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UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE  
**Concordia**

**LOOKING AT THE  
FUTURE OF JOURNALISM**

Concordia Department of Journalism faculty and alumni weigh in on the shifting media realities.

By Richard Burnett



**A LIBRARY ON THE MOVE**

More vital than ever, the R. Howard Webster Library's renewal matches students' demands.

By Joanne Latimer



**FLIGHT MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEMS FOR ALL**

Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation research will help the airline industry reach new heights.

By Fiona Downey and Marie-Christine Houle-Trépanier



**A LIFETIME IN ACADEMIA**

These six alumni are making great strides in their university careers.

By Isaac Olson



**IRVING LAYTON  
AWARD FOR  
CREATIVE WRITING:  
POETRY**

By Soili Smith



**MAKING THE WORLD  
A BETTER PLACE**

Through their volunteerism or professional lives, Concordians are bringing positive change to their surroundings.

By Sue Montgomery

**48 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:  
FINE ARTS**

Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts create an exciting new alliance.

By Renée Dunk

winter 2016 volume 39 number 3 [concordia.ca/magazine](http://concordia.ca/magazine)

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**Concordia**  
MONTREAL





Maria and Domenico Lonardo

To recognize the 60th anniversary of his parents and to supports a student studying immigrant life in Canada, **Michael Lonardo** and his wife, **Olivia Lewis**, endowed a Concordia scholarship in his parents' name: **The Maria and Domenico Lonardo Scholarship.**

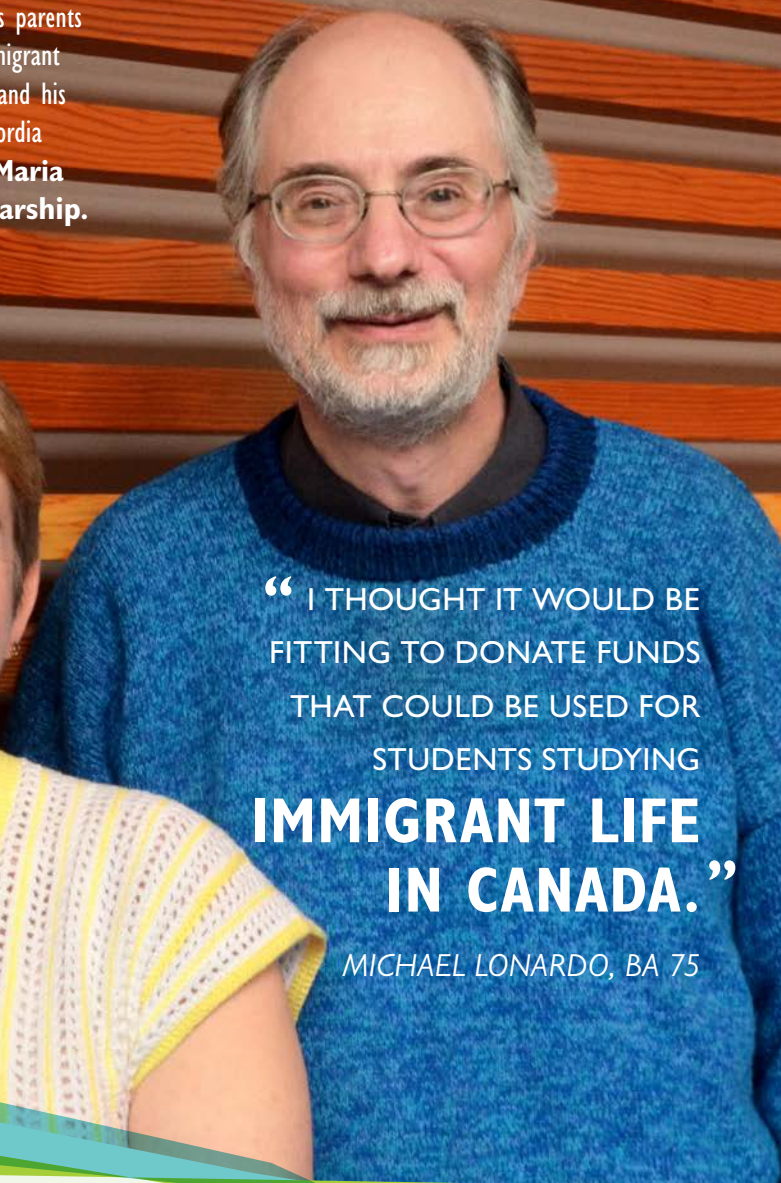
“ I SUSPECT PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE HOW EASY PLANNED GIVING CAN BE, NOT TO MENTION **HOW GOOD IT MAKES YOU FEEL.**”

— OLIVIA LEWIS



“ I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FITTING TO DONATE FUNDS THAT COULD BE USED FOR STUDENTS STUDYING **IMMIGRANT LIFE IN CANADA.**”

MICHAEL LONARDO, BA 75



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### EDITOR'S VOICE



## Future tense

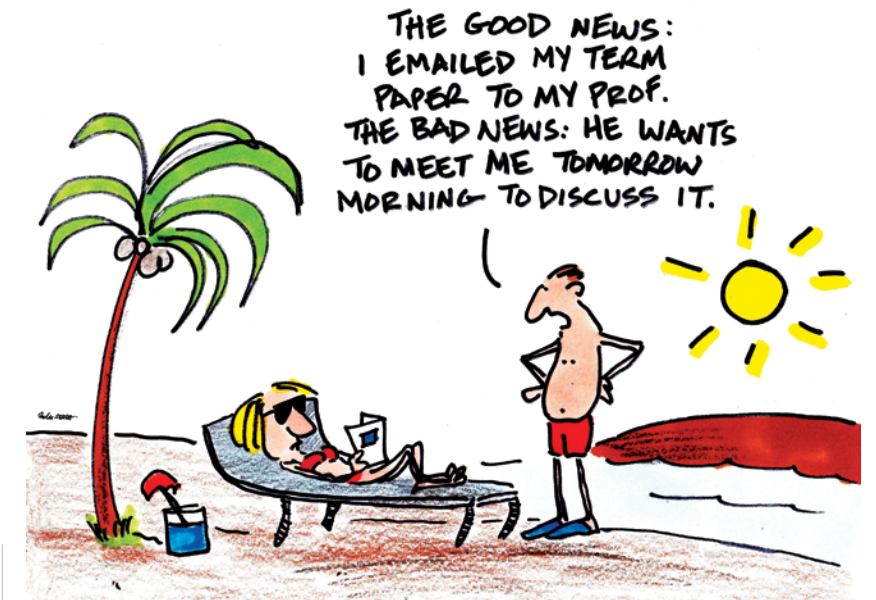
When I first started working in the education sector in the mid-1990s, the internet was just beginning to explode.

University administrators, among others, wondered about the long-term effect of this incredible new tool that allowed people to communicate and access information from anywhere, at any time. There was considerable discussion about the prospects within the next decade or two of “universities without walls” — institutions whose students would study remotely, never stepping on campus.

Obviously that would have had a tremendous impact on the need for classrooms and other facilities. Institutions would be competing with others around the world. Why choose a local school when you could stay at home and “attend” Harvard, Oxford or any other of the world’s few top-ranked universities?

Twenty years later, it seems the predictions were off. Concordia, for instance, has added many walls, with a number of new buildings on both campuses, and seen enrolment since the mid-1990s climb by about 50 per cent, to about 46,000 today.

E-learning, offered at the university through eConcordia, is steadily growing. And the internet provides new opportunities to deliver information, such as the digital dispatches by Ann-Marie MacDonald, Concordia’s first Richler Writer in Residence (see page 6). Yet thousands of students still make the daily trek to Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses for classes, lab work, group meetings and other reasons. There’s simply no substitute for personal interaction with professors and



fellow students, or for taking advantage of Montreal’s benefits.

While experts were wondering about the need for brick and mortar universities, they were even more concerned about libraries. After all, it was said, why waste money and space (and trees) on books and publications that no one would use?

Yet today Concordia’s libraries are booming. As university librarian Guylaine Beaudry relates in “A library on the move” on page 32, Concordia’s three libraries had 2.2 million visits last year. Students come for many reasons, including to gain access to group study areas, new technology and a quiet place to focus. The university is investing accordingly by refashioning its R. Howard Webster Library.

There’s at least one other academic field at Concordia and elsewhere whose future is uncertain: journalism. Traditional print and broadcast news outlets have been facing major upheavals over the past decade or so, vying with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other digital media as sources of information about the world.

Nevertheless, Brian Gabrial, chair of Concordia’s Department of Journalism, remains optimistic. In the story on page 20, “Looking at the future of journalism,” Gabrial says there remains an important role for journalists as skilled and credible sources. “Our job is to train

critical-thinking journalists to tell good stories about their world.”

In another 20 years, universities and libraries with walls will certainly be here. And although their method of delivering the news remains unclear, well-educated journalists will likely remain in demand, too — forecasts of their demise notwithstanding.

After all, as Nobel Prize-winning physicist Neils Bohr said: “Prediction is very difficult, especially if it’s about the future.” ■

## 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.

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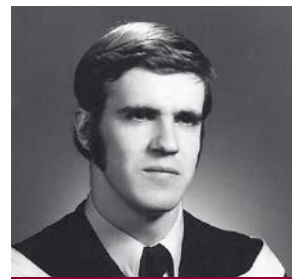
# setting an example



THOMAS HOBLEY IN 2015

## Why I contribute to the Library Fund

“When I began at Sir George Williams University in the mid-1960s, the library was in the YMCA building on Drummond St. At the time it had “closed stacks,” meaning that students could not physically enter the stacks to search for and borrow books.



THOMAS HOBLEY'S SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY YEARBOOK PHOTO, 1971

Instead, we would first look up the desired books in card catalogues, fill out request slips and hand the slips to library staff, who would go into the stacks and retrieve the books. If the books did not meet our needs, they were returned and the process started over again. It could take a few iterations to acquire the correct books.

Search time increased proportionally with the complexity of the project being researched, and increased dramatically at certain times of the day or week, when other students were attempting to get the books they needed. Students had to queue to get access to the knowledge we needed. The process was, to say the least, time consuming.

While the library did have the books we required for the work and remained the go-to place for finding accumulated knowledge, one had to plan to use it effectively and not fritter away that valuable, non-renewable resource: time.

The days of closed stacks are long gone. Yet even in today's world, where much of the access is virtual, there are still impediments to getting to necessary resources — mostly due to the cost of journals, books and other media.

That's why I contribute to Concordia's Library Fund — to help reduce whatever physical or virtual impediments exist today.”

—Thomas Hobley, BEng (elec.) 71

## CONCORDIA NEWS

### 10 CONCORDIANS IN NEW PARLIAMENT

Canada's new government includes 10 Concordia alumni Members of Parliament, including eight Liberals from Quebec. Led by Justin Trudeau, the Liberal Party of Canada won 184 of the 338 seats in the House of Commons on October 19, 2015.

The cabinet includes **Anju Dhillon**, BA 02, **1** Liberal from Dorval–Lachine–LaSalle, Que., Parliamentary Secretary for Status of Women, and **Peter Schiefke**, BA 07, **2** Liberal from Vaudreuil–Soulanges, Que., Parliamentary Secretary for Youth.

The other eight alumni MPS are:

- Daniel Blaikie**, MA 10, **3** NDP, Elmwood–Transcona, Man.
- Faycal El-Khoury**, BEng 84, **4** Liberal, Laval–Les Îles, Que.
- Anthony Housefather**, MBA 02, **5** Liberal, Mount Royal, Que.
- Tomacz (Tom) Kmiec**, BA 05, **6** Conservative, Calgary–Shepard, Alta.
- Eva Nassif**, BA 05, MA 09, **7** Liberal, Vimy, Que.
- Sherry Romanado**, EMBA 11, **8** Liberal, Longueuil–Charles-LeMoyne, Que.
- Francis Scarpaleggia**, MBA 84, **9** Liberal, Lac-Saint-Louis, Que.
- Brenda Shanahan**, MBA 88, **10** Liberal, Châteauguay–Lacolle, Que. ■



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ANN-MARIE MACDONALD, PICTURED IN THE RICHLER READING ROOM IN CONCORDIA'S J.W. MCCONNELL LIBRARY BUILDING, PUBLISHED HER THIRD NOVEL, *ADULT ONSET*, IN 2014.

## Bestselling novelist Ann-Marie MacDonald is Concordia's first Richler Writer in Residence

LOUISE MORGAN

Bestselling novelist, actor, playwright and host of CBC's *Doc Zone*, Ann-Marie MacDonald became Concordia's inaugural Mordecai Richler Writer in Residence in September. For three months, she taught master classes to English and creative writing students, mentored them and produced video dispatches from the university's Mordecai Richler Reading Room for *The Walrus* magazine. Richler was a student at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions.

**You're the first Richler Writer in Residence at Concordia. How does it feel?**

**Anne-Marie MacDonald:** "Excellent! I'm a half-Lebanese, full lesbian author, so the choice was obvious. Who else were they going to ask to succeed Mordecai in his chair? It is an honour. I met him a few times and I will always feel that was a great friendship manqué, because he died before I could spend the kind of time with him that I would have loved to."

**The first time you met Richler, you preceded him at a reading – and compared it to opening the Rolling Stones.**

**AMM:** "It's true — and I told him that. It was at a reading at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall. I read first, Michael Ondaatje read second and Mordecai read third. It was awesome! He was legendary and I met him backstage, where he was smoking a cigar and drinking his Macallan scotch. He offered me a drink and I said no, I can't drink before I do a reading. And he said, 'I'm not going to do it any other way.'"

**What made him a star in your eyes?**

**AMM:** "Reading *Duddy Kravitz* was formative for me. I was 14 years old. It may have been the first truly adult book that I read and it was full of all kinds of transgression and it was full of life and I loved it.

When my sister recommended the book to me, she said it's our family. Of course there were many differences, but that



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

was the beauty of what Mordecai did. That's the alchemical miracle that happens if you do your job right as a writer — if you write something very, very specific, it will have that universal application.

I know I've done my job as a writer when people who have never been to, for example, Cape Breton Island, and who were not alive in the period in which I've set my story and who share none of the ethnicities or even any of the particular traumas, will nonetheless say, 'You wrote my truth.' I don't know how that happens, but if you're lucky, it does.

Mordecai had the gift of drawing a lot of people into identifying with characters that were often quite thorny, even obnoxious, but we go there because they're human. They're authentic. It's about authenticity."

**You're a lot younger, a feminist – what's your connection with Richler?**

**AMM:** "It doesn't seem on the face of it an obvious mix, but actually it is pretty obvious. There's a transgressive, comedic streak that we shared. There's a love of narrative. I also think there's a fearlessness. It's been said about me so I think I can say it about myself — and I think it's probably true. It's a certain approach that I know Mordecai embodied as well. He made a lot of people mad when he wrote *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. It's a classic now, but there was no guarantee at the time."

**What's it like working in Mordecai's space?**

**AMM:** "It's beautiful. It's intimate. It's personal. I'm surrounded by something that was essential to Mordecai Richler. These books were his friends. I like to sit here and read. Every time I look around I notice books that I've always meant to read, like James Boswell's *The Life of Samuel Johnson*. But I can't write at this desk — the ergonomics are terrible!"

**Tell me about your experience with the students.**

**AMM:** "The residency is a beautiful thing that brings together the past, the present and the future. The students are young writers, mostly interested in talking about their own writing. They were shy at first, but some faces and voices have emerged and quite a handful have come forward to connect.

Each master class has a point of departure — for example, first lines and what draws you through a book — and then it becomes very much whatever the students want to talk about. The point is really to draw them out and witness them, to let them express themselves and hear themselves be heard by me. It's validating."

**Did you have any mentors when you were a young writer?**

**AMM:** "I didn't have one particular older person who took me under their wing. This being Canada and it being a small writing community, I did have access to other writers who were always kind and generous. Sometimes you just want to be with somebody who is further down the road than you are, just to

have a coffee with them and to feel it's going to be okay. Nobody can tell you how to write, but they can witness you and they can just be an example."

**What advice do you give young writers?**

**AMM:** "If you're afraid of offending someone, write like they're already dead. And fear — any kind of fear of writing — is just procrastination. About criticism, you need to learn to metabolize it, to know the difference between what's helpful and what's not and to remember that none of it can kill you. There's nothing magic — you have to go by trial and error."

**If you could hang out with Richler today, what would you do?**

**AMM:** "I'd definitely want to go to a hockey game — the Habs vs. the Leafs! Mordecai was a huge hockey fan and I love it, too. I also play hockey. I'm really a Leafs fan, but now that I'm in Montreal I have to engage and to know what happens with the Canadiens." ■

—Louise Morgan, *GrDip 99*, is a communications advisor at Concordia.

**THINKING out LOUD**

Join **Ann-Marie MacDonald** and Concordia creative writing students for an evening of **dynamic conversation about writing and Mordecai Richler's legacy**: April 19, 2016, D.B. Clarke Theatre, Henry F. Hall Building, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

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CONCORDIA SCORES \$650,000 GIFT FROM SPORTSNET

Athletes at all levels strive to set records. Thanks to the generosity of Canadian all-sports TV broadcaster Sportsnet, Concordia's Department of Journalism has reached a career best of its own.

Sportsnet, which is owned by Rogers Media, is making a \$650,000 donation to the journalism school — the biggest in the history of the department. The funds will help advance sports journalism at the university.

"This exceptional gift shows how highly regarded our journalism program is," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "Sportsnet's donation will ensure that tomorrow's reporters, writers and commentators are ahead of the game."

"We're very impressed by the excellent programs in Concordia's Department of Journalism," says Scott Moore, president of Sportsnet and NHL Properties for Rogers Media. "Our goal is to elevate the training of great sports journalists across the country. It's a time of extreme change and opportunity, which is very exciting. The people in school now are the ones who will create the new media ecosystem."



AT THE SPORTSNET GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE COMMUNICATION STUDIES AND JOURNALISM BUILDING ON LOYOLA CAMPUS ON DECEMBER 9 (FROM LEFT): SAMANTHA MILETO, JOURNALISM STUDENT; BRAM FREEDMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS; JULIAN MCKENZIE, JOURNALISM STUDENT; ANDRÉ ROY, DEAN, FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE; SCOTT MOORE, PRESIDENT, SPORTSNET & NHL PROPERTIES; ALAN SHEPARD, CONCORDIA PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR; AND BRIAN GABRIAL, CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM.

The Sportsnet gift will help create 15 annual scholarships for the next five years, all based on academic merit: six scholarships of \$3,000 each for undergraduate students, seven scholarships of \$4,000 each for graduate diploma students and two scholarships of \$6,000 each for graduate students. Over the same time period it will also offer two annual prizes of \$8,500 each, awarded to students based on their sports journalism portfolios.

"Part of what makes this gift so exciting is that it supports all three levels of our

journalism program: undergraduate, diploma and master's degree," says André Roy, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

"It's an amazing contribution to the program, a chance to support our students," says Brian Gabriel, chair of Concordia's Department of Journalism, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

The department offers a three-year undergraduate program, two one-year graduate diploma programs — including a new visual journalism program — and a two-year MA in journalism studies. "A journalism program is relatively expensive to run, since our equipment is costly," Gabriel says. "Donations from news organizations are important to us because they allow us to be innovative in our curriculum, to be creative."

Sportsnet was already a long-time supporter of Concordia students

through a number of awards and scholarships, including the Rogers Sportsnet Scholarship in Communication Studies and Journalism, worth \$2,400.

"Many students find it hard to pay tuition and make ends meet at the same time," says Samantha Mileto, an undergraduate journalism student and former sports editor of the student newspaper *The Concordian*. "I cannot thank Sportsnet enough for its major contribution toward scholarships for my fellow journalism students."

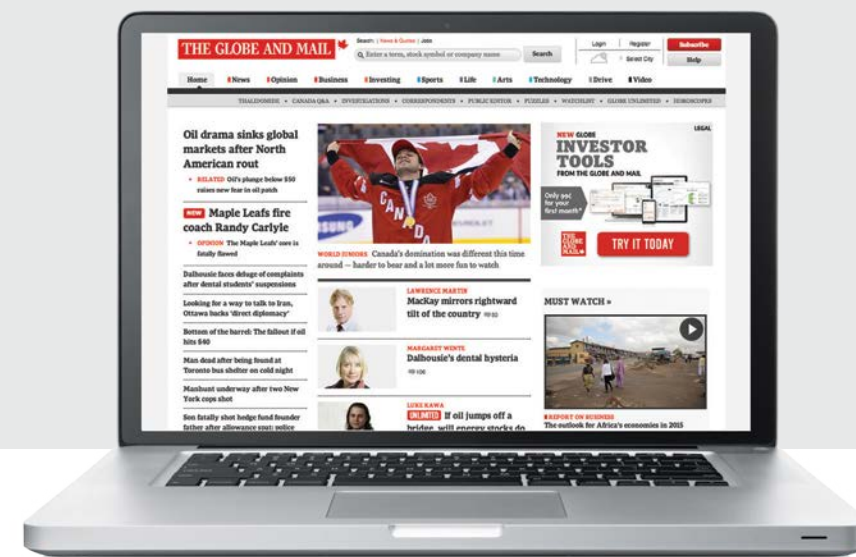
The long list of Concordia journalism graduates working in sports journalism includes Geoff Baker, BA 91, sports reporter for the *Seattle Times*, Stephanie Myles, BA 92, writer and blogger for Yahoo Sports, Jonah Keri, BA 97, best-selling author, and Arpon Basu, GrDip 00, managing editor of NHL.com. ■

—Howard Bokser



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AT THE OCTOBER 23 GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT (FROM LEFT): ROBERT BRISCOE; STEVE HARVEY, FORMER DEAN OF THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS; RAYE BRISCOE; CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD; WILLIAM MEDER, DIRECTOR OF THE BOB AND RAYE BRISCOE CENTRE IN BUSINESS OWNERSHIP STUDIES; AND BRAM FREEDMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

**ALUMNUS ROBERT BRISCOE GIVES BACK WITH GENEROUS GIFT TO THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

ALYSSA TREMBLAY

Robert Briscoe, BSc 67, MBA 73, received the education he always yearned for — thanks to night courses offered by Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia’s founding institutions.

Over 40 years later and having enjoyed a highly successful business career, Bob Briscoe and his wife, Raye, are paying that support forward with a major donation to the John Molson School of Business (JMSB). The gift will help establish the Bob and Raye Briscoe Centre in Business Ownership Studies, in

addition to two new scholarships through the Bob and Raye Briscoe Endowment for Student Awards in Business Ownership Studies. “Concordia is truly grateful that Robert Briscoe is setting the pace by giving back to his alma mater,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “The Concordia community is inspired by his generosity. Bob and Raye will help the next generation of students reach their full potential and help the JMSB chart new territory in business studies.”

Former JMSB Dean Steve Harvey says the Briscoes’ gift creates a new focus on research and teaching in

business ownership — an underrepresented area of entrepreneurship.

“Bob is a great example of someone who has given back abundantly to the institution he credits as providing him the tools to succeed,” Harvey says.

“I feel we owe it to Concordia,” says Briscoe, who earned his two degrees by enrolling in night classes, part-time, over 12 years while also working full-time.

Getting a postsecondary education was a journey beset with obstacles for Briscoe.

“When I graduated from high school, my parents couldn’t send me to university,” he explains. “The other issue was that we got married straight out of high school and had children right away!”

