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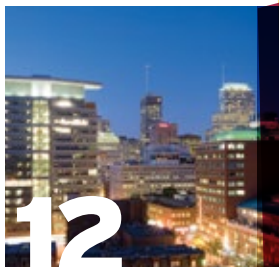
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COLD CLIMATE, WARM MEMORIES

Montreal's charms often prove to be a deciding factor for international students who decide to attend Concordia and, ultimately, live in the city permanently.

By Athena Tacet



IS THE CANADIAN BUSINESS MODEL OFF TARGET?

John Molson School of Business professors Michel Magnan and Harold Simpkins evaluate the impact of competitors from south of the border on national retailers.

By Jason Magder

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Concordia experts – and current and former Olympians – discuss what it takes to prepare for and succeed at the highest levels of international competition.

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An overview of Concordia's exciting reunion festivities.

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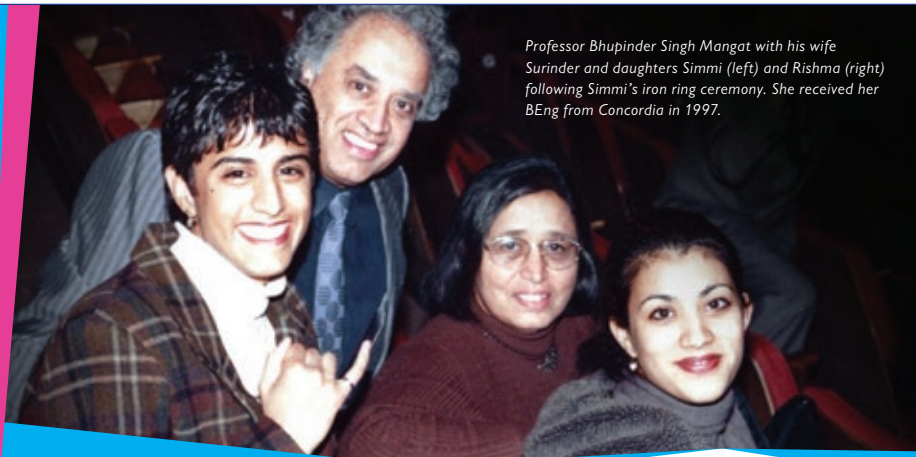
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SETTING AN EXAMPLE: The gift of education



Professor Bhupinder Singh Mangat with his wife Surinder and daughters Simmi (left) and Rishma (right) following Simmi's iron ring ceremony. She received her BEng from Concordia in 1997.

Rishma Mangat is the daughter of Bhupinder Singh Mangat, a long-time professor in Concordia's Department of Biology who passed away in 2012. The family recently established an endowment to fund the Dr. Bhupinder Singh Mangat Award, which is intended to encourage and reward students currently enrolled in any undergraduate program.

"My father used to say material things are ephemeral — but education is the one thing you can't take away.

His love of teaching is what inspired our family to carry the torch and perpetuate the gift of education through a donation to Concordia — his professional home for nearly four decades. We will be funding an undergraduate student award in my late father's name.

As someone who left his home in East Africa at just 17 for the opportunity to study abroad in the United Kingdom, I think he'd be so honoured to know this award will help knock down financial hurdles for academically deserving students. He believed getting a good education was everybody's right.

My father, Professor Mangat, taught generations of students at Concordia's Department of Biology, starting in 1973 at Loyola College (one of the university's founding institutions). He was very popular with students, who appreciated his approachability and sense of humour, and played a significant role in building the biology department into what it is today. His research explored plant tissue culture and development.

As demanding as he was of his students, he was even more demanding of his children. I credit him for giving my sister and me such a solid foundation upon which to develop, and the strong work ethic that still serves us both today.

A gift to Concordia seemed such a fitting tribute, because education was the one legacy he felt was so important for him to give to his children."

Rishma Mangat, BComm 99

Find out how you can join Rishma Mangat in contributing to Concordia:

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



Glad to be here

Montrealers have a lot to be thankful for — even though we sometimes have to be reminded. While the city's obvious treasures — Mount Royal, Old Montreal, enviable nightlife, thriving arts and culture scenes and myriad festivals — are almost clichés, they truly do add to our quality of life.

Less often cited — but no less valuable — are the city's bilingual reality, relatively short work commutes, reasonable cost of living, scenic riverside paths and parks, and youthful vigour that comes in part from its four universities. Importantly, residents and visitors can find a one-of-a-kind vibe here, a blend of European casual and North American drive. (And if we ever get a Major League Baseball team back, it would be that much better.) There really is no other place like it.

Still, complaining about our troubles has almost become a competitive sport. Pick your gripe: Snow and cold. Rapidly disintegrating roads and bridges. Unbridled and unending corruption. Recurring linguistic and cultural discord. And that was just the past month.

Yet while I would argue that our municipal woes are more pervasive than, say, Toronto's — albeit less entertaining — relative to the rest of the world, we have it pretty good.

Students and others who flock to Montreal from elsewhere agree. The latest confirmation of that comes from Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the British company that compiles the World University Rankings. In its new international ratings of the best cities for students, QS placed Montreal number one in Canada, second in North America

and ninth overall. Matt Stiegemeier, the university's director of student recruitment in Enrolment and Student Services, says that the placement "validates what we've been hearing from students."

One such student is Athena Tacet, BA 09, GrDip 12, who arrived in 2006 from Paris (number one in world in the QS rankings) on her way to study political science at Concordia. The city quickly won her over and, seven and half years later, she's well settled here. Athena writes of her positive experiences and those of three fellow international students — now alumni — in "Cold climate, warm memories" (see page 12). The former *Concordia University Magazine* intern and her fellow *arrivants* have joined about 20 per cent of the international students who head to Montreal for an undergrad degree and then choose to become full-time Québécois.

Another non-native Montrealer featured in this issue is Wah Wing Chan, BFA 94, BFA 96. In his Enough Said piece, "A Family Reunion in Montreal" (see page 64), Wing recounts his family's path to the city from Macau, via Laporte, Sask. Like Athena and fellow alumni in her story, Wing considers himself a proud Montrealer. He's come to love the multinational flavour of the

city, where he can, he says, "communicate in Chinese, English and French all in the same breath."

That's why we're well prepared to overcome the city's challenges — we know they're all part of the dynamic Montreal mix. ■



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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Or: Howard.Bokser@concordia.ca

EXAMINING THE CREATIVE PROCESS

I was elated to read about the major investment in research creation that is taking place in the Faculty of Fine Arts ("Concordia News: Major Investment in Research Creation," fall 2013, page 7; the project is called Immediations).

Research in image making during the early 1970s led me to author Jack Burnham and his book, *The Structure of Art* (1971). My philosophy

professor, Jerry Smoke, upon reading my paper about Burnham's theory, requested I give a seminar on the topic to members of the Faculty of Fine Arts. After the hour-long presentation, the buzz in the room signalled that the theory definitely left an impression.

My paper, entitled "An Investigation Into Jack Burnham's 'The Structure of Art,'" was published in Concordia's Fine Arts journal in spring 1974. Since then, many researchers have expanded upon this integral way of looking at the creative process. It's wonderful to see that research creation has blossomed into a field of its own. As an active researcher, I will be following Immediations with great interest. ■

Rodney Heather, BFA
(painting & drawing) 68,
MA (art ed.) 76.

KEEP IN TOUCH

New job? Just moved? Just married? Or just want to let your former classmates know what you've been up to? Visit

concordia.ca/alumni/keepintouch

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

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

By email: records@concordia.ca Subject: **Class Acts**

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CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME FROM MONTREAL'S BUSINESS LEADERS ON NOVEMBER 8.

CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD CALLS FOR A MONTREAL RENAISSANCE

It was a full house. Close to 600 packed the grand ballroom of Le Centre Sheraton Hotel on November 8 to hear Concordia President Alan Shepard address the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal.

In his introduction, the board's president, Michel Leblanc, spoke glowingly of Concordia's importance in Montreal. He also referred to Shepard as "le grand vendeur" as the event sold out in record time.

Following the presentation of a video highlighting the strengths of the university, Shepard addressed the audience of political dignitaries, including Montreal's mayor-elect Denis Coderre, business leaders and representatives from all four Montreal universities.

He called for the creation of a network of start-up zones. These incubators would bring companies and NGOs together with students, who would deliver their own ideas and contribute to the projects of others. He challenged those

present to be ambitious and create 100 of them, with 200 people attached to each zone, for the engagement of some 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students. That would be about 10 per cent of the total population of students in Montreal.

of Start-Up New York. This recent initiative allows businesses that set up shop on or near a university campus and support a school's academic mission to pay no corporate, property or sales taxes for 10 years. And to attract the brightest minds, employees will pay no income

Around the world and closer to home, we need to promote the city as a place of great new ideas, leading research and creativity.

"It is said that Montreal already has a start-up culture. That's true but that network is less visible than our potholes or aging bridges," said Shepard. "Around the world and closer to home, we need to promote the city as a place of great new ideas, leading research and creativity."

His second proposal called for supporting start-up zones with new tax credits. He cited the example

tax for the first five years and reduced taxes for the next five.

Finally, Shepard called on Quebecers to create something big to leverage their talent and infrastructure. "Let's invent new programs that create opportunities for us to mix it up, make something new, solve problems together, venture beyond the known and the familiar." ■

—Christine Mota



GREEN TECHNOLOGY WILL GENERATE UP TO 60 PER CENT MORE ICE TIME TIME AT CONCORDIA'S ED MEAGHER ARENA.

ED MEAGHER ARENA INAUGURATES NHL-CLASS UPGRADES

The Ed Meagher Arena — home of Stingers hockey and community sports — has never looked so good. The 47-year-old Concordia institution officially reopened in November after a National Hockey League-level overhaul.

Thanks to a \$3.25 million grant from the Quebec Municipalities Infrastructure Program, along with \$4.5 million in university funding, the complex is now 2,500 square feet (760 square metres) bigger. It's also now hockey-friendly for 11 months a year, up from seven months, and boasts a rink that meets professional standards, right down to the curvature of its boards.

"Having an NHL-standard rink is not the norm at the university level, so there's a lot of buzz," says Patrick Boivin, director of Concordia's Recreation and Athletics.

The refurbished Ed Meagher Arena is also "green," with a state-of-the-art carbon dioxide refrigeration system, upgraded windows and better insulation, as well as new ventilation and dehumidification systems. The old locker rooms have been renovated, and two new ones added. ■

—Silvia Cademartori

The Ed Meagher Arena is located at 7200 Sherbrooke St. W. on the Loyola Campus at Concordia University. For a brief history of the Ed Meagher Arena, see "Hockey's true home at Concordia" on page 7.

ACFAS AND ENCUENTRO COMING TO CONCORDIA

Concordia will welcome two important international conferences this spring.

For the first time, Concordia will host the 82nd Congress of l'Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas), the largest multidisciplinary gathering of knowledge and research in the French-speaking world. From May 12 to 16, 2014, the event will bring together more than 5,000 delegates from 30 countries.

Formed in 1923, Acfas is a Quebec-based non-profit organization with the goal of supporting young scientists and researchers, defending the relevance of research and scientific initiatives in society, and sustaining the dialogue between science and society. Acfas's 2014 program will span the entire research spectrum: health sciences, natural sciences,

mathematics and engineering, literature, arts and social sciences, and education.

The 82nd Congress's theme is *La recherche : Zones de convergence et de créativité* ("Research: Zones of Creativity and Convergence"). Faculty and staff are also developing special programming to showcase Concordia's research life.

Recent editions of the Acfas Congress featured extensive programming aimed at general audiences, and major public-awareness campaigns sponsored by media partnerships. Hosting the conference in 2014 — Concordia's 40th anniversary — will provide the university with visibility among the francophone population.

And in June, experimentation, dialogue and intellectual collaboration will take centre stage at Concordia when the university teams up with the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics to host Encuentro. Part academic conference

and part performance festival, Encuentro is held biannually in the Americas: Montreal is the first Canadian city, and only the second outside of Mexico, Central and South America to host the event since its inception in 2000.

The 2014 Encuentro — entitled *MANIFEST! Choreographing Social Movements in the Americas* — will bring together more than 700 scholars, artists, activists and students for lectures, discussions, exhibitions and workshops that explore the intersection of performance and politics, from June 21 to 28.

Although most sessions will only be open to delegates, main stage performances at Théâtre Outremont will be open to the public on June 20 (preview) and June 28. Encuentro 2014 will also feature exhibitions, screenings and a public intervention — open to all and free of charge. ■

—Tom Peacock and Renée Dunk

AS THE UNIVERSITY DROPS THE PUCK ON A NEW NHL-GRADE RINK, HERE'S A BRIEF LOOK AT THE ED MEAGHER ARENA'S 46-YEAR HISTORY.

On September 20, 1966, *Loyola News's* sports editor, L. Ian MacDonald, BA 69, took to his column to argue that the new Loyola Arena be named after a 40-year-old coach and teacher called Ed Meagher. "The would-be selectors have overlooked the man whose name belongs on that building before any other. The man who has done more for Loyola in athletics than any other," MacDonald wrote.

At that point, the sports complex was still under construction — it opened in January 1967. "I just thought, let's have a name on it," says MacDonald, 47 years later. "There were several names floating around, but Ed's wasn't really one of them until I wrote that piece."

MacDonald, now a veteran political columnist and broadcaster, made a good case: at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, Meagher, BA 46, played varsity football and hockey as a student, then returned as a math teacher and hockey and football coach. He taught until a few years before his death from cancer in 1995, at the age of 69. He served as athletics director at the college and at Loyola High School. People called him "Mr. Loyola."

On January 28, 2000, 34 years after MacDonald's article was published, Concordia renamed the arena in Ed Meagher's honour. In November 2013, the refurbished Ed Meagher Arena reopened. (See "Ed Meagher Arena inaugurates NHL-class upgrades" on page 6.)

As sports editor and hockey equipment manager, MacDonald remembers watching varsity games in the new arena — especially during the 1967-68 season, when the Loyola Warriors made it all the way to the national finals. On Saturday night, March 2, 1968, in the Loyola Arena, the Warriors ended the "Georgian Hex" by beating rival Sir George Williams Georgians in the Ottawa-St. Lawrence intercollegiate championships for the first time in four years.

Interscholar competition remained a hot topic even after Sir George Williams and Loyola merged in 1974. When the university newspaper *The Transcript* hit stands on September 12, 1974, it included a front-page feature about how the two sports departments would soon become one — but not yet. "The traditional

THE STINGERS IN ACTION DURING THE 1975-76 SEASON.



COURTESY OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



THE LOYOLA NEWS ARTICLE BY L. IAN MACDONALD, FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 1966, SUGGESTING THAT THE NEW ARENA BE NAMED AFTER ED MEAGHER.

rivalry between Warriors and Georgians will continue for another season," the article said.

At that time, the Loyola Arena functioned as more than just a sports venue. Christine Mota, BA 77, director of Concordia's Media Relations, recalls attending concerts, writing exams and even graduating in a place otherwise reserved for faceoffs and body checks. "It was really the only large space at Loyola," she says, remembering how students packed themselves into the arena to register for their courses.

"THE MOST HISTORICAL WIN"

In 1998, at the soon-to-be-renamed arena, a Concordia hockey team took another crack at a national title — this time, during the inaugural edition of the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU, now CIS) women's championship. "It was the top six teams

in the country and we were hosting," says Les Lawton, who has coached Stingers women's hockey for more than 30 years and 1,000 games. He also took Team Canada to a world championship in 1994.

When the last game of the 1998 CIAU tournament rolled around on March 1, the arena was crammed with a capacity crowd of 1,000. Concordia had landed 11 of the last 14 Quebec conference championships. According to Lawton, "We were heavy favourites."

For good reason: the Stingers beat the University of Toronto Blues 4-1. "That's probably the most historical win we've had in our rink, though we've had some great events," he says.

The Stingers women's team won five provincial championships and two national titles between 1998 and 2005; the men won eight of 10 provincial championships from 1976 to 1984. ■

— Tom Peacock

PROFESSORS SCORE \$2.8 MILLION FOR PIONEERING RESEARCH

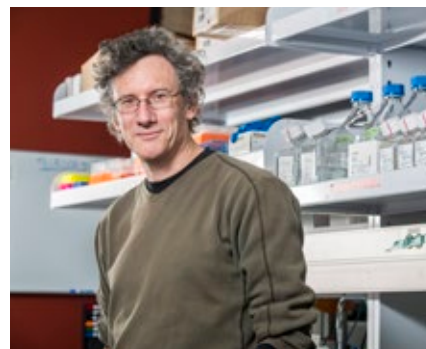
Thanks to new funding from the Government of Canada, two Concordia professors just might create a greener aerospace industry and help cure fungal infections.

In November, Christian Moreau and Malcolm Whiteway were each awarded a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC), worth \$200,000 annually for seven years. In total, this represents \$2.8 million in Concordia research funding.

For Moreau, a professor in Concordia's Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, the chair will support research on new coating and functional surface solutions that would improve energy efficiency in aerospace, automotive and other industrial applications. "In aircraft jet engines, the flow of hot combustion gases could damage internal components if their surfaces were not properly protected with a temperature-resistant coating," he says. "My research works on developing a new kind of coating



CHRISTIAN MOREAU



MALCOLM WHITEWAY

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

that will help improve engine fuel efficiency, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and extend component life."

The CRC will help Whiteway, a professor in Concordia's Department of Biology, in his use of genomic tools to study *Candida albicans*, a medically important fungal pathogen. This naturally occurring fungus can lead to unpleasant oral and genital infections and can be a serious threat to people with compromised immune systems, such as patients with AIDS, or undergoing chemotherapy, organ or bone marrow transplantation.

"Bloodstream infections related to *C. albicans* are frequently fatal," explains Whiteway. "Because the cells of this fungus function very similarly to human cells, the antibiotics that have been so successful in treating bacterial infections are not active against them, and the current antifungal drugs can have serious side effects. My research will help lead to the development of a new generation of antifungal drugs that have limited side effects on the human host." ■

— Cléa Desjardins

CONCORDIA'S MARGUERITE MENDELL WINS PRIX DU QUÉBEC

Marguerite Mendell, BA (econ.) '72 — economist, professor and interim principal of Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA) — received the Prix du Québec in November for her three decades of scholarship and engagement in the field of social economy.

The Prix du Québec, the highest distinction awarded by the Government of Quebec, recognizes individuals whose innovative spirit and work has contributed to the development of Quebec society. Mendell specifically received the Marie-Andrée-Bertrand Award, which is given to individuals whose research leads to important social innovations that improve collective well-being.

Since joining the university in 1984 as a postdoctoral fellow in the PhD Humanities program, Mendell has



MARGUERITE MENDELL IS ONE OF 13 RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 PRIX DU QUÉBEC.

COURTESY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC

carved out an illustrious career in which she has been a significant contributor to the SCPA and the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, where she has

served as director since 1987. Her collaborations in community economic development, social economy and the social finance sector have resulted in innovations in public policy at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Mendell says, "My research has been based on the dynamic nature of Quebec — a place I love. To be recognized by the government at this stage in my career is very rewarding, but also overwhelming!"

She has published widely on the social economy in Quebec, local development, social finance and economic democracy. Mendell also played a central role in establishing the SCPA's Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development. ■

— Christian Durand



CONCORDIA-LED RESEARCH SHOWS THAT PARENTS AND FRIENDS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE MOVING-OUT PROCESS FOR THOSE IN THEIR 20s.

RESEARCH SHOWS FAMILY NEST COSIER THAN EVER

When it's time to leave the nest, young adults are increasingly loath to fly, according to new Concordia research. About 42 per cent of adults aged 20 to 29 lived with their parents in 2011, compared with 27 percent in 1981, Statistics Canada census data shows.

