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JOHN MOLSON MBA AT 50 > HIVES OF ART > PHOTOJOURNALISTIC IMPRESSIONS

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**MEET GINA CODY: A NEXT-GEN TRAILBLAZER**

The graduate behind Concordia's newly named Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, the first engineering faculty in Canada to be named after a woman, reveals her inspirational story; plus, meet five exemplary BEng female grads.

By Joseph Leger



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**THROUGH A PHOTOJOURNALIST'S EYES**

Alumni Barbara Davidson, Matthew Hood, Linda Dawn Hammond and François Pesant reveal the inspiration behind some of their striking photos.



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Learn about Concordia's first political party-in-residence; design and computational arts professor Joanna Berzowska's soft, interactive dolls; new research chairs in Indigenous art practices; and Concordia's ranking in the world's top 100 for art and design.

By Andy Murdoch

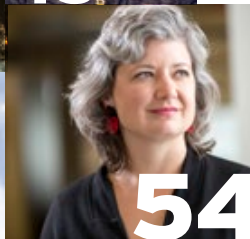
**THE JOHN MOLSON MBA: LOOKING GOOD AT 50**

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– Andrew Elvish, MFA 97



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CONCORDIA ANNOUNCES A NEW INSTITUTE FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Patti Sonntag, BA '00, says Concordia's new Institute for Investigative Journalism "is the blueprint for a new model of journalism that serves the public interest through cooperation, not competition." The institute, launched in June 2018, is the first of its kind in Canada.

Headquartered in the university's Department of Journalism, it's the host institution for the National Student Investigative Reporting Network, which connects major media outlets with journalism students and faculty from across Canada to investigate and report on large-scale public interest stories.

Media partners on the current project include Global News, *The National Observer* and the *Toronto Star*, with more to join. Higher education partners on the 2018-19 project include Carleton University, Humber College, Mount



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

PATTI SONNTAG HEADS CONCORDIA'S NEW INSTITUTE FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM.

Royal University, Ryerson University, University of King's College, University of Regina and University of British Columbia.

These unprecedented collaborations are a new model for fostering investigative reporting in Canada, and addressing news poverty in many regions — a result of lost advertising revenue for local and regional media.

Sonntag says this has far-reaching consequences as industry and government go unchecked in sparsely populated areas that are now out of the reach of many journalists. "Ours is a radical new approach to a national problem," says Sonntag, a former managing editor in *The New York Times*'s News Services division. "It is fitting that the institute is being led by Concordia, which has a long history of collaborative, experiential learning."

PROVEN SUCCESS

The launch of the Institute for Investigative Journalism is the culmination of a partnership between the Department of Journalism and Sonntag that began when she became Concordia's first journalist-in-residence in 2016. She was asked to engage students in a large-scale investigation in the public interest.

Sonntag's first project took a small cohort of journalism students to Baie-Comeau, Que., to investigate the effect an infestation was having on Quebec's forestry industry. More than 10 months of reporting and data gathering led to the publication of the in-depth investigation in *The Walrus*. Soon afterward, Sonntag was awarded the Michener-Deacon Fellowship for Journalism Education, for a project that involved creating an investigative student network.

Through that award, she learned of the work of *Toronto Star* reporter and Ryerson instructor Robert Cribb, who had received a Michener the previous year for a similar project and had been working on building a network for some time.

They teamed up, and their combined momentum led to the network's pilot project, "The Price of Oil." The project united dozens of reporters, editors, students and faculty across Canada to expose negligence in the oil and gas industry. It has resulted in more than 70 publications and broadcasts to date.

CONTINUED MOMENTUM

Journalism chair David Secko says the creation of the institute is a continuation of the department's mission to provide students with the diverse skills they need to be newsroom ready and fulfill their passion for journalism. "The institute and network will provide unparalleled educational experiences while serving the community by covering complex stories that have a profound effect on the public," he says.

For its next project involving the student network, the Institute for Investigative Journalism will facilitate a collaboration between an unprecedented eight university journalism departments from coast to coast, as well as four national English media outlets and potentially others in French and English media. International partnerships are also taking shape. ■

—Taylor Tower

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE  
**Concordia**

Concordia University Magazine welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

Concordia University Magazine is published three times a year for alumni and friends of Concordia University. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the alumni association or of the university.

Please address editorial correspondence to: The Editor, Concordia University Magazine, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., FB 520, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8. Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 3876. Email: [Ginette.Leduc@concordia.ca](mailto:Ginette.Leduc@concordia.ca)

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# setting **an** **example**

Newport Sports Management



For the love of the game  
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Donald Meehan is president of NHL player agency Newport Sports.

“After passing the legal bar and spending three years working for a law firm in corporate commercial work, I decided to pursue my passion and dedicate my time to a sports management company I incorporated in 1980. It was called Newport Sports Management. I then began presenting my credentials to prospective clients.

My first meaningful success was in the 1983 National Hockey League Draft, where I represented a total of 15 players. I'd always hoped my company would grow to be where it is today, but I never had expectations that it would.

My time at Concordia gave me a very broad-based education in the arts, which is something I very much value because it made me aware of events in the world and the history of my own country. I would not be where I am today without my education at Concordia.