To support their young family, Briscoe went to work while Raye Briscoe stayed home to take care of their four children. The only way he could pursue his education was by going to night school. In the 1960s, Sir George Williams was the sole English institution offering university-level evening courses in Montreal.

Briscoe’s dozen years of part-time study — six for his BSc and six for his MBA — were challenging for the young couple. Raye Briscoe recalls how difficult it was to respond to one of her daughters, after she asked why her father was still going to school when all her friends’ dads had finished their studies a long time ago.

“It was hard to explain to her that this was so

important, that other people could go during the day but he couldn’t,” she says. “Getting those degrees was incredibly worth it in the end, but we didn’t know just how worthwhile it would be at the time.”

Bob Briscoe initially wanted to be a research chemist, yet when he finished his undergraduate degree he realized that managers were paid a lot more. So he became a student in the first-ever class of the newly hatched MBA program at Sir George Williams in 1969.

By the time he finished his MBA, Briscoe knew he wanted to be a business owner. “It was an evolution,” he says, crediting those night classes for giving him the opportunity to find his true calling and laying the groundwork for his career.

His legacy includes three decades as president of

Macco Organiques Inc. ([macco.cz/ca](http://macco.cz/ca)), a food and pharmaceutical company based in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Que.

In 1987, Briscoe invested in IEC Holden — a North American-based manufacturer of electrical rotating equipment and components — and currently acts as chairman of the board. He was also president of AlimPlus Inc. ([alimplus.com](http://alimplus.com)) for 25 years, a company he formed in 1990.

Briscoe served as chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce from 2001 to 2002. He received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the Concordia University Alumni Association in 2002.

The secret to his rise to success, he says, is to defer gratification. “If you buy a business and you’re eating out at expensive restaurants

every night, driving a BMW and spending all your earnings, then very likely you’ll fail,” Briscoe says.

To be successful, he explains, you need to save and reinvest what you make. “That’s what we did,” adds Raye Briscoe, noting

how the couple refrained from indulging in any big expenses for the first 12 years of their marriage.

“We never did anything,” she says with a laugh. “We went out once a year — on our anniversary — and that was it!”



ROBERT BRISCOE'S 1967 YEARBOOK PHOTO. HE EARNED HIS TWO CONCORDIA DEGREES WHILE WORKING FULL TIME TO SUPPORT HIS FAMILY.

CONCORDIA ARCHIVES

**INSPIRING FUTURE BUSINESS OWNERS**

Scheduled to open in 2016, the Bob and Raye Briscoe Centre in Business Ownership Studies will provide a space for students and faculty to cultivate ties with the business community and support teaching and research on business ownership. “There’s a lot more to entrepreneurship than inventing something new,” says Bob Briscoe, who made a living by growing existing businesses into successful companies.

Providing mentorship to future business owners is exactly what the Briscoes hope the new centre will offer. “Nothing is more motivating than hearing a story of real, hard-earned success,” says William Meder, BComm 65, the centre’s director. “Our goal is to bring successful alumni back to Concordia and give them the opportunity to speak to students and share their experience.”

A long-time friend of the Briscoes, Meder says he learned a lot about helping students achieve their goals from his five years as academic advisor for the John Molson MBA International Case Competition. He hopes the centre’s resources will encourage students to aspire towards becoming owners rather than just employees.

Raye and Bob Briscoe share that hope. As Raye Briscoe says, “Students need to feel that they can do it, and the centre will be there to help them build that confidence.” ■

—Alyssa Tremblay, BA 14, is a writer at Concordia.

**A LEGACY OF SUPPORT**

A portion of Bob and Raye Briscoe’s generous gift will go towards creating two new scholarships: the **Bob and Raye Briscoe Undergraduate Scholarships** and the **Bob and Raye Briscoe MSc Scholarships**.

The Briscoes have been championing JMSB student success for over a decade. Established in 2001, the **Robert J. Briscoe MBA Award** supports MBA students whose undergraduate degrees — like Briscoe’s — were not in commerce.

The **Bob and Raye Briscoe PhD Fellowship in Business Administration** helps alleviate the financial stress of studying at the doctoral level.

“It’s a substantial and very prestigious fellowship,” says Harjeet Bhabra, JMSB’s graduate program director. “Awards like this let students focus on their doctoral studies, which in turn leads to higher quality research.”

Andrea Kim is a PhD candidate and the most recent recipient of the fellowship. She feels deeply grateful for the financial stability and freedom the award provided her: “The fellowship enabled me to do so much more. I was able to apply to conferences, give presentations and submit papers to academic journals without worrying about finding a part-time job. None of it would have been possible without that support.”



**DISTRICT 3 RECEIVES \$1 MILLION STARTUP GIFT, CHRISTENS NEW COLLABORATIVE SPACE**

SYLVAIN-JACQUES DESJARDINS

Budding entrepreneurs with big ideas will get an additional boost towards success, thanks to a generous gift from leading Montreal businesspeople and philanthropists.

At a ribbon cutting on September 28, 2015, for the District 3 Innovation Centre's modern, collaborative new space at Concordia's Faubourg Building, officials announced that André Desmarais and France Chrétien Desmarais gave \$1 million to propel startups.

Long-time supporters of Concordia, André Desmarais and France Chrétien Desmarais are the first major benefactors to support District 3. The André and France Desmarais District 3 Fund will advance entrepreneurial projects with proven market viability — and help further transform entrepreneurial ventures from concept to startup. The investment is timely, since 1,500 aspiring entrepreneurs have sought District 3 expertise and requests for support are growing.

"We firmly believe that accelerating innovation and nurturing talent is fundamental to our society's long-term prosperity," said Concordia graduate André Desmarais, BComm 78, LLD 07, deputy chairman, president and co-chief executive officer of Power Corporation of Canada. "Our

donation to Concordia's District 3 is a concrete way for us to support innovation and further bridge the gap between higher education and private enterprise."

France Chrétien Desmarais, LLD 15, president of the Society for the Celebration of Montreal's 375th Anniversary, said: "In our 21st-century knowledge economy, incubators increase innovation for Montreal, Quebec and Canada. The most effective conduits for these startups are universities."

The André and France Desmarais District 3 Fund will support three major initiatives:

- Seed funding to help District 3 entrepreneurs — makers — focus on prototyping.
- Makerspace expansion through investment in District 3 product development tools such as sensors, laser cutters and 3D printers.
- Ramped-up operations through the hiring of new District 3 staff, such as expert consultants and coaches, to provide diversified and specialized skills to a broader range of startup teams.

"We are grateful for the Desmarais's investment in Concordia's District 3 Innovation Centre," said Concordia President Alan Shepard. "This gift gives our most talented students the tools they need to fuel their creativity and seize



**1** AT THE DISTRICT 3 GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT AND LAUNCH ON SEPTEMBER 28 (FROM LEFT): XAVIER-HENRI HERVÉ, DISTRICT 3 FOUNDING DIRECTOR; DEBORAH DYSART-GALE, CHAIR OF CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING AND SOCIETY; CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD; AND BRAM FREEDMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

**2** THE REVOL CREW, INCLUDING CO-FOUNDERS NAVI COHEN AND DANIEL BLUMER, BCOMM 09 (THIRD AND FOURTH FROM LEFT).

**3** SPOIL'S CO-FOUNDERS ARE (FROM LEFT) JAMES TRAF, CRISTIAN ASENJO, BENG 13, CHARLES-ERIC GASCON, BCOMM 12, AND MIKHAIL LEVKOVSKY, BENG 13.

**4** THE AWARD-WINNING TEAM GLAS (FROM LEFT): CHARLES GEDEON, BCOMM 14, SAMI SAYEGH AND AL-HURR AL-DALLI, A CONCORDIA FILM STUDIES STUDENT.

opportunities to innovate."

The André and France Desmarais District 3 Fund will help young entrepreneurs bring products and services to market faster by attracting investment. Startups generated through District 3 may qualify for the Business Innovation Access Program, a \$20 million funding program that partners businesses with universities and research institutes.

**A GATEWAY FOR NEW COMMERCE**

District 3 is an entrepreneurial community within Concordia in the heart of downtown Montreal launched in 2013. The incubator brings together people who collaborate, create and innovate. District 3 provides

coaching, access to cutting-edge technologies and apprenticeship-style learning.

"District 3 is a growing success story thanks to our generous donors, formidable volunteers, mentors, coaches and entrepreneurial students," said Xavier-Henri Hervé, BEng 87, LLD 11, and District 3 founding director. "Thanks to the opening of our cool, collaborative and modern new space, the future of District 3 startups is even brighter."

**GROWING DEMAND FOR DISTRICT 3**

Since its 2013 inception, requests for District 3 coaching and mentoring have grown annually. District 3 coaches and mentors have

To date, 15 District 3 startups have raised close to \$5 million in funding.

The combined value of District 3 startups is estimated at \$30 million.

District 3 startups have created over 100 jobs.

Sixty-five District 3 teams are currently being coached.



helped more than 1,500 individuals including: 760 students and alumni in 2015; 500 students and alumni in 2014; 230 students and alumni in 2013.

The majority of its startup clients are recent university graduates who possess the necessary time, experience and financial support required to launch a new business. District 3 is allowing Concordia to deepen its community outreach.

Of its clientele:

- 40 per cent are Concordia alumni
- 25.9 per cent are alumni of L'École de technologie supérieure (ETS), the Université de Sherbrooke and the general public
- 19.4 per cent are HEC Montréal alumni
- 11 per cent are McGill University alumni
- 2.5 per cent are Université de Montréal alumni
- 1.2 per cent are Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) alumni

The majority of District 3 volunteers are students, faculty, staff and alumni. District 3 volunteers have included 500 Concordia students, 45 external contributors who represent organizations, 36 external contributors and seven coaches.

To date, District 3 startups have all reinvested profits back into their companies to hire more staff. About 15 startups begun through District 3 have created 100 new jobs. All positions have been paying, full-time jobs additional to positions assumed by startup founders. About 85 per cent of District 3 startup jobs went to recent Concordia graduates and a few final-year students. ■

**D3 SUCCESS STORIES**

District 3 startup team **Revol**, maker of custom-made, wireless earphones that mold to the contours of a person's ears, raised US\$2.5-million on Kickstarter in two months by January 2016.

In November 2014, three Concordia graduates launched the District 3 startup **Spoil Inc.**, an internet gift service. Spoil received backing from California-based venture capital firm Y Combinator, the world's biggest business accelerator.

In February 2015, a District 3 startup team, **Heddoko**, competed as a finalist in the Munich, Germany, WT Wearable Technologies Innovation World Cup. Heddoko impressed competition judges with its high-tech suit that feeds body data to smartphones.

In June 2014, District 3 startup **Team Glas** earned a gold medal at the highly competitive Shell Ideas360 international sustainability challenge in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Team Glas, whose three members have backgrounds in business, science and film studies, beat out 700 others for its theoretical concept, Skywell, a water harvesting device.

—Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins, BA 97, is director of communications for Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations.



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# CONCORDIA'S IDEAS FESTIVAL IS BACK!

Register for Thinking Out Loud:  
[concordia.ca/tol](http://concordia.ca/tol)



THURSDAY, JANUARY 28  
6:30 P.M.

## **SOLD OUT** GAMES, ETHICS AND HOW WE CONNECT

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



**BONUS TRACK!**  
**READER'S DIGEST ANNUAL  
LECTURE SERIES IN JOURNALISM**

## THE POST-ELECTION LANDSCAPE — CAN QUEBEC AND CANADA REALLY GET ALONG?

CBC commentator and award-winning journalist **Chantal Hébert** will discuss the shifting post-election Quebec-Canada landscape - moderated by Le Devoir's **Francine Pelletier**.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 7 P.M.-8:15 P.M.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
6:30 P.M.

## CONNECTING AND WELLNESS — YOUR BRAIN MATTERS

Author and psychologist **Susan Pinker** (*The Village Effect: Why Face-to-Face Contact Matters*) and Concordia Professor of Psychology **William Bukowski** discuss face-to-face contact in a time of virtual connections.



TUESDAY, MARCH 1  
6:30 P.M.

## CONNECTING YOUR TECH FUTURE — A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT'S NEXT

**Nora Young**, broadcaster and author of *The Virtual Self: How Our Digital Lives Are Altering the World Around Us*, joins Professor **Jeremy Clark**, (Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering) to discuss what privacy means when self-tracking and monitoring are routine.



MONDAY, MARCH 14  
6:30 P.M.

**SOLD OUT**

## CONNECT THE DOTS — THE SCIENCE OF CRIME

**Kathy Reichs**, a forensic anthropologist and best-selling novelist, Professor **Cameron Skinner**, (Concordia's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry) and PhD student **Brigitte Desharnais** discuss the real deal on *Bones*-style science and crime solving.

**D.B. Clarke Theatre, Henry F. Hall Building  
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal**

The talks are free of charge and open to the public.  
For more information or to register, visit: [concordia.ca/tol](http://concordia.ca/tol)



Additional bonus tracks added online  
**#TOL2016**

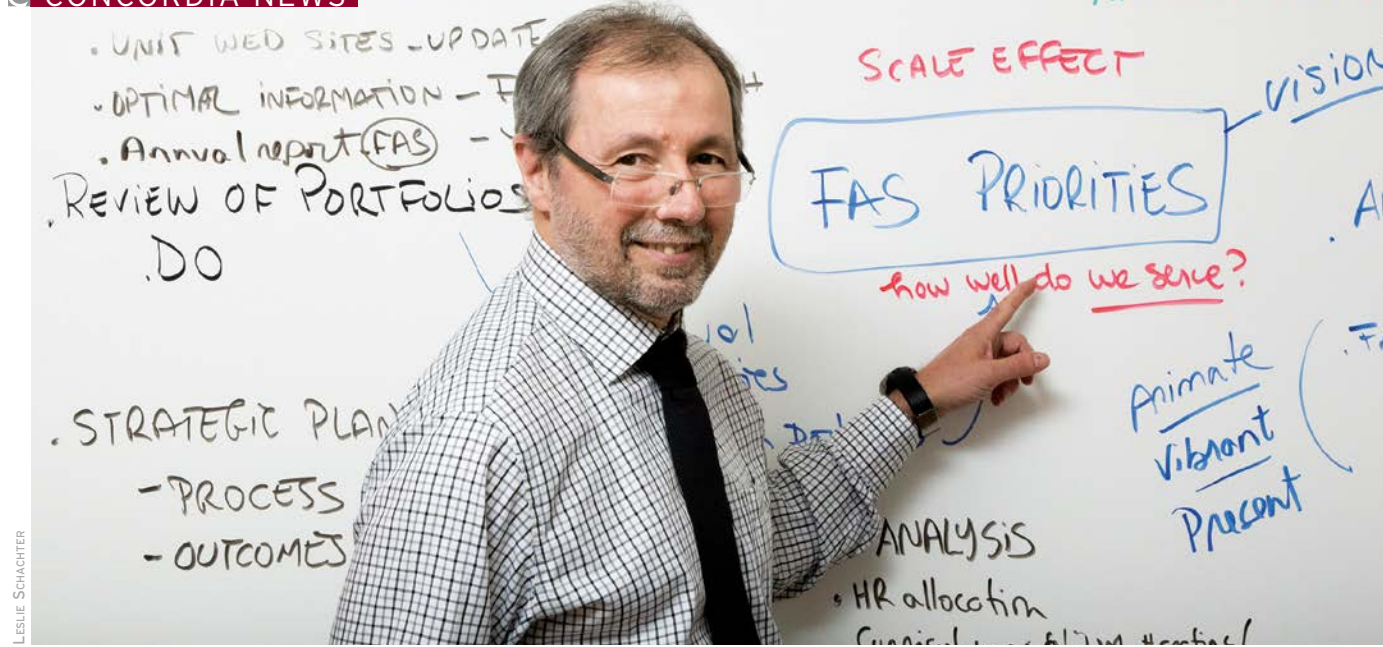
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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SMALL PLANET  BIG THINKING

**BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION**  
CONCORDIA.CA







ANDRÉ ROY, DEAN OF CONCORDIA'S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, SEES THE FACULTY'S INTERDISCIPLINARITY AS AN ASSET BECAUSE OF THE GROWING NEED TO TACKLE SOCIETAL ISSUES FROM MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES.

**MEET ANDRÉ ROY, DEAN OF CONCORDIA'S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

LESLIE SCHACHTER

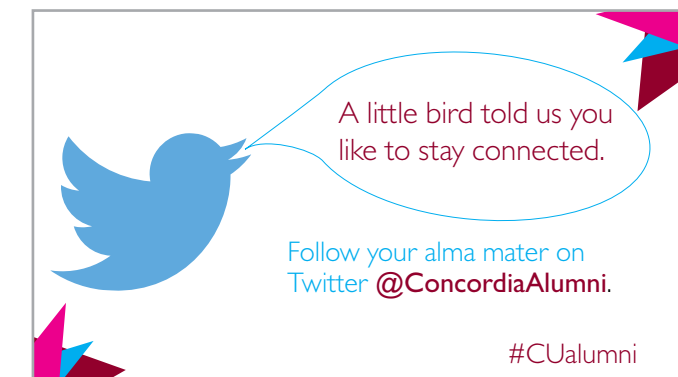
André Roy began his five-year term as dean of Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science in 2014. He recently sat down to share his thoughts on the faculty and its students, Concordia, and the challenges and opportunities presented by a changing higher education landscape.

**Can you share a bit about your own background?**

**André Roy:** "I'm a geographer by training. I completed my undergraduate and master's degrees at Université de Montréal and then I did a PhD at SUNY [State University of New York] in Buffalo. I then was a geography professor at Université de Montréal for 30 years before becoming dean of the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo for three years."

**What are your thoughts on having a faculty that combines arts and science?**

**AR:** "The Faculty of Arts and Science was created as a way of thinking about interdisciplinarity. Have we achieved this



interdisciplinarity? In some ways yes, yet in some ways we still have a long way to go.

I believe that it really is the time of arts and science. As we deal with complex problems, such as when dealing with policy about environmental issues, we need to work out the science to support it. Arts and science gives us flexibility and lateral thinking, fewer barriers across faculties and more opportunities to exchange ideas for our students and researchers."

**What drew you to Concordia from Waterloo?**

**AR:** "The University of Waterloo has a slightly different structure than other universities. In the late '60s they created the Faculty of Environment, and that was a big draw for me because of its interdisciplinarity. It was a microcosm of arts and science but with a cause — social justice. But then this opportunity came up that could realign my professional side with my personal side [his partner had moved back to Montreal] in a way that could be very exciting because of Concordia's great momentum. And so here I am."

**What are your impressions of Concordia?**

**AR:** "Concordia is in a position of change. The Concordia I am seeing has more confidence and more drive and momentum. I always thought that Concordia was a good partner but now I think that Concordia is a great leader too. My impression is that we're going places here."

Tradition is great but sometimes it doesn't allow you to move quickly. It's a really, really rapidly changing environment. The landscape in higher education is shifting and I think Concordia is positioning itself to be at the cutting edge of that change. My overall sense of mission is really that if I can facilitate where we're going and help Concordia reach higher goals than that's what I'd like to do."

**Can you describe some of these changes?**

**AR:** "Funding, as you know, is difficult. It's a constraint. Students are changing too. I've been an academic for 35 years and I can say that students — from when I first entered the classroom in 1981 to now — have changed. Their expectations are not the same as they once were. Their way of communicating is not the same. Their way of imagining the future is not the same. It's not about wanting to adapt to it — we need to adapt to it. We have to think ahead and figure out who will be coming to Concordia, how we will fulfill their needs and what we can do to get ahead of that changing curve."

The whole landscape of where the students are coming from is changing too. I believe Concordia is carving a great niche for itself by having a good reflection of what is happening in the Montreal region. I think we're a great example of this diversity and how it is enriching our higher-education environment.

Another change is technology. How do we embrace technology in terms of our thinking, our teaching? We have to have a broader horizon. The mindset of how to apply knowledge has changed. When I was in school, we didn't think much about experiential learning. Now experiential learning is at the core — co-ops, labs, research teams, volunteering. It's all part of the educational mindset."

**What is your vision for the Faculty of Arts and Science?**

**AR:** "I'd like the Faculty of Arts and Science to be the place where we create and enjoy all the possibilities that knowledge can offer. That is, for a student or researcher, in any discipline, to be able to find their own way here, their potential."

I'm very big on interdisciplinarity. I believe that most of the major issues in society have to be dealt with from multiple angles. It's about how we create those multidisciplinary teams, how we work together, how we share languages, how we understand each other. And exposing our students to this kind of thinking, these ways of doing things, is a tremendous

advantage to them because regardless of their discipline they will be able to overlap and connect with others in a very meaningful way. I talk a lot about permeability, that we don't have rigid barriers. We must allow a flow-through, laterally, not just up and down."

**What are your impressions of Concordia's faculty and students?**

**AR:** "I think we have a great faculty. We've been hiring and we continue to hire great people. I've met lots of them and I'm amazed at the quality of people Concordia is attracting."

Our students are great and diverse and I'd like to have a better personal connection with them.

What I like about our students is that they're very engaged not just in their academic pursuits but with many different things. Concordia is known to be close to society and communities and I think our students embody that. Concordia is a vibrant place, it's a place where things happen."

**What's the best part of your job?**

**AR:** "I try to empower people as much as I can. As a dean, I'm a facilitator. I don't just make decisions and implement them."

The real crux of the matter is about students learning, researchers creating, the intellectual endeavour, about what's going on in our minds. I try to find time during the week to attend events where people make you think differently. That's a lot of fun. Just sitting in a room having this feeling, that this is what university is all about. It's about sharing ideas and offering different views. And as a dean, to be able to see all of this happening is a great reward." ■

—Leslie Schachter, BA 03, GrDip 13, is a Montreal freelance writer and photographer.





IMAGE COURTESY OF ACADEMICS WITHOUT BORDERS

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN AN ACADEMICS WITHOUT BORDERS SURVEYING PROJECT AT THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF BHUTAN.

**ACADEMICS WITHOUT BORDERS COMES TO CONCORDIA**

Concordia will provide a base for the global operations of Academics Without Borders (AWB) on its downtown Sir George Williams Campus. The university will also supply additional support for the organization's mission to boost higher education in developing countries. From its new office, AWB will examine ways of deepening the participation of Concordia researchers, faculty, students, administration and staff in projects the world over.

Academics Without Borders is the largest of

three non-governmental organizations working with postsecondary institutions throughout the developing world to support locally conceived projects centred on higher education. "We're enormously grateful to Concordia for providing us with a home base and support," says Steven Davis, founder and executive director of AWB. "I'm confident it will enable us to do even more to enrich communities in developing countries by enhancing the educational experience they provide for their brightest students." ■

—Fiona Downey

**CANADA'S POLITICAL VOICES COME TO CONCORDIA**

It started as one quantitative methods workshop at Concordia in the spring of 2008. Now, the Workshops on Social Science Research (WSSR) have grown to more than 35 all-day sessions spread over the winter and spring academic terms. This is the first year for the winter seminars, which run until April 8.

Another first is the WSSR's collaboration with the European Consortium for Political Research. "They offer top-level methodology training in Europe, but this is the first time they've come to Canada," says political science PhD candidate Kerry Tannahill, who coordinates the WSSR with Mebs Kanji, an associate professor in Concordia's Department of Political Science. ■

Registration is open to all. Visit [concordia.ca/wssr](http://concordia.ca/wssr) for information and fees.

