumni Term
Life Insurance
to enter!

Underwritten by
The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company.

Manulife and the Block Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under license.
© 2015 The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife). All rights reserved. Manulife, PO Box 4213, Stn A, Toronto, ON M5W 5M3.

No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in their province or territory of residence as of the contest start date. Approximate value of each prize is \$1,000 Canadian. Chances of winning depend on the number of valid entries received by the contest deadline. Contest closes Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Only one entry per person accepted. Skill testing question required.

MONTREAL
GAZETTE

REIMAGINED

FOR LATE NIGHTS

Check out our new, free smartphone app. It's concisely crafted for the small screen, with content updated throughout the day. Skim, share and follow local news anywhere, how and when you want it.

Download our free smartphone app now.



Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, and iPod touch are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.