For millennials (20-somethings) who do leave home, the transition can be crisis-inducing. Luckily, this can be mollified by support from peers and parents, a finding that has implications for disadvantaged youths. Parents and friends play a major role in the moving out process, says Varda Mann-Feder, a professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences and author of the study.

The research, which appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Family and Youth*, suggests that fewer blue-collar jobs and higher living costs have forced young adults to put off leaving the hearth. Their "need for prolonged education" is also cited as a stay-put factor. The findings also reveal a new life stage — "emerging adulthood" — for those who go from family nest to personal quest.

"This study shows that peers continue to play a critical role in development after the teenage years," says Mann-Feder. "They provide unique input not available from parents or romantic partners. This finding gives me hope for those emerging adults who do not have the benefit of a parental safety net, that is, for individuals forced to transition out of foster care, mental health institutions or juvenile justice situations when they reach the age of majority."

Mann-Feder says despite large investments in programs to help disadvantaged youths progress to independent living, outcomes have been poor. The research, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, is meant to be a first step towards an improvement in assistance programs. ■

— Cléa Desjardins and Scott McCulloch



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THINKING out LOUD



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How does increasing media clutter affect modern life?
What goes into developing a big-top experience?
Where do writers go to find inspiration?
Why do we love music?

Stay tuned to concordia.ca/talks for more information and to reserve your seats.



THURSDAY, MARCH 6

To understand a current media situation, first you need to understand the past.

Charles Acland, professor and Concordia University Research Chair in Communication Studies, and **Terry O'Reilly**, host of CBC Radio's *Under the Influence*, discuss strategies for media clutter by exploring humanity's long history with information overload.

Conversation: 7 p.m.–8 p.m.
Book signings: 8:15 p.m.
D.B. Clarke Theatre, Henry F. Hall Building
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Sir George Williams Campus



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Today's artists and creative companies define themselves both through their art and through positioning.

Louis Patrick Leroux, playwright, director and associate professor in Concordia's departments of English and French Studies, sits down with **Lyn Heward**, former director of creation for Cirque du Soleil, to exchange ideas on the artistic and commercial applications of creativity.

Conversation: 7 p.m.–8 p.m.
Oscar Peterson Concert Hall
7141 Sherbrooke St. W.
Loyola Campus





THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Whether we move or not, most of us seem to be caught between two or more cultures.

Man Booker International Prize-nominated writer **Josip Novakovich**, a professor in Concordia's Department of English, and two-time Booker Prize-winning author **Peter Carey** share how leaving one's native continent can influence your writing.

Conversation: 7 p.m.–8 p.m.

Book signing: 8:15 p.m.

Oscar Peterson Concert Hall

7141 Sherbrooke St. W.

Loyola Campus



TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Technology is changing how we hear and make music, from the ubiquitous iPod to computers that can improvise and compose music in real time.

Sandeep Bhagwati, an associate professor in Concordia's Department of Music and Canada Research Chair in Inter-X Art Practice and Theory, and **Jian Ghomeshi**, host of CBC Radio's *Q*, brainstorm on what global music traditions could soon look and sound like.

Conversation: 7 p.m.–8 p.m.

Book signing: 8:15 p.m.

Oscar Peterson Concert Hall

7141 Sherbrooke St. W.

Loyola Campus

BE PART OF THE THINKING

CONCORDIA.CA



Cold climate, **warm memories**

**Alumni and former international students
share why Montreal, "Canada's cultural
capital," helped draw them to Concordia –
and keep them after graduation**

By Athena Tacet

Photos by Radu Diaconu



ATHENA TACET

FAVOURITE MONTREAL SPOT: ATHENA TACET AT THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ARCHITECTURE GROUNDS ON RENÉ-LÉVESQUE BOULEVARD. SHE ADORES THE VIEW AND ARCHITECTURAL SURROUNDINGS.

"Montreal, this wonderful town... Pearl of Canada, pearl of the world."

— Mikhail Gorbachev, former president, Soviet Union

I vividly remember arriving at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport from Paris on August 23, 2006. While fatigued from the long trip, I still recall the indescribable delight of setting out on my journey as I was about to begin studying political science at Concordia.

At age 17, I was joining more than 160,000 students who attend one of Montreal's four universities each year. I was also among the thousands of non-Canadians at Concordia — today it's 6,300 out of a total of 46,000-plus — who come from more than 150 countries around the globe, from Australia to Zimbabwe. Since then, I've met students from countless nationalities, and through their cultural perspectives

I've travelled the world. (Concordia students can also literally travel the world through exchange programs; see "Students break away for a semester abroad" on page 17).

Like my fellow international students, I was full of enthusiasm and some anxiety — yet couldn't have imagined that the time I would spend at the university and city would become the most significant of my life.

I attended Concordia's fall orientation, where I was advised that my stay would be sometimes difficult but ultimately enriching, and that it takes about seven years of ups and downs in a new city before finally starting to feel at home. Seven years later, I can confirm that's true.

I'm also among the significant number of international students who settle in the city: about 20 per cent of those who come from elsewhere to complete an undergraduate degree in Quebec remain after graduation, according to consulting firm SECOR.

While the programs and professors at Concordia and its sister institutions play a major role in drawing young people, the city's charms certainly add to that. Affordable, friendly and open, Montreal topped the 2013 rankings by *The Economist* and China's Bank of Communications for best-value destinations for foreign undergraduates. British lifestyle magazine *Monocle* calls Montreal "Canada's cultural capital" — a nod to the city's inimitable art,

FAVOURITE MONTREAL SPOT:

AMY HERNANDEZ AT THÉ KIOSQUE ON MACKAY STREET, NEXT DOOR TO CONCORDIA. SHE LOVES MONTREAL'S COUNTLESS CAFÉS AND TEA HOUSES.

museums, festivals and mid-Atlantic fusions of style, design and architecture. And a new QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) international ranking of best student cities placed Montreal tops in Canada, second in North America and ninth in the world.

I talked to three fellow international alumni who stayed here after graduation and, like me, fell in love with our adopted city.

NOT IN KANSAS

"In Montreal, everyone seems to come from every part of the world," says American-born Amy Hernandez, BA 08.

Her new city is a long way — in distance and mindset — from Hernandez's birthplace of Wamego, Kansas, home of the Oz Museum, which is dedicated to the world of the *Wizard of Oz*. After following the (yellow-brick) road northward, Hernandez was surprised and pleased to find the American notion of "melting pot" didn't apply here. "In the States, you kind of assimilate into being American, upholding American values. But here, everybody can keep their own," she says. "I really appreciated this patchwork of cultures because you can see through others' eyes what their traditions are and who they really are."



AMY HERNANDEZ

Hernandez, who's now an assistant in Concordia's Department of Contemporary Dance and a recently minted Canadian citizen, savours Montreal's summer *joie de vivre*. "We don't have terraces in Kansas — it's usually too hot or too windy. But in Montreal it's just perfect, especially in the Plateau neighbourhood," she says. "I try to look at Montreal from the viewpoint of a person I went to high school with in my hometown, and I always wonder: 'What would they think of this amazing place?'"

WINTER MARVELS

Of course, there's no such thing as a free lunch; Montreal exacts its price through unpredictably wild winters. That reality often shocks foreign students during their initial snowstorm encounters.

When I first woke up to 50 centimetres of snow in front of my window, I thought, "I was on a terrace baking in the Indian summer yesterday. What happened?"

Concordia's International Students Holiday Party, organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations every December, is one way to help warm things up. The gathering pulls in some 300 international students who can't make it home — often to warmer climes — for the holidays.

Veteran Montrealers learn to survive its sub-zero temperatures and enjoy winter through activities, from ice skating at the Old Port to day trips to sugar shacks. For Hernandez, though, the first January bit hard — she arrived from the American Midwest with only a thin wool

jacket, her thickest garment. "It wasn't until my second winter, after I received money from my parents and bought a heavy, fluffy coat, that I thought, 'Winter isn't so bad after all if you have good clothing and warm boots.'"

Another challenge — or appeal — for some is the French factor. International students without knowledge of the city's official language can find it difficult to adjust. Hernandez, rather, tackled a degree in *études françaises* at Concordia after spending a year volunteering. "I really wanted to immerse myself in the culture and language, and since I didn't know a word of French when I started my degree, I just threw myself into it. I wouldn't recommend it to everybody," she says, laughing. "But I have seen over

time the great value of having both languages."

Other influences, such as falling in love with a Québécois, helped coax Hernandez to plant roots. "He's now my husband of eight years," she says. The couple have two young children, and she feels it's important both speak French, regardless of whether Kansas one day beckons. "I even looked for a French school there in case we had to move back. It is very important to me to pass that on to my children."

She has no plans to return home, though. "Staying was just a progression for me, an evolution. I learned how to appreciate the Kansas I wanted to escape and the Montreal that I have an indescribable bond with."

INVITING KNOCK

Yitian (Michelle) Su, BA 11, came from China to Montreal 10 years ago for Concordia's urban studies program. Today she's a homemaker in Montreal, expecting her second child. Su had considered a Dutch university but chose Canada for its multiculturalism and welcoming reputation. "I knew that Canada would give me more choices and opportunities after I graduated from university," she says.

Campus activities, such as those offered by the Concordia International Students Association (CISA), broadened Su's horizons. "In my first year, the only thing I did was study," she recalls. "But as of my second year, I got a chance to volunteer for CISA's orientation.



ALI MOHAMMADI

FAVOURITE MONTREAL SPOT: ALI MOHAMMADI AT COLLÈGE DE MONTRÉAL ON SHERBROOKE STREET. THE COLLEGE IS AMONG HIS MOST CHERISHED LOCAL SITES BECAUSE IT FEATURES ONE OF THE CITY'S OLDEST BUILDINGS.



YITIAN
(MICHELLE) SU

FAVOURITE MONTREAL SPOT: MICHELLE SU ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF CONCORDIA'S ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND VISUAL ARTS INTEGRATED COMPLEX. THE URBAN STUDIES GRADUATE LOVES THE BUILDING AND ITS ARCHITECTURE.

concern Global Access Group. "Winter in Montreal has never been a problem for me."

The city's bilingual demands weren't a negative issue for Mohammadi — he saw it as a pleasure as much as a necessity. "The main reason I came here was because it's the place where French and English meet — I was able to learn French and use my English," he says.

And while Hernandez's amorous tale of finding her love in Quebec is certainly sweet, it's not unique. Mohammadi, who headed CISA in 1998-99, recalls a heart-stopping moment during a Quebec City day trip. "I was in charge of counting the students on the bus on our way back to Montreal. As I realized that we were 96 instead of 98, I started panicking," he recalls.

Mohammadi learnt — days later — that the absent couple had previously known each other but became better acquainted during the excursion. "They fell in love, decided to stay and spend a romantic night in Quebec City. They ended up marrying, which is actually pretty common in CISA."

From romance to professional ambition, each student who remains in Montreal has his or her own reason. I stayed to pursue a graduate diploma in journalism at Concordia, a step toward my lifelong dream of becoming a journalist. The city has done the rest. As Mohammadi puts it, "Although most of us come from different backgrounds, Montreal has this ability to attract like-minded individuals and bring us all together." ■

—Athena Tacet, BA 09, GrDip (journ.) 12, is a Montreal freelance journalist.

I enjoyed meeting students from all over the world and then decided I would run for a position at the end of the year."

Su later joined CISA's executive team — the best decision she ever made, she says. "In order to organize successful events, we had to deal with our own cultural conflicts and different mindsets."

Ali Mohammadi, BComm 01, who came from Iran at age 21 to attend Concordia's John Molson School of Business, also quickly took to his new habitat. "The place you do your studies is the place you feel at home, and it genuinely feels like home here," Mohammadi says.

When Mohammadi landed in the city in the late 1990s, he found solace in the CISA and the International Students Office (ISO).

"I arrived here the week of my birthday and I was staying at the old YMCA building on Stanley," Mohammadi recalls. "The morning after, I get a knock on my door from an ISO volunteer who welcomed me to Canada and Concordia. He invited me right away to an event."

A challenge for any traveller is getting used to local foods. Yet for those who miss their mother's cooking, Montreal offers many options. "The first thing that struck me was the number of cultural restaurants here," says Mohammadi. "They even have Persian ones! When I first came, I thought, 'Look at this gastronomic hub.'"

Unlike Hernandez, he wasn't bothered by his first winter. "As Iranians, we learn to adjust," says Mohammadi, who's now president of Montreal web

STUDENTS BREAK AWAY FOR A SEMESTER ABROAD

While thousands of international students head to Concordia each year, those enrolled at the university can take advantage of exchanges to spend a term abroad

BY AVIVA ENGEL AND CHRISTINE ZEINDLER

Snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef and cavorting with kangaroos would be unforgettable adventures for anyone, yet communication studies student Marie Dubeau-Labbé took home something even more valuable home from her exchange in Australia: an education.

"I'm getting to experience a similarly dynamic and professional program to the one I got at Concordia, but in a completely different cultural mindset," Dubeau-Labbé said during her 2013 term at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

Thanks to Concordia International's study abroad programs, RMIT is one of dozens of options available to students. Concordia International helps ferry off more than 300 exchange students annually to destinations in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

According to Dubeau-Labbé, the exchanges provide matchless academic opportunities. "As a communications student, you learn that knowledge is enriched when you become aware not only of your own surroundings but of other social contexts," she says. "For example, as Canadians, we are used to referencing the U.S. But Australia is a relatively remote island with no bordering countries, and it is surprising to see how much it affects their ways of thinking about the rest of the world."

"Everyone should look into this," says Eddy Elsagh, BComm 13, describing the John Molson School of Business's International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) that brought him to Japan for one term in 2010. Adapting to new customs and learning Japanese while earning credits towards his degree was an invaluable experience, Elsagh says. "I am interested in working abroad. It was good to have this international exposure."

For more information, visit international.concordia.ca.



CONCORDIA COMMUNICATION STUDIES STUDENT MARIE DUBEAU-LABBÉ RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN AN EXCHANGE AT RMIT UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA. THE VIDEO SHE MADE ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES THERE WON A \$5,000 AWARD FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S EDUCATION ABROAD OFFICE.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY/THINKSTOCK

IS THE CANADIAN BUSINESS MODEL OFF TARGET?

WITH AMERICAN VENDORS CONTINUING TO MOVE
NORTH, CONCORDIA EXPERTS CONSIDER THE
CHALLENGES FACING CANADIAN RETAILERS

BY JASON MAGDER



nexpensive coffee, baked goods and fresh sandwiches: it seems like a proven formula.

Yet something about what made Tim Hortons number one in Canada gets left behind at the border.

In its home country, as its 2012 annual report claims, "Tim Hortons pours nearly eight out of every 10 cups of coffee sold at quick service restaurants." Despite making its foray into the United States 30 years ago, the company's market share there is an anemic 2.4 per cent.

In his book *Always Fresh* (2006), Tim Hortons co-founder Ron Joyce wrote about how he delayed expanding into Quebec until the mid-1980s because the market was dominated by Dunkin' Donuts. But within a few years of making the jump, the company became the province's market leader. Today, Tim Hortons continues to thrive in Quebec, while Dunkin' Donuts restaurants are a rarity, with just about a dozen left.

Tim Hortons can't seem to duplicate that success story. Tims has grown about as much as it can in Canada and

EVEN WITH AN INFLUX OF U.S. COMPETITORS, JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PROFESSORS HAROLD SIMPKINS (LEFT) AND MICHEL MAGNAN ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CANADIAN BUSINESSES.

it knows expanding to the U.S. is key to continued success. Yet for some reason Americans aren't charmed by the quaint coffee shops, preferring Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks and McDonald's.

Tim Hortons isn't the only iconic Canadian brand to struggle below the 49th parallel. In the 1980s, Canadian Tire doubled its number of retail outlets when it bought the Texas department store Whites. On the verge of bankruptcy, Whites's purchase price was heavily discounted. Canadian Tire figured it would adopt the model that made it a success in Canada and offered the same merchandise and store layout under the Whites name. But sales at Whites never took off, and Canadian Tire nearly went under after it lost \$300 million in the span of a few years. It eventually sold off the stores.

Professor Harold Simpkins, a senior lecturer in the Department of Marketing at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB), maintains that American brands are better at marketing and they're accustomed to working

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TO ADVANCE LIVES

Over 27 per cent of students in degree programs study part-time, giving Concordia the highest percentage of part-time enrolment among large Quebec universities.*

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* According to an economic impact study by SECOR.

in a fiercely competitive environment. That puts Canadian brands at a disadvantage when they try to expand due south. "Americans fight really hard," says Simpkins, who's also academic director of the Marketing Co-op Program. "They're more efficient, they have lower taxes, they have a stronger work ethic, they're used to working with lower profit margins and they're much more entrepreneurial."

Perhaps that tougher competition at home explains why many American brands seem to flourish in Canada and dominate the market in a short time. That's certainly what happened with Walmart after it bought Woolco's 122 Canadian leases in 1994. Since its launch, Walmart has nearly tripled its number of Canadian locations while Canadian-owned department stores Eaton's, SAAN and Simpson's all went bankrupt.

ON TARGET

Now another player is poised to reshape the retail landscape. With 124 stores, Target's foray into Canada is the largest-ever retail launch by an American company. The department store offers a varied merchandise of groceries, electronics, clothing, sports equipment and housewares. Market observers say the Canadian companies most threatened by Target's launch are Canadian Tire, Loblaws and other grocery stores.

Simpkins contends that one of the reasons American brands seem to do well here is because Canadian shoppers don't have much loyalty to companies based in Canada. "I don't know the extent to which we have nationalistic attachments to our brands," he says. "We really like Canadian Tire. We really like Tim Hortons. We used to really like RIM and BlackBerry, but I wonder if it makes any difference to us if they're owned by Canadians, Swiss, Germans or Japanese." Simpkins adds that Canadians seem to enjoy shopping at American chains.



People said Canadian Tire would suffer when Walmart came in; the company thrived.

Target has come to the same conclusion.

Even before the company opened any stores, its brand recognition among Canadians was at 70 per cent, and Canadians are already used to shopping there when on vacation or when cross-border shopping.

Target's entry into this country hasn't been a cakewalk. Nonetheless, its main competitors are refocusing their strategy to combat the Minneapolis-based retail giant. Both Loblaws and Canadian Tire are opening up smaller boutique stores in urban markets where Target isn't traditionally strong. In July, Loblaws reached a deal to buy Shoppers Drug Mart, which would give the grocery store an even larger footprint in urban areas.

According to the company's chief financial officer John Mulligan, Target

doesn't expect it will have an easy time in Canada. He told an industry audience last March at CIBC's annual Retail and Consumer Conference in Toronto: "The grocery retailers are very strong, much stronger than in the U.S. Canadian Tire is an outstanding operator... Walmart is formidable wherever they operate... We recognize that we need to do the things we do well, extremely well."

Professor Michel Magnan, the Lawrence Bloomberg Endowed Chair in Accountancy at JMSB and a CIRANO (Center for Interuniversity Research and Analysis of Organizations) fellow, says the success of Target doesn't necessarily mean the disappearance of Canadian brands. "I think the Canadian food retailing scene is a success in the making," Magnan says, referring to companies like Loblaws, Quebec's

Metro Inc. and Nova Scotia's Sobeys Inc., which are all in expansion mode.

Simpkins believes Canadian Tire could also be unaffected. "People said Canadian Tire would suffer when Walmart came in; the company thrived," he says.

Statistics show there's room for co-existence among competitors. Figures from the International Council of Shopping Centers show there are fewer retail stores in Canada than in the U.S., and Canadians spend more money when out shopping than their American counterparts. The data show sales in Canada per square foot of retail space are \$563 compared with \$400 in the States.

Still, the American invasion continues. Target is just the latest of a long list of American companies moving operations into this country. Others include clothing store J. Crew, Tanger Outlets, which specializes in luxury factory stores, and department store Lord & Taylor, which bought Canada's oldest company, the Hudson's Bay Company, in 2008. (Iconic American retail chain Saks Inc. recently agreed to be sold to Hudson's Bay for \$2.4 billion.)