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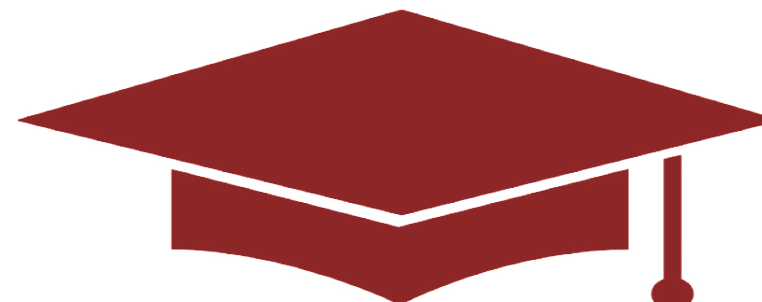


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CONCORDIA RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

Here's a snapshot of the university's research profile today.



**7,835**

graduate students

**20** senate-recognized research units:

- CENTRE FOR BIOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS OF MASS SPECTROMETRY
- CENTRE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH IN HEALTH
- CENTRE FOR MICROSCOPY AND CELLULAR IMAGING
- CENTRE FOR NANOSCIENCE RESEARCH
- CENTRE FOR ORAL HISTORY AND DIGITAL STORYTELLING
- CENTRE FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE
- CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
- CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN MOLECULAR MODELING
- CENTRE FOR STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS
- CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN BEHAVIOURAL NEUROBIOLOGY
- CENTRE FOR THE ARTS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
- CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE
- CENTRE FOR ZERO ENERGY BUILDING STUDIES
- CONCORDIA CENTRE FOR BROADCASTING AND JOURNALISM STUDIES
- CONCORDIA CENTRE FOR COMPOSITES
- CONCORDIA CENTRE FOR TECHCULTURE, ART AND GAMES
- CONCORDIA INSTITUTE FOR WATER, ENERGY, AND SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS
- HEXAGRAM-CONCORDIA
- KARL POLANYI INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY
- MONTREAL INSTITUTE FOR GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

**\$44,358,000**

sponsored research income (2014)

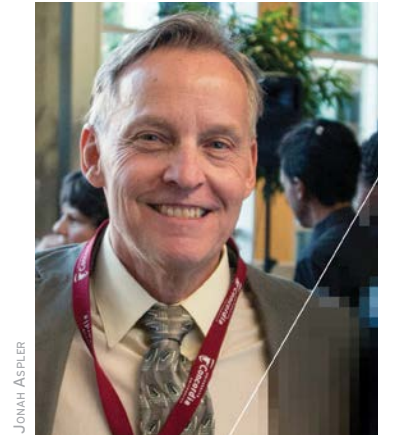


research chairs



# LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

In its 40th-anniversary year, Concordia's Department of Journalism is preparing its students for an industry still adapting to the digital shift from legacy to new media



BRIAN GABRIEL, CHAIR OF CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM, BELIEVES THE UNCERTAINTY IN THE FIELD IS NOT RELATED TO THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTS IN REPORTING NEWS. "IT'S REALLY ABOUT THE SORTING OUT OF HOW THE NEWS IS GOING TO BE DELIVERED, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE."

## RICHARD BURNETT

In 1972, *Washington Post* reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein broke the story of the Watergate scandal. Their ongoing coverage eventually led to the resignation of United States President Richard Nixon two years later.

Woodward and Bernstein's newsgathering, along with their 1974 bestselling book *All the President's Men* and its adaptation into a blockbuster Hollywood movie in 1976, was not just a milestone of American journalism — it also inspired a generation of young people to enrol in J-schools across the continent.

That included Concordia's Department of Journalism, founded in 1975. Its mission statement says: "The department is committed to serving the profession by training future skilled, thinking journalists. We see journalism as a public service essential to a democratic society."

Yet as the department celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2015-16, the profession is in the midst of major disruptions — such as Postmedia's cutting of 90 jobs and merging newsrooms of eight dailies across Canada in January — including increased concentration and corporatization and the shift from old to new media — from notepad to iPad.

How has Concordia's Department of Journalism adapted to the changes? What lays in store for today's journalism students? "The current upheaval has been going on for a good 10 years," says Brian Gabriel, chair of the university's Department of Journalism. "It's an

ongoing move to a digital world, where we are shifting from the more traditional platforms to solely digital, such as *La Presse's* move away from publishing a daily paper to just having its app and website in 2016."

Historically there have been other periods of great change in journalism: Gabriel cites the advent of television and its effect on radio in the 1950s. "Journalism is not going to die," he says. "People want to know what's going on, and the people bringing them the news are journalists. I do think today on some level there is a realization that we can't keep cutting editorial staff without really doing some damage to what a democratic society is supposed to be in terms of keeping the public informed."

## FEWER BARRIERS

Craig Silverman, BA (journ.) '99, award-winning author and founding editor of BuzzFeed Canada, says a fundamental difference from previous transition periods to now has been the means of distribution in media. "In the past you needed a printing press, and TV or radio required investment in machines," says Silverman. "Now people can publish from a cell phone. This transition that social media has accelerated gets us to the point where having big printing presses does not give you an advantage. Also, the costs of getting in — the barriers — are almost zero."





CRAIG SILVERMAN IS FOUNDING EDITOR OF BUZZFEED CANADA. "THE FUNDAMENTAL RHYTHMS OF CONSUMPTION OF NEWS HAVE CHANGED FOR MOST PEOPLE."

Access to news has also altered. "People now get a lot of information from things being shared on social media, whereas in the past they might have sat around and watched the evening newscasts and tuned in to the radio occasionally throughout the day," Silverman says. "Today there is this constant stream of information. The democratization of distribution and of consumption are fundamental changes that have caused the breakdown of what was a very good business model for newspapers and, to a certain extent, for TV and radio as well."

**"It is part of the cycle: your parents hate your music and your media, and then you become the parent."**

There are also the labour costs of newsgathering in an era of "free" news on the internet. "The millennial generation are used to it all being free," says Gabriel. "This is a major mistake I think many news organizations made: first they had paywalls, then they didn't have paywalls. They couldn't quite get their act together and now the horses have left the gate."

Recent years have also seen mergers and takeovers by mainstream

media, such as Rogers, Bell and Shaw in Canada, which have also added to cutbacks and job losses. "If these companies can't figure out a way to transition to digital and to a better business model, the amount of accountability journalism at the local level will continue to steadily erode and may even disappear for a while until there's a better replacement," says Silverman. "Until they figure it out we will keep seeing a huge amount of cuts. The current model is broken and the result is a serious decline in accountability journalism in daily and community newspapers."

Silverman disputes claims the

millennial generation has abandoned traditional media. "Has traditional media been serving them or have they been abandoned by traditional media? It goes both ways," he says. "There are plenty of millennials who are familiar with *The Globe and Mail* and *The New York Times* and see them as having some currency and credibility. But when they engage with them, are they getting what they are looking for and presented in a way that they want?"

He sees this as part of media's cyclical nature. "There are things you can point to in the history of media — young people being one of them — that never change. Regardless of your age, we all seek out media that give us information that is aligned with the way we see the world," Silverman says. "When *Rolling Stone* magazine launched [in 1967], I'm sure that people in their 50s and 60s thought it was the biggest piece of junk they'd ever seen in their lives. But it became a very serious place for journalism. Today some young people think *Rolling Stone* is an old and very tired brand."

Silverman points to the demise of the alternative weekly newspapers. "This same

*La Presse* was very savvy in conditioning their readers to the future, and they were watched by lots of other organizations," says Gabriel.

In December, Rogers Media's Sportsnet showed its faith in Concordia's Department of Journalism by making a \$650,000 donation — the biggest in the history of the program — to help advance sports journalism at the university. (See the news story on page 8.)

Nonetheless, Concordia's Department of Journalism has had to readjust for the changing landscape. "We just underwent a complete undergraduate revision, streamlining the

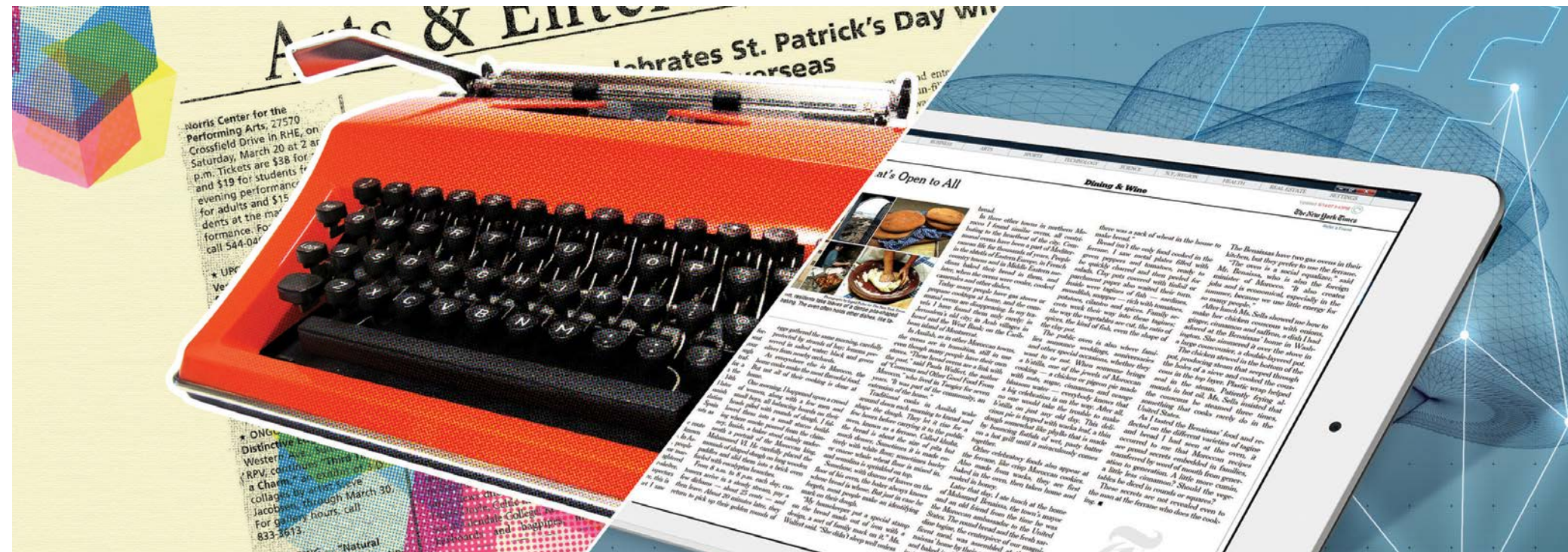
done that, and we also require them to have some other academic interest. They cannot graduate with just a journalism degree. They must have another major or a minor in some other area."

This philosophy is echoed by *The New York Times* Syndicate managing editor Patti Sonntag, BA (Eng.) 00. As Concordia's first journalist-in-residence, this spring she is leading an independent study focusing on building investigative and data journalism skills.

"I think journalism schools are important because journalism skills are becoming more specialized," Sonntag says. "I was able to get by with a BA in English [and a 2003 journalism degree



PATTI SONNTAG, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE, BECAME CONCORDIA'S FIRST JOURNALIST-IN-RESIDENCE IN JANUARY.



thing plays out generation after generation," he says. "It is part of the cycle: your parents hate your music and your media, and then you become the parent."

#### WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS

There are some encouraging signs. Established media outlets are looking for new ways to stay relevant, such as the *La Presse* tablet app *La Presse+*. The daily newspaper pulled the plug on its weekday print edition beginning January 1, 2016, and will eventually discontinue its Saturday print edition. The tablet is now its main platform.

program," Gabriel says. "The old way was to direct people to different areas of interest: broadcast, print, whatever. Now we're doing away with that to make sure all of our graduating students have all those technical skills along with the journalism skills," he says.

"This has always been a quandary for journalism programs because we're not training tech heads. Our job is to train critical-thinking journalists to tell good stories about their world," Gabriel explains. "We nevertheless make sure those people have the skills. So we've

from Columbia University], although I've been doing constant on-the-job training since I got out of school. Now you need to learn more than how to research and write a good sentence."

*The Wall Street Journal* news app developer Julia Wolfe, BFA (computation arts) 13, agrees. "There are great people teaching at the Concordia journalism school but students also have an opportunity to learn something else in their undergrad, and that will be extremely useful in a newsroom," she says.





JULIA WOLFE, SEEN PLAYING WITH AN OCULUS RIFT, IS THE WALL STREET JOURNAL NEWS APP DEVELOPER. "A HEALTHY NEWS AND JOURNALISM CULTURE MAKE OUR SOCIETY STRONGER."

## NEW REALITIES

Onetime editor-in-chief of Concordia student newspaper *The Link*, Wolfe went on to become a digital designer with the *Toronto Star* and then interactive editor with *The Globe and Mail* before being hired by *The Wall Street Journal* in 2015. She remains mainly upbeat about job prospects for journalism students. "It depends on who I am talking to," Wolfe says. "If they want to learn how to code, their prospects are very good. It's much harder otherwise: I look at what my friends are going through in the more traditional route and it takes much longer and more work. Right now at the *Journal* they have three more jobs as news app developers they are still trying to fill and I don't have anybody to recommend. Anybody I know who does this job and is good at it is happy. If people want to do that kind of work, there is lots of work."

"I think millennials and those just getting into the job market now are going to have to think about why they are still interested in journalism, and be sure to pursue that wherever it leads," Sonntag says. "The jobs that they find and appeal to them most may not be at what we consider to be news organizations."

**"In the long term, I think journalism could be remarkably different. With artificial intelligence and other algorithms, I think we are going to get better and more curated results."**

Silverman — named one of the "most influential new-media figures of 2015" by *Toronto Life* magazine — doesn't sugar-coat the facts either. "I think the majority of students in journalism schools will not end up in journalism," Silverman says. "There are good skills you learn at journalism school — critical thinking, how to write well, how to do good research — and these are all

very valuable. It's tough because the employers with the biggest newsrooms are cutting. At BuzzFeed Canada we have a very small newsroom. But if you are dead set on becoming a journalist, you really need to work your butt off and distinguish yourself."

## STRONG PROSPECTS

"There are more people and organizations doing journalism now in Canada than there were 15 years ago, but a lot of organizations are small and new and digital and they haven't really built themselves up yet," Silverman says. "While I am concerned by the debt load carried by the legacy media, I am optimistic about the big transition going on."

Silverman does anticipate some major disruptions in the approaching period. "In the next five to 10 years we may see the death and decay of some really strong traditional institutions," he says. "It's still unclear who is going to win and who is going to lose. We've been undergoing this transition for about a decade, and I think we still have another decade of a lot of change to go."

Is Sonntag worried about the downfall of journalism? "In the short term — let's say the next 10 years — no. In the long term, say 30 to 40 years, I think journalism could be remarkably different. With artificial intelligence and other algorithms, I think we are going to get better and more curated results, and I think that is going to change the field of journalism in interesting ways. I'm not saying that's a good or a bad thing, other than we will have to adapt."

Gabrial, who was a TV newscast and field producer for the ABC and NBC affiliates in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., before earning a PhD and coming to Concordia in 2004, sees some good signs. "Journalism students today have an idea of whom they want to be. They are already establishing their identity as journalists through their own websites before even graduating from the



program," he says. "They are more intrepid about their futures in journalism. This is also a generation that has always had the internet, consumed the internet, so they have witnessed all these cuts and layoffs in the industry and they're still going into journalism."

He is also upbeat about the job prospects for his journalism students: "In 2015 I had more people approach me about job openings and I can say that a year ago that would not have been true. Whether that means there is some shift going on, I can't say with any certainty. It just seems better to me."

He points to the ongoing advantages of journalism education. "When they go out in the world, they may not become journalists but they have another skill set that is extremely valuable. They are very adept," he says.

That's something that hasn't changed over the years. "When we were planning our celebration for our 40th anniversary at Homecoming 2015, we went down the list of our graduates. I didn't realize how accomplished they are." The long list includes CTV Montreal News reporter Caroline Van Vlaardingen, BA 84, Mark Kelley, BA 85, co-host of CBC's *the fifth estate*, Jamie Orchard, BA 91, senior anchor and news editor of Global News, Jonah Keri, BA 97, *New York Times* best-selling author and sports journalist, and Jennifer McGuire, GrDip 88, general manager and editor-in-chief of CBC News.

"We are small compared to other programs but we punch above our weight," Gabriel says. "This little journalism program here in Quebec has produced some really outstanding people over the years, and we will continue to do so." ■

—Richard Burnett, BA (journ.) 88, is a Montreal freelance writer, editor and columnist.



# A LIFETIME IN ACADEMIA

Six alumni look back on how Concordia helped launch their scholarly careers

**ISAAC OLSON** For many Concordia alumni, their university years ignited passions that sent them on their life paths. For a select few, that passion would inspire a lifetime in academia, researching, writing about and teaching the wonders of law, religion, signal processing, building engineering, social entrepreneurship, art history and more.

Many of Concordia's own faculty members are alumni of the university. Other universities also recognize the value of a Concordia degree and a number of graduates find academic homes elsewhere. We profile six alumni working in academia, who all attribute a good portion of their achievements and scholarly devotion to their time at Concordia.



## PETER SANKOFF

FOCUSING ON THE CRIMINAL TRIAL PROCESS

### MAN OF LAW

The academic, law school life of Peter Sankoff, BA 92, has taken him around the world and earned him a number of awards. Yet the professor in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law says studying broadcast journalism at Concordia more than 20 years ago played a key role in his career. "Mostly, I learned how to write," says Sankoff. "It taught me a great deal about how to communicate with people. Even now I talk about my Concordia experience all the time."

When Sankoff was earning his BA, broadcast journalism was a joint degree between the Department of Communication Studies and Department of Journalism. Because of that, he says, "I learned a great deal about communication theory."

Years later, Sankoff uses both the theory of communication and practical application skills to transmit information about difficult concepts to law students and the public. He relies on his Concordia training to create videos that explain complex concepts in "unique and innovative ways" that people are able to more easily understand and remember, he says.

After graduating from Concordia in 1992, Sankoff stayed at his alma mater as a teaching assistant for a year before heading into law school. He earned his JD (Juris Doctor) at the University

of Toronto and then worked as a law clerk for the Supreme Court of Canada for a year and as counsel in the federal Department of Justice for another two years. From there, he headed to the other side of the world to become a lecturer at New Zealand's University of Auckland. He eventually came back to Canada to earn his LLM (Master of Laws) at York University.

Sankoff became a full professor at the University of Alberta in 2012. Over the years he has been a visiting professor to several schools, including the University of Haifa in Israel in 2008, the University of Melbourne in 2009 and Niigata University in Japan in 2012.

Throughout his career, Sankoff has also garnered a series of awards, grants and recognition. Most recently, he earned the Information Technology Innovation Award from the University of Alberta in 2014. He has also written, edited or co-edited eight books and a gamut of articles.

"I work in a few areas of speciality, mostly on criminal justice issues. I have a side interest in the relationship between animals and the law, where I look at the way the law governs the relationship between humans and non-humans," says Sankoff. "I am interested in the way animals are treated by humans and in exposing where the law supposedly protects animals, but really allows us to treat them as we want."



## CHARMAINE NELSON

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE REPRESENTATION OF SLAVERY IN WESTERN ART

### ART AND MEMORY

Charmaine Nelson, BFA 94, MFA 95, says her passion for art history grew from her Concordia undergrad experience. She still thrives in the field as she studies, teaches and writes about the impact trans-Atlantic slavery has had on people of the African diaspora and the art and visual culture of the West.

After Nelson earned her BA and MA degrees in art history at Concordia, she took some time off school to work in Ottawa's Canadian War Museum. She started her PhD at Queen's University and completed it at the University of Manchester in England in 2001.

She soon teaching began at the University of Western Ontario, becoming the first black person to be hired into a tenure-track, art history position in a Canadian university. Nelson moved to McGill University in 2003 and is now an associate professor in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies.

Nelson retains fond memories of Concordia. Although she started her undergrad program majoring in English, by the time she took her first art history elective she was hooked. Despite her initial low mark, the department chair, Donald Andrus, encouraged her to pursue her budding passion and change her major. She says Andrus became one of her greatest friends and supporters, acting as her mentor throughout her graduate studies.

Two decades later, Nelson has become an often-published academic and has just finished her sixth book, *Slavery, Geography, and Empire in Nineteenth-Century Marine Landscapes of Montreal and Jamaica* (Ashgate Press).

Nelson's teaching focuses on Canadian art history, although her research is much broader. Along with studying art that depicts black people during the days of trans-Atlantic slavery, she also studies what little art the enslaved people left behind. The enslaved, she says, were regularly exploited as artisans for the benefit of their white owners and some managed to acquire the skills to produce "high" art. Yet no matter how fine their craftsmanship, they often went without credit or compensation, and much of their production, which retained their African cultural heritage, was considered by whites to be of little value. The enslaved also made, for example, elaborate clothing and head wraps from natural materials and dyes, reminiscent of their days before captivity.

"The trick for me now as a researcher looking back is I know the enslaved people were constantly producing culture but, for the most part, the actual artifacts themselves don't exist anymore," she says. "What we have to go back to are descriptions of the objects as described by the racially biased, white slave owners. The archive is poisoned. You always have to weed out that white bias against that population, and that makes it really tricky work."





# ANITA NOWAK

EMPATHY PLUS  
ACTION LEADS  
TO SUSTAINABLE  
SOCIAL CHANGE

### THE POWER OF EMPATHY

When Anita Nowak, GrDip 99, studied in the graduate diploma program of Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, she says "a whole new world of cultural studies opened up to me."

That experience ushered in an era of activism for her as she first became interested in women's issues, in particular their representation in the media. And following a rather circuitous academic path, she eventually discovered her passion for social entrepreneurship — one grounded in empathy.

Now with a long list of awards and international speaking engagements under her belt, Nowak still looks back to Concordia as having pointed her in the right direction. "My graduate diploma is what led me to pursue a master's in media and communication studies at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University."

She returned to Montreal to earn her PhD in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University, graduating in 2011. While there, Nowak took on a full spectrum of professional and volunteer roles before even graduating.

Upon graduation, she helped launch the Social Economy Initiative (SEI) at McGill's Desautels Faculty of Management, serving as its integrating director for two years. The SEI was launched to integrate social entrepreneurship and social innovation into the faculty's teaching, research and outreach.

She was then invited to become director of operations for the Social Learning for Social Impact Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that was produced by McGill's Teaching and Learning Services and launched last fall by the non-profit open-source provider edX. Co-designed by Henry Mintzberg, BA 62, LLD 01, Leslie Breitner, Carlos Rueda and Nowak, she describes the course as "the ultimate opportunity for like-spirited people who want to work

share a common humanity." She adamantly adds: "But empathy alone is not enough. Empathy plus action, or what I call empathic action, is what leads to positive, sustainable social change."

Nowak also teaches social entrepreneurship at McGill and earned

"I don't think good social entrepreneurship happens unless it's actually grounded in empathy."

together to change the world." She adds, "When a group of strangers meet online and successfully launch a crowdfunding campaign to create a mobile school for a Syrian refugee camp, you have to just step back and say 'wow' to the power of online collaboration."