Because I know how difficult it was to mobilize my finances and work part-time to pay for my expenses when I attended school, I have decided to give back to my alma mater. As alumni, we owe our success today to what our university experience has given us. I'm just delighted that I can assist student athletes in the form of scholarships.

I recently toured the sporting facilities at Concordia and was so impressed with what they offer and the progressive work their researchers are doing rehabilitating injured athletes. They are so advanced that I decided to commit to helping prospective student athletes at the university.”

*Donald Meehan, BA 72, is president of Newport Sports Management, ranked by Forbes magazine as the most valuable National Hockey League player agency in the world, with US\$ 1.25 billion in contracts under management. He established the Donald E. Meehan Athletics Scholarship and Bursary at Concordia in 2017.*

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## CONCORDIA PROFESSOR LORNA ROTH EXPLORES CANADA'S MEDIA LANDSCAPE ABOVE THE 60TH PARALLEL

Over the course of more than 40 years that the Canadian federal government has exerted its influence over mass communication in the Far North, northern voices have often struggled to make themselves heard.

Despite often lacking the technology and resources available to culture makers in the Canadian south, Indigenous communities have been able to create their own media landscape that is ground-up rather than top-down.

In a paper published in the journal *Development In Practice* in spring 2018, Lorna Roth, a recently retired professor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, reflects on that struggle. She proposes measures that could be taken to strengthen those northern Indigenous voices. The article was written in collaboration with Patricia Audette-Longo, PhD 18, Roth's former PhD student.

Roth points out that Ottawa only started taking the idea of improving communications between the North and South seriously in the late 1960s, and then mostly at the urge of commercial and resource extraction interests.

In 1972, Telesat launched the first Canadian domestic communications satellite, Anik A1, and the federal government began connecting northern communities via satellite dishes. "But some people in the Arctic and northern Quebec did not want national television



COURTESY ISUMA.TV

ISUMA.TV IS A WEBSITE THAT HOSTS CONTENT MADE BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

before they had local television," says Roth. "They wanted their voices to be heard, they wanted their culture to be reflected before they had a national culture imposed on them. It was an issue of identity promotion and they persisted in keeping their perspectives."

Because Indigenous northern peoples made up such a small percentage of the overall population, providing them with the infrastructure necessary was not a top priority for Ottawa.

It took years of resistance and persistence by the Indigenous peoples — buying their own satellite dishes, for instance, to access content not authorized by Canadian authorities or the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission — before Ottawa relented. In 1981, the federal government began to develop the infrastructure necessary for northern communities to develop their own programming.

However, the advent of the internet age has presented its own unique challenges. Because internet access is still not yet considered a

universal service or legal norm like telephone, radio or television access, internet connectivity remains problematic in many regions in the North outside of major urban areas.

While more media is consumed online than ever, the Canadian internet infrastructure is by and large privately owned. This presents a significant obstacle to online access, Roth points out.

"No one was going to put the money into the infrastructure in a community that was small and was not going to make them a profit, and the federal government was not going to fund it as a public service because it was too expensive," she says. "So, it went into the private

sector, and the private sector felt that they weren't going to make enough money."

Efforts are under way to increase access to the internet in Canada's North, but communities are not waiting to produce high quality programming.

Roth notes that initiatives like Isuma.tv, a website that hosts content made by Indigenous people from around the world, are ongoing, even if the content is far easier to watch for southern audiences than northern ones. Indigenous communities are also overcoming that, she notes, by uploading Isuma.tv content to local servers that are accessible to the community. ■

—Patrick Lejtenyi, GrDip 99

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**SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCHERS  
LAND \$9.1 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING**

Concordia's strength in the humanities and social sciences was on full display with the news that 32 university researchers received \$9.1 million in funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in June 2018.

The recipients include Jason Camlot, BA 90, professor of English in the Faculty of Arts and Science, and Heather Igloliorte, associate professor of art history in the Faculty of Fine Arts. Respectively, they will receive grants of \$2,499,514 and \$2,499,774, dispersed over seven years, from the Partnership and Partnership Talent programs.

The remainder of the funding was awarded through SSHRC Partnership Development grants, paid out over a three-year period, and Insight grants, distributed over the next two to five years.

Camlot is probing an entire sector of literary activity that, he insists, has yet to be properly researched. "Since the introduction of sound recording technologies in the last decade of the 19th century, writers and artists have documented their performances of literary works,



DAVID LIPNOWSKI

HEATHER IGLOLIORTE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY AT CONCORDIA.

events and conversations with creative abandon," he says.

With his SSHRC partnership grant, Camlot will work on the SpokenWeb initiative, a project to identify and preserve an extensive body of valuable cultural heritage material. It consists largely of magnetic tape recordings of poetry readings and related conversations from across the country, starting in the mid-1960s.

The SSHRC Talent Partnership program focuses on research training activities achieved through connections. With her

funding from the program, Igloliorte will develop the Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq Project: Inuit Futures in Arts Leadership to support emerging Inuit academics and arts professionals.

"Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq are the Inuit societal values of developing skills and knowledge through observation, mentoring, practice and effort," says Igloliorte, who holds the Concordia University Research Chair in Indigenous Art History and Community Engagement. "This project is distinct because it provides training and mentorship opportunities to Inuit students in ways that are grounded in Inuit knowledge and values."

Igloliorte says that for decades, Inuit artists have made up the highest per capita population of artists across Canada. Some communities report as much as 25 per cent of their Inuit

residents are employed at least part-time in the arts. However, she points out that there is a dearth of Inuit leadership in arts research that is mirrored by the low number of Inuit professionals currently employed across the arts.

"Through this Inuit-led initiative, we hope to address this longstanding absence of Inuit research leadership across many areas of the arts — including the visual arts, art history, film, theatre, and curatorial practice — and to provide meaningful opportunities for education and advancement, initiating, supporting and sustaining a profoundly different shared future for Inuit within Canada," she adds.

The ultimate goal of the Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq Project is to radically increase Inuit participation in humanities-based research and professional practice. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

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LISA WILLIAMSON

THIS YEAR MARKED THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCORDIA MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, A UNIVERSITY TRADITION AND FUNDRAISER FOR STUDENTS IN NEED. ABOUT 150 GOLFERS – FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY – HIT THE GREENS AT THE HEMMINGFORD GOLF CLUB ON AUGUST 15, 2018. THE TOURNAMENT RAISED \$6,000 FOR STUDENT BURSARIES, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO \$182,000 SINCE ITS INCEPTION. PICTURED ARE DARCY SOWDEN, LORRAINE TOSCANO, BA 79, GRDIP 83, AND MICHAEL KENNEDY.

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# Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute harnesses 40 years of innovation and growth

The 40th anniversary of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, home of one of the first university women's studies programs in Canada, is a year of change, growth and a shift in focus. Institute principal Kimberley Manning, who took on the role in 2016, says the institute is directing its energy towards Indigenous issues, race, migration and *la francophonie*.

"This important milestone is an opportunity for us to ask ourselves, 'Where does feminism need to go next?' We want to celebrate what's ahead by highlighting new voices and confronting our shortcomings," she explains.

The anniversary kicked off in May 2018 with the Unsettling Feminisms conference, examining subjects like Indigenous knowledge, art and activism.

In her keynote presentation, award-winning filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin, a member of the Abenaki Nation, spoke

about race, colonialism and loss through personal stories and excerpts from two of her 50 documentary films.

As a conclusion to the week's conference, Obomsawin's performance resonated strongly with art history and studio art student Sophie Wonfor, who was attending the conference for credit as a summer seminar. This was the second year that a summer seminar was integrated into a conference, offering undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to attend in the context of an intensive week-long, three-credit course.

"As Kimberly Manning noted following Obomsawin's final song, none of us left that room unchanged and I would add, without being in some way unsettled and unequivocally inspired to contribute towards the changes we want to see," Wonfor says.

The conference also left a lasting impression on presenters, including Natalie



KIMBERLEY MANNING AND CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD AT THE INSTITUTE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT CONCORDIA ON MAY 10, 2018.

Kouri-Towe, who recently arrived as an assistant professor in the Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

Integrating a summer seminar into the conference led Kouri-Towe to think about her presentation differently. "I had prepared a normal conference presentation and then decided to just have a conversation with the audience instead," she says. "It brought about one of the richest and most engaged discussions I've ever had at a conference."

## GROWING FACULTY

Among the changes taking place at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute is the addition of new faculty. Manning describes the new hires as "leaders in their fields who will open up new vistas for the community and our students."

Kouri-Towe says she chose Concordia and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute because both have long histories of supporting socially and community-engaged research and involvement. "Valuing the role of faculty in helping to bring about social change sets the Simone de Beauvoir Institute apart from other schools across North America," she says.

Kouri-Towe's research probes how we can better respond to inequality and violence through social engagement. She is looking forward to interacting with students in a meaningful way.

"I hope that students walk away from my courses with a greater sense of interest and curiosity in some of the topics we've examined, rather than a laundry list of facts about a specific subject



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matter,” she says. “I want the theories and ideas we discuss to help us all think differently about the world around us.”

Additions to the Simone de Beauvoir faculty also include assistant professor Genevieve Renard Painter, whose research examines law’s role in shaping the struggle for justice at local and global levels. Painter appreciated the Simone

of Debbie Lunny, who teaches at John Abbot College [in Ste.-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que.] She recently presented her research at the Unsettling Feminisms conference, calling for the incorporation of more languages into transnational feminist curriculum and the classroom,” Kouri-Towe says.

“I’m hoping that by fostering connections to local, national and transnational

in the Department of Electroacoustic Studies and in the Montreal music scene more generally.

This is among the initiatives supported by C-FAR (Critical Feminist Activism in Research), a Concordia research project that explores the gaps in equity and inclusion and the ways in which institutional and social transformation is possible.

In addition, a new

### AN “EXCITING MOMENT IN FEMINISM”

The anniversary comes at a time when feminism has been thrust into the spotlight.