Simpkins points out that because of the sheer size of American companies, when they can't find a way to expand into this market they'll just buy out the competition. That's what happened with The Bay as well as La Senza, which was purchased by Victoria's Secret. "I guess when you get to a certain size, you start attracting the bigger players," he says.

As more American brands migrate north, they're taking a huge chunk of the retail pie. Toronto-based retail consultant Wendy Evans predicts that by 2015 American brands will make up 70 per cent of the Canadian retail scene, up from 50 per cent just two years ago.

While Canadian shoppers don't seem to care about the nationality of their favourite brands, perhaps policy makers should take note of the disappearing Canadian head office. Magnan notes that having large head offices located here is an economic catalyst. "The head office is

where the decisions are made," he says. "They're more likely to retain professional services from around the head office, like attorneys, accountants, consultants and HR experts."

He adds that having the headquarters of a major retailer nearby could also be a boon for potential suppliers.

MADE IN CANADA?

As Canadian brands disappear, there are few new companies emerging to take their place. Simpkins says that's because Canada's entrepreneurship rate is low, as is the success rate of new businesses. "Part of the reason could be our social programs," he says. "When you have strong social programs, it kills the entrepreneurial spirit." He expects that Americans tend to take bigger risks and work harder to make their companies successful because they know the government won't help them out if they fail.

Canadian entrepreneurs complain their major hurdle is a lack of financing in this country. That's why many promising technology firms end up relocating to California's Silicon Valley, where the world's most successful venture capitalists and technology businesses are located. Banks here don't generally take bets on risky ventures, so in recent years governments have tried to improve the environment for venture capital firms, which back fledgling businesses in the hopes of a big payout when those firms are either sold or are transformed into public companies.

In September, the Conservative government announced a \$50 million investment in four venture capital funds that invest in life sciences and information technology. Quebec, which has one of the lowest rates of new start-ups in the country, has been pouring money into venture capital firms for several years. In 2009, the province set up a \$700-million fund called Teralys Capital, with money from the QFL Solidarity Fund (Fonds de solidarité FTQ), Investissement Québec and the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec,

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* According to an economic impact study by SECOR.

HITS AND MISSES

Over the years Canadian businesses have experienced spectacular success – and disasters – in foreign markets. Below are the top five stars and dogs.

By Scott McCulloch

Groupe Jean Coutu's foray into the United States had its flaws, yet shareholders are now soothed. The Montreal-based retailer reported net profits up for fiscal 2014, largely from gains on its investment in and disposal of U.S. drugstore chain Rite Aid. Rite Aid played a merger role in the group's U.S. acquisition odyssey in 2004, the year in which Jean Coutu became North America's fourth-largest drugstore chain.

Aldo Shoes

One of Canada's major success stories in terms of international expansion, Aldo Shoes has come a long way since opening its first U.S. shop in Boston in 1993. Today the Montreal-based shoe retailer has more than 380 American outlets and parlayed that success into growth in more than 80 countries.

Couche-Tard

When convenience store giant Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. acquired the retail unit of Statoil ASA, Norway's state-owned oil giant, for \$2.8 billion in 2012, it was a blockbuster deal. The acquisition made the retailer, headquartered in Laval, Que., among the six largest Canadian-based companies by sales.

North West Company

Rather than go south, Canada's North West Company cracked the U.S. north. The Winnipeg-based grocer found success in Alaska in 1992 as a retailer to remote communities. North West operates 29 stores in the non-contiguous U.S. state, as well as in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and the Caribbean.

Roots Canada Ltd.

Fashion retailer Roots Canada Ltd. has four American stores and has long sought to add more since it entered the States in the 1970s. Toronto-based Roots operates 52 in-store boutiques with U.S. retail giant Saks. Its biggest hit so far: must-have hats worn by the American Olympic team during the Salt Lake City winter games in 2002.

THUMBS UP

Mark's Work Wearhouse
Mark's Work Wearhouse (L'Équipeur in Quebec) first opened in Calgary in 1977 as a specialist in durable work clothes. Mark's entered the U.S. in 1981, peaked at nine shops in Idaho, Wyoming and Utah, before sourcing problems forced its U.S. division to file for bankruptcy in 1987.

Danier Leather

In 2005, Toronto-based leather chain Danier closed three struggling U.S. stores after four years in the market. At the time, Danier said it would instead focus on "superior returns" from its Canadian operations. The closure of the New York and New Jersey shops cost the leather firm \$1.1 million, roughly what it expected in savings as a result.

Future Shop

A jewel in the nation's retail electronics crown, Future Shop is a bittersweet Canadian success story. Founded in 1982, the Burnaby, B.C.-based retailer opened 22 stores in the northwestern U.S. in 1996, only to shut them in 1999 after posting losses of \$83 million. Future Shop was purchased for CAD\$580 million by U.S.-based Best Buy in 2001.

Le Château Inc.

It took the once privately held retailer Le Château Inc. 24 years to go public, 26 years to expand into the U.S. and three to nearly throw in the towel south of the border after opening 26 American outlets in the late 1980s. Today, the Montreal-based fashion retailer operates one U.S. outlet in New Jersey, five under licence in the Middle East and Asia, and 234 shops in Canada.

La Senza

In 1993 Irv Teitelbaum could do no wrong. Months after taking Suzy Shier Ltd. public to fund expansion of his La Senza lingerie chain, the former chief executive told retailers his company's next step was U.S. expansion. By 2005, Canadian-born La Senza had closed five U.S. stores. Two years later, it was acquired by Limited Brands, the U.S. parent of rival Victoria's Secret.

THUMBS DOWN

which manages public retirement funds.

The gamble of both the federal and the provincial governments is that the investments by venture capitalists will result in several big payoffs, which will lead to major profits for the venture capital firms and in turn spur new investment in Canadian companies.

And there are signs the strategy is starting to pay off.

One of the country's most promising new businesses is Beyond the Rack, headquartered in Montreal. Founded in 2008, the online shopping club started by local entrepreneurs Yona Shtern and Robert Gold has seen tremendous growth, with revenue reaching \$200 million annually. The company has been backed by venture capitalists all over the world but got its first break from the Montreal-based investors group Real Ventures, whose nine-person team includes investment analyst Jitender G. (Gabriel) Sundaram, BA 00, venture

because of their diversity, you can test drive ideas in Canada's major cities maybe much more efficiently than in Springfield, Indiana," he says. "This may contribute to the success of particular chains."

He adds that Canadians seem to do well in niche products and cites Montreal-based Aldo Inc. as an example. Started in 1972 by Aldo Bensadoun, LLD 12, the shoe retailing company now has 1,600 stores in 80 countries and about 20,000 employees, 1,300 of whom work at its head office and distribution centre in the Montreal suburb of Saint-Laurent. The private company also operates the Globo, Spring and Little Burgundy brands and takes in nearly \$2 billion in annual sales.

Magnan says Aldo built slowly, and did so without much external financing.

He points to Lululemon Athletica Inc. as another good example of a Canadian success. The Vancouver-based

For a global reach, you can test drive ideas in Canada's major cities maybe much more efficiently than in Springfield, Indiana.

partner Ian Jeffrey, BA 01, and chief of staff Stephanie Saheb, BComm 11.

Beyond the Rack is now seen as one of the premier shopping clubs, rivalling New York-based Gilt Group.

Jacques Bernier, the head of Teralys, says he's encouraged by what he has seen in Quebec in the last few years yet cautions there is no quick fix to heal Quebec's meagre entrepreneurial rate. "It can take 15 to 20 years to change the economy," Bernier says.

Magnan adds that despite the lack of financing, there are advantages to starting a business in Canada. The country's major cities are very cosmopolitan and as such provide good testing ground for corporations wishing to hit an international audience. "For a global reach,

sportswear company started in 1998 and now has 200 stores in the U.S. and Canada. The company's revenue was \$1.4 billion last year, with a net profit of \$270 million.

Although some analysts believe competition from The Gap and other retailers will eat into the company's bottom line, executives recently announced an ambitious expansion to double its number of stores in the U.S.

The success of Beyond the Rack, Aldo and Lululemon and others provides hope that the Canadian business model isn't ready to fall apart just yet. ■

—Jason Magder, BA (jour.) 00, is the tech reporter at the Montreal Gazette.



GIVE

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* According to an economic impact study by SECOR.



PERFORMANCE OF A LIFETIME

SPORT PREPARATION TAKES ITS TOLL ON ELITE ATHLETES.
THIS YEAR'S OLYMPIC GAMES IN RUSSIA WILL BE NO EXCEPTION

BY SCOTT MCCULLOCH

Olympians train hard. Gold medal Olympians probably train harder. Four years ago, moguls skier Alexandre Bilodeau raced down a hill and flipped into the record books as the first Canadian to win gold at the Vancouver Olympics — and the first to do so at a Canadian-hosted Olympics.

Olympic training is punishing. “It’s a full-time job,” says Bilodeau, who’s an accounting student at Concordia’s John Molson School of Business. Sochi will be the 26-year-old’s third Olympics and probably his last. The Games have already left an indelible mark on the skier. “When I was 18, in my first

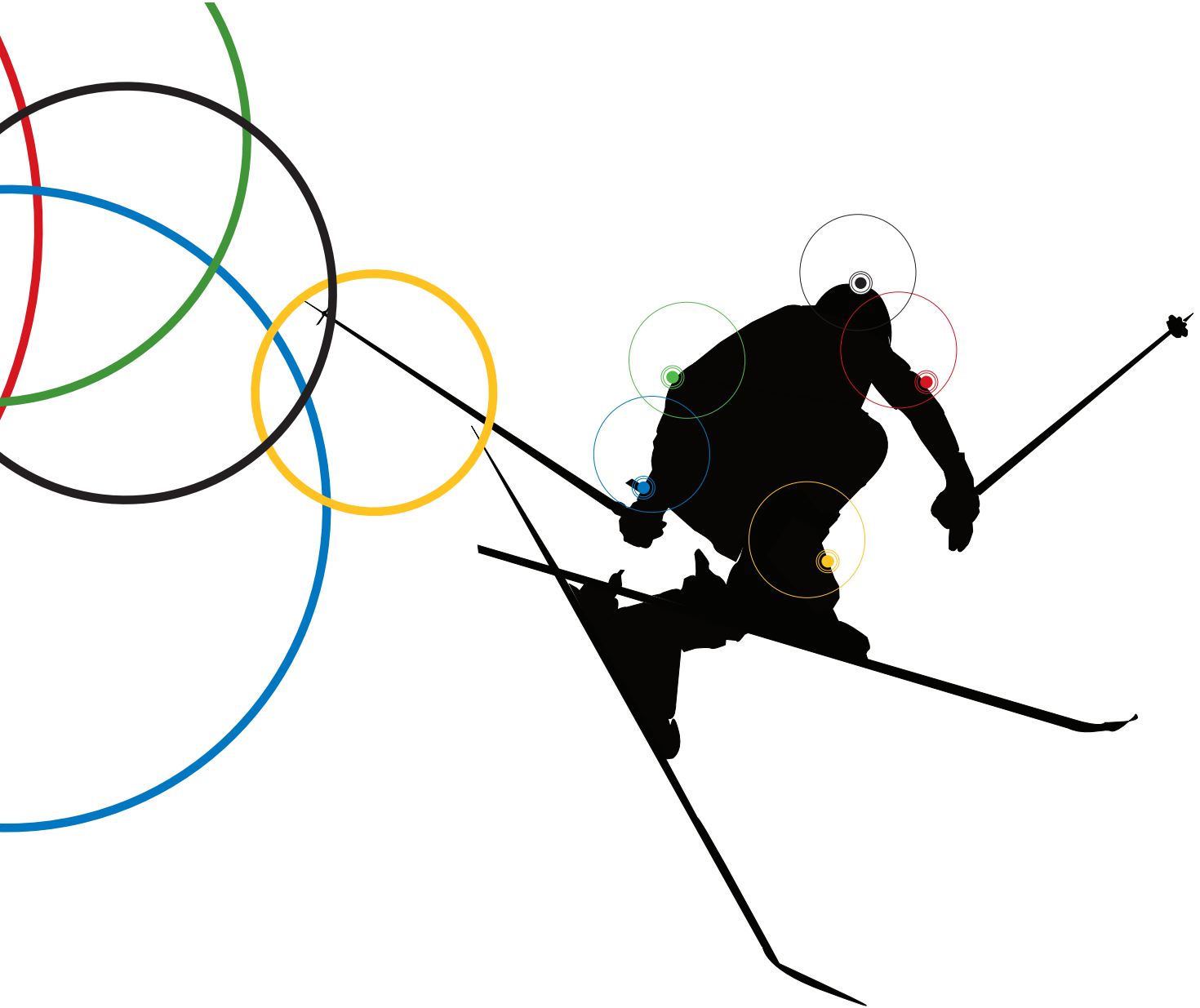
Olympic Games, I wasn’t concerned about the same things I am now. Everything changes.”

In a sport as precise and dangerous as moguls skiing, gold medal performances must be near flawless. The pace is gruelling. Skiers complete a dozen turns with complex aerial acrobatics. Runs last less than 30 seconds — a flash, yet plenty of time for career-ending injuries.

“In skiing in general, one injury we’re really worried about is the torn anterior cruciate ligament [ACL, located in the knee],” says Geoff Dover, assistant professor in the Department of Exercise Science. He’s also a member

of Concordia’s PERFORM Centre, a nexus for research in exercise science, psychology and behavioural medicine. “In some big ski resorts they see a torn ACL a day.”

No wonder that, at the Olympic level, athletes train intensely for two main reasons: medal contention and injury prevention. For Bilodeau, ski-based training camps are usually three weeks on snow. Off-trail, his exercise regime diversifies into core training, bike intervals, trampoline sessions, water ramps, you name it. Then it’s back to snow and alternating gym sessions, all for about 11 months a year.



SHOCK ABSORBERS

Health hazards — such as crash-landing an aerial manoeuvre — seem strikingly obvious. Yet it's the repetitive nature of mogul skiing, like a pitcher throwing fastball after fastball, that's potentially more damaging. Athletes train in specific motor patterns, says Richard DeMont, an associate professor in Concordia's Department of Exercise Science. Golfers swing. Pitchers pitch. Mogul skiers absorb shocks. "Regardless of the sport, they get accustomed to patterns." Unfortunately, athletes' bodies may not adapt well to other forms of intense movement.

DeMont believes a diversification of pre- and post-injury exercises minimizes the risk of injury. "Professionals are a subset of athletes who train outrageously hard. It seems like they've got to practise all day long, seven days a week," says DeMont, whose research at PERFORM deals with injury prevention. "The seasons tend to go far too long in my opinion."

DeMont is keen to prove that variety is the spice of life when it comes to muscle strength and damage limitation to body parts. "What I hope to be able to show is that if athletes train in a variety of ways but specifically target some muscles

geared toward joint-style injuries, like an ACL or a typical lateral ankle sprain, then maybe we can reduce those injuries."

Fewer injuries mean less suffering. Therese Brisson, BSc '89, is no stranger to pain. A severe concussion in 2001 nearly cost her Olympic glory in Salt Lake City in 2002. Yet she led all Canadian defence in scoring, helping Canada win its first gold medal in women's Olympic hockey.

A former team captain and winner of six world championships, Brisson was later sidelined by complications from a broken ankle she suffered just before the 2004 world championship in Halifax. She played anyway, underwent four surgeries,

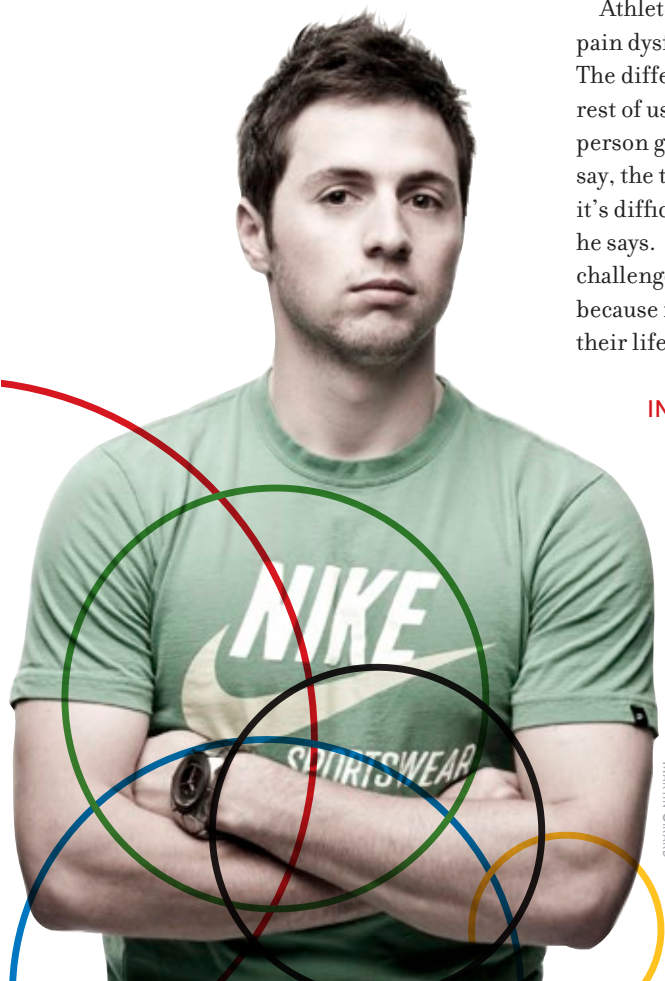
developed an infection and required further surgery. Yet Brisson, who later earned a PhD in Physical Activities Science from Université de Montréal, says her Olympic commitments to a “relentless pursuit of results” ultimately made her a better person.

PAIN AND GAIN

Better but banged up. “There are a lot of skills you learn as an athlete that make you a great business leader,” says Brisson, now working in marketing in Toronto. “The downside is that it comes with some leftovers of your career that you would rather do without.”

Indeed, the Montreal native still wonders about the long-term effects of her injuries. “There are some physical souvenirs that I would prefer not to have.” One is pain — a concept that fascinates Dover. “The research our lab attempts to answer is why some people feel more pain than others and how increased pain affects recovery and functions.”

MOGUL SKIER ALEX BILODEAU WORKS WITH A SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST TO IMPROVE HIS PERFORMANCE READINESS AND SELF-UNDERSTANDING.



Dover’s research also examines how injuries affect athletes’ sleep, as well as sleep’s role in recovery time. PERFORM researchers know that some people take longer than others to recover from illness and injury. What they don’t know — yet — is why. “We know sleep is essential for daily activities and functioning normally and it’s something we haven’t looked at enough in athletes,” says Dover. “We spend a lot of time and money on coaching, nutrition and performance enhancement, but we don’t look at sleep.”

Then there’s fear of pain, a factor with proven effects on patient recovery times. It is this deeper understanding of pain perception or pain-related fear that gets Dover up in the morning. Fear of pain and reinjury are well documented in general-population studies: recovering individuals either rehabilitate quickly or slowly, depending on their attitudes to pain. Dover wants to know how prevalent this is in athletes. “Everyone assumes athletes have a high pain tolerance and wouldn’t be affected by something like this, but it’s not true.”

Athletes, Dover adds, are affected by pain dysfunction as much as anyone. The difference between them and the rest of us is self-image. “If a regular person gets injured and they can’t do, say, the triathlon they wanted, it’s difficult because they like training,” he says. “It’s a completely different challenge when an athlete gets injured because it’s their identity — this is their life.”