Nowak also advised the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation on its youth-focused, social entrepreneurship initiative called RECODE, as well as the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation on its inaugural Public Leadership Program. She is currently writing a book called *The Empaths Strike Back*. "I don't think good social entrepreneurship happens unless it's actually grounded in empathy. And empathy — unlike pity, sympathy or compassion — allows us to really feel and see that we

the 2014 Professor of the Year Award from the Desautels Management Undergraduate Society.

She thoroughly enjoys watching her students take concepts from the classroom and translate them into concrete social impact projects, such as the Centre Magnétique, a co-working space launched in Lac-Mégantic to support its nascent SME community. "I have dozens of examples of former students creating change in the world," she says. "That's the beauty of the work I'm doing."

### SIGNAL PROCESSOR

Montreal winters were a bit shocking for Brazilian Paulo S.R. Diniz, PhD 84, when he arrived at Concordia in 1981 to pursue his PhD in electrical engineering. More than three decades later and back in his warmer homeland, Diniz is now a long-serving professor and researcher at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

"I wanted to study in an English-speaking country and Concordia had several high-profile researchers in the area of signal processing," Diniz says about his decision to attend Concordia. Signal processing is a broad term that describes the many different physical, symbolic and abstract forms of information transfer. "I liked Montreal very much. Although the winters are harsh for Brazilians, I found the summers were very lively and colourful."

In the early 1980s, Diniz studied under Professor Andreas Antoniou and developed a friendship with Professor M.N.S. Swamy. "I saw something interesting at Concordia. It was a university that was going in a good direction in a sustainable way while, comparatively, graduating people at a lower cost to the student than other North American universities."

Concordia, he says, attracted "very bright" researchers and professors who were leaders in the field. That, in turn, attracted him to the institution. After graduating, he soon became a full professor at the UFRJ and for the last 20 years he has been a top-ranked researcher in his country. Diniz has zeroed his studies in on signal processing and has worked as a consultant in the fields of oil, gas and cellular communication.

At UFRJ's Program of Electrical Engineering and Department of

"When I first started studying, the technology was not there and everything was much more expensive to implement," says Diniz. Back then, he adds, researchers knew the field would go far, but they didn't know it would go as far as it has. He feels that continued evolution in technology has been both exciting and engaging throughout his career.

"Nowadays we see signal processing everywhere, from my sound system to my mobile phone to my internet connection," Diniz says. "When you receive

"I saw something interesting at Concordia. It was a university that was going in a good direction in a sustainable way."

Electronics and Computer Engineering, Polytechnic School, Diniz has published more than 300 journal and conference articles, and his three books have become standard reading in many electrical engineering departments around the world. He has also been a visiting professor at the University of Victoria, the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and the Helsinki University of Technology in Finland.

an image or a music file through your computer, everything is coded and compressed by signal processing. Signal processing is ubiquitous in our lives today. You can do whatever you want with this technology, from restoring paintings to diagnosing rare diseases."

# PAULO S.R. DINIZ

SIGNAL PROCESSING'S  
USE IS PERVASIVE TODAY





# CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN



NICK PEARCE

## RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR

Christopher Austin, BA 96, MA 02, locked his sights on religious studies and philosophy early on in his academic career. He began his studies with the mindset that he was going to research all orthodoxies and denominations from east to west. That changed during his time in the master's program, when studying Sanskrit abroad in the summer of 1997 ignited Austin's passion for Hinduism.

Encouraged by his Concordia professors to learn Sanskrit, the guidance helped set him on a path to what is now a permanent position as an associate professor in religious studies at Dalhousie University. However, Austin notes, it wasn't just learning Sanskrit that en-

"Tina Montandon basically said, 'No, you're going to finish your MA.' She prevented me from doing this disastrous thing."

sured his future in academia. "While getting the MA, I went through a phase where I was spinning plates at minimum wage full time to pay rent. It was pretty precarious for my degree." However, Austin credits the graduate program assistant at the time, Tina Montandon, BA 81, and graduate program director Leslie Orr with helping him finish the degree and move on to the next stage. "She basically said, 'No, you're going to finish your MA.' She prevented me from doing this disastrous thing."

Austin went on to earn his PhD at McMaster University in 2008. His

## LEARNING SANSKRIT LED TO EASTERN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

doctoral dissertation explored the two concluding books of the *Mahabharata*, a Sanskrit epic poem from roughly 300 CE. His doctoral research took him to the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune, India, where he read the *Mahabharata* and its commentarial literature from the institute's centuries-old manuscripts.

His research now revolves around the Hindu god Vishnu and his earthly manifestation as Vasudeva Krishna. Austin teaches Hinduism, Buddhism in India, Tibet, China and Japan, Daoism, Confucianism and Shinto. He has written several scholarly articles and has a book manuscript in the making called *Pradyumna: Magician, Lover and Scion of the Avatara*.

Austin acknowledges that he had some luck landing a tenure-track position at Dalhousie in 2009 within two years of completing his PhD. In fact, he says his friends and family questioned the potential employability in his topic of study. "Now that I'm doing it, there's no question that it's the right thing," he says of his religious studies track. "When you do something you really love, you've got the energy for it. You don't burn out. This was definitely the right choice."

## BRIDGING ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING SCIENCE

As she worked through her PhD studies at Concordia's Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Miljana Horvat, PhD 05, was preparing for a job in the private sector where she could combine her education as both an architect and building engineer. Instead, soon

performance and how to effectively assess it.

At Concordia, Horvat studied under the late Professor Paul Fazio who, at age 75, died in September 2014 after a career at the university dating back to 1967. Fazio founded the university's Centre for Building Studies in 1977. "It was exciting and very inspiring working with Dr. Fazio," says Horvat. "It was

"It was really a great experience because I was working with other PhD students and professors with various expertise. It was quite mind opening."

after graduation she was drawn to Toronto's Ryerson University. She now focuses much of her research on high-performance building envelopes and integrating solar-generating systems into architecture and urban design in ways that are both eye-catching and energy-efficient.

Horvat arrived at Concordia for her PhD after completing her undergraduate studies in architecture at the University of Belgrade and master's degree in architecture from McGill University. She shifted toward the engineering approach by focusing her doctoral studies on building-envelope

really a great experience not just because of the project I was working on but working with other PhD students and professors with various expertise. It was quite mind-opening."

Her PhD dissertation won the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Studies Achievement Award in 2005, in recognition of its contribution to housing research in Canada.

Ryerson caught Horvat's eye because, she explains, it's the only university in North America that has building science and architecture under one roof. "It felt like the position was written for me," she says.

Horvat's research focuses on architecture's role in solar-building design. She also studies the way heat, air and moisture transfer through a building's envelope. "Energy efficient and high-performance buildings can also be beautiful and architecturally expressive," says Horvat. "That's where my teaching and research interest and passion lie because I am trying to bridge two disciplines — trying to make them work together.

"For a long time, solar energy in general and actual energy-generating components and systems were dealt with exclusively by mechanical and electrical engineers at the fundamental, operational level," she says. "Yet if we really want to take advantage of sustainable buildings' performance, bring energy generation to urban areas where energy is most needed, and improve cities' resiliency necessitated by climatic changes, we have to start thinking differently."

To effectively do that, Horvat adds, integration of solar components must start from an early design phase of a building, when architects have the greatest input into the overall design. "We must incorporate energy-generating systems into the fabric of our buildings' environment," she says. ■

—Isaac Olson is a Montreal freelance writer.

# MILJANA HORVAT

## SEEKING BEAUTIFUL AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS







# A LIBRARY ON THE MOVE

## Concordia's R. Howard Webster Library is being transformed to respond to new student needs

JOANNE LATIMER

There is more natural light, more study space, less noise — and that's just for starters.

Welcome to the transformation of the R. Howard Webster Library on Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus. The project is nothing less than a radical rethinking of every aspect of how the library functions, from the allocation of space to the types of holdings in the collection. "Anyone who hasn't been to the Webster Library in a few years will be in for a surprise," says Guylaine Beaudry, university librarian.

Work began in January 2015 and the three-year project is well underway (see the sidebar, "The transformation" on page 35). "It's essential to our growth as a university that we provide inspiring, nurturing environments for our students," says Beaudry, who has been a driving force behind the project since arriving at Concordia in 2014. "Students asked for more seating, more technology, more comfortable chairs, and that's what they're getting. We even involved students in the furniture selection process."

CONCORDIA'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN GUYLAINE BEAUDRY POINTS OUT THAT THE NEED FOR LIBRARIES HAS NOT DIMINISHED IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CONCORDIA'S THREE LIBRARIES HAD 2.2 MILLION VISITS IN 2014. THE WEBSTER LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION ADDRESSES THAT REALITY.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Concordia President Alan Shepard identifies the library transformation as an important priority. "This project will help deliver a next-generation education, which is in line with our new strategic direction of teaching for tomorrow," says Shepard. "It will reinforce the libraries' ability to support learning and research activities, provide a foundation for intellectual life within Concordia and foster a culture of research, innovation and collaborative learning."

### MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER

With the Webster Library undergoing such a major upgrade, it raises the awkward question: why bother? Won't libraries be obsolete in the near future? Beaudry has heard the concern before. She isn't defensive, however, because the facts support her claim that libraries are thriving. "We're in a golden age for libraries, in Quebec in particular," she says. "And our libraries at Concordia are full!"

Indeed, the Webster Library alone gets between 10,000 and 12,000 visits per day. Last year, Concordia's libraries, including the Grey Nuns Reading Room downtown and the Georges P. Vanier Library on the Loyola Campus, had 2.2 million visits in total. "It's a myth that nobody reads anymore and everything is digital. We know that only three per cent of what we published on paper in Canada has been digitized," says Beaudry, who would like Canada to adopt a national digitization program. "There is still a lot of content only available in print. We have it, of course, but we're a very modern institution so we devote more than 85 per cent of our collections budget to online publications and databases."



## NEW STUDENT NEEDS

There are many reasons why students continue to come to the library so regularly. Arnaldo Brunetti, a staffer of 30 years, points to the changing nature of assignments and homework. "There has been a fundamental shift toward group work," notes Brunetti, the libraries' circulation, controls and reserve supervisor. "Before, students basically wanted study carrels. Now, demand is high for group meeting rooms — with white boards and technology — and public spaces where students can meet and talk and work on their projects together."

Vince Graziano, BA 85, senior librarian for English, theatre and sexuality studies, agrees, adding that the flip side of demand for more collaborative space is a demand for "zero noise" rooms. "When students aren't doing group work, they want to focus on their reading. If they're alone, they want absolute quiet," he says.

Graziano has seen many changes since he started at Concordia 23 years ago. "We used to have one online database called Dialog and librarians would do searches for faculty and students, for a fee. Now students borrow laptops and



iPads, or they sit at computers and run searches themselves," he says. "Twenty years ago, we didn't see students one on one, but now we do — so much so that the transformation incorporates consultation rooms for this purpose. Librarians have more of a teaching role than we ever did. We reinvent ourselves all the time."

ourselves, where we work for the advancement of society and science," says Beaudry. "That's still the case, especially at Concordia, but we need a space to reflect that ambition."

## LENDING SUPPORT

Reconfiguring the library's layout and upgrading its technological capacity —

"Since antiquity, libraries have been spaces where we develop knowledge, where we express ourselves, where we work for the advancement of society and science. That's still the case."

He has also seen a rise in the number of graduate students at Concordia and is happy that the transformation supports this reality. The fifth floor will have four dissertation rooms, lockers, shelves and a silent study hall, plus a lounge and kitchenette for graduate students. "Doing your master's will be less isolating and more collegial with these facilities in place," says Graziano.

This radical reimagining of the existing space is key to keeping the library an essential service. "Since antiquity, libraries have been spaces where we develop knowledge, where we express

not to mention providing the fun stuff, like jazzy new carpets, glass bricks and comfortable sofas — is a major financial undertaking.

"An ambitious space like the new Webster Library requires financial support," says Belinda Pyle, development officer, Libraries, for Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations. "Libraries are being used more than ever. The more we gear toward technology, the busier the libraries get."

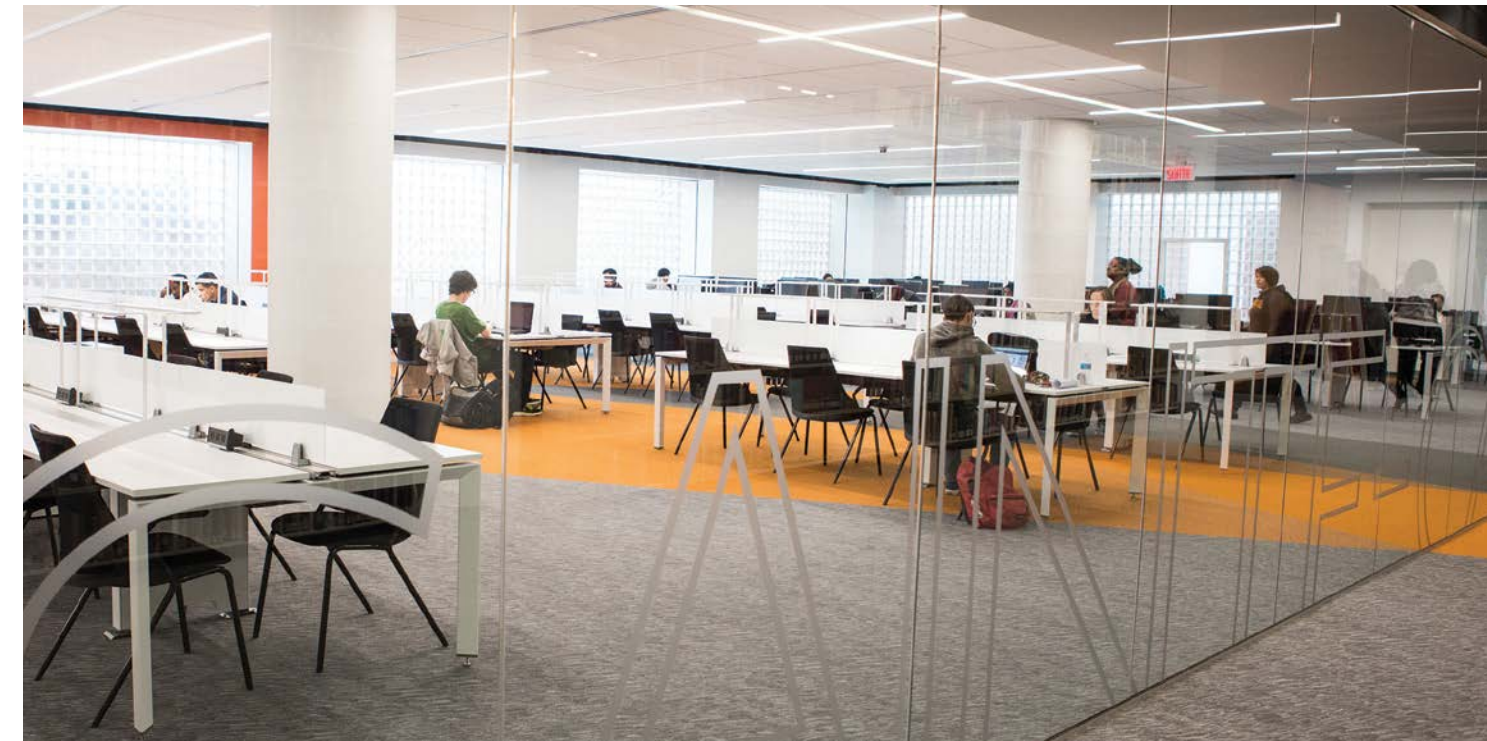
Much of the project funding is coming from the Government of Quebec

under budget envelopes earmarked for university infrastructure projects and equipment. The Concordia Student Union also pledged a substantial \$6.8 million to the Student Union Library Service Fund in 2009, which allowed the library to remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Yet it's not enough — which is why Concordia is reaching out to donors to support the library. The libraries recently received two major gifts from alumni: Richard Stilwell, BA 68, gave \$25,000 for the oral history data web platform at Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling. This

database archives digital video and audio materials in such a way that researchers can annotate, analyze and evaluate materials in the collections.

Brian Neysmith, BSc 66, donated \$100,000 to develop Concordia University Press — one of the first to publish free digital scholarly books



## THE TRANSFORMATION

Since the R. Howard Webster Library opened in 1992, Concordia's student population has shot up by about 30 percent — to more than 46,000 — which means a corresponding increase in library traffic.

According to Quebec's Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche, the current total library space at the Webster and Vanier libraries is considerably below established norms.

Hence, the transformation. To make the new design as effective as possible, Guylaine Beaudry, university librarian, and her team ran focus groups and identified 12 different types of student study environments, including presentation practice rooms and group study rooms.

Phase 1 of the transformation came in on schedule at the end of September, delivering the following improvements to the third

floor: two large, enclosed reading rooms containing a total of 210 seats; one large collaborative space that contains three group study rooms; one seminar room and a Friends of the Library Room separate from the other reading rooms; and a multifunctional room and a visualization studio with a discovery counter to access new technology.

"We'll have a technology sandbox with video and sound editing software, and 3D printers for students from all departments," notes Beaudry. "What distinguishes us is this democratization of technology. It's for everyone."

The transformation will allow Webster to gain 88 per cent more student space and 27 per cent more public space by reconfiguring the existing layout, adding an eighth shelf to the top of the stacks and removing duplicate books. Project completion is slated for 2017.

[library.concordia.ca/about/transformation](http://library.concordia.ca/about/transformation)



VETERAN CONCORDIA LIBRARIES STAFF MEMBERS ARNALDO BRUNETTI AND VINCE GRAZIANO IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED PREMISES.



“Librarians have more of a teaching role than we ever did. We reinvent ourselves all the time.”

in North America. (See the sidebar, “Investing in knowledge.”) “Libraries are key players in supporting student success and they’re a vital component of the learning experience. Library donors understand that,” says Pyle. “It’s not about books. It’s about students.”

Those students have noticed. “The lighting is much better now, and that changes everything,” says second-year art history major Oona Ostrowski, voicing a common reaction to the transformation. “It’s a completely different experience.”

“The bright colours and the seats are so inspiring. It motivates me,” says Marla Scattolin, a second-year accounting student. “I didn’t realize how important design was, psychologically, until I experienced the difference.”

Second-year John Molson School of Business student Theo Kobb agrees. “The new design has a positive effect on my studying. All the little details — the splashes of orange, the carpet, the couches — have an impact,” he says. “It feels more like home.” ■

—Joanne Latimer, MFA (art history) 94, is a Montreal freelance writer.



KEITH RACE

BRIAN NEYSMITH AT CONCORDIA'S CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS DINNER ON NOVEMBER 24.

## INVESTING IN KNOWLEDGE

A dedicated Concordian since his undergraduate years at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions, Brian Neysmith, BSc 66, is a former member of the Board of Governors, former Concordia University Foundation director, volunteer and parent of a two-time graduate.

His recent gift to the university is twofold, with \$100,000 designated to launch the Concordia University Press — a groundbreaking Concordia Libraries initiative to promote the free exchange of scholarly knowledge. It will become one of the few open-access scholarly publishers in North America. “Libraries literally contain the whole world’s knowledge base. Students of all types need access to other people’s works and thoughts, so what better place than a library to invest in helping future students,” says Neysmith. “I was always very fond of libraries. If I go back to my years at the university, I probably spent 90 per cent of my time outside class in the libraries.”

While students today don’t wander around the stacks the way he did, even his young grandchildren are wired to their iPads and thirsty for knowledge. So for Neysmith, it’s natural that providing access today means investing in online resources. The online Concordia University Press will enable researchers to produce, publish and share their work, advancing Concordia as a leader in scholarly communications and open access.

In addition to his gift to Concordia Libraries, Neysmith made a further \$125,000 donation to create the Carolyn and Brian Neysmith Graduate Fellowships, and teamed up with his younger brother, John Neysmith, BComm 68, BA 72, to create the Neysmith Family Undergraduate Bursaries.

“As a university graduate, parent and grandparent, I feel I have a responsibility to support the development of our society in general. The more educated our society is, the better the economy runs and the better the life of its citizens becomes,” he says. “In my case, I had the good fortune to go to Sir George — now Concordia — and to give back to the next generation is a great honour.”

—Louise Morgan



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#CUalumni







# IRVING LAYTON AWARD FOR CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY

Each year, Concordia's Department of English hands out prizes for excellence in the studies of English literature and creative writing. The Irving Layton Awards for Creative Writing, worth \$500 each, are given to undergraduate students for works of poetry and fiction. To qualify for the poetry award, students must submit a portfolio of one or several poems.

The 2015 poetry award recipient was Soili Smith, BA 15. Smith is now pursuing an MFA in creative writing (fiction) at Rutgers University in New Jersey and is assistant non-fiction editor for the online literary journal *Cosmonauts Avenue* ([cosmonautsavenue.com](http://cosmonautsavenue.com)).

The Prince George, B.C., native took an unusual path before arriving at Concordia for her BA in English literature and creative writing. She first earned a BSc in biology from the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George and spent many years in the forestry industry. Her writing, she says, "often revolves around northern B.C., and focuses on the relationship of people to place, and vice versa."

## DON'T BE TOO OLD FOR THIS

By Soili Smith, BA 15

A three year old once explained to me that he wasn't afraid of bees because they sting, but because they make honey, and from what he understood from various storybooks, bears seriously love honey, so it's reasonable to conclude that if one sees a bee, there is also potentially a bear nearby. He was afraid of bears you see, and bees insofar as they are the harbinger of them.

A pastor once told me a story about a man who was constantly bucked off by his donkey. Each time the man would whip the donkey and get back on. Eventually the man fell down a cliff or something. Then lying there, dying, he cursed God and asked why he didn't send him some kind of sign. Then God spoke to the man through the donkey, and said, I sent you this donkey. The pastor concluded by saying, see, God's so powerful he can make donkeys talk.

It seems to me the difference between the pastor and the three year old is smallness. The three year old is so small, he's not in the way, he can see the big picture. I want to see it too. I've been shrinking up lately. Getting a lot younger. I take off my clothes in front of company, and cry when I want something. I am often surprised by my limbs. I pull my knees into my chest and blow bubbles in the bath.

I watch Korean melodramas with the subtitles turned off. I don't know Korean, but I'm learning. An infant imitating, my first words are "stop," "why" and "I love you." I pretend the jealous lovers ever looming in the background of a kiss are ghosts. Close-up:

two happy people, zoom out: ghost. Too big a picture to get in one shot. God is so powerful, says the pastor, he can make ghosts.

Don't worry, I am still getting younger, I have learned to fear the messengers. They are often innocent, literally bumbling, but in the wake of their sweetness is a bear. The first time he choked in front of me was in the food court in Pine Centre Mall. He opened his mouth loudly, and out poured a pillar of bees. Throats, I wonder, what's the deal with those? Never mind, read me a story; I am alone and afraid of sleep.

I went to see the three year old recently. He's ten now. He doesn't remember what he told me about bees. He shot his first bear with his Dad last summer. My boss shot a bear too. He brought me out to it. The bear was too small (whoops!) and the gun too big, there was a hole that showed through to green grass where the chest should be. The tongue lolled out, cool and pink. I bent down, tucked it back in and waited.

Goodnight moon. Goodnight lamp. Goodnight laundry basket. Goodnight iPhone. Goodnight bedbugs. Goodnight exposed brick. Goodnight oven. Goodnight laptop. Goodnight Junot Diaz. Goodnight nine-day-old orange peels. Goodnight bottle of soya sauce. Goodnight Sleepy Time Piano Solos Playlist 1. Goodnight spots in vision. Goodnight waking dreams. Stop. Why. I love you. God, zoom out.