“I think we’re in an exciting moment in feminism, where so much energy and resistance is emerging through #SayHerName, #MeToo, the global Women’s March, the growth of trans feminist movements and so many other responses to gendered violence

## “This important milestone is an opportunity for us to ask ourselves, “Where does feminism need to go next?”

de Beauvoir’s reputation of connecting with the community. “The institute’s long track record in women’s studies and feminist activism demonstrate a valuable effort to build bridges between the academy and activist, community and policy circles,” she says.

Painter has already begun teaching and she finds students to be motivated and hardworking. “They ask smart questions, and they come to the classroom with an open mind,” she says.

Manning points out that the new hires are bilingual or trilingual and that this is an important element of the new vision of the institute.

“Language is world-making,” says Painter. “Being bilingual has opened up worlds for me.”

Kouri-Towe echoed these sentiments. “I’m inspired by the work

groups and organizers, we can develop languages of commonalities across our differences to better respond to the challenges facing the world today.”

### NEW AND EVOLVING PROGRAMS

The institute’s new direction is also reflected in advanced and evolving programs and courses, including the second installment of the year-long Feminist University Seminar: A Transformative Course in Equity and Inclusion. This six-credit course challenges students to confront inequity within the university by developing a social action research project. Among the many initiatives involved is continued work with Rock Camp for Girls and Gender Nonconforming Youth to increase gender diversity

major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality has been approved and will be launched in the coming months. Building on the minor of the same name established in 1998, the major offers an opportunity to dig more deeply into the role of human sexuality in society and behaviour through an interdisciplinary approach that includes the humanities, social sciences and fine arts.

that have persisted into the 21st century,” says Kouri-Towe.

In this context of building awareness, Kouri-Towe says the Simone de Beauvoir Institute is positioned to play a formative role in dialogue with feminist movements, as it has over its four decade-long history.

“There are exciting things happening at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute,” she says. “And I am thrilled to be part of it.” ■

—Taylor Tower

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**Former president of CCI Group Inc.**

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## QUEBEC AEROSPACE INDUSTRY TAPS CONCORDIA'S EXPERTISE

Several companies in the aerospace industry will benefit from Concordia's research expertise thanks to a new initiative designed to help businesses commercialize their innovations.

The Consortium for Research and Innovation in Aerospace in Quebec (CRIAQ) received \$4.3 million in funding from the Government of Quebec in June 2018 to support mini-technology demonstration projects — or TDPs — for the aerospace industry. This is the first instalment of an \$8.2-million program.

CRIAQ is a non-profit organization established in 2002 with the financial support of the Quebec government. It aims to increase the competitiveness of the aerospace industry through research collaborations, and enhance the technical and professional skills of students specializing in aerospace training programs.

The consortium includes more than 80 industry partners and 25 academic members.

Kash Khorasani, professor in Concordia's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Amir Youssef, professor and associate director of the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering, are each lending their expertise to two CRIAQ mini-TDP projects led respectively by GlobVision and Mannarino Systems and Software.

"These CRIAQ TDPs address the needs of the aerospace industry," says Shelley Sitahal, BA 99, Concordia's director of Research Partnerships and Innovation. "The program is designed to complement the federal TDP program which provides support to companies to bring their emerging technologies to market. This is the inaugural round of funding for the CRIAQ mini-TDP program, so it's exciting that Concordia is in the mix for not just one, but two projects." ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

## NSERC INVESTS \$6.5M IN THREE CONCORDIA-LED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Three Concordia science and technology initiatives are set to receive a combined \$6.5 million in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) through its Strategic Partnership Grants program.

The majority of the funding — \$5.5 million — supports the Strategic Network in Green Surface Engineering for Advanced Manufacturing (Green-SEAM) over five years. Two other projects, including an innovative synthetic biology initiative and a major data analysis, will also receive \$504,450 and \$494,300 respectively. These grants will be dispersed over three years.

Green-SEAM is a new network to be housed within the Gina Cody

School of Engineering and Computer Science and led by Christian Moreau, Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Thermal Spray and Surface Engineering. The project will undertake research to unite Canada's internationally recognized leaders in surface engineering.

Moreau explains that the mission of Green-SEAM is to drive innovation in the manufacturing sector by developing advanced coating materials for a cleaner environment. The technology might be used in industries such as aerospace, automotive, mining and energy.

Vincent Martin, Concordia University Research Chair in Microbial Engineering and Synthetic Biology (Tier 1), co-director of Concordia's



CHRISTIAN MOREAU, PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL & INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, WILL LEAD THE NEW STRATEGIC NETWORK IN GREEN SURFACE ENGINEERING FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AT CONCORDIA.

Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology and professor in the Department of Biology, and Emad Shihab, Concordia University Research Chair in Analytics for Quality Mobile Software (New Scholar) and associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, also received NSERC Strategic Partnership Grants.

Martin's research investigates the development of biochemicals from forestry biomass and how

they can help replace petroleum-derived chemicals with green, sustainable alternatives.

Shihab's big data analysis will help improve the capability of system-on-module-based solutions to improve the intuitiveness — or decision making — of wearable devices. By developing new technologies, Shihab and his team hope to transform athletics, medicine, navigation, shopping and more. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07



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# Open House



## 5 PRIZES FOR A CONCORDIA AND MCGILL COLLABORATION AT THE 2018 SOLAR DECATHLON

After more than two years of hard work, this summer members of Canada's sole entry in the 2018 Solar Decathlon China competition raced against the clock over three weeks in the sweltering heat to assemble and furnish their innovative row house from top to bottom.