IN THE MIND

Olympians, like all elite athletes, acknowledge physical risks of competition. What of mental fitness? Mind games have played a huge role in Bilodeau’s ascent to medal podiums. Down the ski trail, the JMSB student mentally recites the words: ‘tall,’ ‘soft’ and ‘keep it.’ “It’s all

about putting yourself in the right state of mind to deliver the best performance you can,” says Bilodeau, who works with eminent sports psychologist Wayne Halliwell. Bilodeau says the decade-long relationship has deepened his self-understanding. “I think I’m a better person. I know myself better and when you know yourself, you know how you’re going to react.”

This fits with Theresa Bianco’s definition of sports psychology. An assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, Bianco describes her work with Concordia athletes as a matter of self-awareness. “Performers don’t park their brain in a jar when they go out onto the field or arena or slopes,” Bianco stresses. “They need to be mentally prepared as well as physically prepared in order to perform well. We try to help the athletes figure out what works for them so that they can consistently perform their best under conditions of extreme pressure.”

So are sporting pinnacles reached by some kind of harmonic mind-body-spirit fusion in elite athletes? “At the highest level it is really 80 per cent mental and 20 per cent physical,” says Brisson, who has worked with psychologists on team tactics and distraction control. “I did a lot of imagery practice, rehearsing situations that the opponent would present so you can recognize cues early and make appropriate decisions quicker.”

The psychology behind laying claim to a gold medal is more about focusing on the process than on the goal, says Bianco, who works with 2008 Beijing Olympic Games wrestler Martine Dugrenier, BSc 02, GrDip 08. “You’re like a rock star when you’re at the Olympic Games. There is so much going on around you and it’s really easy to get caught up in all that excitement and start to lose a bit of your focus,” Bianco says. “We work on anticipating all the things that can be distractions. Athletes must feel in control.”

The Sochi Games will exact its price on athletes in several ways. The city on the Black Sea is nine hours ahead of



GOLD MEDAL WINNERS ALEX BILODEAU, RIGHT, AND FORMER CONCORDIA STINGER THERESE BRISSON, WHO WON WITH THE 2002 CANADIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM. THE CURRENT SQUAD FEATURES FORWARD CAROLINE OUELLETTE, AN ASSISTANT COACH WITH THE STINGERS, AND ASSISTANT COACH LISA JORDAN, BA '91; JULIE HEALY, BSC '83, IS MANAGER OF TEAM SERVICES FOR THE CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

North American east coast time. Those travelling from afar should be mindful of the perils of jet lag, warns Shimon Amir, professor in the Department of Psychology and director of Concordia's Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology. (For more on the centre, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, see "Sex, drugs and... rats" on page 37.)

An expert in circadian rhythms, Amir notes that maladjustment to time-zone changes could play havoc with athletes' digestive systems, sleep and moods. "It's very important to be exposed to light in the morning to reset the [body] clock," Amir stresses. He adds: "Eating time is also very important. Food intake has a very strong effect on circadian clocks throughout the body."

Athletes can control some factors, but not all. Sometimes there's plain bad luck. Ironically, Brisson's concussion happened during a selection camp six months before the Salt Lake City Olympics. Brisson was checked hard by another player, who then fell on top of

her, slamming the back of her head into the ice, breaking her helmet.

The injury was a setback for Brisson, who found it challenging to deal with the long layoff. She followed a return-to-play protocol that progressed very slowly and with a lot of uncertainty. "When you're lying on your friend's deck in the middle

Professionals athletes train outrageously hard. It seems like they've got to practise all day long, seven days a week.

of October, curled in the fetal position, trying not to vomit, you're not even thinking about the Olympics, you're just thinking about your health," Brisson told the *Toronto Star* in 2002.

HEADS UP

Elite-level sport is hazardous. Head trauma is among the most talked-about sport injuries in Canada. Doctors recently dropped the gloves with National Hockey League owners, saying the outfit

was too accepting of hockey violence. Two thirds of delegates at a Canadian Medical Association meeting in Calgary last August voted to "condemn the complacency of the NHL in regard to violence in hockey."

The NHL expected that Rule 48 — implemented in the 2008-09 season — would reduce a rash of concussions from blindside hits because they would no longer be tolerated. It didn't.

Around that time, autopsies on former National Football League players Andre Waters and John Grimsley showed neurofibrillary tangles in parts of the brain that affect behaviour and memory. These tangles and other symptoms, commonly associated with early onset Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, can only be detected by autopsies. MRI and ultrasound cannot reveal any damage. Both Waters and Grimsley died prematurely. Bianco explains that the condition, called chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), is caused by repetitive blows to the head. "CTE is



GEOFF DOVER, AN EXERCISE SCIENCE PROFESSOR, AT CONCORDIA'S PERFORM CENTRE. THE CENTRE'S RESEARCH INCLUDES LOOKING AT WHY SOME PEOPLE FEEL MORE PAIN THAN OTHERS AND HOW THAT AFFECTS RECOVERY.

nasty. Its symptoms may only show up 10 years later," she says.

"Concussions don't affect everyone the same way," explains DeMont. "The rehabilitation can be long and cumbersome." Making contact-sport athletes more aware of imminent hits and strengthening their neck muscles to withstand greater forces might help, but DeMont doesn't hold out much hope. "I am not sure that we have great data on that yet," he says.

As certified athletic therapists and PERFORM members, Dover and DeMont are allied health care professionals. They get people back to activity and athletes back to action. "Where a physiotherapist might get you rehabbed to bathe yourself or eat, athletic therapists get people ready to hit a 200-pound running back," says Dover. "Your goals in rehab are different."

A return to action always carries an element of risk. Trauma won't disappear from sport. The NFL had an official count of 217 concussions last year, up on the 190 it reported in 2011. The league instituted

Where a physiotherapist might get you rehabbed to bathe yourself or eat, athletic therapists get people ready to hit a 200-pound running back.

rule changes to eliminate hits to the head and neck, protect defenceless players, and prevent athletes who have had concussions from playing or practising until fully recovered.

To boot, in 2012 the NFL reached a US\$765 million settlement over concussion-related brain injuries among its 18,000 former players, agreeing to compensate sufferers, pay for medical exams and underwrite medical studies. "A lot of great research is coming from athletic therapists in the U.S. with regard to recognition of concussions," says DeMont, stressing the role he and his associates play on the sidelines. His caveat: stronger headgear probably won't offer any eureka moments in concussion breakthroughs. "Helmets are good for protecting against skull injuries but not necessarily good at protecting your brain from moving around inside your head,"

he says. Which is why independent neurologists are now consulted before concussed NFL players can return to action.

Elite sport is the preserve of the world's

best. The Olympic Games is an ultimate test of mental and physical prowess.

Olympians train long and hard for their special moments. They are tested in ways that few can imagine. As Brisson recalls, preparation is also about sacrifice and lifestyle choices. "When you're an Olympic athlete, before every decision you make you ask yourself, 'How will this affect the gold medal?'"

Two-time Olympian Bilodeau will compete for his second gold medal in Sochi. He'll make decisions, too. "The only thing I want to replicate is the state of mind I was in in Vancouver," he says. "Some things are out of my control and I am going to live with them. No regrets." ■

— Scott McCulloch, BA (journ.) '90, is senior advisor, communications, Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations.

SEX, DRUGS AND... RESEARCH

THE CENTER FOR STUDIES IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROBIOLOGY

CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF INVESTIGATING BEHAVIOUR AND THE BRAIN

BY CHRISTIAN DURAND

Nobody sets out to become a heroin addict or an alcoholic. We know that substance abuse ravages our bodies and damages our interpersonal relationships. So why do some people pursue behaviours that can have disastrous effects on their lives?

For 30 years, this type of question has driven the researchers at the Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology (CSBN, csbn.concordia.ca), one of Concordia's most respected multidisciplinary research centres. Created in 1983 by four Department of Psychology professors who specialized in neuroscience, the centre has sought to develop an integrated research and training environment that brings behavioural and scientific approaches to the study of addiction, motivation and reward.

According to founding member Jane Stewart, the early 1980s was a period of great advancement in the field. "There was a burgeoning of new technologies and research methods that allowed us to observe the brain in ways that we were not able to before," she says. "Being able to detect brain receptors in individual cells was a great help in my research on the motivational effects of drugs on behaviour."

As CSBN grew, the focus expanded to incorporate research on chronobiology, learning and memory. The idea was to complement Concordia's Department of Psychology with specialized research facilities and supporting technical personnel. Another main focus was connecting graduate students to visiting specialists in the field, and subsidizing their participation in scientific meetings. "We wanted to create a community of

highly skilled scientists fascinated by — and dedicated to — the study of brain and behaviour," says Peter Shizgal, professor of psychology and CSBN co-founder.

Over the years, one of CSBN's main methods of understanding behaviour has been to conduct experiments on rats using behavioural animal models of human disorders. This research is important in the treatment of sleep disorders and drug addiction, as well as in reaching an understanding of how humans make choices based on the perception of value.

Professor Jim Pfaus, who joined the centre in 1992 and whose work focuses on dopamine and sexual desire, explains why using rats is so effective: "Rats are very much like humans. They are social animals that can form monogamous parental units. By observing rats interact, and by seeing into their brains, we can deduce a cause and effect that models a certain human condition."

However, there are limitations to what can be garnered from these

observations. Humans are much more sophisticated and act in ways that are imbued with language, meaning and conscious awareness.

"We are trying to understand what is arguably the most complex object known to man: the brain," says Shizgal. "CSBN has already produced practical benefits and promises to yield much more in the future, but the field is relatively young and there is still much to learn."

This is one of the primary reasons for why the centre continues to recruit researchers and graduate students from across disciplines and institutions. CSBN currently comprises 16 investigators from a variety of departments at Concordia and other Montreal institutions.

"If the centre is to continue to have an impact, we need to constantly attract a critical mass of talent," says Shimon Amir, the centre's director. "New fields of research within neurobiology will give us a fresh perspective and new expertise to ensure that CSBN remains a cutting-edge research centre."



CENTER FOR STUDIES IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROBIOLOGY DIRECTOR SHIMON AMIR AND CO-FOUNDER JANE STEWART RAISED A GLASS TO THE CENTRE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY IN OCTOBER.

POETRY:
Irving
Layton
Award for
Creative
Writing



Each year, Concordia's Department of English hands out prizes for excellence in the studies of English literature and creative writing. Those include the Irving Layton Awards for Creative Writing, each worth \$500 and 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 2013 Irving Layton Award for Creative Writing for poetry went to Emma Healey, BA (English lit. & creative writing) 13. Healy, who's now working as a writer/editor in Toronto, says she began to write poetry in a first-year course at Concordia. In 2012, she published a book of poetry, *Begin With the End in Mind* (Arbeiter Ring Publishing).

Here is Healey's award-winning work, selected poems from her *Loan Suite*.

Loan Suite: Selected Poems
By Emma Healey

Jan. 31, 2013

Ms Healey:

Per your letter of the 28th we have noted your assertion that your school has already sent us your Confirmation of Enrolment documentation and will be contacting their Financial Aid & Awards office to confirm. Please allow up to 3 business weeks for processing. In the meantime we have made the necessary adjustments to your personal file, however, we still require your signed declaration & consent forms as well as your parents' signed declaration & consent forms in order to complete the processing of your 2012-13 application for full-time financial aid (federal and provincial loans and grants).

RE: your other questions, the smell of toner is nothing like the taste of human blood. Revenue Canada requires that you send us original copies of your T4s and not photocopies, which is why we have not yet been able to complete our assessment and verification of your yearly income. We bear no grudge against you personally. "Processing" refers to a series of internal administrative actions the details of which we cannot of course go into here and not whatever that thing is you said. Freshly shredded paper does not sing like a bonfire does and we while we are on the subject have never held an orgy or any kind of ritual/sacrifice in the staff kitchen especially not on this government's time or payroll and plus for your information there are in fact *four* large and near-bottomless pits located at the centre of our Incoming Accounts & Mail department which actually we don't even refer to as pits but now you have got us doing it look the point is only one of them is an incinerator which is something that nearly every important federal financial institution has these days which is a fact they do not teach you in Liberal Arts we'd imagine and the other three are more just like lightless chambers where the facts of your total gross income and rent are lowered gently (*not* thrown) down to marinate in the gasoline-swell of our ignorance and eventually within up to 3 business weeks are exposed to low heat and turned gracefully particulate before being sucked back into the ducts and eventually settling in a thin layer along the surface of our afternoon. Plural. Or blinds.

All this to say we have looked at your forms; they come in with the light. At this time however we are unfortunately unable to release the estimated details of your potential funding at this time and request that you consult with your school's financial aid officer if you require further clarification on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Notes from the National Student Loans Service Centre staff meeting, 11/5/12

+ Palpitations, pounding heart, or accelerated heart rate

+ Sweating

+ Trembling or shaking

+ Sensations of shortness of breath or smothering

+ Hyperventilation

+ Sensation of choking

+ There are truly people in this world who believe that poetry is as worthy an object of study as business, or refrigeration technology.

Why shouldn't, we encourage each other to ask, we provide some measure of caution against this? If not us then who? The Centre's floors' near-imperceptible grade was calculated to let consensus roll swiftly from one side of the building to the other; the ventilation system is notoriously porous. We picture our sons years from now, given only the options of critics, drop ceilings, several women with weak eyes, walled hearts. *What becomes, of souls in a world such as ours?* and return, newly charged, to the work

+ Nausea or abdominal distress

+ Feelings of dizziness, unsteadiness, lightheadedness

+ Derealization/depersonalization

+ Thanatophobia

+ Paresthesias

+ Chest pain or discomfort

D9. What is the cost of a round trip from your school to your parents' home, by the most economical means possible?

A year ago my mother mailed me a newspaper clipping about a Megabus in the U.S. whose driver, sleep-deprived and running late, had attempted to deviate from his usual route in order to save time. The bus was too tall to fit under an overpass.

Everyone died. There was a picture — spectacular flames, shattered glass glittering across the blacktop like teeth knocked out. Spilled luggage pluming. Like a shipwreck but sharper. Last summer a sinkhole opened up downtown and swallowed a car whole; outside of town, on the highway, half a tunnel collapsed onto a schoolbus and pinned the kids inside for days. One went feral just waiting. Two days ago near school a major pipe burst and flooded everything before it froze and now half of McGill's cryogenic until the spring thaw. Students and everything. I saw them trying to chip a car out of the ice. The last apartment I lived in leaned into itself until it collapsed. There are a few different kinds of love in this world.

When you cross in a vehicle from this province into the next you can feel the soft highway sighing into your knees. There are different kinds of love, and in exchange for each we promise a new kind of risk to ourselves. And to others.

Notes from the National Student Loans Service Centre general staff meeting, 11/25/12

+ Carbon: 900 pencils

+ Iron: 1 (one) 3-inch nail

+ Potassium: 1 (one) small clock radio for several hours

+ Fat: 7 (seven) bars of soap

+ Intestine: ~25 ft. (?)

+ Of course we wonder. We have children of our own. We have fielded our share of tearful phone calls, felt their fear echo through parts of our selves we had long thought cordoned off, disused. Some of us, separately and without consultation, have developed a theory concerning the work: that it most closely resembles the act of being given a severed limb by the person to whom it once belonged. We have no use for the arm, or the leg, of a stranger in this way — are, in fact, possessed of our own, of a surplus — but etiquette and common sense all dictate we must accept it nonetheless, and gracefully set it atop of the pile with the others, send its owner limping out into the treacherous sunset still only half free. Our children, to clarify, do not ever call us at work. In the idler moments — choking our lukewarm coffee, searching for holes in the protective glass — we find ourselves thinking about the people we decided, lifetimes ago, we would belong to. How we watch them recede, further with each passing day, as we do our best to bring these strangers closer in. We wonder. Of course we wonder. Of course we do.

+ Phosphorous: 2,000 match heads

ESTRANGED FROM THE BALLOT BOX

Young people's troubling political apathy
can be traced back to shaky political leadership

By Donna Nebenzahl

Millennials — the age group now in their 20s — show tremendous potential for civic commitment. That's the view of Michael Ryan Wiseman, MA (public policy & public admin.) 13, president of the Conseil jeunesse de Montréal. He feels that never has a generation been as capable of knowing the political world around them.

Yet young people are more estranged from the political process than ever before.

Wiseman watched Montreal's November 2013 municipal elections with dismay. Turnout hovering around 40 per cent only reinforced the uncomfortable reality that as sophisticated as youth are today, their knowledge rarely translates into engagement with political parties or voting.

The Conseil jeunesse — Wiseman's independent voluntary organization made up of 15 Montrealers between the ages of 12 and 30 — advises the executive council of the city and city hall about youth policies. "This election was a difficult one to get excited about if you were a young person, other than the idea of corruption and governance," he says. "We're punching below our weight."

While Montreal's 400,000 youth make up about 25 per cent of the population, the dozen elected officials under the age of 35 represent only about 10 per cent of councillors. "And municipal politics has a huge impact on our lives, influencing everything from roads and transport to where we live."

Wiseman points out that there's no shortage of young activists involved in campaigns like the Occupy movement or surrounding the environment, even as they ignore the political process. "This isn't translating, and that's deeply troubling and disappointing," he says. "There are obviously some deeper questions that we have to ask ourselves about how we're governed and how we want to be governed."

NOT ONLY THE YOUNG

Generational differences in political support were the focus of the research by Vince Hopkins, MA (public policy & public admin.) 12, who examined whether political authorities had a role to play in the fact that people are less motivated, and whether improvements in democratic performance might be relevant.



RESEARCH BY KERRY TANNAHILL, A PHD STUDENT IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, HAS FOUND THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION IS MORE LIKELY TO CHALLENGE INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY THAN THOSE BEFORE THEM.



VALERIE MILETTE OF CONCORDIA'S LIVE CENTRE SAYS, "I SEE A LOT OF STUDENTS BEING ENGAGED, EITHER WITH A CAUSE IN WHICH THEY'RE INTERESTED OR THEY WANT TO START THEIR OWN PROJECT. THEY MIGHT NOT BE ENGAGED IN POLITICS, BUT THEY'RE ENGAGED IN SOMETHING."



MICHAEL RYAN WISEMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE CONSEIL JEUNESSE DE MONTRÉAL, WORRIES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING TURNED OFF FROM POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT DUE TO GROWING CORRUPTION.

Quebec is at the lower end of the scale."

Kerry Tannahill, BA (poli. sci.) 09, MA (public policy & public admin.) 12, a PhD student in Concordia's Department of Political Science, agrees that opinions toward democracy and variation in political support go beyond just age.

She reports that previous research that looked at "cultural explanations," such as a change in values, "suggest that younger generations have become less deferential and more inclined to challenge institutional authority than older, more materialist generations." Her new research shows that the reasons for Quebecers' distancing from the political process may stretch beyond just cultural or demographic characteristics.

In collaboration with supervisor Mebs Kanji, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Political Science, Tannahill investigates political support for different elements of Canadian democracy. Data collected after the last provincial election indicates that support for political authorities, including political leaders and elected representatives, is quite low across all levels of government. More specifically, she adds, "Only three per cent of Quebecers like all of their current leaders and elected representatives at all three levels of government."

Using comparable data from the Canadian Election Study, they found that over time Quebecers' negative perception of the Canadian political community led to a drop in support. During the same period, support for the Quebec political community rose.

As reported in the *Open Journal of Political Science*, Kanji and Tannahill also examined support for different political institutions — including political parties, government and the civil service. They

Hopkins's research compared eight provinces, and found generally very low levels in the responsiveness of politicians and government to the demands of citizens. "At the most, no more than 25 per cent of Canadians, regardless of province, believe they have a high degree of responsiveness," he says.