# FLIGHT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR ALL

Research from the **Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation** will level the playing field for small plane owners and change the way students prepare for the airline industry

Concordia University

FIONA DOWNEY AND  
MARIE-CHRISTINE  
HOULE-TRÉPANIÉR

Flight management systems are much like the Global Positioning System (GPS) in cars — only better. Using an airplane's system, the pilot enters the information about where the plane is headed, and off it goes — no need for an actual person to navigate or figure out how fast to fly in order to save fuel or arrive on time.

The technology was introduced commercially in the Boeing 767 in the early 1980s. It's now used in all commercial airliners and private planes.

Flight management systems are costly, though. Manufacturers charge a minimum of \$13,000 per system and have long kept their coding secret. While that's not a problem for large airlines, those

prices and restrictions can be prohibitive for personal aircraft owners.

Concordia researchers Luis Rodrigues and Jesus Villarroel, MSc 15, may be changing that reality. In a study to be published by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, they set out a mathematical formula that accurately recreates the calculations that a flight management system (FMS) makes for a cruising Airbus 320.

"Our formula can easily be adapted for smaller aircraft — and then run in an app on a smartphone," says Rodrigues, an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a member of the Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation. (See the sidebar, "Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation's interdisciplinary research.") "Essentially, this formula is an open-access FMS that can

be used by pilots, people in the industry and people who study aerospace. FMS algorithms have long been proprietary information that was unavailable to the public. Now we have a better understanding of what's in the code."

Rodrigues and his co-author Villarroel, who is now working with the flight simulator company TRU Simulation and Training in Montreal, are excited about the educational implications of this new FMS formula. "We can give students the analytic formula and have them adjust it to fit different aircraft models," says Rodrigues. "It gives students an idea of what it's like to work with and program a commercial FMS — before they're employed by the airline industry."

Although that app has yet to be developed, Rodrigues is confident that it wouldn't be hard to program. "Our formula is a square root of a sum of two

terms, one of them depending on the weight of the aircraft," he says. "The formula can be used with data from a specific aircraft, just like with a regular FMS. Students using our FMS can ask themselves, 'If I change the weight by a tiny bit, if I change the altitude by this much, what will happen?' They can then plug those numbers into the formula to find out."

While it remains to be seen if the formula will ever be used by big companies like Airbus or Boeing, the study has already piqued the curiosity of navigation systems company Marinvent. It will soon test the formula in one of its simulators — one of which is housed at Concordia.

From there, the sky's the limit, says Rodrigues. "We've opened the door for Marinvent to adapt an FMS for its own needs. I hope others will take this formula and go and build on what we've done." ■

## CONCORDIA INSTITUTE OF AEROSPACE DESIGN AND INNOVATION'S INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

When the Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation opened its doors in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science in 2001, it was the first institute of its kind in Montreal. Since then it has helped the university remain at the forefront of aerospace education and research.

Recently, the institute expanded its mandate to include research initiatives beyond the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. Projects from the institute's 60 affiliated researchers provide solutions to challenges facing the aerospace industry, helping to make air transportation faster, easier and cleaner. Here are four researchers' work.

### AIR TRANSPORT ENGINEERING AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT

One research focus for Ali Akgunduz, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, is on planes' speed selection during the total journey, to reduce fuel consumption and optimize flight time while targeting the elimination of collisions in the air. By ensuring flights arrive at their scheduled times — not early or late — use as little fuel as possible and don't affect the flight paths of other planes, Akgunduz's research helps control costs related to fuel consumption and airport fines.



### MODELLING AND SIMULATION

The research of Wahid Ghaly, professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, focuses on multidisciplinary analysis, design and optimization of gas turbine engines. This involves developing aerodynamic design and optimization methods for turbine and compressor stages, the integration of the developed design methods into the engine design system, and optimization of the design process to eliminate any bottlenecks or delays.



### SPACE AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

The research program of Krzysztof Skonieczny, an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, involves the study of space robots and how they interact with terrain: through driving, gripping, sampling and digging.

As robotic space exploration targets more and more extreme landscapes on the moon, Mars and asteroids, an accurate understanding of how robots can interact with these terrains improves chances of success. Advanced rovers able to drive on steeper sandy slopes would open exploration to a significant number of new craters and mountains. Efficient planning of robot routes can get more out of power-starved space missions.



### STRUCTURES, MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING

Ali Dolatabadi's main research topic is the use of superhydrophobic and icephobic coatings to prevent the build-up of ice on the wings of aircraft. The professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering is involved in two projects on the topics with the Consortium de recherche et d'innovation en aérospatiale au Québec.

Dolatabadi's research teams have developed numerical tools to increase the durability of the materials on an aircraft that are impacted by icing in the air. Their research also involves actively working on the development of durable superhydrophobic coatings that repel water from the surface of these parts, delaying the icing process.





# Making the world a better place

SUE MONTGOMERY

Most graduates went to university with ambition—perhaps it was to one day invent something, cure a disease or run a business. Some, often driven by a loss in their past or crisis in their native country, set out to make the world a better place. Grateful for having overcome their own challenges in life, they decide to pay it forward, often earning less money than classmates who have chosen other paths.

*Concordia University Magazine* spoke to five alumni making a difference in the world, asking them what drives their philanthropic ambitions and what they hope to achieve. Their answers vary but they all have the same goal: to improve the lives of those less advantaged than themselves. And they all report getting more back than they give, simply through doing something that makes a difference, no matter how small.

THINKSTOCK





## VIETNAMESE REFUGEE TO COMMUNITY LEADER



THI BE NGUYEN AND HER FAMILY WERE WELCOMED TO CANADA FROM VIETNAM IN 1979. SHE HAS SINCE DEDICATED HERSELF TO GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.

In 1979 **Thi Be Nguyen**, BComm (mktg.) 98, was among the 60,000 Southeast Asian boat people who arrived in Canada, refugees forced to flee their homes in the aftermath following the end of the Vietnam War.

Just shy of her fifth birthday — and the second of three children — the young Nguyen remembers the kindness of Canadians who helped after the family arrived in winter with nothing except a few gold necklaces. She and her sister and brother spent their first summer at the YM-YWHA day camp.

Now the marketing graduate is married, a busy mother of two young children and advisor on public affairs to the National Bank's president as well as the bank's ambassador of diversity.

### GIVING BACK

In 2014, she created her own foundation, named UniAction, to give back to her native community as well as to the community that offered her rudderless family a new life. "I was lucky to come here and that my parents sacrificed to give me a new life," says Nguyen.

The non-profit brings together cultural communities to raise money for different charities related to poverty, access to education and better health in communities here and abroad, and advises them on how best to reach their goals.

Over the years, she has supported such organizations as the Vietnamese Boat People Museum, West Island Community Shares, 60 Million Girls Foundation, Free the Children, Children's Wish Foundation and Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure.

In 2013, the Canadian Senate recognized Nguyen as one of 10 future leaders in the Vietnamese community. She is vice-president of the Young Chinese and Asian Professionals Association, a network that helps develop and promote young leaders from Quebec's Chinese and Asian communities.

Nguyen has passed on to her children her sense of giving back,

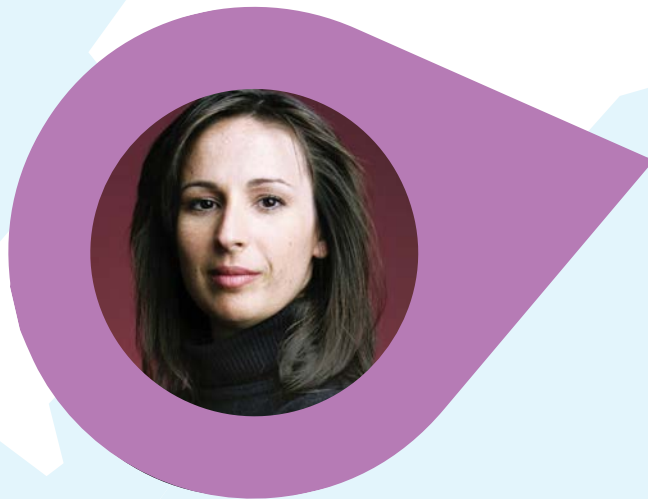
which began at Concordia. "We have to sensitize children to it when they're young," she says. "They have all they need but we have to teach them that not everyone has that."

That lesson seems to be sinking in. In 2014, Nguyen's children held a garage sale and sold all their toys, donating the money raised to the Lakeshore Hospital Foundation, which funds the Montreal West Island hospital where both were born. They also donated their piggy bank savings to help buy 145 Christmas stockings for children throughout Montreal.

"I was lucky to come here  
and that my parents sacrificed  
to give me a new life."

To mark the 40th anniversary of the first arrival of boat people in Canada, Nguyen initiated a major project. It included hosting the first Vietnamese History and Culture Discovery Day at Montreal's Pointe-à-Callière Museum, attended by over 300 people, creating a commemorative and collective art work, and raising \$12,000 for handicapped people in Vietnam — an amount of money that will go a long way in her native country, she says. She's now finalizing a documentary in collaboration with production company Les films de l'Hydre to wrap up the festivities in spring 2016.

## ONE OF CANADA'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN



DÉSIRÉE MCGRAW IS PRESIDENT OF PEARSON COLLEGE IN VICTORIA, ONE OF 15 UNITED WORLD COLLEGES AROUND THE GLOBE.

A quick perusal of the résumé of **Désirée McGraw**, BA (econ.) 93, suggests this is a woman on a tireless mission. Among her accomplishments is being named one of Canada's 100 most powerful women by the *Financial Post* in 2014. She was senior policy advisor to former prime minister Paul Martin

and executive director, then president, of the Jeanne Sauvé Foundation in Montreal.

It's appropriate, then, that this woman who considered Jeanne Sauvé — Canada's first woman governor general — a role model, is now the first woman to head Victoria's Pearson College in its 40-plus-year history.

McGraw was a go-getter even before arriving at Concordia. At the age of 16, concerned about the threat of nuclear annihilation during the Cold War, she took several months off high school with three other teens to travel across Canada promoting global peace and disarmament. One of their stops, coincidentally, was Pearson College. "From a young age, I learned that through hard work, through teamwork, through organization and passion, almost anything is possible," McGraw told Pearson students after taking on her new role of running the school.

### EXAMPLE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

That tour, called SAGE, for Solidarité Anti-Guerre Étudiante, fashioned on Terry Fox's pioneering cross-country run to raise funds for cancer research, laid the groundwork for McGraw's life of social activism. Now she feels she has come full circle and can be an example for blossoming young leaders. "If I can be a role model for young women or minorities, people who are under-represented, I'd be honoured to be that person," says McGraw.

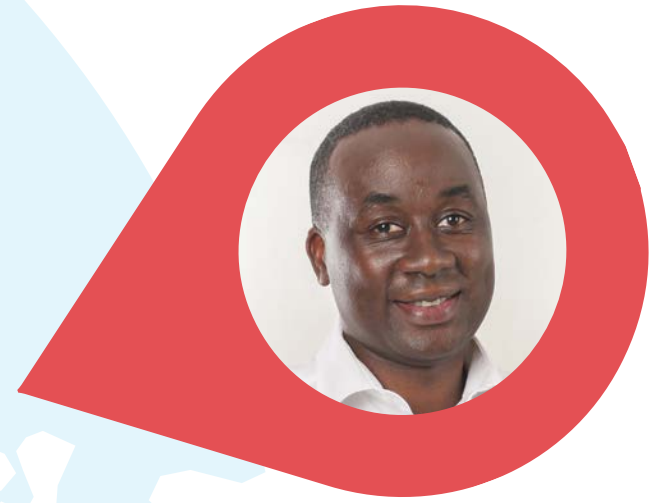
In her fall 2015 opening remarks to new and returning students at Pearson — one of 15 United World Colleges — McGraw issued a call to action. In the wake of the tabling of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, she asked the entire Pearson community — staff, faculty and students, past and present — to consider what they could contribute to the reconciliation with Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

"Now that the report has exposed the truth, the commission challenges the country to participate in reconciliation," she told the students. "At Pearson, an international residential school founded on promoting peace and diversity, I believe we have a special responsibility — because we have the ability to respond to this challenge. The history and reality of residential schools run counter to everything we stand for."

"I don't believe in passing  
the buck to the  
next generation."

McGraw has always been deeply concerned about climate change and feels it's our most pressing problem — she was among a select group of Canadians to complete a training session with former United States vice-president and Nobel laureate Al Gore and went on to co-found his Climate Reality Project in Canada. "I don't believe in passing the buck to the next generation," she says. "I need to do my part as a citizen and encourage the next generation to do their part."

## DEVELOPING ACTIVISM IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD



AWEL UWHANGANYE HELPED ESTABLISH THE CONCORDIA VOLUNTEER ABROAD PROGRAM IN 2006 AND LED THE ORGANIZATION UNTIL 2013. HE NOW SITS ON ITS BOARD. "THE IDEA IS THAT IT SHOULD BE MANAGED AND RUN BY YOUNG PEOPLE."

**Awel Uwhanganye**, BA (poli. sci.) 08, immigrated to Canada from Uganda in 2000 and was attracted to Concordia because of the "activist spirit of the students."

He returned to Uganda in 2006 to establish the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program (CVAP) after a successful referendum by students to fund the program in 2005. CVAP was founded with fellow Concordian Peter Schiefke, BA (poli. sci.) 07, who was recently elected Liberal MP for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Que. "We were both very concerned with social issues and at that time there were many humanitarian crises around the world. We were especially concerned with the effects of the war that was ravaging northern Uganda," Uwhanganye says. "We wanted to do something concrete in helping children and women caught in the midst of conflict. We wanted to make a statement that even students from so far away can make a difference in the lives of many."

They decided to create a program that would not only give students an opportunity to make a contribution but also give them exposure to the developing world and some of the challenges it still confronts.

### CVAP RECOGNIZED FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The organization has received several awards over the years, including the 2008 Entraide, Paix et Justice award from Forces Avenir and the 2010 YMCAs of Quebec Peace Medal.

There have been about 200 CVAP participants in almost a decade of operation. As part of their mission, after their work in Uganda they travel to other places in East Africa, exposing them to more cultures and other experiences.

Students stay for a few months and work with community organizations, some of which provide healthcare support services and early education to vulnerable children who live in the communities where CVAP operates.



Uwihanganye, who lives in Kampala, Uganda, now sits on the board of CVAP and runs a safari business, Silverback Travel Company.

In 2015, Uwihanganye was named Young Alumnus of the Year by the Concordia University Alumni Association for his dedication to social change, including his ongoing work as co-founder and senior director of L&O Africa Forum, an organization promoting responsible leadership and establishing a strong voice for Africa around the globe. "We use that to build networks around people who are doing interesting and great stuff," he says.

**"We wanted to make a statement that even students from so far away can make a difference."**

His goal is to create more opportunities for the burgeoning population of young people in the region — a demographic that is growing by three per cent per year. "It's a big problem, we risk having instability and conflict in these areas where opportunities aren't created fast enough," Uwihanganye says.

He praises Canada, his adoptive home, as being charitable, where people were very kind and hospitable to him. "I don't think there's a better time to live in Canada than now," he says, referring to the latest federal election results. "And Concordia remains a great inspiration to me. It's a place that nourished me so much; I have a very special relationship with the university and it will remain that way."

## TRANSFORMING GRIEF INTO ACTION



LAUREN SMALL-PENNEFATHER WON THE 2015 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

**Lauren Small-Pennefather**, BA (sci. & hum. affairs) 95, MA (pub. pol. admin.) 97, has had her share of grief. She lost both parents to cancer — her mother when Small-Pennefather was 21 and her father soon after her only child was born. So while a student at Concordia, and still grieving, she started a cancer education resource for students and gave out her own phone number for anyone needing support. "It was obviously part of my own healing," says Small-Pennefather. "There were no support groups for people my age."

Now she dreams of a world devoid of cancer. Small-Pennefather hasn't missed a Terry Fox run for cancer research in 18 years and four years ago started a local run in her community of Montreal West. So far, they've raised \$25,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. "I guess giving back to the community is really a gift to myself because it helps to fill those voids that are there, the collateral damage that's left over from those losses," Small-Pennefather says.

Last year she set up a bursary in her parents' names at Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs, where she completed her undergraduate studies. Called the Leona and Sam Small Community Service Award, the \$500 bursary will go to a student having financial difficulties and contributing to the community. "It's a way of thanking the Concordia community for what they gave me, propelling me into what I've become," she says.

Small-Pennefather of course has periods of deep sadness due to her loss but says she made a conscious choice not to pull the blankets over her head. Her schedule is jam-packed, both as a civil servant and volunteer.

### PAY IT FORWARD

She recently earned a master's degree in air and space law from McGill University and is senior manager of international relations for the Canadian Space Agency. She speaks weekly to people who have lost a parent to cancer through Hope and Cope, a support group based at Montreal's Jewish General Hospital. She also volunteers at her daughter's school and founded the Montreal West Diaper Drive. "It's part of my life, and when things are part of your life, you make room for them," Small-Pennefather says. "Sometimes I take on too much, but it helps in my own healing process."

**"If you're able to extend a lifeline to somebody else from your own experience, even if it's painful, I think that in itself will change the world."**

She encourages others to pay it forward, by dropping off a bag of groceries at the local food bank or lending an ear to someone suffering loss. "You can feel loss, despair, sadness, depression when you lose someone, and if you're able to extend a lifeline to somebody else from your own experience, even if it's painful, I think that in itself will change the world," she says.

One of her goals for next year is to climb a mountain in British Columbia named after Terry Fox, a hero whose cross-Canada run happened when Small-Pennefather was just 9 and cancer had not yet shaken her world. "I don't think the world has seen all of Lauren Small-Pennefather yet," she says. "There's definitely more to come. I just really want to be a caring Canadian."

## LEADER IN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION



VINCENZA NAZZARI SAYS SHE BRINGS TO EQUITAS A LOVE FOR EDUCATION AND ORGANIZATION ACQUIRED FROM CONCORDIA'S MASTER'S PROGRAM IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.

In 1995, Vincenza Nazzari, Cert (TESL) 80, MA (ed. tech.) 01, was supposed to be on a short-term loan from the federal civil service to Equitas. The Montreal-based organization has been working for almost 50 years to advance equality, social justice and respect for human dignity by teaching people in Canada and overseas about their rights.

When Nazzari arrived at Equitas, it was running just one program — the annual three-week International Human Rights Training Program at John Abbott College in Ste.-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. And she was a team of one.

Twenty years later, Nazzari is still at the non-profit and, as director of education, oversees a team of eight and leads the design of human rights education programs in Tanzania, Haiti, the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Senegal, Colombia and Canada. Whether it be a project on religious harmony in Sri Lanka or working with young women in Montreal neighbourhood Côte-des-Neiges, participants in these programs learn about human

**"Human rights education enables people to recognize our common humanity, and that's what makes it so powerful."**

rights principles and develop the skills that enable them to be change-makers in their communities.

Equitas's unique activities enable participants to experience what it feels like to be excluded, for example.

A recent independent evaluation confirmed that the ripple effect created by Equitas's training of human rights educators had reached approximately 1.6 million people in more than 80 countries during a five-year span. Equitas programs in Canada currently reach over 100,000 children and youth in over 30 communities. "I felt like I was doing something infinitely useful and it was also much more gratifying," says Nazzari of why she never returned to the civil service.

Today, Equitas is solicited by UN organizations for its expertise. The participatory approaches Nazzari brought to Equitas have contributed to a number of awards for the organization, including the Quebec Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse's Prix des droits et libertés in 2014.

Bringing together people from varied backgrounds and cultures can be a challenge, even if they do work in human rights, yet Nazzari says it comes down to respect. "I think if people can see others as human beings like themselves, they'd have a hard time hurting each other," she says. "Human rights education enables people to recognize our common humanity, and that's what makes it so powerful."

### IMPACT ON MILLIONS

Equitas executive director Ian Hamilton has this to say about Nazzari: "Her work, in a very quiet and unassuming way, has had an impact on millions of people around the world. More than anyone else, Vincenza is responsible for the quality and success of Equitas's human rights education programs."

Since leaving the public service, Nazzari estimates that she has worked directly with more than 2,000 human rights educators from 100 countries. "I had one young woman from the Middle East tell me at a training program, 'I want to be just like you.' It really brought home the fact that as an educator, you really have a lot of influence and with that goes a huge responsibility." ■

—Sue Montgomery is a Montreal journalist.





**1** DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE CHAIR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TED LITTLE SEES PERFORMING ARTISTS TAKING AN INCREASINGLY MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO BECOME PERFORMANCE CREATORS.

**2** IMAGE FROM THE FILM *THE HIDDEN FACE OF SUICIDE*, BY YEHUDIT SILVERMAN, WHICH WILL BE SCREENED AT THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AS PART OF SUICIDE-AWARENESS ACTIVITIES.

**3** ADRIANA NAVARRO'S GAME PROTOTYPE ALLOWS CHILDREN TO EXPLORE INDIGENOUS CULTURES FROM MEXICO. STUDENTS LOOKING TO STUDY GRAPHIC DESIGN, THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES OR THE CREATION OF DIGITAL AND NON-DIGITAL INTERACTIONS WILL BE WELCOME IN CONCORDIA'S NEW MASTER OF DESIGN PROGRAM.

## Faculty partners with Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to develop groundbreaking educational programming

RENÉE DUNK

Montrealers and visitors to the city are about to reap the benefits of a new educational partnership between the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) and Concordia.

As part of an outreach initiative spearheaded by the museum, professors at the university, including six from the Faculty of Fine Arts, are currently developing the first in a series of courses and public programs in art education, art history and creative arts therapies. In total, eight new programs will be offered through the MMFA's new Michel

de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy.

They include a series of creative arts therapies workshops on suicide prevention, an art history course that looks at interpretations of family in fine art, a course that challenges students to study art and consider issues surrounding social justice and peace, a program that will allow people suffering from eating disorders to reflect on the impact of art exposure and art therapy, an 18-credit graduate certificate program, and an art hive — a unique community studio space — to be established at the museum.

As well, Concordia's Centre for

Continuing Education will continue to provide prospective volunteer guides specific skills to help them facilitate group learning in the museum's collections.

"It is fitting that two close neighbours with overlapping missions and shared social values strategically pool their talent and resources for educational advancement," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "This groundbreaking partnership will serve not only scholars, students and researchers but other Montreal communities as well."

Nathalie Bondil, director and chief curator of the MMFA, says the museum

approached Concordia with the idea of creating a partnership after it announced the construction of the new Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion for Peace — expected to be completed next year. (In 2014 Michal Hornstein, LLD 14, and Renata Hornstein, LLD 14, pledged \$1 million to Concordia to establish the Renata Hornstein Doctoral Scholarships in the Faculty of Fine Arts.) "As a result of this collaboration, our permanent collection will be enhanced by pedagogical content designed by university researchers," she says. "Today, peace and harmony unite for the well-being of our society."

Rebecca Duclos, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, explains that collaborative research endeavours are in line with the Faculty's goals to connect with, support and enrich the surrounding community. "We share the same corner of downtown, we care intensely about the cultural life of Montrealers and we believe in the power of the arts to affect the soul of a city," she says. "This is more than a collaboration between Concordia and the MMFA — it is an alliance, a shared vision, and we commit to enriching civic life and the cultural health of our communities."