TeamMTL, which includes 60 Concordia and McGill students, competed in Dezhou, China, against 22 teams from 38 schools and 10 countries to construct the best solar-powered house. TeamMTL picked up prizes in five out of 10 categories. The Montreal-based collaboration dominated the juried contests, receiving first place in architecture, market appeal and communications, and third place in both engineering and innovation.

"I'm proud of the urban leaders who competed in the Solar Decathlon," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "Their strong showing proves this is a viable design and demonstrates the key role universities play in shaping smart, sustainable and resilient cities. Congratulations to the many Concordia and McGill students who contributed their technical skills and innovative thinking to build an affordable, scalable solution to housing that fits into the urban fabric of Montreal."

TeamMTL is an inter-institutional and interdisciplinary group made up of faculty members and students from Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and John Molson School of Business, as well as McGill's Faculty of Engineering and Desautels Faculty of Management.

The team's Deep Performance Dwelling is net-zero energy capable and low or zero carbon system-built. It uses 80 per cent less electricity than conventional homes. ■

—Andy Murdoch

TEAMMTL'S DEEP PERFORMANCE DWELLING IMPRESSED 2018 SOLAR DECATHLON CHINA JURY MEMBERS IN THE ARCHITECTURE, MARKET APPEAL, COMMUNICATIONS, ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION CONTESTS.



COURTESY OF TEAMMTL



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ROISIN O'CONNOR RECEIVED \$432,225 IN FUNDING FROM THE CIHR TO DEVELOP A CULTURE-SPECIFIC MODEL OF RESILIENCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE USE AMONG CANADA'S ON-RESERVE INDIGENOUS YOUTH

## \$1.85 MILLION FOR NEXT-GEN HEALTH RESEARCH

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) have announced support for new projects at Concordia.

Three professors in the Faculty of Arts and Science — Thanh Dang-Vu, Mihaela Iordanova and Roisin O'Connor — received a combined total of \$1.85 million dollars through the federal funding agency's Project Grant Program.

A neurologist and associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science, Dang-Vu will receive \$742,050 to study brain abnormalities in central disorders of hypersomnolence.

This group of neurological disorders affects our control over sleep and wakefulness, leading patients to feel excessively sleepy during the day, which heavily impairs their ability to concentrate, work and socialize. Among these disorders of hypersomnolence, the five-year study will particularly investigate idiopathic hypersomnia — a sleep disorder in which longer periods of sleep do not refresh an individual suffering from the disorder.

Through this research, Dang-Vu and his team hope to contribute to the development of new interventions to treat patients with these disabling disorders.

Iordanova, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Canada Research Chair in Behavioural Neuroscience, will receive \$677,025 over five years. Her research project will look at the neural circuitry involved in the modification of unwanted behaviour, specifically behaviour related to sugary treats. Her goal is to uncover ways that will reduce such habits permanently.

O'Connor, an associate professor of psychology and member of the Centre for Clinical Research in Health, will receive \$432,225 in funding from the CIHR. Her research aims to develop a culture-specific model of resilience against substance use among Canada's on-reserve Indigenous youth. Like Dang-Vu and Iordanova, O'Connor's funding will also be spread over five years.

She and her team will implement what they call a "two-eyed seeing approach," in which both Indigenous and Western perspectives are used to identify factors that protect Indigenous youth from substance use. O'Connor's research will also include an empirical school-based study where potential predictors of substance use will be assessed as adolescents progress through secondary school. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

**CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS CREATE  
A MINIATURIZED CANCER KILLER**

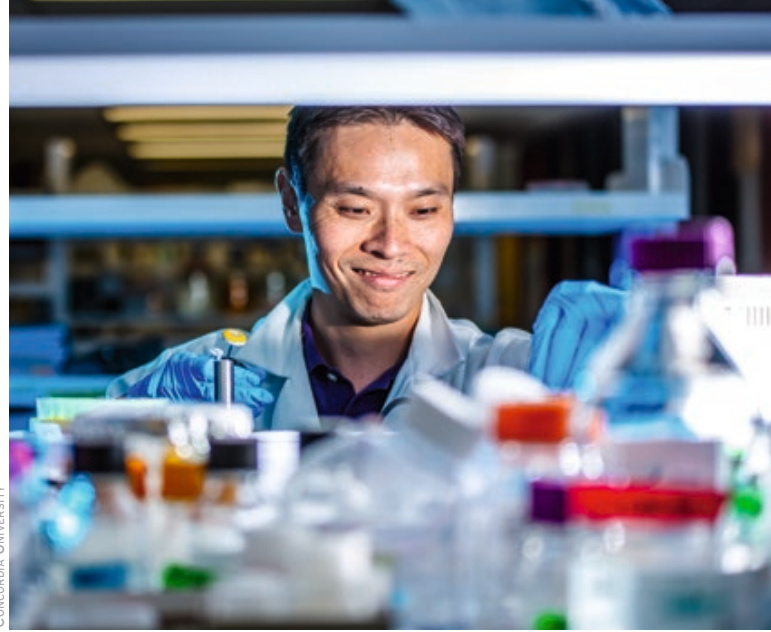
Steve Shih is not afraid to think big — even if it means operating at the tiniest possible level of gene editing. His goal is nothing less ambitious than eradicating cancer. And he thinks he and his students have discovered an important way of getting one step closer to achieving it.