The research had three goals: To examine whether Canadians

think of their governments and elected officials as responsive, to investigate inter-generational differences, and to test whether these attitudes impact political support. "Our findings show some intergenerational difference, but it was neither consistent nor linear. What this suggests is that older Canadians are not necessarily more likely to have a high degree of faith in the responsiveness of their government," Hopkins says. "Province does matter, though, and

VOLUNTEER CANADA RESEARCH SHOWS THAT CANADIANS OF ALL AGES GIVE MORE THAN 160 HOURS PER YEAR "ON BEHALF OF A CHARITABLE OR OTHER NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION." FURTHERMORE, IT REPORTED THAT IN 2007 46 PER CENT OF CANADIANS PERFORMED A VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

Total hours volunteered (thousands)	Full-time year-round job equivalence	Average hours per year
1997	1,108,924	149
2000	1,053,200	162
2004	1,984,000	168
2007	2,067,000	166

compared public opinion in Quebec to those in seven other provinces (using data from the Comparative Provincial Election Project). They reported, for instance, that satisfaction with provincial government performance is lowest in Quebec: 36 per cent report being satisfied.

In early 2014, Kanji and Tannahill intend to go into the field again to examine whether Quebecers' views of the political system and its performance have changed. Given ongoing allegations of poor performance by authorities and institutions at all levels of government, they expect that problems of political support may not go away.

UNFAIR RAP

It's not as simple as claiming young people are apathetic, maintains Brandi Bell, PhD (comm.) 09. Now research coordinator at the Comprehensive School Health Research Group at the University of Prince Edward Island, Bell has studied the conflicting perspectives, tensions and compromises that have marked representations of youth citizen participation over the years. "It's easy for us to say they're not participating or not engaged, but are we looking in the right places?" she asks.

There are countless strong examples of youth active in the environmental movement and within their communities, Bell adds, which begs the question of their lack of participation. At the same time they face constraints such as student debt and high unemployment. "So can you blame young people? Are politicians talking about the interests of youth?"

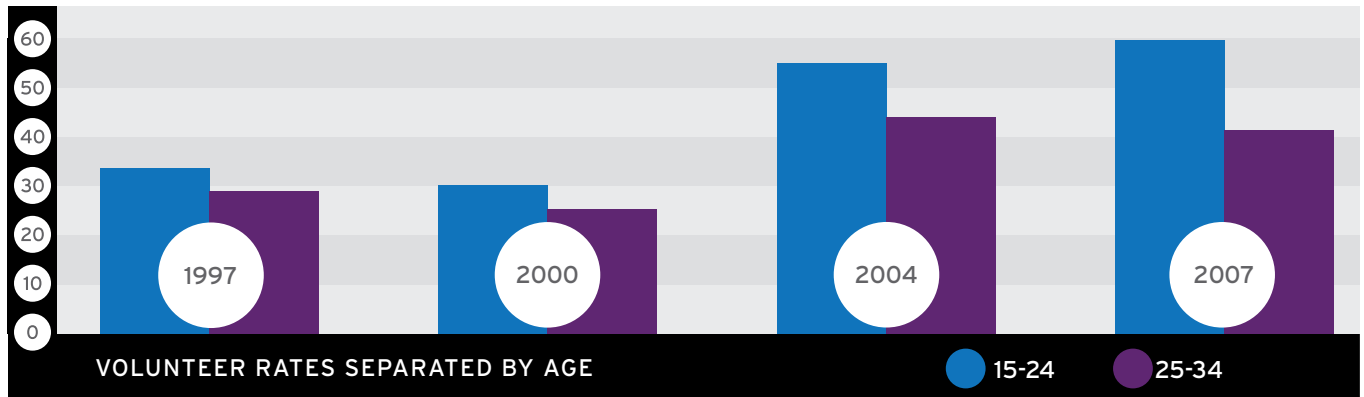
Youth have gained a reputation for lagging behind not only in political but volunteer and community interest. That's not what Valerie Millette, BAdmin 03, MSc (admin.) 05, sees. She heads Concordia's Leadership, Initiative and Volunteer Engage (LIVE) Centre. Opened in 2010, the centre focuses on centralizing information about volunteering at the university or in the city. "Our engagement has been increasing since we began," says



APATHY IS BORING

APATHY IS BORING CO-FOUNDER ILONA DOUGHERTY (SECOND FROM RIGHT) WITH THE GROUP'S STAFF AND INTERNS AT THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT IN 2011.

There's no shortage of young people involved in campaigns like the Occupy movement or surrounding the environment, even as they ignore the political process.



RESEARCH FROM VOLUNTEER CANADA SHOWS THAT VOLUNTEERISM AMONG YOUNGER AGE GROUPS HAS GROWN IN RECENT YEARS.

Millette, who believes that young people are getting a bad rap.

Rather than being disengaged, the number of students visiting the LIVE Volunteer Resource Centre since January 2011 has increased by about 200 per cent, she says. Young people are also volunteering more than any other age group. A study by Volunteer Canada, *Bridging the Gap*, shows that from 1997 to 2007, 15- to 24-year-olds “are the group who volunteer the most hours, and that average is increasing.” (See the above chart, “Volunteer rates separated by age.”)

Why is this happening? Research by the Réseau de l’action bénévole du Québec reveals that 90 per cent of young people volunteer to support a cause they believe in, 70 per cent to explore their strengths and 55 per cent to improve their employability. “I don’t know much about engagement in the political process, but I see a lot of students being engaged, either with a cause in which they’re interested or they want to start their own project. They might not be engaged in politics, but they’re engaged in something else,” Millette says.

We should be concerned, however, in the lasting effects of electoral disengagement, says Iona Dougherty, BA 03, co-founder of Montreal-based Apathy Is Boring, an organization that seeks to broaden civic participation among youth. “If you don’t vote the first two times you’re able, the likelihood is that you won’t vote for the rest of your life,” she reports.

When she was a student of contemporary dance and community and public affairs at

Concordia, Dougherty became frustrated that friends were not interested in democracy and voting. She wanted to explore the interaction between art and social change.

Soon after she helped launch Apathy Is Boring in 2004, the group focused on mass mobilization and used music as a vehicle. “Ten thousand people attended our biggest concert during the 2008 federal election,” she says. At the 2011 federal election, they mounted a Facebook campaign asking for a pledge to vote — 78,000 young people did, and 250,000 invited their friends to pledge. The organization has since shifted to not only focus on youth mobilization but also a research-based approach, working with academics on youth apathy and civic engagement.

Even social movements don’t reach across the entire youth population, says Dougherty, who as a student protested at the 1999 World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle. “We have to find low-risk entry points — even if you might not want to protest, there are other ways to get involved.” And citizens must be engaged not just when they vote but by holding elected officials to account. “We, the citizens, are the bosses of our elected officials, so if the boss is paying attention, they’re not going to slack off.”

VOTE, GET INVOLVED

Because citizens become disengaged when they don’t feel the system is working, the future in this tech-driven world holds even less promise for new voters, Dougherty says. Traditionally, those seeking election would wage a

ground war: knock on doors, meet with the community. Now that has shifted toward air wars: TV ads, debates.

“We know that the air war will not engage a first-time voter,” she says. “What gets someone to vote and to volunteer — and I know this first hand through my role as chair of the board of Volunteer Canada — is talking to someone in person, having someone ask you to get involved, whether a political candidate, friend or professor. We’re seeing less of that.”

Yet evidence shows there’s not a lot of effort on the part of politicians to engage young people or to be open to that engagement. Wiseman suggests a Catch-22, a vicious circle in which youth doesn’t see itself reflected in political organizations or candidates, so it ignores the process. Politicians see youth not coming out to vote, and don’t bother representing them.

As Hopkins says, “When citizens perceive political representatives as being highly responsive and staying connected, they evaluate them in a more positive way. The data from our research lets us drill down into municipal-level politics and for the first time look at the link between responsiveness and support at the political level.” In other words, people who feel that government cares are more likely to have confidence in government.

Bell adds, “I’m not an expert on the politics, but it feels like the political system within Canada needs to change.” ■

— Donna Nebenzahl is a part-time faculty member in Concordia’s Department of Journalism.

“ I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK.

IF EVERYBODY GAVE BACK

JUST A SMALL PORTION OF WHAT THEY
GAINED FROM THE INSTITUTIONS
THAT BENEFITED THEM,

**THE FINANCIAL
RESULTS WOULD
BE ENORMOUS.”**

– Patricia Dudar, BSc 68, BEd 69, MSc 77

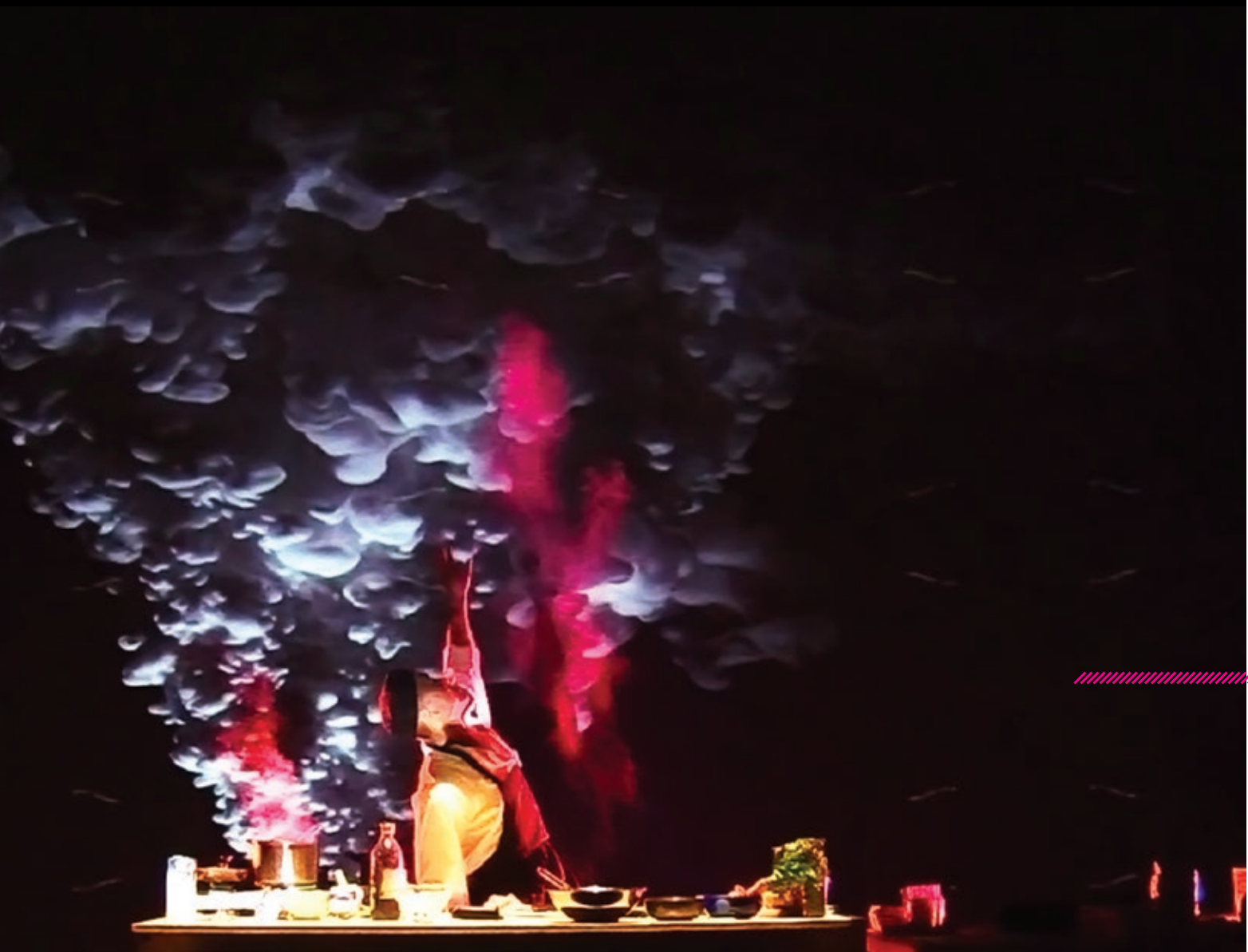


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FROM LOUDSPEAKER CONCERTS TO ARCADE FIRE,
CONCORDIA HAS PLAYED A MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL AND
EDUCATIONAL ROLE IN CANADIAN ELECTROACOUSTICS.

BY JULIE GEDEON

VIDEO STILL FROM
NAVID NAVAB'S
"PRACTICES OF
EVERYDAY LIFE –
PART I: COOKING."

COOKING UP MUSIC

ALONG WITH OTHER PROJECTS OF NOTE

When Navid Navab, BFA 10, recorded a chef at work in 2012, it may not have seemed like an obvious activity for a music composer and sound designer. However, Navab interlaced the slicing, dicing and other noises with discrete melodic sounds to create a distinctive electroacoustic composition titled “Practices of Everyday Life — Part I: Cooking.”

“By associating a new sound with every gesture, you instill new value into everyday-life actions,” he says. “A chopping knife, for instance, sounds like gongs.”

Navab credits the pioneering electroacoustic studies program in Concordia’s Department of Music for enhancing his perceptions of sound. “It’s not just what you can do with technology,” says Navab, who also

studied computational arts. “There has to be a real connection — in this case the ‘performance’ of a chef preparing a meal — to have acoustical poetry.”

Electroacoustics comprises any sound created by converting electricity into acoustical energy. Hardly a moment passes today without us hearing it from our televisions, radios, phones, alarms, computers, tablets, game consoles, speakers, MP3, CD or DVD players, earbuds, headphones and even microwave and oven timers. For musical examples, think of the opening notes of the Beatles’ “Strawberry Fields Forever,” played on a mellotron, or the eerie theremin in the Beach Boys’ “Good Vibrations.”

LONG HISTORY

The musical medium came into existence after Thomas Edison invented the phonograph in 1877. “We tend to

forget that before Edison, when people died, their voices disappeared with them,” says Kevin Austin, co-director and a key founder of Concordia’s electroacoustic studies program, a composer, and a specialist in sound theory and ear training.

Electroacoustics only became commonplace after the first radio broadcasts in 1919. “Most broadcasting was initially live because recording technology wasn’t very good,” Austin says. “But as the quality of 78 RPM recordings improved, stations repeatedly played records, making singers and musicians famous and launching the pop music era.”

Initially, if a mistake was made during a recording the entire track had to be redone. With the popularity of reel-to-reel tape machines from the 1940s (a decade after their invention) onward, sound was often cut and respliced.



CONCORDIA'S ELECTROACOUSTIC STUDIES PROGRAM PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH A MIX OF COMPOSITIONAL AND THEORETICAL COURSES IN THE ECLECTIC MUSICAL FIELD. CO-DIRECTOR KEVIN AUSTIN IS PICTURED AT BOTTOM LEFT IN FRONT OF A CLASSROOM.



"Tape enabled people to rearrange sound," Austin notes. "Radio stations and filmmakers were particularly interested in this technology to create more realistic sound effects."

While European radio stations invested in sonic labs to create background sounds for radio dramas, North American interest remained vested at universities. "In Europe, governments were trying to influence society through radio to avoid more war," Austin explains. "While in North America the governments expected the commercial sector to adopt university research in due course."

Technology spurred innovation. In the early 1960s, music producer Phil Spector became known for his studio creations of a dense, reverberating "wall of sound." This could be heard in such songs as "Be My Baby" by the Ronettes and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" by the Righteous Brothers, which played well on AM radio and in

If you don't have a culture's artifacts, those cultural aspects remain only as mythology.

jukeboxes. Spector produced the sound by complementing electric and acoustic guitar playing with the music recorded by other instrumentalists inside an echo chamber.

"Producer George Martin and sound engineer Geoff Emerick at Abbey Road Studios [in London] gave the Beatles their distinctive sound," Austin adds. "For [the song] 'A Day in the Life,' Martin arranged for the Beatles and an orchestra to perform separately and then had Emerick assemble the music."

During that decade, studio mixing equipment's improvement resulted in about six electroacoustic composers in Canada who recorded and performed their work. Their numbers rose to about 25 during the 1970s and as many as 150 by the 1980s, as technology became

more affordable. "A four-channel mixer cost about \$5,000 in 1969," Austin recalls. "By 1972, they started at \$200 with a semi-pro model available for \$1,000, making it easier for bands to use microphones, speakers and amplifiers."

Affordable equipment led to more people becoming interested in manipulating sound. "[Filmmaker] George Lucas and his team basically launched sound design in 1977 when he decided to invent sounds for lightsabers and other farfangled gadgets in his *Star Wars* movie," Austin says.

AT THE VANGUARD

Concordia has always been at the Canadian electroacoustic forefront. Austin with others arranged for the first introductory course in 1971 and

encouraged the program's expansion to 72 credits by 2000.

Under founder Philip Cohen, the music section of the Department of Fine Arts at Sir George Williams University started electronic music/media courses in 1970. The next winter, Austin and colleagues Howard Abrams, Dawn Luke, Martin Gotfrit, BA 74, Ross McAuley and David Sutherland, BA 76, formed an electronic music improvisation ensemble called MetaMusic, The Sound of Three Hands Clapping. The ensemble performed and promoted electronic music in Montreal.

In 1976, the membership transformed and the concerts started to incorporate "tape" (fixed media) compositions from musicians around the world. Over 35 years of these loudspeaker concerts, the Concordia Tape Archive expanded to approximately 3,500 pieces. In 1982 the group was renamed the Concordia Electroacoustic Composers Group/ Groupe électroacoustique de Concordia. Its 400-plus concerts over the next 30 years included fixed media, multimedia, and live electroacoustics.

By the mid-1980s, Canada had 150 to 200 electroacoustic composers. Austin travelled across the country twice in 1985 to establish a Canadian organization that would have a better chance than individual composers of obtaining government funding. "The dean's office and music department really supported these efforts," Austin says. "And with 15 years of collecting electroacoustic musical compositions and presenting loudspeaker concerts, Concordia already had a solid reputation." For the next 18 years, the university provided key logistical support to the Canadian Electroacoustic Community and still collaborates with the national organization.

Today, with more than 3,000 recorded compositions, Concordia has one of the world's largest collections of electroacoustic music (and accompanying information), spanning 1972 through 1990. About one-third has been digitized for internet access so far and the Concordia Archival Project (CAP, cec.sonus.ca/education/archive).

"Some considered it silly for us to store all those reels, but I knew it wouldn't be long before people would want to know what this music sounded like a few decades back," Austin says. "If you don't have a culture's artifacts, those cultural aspects remain only as mythology."

In tune with technology, in 1984 the Department of Music became the first Concordia department to obtain a Macintosh computer. "It was clear that computers would open up a much bigger world in terms of manipulating sound. Professional recording studios had already been pushing for more soundtracks and by the mid-1980s were able to simultaneously record or mix 80 channels," Austin says.

By 1990, computers and compact discs were in wide use for recording, manipulating and transmitting sound. "The need to reproduce music repeatedly from an original source basically vanished," Austin notes. "Once we could send people an email with music in an attached file, or direct them to a website, the loudspeaker concerts weren't as necessary anymore either."

Austin decided to make 1990 the cut-off year for collecting new works for the archives. So much had already changed since the time he had envisioned one day dialing a telephone number to hear a

composition. "My current students have never known a time when they couldn't manipulate sound," he points out. "They mix tracks on their smartphones."

IMPRESSIVE ALUMNI

Graduates with an electroacoustic studies major or minor use their honed listening and sonic creativity skills to become sound designers, engineers, composers and producers, as well as well-known musicians such as Sarah Neufeld, BFA 03, and Richard Reed Parry, BFA 03, members of the Grammy Award-winning indie band Arcade Fire. "The program's flexibility really encourages you to explore your own creative interests," Neufeld says. (See the sidebar "Under the Dome: Arcade Fire's Sara Neufeld" on page 45.)