Next spring, the Zone Éducation-Culture urban planning initiative, in partnership with the City of Montreal, will announce new links between Quartier Concordia and Quartier du Musée that are currently under development.

### THE FUTURE OF FINE ARTS IS INTERDISCIPLINARY

New programs in the Department of Design and Department of Theatre will change the landscape for emerging practitioners.

The new Master of Design (MDes) program is built on a fundamental belief that good design incorporates knowledge and expertise from a range of fields. Similarly, a new theatre specialization in Performance Creation addresses multidisciplinary knowledge, training and expertise.

Mark Sussman, associate dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, says that Concordia is in an excellent position to take the lead in a number of academic fields related to design and theatre, including gaming, interactive technology research and new media, as well as the creation of a broad range of theatre performances. "I think the curriculum of the MDes will reflect the diverse definitions of design — of sustainability, of the built environment — that are reflected in a very diverse faculty, from an interdisciplinary point of view," Sussman says. "Our theatre department is consolidating and updating its offerings under the broad umbrella of performance creation, bringing it in synch with trends in the field. It's a great moment to be starting new programs."

The new MDes program curriculum will centre around three main streams: visual communication, interaction design and the built environment.

"Successful design methods and processes are those that are able to connect practices from across disciplines," says Joanna Berzowska, associate professor and former chair of the Department of Design.

"Design plays an increasingly critical role in the evolution of the built environment, as it integrates an artificial or human-centric world into the existing ecosphere," Berzowska says. "We're hoping to attract students who think of

design as this very broad range of activity — that design has to actually consider multiple realms to perform its roles."

### SPECIALIZATION IN PERFORMANCE CREATION

"What we've seen over the past decade is a growing number of theatre and performance professionals who don't exclusively identify themselves as either directors or playwrights or dramaturges," says Ted Little, Department of Theatre chair and associate professor. "Rather, they see themselves as performance creators. These are artists with multidisciplinary interests and skill sets."

The new undergraduate theatre specialization in Performance Creation responds to this changing landscape and gives students a unique educational option. The Theatre and Development specialization will now be absorbed into Performance Creation, as will the current majors in theatre and playwriting. Aspects of all three will inform a new emphasis on collaboration.

"These new courses will up the theoretical ante in order to provide students with the kind of basis they really need to conceptualize intelligent work together," Little says.

Both programs will open their doors in fall 2016. ■

—With files from Tracey Lindeman and Stephen Smith

## CONCORDIA ALUM LANDS THE \$50,000 SOBEY ART AWARD



Abbas Akhavan, BFA 04, received one of the most distinguished awards in contemporary Canadian art when he won the Sobeys Art Award last fall. The \$50,000 Sobeys Art Award is conferred annually to an established artist aged 40 or under; all nominees must have exhibited work in a public or commercial art gallery in the previous 18 months.

Akhavan said he was humbled by the win. "It is with the generosity and support of many people who supported this blind search for what is considered an artistic gesture or practice," he told the CBC. "I thank everybody for caring about what artists care about. This means a lot." Last year, Nadia Myre, MFA 02, took home the prestigious prize.



# HOMECOMING 2015

## Bringing it all back home

Alumni returned to Concordia for a full slate of memorable events at Homecoming 2015

Concordia welcomed back thousands of alumni and their friends and families to Homecoming 2015, from September 24 to 27. The four days were jam-packed with reunions, film screenings, sporting events and outdoor adventures.

### September 24

In the Reading Room of the Grey Nuns Building, more than 200 graduates of Concordia's founding institutions, Loyola College and Sir George Williams University, were treated to a special **commemorative degree ceremony**. The ceremony featured addresses by Concordia President Alan Shepard and Chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, as well as valedictorian speeches by renowned screenwriter and speechwriter Lionel Chetwynd, BA 63, and former Quebec Superior Court judge Pierrette Sévigny, BA 67.

Pictured are (from left): **Lionel Chetwynd**, **Jonathan Wener** and **Pierrette Sévigny** **1**, along with Chetwynd **2** and Sévigny's yearbook photos **3**; **John Limeburner**, BComm 68 **4**; and **Alan Shepard**, **Pauline Marechal**, BComm 67, with her commemorative degree, and **Richard Bisailon**, BFA 86, MA 01, PhD 11. **5**

### September 25

Dramatic readings of excerpts from four celebrated works of iconic writer Mordecai Richler – a former Sir George Williams University student – were featured at **The works and words of Mordecai Richler: Resolute Forest Products Homecoming Keynote Lecture**. Pictured: the event's MC **Tania Krywiak**, BA 97, reporter at CTV Montreal News; **Bram Freedman**, Vice-President, Advancement and External Relations; **Andre Furlani**, Chair, Department of English;

actor **David Julian Hirsh**; actor **Emmanuel Kabongo**; **Jacob Richler**, journalist and son of Mordecai Richler; actor **Luke Humphrey**; and **Ann-Marie MacDonald**, Concordia's first Mordecai Richler Writer-in-Residence. **6**

The John Molson School of Business rang in the **25th anniversary of its Master of Science programs**. The full day of events included a tour of the architecturally stunning John Molson School of Business Building, a buffet lunch and panel discussions with MSc alumni. More than 90 alumni and friends attended, including **Chaim Kuhnreich**, BA 14, and **Shushu Feng**. **7**

### September 26

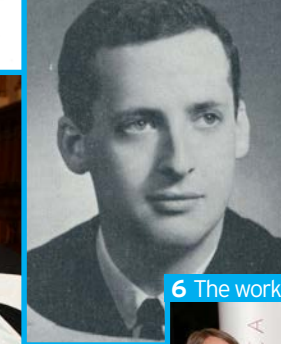
**#Coms50th**: Concordia's **Department of Communication Studies** toasts its golden anniversary this year. Its **50th anniversary** festivities kicked off with a screening of *Journey to Ithaca* – a film directed by Nicolas Zavaglia, BA 77, chronicling the department's early beginnings. Some 120 alumni and friends gathered for a celebratory cocktail and to hear inspirational words from Fr. John O'Brien, BA 45 (who passed away two months later), at the Communication Studies and Journalism Building. Pictured are **Gilles Bureau**, BA 83, department chair **Sandra Gabriele**, PhD 04, and longtime department coordinator **Sheelah O'Neill**. **8**

The **Department of Journalism** celebrated 40 years of great journalism education at **From notepads to iPads** at the Richard J. Renaud Science Pavilion. Department chair Brian Gabriel honoured co-founders Lindsay Crysler and Enn Raudsepp. Justin Kingsley, BA 96, delivered the keynote speech to alumni and friends including **Ursula Mueller**, BA 85, MA 95, **Nancy Wood**, BA 85, and **Michael Judson**, BA 86. **9**

1 Commemorative degree ceremony



2 Lionel Chetwynd



3 Pierrette Sévigny



6 The works and words of Mordecai Richler



4 Commemorative degree ceremony



5 Commemorative degree ceremony



7 JMSB MSc programs' 25th anniversary



8 Communication Studies' 50th anniversary



9 Journalism's 40th anniversary





# HOMECOMING 2015

The Institute for Co-operative Education's director Gerry Hughes, BComm 74, welcomed more than 100 alumni and friends to fête its 35 years of offering experiential learning at a celebratory reception at the John Molson School of Business. Guests included **Marthe Catry-Verron, Sushil Misra**, Cert 80, BA 91, GrDip 98, professor in Concordia's Department of Physics, and **Balbir Sahni**, professor emeritus in Concordia's Department of Economics. **10**

Concordia President Alan Shepard hosted more than 210 alumni and their friends and family at the **President's Homecoming Dinner** at Le Westin Montréal. Jamie Orchard, BA 91, senior anchor for Global Montreal's evening news, acted as master of ceremonies. Thomas Hecht, BA 50, Richard McConomy, BA 66, and Kim Fuller, BFA 96, offered toasts to Sir George Williams University, Loyola College and Concordia. Pictured are **Sonali Karnick**, BA 00, and **Sudha Krishnan**, BA 99, **11** and event MC **Jamie Orchard**, BA 91, Senior Anchor for Global Montreal's Evening News, with **Rachel Lau**, BA 13. **12**

The John Molson School of Business welcomed alumni and donors to celebrate philanthropic individuals and initiatives that allowed Concordia to grow over the years. Sherin Al-Safadi, MBA 10, PhD 14, Brent Pearce and Victor Esposito, BComm 09, spoke about using their business acumen to effect positive change in society.

The Faculty of Fine Arts screened *The Abenaki - People of the Dawn*, created by Scott MacLeod, BFA 03, MA 13, as well as two episodes of *Time Traveller*, created by Skawennati, BFA 92, GrDip 96, and Jason E. Lewis, a Concordia computation arts professor. Pictured at the reception at the FOFA Gallery are **Roy Cross**, MFA 98, who moderated a panel discussion, **Jason E. Lewis**, **Skawennati**, **Scott MacLeod** and storyteller **Mike Burns**. **13**

Stingers fans showed their pride and came to cheer the newly decked-out Stingers football team as they faced the Université de Montréal Carabins at the **Homecoming Football Game**. Before the game in the **Alumni Zone**, more than 150 fans –

including **Philippe Purreaux**, BComm 00, and his daughter – met head coach Mickey Donovan, BA 06. **14** At half-time, the 2015 Sports Hall of Fame inductees were introduced and received a roaring welcome from the crowd.

**Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science** alumni reunited with former classmates and professors at the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex. Cyber-security expert Claude Fachkha, MEng 10, spoke on how big data can generate cyber-intelligence. **Minaz Somji**, BEng 80, and **Karen Karlsdottir Somji** were among the more than 40 alumni and friends in attendance. **15**

A **celebratory service** was held at the beautiful Loyola Chapel. Pictured are Concordia chaplain **Father Paul Anyidoho**, BA 08, Cert 10, **Father Robert Brennan**, **Tony Fernandez**, BA 65, and **Hugh McQueen**, BEng 54, professor emeritus in Concordia's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, who passed away in December. **16**

## September 27

Concordia inducted a stellar group of honourees at the **Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**: Gilles Hébert, BEng 83, EMBA 89, Concordia men's hockey; Maureen Maloney (Kearns), BA 84, Concordia women's hockey; Art Niederbuhl, BA 75, Loyola football; builder Gary Cummings; the 1973-74 Sir George Williams men's hockey team; and the 1980-81 Concordia women's hockey team. Pictured are **William Doherty**, BA 67, coach of the 1980-81 Concordia women's hockey team, **Maureen Maloney**, BA 84, and acting Concordia Stingers women's hockey coach **Julie Chu**. **17**

To bring the fun-filled weekend to a close, a group of alumni, family and friends explored Mount Royal's flora and fauna during a two-hour, 3.5-km **discovery walk** through Mount Royal's forest led by Les Amis de la Montagne.

–Alyssa Tremblay

10 Co-op's 35th anniversary



11 President's Homecoming Dinner



12 President's Homecoming Dinner



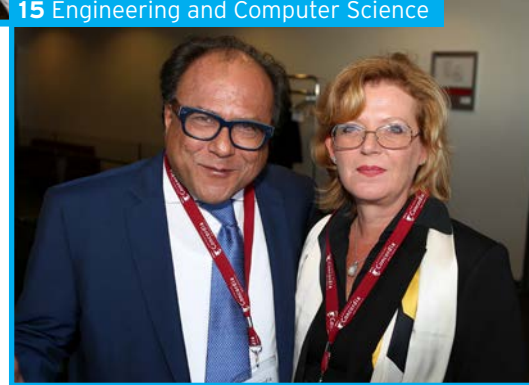
13 Faculty of Fine Arts



14 Alumni Zone



15 Engineering and Computer Science



16 Celebratory service



17 Sports Hall of Fame



To see more photos and watch videos from these events, visit [concordia.ca/homecoming](http://concordia.ca/homecoming).

## SAVE THE DATES

### Homecoming 2016, September 22 to 26

Homecoming 2016 festivities will include anniversary reunions, a tour of Concordia's Grey Nuns Building, the 10th anniversary of the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program and more.

Be sure to contact us if you are celebrating a 25th or 50th class anniversary in 2016.

Visit [concordia.ca/homecoming](http://concordia.ca/homecoming) for more information and updates.

For questions or to update your contact information:

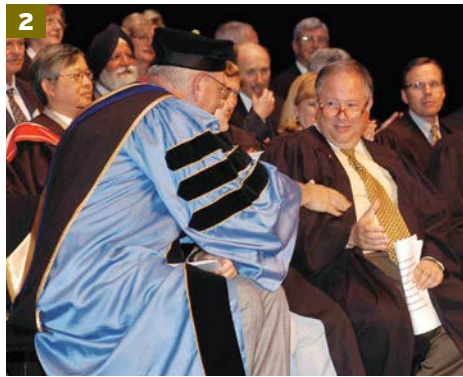
[homecoming@concordia.ca](mailto:homecoming@concordia.ca), 514-848-2424, ext. 5647, or toll-free: 1-888-777-3330



## Commemorative degree celebrations, 2005

At the Homecoming 2015 festivities, some 120 alumni from Concordia's founding institutions, Loyola College and Sir George Williams University, gathered for a commemorative degree ceremony (see page 50). The occasion marked the 10th anniversary of the first series of commemorative ceremonies, held in 2005, when Loyola and Sir George Williams alumni received commemorative certificates to symbolically welcome them to the Concordia family. The concept was initiated by Jonathan Wener, BComm '71, now Concordia's chancellor.

More than 300 Loyola College alumni filled the Loyola Chapel for a ceremony officiated by Concordia Chancellor Eric Molson and President Frederick Lowy on March 31. **1**



Place des Arts' Théâtre Maisonneuve was the site of the event for nearly 700 Sir George Williams alumni on June 8. Pictured are **Jonathan Wener** (centre) receiving congratulations from **Concordia Provost Martin Singer** (left). **2** Joining them were **Chancellor Eric Molson** and **Rita Shane**, BA '37. **3** at the time the last surviving member of Sir George Williams's first graduating class.

On October 6, as part of Homecoming 2005, **Pascal Delisi**, BA '63 (left), and **Don Lee**, BA '66, **4**, were among the 240 Sir George Williams alumni and their families at Place des Arts to receive certificates.



A final ceremony was held in Toronto for both Sir George Williams and Loyola alumni on November 17. ■



Xander Jean, forward

# Be a **GAME CHANGER**

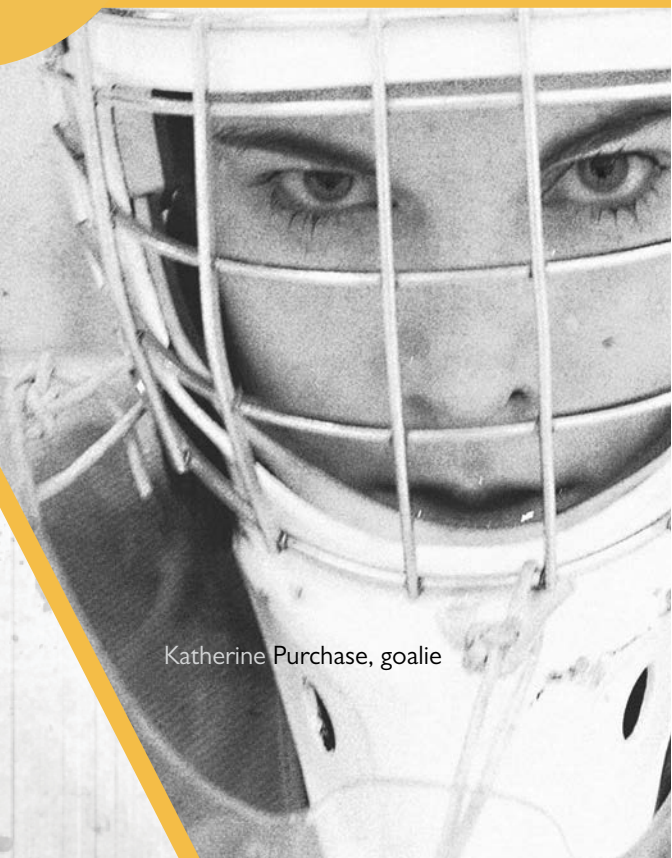
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Help our student athletes raise their game by showing your Stinger pride this season. To see our schedule of games, visit [stingers.ca](http://stingers.ca).



Katherine Purchase, goalie



#StingersUnited #CUalumni #CUGiving



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

To listen to podcasts or watch videos of Advancement and Alumni Relations events, please visit [concordia.ca/alumni](http://concordia.ca/alumni).

JOSEPH DRESNER



**CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS DINNER**

Concordia thanked its philanthropists for advancing teaching, research and student life at a special event on November 24. The first Chancellor's Builders Dinner, held at the Montréal Science Centre, celebrated how private support to public education gave Concordia momentum. The venue featured four wax figures from the Grévin Montréal.

Pictured at the event (from left in each photo): **Susan and Jonathan Wener**, with the Albert Einstein figure, representing the Faculty of Arts and Science **1**; Concordia President **Alan Shepard** and **Norman Hébert Jr.**, chair of Concordia's Board of Governors **2**; **Rosemary and Mel Hoppenheim**, LLD 09, with the Andy Warhol figure, representing the Faculty of Fine Arts **3**; CTV Montreal News journalist Aphrodite Salas, MA 99, who was the event's MC **4**; **Tony Loffreda**, BComm 85, and **Angelina Loffreda** **5**; and **Daniel Lavigueur**, BA 08, GrDip 13, director of the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program and one of the evening's presenters **6**.



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GETS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE**

The Concordia University Alumni Association has welcomed its new board of directors and executive team for the 2015-16 year. The slate was approved at the association's annual general meeting at Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building on September 10.

**Kim Fuller**, BFA 96, **7** is the association's incoming president. She follows Philippe Pourreaux, BComm 00, who held the position since 2010.

Fuller is founder of Phil Communications, a Montreal-based communications agency that works with non-profit organizations. She joined the board in 2011. "It was a great opportunity to get involved with such a big institution and see the inner workings of the board of directors," she says. "I did a lot of committee work. They kept asking me to do things, and I kept saying 'yes.'"

The role of the board is to foster connections between Concordia and its 195,000 alumni worldwide. "Our focus is also on supporting the university's mandate and creating a meaningful alumni experience," Fuller explains. Another goal is to increase awareness of the association. "Much of our programming in the next five years will focus on students and recent graduates. It is important to welcome incoming students to the alumni family and provide services and benefits to them once they leave campus," she says.

**CUAA board of directors: Executive committee**

- President: Kim Fuller, BFA 96
- Immediate past president: Philippe Pourreaux, BComm 00
- Corporate secretary: Miranda Melfi, BComm 86
- Treasurer and president, Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter: John Limeburner, BComm 68
- Executive vice-president: Donal Ryan, BComm 67
- Vice-president, Students and Young Alumni: Claude Fachkha, MEng 10



- Vice-president, Strategic Initiatives: Stephanie Tsirgiotis, BA 07
- President, Sir George Williams University Alumni Founding Chapter: Steve Avram, BEng 71, MEng 85
- Directors**
- Rina Albala, BFA 05, MBA 10
- Jeff Bicher, BA 02
- Donald Chambers, BComm 76
- Mike Deegan, BA 89
- Sonia Di Maulo, BA 94, MA 01
- Helen Downie, BA 11
- Linda Donnini, BSc 91

- Jameson Jones-Doyle, BA 08, MSc 12
- Linda Renaud, BA 70
- Donal Ryan, BComm 67
- Jaymee Shell, BSc 14
- Joel Tovel, BComm 96
- Patrick Van de Wille, BA 91
- Ven Virahsammy, BComm 10

—Salim Valji

**SUNNY SKIES FOR SHUFFLERS**

The Concordia community came together for a fantastic afternoon of sunshine and fun at Shuffle 26, the university's 26th annual walkathon to raise funds for student scholarships and bursaries. **8** Hundreds walked the 6.5-kilometre route from Sir George Williams Campus to Loyola Campus, including Concordia President Alan Shepard, who hosted the President's Picnic after the walk. "Congratulations, Concordia! This year, we've raised \$65,000 and counting. That brings our total since the Shuffle started in 1990 to well over \$1.2 million," said Shepard.

About 750 graduate and undergraduate students have benefited from Shuffle-funded awards and the number continues to grow.

—Louise Morgan



JOSEPH DRESNER





### RENÉ BALCER VISITS CONCORDIA

To help celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Department of Communication Studies invited one of its most successful graduates to share his experiences at the department's Distinguished Alumni Series. Veteran television writer and producer **René Balcer**, BA 78, LLD 08, discussed his career highlights. About 100 people attended the talk at the Communication Studies and Journalism Building on September 25.

Balcer is best known for writing over 180 episodes of acclaimed television series *Law & Order* and for creating its spinoff, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. He has received an Emmy, a Writer's Guild of America Award, a Peabody Award and four Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America. Describing his formative years at Concordia, Balcer said he learned the value of teamwork. "The ability to work with other people and keep your ego in check is a very important lesson."

After graduating from Concordia, Balcer flew to Hollywood where he met American filmmaker Monte Hellman. An apprenticeship led to an opportunity to write a script for Francis Ford Coppola's Zoetrope Studios. Describing the film industry in the late 1970s as valuing *Star Wars* and other epic action films, Balcer instead gravitated towards television.



10

### LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

"My dad makes the road map — the financial planning, estate planning, tax planning — then I create the right vehicle to get you there," says investment advisor **Robert Fainer**, BComm 06, describing how he works in tandem with his father, **Philip Fainer**, BComm 72.

For nearly a decade, this affable duo has worked in side-by-side offices at Manulife Securities Fainer Wealth Group, based in St. Laurent, Que. Fainer Sr. has 31 years of experience in the financial planning industry, operating as a one-man show before his son joined

the business in 2006.

They've done well. Their Manulife Securities branch is one of the top two offices in Canada, with roughly \$1 billion in assets under management. Within that branch, their Fainer Wealth Group is one of the larger groups in Quebec, with about \$80 million in assets under management.

Philip Fainer earned his BComm with a concentration in finance and accounting from Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions. He is 65 years old but says he's nowhere near ready for retirement.

He credits his Concordia degree for giving him a professional advantage. "Along with skills from the core business courses, my elective classes in psychology have been tremendously useful," Philip Fainer says. "For most people, money is an emotional issue. In effect, you become a shrink and, very often, a good friend."

Robert Fainer inherited his father's personal touch, learning from Philip that good investing means planning

with the end in mind. "Wealth management is about managing risk, not about managing returns," he says. He also credits his studies at Concordia for contributing to his success. Robert Fainer particularly benefitted from Duncan Cameron's strategy course, where he learned about different leadership styles and business cycles.

Father and son may be from different generations, but they're equally devoted to a common mantra: work-life balance. "Robert is my nutritionist, my exercise coach and fashion advisor," laughs Philip, whose father Murray Fainer, BA 45, also graduated from Sir George Williams. "It's my privilege and my pleasure to have Rob here."

—Joanne Latimer



11

### STUDENT-POWERED PARTNERSHIP WILL SAVE CONCORDIANS TIME

When Concordians returned to classes last fall, they were the first cohort in Quebec to apply for discounted OPUS transit cards online through the MyConcordia portal. The twist? This efficient process began as a student project. "Supporting student initiatives and enhancing the student experience is a priority for Concordia," says Marc Denoncourt, the university's chief information officer.