Shih, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering in Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and with a cross-appointment in biology, is also the founder of the Shih Microfluidics Laboratory.

His team created a system that integrates the automation of complex biology experiments in

order to find genes related to cancer and kill them before they develop into a potentially fatal disease. "Finding genes related to cancer is like finding a needle in a haystack, especially with current methods," he says. "But hopefully, with this new method, we can expedite the whole process and rapidly find the culprit genes."

To prevent these genes from causing cancer, Shih's team uses CRISPR — Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, a genetic engineering technique — to find a cancer-causing gene and essentially snip it out of the DNA and replace it with a healthier one.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

A TEAM LED BY PROFESSOR STEVE SHIH DEVELOPED A METHOD TO IMPROVE THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER AT THE GENETIC LEVEL.

"Once both ends of the gene are snipped, it degrades to the point where we won't have it anymore," says Shih. "Now that gene won't be able to go through pathways that cause cancer. By doing this in an automated way, and by

also miniaturizing the scale which we're working on, we're able to expedite the whole process. Instead of looking at this as a matter of weeks, we can look at it in a matter of days." ■

—Patrick Lejtenyi, GrDip 99

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## Concordia alumni help OneSpan revolutionize the security and e-signature markets

*In Good Company* is a series on inspiring grads who work for corporations and non-profits that hire a large number of Concordia alumni. To be featured, please contact us at [alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca) or @ConcordiaAlumni on social media.



FRANÇOIS LEBLANC JOINED ONESPAN'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM IN 1998.

Meeting rooms at OneSpan's primary Montreal office are named after Canadiens hockey greats — from Howie Morenz to Larry Robinson. However, it is the employees gathering in those rooms — more than 20 per cent Concordia alumni— who are developing security solutions for some of the world's most trusted brands.

OneSpan offers financial institutions and other organizations a unified platform for secure digital onboarding, fraud mitigation and workflow management. The platform helps reduce costs, accelerate customer acquisition and increase customer satisfaction.

OneSpan's electronic signature product, OneSpan Sign, was originally branded eSign Live. It was developed by Tommy Petrogiannis, BEng 88, who co-founded one of the first e-signature technology companies, Silanis Technology, in 1992. It was purchased by VASCO Data Security, which re-branded as OneSpan in 2018.

### FROM SOFTWARE TO SALES

After graduating from Concordia in computer engineering, François Leblanc, BEng 88, was keen to pursue different opportunities. In 1998, Leblanc joined OneSpan's research and development team. "I've stayed at OneSpan because we keep growing," he says.

As director of technical sales, Leblanc oversees nine employees in the presales team. His responsibilities include understanding customer needs and matching them with OneSpan's software capabilities, as well as managing the engineers who demonstrate applications to clients.

Leblanc credits his time at Concordia for helping him learn how to work with others. "The way the schedule is made up, you are essentially forced to all be in the same place for the whole day," he says. "Naturally, you create bonds and relationships very quickly — it works well."

### A "BIG PICTURE" CONDUCTOR

Lisa Li, EMBA 03, already had more than 20 years of industry experience when she enrolled as a graduate student in Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

"After I started the EMBA program, I remember waking up one day and hearing the Business News Network on television," recalls Li. The 10-year veteran at OneSpan is director of research and development. "The content made more sense to me and that was because of the economics course I was taking."

Now with a team of 50 employees working under her, Li's daily tasks involve dealing with what she refers to as the three Ps: people, projects and products. "A director's role is to understand the big picture, as well as the criticality and timing of each issue," Li says.

She appreciates the atmosphere her Concordia professors created, which encouraged students to become very close.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ONESPAN

A 10-YEAR VETERAN AT ONESPAN, LISA LI SEES MANY SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HER FORMAL EDUCATION AND THE COMPANY'S COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYEE TRAINING.



JESSICA CAI SAYS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS NEED TO BE AWARE THAT PURSUING A CAREER IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REQUIRES A LIFE-LONG COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION.

### DIFFERENT STYLES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

When Jessica Cai, BCSc 03, completed her Concordia studies, the information technology (IT) bubble had just burst, causing many IT professionals to reconsider and — in some cases — change their career paths. Cai ultimately decided to push forward in the field.

She is now a senior Java developer for OneSpan. "The nature of this field is based on creativity — you need to create things even though you may be using the same technology," Cai says.

Cai works on two teams in research and development responsible for the company's core e-signature application software, OneSpan Sign, and the cloud subsystems. One of her biggest successes involved integrating the products of some of the world's leading banks into the company's core application.