Electroacoustic studies cover a gamut of electroacoustic, recording and sonic arts, including acousmatics (music integrated within a medium, such as a CD or computer file where it can be directly manipulated), spectromorphology (the study of the spectrum of sounds in a piece and their arrangement in time) and psychoacoustics (which delves into the physiological and psychological responses to sounds). "But the main focus has always been on training students' outer, technical ear to recognize the



AUDIO ENGINEER, COMPOSER AND MUSIC PRODUCER JAMES FINNERTY IS ONE OF MANY SUCCESSFUL ELECTROACOUSTIC STUDIES GRADUATES.

in a series of “sound paintings” that involved both groups playing rehearsed or improvised sounds in response to each conductor’s gestures calling for long, short, high, low, rapid or slow notes.

Nothing is ruled out as creative ideas in the course. “In fact, students are encouraged to think of things that seem impossible and then find ways to do them,” Adams says.

Live telematics and interdisciplinary projects are currently driving electroacoustic studies, but the field is expected to continue to evolve in innovative and unanticipated ways as both technology and creativity advance. “By encouraging students to dream up ideas and then find out whether they’ll actually work, we’re preparing them for rapidly changing technologies,” Tsabary says. “They learn how to figure out things for themselves.”

Finnerty still values the approach. “What I appreciated the most was how the professors encouraged us to each find our own path and then gave us the support, guidance and resources to succeed at our projects,” Finnerty says. Navab agrees and similarly praises the professors for encouraging students to establish their own human connections with sound. “That’s where you find the magic, or what I like to call sonic alchemy,” he says. ■

—Julie Gedeon, BA 89, BA 01, MA 09,
is a Montreal freelance journalist.

For information on the electroacoustic studies program, visit

concordia.ca/electroacoustics.

For an example of Navid Navab’s project, “Practices of Everyday Life,” see vimeo.com/75424600.

To see and hear the Montreal Sound Map, go to montrealsoundmap.com.

Listen to one of James Finnerty’s instrumental compositions at music.cbc.ca/#/artists/James-Finnerty.



UNDER THE DOME: ARCADE FIRE’S SARA NEUFELD

A CIA-built geodesic dome once used to spy on East Berliners is one of the unusual locations that Arcade Fire band member Sarah Neufeld, BFA 03, chose to record her recently released debut solo album, *Hero Brother*. “It’s a place with one of the longest natural reverberations of sound known in the world,” says the composer/violinist. “The hole in the wall of this concrete dome is high above the city and the wind constantly shifts through it to make an insanely beautiful sound.”

Neufeld, who is also a founding member of the acclaimed contemporary instrumental ensemble Bell Orchestre, began to develop her spatial awareness of sound in an introductory electroacoustic studies course taught at Concordia by the program’s co-director, Kevin Austin. “I still remember the day that he began theatrically moving about the classroom while he spoke to introduce us to the varying acoustic properties of the space, and that started me hearing everything differently,” says Neufeld.

Other recording locations on the new album, which features her atmospheric solo violin, include a subway station where commuter footsteps can be heard in the background, as well as an underground parking lot with its constant ventilating hum.

Neufeld lauds the electroacoustic studies program for encouraging students to find their own creative path. “While I have classical training as a violinist, I’ve always been more of an improviser and would have found the performance-oriented degrees offered by other universities too restricting,” she says.

“In electroacoustic studies, I learnt about new sound technologies and explored their possibilities in video art, literature and dance – other areas of interest to me – while also studying musical composition and jazz improvisation,” she adds. “The program is beautiful in the way it enables students to work on a lot of different things and then bring them all together.”

Neufeld met Richard Reed Parry, BFA 03, a multi-instrumentalist and another core member of Arcade Fire, soon after they both started in electroacoustic studies. “He began to do sound recording within electroacoustic studies that really widened my horizons about what could be achieved musically,” Neufeld says. “The program has definitely helped me to hear and react to how sounds come together during recording sessions, and feel comfortable and excited to be involved in the process.”

—Julie Gedeon

District 3 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre: Year one

BY LAURENCE MIALL

In fall 2011, John Brkich, BEng 71, came to Concordia for his class's 40-year reunion. He had no idea he was about to be headhunted. The retired engineer's 29-year career had helped transform fields as diverse as ballistic fingerprinting process control and automation. His friend and fellow alumnus, Xavier-Henri Hervé, BEng 87, LLD 11, wanted to recruit him for the nascent District 3, an "incubator of innovation" that he had recently founded at Concordia. The reunion that crisp autumn day ended with more than just cocktails and canapés.

District 3 was, at the time, an idea without a name. Yet the intent was clear: to give students from all Concordia faculties an environment in which they could participate in projects with an innovative or entrepreneurial mandate. A home for the facility was found on the seventh floor of the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex. Hundreds of curious Concordians attended an information session in November 2012. Shortly after, students themselves officially coined the name, District 3 — the "3" standing for the founding principles: innovation, collaboration and entrepreneurship. By spring 2013, District 3 was open for business.

The speed at which District 3 took flight was largely due to the zeal of Hervé, himself a successful entrepreneur. In 1987 he had co-founded Montreal-based Mechtronix, which became one of the fastest-growing aviation

simulation companies in the world.

As for Brkich, he had grown up in the Montreal area and six years after graduating from Concordia joined the company of yet another alumnus, Robert Walsh, BSc (eng.) 63, LLD 09. With Walsh Process Control, Walsh Automation and then a spin-off enterprise called Forensic Technology, Brkich became, in his words, a "process guy" — adroit at finding ways to automate or otherwise improve the performance of diverse systems.

We need to make sure our device can handle [steel doors] and not be damaged in the process. The whole point is that it *breaks things*.

In the late 1980s, during a camping trip, he got talking to a firearms expert and discovered exactly how time-consuming it was to find a possible match between a criminal's gun and a bullet found at a crime scene. With the use of the latest cameras, computers and software, Brkich felt confident that there was a faster way. He was right. Forensic Technology, under the leadership of Bob Walsh, is now the world's leading company for ballistics identification and analysis.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

Over the summer of 2013, a dozen teams filled District 3 — all engaged in wildly different projects: an inflatable plant-growing bed, a laser-welder and

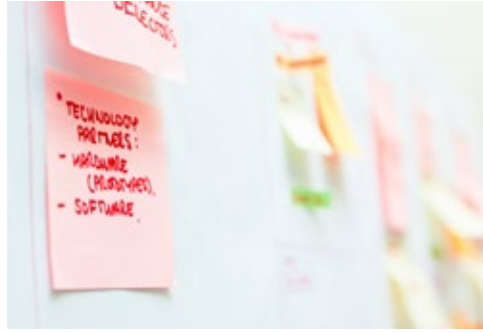


a chair made from electronic fabrics, to name just a few. Projects came in two varieties: those that were the creations of student entrepreneurs, and those mandated by alumni, established industry leaders and experts. The project teams are multidisciplinary collaborations between the interns — graduate and undergraduate students from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, John Molson School of Business and Faculty of Fine Arts — and the experienced alumni, who

provide expert guidance.

"One of our key success factors has been the active involvement of our alumni, first as entrepreneurs and leaders, as the industry experts who coach and mentor our Concordia students," says Hervé. "District 3 is a call for action for *all* alumni who want to take part in entrepreneurship or innovation."

Brkich was the ideal alumnus to be a mentor and, as it turned out, a whole lot more. He and his business partner, Andrew Sutherland, BA (soc.) 04, had earlier identified a prime business opportunity. Sutherland had served as a frontline police officer and noticed that when the force needed to break down the doors of commercial and some residential buildings, they were exposed to enormous risks. The space in front of



DISTRICT 3 PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL PROJECTS. PICTURED IN THE CENTRE PHOTO (ABOVE) ARE JOHN BRKICH (FAR LEFT), PRESIDENT OF OFF THE X, AND DISTRICT 3 CO-FOUNDERS DEBORAH DYSART-GALE AND XAVIER-HENRI HERVÉ (FAR RIGHT).

a door was known as “the fatal funnel” — a criminal with a gun might be standing on the other side, or there might be hazards from flames and projectiles. To keep police and other emergency responders safe, a device was needed that could break down doors remotely. Sutherland had an idea of how such

The team in District 3 has exceeded my expectations.

a device could be built, but as Brkich points out, “We had no capabilities to design or build it.”

So the District 3 project, Law Enforcement, was born — an official mandate from Off The X, the company Brkich had co-founded in his retirement. Sutherland spent most of August to October in Montreal, consulting weekly with the student team that had been formed to work on a functioning prototype.

“The credibility of the university and the students’ skills were a major plus for us,” says Sutherland. “For a project like

this, you need professionalism. That is number one and at Concordia we couldn’t have asked for more.”

Ryan Desgroseilliers, an undergraduate electrical engineering student, was — and is still — a member of the team working to convert Sutherland’s ideas into a tangible prototype.

He explains the challenges his team is overcoming. “We are targeting steel doors,” he says. “We need to make sure our device can handle that and not be damaged in the process. We have to manage very high forces — thousands of pounds. That’s very rare for an academic project. The whole point of the device is that it *breaks things*.”

The prototype goes for final testing — user validation — in spring 2014. Once that is done, District 3 will be asked to participate in the design, prototyping and testing of other inventions from Brkich and Sutherland.

Brkich couldn’t be more pleased with the progress. “The team in District 3 has

exceeded my expectations,” he says. Law Enforcement has now become a final-year project — what’s called a “Capstone” — for several of the team members. In other words, it will help students earn credits toward their degree. This is a major coup for the engineering departments chairs, such as William Lynch, who leads the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and who pushed hard for innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives to be embedded within university curricula. The plan is for many more projects to become Capstone projects.

“What we need right now is experts in residence — alumni with experience who can help as coaches and mentors,” says Hervé. “With the alumni who have already helped us get this far, we’ve proven District 3 is a win-win for everyone. Now it’s a matter of growing it. Join us.” ■

For more information on District 3, visit d3center.ca.





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HOMECOMING 2013

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOMECOMING

From October 4 to 6, alumni and friends were stimulated and enchanted by memorable speakers, the university's forward-thinking researchers and impressive facilities, and, of course, former classmates. *Photos by Joe Dresdner*



LOUISE MORGAN AND
ROXANNE SAINT-JUSTE

Alumni and their families travelled from Ottawa, Toronto and even Bermuda and Dubai to reunite with classmates and professors during the Homecoming 2013 festivities, organized by Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Headlining the program was former *Newsweek* magazine reporter **Maziar Bahari**, BA (comm. studies) 93, **1** at the **Resolute Forest Products Lecture** on October 4. The author and filmmaker, who was abducted and tortured in Iran following that country's 2009 election protests, was interviewed by CTV News Montreal anchor Paul Karwatsky, BA 04, in front of 300 people at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre. Bahari described the emotional toll of solitary confinement and the bizarre relationship with his captors during the 118-day experience. *The Daily Show's* Jon Stewart has since turned Bahari's memoir, *Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity and Survival* (2011), into the feature film *Rosewater*, set for release next year.

Listen to a podcast of Bahari's lecture at concordia.ca/homecoming.

Graduates of the classes of 1953 and subsequent years ending in three and eight were celebrated for their milestone anniversaries at the **President's Homecoming Dinner** on October 5 at the Westin Montreal. Concordia President **Alan Shepard** is pictured (second from left) with (from

left) **Stephen Huza**, BA 73, and **Brian Marley-Clarke**, BComm 63, and **Nancy Marley-Clarke**. **2** welcomed 140 alumni at the dinner.

Earlier in the day, alumni enjoyed faculty-based lectures, tours and receptions:

Graduates of the **Faculty of Arts and Science** were offered a tour of the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, with its nifty robots, and presentations on related research. Pictured are **Shelley Bartholomew**, BA 13, and **Louis Rondeau**, BA 84. **3**

John Molson School of Business (JMSB) alumni toured the faculty's modern digs. JMSB faculty related news on current research topics including food-industry marketing and how inheritance affects family businesses. Pictured speaking to alumni is **Sherin Al-Safadi**, MBA 10, a Concordia University Alumni Association board member. **4**

A panel discussion of artists and educators engaged **Faculty of Fine Arts** grads. The panelists were (from left to right) artist/educator **Jocelyn Robert**; **François Morelli**, BFA 75, professor in the Department of Studio Arts; **Bernard Lamarche**, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec curator of Contemporary Art; and artist **Diane Landry**. **5** The discussion was organized with Concordia's FOFA Gallery, the Drawing LAB Dessin and Concordia's Sol LeWitt project.

Graduates of the **Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science**

networked after a tour of facilities, including the new Google Earth flight simulator, environmental chamber and solar simulator. Pictured are **Charles Benouaid**, BEng 83, and his wife **Marissa Velenosi**, flipping through an old yearbook. **6**

Loyola alumni and friends kicked off their reunion with a tour of the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre (formerly the Refectory). The program included reflections on the Irish revolution and its legacies by Gavin Foster of Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies. Pictured are **Denis Loranger**, BSc 54, and **Elizabeth Ludgate**. **7**

On October 6, Concordians capped off the weekend at the **Au Revoir Breakfast**. Attendees had the opportunity to mingle, as did **Edward Forbes**, BSc 63 (left), and **Jorgen Hansen**, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Economics, **8** while breakfast was a foodie's delight of pancakes, eggs and granola. After breakfast, alumni were invited to take a trip down memory lane with tours of the Loyola and Sir George Williams campuses. It was a good way to remember the old and see first-hand what's new at Concordia.

For more photos and information, visit concordia.ca/homecoming. ■

Join fellow Concordians in 2014 when Concordia celebrates its 40th anniversary.

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



1 Mordecai Richler Reading Room

CONCORDIA HONOURS LITERARY ICON

A legendary figure of Canadian literature has initiated a new chapter at Concordia. The Mordecai Richler Reading Room has opened to honour the late novelist, screenwriter and essayist who attended one of Concordia's founding institutions, Sir George Williams University, between 1949 and 1951 and who served as its writer in residence in 1968 and 1969.

Concordia is now the home of Richler's desk, typewriter, some of his private papers, books and mementos, as well as an ashtray that once brimmed over with his cigars.

Located on the sixth floor of the J.W. McConnell Library Building, the room is at the heart of Richler's old haunts on Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus. About 40 guests and media came to the McConnell Library Building for the room's official opening on November 28.

At the event, Montreal *Gazette* cartoonist **Terry Mosher** (Aislin), left, friend of the late writer, is pictured in the Reading Room presenting a gift of

his work to Richler's widow, **Florence**, and son, **Jacob**. **1** Actor **Rick Miller** **2** entertained guests with a lively reading from the author's *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang*; Richler named the title character after his own son.

The author's personal effects were generously donated to the university by Richler's literary estate thanks to Frederick Lowy — Concordia president and vice-chancellor from 1995 to 2005 and again from January 2011 until July

2012 — who championed the opening of the space to honour its namesake.

"The creation of the Mordecai Richler Reading Room will ensure that his works continue to be analyzed, celebrated and critiqued for generations to come," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "We thank the Richler family for giving us this deeply personal collection and for understanding the importance of Mordecai's connections to Concordia — both historical and philosophical."

Richler's personal papers and library will eventually be available for consultation by students, writers and the general public via an online database. "It was my wish that Concordia be custodian of my late husband's writerly possessions," says Florence Richler. "Mordecai worked incredibly hard to leave behind a body of work that would endure. That legacy will be immeasurably strengthened with the addition of the Mordecai Richler Reading Room at Concordia."

Inspiring a new generation of writers

By opening the Mordecai Richler Reading Room, Concordia has created a hub that will inspire creative writers, spark fresh ideas among students and foster original research from scholars. Visible 24/7 through glass walls, the gathering place will host literary readings, master classes, cultural gatherings and short writing residencies.

Friends of the university helped make the Mordecai Richler Reading Room



2 Mordecai Richler Reading Room

possible. David and Ruth Steinberg, Beryl Goldman and the Felicia and Arnold Aaron Foundation provided financial support, while Alvin Segal, chairman and CEO of Montreal-based Peerless Clothing, allowed Concordia to store the collection in his warehouse for over a year.

A Companion of the Order of Canada, Richler died in 2001. His novels are still read the world over and are translated in dozens of languages, from French to Finnish. Indeed, his works continue to be adapted as film and stage productions as well as audio books. Among his novels, *St. Urbain's Horseman* (1971) won a Governor General's Award, *Solomon Gursky Was Here* (1979) was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, while *Barney's Version* (1997) won the Giller Prize.

The Richler collection includes 6,000 books, many of which are annotated by the late author. The collection was catalogued by three graduate and seven undergraduate students from the Department of English under the supervision of Professor Jason Camlot, BA 90. "There are real treasures in this collection that researchers will want to consult, such as papers related to an unwritten, non-fiction book," says Camlot. *To watch a video tribute to Mordecai Richler or listen to the podcast of the Mordecai Richler Reading Room opening event, visit concordia.ca/richler.*

— Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins

CHAMPION OF IRISH-CANADIAN EDUCATION

Brian O'Neill Gallery, BA 57, LLD 10, knows a few people in high places — including former Canadian prime ministers Brian Mulroney and Paul Martin as well as former premier of Quebec Jean Charest. His impressive network and gregarious personality helped Gallery and his fellow Canadian Irish Studies Foundation trustees raise more than \$8 million in 15 years for the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University.

More than 225 supporters and friends came to Montreal's Centre Mont-Royal on October 24 to honour the long-time



3 School of Canadian Irish Studies

ALISON SLATTERY

foundation chairman. They were treated to a short video tribute from Mulroney, Martin and Charest, as well as a lovely rendition of "Danny Boy" by local chanteuse and Concordia Department of Music instructor Beverly McGuire.

During the event, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada **Ray Bassett** (left) presented **Brian Gallery** with a Certificate of Irish Heritage, issued by the Government of Ireland, before going on to read a personal letter of congratulations from the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins. 3

To watch a video of the event, visit concordia.ca/BrianGalleryGala.

CONCORDIA THRIVING, PRESIDENT TELLS TORONTO CHAPTER

In an upbeat presentation to the alumni association's Toronto chapter, Concordia President Alan Shepard called the university a "thriving place" buoyed by an urban setting and international profile that increasingly works to its advantage.

Held at the York Club on October 17, Shepard took the gathering as an opportunity to extoll the virtues of Concordia. He mapped out a vision for alumni as "lifelong partners" for the betterment of society and the university.

Shepard said Concordia's "reputation matters deeply" — that it was vital the "next generation of Concordia students have a great experience while they're on campus."

The president's talk to some 60 guests touched on other themes, such as campus growth and the value of a Concordia degree.

Shepard drew attention to Concordia's advances in research. He offered a perspective on the positive attributes of the historic merger of Sir George Williams University and Loyola College, Concordia's founding institutions.

Yet reputation led as the night's key theme. "What I hope from Concordia graduates is that the Concordia name opens doors for you," Shepard said.

Alan Shepard is pictured with (from left) **Ian Garmaise**, BA 84, president of the Toronto chapter, **Leah Del Vecchio**, BA 10, president of the Mississauga chapter, **Concordia Chancellor L. Jacques Ménard**, BComm 67, LLD 06, and **Dominique McCaughey**, BA 96, MA 02, associate vice-president of Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations. 4

Hear excerpts from Alan Shepard's presentation at concordia.ca/alanshepardtoronto2013.

— Scott McCulloch



4 Toronto chapter



5 CJLO

CJLO: A TALE OF TWO STATIONS

It's a classic tale of two stations.

A not-so-long time ago, each Concordia campus had its own radio station: CRSG at Sir George Williams and CFLI at Loyola.

Then one day a deal was struck, ending years of competition over signal possibilities and student council funding; the two stations merged into one in 1998.

Today, CJLO is a labour of love, run by volunteers and funded by a 34-cent-per-credit fee levy paid by Concordia students. The last few years have been busy: the station held its first fundraising drive and started the CJLO Artist Outreach Project to help local artists produce and promote their own EPs.

"It's cool to have laid the foundation for this fantastic station," says Alex Freedman, BA 01, CJLO's first co-station manager and formerly of CFLI. With an old mixing board and a wild plan, he and Mike Babins, then-station manager at CRSG, put together the bones of what is now an award-winning community radio station.