Back in 2013, Anthony Boulos — an industrial engineering undergraduate student — was tasked with coming up with an innovative proposal for his Technical Writing and Communication class. He decided to tackle the procedure

# Computer donations changing lives

Gift of technology offered to residents of the Kitikmeot Larga house in Yellowknife

by Michelle LeTourneau Northern News Services

A former Cambridge Bay resident, who is a volunteer with Computers for Schools in Yellowknife, dropped off 40 laptops and changed the lives of Kitikmeot Larga residents Aug. 6.

Sudhir Jha thought the Larga residence in Yellowknife, which sees many people from the Kitikmeot pass through its door while receiving medical treatment in Yellowknife, would be the ideal way to pass on recycled computers.

"I thought it was a good idea to give computers to the people," said Jha, who approached Larga manager Casey Adlem about his interest in providing laptops to people who might not normally be able to own one.

Jha had tried convincing several people to help distribute the computers. "I knew through Larga could reach Cambridge Bay, Haven, Kugluktuk and Taloyoak," said Jha.

Adlem replied immediately. "I responded quickly because I know there are people in the Kitikmeot who don't have ways to stay in communication with family and friends who don't live in their own community," said Adlem. "And many people may not even have a telephone. So if they have a way that they can communicate with others, it's good for everybody."

Jha says people were "super-happy," and Adlem echoes that sentiment. "I think some people were so happy," he said.

Adlem says people were "overwhelmed, and just so grateful."

Adlem says the Kitikmeot are generally grateful for small things. "So this, for some of them, was life-changing. You could feel the spirits just lifting in the whole building."

A few recipients, elders who have never owned a computer, are looking forward to learning how to use one.

The younger generation ... most have access to computers through school or through work, and know how to use them. The elders I was speaking to said their son or daughter was going to show them how to get on there. Some of them are talking about maybe even making a Facebook account. They laugh, and they're excited about it."

Adlem says it's also been great for staff to be involved, and that such a generous gift is good for the health.

"We're just so grateful for that opportunity. I think any time people have something happen in their life it affects them in a positive way. Someone mentioned, 'It's nice that we're not always forgotten.'"

"These computers will increase their awareness of the technology and learn how to use computer skills in their everyday lives," said Jha. "Even the next day after the distribution I went to the



Computers for Schools donated 40 laptops to Larga Kitikmeot residents who were in Yellowknife for medical treatment Aug. 6. Computers for Schools volunteer Sudhir Jha, left, with a few of the residents returning home with laptops including Amber Mingigak, left, Gordie Porter, with young Stephen Kununak, Vera Kaomayok, Myste Mamingoak, Jean Kaiyogana, Helen Kaloon, Millie Avaligak, Sam Avaligak and Alexandra Klengenbergh in front.

Schools of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Desktop computers are also available. Adlem hopes the new relationship between Larga and Computers for Schools continues. "What they do is amazing. For some people, it is life changing." Jha is equally grateful for the opportunity to distribute the computers. "I am also super-happy."

### CONCORDIA ALUM DELIVERS LAPTOPS TO NEEDY

Sudhir Jha, MEng 05, is manager of Community Infrastructure Planning for the Government of the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife. He's also the Concordia University Alumni Association's Yellowknife Chapter representative.

Last summer Jha added another title: laptop provider. The Computers for Schools volunteer helped organize delivery of 40 recycled laptops to Kitikmeot Larga, a residence for Inuit travelling from the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut for medical services. Many of the recipients had never owned a computer.





AT THE CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 (FROM LEFT): BRIAN O'NEILL GALLERY, OUTGOING CHAIR; PAMELA MCGOVERN, NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIR; MICHAEL KENNEALLY, PRINCIPAL, SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES; AND CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD.

## Farewell to a builder of Irish studies at Concordia

LOUISE MORGAN

With plenty of Irish charm and a lot of hard work, Brian O'Neill Gallery, BA 57, LLD 10, helped grow a passion for his Irish roots into a School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia — the first and only one of its kind in Canada. This fall, after two decades as chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation and its principal fundraiser, Gallery has passed the torch to Pamela McGovern.

"No one in recent memory has had such a profound and lasting impact on the Irish community. Brian's accomplishments are now enshrined at Concordia in the School of Canadian Irish Studies, which has made its presence felt in Canada and far beyond," said McGovern in her words of acceptance.

"If it weren't for Brian, there never would have been a School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia," says Michael Kenneally, principal of the School of Canadian Irish Studies. The school was born of a partnership between Kenneally, the driving force on the academic side, and Gallery, who

helped build an endowment fund of almost \$9 million to finance it.

The foundation, which Gallery co-founded with Peter O'Brien in 1995, has since become one of Concordia's largest-ever benefactors, paying out \$500,000 annually to the university — that's nearly \$10 million over the years thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors. "With his remarkable passion, enthusiasm and commitment, Brian brought fundraising to a whole other level, ensuring a permanent source of income for Irish studies at Concordia," says Kenneally.

Gallery is proud of his own Irish roots in Montreal. His great-grandfather, Sir William Hingston, was mayor of Montreal in 1875, and his grandfather, Donald Hingston, founded Saint Mary's Hospital. Gallery himself was mayor of Westmount from 1983 to 1987. "You can't be proud of your heritage unless you know it," Gallery says. "So to perpetuate the study of the Irish and our heritage means a lot to me. My involvement with Irish studies at Concordia has been a wonderful journey, a labour of love that has brought me great satisfaction and many friendships."

Gallery began fundraising for Irish studies at the grassroots level in 1997 — and has never stopped. The discipline at Concordia began with a few courses, which grew into a centre. In 2009, Concordia opened the School of Canadian Irish Studies, the first in the country to focus on the study of modern and historical Ireland and the Irish diaspora.

Today the school boasts a major in Canadian Irish Studies, 25 fully funded annual scholarships valued at \$40,000, six full-time professors of Irish Studies, and 22 courses in 12 disciplines offered annually to over 900 students. It also holds a public lecture series, which has hosted many distinguished speakers including poet and Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, gay rights activist Panti Bliss and former Irish prime minister Garret FitzGerald.

"I'm proud that we have come so far and I'm so grateful for the generosity of the Irish in Quebec and Canada, for every donation large or small. Our donors deserve the credit for helping us get where we are today. The School of Canadian Irish Studies is a jewel at Concordia, which has always been supportive. The current president, Alan Shepard, has been especially helpful — and has become a good friend," says Gallery. "Now the challenge is to raise its profile across Canada. That's the job of the upcoming generation."

In recognition of his tireless efforts in service of the university, the Concordia University Alumni Association presented Gallery with the Humberto Santos Award of Merit in 2010, and that same year Concordia awarded him an honorary doctorate. "We thank Brian for his tireless leadership and for helping Concordia become a world leader in Irish studies," says Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement and External Relations. ■



**Alumni Campus Abroad:  
Spain, Ronda**  
April 26 to May 14, 2016

**Village Life in Dordogne**  
May 19 to 27, 2016

**In the Wake of the Vikings**  
June 8 to 16, 2016

**Alaska Discovery**  
July 12 to 23, 2016

**Baltic and Scandinavian Treasures**  
July 3 to 10, 2016

**Island Life in Ancient Greece  
and Turkey**  
September 26 to October 4, 2016

**Sorrento**  
October 25 to November 3, 2016

**Holiday Markets**  
November 25 to December 6, 2016

For more information or to be added to the travel program mailing list, visit [concordia.ca/alumni/travel](http://concordia.ca/alumni/travel).

Email: [alumnitravel@concordia.ca](mailto:alumnitravel@concordia.ca) | Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 3819





FATHER O'BRIEN (SEATED, AT RIGHT), AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON LOYOLA CAMPUS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015.

## CONCORDIA MOURNS PASSING OF FATHER JOHN O'BRIEN, S.J.

HOWARD BOKSER

Beloved Distinguished Professor Emeritus Father John (Jack) E. O'Brien, S.J., BA 45, passed away in Pickering, Ont., on November 7, 2015. He was 91.

Father O'Brien was a cherished Concordia professor and highly regarded author, speaker and administrator. In 1965 the Jesuit priest founded the Communication Arts program, the first university communication studies program in Canada, at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions.

Communication Arts was renamed the Department of Communication Studies in 1977. In its five decades there have been more than 4,700 graduates from the department, many going on to help redefine the media and communications landscape. The long list of high-achieving alumni includes *La Presse* columnist Nathalie Petrowski, BA 76, TV producer René Balcer, BA 78 (*Law & Order*), movie producer Kevin Tierney, GrDip 79 (*Bon Cop, Bad Cop*), journalist and author Maziar Bahari, BA 93 (*Then They Came for Me*), TV writer Barry Julien, BA 94 (*The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*), and

Arcade Fire's Regine Chassagne, BA 98.

Under O'Brien's tutelage, Concordia also offered the first graduate diploma and joint PhD communication studies programs in Canada.

O'Brien retired from the university in 1986. To recognize his exemplary career achievements, Concordia named him its first Distinguished Professor Emeritus in 1987 and bestowed upon him the Loyola Medal, one of the university's highest honours, in 2011. O'Brien recently returned to Loyola Campus at Homecoming 2015 to help commemorate communication studies' 50th anniversary.

"We're terribly saddened to learn of the loss of one of Concordia's pioneers," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "It was very meaningful that Father O'Brien was able to celebrate his department's 50th anniversary with us just recently. A great man whose warmth and generosity have left a lasting impression on our community."

Veteran Canadian film and TV producer Don Carmody, BA 72, says he remains grateful to Father O'Brien for influencing his career direction. "He was somewhat instrumental in getting

me into the Communication Arts program," says Carmody, whose lengthy résumé includes the Academy Award-winning *Chicago*. "Father O'Brien represented the department effectively and he was always an affable presence. We called him 'Smiling Jack.'"

Benoit-Antoine Bacon, BA 95, Concordia's provost and vice-president, Academic Affairs, says, "Father O'Brien will be remembered as one of our university's most important innovators and builders. He truly was at the forefront of developing communication studies as an important field of study across the country."

### TRAILBLAZER

O'Brien graduated from Loyola College in 1945. He then joined the Society of Jesus and was ordained in 1957. He headed off to the University of Southern California (USC) for graduate studies in 1959. After earning his PhD, he returned to Loyola in 1964.

Before launching Loyola's communication arts program the next year, O'Brien first had to convince the administration that it would generate interest among students. "Gerry MacGuigan,

the head of the English department, approached me to see if I would teach an elective on media and society, a two-semester course," O'Brien told *Concordia University Magazine* in 2008. "If you have 10 students, consider it a success," he said. We ended up with 80."

From the program's beginnings, O'Brien explained, "The curriculum had three thrusts: arts, social sciences and the labs. Essentially, we bridged the gap between theory and practice to gain insight into the world we're living in." Over the next two years, he brought in an eclectic and varied group of professors from widely varied backgrounds.

O'Brien's professional life took him beyond Concordia. He chaired the Christian Pavilion programming committee for Montreal's Expo 67 world fair. In 1983, he became secretary for Social Communication to the Father General of the Jesuits in Rome, where he helped reshape the training of young Jesuits worldwide.

O'Brien was active until his illness appeared in early October. His most recent assignment was as advisor to students in training for the Jesuit priesthood at Regis College at the University of Toronto. He returned to Concordia's Loyola Campus in September and spoke at the reunion.

"Someone said to me today, 'You were tough!'" he told the audience. "And I didn't apologize because yes, I was tough. Because I really wanted the best from each of you. And if you're not tough, you're not going to get the best. But each of you knew I cared."

### CHARISMATIC LEADER

Donat Taddeo, BA 67, is a former student of O'Brien — he remembers taking his first communications class — and later a long-time colleague. Taddeo, who became a faculty member and held several senior administrative positions at Concordia for nearly three decades, began as Father O'Brien's administrative assistant in 1972. He worked closely with O'Brien for many years and developed a personal

relationship as well. "He was a great person," says Taddeo. "He was one of the first Canadians to earn a PhD in communications, which was still an emerging field in the 1950s. Had he not joined the Jesuits, Jack could have been a major corporate entrepreneur. And he instilled that entrepreneurial spirit in the department and gave it an academic and a social dimension. He was a social entrepreneur long before that term was coined."



FATHER O'BRIEN, 1965

Dennis Murphy, BA 67, was a member of Loyola's first communication arts graduating class and is also a former Concordia communication studies professor who worked with O'Brien. Murphy describes the department's founder as extremely charismatic. "He was a tremendous leader," Murphy says. "Because of Jack, communication studies focused on social responsibility. He believed that we should train people to think about ethical issues in the media."

Murphy adds that it was extremely important for O'Brien to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations. "He was thrilled to be there," Murphy says. "He was in his element."

"The spirit of Father O'Brien's vision and leadership lives on in the Department of Communication Studies," says Sandra Gabriele, associate professor and chair of the department. "His vision for a department that would make a difference in the media world has been realized many times over in our amazing and accomplished alumni. We proudly continue the tradition he established of teaching our students to be creative thinkers and thoughtful makers of media. We wouldn't be where we are today — one of the top communication studies programs in the country — without the groundwork Father O'Brien laid."

"The fact that our communication studies program produced so many highly successful alumni through the years proves that it was not only ahead of its time 50 years ago but remained so under Father O'Brien's guidance and beyond," says Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement and External Relations. "Those alumni owe much of their achievement to Father O'Brien's skills as a trailblazer and educator."

"It was wonderful seeing Father O'Brien at Homecoming surrounded by so many of his admirers and former students — he still had a sparkle in his eye," says Leisha LeCouvrie, Concordia's senior director of Alumni Relations. "Father O'Brien fully represented the Jesuit tradition at Loyola — a man for others. His legacy — like that of so many of his Loyola colleagues and students — will live on through the exceptional educational foundation he built." ■

*Anyone wishing to make a donation in the name of Father O'Brien can contribute to: The Reverend Jack O'Brien, S.J., Bursary Endowment at Concordia University, online at [concordia.ca/obriensbursary](http://concordia.ca/obriensbursary) or by calling 514-848-2424, ext. 3884, or toll-free: 1-888-777-3330 or The Jesuit Development Office, 43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C3*



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

45TH REUNION

**71 Keith Garebian, MA,** made the shortlist out of 140 submissions for the Best Single Poem from a suite in the

2015 Gwendolyn MacEwen-Exile Poetry Competition. One of Keith's new poems was read at the Armenian genocide commemoration event at Toronto's City Hall on October 22.

**73 Carol-Ann Tetrault Sirsly, BComm, BSc 74, MBA 75, PhD 12,** recently became an associate professor

in the Management and Strategy group at Carleton University's Sprott School of Business. Carol-Ann is on a one-year sabbatical to extend her research on sustainable business development. She also holds CPA and CA designations and conducts research on corporate governance.

**78 Greta Goss, BA (Eng.),** recently launched ReeLives Infotainment, a website curating movies about disabilities, disorders, syndromes and other human challenges ([reelives.com](http://reelives.com)). ReeLives Infotainment is a reference tool for those in academia, film, psychology, education, medicine, sociology and other fields. The site lists

thousands of feature films that deal with nearly 500 challenges.

**87 Tracy Fellows, BComm,** is partner and chief operating officer at Jackman Reinvents in Toronto. "We are a customer experience reinvention company that helps North American retailers become the most powerful and relevant version of themselves. My time at Concordia helped me focus on my love of marketing and understanding consumer dynamics."

2014) won several prizes, including the Lora Romero First Book Award from the American Studies Association.

**Enrica Uva, BA (psych.),** was president of the Concordia Italian Students Association while at the university. Enrica is married to **Giuseppe Pompeo, BComm 94,** and is an employment services supervisor at UPS Canada in Lachine, Que. She is president of the Federazione delle Associazioni Regione Campania-Canada, a board member of Congresso Italo-Canadese and a director of Generations Foundation.

magazine as "one of the top 20 Canadian Media Executives under 35." John's latest film, *The Saver*, screened at the 2015 Festival du nouveau cinéma in Montreal. He is president and founder of Prospector Films and chair of the Documentary Organization of Canada. [ProspectorFilms.ca](http://ProspectorFilms.ca)

with a focus on organizational behaviour. The Harvard endeavour has been by far the most fulfilling experience in my life, a challenging and engaging moment."

**11 Gabriela Warrior Renaud, BA (comm. studies),** writes, "Last year I decided to focus on my film project *Hyphen*, a documentary exploring cultural identity in multiracial families in Canada. Through multiple stories, I want to shed a light on the misrepresented yet growing phenomenon of multiracial families in Canada. I held a successful fundraiser screening in May 2015 and created an online community, called HyphenNation ([hyphennation.ca](http://hyphennation.ca)), where we can share content and stories about multiracial issues and contribute to the changing conversation around race and identity."

**07 Javad Lavaei, MAsc,** recently began as an assistant professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at the University of California at Berkeley. Javad researches interdisciplinary problems in control theory, optimization, networks, power systems and distributed computation.

**10 Mustafa Yunus, BA (hist. & poli. sci.),** earned a master's degree in management from Harvard Extension School in May 2015. "I still work at CIBC in investments in Montreal. I would like to start my PhD in management

25TH REUNION

**91 Robert Tsonos, BComm (mktg.),** recently became the artistic director of the Watermark Theatre in North Rustico, P.E.I. Robert's international directing career has taken him to Japan, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and Venezuela. He was a member of the Watermark acting company for the past two seasons and was director of its national tour of *Canada 300*.

**00 Hala (El-Khaldi) Martin, BComm, GrDip 07,** was recently promoted to partner in the assurance practice of Ernst and Young in the San Francisco Bay Area. Hala provides assurance and advisory services to private and large multinational public companies in the technology industry. She earned an MBA from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston and is a Certified Public Accountant.

**93 Audra Simpson, BA (anthro.),** earned tenure in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University in New York City in May 2015. Audra's book *Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States* (Duke University Press,

15TH REUNION

**01 John Christou, BA,** an award-winning film producer, was recognized in 2013 by *Hollywood Reporter*

**1 Diane Collet, BFA 76, MA (art ed.) 03,** took part in "The Collectors Fair IV" at Galerie de la Ville in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., from October 17 to November 15, 2015. 1) *Sculpted Twins*

**2 Patricia Morris, MFA 84,** participated in a two-person exhibition, "Focus," at Galerie Saint-Dizier in Montreal in November 2015. The exhibit featured abstracts from Patricia's Trans Canada Drive series. 2) *Red Tree*

**3 Susan Shulman, BFA (studio arts) 96,** was part of the "Square Affair Art Exhibition," a community fundraising event featuring some 300 "square foot" artworks, at the McClure Gallery of the Visual Arts Centre in Westmount, Que., from October 31 to November 11, 2015. 3) *Blues Bunny Progression*

**4 Nathalie Bandulet, BFA (studio arts) 97,** an Eastern Townships, Que.-based artist,

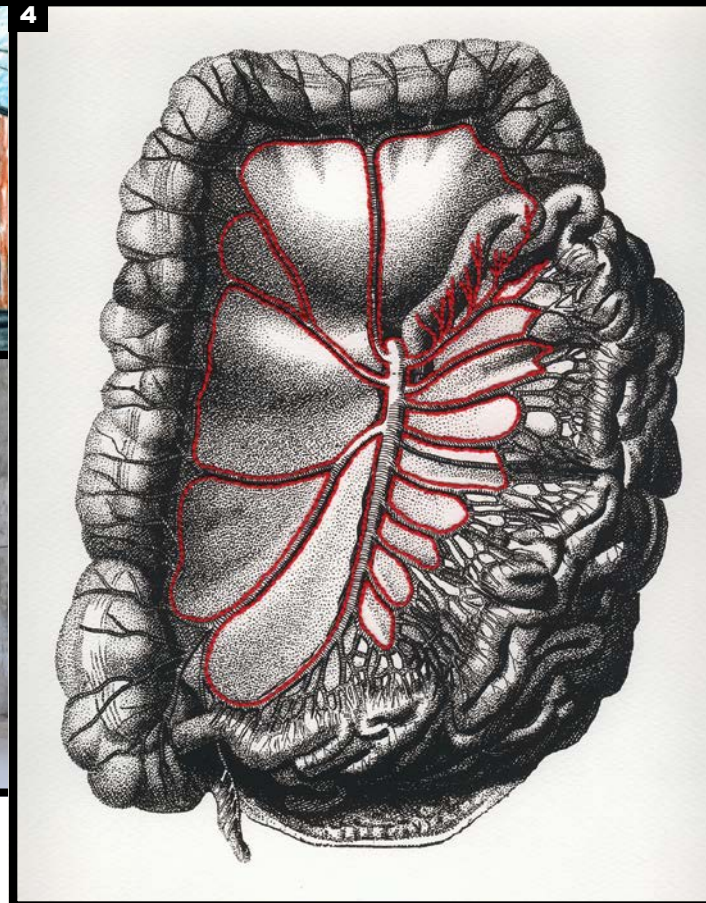
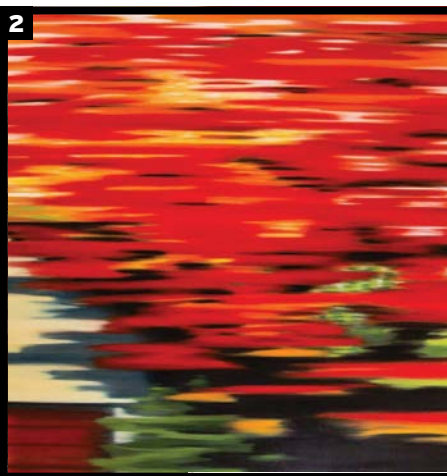
Florida Snowbirds

Do you head to the Sunshine State for the winter season? Please provide us with your seasonal address to ensure you'll continue to receive alumni news and Florida event information: [alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca) or 514-848-2424, ext. 4856, or 1-888-777-3330

participated in the juried show "Foire d'art contemporain de Saint-Lambert" in Saint-Lambert, Que., from October 15 to 18, 2015. Nathalie also illustrated the latest book of poetry by Philippe More, *Les Âges concentriques* (Dimedia, 2015). 4) *Flore 2*

**5 G. Scott Macleod, BFA (printmaking) 03, MA (art ed.) 13,** is holding an exhibition, "In Griffintown," at Centre d'histoire de Montréal. The exhibit, which began September 24, 2015, and runs until September 4, 2016, was Scott's master's thesis and includes his drawing table, slices of history and memories of Montreal's Griffintown neighborhood. 5) *In Griffintown*

**6 Linda-Marlena Bucholtz Ross, BFA (photog.) 08,** is exhibiting her photographs on architecture and construction, called "Beauty, Complexity and Chaos: A New Milestone for Montreal," at the Research Institute Atrium at the McGill University Health Centre in Montreal from October 8, 2015, to mid April 2016. 6) *Electric Commando as Installation Piece*







COURTESY OF AFP QUÉBEC

Concordia Chancellor Emeritus **L. Jacques Ménard**, BComm 67, LLD 06 (right), was among the guest speakers at the celebration of National Philanthropy Day held by the Quebec chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the Hyatt Regency Montreal on November 13. Jacques is pictured with Gabrielle Bleau-Côté, recipient of the Award for Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy (less than 18 years).



Duniya Theatre's *State of Denial* ran from October 8 to 25 at the Segal Centre Studio in Montreal. The play was directed by **Liz Valdez**, BFA 04, and co-starred **Michaela Di Cesare**, BA 09. Set in contemporary Canada and Turkey of 1915, *State of Denial* links the Turkish-denied Armenian genocide of 1915 with the 1995 genocide in Rwanda. Liz also teaches in Concordia's Department of Theatre. Pictured in *State of Denial* are (from, left) **Warona Setshwaelo** and Concordia student **Jimmy Blais**.