"When a company gives you a chance to construct a whole project from the beginning, that's exciting because you use your own ideas, your own architecture and your own design," Cai says. ■

—Daniel Bartlett, BA 08



# Celebrating the 70th anniversary of Concordia's charter

Sir George Williams, one of Concordia's founding institutions, began offering college-level courses in the 1920s and its first degrees in 1936. However, it did so under the charter of the Montreal YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association).

That changed on March 11, 1948, when the Government of Quebec granted Sir George Williams College its university charter. **1** Quebec Lieutenant Governor Sir Marie-Joseph Eugène Fiset signed Bill 175, which specified Sir George Williams's powers and functions. It also enhanced the recognition and prestige of both the college and the degrees of its students. **2**

However, the college kept its name. Sir George Williams celebrated its new status on March 15, 1948, with "C" Day. **3** The festivities began with a student assembly followed by an athletic program. It finished in style with a charter dance at the Canadian Legion Hall. **4**

In 1959, the provincial legislature amended the charter to change the university's name from Sir George Williams College to Sir George Williams University.

Fifteen years later, in August 1974, Sir George Williams merged with Loyola College. Under the Province of Quebec's special bylaw "C," the institutions' name in the charter changed again, to Concordia University. **5**

Today, Concordia's degrees are still conferred under the original university charter enacted in 1948. ■

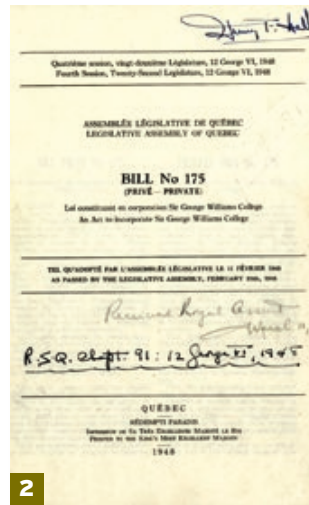
—Molly Hamilton



**Charter Day at Sir George Williams College**  
(MARCH, 1948)

Sitting, left to right: D. B. Clark, B. W. Roberts, C. W. Thompson, J. W. Beaton, J. W. Bridges, H. F. Hall, E. Stabler, K. E. Norris, P. Villard, R. N. Elliott, G. O. Rothary.  
Standing: J. W. Brant, R. A. Fraser, M. R. Smith, H. G. Warrill, Magnus Flynn, J. MacCorkindale, C. W. Dean.

**1**



**2**



**3**



**5**



**4**

# BUILT ON 240 YEARS OF TRUST



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The Montreal Gazette was there for readers when the French Revolution began. When Mozart died. When Napoleon lost the Battle of Waterloo.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucinda Chodan".

Lucinda Chodan  
Editor-in-Chief, Montreal Gazette



MEET  
GINA  
CODY



# A NEXT-GEN TRAILBLAZER

An Iranian immigrant who came to Canada with \$2,000 in her pocket. The first woman to earn a Concordia PhD in building engineering. A leading businessperson and engineering CEO. Now Gina Cody is making history by donating \$15 million to her alma mater. Through her generosity, she becomes the first woman whose name will grace a university engineering faculty in Canada.

JOSEPH LEGER, BA 15

“I believe society will be a better place for everyone when higher education is a fundamental right,” says Gina (Parvaneh Baktash) Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89.

“In many countries, education is the only way for women or the underprivileged to succeed. It is a natural evolution to a better and more inclusive world.”

Cody speaks from experience. After arriving from Iran in 1979, she became the first woman to graduate with a PhD in building engineering from Concordia. She then worked for three decades to become a highly successful engineering executive.

On September 24, Cody’s conviction in the power of education and gratitude

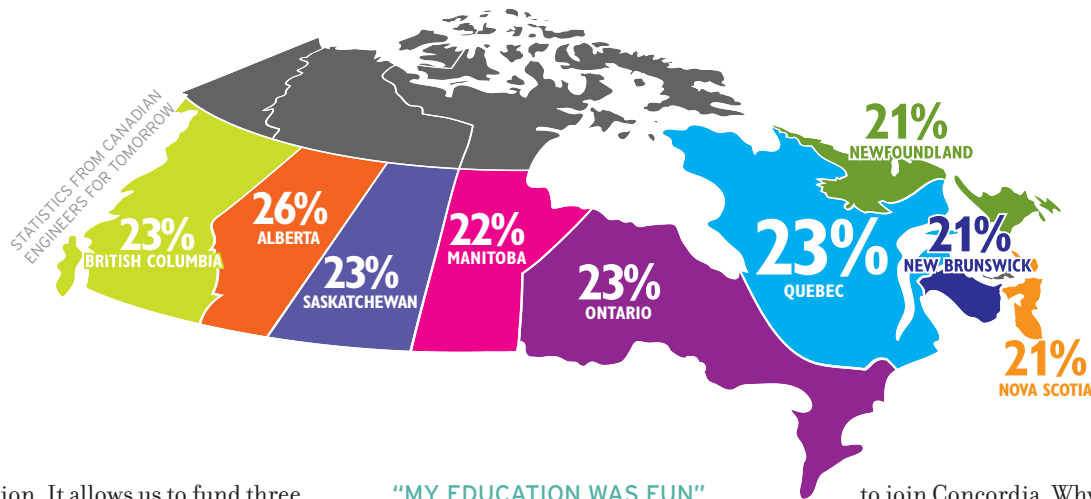
to her alma mater led her to make an historic \$15 million donation to Concordia and the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. Cody’s gift is the largest, to date, in support of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, which kicked off in 2017.