Celebrating a decade and a half

Fifteen years later, CJLO is still going strong, to the delight of its founders. The station can be listened to at 1690 AM in Montreal or online at cjlo.com, and is in the process of applying for a wider-reaching FM signal. They've

also recently released a series of compilations on Bandcamp and beefed up their schedule with more shows, though the overnight slots are proving difficult. They're looking to recruit students living in residence at Loyola to fill the airwaves through the witching hours.

Babins, formerly known as "Metal Mike" to long-time CHOM and CJAD listeners, says he and Freedman made a great team. "Alex was really good at working with the business side of things and coordinating with the student union. I was really good with getting publicity and had lots of connections," says Babins.



6 CJLO

For example, those connections once helped Babins book Bob Marley's band The Wailers at Reggie's, the bar in Concordia's Henry H. Hall Building, for a private party for their DJs.

Clearly the station hasn't lost that ambitious streak. CJLO marked its double anniversary — 15 years as an online-streaming station and five years since it started broadcasting at 1690 AM — with a massive concert, an open house and a free birthday bash in October. "We'll be celebrating all year, but this was the trifecta of party events," says Stephanie Saretsky, CJLO's station manager since 2011.

Wintersleep, Fucked Up and Cadence Weapon kicked things off with a concert at Montreal's Société des arts technologiques. "It is kind of a weird line-up, but it's something that we did on purpose," explains Saretsky. All three are Canadian bands CJLO has supported over the years and the mix of genres shows a good example of what gets played at the station.

Those who fall in torrid love with campus radio do not go unrewarded.

Both Babins and Freedman went on to successful media careers: Freedman will soon be producing the CBC morning show in Quebec City and Babins, after many years on the Montreal radio scene, does public relations for 70,000 Tons of Metal, the self-described "world's biggest heavy metal cruise."

"It's all because of radio that I'm where I am and it started at CJLO," says Babins. He isn't the only person who's benefited from volunteering at CJLO.

Another such alum is Emily Brass, BA 12, a radio and television reporter for CBC Montreal: "I had my own show on CJLO called Grrls Groove — it was all different genres of music, but with women fronting the bands.

"In 2012, I won the Joan Donaldson CBC News Scholarship. In my application, I used my radio experience at CJLO as proof why I was ready to go to the CBC."

The **CJLO offices** are pictured in 2013 **5** and from the **archives 6**.

—Alyssa Tremblay



To all Floridians,
snowbirds and
vacationers:

Meet Concordia President Alan Shepard

Concordia alumni and friends living
in or visiting the Sunshine State are invited
to a cocktail reception with
Concordia President Alan Shepard.

**February 18, 2014
6 to 8 p.m.**

Country Club of Florida
22 Country Rd.
Village of Golf (in the Boynton Beach area), Fla.

For more information and to register, please
contact Lina Uberti, alumni officer, Geographic
Chapters: lina.uberti@concordia.ca

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NOTICE

Concordia Sports Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

The deadline for nominations to be considered for the 2014
induction ceremony is

January 31, 2014

Nominations should be accompanied by as much supporting
documentation as possible, because it is the documentation
– not the number of times a name is put forward
or endorsed – that is considered
at the time of selection.

Nominations do not expire
if they are not selected
in the year in which they
are made.

Visit [athletics.concordia.ca/
halloffame](http://athletics.concordia.ca/halloffame) for a
nomination form or call
514-848-2424, ext. 3852,
for more information.

GO STINGERS!



Olivia Boudreau, *Douches*, 2006
Video, sound, 58 min. 31 sec.



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery
L'OSCILLATION DU VISIBLE
OLIVIA BOUDREAU
Curator: Michèle Thériault

February 12–April 12, 2014

A first exhibition examining the practice of this artist of the
moving image and of performance, bringing together works
produced between 2004 and 2013.

J.W. McConnell Library Building, LB-165
1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal

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

65 George P.G. Springate, BA, LLD 12, is a Member of the Order of Canada. George recently retired after 14 years as a Canadian citizenship judge. During his eclectic career, George was a placekicker for the 1970 Grey Cup champion Alouettes, was elected as a member of the Quebec National

Assembly three times, is a lawyer by training, former police officer and broadcaster, and co-founding member of the police technology program at John Abbott College in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que.

68 Lilian Broca, BFA, is the subject of *Return to Byzantium: The Art and Life of Lilian Broca*, a documentary about her return to her homeland, Romania. The program aired on CBC TV in October.

71 Kevin Tierney, BA, GrDip 78, is a filmmaker and producer of the hit movie *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* (2006). Kevin was one of three recipients of the fifth annual Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Awards from the Quebec Community Groups Network. The award honours exceptional individuals who contribute to the vitality and reputation of the English-speaking community and who have built bridges of understanding

between Quebecers of different backgrounds.

76 Madiha El Mehelmy Kottb, BEng, MEng (mech.) 81, is chief boiler inspector for the Régie du bâtiment du Québec in Montreal. She has been named president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. An 18-year member of the New York City-based professional body, Madiha is only the fourth woman to lead the 133-year-old society.



1 Marcia Massa, BA (Fr. & hist.) 74, BFA 76, displayed sculptures from her "Pilgrim" series at an exhibition called "En Passant / In Passing" at the Warren G. Flowers Art Gallery at Dawson College in Montreal from September 13 to October 3. Marcia teaches studio arts at Dawson College. marciamassa.com 1) *Fallen Pilgrim*

2 Diane Collet, BFA 76, MA (art ed.) 03, showed more than 35 works, including drawings, paintings, collages and digital images, at her exhibition "From Tight to Loose" at Gallerie de la Ville in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., from September 14 to October 13. dianecollet.com 2) *Goodbye Kiss*

3 Apostoly Peter Kouroumalis, BFA (film animation) 99, works under the name pen name Toly a.k. Two of his paintings, inspired by the underground lowbrow art movement, are featured in shows at USINE 106U in Montreal this winter. 3) *3 Wishes*

4 Chrissy Cheung, BFA (design art) 00, held a solo painting show called "Intrigue" from October 24 to December 8 at the Eleanor London Public Library in Côte-Saint-Luc, Que. observeroftime.com 4) *Cajole*

5 Alex Brzezinski, BComm 76, GrDip (acct.) 80, is a partner at Montreal accounting firm Levy Pilotte, LLP. He is also a photographer whose works have been exhibited in group shows in Canada and Hungary. Alex held a solo exhibit, called "Between These Eyes," at the Belgo Building in Montreal from November 27 to 30. alexbrzphoto.com 5) *Mannequin Eyes and Mannequin Mouths*

6 Lyne Bastien, BFA 80, MFA 91, is holding an exhibition of her paintings, called "Clair-Obscur," at the Peter B. Yeomans Cultural Centre in Dorval, Que., from January 29 to March 23. Lyne has participated in several solo and group exhibitions. 6) *Clair-Obscur*

"It was a long process and it's sinking in now. My dad always said engineers can find solutions to the world's problems and I believed him."

78 Frank A. DiMauro, BA (comm. studies), is a web application specialist for the University of North Carolina Health Care System in Chapel Hill. Frank just published an English translation of the Italian novel *Un Vescovo Scomodo* by Francescantonio Lopriore Cariglia, available on Amazon.

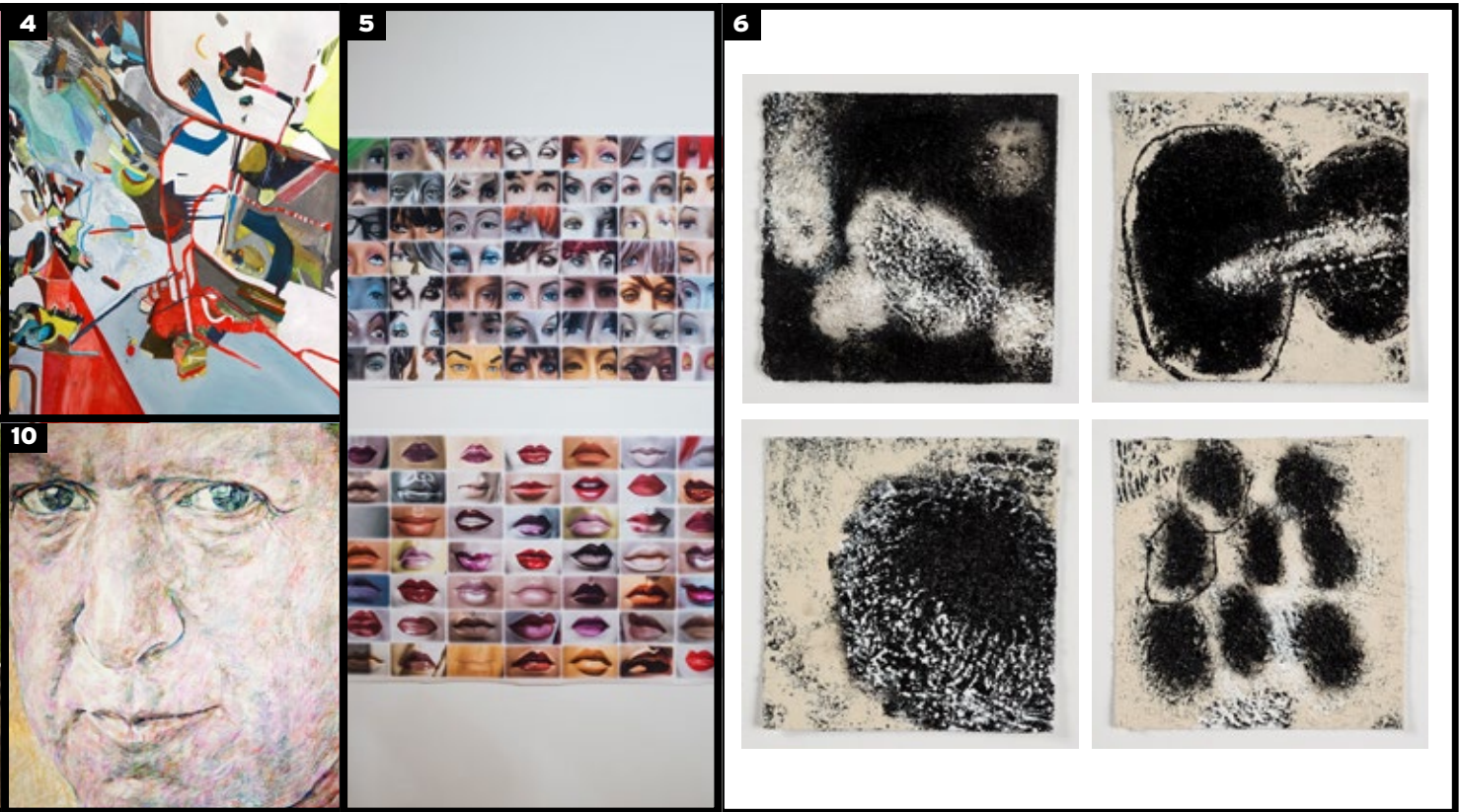
"Set in mid-18th century Europe, *The Inconvenient Bishop* is told through the eyes and ears of a certain Otto von Reipol, an Austrian of noble birth. Otto's tale is one of love, political intrigue, deceit, betrayal, murder and, ultimately, redemption."

85 Bettina Bradbury, PhD (hist.), is a professor in the Department of History at York University in Toronto. Bettina was recently named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

86 Frederic Serre, BA (journ.), and **Gonzalo Gandia, BComm** (quantitative methods) 89, help run Joycott, an interactive website that promotes for-profit companies that go beyond the call of duty by donating profits to charities, promoting recycling, literacy or the environment. Frederic oversees editorial content provided by a team of 30 writers, some of whom are Concordians. "The idea behind Joycott is that instead of boycotting big, evil corporations

that we all seem to dislike, why not promote mom and pop companies that do good? So, basically, instead of boycotting, let's joycott." joycott.com

91 Andrea Boyd, BFA (theatre), BA (therap. rec.) 98, is a Montreal-based director, theatre educator and playwright. She recently won the Write-On-Q! playwriting competition's Pam Dunn Prize for her play *For the Love of Gracie Gray*. Infinithéâtre presented a public reading of the play



7 Erik Slutsky, BFA 86, held a retrospective of his works on paper from the 1980s and 1990s, called "The Early Years," at Espace POP in Montreal from October 8 to 13. Erik has held more than 50 exhibitions on three continents. erikslutsky.ca 7) Poster of "The Early Years" exhibition

8 Shelley Freeman, BFA (studio arts) 99, exhibited six paintings in a group show at the Gallery at Victoria Hall in Westmount, Que., from July 11 to August 10. Her work depicts the aesthetic beauty and wonder of confined underground spaces. 8) *Egress*

9 Ann McCall, BFA 78, is presenting a solo exhibition of collagraphs entitled "Arborescence" at the Centre d'Expositions de Repentigny from January 12 to February 9 in Repentigny, Que. The subject of the exhibition is trees and the problem of deforestation. 9) *Concurrence*

10 Hoda Ackad-Wenger, BFA (painting) 01, held a preview of her portraits series "The Power Behind the Scenes: Culture Montreal" at Centre d'art E.K. Voland in Montreal on October 17. Hoda works with black and white photographs to create larger-than-life portraits of Montreal's cultural visionaries. hoda.carbonmade.com 10) *Andy Nulman*

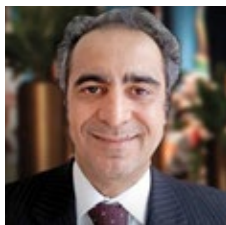
Concordia Hon Docs

Concordia University bestowed two honorary doctorates during its fall 2013 convocation ceremonies on November 21 at Place des Arts. The distinguished recipients joined more than 1,800 students from Concordia's four faculties and School of Graduate Studies.

Clark Blaise, pioneering author and founder of Concordia's Creative Writing Program, was honoured for his long and influential career across North America as a teacher of writing and literature. He is a professor emeritus at the University of Iowa, where he was director of the International Writing Program. Clark's 20 books of fiction and non-fiction include the Pearson-Prize-winning *Time Lord: Sir Sandford Fleming and the Creation of Standard Time* (2000). He was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2010.



Vahid Tarokh, was the principal inventor of space-time codes. Unveiled in 1996, the codes significantly improved the speed, capacity and clarity of wireless voice and data communications. One of the world's most cited computer science researchers, Vahid is a Hammond Vinton Hayes Senior Fellow of Electrical Engineering and Perkins Professor of Applied Mathematics at Harvard University's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He holds an MSc in mathematics from the University of Windsor and a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Waterloo.



At the 15th edition of the Quebec Writers' Federation (QWF) Awards on November 19, four Concordia alumni took home prizes:

Adam Leith Gollner, BA (comm. studies) 04, Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction: *The Book of Immortality* (Doubleday Canada)



Andrew Szymanski, MA (English) 12, Concordia University First Book Prize: *The Barista and I* (Insomniac Press: Serotonin/Wayside)

Louisa Sage, BFA (film animation) 03, QWC Reader's Choice Prize: "The Drought of Eighty-Seven"

Juliet Waters, BA (English) 85, MA (English) 98, 3macs Carte Blanche Prize: "Bluefooted"



SGT. RONALD DUCHESNE, RIDEAU HALL

Concordia Chancellor L. Jacques Ménard, BComm 67, LLDS 06 (left), received the snowflake insignia that marks his promotion to Companion of the Order of Canada from **Governor General of Canada David Johnston** during an investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall on November 22. Jacques, chair of BMO Nesbitt Burns and president of BMO Financial Group, received the country's highest public distinction for his "charitable and philanthropic involvement in a host of organizations and causes." He was first appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1995 and promoted to the rank of Officer in 2000.



JASON SANCHEZ

The work of **Susan Stromberg**, BA (Eng.) 74, was selected as the Centennial Sculpture for the Lachine Hospital in Lachine, Que. The sculpture, called *Régénération*, was unveiled on October 18. Among the dignitaries pictured with Susan are Claude Dauphin, mayor of Lachine, and Edgar Rouleau, mayor of Dorval. The sculpture is cast in aluminum and stands seven feet (2.1 metres) tall. "This sculpture is a symbol of what occurs when a 100-year-old institution merges with a hospital like the McGill University Health Centre."

in December at Montreal's Bain St-Michel as part of its annual series of free public play readings. Also presented in the five-day series were *A Place in the Country* by **Joel Fishbane**, BA (creative writing) 02, and a guest reading of *Fear Liath* by **Michael Mitchell**, BFA (drama in ed.) 81.

20TH REUNION

94 Alex Bottausci, BA (poli. sci.), EMBA 13, was re-elected by acclamation as a city councillor in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., in October. "Over the past eight years, I, along with the other members of council, have spearheaded projects that have led to increased recycling and composting, as well as increased public transportation and daycare spaces. I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of DDO over the next four years."

96 Rhonda Mullins, MA (media studies), was nominated for a 2013 Governor General's Literary Award for *And the Birds Rained Down*, an English translation of *Il pleuvait des oiseaux* by Jocelyne Saucier.

97 Phaedra Charlton-Huskins, BA (comm. studies), writes, "After working in the major motion picture industry for six years and almost four years in municipal government in economic development, I am now a full partner in Fiore Botanica, an all-natural skin care company headquartered in Nova Scotia. Started by a European-trained aromatherapist, Fiore Botanica makes products in small batches and ships them all over Canada and the U.S."

Armen Papazian, MA (public policy & public admin.), holds a PhD from the University of

Cambridge, England. Armen is the founding CEO of Keipr, a financial strategy and modelling consultancy. He recently won the first Alpha Centauri Prize awarded by the Institute for Interstellar Studies for his proposal on money mechanics for space exploration.

98 Stefanie Buxton, BFA (theatre perf.), and **Clare Schapiro**, BFA (theatre) 99, both performed in Imago Theatre's production of *If We Were Birds* at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal in October. Stefanie took on the role of the Pregnant One and Clare played the Dwindling One in Erin Shield's Governor General's Award-winning play about "the deep bond between two young sisters, characterized by their playfulness, romantic innocence and budding sexuality."

06 Amélie Proulx, BFA (studio arts), recently won the \$10,000 first prize for ceramics at the RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award for her artwork, *Jardinnet mécanique*. In her artist's statement, Amélie writes that "when clay is fired, it irreversibly becomes ceramics... My explorations with this material lead me to develop different strategies for unsettling the inherent characteristics of ceramics and suggesting that this material could be perpetually transformed."

11 Marigold Santos, MFA (studio arts) is a Montreal-based artist. Among recent shows across Canada, she held an exhibition called "Coven Ring" at artcicle in Montreal from October 18 to November 24. The exhibition combined drawing and sculpture, exploring absurd parallels between witchcraft and boxing. marigoldsantos.com ■



Reverend Donald L. Boisvert, BA 75, MA (hist. & phil. of rel.) 79, is an associate professor in Concordia's Department of Religion. Donald (left) was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada by the Anglican Bishop of Montreal, **Barry B. Clarke**, in September. He has been assigned to a non-stipendiary position as curate at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal, with a specific responsibility for French-language ministry.



Gary Hoag, BA (soc.) 74, won the 2013 Trent Hills (Ontario) Civic Award for architectural preservation. "I received this year's award for my efforts at Savanna Park in preserving the Loyalist character of the original farmhouse."



Mohan Munasinghe, MA (econ.) 75, holds an MA in engineering from the University of Cambridge, England, an MS in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston and a PhD in solid state physics from McGill University. Mohan (left) received a DSc (Honoris Causa) at the general convocation of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in September, for "his exceptional services to humanity and distinguished contributions towards the advancement of the disciplines of sustainable development, economics, energy and environment, and for sharing the 2007 Nobel Prize for Peace as vice chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."