**Adam Koniuszewski**, BComm (fin.) 93, GrDip (acct.) 95, is pictured (right) at the Elysée in Paris on September 25, 2015. Adam was part of the team, led by former French Minister of the Environment Corinne Lepage, which delivered a draft of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Humankind to President of France François Hollande (left). The project builds on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to ensure "the right of all people on Earth to live in a world whose future is not compromised by the irresponsibility of the present generation."



CLAUDIA GRÉGOIRE

**Julie Curly (Vaillancourt)**, BFA (film studies) 05, MA (film studies) 07, received radio play with her single, "Silk Stocking District." Julie's music video for the edgy song about a powerful woman was filmed in New York and captures the vibrancy of the Big Apple. [juliecurly.com](http://juliecurly.com)

## 50 years of Communication Studies at Concordia

The Department of Communication Studies will mark the closing of its year-long 50th anniversary celebrations with two events in April 2016.

**April 29, 8 p.m.**

Screening of *A Journey to Ithaca*, directed and produced by Nicola Zavaglia, BA 78

The film recounts the story of the department's beginnings and features interviews with Fr. John O'Brien, Fr. Marc Gervais, Fr. Clair Fischer, John Buell and others.

**April 30**

5 p.m.-6 p.m.

Panel discussion: Communications - The Next 50 Years

6 p.m.-11 p.m.

Celebration for alumni, faculty and staff

Watch for details to follow at [coms50th.concordia.ca](http://coms50th.concordia.ca).

## HONORARY DOCTORATES

Concordia bestowed three honorary doctorates during its fall 2015 convocation ceremonies at Place des Arts on October 27. The distinguished recipients joined more than 1,750 students from Concordia's four faculties and School of Graduate Studies.

**France Chrétien Desmarais**, 1 LLD 15, is chair of the board of the Society for the Celebration of Montreal's 375th Anniversary, founding chair of the Canadian Olympic Foundation and vice-chair and founding member of international non-profit organization One Drop.

**Nancy Neamtan**, 2 LLD 15, is former executive director of the Chantier de l'économie sociale, president of the Chantier de l'économie sociale Trust and co-chair of Territoires innovants en économie sociale et solidaire, a centre for knowledge transfer on social innovation.

**Barbara Steinman**, 3 LLD 15, is a multidisciplinary artist, former co-director of Vidéo Véhicule, an artists' video production and performance centre, and of La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse.

**Sandra Paikowsky**, BA 67, was appointed as a member to the Order of Canada in December 2015 for her contributions to the development of Canadian art history as a discipline. Sandra retired in 2010 after 41 years as a faculty member in Concordia's Department of Art History and was named a professor emerita. She was also the first distinguished fellow of the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art at Concordia.

**Anita Anand**, 4 BA 85, BEd 88, won a 2015 Quebec Writers' Federation (QWF) Literary Award. Her novel *Swing in the House and Other Stories* (Véhicule Press) garnered the Concordia University First Book Prize. Anita's short story collection features rocky marriages, feuding siblings and racism — informed by her experiences as an Indo-Canadian. **David McGimpsey**, BA (Eng.) 88, MA (Eng.) 90, won the QWF's 2015 A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry for his collection *Asbestos Heights* (Coach House Books).

**Rhonda Mullins**, 5 MA (media studies) 96, took home the 2015 Governor General's Literary Award for Translation for *Twenty-One Cardinals*, her English version of Jocelyne Saucier's *Les héritiers de la mine*. Rhonda was a finalist for the same award three times in recent years. **Lazer Lederhendler**, MA (Eng.) 93, was nominated in the same category for *The Lake* (House of Anansi Press) by Perrine Leblanc, and Marie Frankland was nominated for the French translation of *MxT* by **Sina Queyras**, MA (Eng.) 95.

**Larissa Andrusyshyn**, BA (Eng. & cr. wr.) 04, MA (Eng.) 09, **Branka Petrovic**, MA (Eng.) 10, and **Moez Surani**, MA (Eng.) 05, were among the 25 finalists, out of several thousand entries, for the 2015 CBC Poetry Prize.



OWEN EGAN



**Catherine Dubeau**, 6 BFA (film animation) 15, won Air Canada's 2015 enRoute Film Festival prize for Achievement in Animation for her graduation film *Kaleidoscope*, which illustrates one character's surreal awakening to the colourful world in which he lives. As part of the prize, Catherine will be sent to the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival, where *Kaleidoscope* will screen, and for a three-day mentorship at the National Film Board of Canada in Montreal.





**Guido Cocomello**, BComm 10 (right), a Montreal stand-up comedian and actor, played Mario in the world premiere production of *Don't Blame it on the Stork* at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre in Saint-Leonard, Que., from September 15 to October 11. Guido is pictured with Eleanor Noble and Antonio DiVerdis.



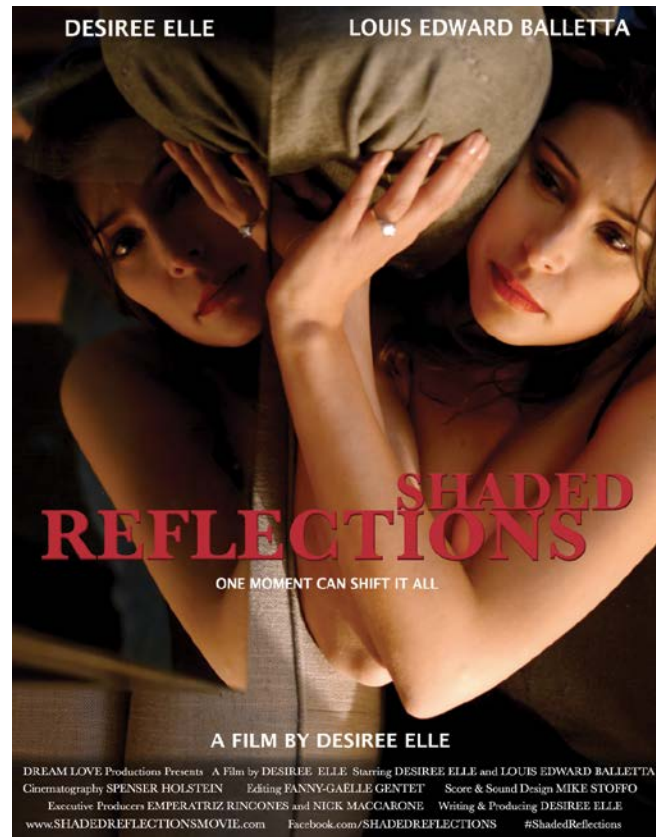
**IN MEMORIAM:  
Hugh McQueen, BEng 54**

Hugh McQueen – a distinguished professor emeritus in engineering and one of Concordia's most familiar faces – passed away on December 17, 2015. McQueen was a devoted faculty member who contributed immensely to the growth of a modest engineering school into a comprehensive, well-balanced department widely recognized across Canada and the world.

Born in 1933 in Alloa, Scotland, a town near Glasgow, McQueen moved to Montreal in 1942 at the height of the Second World War. He earned degrees from Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, McGill University and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, before taking a faculty position as associate professor at École Polytechnique in Montreal. He went on to become a research scientist at the Department of

Energy, Mines and Resources from 1966 to 1968. He joined Sir George Williams University, Concordia's other founding institution, as an associate professor in 1968 and was promoted to professor in June 1972.

In his long career, McQueen put out close to 500 publications in his research area of metallurgy. He also established three endowments at the university. In addition to a number of academic honours, McQueen won the 2010 Sustainability Champion Award at Concordia.



**Desiree Elle**, BComm 07, toured the festival circuit last summer with her widely acclaimed first short film, *Shaded Reflections*. It was chosen for the 2015 Cannes Festival Short Film Corner and was an official selection for both the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards and the Los Angeles Cinefest. Desiree – who wrote, produced, directed and acted in the film – won the Actress in a Leading Role award from the IndieFEST Film Awards. She also co-wrote and sang its theme song, "Broken Lines," which won Best Original Song at the 2015 Manhattan Film Festival.

## SAVE THE DATE

The John Molson Executive MBA is celebrating 30 years of enriching futures!

We invite you to come and celebrate the milestones that have made this program and your experiences in it life-changing.

<b>DATE</b>	Saturday, April 16, 2016
<b>LOCATION</b>	GRÉVIN MONTREAL 705 Ste-Catherine St. W. – 5th floor Montréal, Quebec (Canada) H3B 4G5
<b>TIME</b>	5:30 – 8 p.m.
<b>INFO</b>	Sharon Nelson, Assistant Director 514-848-2424, ext. 3697 <a href="mailto:sharon.nelson@concordia.ca">sharon.nelson@concordia.ca</a> <a href="http://concordia.ca/emba">concordia.ca/emba</a>

**Carroll Laurin**, BA 48, July 24, 2015, Montreal. He was 87.

**Marc Paul Brault**, BSc 50, July 11, 2015, Cowansville, Que.

**Robert H. Marchessault**, BSc 50, LLD 82, September 16, 2015, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que. He was 87.

**Maurice Dupre**, BSc 51, July 7, 2015, Saint-Lambert, Que. He was 92.

**Jack Nissenson**, BA 51, June 24, 2015, Montreal. He was 82.

**Allan P. Magonet**, BA 53, September 27, 2015, Montreal.

**Claire I. (Shuster) Starr**, BA 53, August 8, 2015, Scarborough, Maine. She was 92.

**Basil H. Johnston**, BA 54, September 8, 2015, Warton, Ont. He was 86.

**Joseph Fahey**, BComm 56, July 10, 2015, Beaconsfield, Que. He was 80.

**Joseph A. Mastro**, BComm 56, September 21, 2015, Montreal. He was 82.

**Riva (Mankofsky) Deskin**, BA 57, July 3, 2015, Côte-Saint-Luc, Que.

**Henry T. (Trouble) Harbinson**, BSc 57, August 11, 2015, Pointe-Claire, Que.

**Morris P. Rudich**, BComm 57, September 11, 2015, Montreal.

**Pierre Langlois**, BSc 58, January 25, 2015, Saint-Sauveur, Que. He was 83.

**Peter E. Pitsiladis**, BComm 58, September 7, 2015, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 82.

**Goldie Welikovitch (Welik)**, BA 60, September 19, 2015, Montreal. She was 77.

**James Patrick Crotty, Jr.**, BA 63, August 14, 2015, Montreal.

**William George Whittaker**, BA 65, BSc 66, August 27, 2015, Toronto.

**John I. Wood**, BSc 65, January 5, 2015, Antigonish, N.S. He was 73.

**Charles (Charlie) Leo Snow**, BComm 66, July 2, 2015, Toronto. He was 84.

**Helaine Reva (Slater) Blatt**, BA 68, August 19, 2015, Edmonton. She was 74.

**Carole Kay Stern**, BA 69, August 18, 2015, Montreal.

**Marjorie Blackhurst**, BA 71, June 17, Victoria. She was 89.

**Paul Woodrow**, MA 71, July 24, 2015, Calgary. He was 74.

**Antonina Di Iorio Rossi**, BA 72, Cert 91, August 3, 2015, Laval. She was 65.

**Shirley (Apple) Gleason**, BA 72, July 4, 2015, Montreal. She was 85.

**Hans Dietrich Mayenknecht**, BComm 72, September 30, Victoria. He was 86.

**Francis Newman**, BA 73, September 25, 2015, Duncan, B.C. He was 71.

**Joan Courtois**, BA 74, September 14, 2015, Westmount, Que. She was 93.

**Alida Gaye Savage**, BA 75, June 30, 2015, Toronto. She was 62.

**Maureen Patricia (Eccles) Hill**, BA 76, July 23, 2015, Montreal. She was 74.

**F. James Montague**, BA 76, September 12, 2015, Montreal.

**Malcolm McLean Kelly**, MSc 78, June 16, 2015, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 86.

**Yetta Deckelbaum**, BA 79, June 25, 2015, Hollywood, Fla. She was 87.

**Bernard H. Abcarius**, MBA 80, September 14, 2015, Baie d'Urfé, Que. He was 78.

**Ken J. Plaa**, BComm 80, July 15, 2015, Toronto. He was 58.

**Stephen Calder**, BFA 82, BSc 93, June 27, 2015, Montreal. He was 61.

**Iona D. (Everitt) McAulay**, BFA 82, August 19, Montreal. She was 75.

**Maritza Berger**, MA 83, July 7, 2015, Montreal. She was 91.

**Allan Ira Arfin**, BFA 84, July 2, 2015, Toronto. He was 54.

**Susan St. George**, Cert (TESL) 84, October 2, 2015, Peterborough, N.H. She was 67.

**Bruno Della Serra**, BComm 84, June 15, 2015, Montreal. He was 57.

**Marian Auld**, GrDip 86, July 18, 2015, Pointe-Claire, Que. She was 81.

**Stewart Matthew Hersey (Herscovitch)**, BA 86, September 2015, Fremont, Calif.

**Renata H. (Renée) Polak McGilly**, BFA 86, August 30, 2015, Victoria. She was 81.

**Thomas Parkinson**, BFA 88, August 6, 2015, Montreal. He was 56.

**Pearl (Rosemarin) Aronoff**, BA 89, September 4, 2015, Montreal. She was 90.

**Tanya Ballantyne Tree**, MA 89, June 18, 2015, Montreal. She was 71.

**Bert Bergman**, BComm 89, July 17, 2015, Pointe-Claire, Que.

**Eva Samartzidis**, BA 89, June 24, 2015, Montreal. She was 49.

**Joyce E. Weippert**, Cert 89, September 17, 2015, Winnipeg. She was 81.

**Danielle Ninon Schryer**, BFA 90, September 21, 2015, Montreal. She was 69.

**John L. Ferko**, BA 94, September 9, 2015, Montreal. He was 61.

**Irene (Jirava) Lande**, BFA 94, July 17, 2015, Montreal. She was 80.

**Jamie C. Stewart**, BComm 97, June 23, 2015, Beaconsfield, Que. He was 44.

**Rob Balazic**, attendee 98, July 19, 2015, Montreal. He was 45.

**Jennie (Zajac) Frosst McAllister**, BA 99, September 5, 2015, Montreal. She was 83.

**Derek Brennan**, BSc 02, June 6, 2015, Ottawa. He was 35.

**Christopher Achkarian**, BComm 10, August 9, 2015, Montreal. He was 28.

**Scott Chandler**, MFA 12, August 30, 2015, Aurora, Ont. He was 31. ■



# Insomnia, murder and "O Canada"

**Nino Ricci**, MA (Eng.) 87, is one of only a handful of writers to have taken home a Governor General's Award for Fiction twice: for his first novel, *Lives of the Saints* (1990), and his most recent, *The Origin of Species* (2008). Ricci's latest effort, *Sleep* (Doubleday Canada, \$30),

for her latest novel, *Via Roma: Between 2 Worlds, 2 Men* (Guernica Editions, \$20). The story follows a Montreal woman who is attracted to two Italian men and becomes entwined in a murder mystery, passionate love and lust, suffering and redemption. Melfi lives in Montreal and has published more than a dozen books of

institutions. In the story, on the eve of the Second World War, Esther and Sarah dream big. Fifty years later, when death takes Esther, her son and oldest friend must decide whether Esther's abandoned dreams will defeat them or spur them on to their own triumphs. Gerson's previous work includes the *Q'ntana*

rose from an unlikely background to his present day job, practicing international law for one of Montreal's most prestigious law firms. His previous Luc Vanier books were *Vigilante Season* (2013) and *The Dead of Winter* (2012). [peterkirby.ca](http://peterkirby.ca)

In *Shivers & Signposts: The Journey Continues*

discoveries will entertain and provoke readers. Richman is affiliated with the Thomas More Institute of Montreal and is a member of its board of directors and chair of its Admissions and Accreditation Committee.

The subtitle of the new collection of short stories by **Peter Dubé**, BA (comm. studies) 85, MA (Eng.) 96, reveals much: *Beginning*

in English Canada, he's hardly known at all. Yet Lavallée was the first Canadian-born musician to gain international fame. **Brian Christopher Thompson**, BFA (music) 89, corrects that oversight with *Anthems and Minstrel Shows: The Life and Times of Calixa Lavallée, 1842-1891* (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$49.95). The first English-language biography of Lavallée pro-

of the history and development of the hockey goalie mask. *Saving Face* includes more than 150 photos that depict the mask's trajectory from protective gear to artistic statement. The book also looks at the men behind the iconic masks as well as their makers, artisans and artists. This updated edition includes masks worn by some of the most exciting stars in the game today. Hynes

husband as he struggles to return to work as a professional musician. She mixes her narrative with information on the latest brain research. Stanley holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia and lives in Halfmoon Bay, B.C.

**Nathalie Bandulet**, BFA (studio arts) 97, recently illustrated the fifth book of poetry by Philippe



is perhaps his darkest. The story's protagonist, David Pace, develops an unusual sleeplessness that threatens his career and relationships. But finding a loaded gun in his hand reinvigorates him, and his actions become more extreme and dangerous. Ricci, who lives in Toronto, was the L.G. Pathy Visiting Professor in Canadian Studies at Princeton University in New Jersey in 2013. [ninoricci.com](http://ninoricci.com)

Italian-born **Mary Melfi**, BA 73, returns to her homeland

poetry, prose and drama. She received the Giornata Internazionale Della Donna Award in 2010. [italyrevisited.org](http://italyrevisited.org)

Prolific author **Mark David Gerson**, BComm 75, who lives in Albuquerque, N.M., turns to his native city for inspiration for his 12th book, *Sara's Year* (Mark David Gerson, US\$16). The novel is set mostly in Montreal from the 1930s through the 1980s and includes a stop at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding

fantasy trilogy. [markdavidgerson.com](http://markdavidgerson.com)

Fans of Luc Vanier will welcome his return in *Open Season* (Linda Leith Publishing, \$16.95 paperback, \$8.95 ebook), by **Peter Kirby**, BA (econ.) 80. When the Montreal police detective sets out to find a kidnapped Guatemalan journalist, he uncovers dirty secrets involving human trafficking, a multinational mining corporation and desperate refugees. The Irish-born Kirby, whose own story is novel-worthy,

(Friesen Press, \$18.99, paperback, \$3.99 ebook), **Len Richman**, MA (ed. studies) 82, picks up where his first chronicle, *Raindrops Glimpses Moments: An Unconventional Memoir of an Unplanned Journey* (2008), left off. McGill University professor of neurology Stuart Lubarsky writes in the book's introduction that, unlike the protagonist of T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Richman's life is measured "by a distinct rhythm of his own devising." His thoughts and

*with the Mirror: Ten Stories about Love, Desire and Moving Between Worlds* (Lethe Press, \$19.46). In Dubé's striking prose, the collection delivers eerie, supernatural, often explicit and sometimes violent takes on its characters' wants and obsessions. The Montreal-based Dubé is a past president of the Quebec Writers' Federation and has written, co-written or edited 11 books.

Calixa Lavallée is known mostly as the composer of "O Canada" — and,

vides a detailed account of his life as a composer, conductor, administrator, instrumentalist, educator and critic. Thompson is a senior lecturer in the Department of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Following the success of its first publication in 2008, a new, expanded edition of *Saving Face: The Art and History of the Goalie Mask* (Sports Publishing, \$29.99), by **Jim Hynes**, BA (journ.) 95, and Gary Smith, continues its survey

has written about subjects ranging from the history of Montreal to the history of Canada's oldest golf clubs. He lives in Ithaca, N.Y.

In *Fallen: A Trauma, a Marriage, and the Transformative Power of Music* (Greystone Books, \$14.40), **Kara Stanley**, BA 96, shares the compelling story of her husband's devastating brain and spinal cord injury and how music, science and love played vital roles in his recovery. The story follows Stanley's relationship with her

More, who won the Émile-Nelligan Prize in 2010. Written in three parts, *Les Âges concentriques* (Les Éditions Poètes de brousse, \$16) explores a child's blossoming lyrical consciousness through the experience of emptiness, loss and grief. Bandulet is an artist based in the Eastern Townships, Que. ■

—Guenevere Neufeld, GrDip 15, and Antoni Nerestant, GrDip 15





TONY HONG TRUONG TRAINING FOR HIS CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD OCEAN RACE.

TONY HONG TRUONG, BSC 11

*"Go as far as you can see; when you get there, you'll be able to see farther."*  
— J.P. Morgan

lead my life by following this mantra: Purpose. Patience. Perseverance. That's why, as you read this, I'm participating in an amateur yacht race across the globe, called Clipper Round the World ([clipperroundtheworld.com](http://clipperroundtheworld.com)). At 64,000 kilometres, it's the world's longest ocean race. We'll be sailing on a 70-foot (21-metre) ocean racing yacht, and it will take up to 11 months to complete. It's an endurance test like no other.

This is the 10th edition of Clipper Round the World. It's the only global race for amateur sailors, with no previous sailing experience necessary. The participants are everyday people; nurses, teachers, doctors, retirees, students, bricklayers, sportsmen and women, bus drivers, bankers and many more join together to take on the world's toughest ocean conditions. The sea does not distinguish between Olympians and novices. There's nowhere to hide — if Mother Nature throws down the

## The first Concordian to sail around the world

gauntlet, we must be ready to face the same challenges as a pro.

The race's organizer, Clipper Ventures PLC, supplies participants with a fleet of 12 identical racing yachts, each with a fully qualified skipper to safely guide the crew. I'll be teamed up with Diane Reid, the first female Canadian skipper in the race's history. Joining Reid are 41 crew members from all over the world, including 16 from Canada; I'm the lone participant from Montreal.

Inspired by the achievement of Mylène Paquette, who rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, and after reading Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*, I became determined to follow my dream to travel around the world, so I applied for the Clipper Round the World Race. It is my biggest personal challenge, and I believe that I will become the first Concordian — and one of the first Vietnamese — to circumnavigate the globe.

The participation fee for the Clipper Race is CAD \$90,000, which I raised through donations. A part of the money I raise will also go to Quebec's Make-A-Wish Foundation and Unicef UK, which is the official charity partner of the Clipper Race.

Furthermore, 2015 was the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, which led to the "boat people" — the 800,000 refugees who fled Vietnam by boat in the years following the war.

I decided to join the race — even though I had no prior boating experience — in part because I wanted to pay tribute to the boat people, who included members of my family. I want to emulate their courage and sacrifice, and live out their message of overcoming obstacles. The fifth leg of the Clipper Race will bring me to the South China Sea, where my family's journey started 40 years ago.

As well, I'll be taking this opportunity to say thank you to Canada and Quebec for the freedom this country has given me, freedom to achieve my dreams and ambitions. This freedom is non-existent in many parts of the world, so on behalf of all Vietnamese people resettled overseas, I will use this race to say thank you to all the other countries that adopted us, too.

I'm just an ordinary person wanting to do something extraordinary. As I challenge myself to cross oceans and face stormy seas, I hope to inspire others to do the same with their lives.

*Tony Hong Truong works at KDC Knowlton, a personal care products company based in Knowlton, Que. He wrote this article prior to departing on the Clipper Round the World ocean race on August 31, 2015. Please visit Truong's website at [moderntribesmen.com](http://moderntribesmen.com) to contribute to his quest. ■*



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