DIMITRI PAKOPOPOLOS

Dimitris Ilias, BFA 92, CrDip 99, produced a musical children's book inspired by the Greek myth of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture, and her daughter Persephone. *Time for Flowers, Time for Snow* includes a CD of songs performed by a choir of 183 Quebec schoolchildren and a story narrated by Terry Jones of Monty Python fame. The book and CD were launched at Montreal City Hall in October, with a performance by the choir (above). Dimitris, artistic director of Montreal-based Chroma Musika, and his wife, opera singer Maria Diamantis, were awarded the Medal of the National Assembly of Quebec at the launch. The book/CD profits will go towards promoting music education in the participating schools.



Frank A. Mulvey, BFA (studio arts) 82, MFA 87, curated an exhibition in August at the Warren G. Flowers Art Gallery at Dawson College in Montreal. The exhibition, called "Back to the Future: Letterhead Design of the 1960s," featured the work of more than 100 designers active during the decade. Frank also recently published a book of his charcoal drawings, entitled *Voyage*.



Nicolas Villegas, BFA (interdisc. studies) 02, holds an MA in photography from the Polish National Film, Television and Theatre School in Lodz and currently works as a cinematographer. He recently shot the film *Heavy Mental* in Poland. "Heavy Mental was in competition in the debut section of the Warsaw International Film Festival. This is not the first festival my work has been shown in, but it's the first full feature that I have had in competition."



Adam Koniuszewski, BComm (fin.) 93, GrDip (acct.) 95, is a CPA, CA and CFA. Adam is chief operating officer of Geneva, Switzerland-based Green Cross International, an environmental NGO founded by former president of the Soviet Union **Mikhail Gorbachev**. Adam is pictured (right) with his wife **Margo Koniuszewski**, founder of the Center for Human Rights and Business, and Gorbachev. In October, Adam delivered a talk about sustainability and business, called "21st Century Capitalism," to the Ordre des comptables professionnels agréés du Québec in Montreal.



Rene Paredes, BA (leisure studies) 12, a third-year kicker for the CFL's Calgary Stampeders, was named the league's inaugural Most Outstanding Special Teams Player on November 21. During one stretch of the 2013 season, Rene kicked 39 consecutive field goals, a new CFL record. The former Concordia Stingers football player also set the mark for highest field goal percentage for a season (94.7 per cent), and led the league in field goals made (54), points (213) and converts (49).



Christopher Anthony Dieni, BSc (biochem.) 04, earned his PhD in chemistry at Carleton University in Ottawa. In June, Christopher (left) received Carleton's first Young Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes a recent graduate who has achieved significant accomplishments since graduation. Christopher, a comparative biochemist and physiologist, is a Margaret and Wallace McCain Postdoctoral Fellow at Mount Allison University. He conducts research on nanoparticles and their toxic and potential neurological effect on aquatic organisms at the biochemical level.



Scott Humphrey, BFA (theatre perf.) 10, starred in the Kaleidoscope Theatre Montreal production of Jenny Lyn Bader's *None of the Above* in November. Set in present-day New York City, the almost-romantic comedy deals with the stresses of student life, issues of entitlement and the assumptions we make about each other. Scott (right) played Clark, a no-nonsense scholarship kid hired to get a high school student's SAT score to a perfect 2400 or he sees none of the money.



Donald W. McNaughton, attendee 49, LLD 07, November 27, Montreal. He was 87. Donald chaired Concordia's Board of Governors from 1981 to 1987. He received the Loyola Medal in 1991, the Concordia University Alumni Association's Humberto Santos Award of Merit in 2004 and an honorary doctorate from Concordia in 2007. The former CEO of Schenley Canada Distillery devoted considerable time to the CFL's Schenley Awards and was inducted into its Hall of Fame as a builder in 1994.

Ronald Everard, BSc 46, Nov. 11, Terrebonne, Que.

Dr. Frank F. Hubscher, BA 48, Aug. 29, Laguna Niguel, Calif. He was 86.

Dr. Albert J. Schutz, BA 49, Aug. 26, Montreal. He was 84.

Dr. Jack Berman, BSc 50, Aug. 2, Ottawa. He was 84.

Gary Sheridan, BSc 51, Aug. 18, Alexandria, Ont. He was 85.

Dr. Robert A. Bota, BSc 52, Aug. 30, Flint, Mich. He was 82.

Dr. Howard Frank, BA 52, Aug. 1, Montreal.

Aldo Piccinin, BComm 53, Sept. 17, Montreal. He was 81.

T. Connell Broden, BA 54, Nov. 23, Toronto. He was 81.

Stanley Matulis, BSc 54, June 28, Montreal. He was 87.

Dr. John Smola, BA 56, BComm 64, November, Ottawa.

Daniel Ungerson, BA 57, May 24, Vancouver. He was 90.

Edward C. Over, BA 60, BSc 71, BFA (music theory & comp.) 94,

Sept. 14, Montreal. He was 77.

Hon. Roger E. Baker, BA (Eng.) 61, June 23, Montreal.

Louis Buell, BA (psych.) 61, Sept. 24, Montreal. He was 87.

Charles Westwood, BComm 61, May 13, Montreal.

Istvan Edvi, BSc (chem.) 62, Oct. 16, Montreal. He was 79.

Nicholas Karamanos, BComm 62, Nov. 9, Montreal. He was 82.

Allan Gordon Marjerison, BSc 63, GrDip (theol. studies) 94, MA 00, June 20, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 98.

James "Jim" Edgar Brookbank, BComm 66, Aug. 10, Ottawa.

Dr. Peter N. McCracken, BSc (biol. & chem.) 66, June 24, Edmonton.

Marian Graham, BA (psych.) 67, Aug. 3, Ottawa. She was 90.

Henri Hechema, BComm 67, Sept. 13, Montreal.

Keith Jackson, BComm 67, July 9, Huntsville, Ont. He was 65.

Connie (Freda) Johnston, BA 68, June 12, Ottawa. She was 61.

David Ainley, BA 69, Sept. 19, Victoria. He was 78.

Boris Strasberg, BSc (chem.) 69, Apr. 8, Toronto.

Raymond LeCouffe, BSc (math.) 70, Sept. 29, Montreal. He was 65.

Hannah Mary Ridolfi, BFA (sculpture) 70, MA (art ed.) 75, Sept. 29, Montreal. She was 93.

Ann Condon, BA (psych.) 71, October 27, Montreal.

Salvatore Lancione, BSc 71, Aug. 14, Montreal. He was 69.

Dr. Benjamin Min Wei, MEng 71, Nov. 16, Norfolk, Va. He was 83.

Heinz W. Caminer, BComm 72, May 15, Streetsville, Ont. He was 83.

Roland Eric Ginn, BComm 73, Aug. 7, St. Charles, Que. He was 65.

Bobby Goodis, BA (soc.) 73, Miami, Fla. He was 70.

Evelyn Beaulieu, BA (soc.) 74, BFA 92, Aug. 9, Montreal. She was 83.

Ida Sheila Miller, BA 74, Oct. 25, Montreal. She was 70.

Robert M. Smallhorn, BComm 74, Nov. 14, Oakville, Ont. He was 70.

Margaret M. Haberl, BA (app. soc. sci.) 75, May 29, Montreal. She was 81.

Jane (Kuczynski) Robinson, BSc (math.) 75, Aug. 27, Lachine, Que. She was 60.

Bruce Baker, BEng (elec.) 76, June 6, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 60.

Fay Geitzhals, BA 76, Mar. 3, Toronto. She was 60.

Olpherts A. Gregory, MSc 76, Apr. 27, Montreal. He was 86.

Bruce R.J. Hagerman, BA 76, Mar. 3, Vancouver. He was 58.

Constance Moore, MA (hist. & phil. of rel.) 76, May 9, Montreal. She was 83.

McVain Ollivierre, BA 76, Feb. 21, Montreal. He was 69.

Barbara Joy (Tolensky) Sperling, BA (early child. ed.) 76, Aug. 22, Montreal. She was 64.

Dina (Fusaro) Cesari, BA (transl.) 77, May 29, Montreal. She was 58.

Dr. Ursula M. McGuinness, BSc (biol.) 77, Nov. 2, Montreal. She was 58.

Joseph Muthana, BComm 77, Mar. 4. He was 71.

Charlotte Wertheimer, BA 77, Mar. 21, Montreal. She was 78.

Mitchell Berozofsky, BA (psych.) 78, July 3, Menifee, Calif. He was 57.

Christine Anne (York) Shreves, GrDip (DIA) 78, July 23, Toronto. She was 59.

Irene Ungar, BFA 78, Oct. 20, Toronto. She was 58.

Sheila C. Lanthier, BA (Eng.) 79, Oct. 4, Montreal. She was 64.

Kevin J. Leonard, BComm 79, MBA 79, PhD (admin.) 88, July 15, Toronto. He was 55.

Marlene (Shea) Matulic, BA (hist.) 79, July 21, Kirkland, Que. She was 56.

Ann R. McGowan, Cert (TESL) 79, BA (hist.) 79, Nov. 16, Montreal. She was 72.

Nancy L. Kruse, BFA (art hist.) 81, July 16, Roxboro, Que. She was 80.

Oksana Melnyk, BSc (biophys. ed.) 81, BEd (TESL) 90, July 26, Montreal. She was 55.

Linda Deluca, BComm (quant. methods) 82, Aug. 8, Montreal. She was 53.

Jocelyne Lemyre-Ryan, BA (Fr./Eng. transl.) 82, July 2, Montreal. She was 53.

Brian D. Eastman, BComm 83, MBA 87, July 8, Montreal. He was 60.

Darlene Lamothe Ramsli, BComm (acct.) 83, June 8. She was 67.

Pauline (Kovachik) Paterson, Cert (family life ed.) 83, July 10, Stittsville, Ont. She was 79.

Harold Sharkey, BA (adult ed.) 83, July 13, Toronto. He was 90.

Shirley Miller, BA (hist. & poli. sci.) 84, Aug. 13, Laval. She was 50.

Althea Seaman, BA (Fr.) 86, BA (Eng.) 01, Sept. 22, Montreal. She was 75.

Paul R. Guay, BA (poli. sci.) 87, Nov. 14, Montreal. He was 53.

Maria Michela (Mariano) Maggio, BComm (human res. mgmt.) 87, Aug. 20, Montreal. She was 55.

Paula Bloomstone-Ben-David, BA (creat. writing) 89, Aug. 30, Passaic, N.J. She was 46.

Rev. Cheryl Patricia Stroud, GrDip (adv. music perf.) 89, June 21, Sherbrooke, Que. She was 66.

Daniel J. Haddad, BComm (fin.) 90, Sept. 6, Calgary. He was 47.

Heather (Wallace) Hutchinson, BFA 93, June 2013, Val David, Que. She was 82.

Cynthia (Grant-Houston) Howarth, BA (hist.) 95, May 30, Montreal. She was 40.

Laurie Taylor Milliken, BA (transl.) 96, June 5, Montreal. She was 62.

Jasmin Peleg, BComm (mktg.) 97, GrDip (DSA) 00, Oct. 3, Montreal. She was 39.

Mark Warren Robinson, BA (geog.) 00, June 9, Montreal. He was 38.

Raja Melad, BEng (bldg.) 04, Aug. 3, Switzerland. She was 31.



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Vigilantes, immortals and Pythons

Adam Leith Gollner, BA (comm. studies) 04, explores humanity's ongoing obsession with extending life in ***The Book of Immortality: The Science, Belief, and Magic Behind Living Forever*** (Doubleday Canada, \$29.95). From fantastic locations around the world, Gollner attempts to find truth in the legion

of No Man's Land (Penguin Canada, \$22.00). Set in 1916, this historical fiction chronicles the life of Angus MacGrath, a skilled sailor from Nova Scotia who enlists in the army, promised a position as a cartographer in London, but soon finds himself unexpectedly thrust into the visceral shock of battle during the First World War.

later, a Canadian woman unearths Maura's story and tries to fill in the missing pieces of the young girl lost to history. This is the ninth novel for Montreal-born Donovan, who lives in Ottawa. buschekbooks.com

Guitar Hero (Createspace, \$10.46), the new book for young adults by **Day's Lee, BA**

latest crime fiction by **Peter Kirby, BA 80**. ***Vigilante Season*** (Linda Leith Publishing, \$14.95) picks up where Kirby's critically acclaimed debut, *The Dead of Winter* (2012), left off. A string of suspicious disappearances in Montreal's gritty Hochelaga district has Vanier searching for answers as he tries



of legends, myths and discoveries that all claim to hold the much sought-after secret to cheating death. In November, *The Book of Immortality* won the Quebec Writers' Federation Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction. The Montreal-based writer's first book, *The Fruit Hunters* (2008), was adapted into a documentary film directed by **Yung Chang, BFA 99**, in 2012. adamgollner.com

Penelope S. McCurdy, BA 70, recently released her debut novel, ***The Cartographer***

Written under the pen name P.S. Duffy, the story draws on McCurdy's extensive research and 30 years of sailing experience. psduffy.com

Rita Donovan, BA (Eng.) 78, weaves together the stories of two unlikely characters separated by time and space in her new novel, ***Maura Quell*** (BuschekBooks, \$17.95). Poor Maura, orphaned and struggling to survive on the streets of early 19th-century London, England, is shipped to Australia for stealing a shirt. Meanwhile, 200 years

(journ.) 78, follows 16-year-old musician David Chang's road to redemption as he struggles to pull his life together and fulfill his dream of becoming a rock star — if he can keep from getting kicked out of his band first. Lee, who lives in Montreal, earned praise for the positive representation of the Chinese-Canadian experience in her 2005 children's book *The Fragrant Garden*. dayslee.ca

Inspector Luc Vanier returns to prowling the mean streets of Montreal in the

to clear his own tarnished name within the police force. By day, Kirby practises international law in Montreal. peterkirby.ca

Monique Polak, MA 84, recently published her 14th novel for young adults. Set in Montreal, ***So Much It Hurts*** (Orca Book Publishers, \$12.95) tells the story of 17-year-old Iris Wagner, an aspiring actress who falls for an older man. When the relationship turns abusive, Iris has trouble extricating herself from it. Polak

is a freelance journalist and teaches English and Humanities at Montreal's Marianopolis College. moniquepolak.com

In ***A Green Reef: The Impact of Climate Change*** (Linda Leith Publishing, \$12.95), **Stephen Henighan**, MA 86, describes the scars left on Earth by humanity's culture of consumption. Part memoir, part cautionary tale, the 50-page essay book-

book features Glassco's correspondence between 1929 and 1980 with family and friends, including Canadian literary notables such as Margaret Atwood, Northrop Frye and Irving Layton. Busby, who lives in St. Marys, Ont., shed more light on Glassco's unconventional life in his 2011 biography, *A Gentleman of Pleasure: One Life of John Glassco, Poet, Memoirist, Translator and Pornographer*.

not composing or in the studio, Héroux teaches guitar in the Department of Music at Cégep de Saint-Laurent. michelheroux.net

Time for Flowers, Time for Snow (Tradewind Books, \$18.95), a children's book and accompanying CD, tells the Greek myth of Demeter and Persephone through songs performed by a choir of Montreal elementary school students lyrics and narra-

in Nazi-occupied Holland. Based on interviews with Canadian Jewish war veterans and research in the Netherlands, the book's short stories, poems and essays depict the author's personal journey through her mother's past. Van Der Meer is a Montreal journalist, public relations professional and university lecturer.

Emily Southwood, BA 02, believed she was a sexually



ends scientific, historical and philosophical analysis with the engaging retelling of an eight-hour trip he took up Canada's diminishing west coast. Henighan, who teaches Hispanic Studies at the University of Guelph, has published several books of essays and short stories. stephenhenighan.com

The Heart Accepts It All (Vehicule Press, \$22) is a collection of letters by the late Canadian poet and memoirist John Glassco, edited by **Brian Busby**, BA 87. The

brianbusby.blogspot.ca Montreal musician **Michel Héroux**, BFA 91, has released his third studio album of original jazz compositions. He describes the new CD, ***Collage*** (\$9.99, available through iTunes), as a collection of guitar instrumentals exploring different faces of jazz. Héroux studied jazz guitar at Concordia and has been honing his skills on the local music scene for more than 20 years, including performing at the Montreal International Jazz Festival in 2005. When he's

tion by Monty Python's Terry Jones. The music was produced by Montreal-based Chroma Musika, whose artistic director is **Dimitris Ilias**, BFA 92, GrDip 99. Profits will go toward promoting music education in the participating schools. chromamusika.com

In ***Motherlode: A Mosaic of Dutch Wartime Experience*** (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, \$19.99), **Carolyn Van Der Meer**, MA 97, creatively interprets the experiences of her mother and others who spent their childhoods

liberal person — until her fiancé landed a job filming porn for a reality TV show. As Southwood reveals in ***Prude*** (Seal Press, \$18.95), her feelings of jealousy and insecurity soon imperilled their relationship. In this humorous, frank memoir, Southwood takes readers along her path to conquer her discomforts about her partner's — and her own — attitudes toward pornography. emilysouthwood.com ■

—Alyssa Tremblay

A Family Reunion in Montreal

WAH WING CHAN,
BFA 92, BFA 96

My family and I emigrated in 1972 from Macau, the former Portuguese island colony where I was born, to reunite with my father's parents, who were in Laporte, Sask., and his sister in Montreal.

I have a photograph of our family taken that November in front of my grandfather's general store in Laporte, which at the time was a tiny rural settlement. In the photo I am 12 years old, standing with my eight-year-old sister on the right side and my brothers, 15 and six, on the far left. In the centre are my grandparents, father and mother.

It was a cold, sunny day. We wore winter jackets and fur hats purchased in Hong Kong, but the Chinese-made clothing was inadequate for an authentic Canadian winter. The image is now permanently etched into my memory as being our first encounter with snow.

After we arrived in Saskatchewan, I regularly spent time in hospital because I would get motion sickness from riding in cars, buses, boats and airplanes (eventually I conquered this childhood condition). I can only remember fragments of those days. I was alone but well cared for by the nurses and shielded from the cold of the outside prairie world. I passed the time watching cartoons on an early colour television and reading old comic books.

After five weeks with my grandparents in Laporte, we were off to Montreal to live with my father's sister.

My aunt and uncle had four children, just like our family. Although my



ABOVE: WAH WING CHAN, FAR RIGHT, WITH HIS FAMILY IN LAPORTE, SASK., IN 1972. RIGHT: POISON, BY WAH WING CHAN.



cousins were similar in age to us, we did not bond in any way, perhaps due to the language barrier: at that time we did not speak much English and they did not speak enough Chinese.

My first few years in Montreal were like living in a surreal TV show. The very little bits of English I had learned in Macau were both helpful and confusing. Understanding only one or two words in a sentence did not help in many situations. Still, as the second oldest, I was designated the family's translator.

School was a daily challenge. I would follow my cousins there and then, not knowing what was going on in class, I would go home at the end of the day and try to figure out what I needed to do for the next day. I was eager to adjust in this new world. I clearly remember how one particular day the door to the school was locked when I arrived. Later, I found out it was a holiday.

It was during this period that I began drawing, or rather doodling, to look busy at the back of the classroom, planting the seeds that would lead me to become an artist.

Years later, Concordia helped nourish and grow those seeds. I would go on to earn two BFA degrees, the first in studio arts (1987-1992), followed by a specialization in printmaking (1992-1996). During my nine years (part-time) at

Concordia, it became like a second home to me; I spent countless hours there practising my techniques, developing my images and searching for my artistic voice. Looking back, I was very fortunate to have many outstanding teachers who saw something special in my artwork.

Today, I am a Montreal-based printmaker artist and, since 2000, a regular member of Atelier Circulaire, a Mile End-district facility specializing in the creation and exhibition of etchings, lithographs and digital prints.

I will always call Montreal home even though I was not born here. It is the place I feel most comfortable, where I can communicate in Chinese, English and French all in the same breath. Forty-plus years of living in the city have instilled in me an open-mindedness touching all aspects of my life. I look forward to the next 40. ■

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