In recognition of her generosity and achievements in her field, the faculty has been renamed the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. It is the first university engineering faculty in Canada to be named after a woman.

“This is a watershed moment for engineering and computer science in Canada,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “Gina Cody’s gift will have a profound impact on our

GINA CODY WAS NAMED ALUMNA OF THE YEAR BY THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN 2011 AND A GREAT CONCORDIAN IN 2014.

# 2018 WOMEN STUDYING ENGINEERING IN CANADA



institution. It allows us to fund three research chairs, new scholarships for students and major inclusivity and equity initiatives. Gina is a role model for all of us. Her generosity will greatly benefit the next generation — and ultimately our society.”

Cody hopes her example will encourage fellow alumni. “I want this donation to inspire other proud Concordia graduates to come forward,” she says. “The goal is that in 10 to 15 years there will be so many examples like me that I am forgotten. I hope there will be so many women in science, engineering and technology that it’s no longer an issue — that it becomes the norm.”

Cody’s donation will provide for graduate and undergraduate scholarships — to attract top students and researchers and encourage inclusiveness — and bolster next-generation research on smart cities. It will also support three new chairs: in data analytics and artificial intelligence; in the internet of things; and in Industry 4.0 and advanced manufacturing.

“The impact of Gina Cody’s gift is huge,” says Amir Asif, dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. “We aspire to be the next-generation university — developing technological advances for the benefit of society. A significant portion of the gift will be used to provide greater opportunities for visible minorities and women.”

## “MY EDUCATION WAS FUN”

Cody’s commitment began when she was a young child. One of five siblings — three brothers, who all became engineers, and one sister, a dentist — she has vivid memories of her mother underlining the importance of higher education.

“My mother was a housewife who never finished high school. She married very young, and she felt it was extremely important for me and my sister to be in charge of our own destiny,” Cody recalls. “My mother said, ‘The only way that you can survive in this society as a woman is with education.’”

After completing a bachelor’s in engineering from Aryamehr University of Technology (now Sharif University of Technology) in Tehran, Cody left the country at the end of the Iranian Revolution. She arrived in Montreal in 1979 with \$2,000 in her pocket and a plan to get a master’s degree. “At the time, tuition in Canada was \$4,000,” says Cody. “I don’t know what I was thinking. Where was I going to get the money? But higher education was my goal.”

She was accepted at another university. However, her late brother, Mahmoud Bigtashi, BEng 79, had recently graduated from Concordia. He convinced her to meet with one of his engineering mentors, Cedric Marsh.

“I met with Professor Marsh two days after arriving in Canada,” Cody remembers. “We spoke for an hour, and at the end he said, ‘I really want you

to join Concordia. Why would you go any other place?’ He gave me financial support immediately and I don’t know what I would have done if he hadn’t. He changed my life, and so did Concordia.”

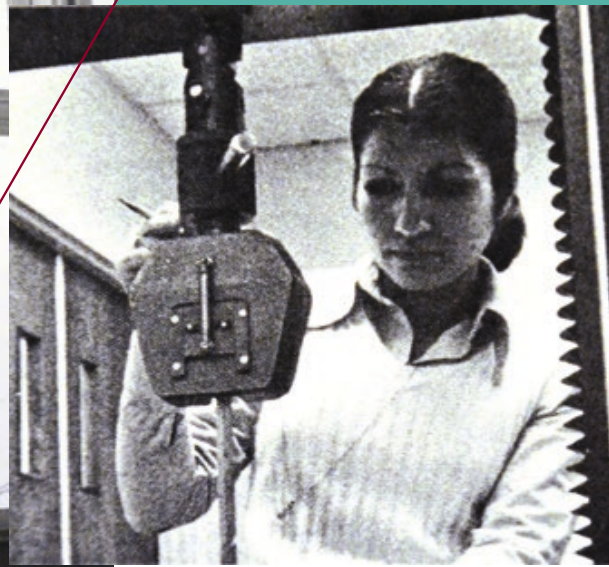
Cody also worked as a teaching assistant while completing her master’s degree and taught in the faculty while pursuing her PhD. “Concordia made my arrival in Canada easy and my education fun — and I don’t think I would have had that experience elsewhere,” she says. “This university gave me the credentials to establish my career and the experience and the confidence that I needed to succeed.”

There is an additional reason Concordia has a special place in her heart: it is where she met her husband, Thomas Cody, MBA 83.

“There was a common room on the second floor of the building that the MBA program shared with the Centre for Building Studies,” explains Thomas Cody, a retired senior vice-president at Bank of America in Toronto. “I knew Gina had a phone in her grad office. I would use the excuse that the lounge phone was busy to go in there and fake a phone call, so I could talk to her. I must have done something right because the relationship started from there.”

They were married in 1981 and have two daughters: Roya, who is completing her PhD in engineering at the University of Waterloo, and Tina, who is pursuing a law degree at the University of Toronto.

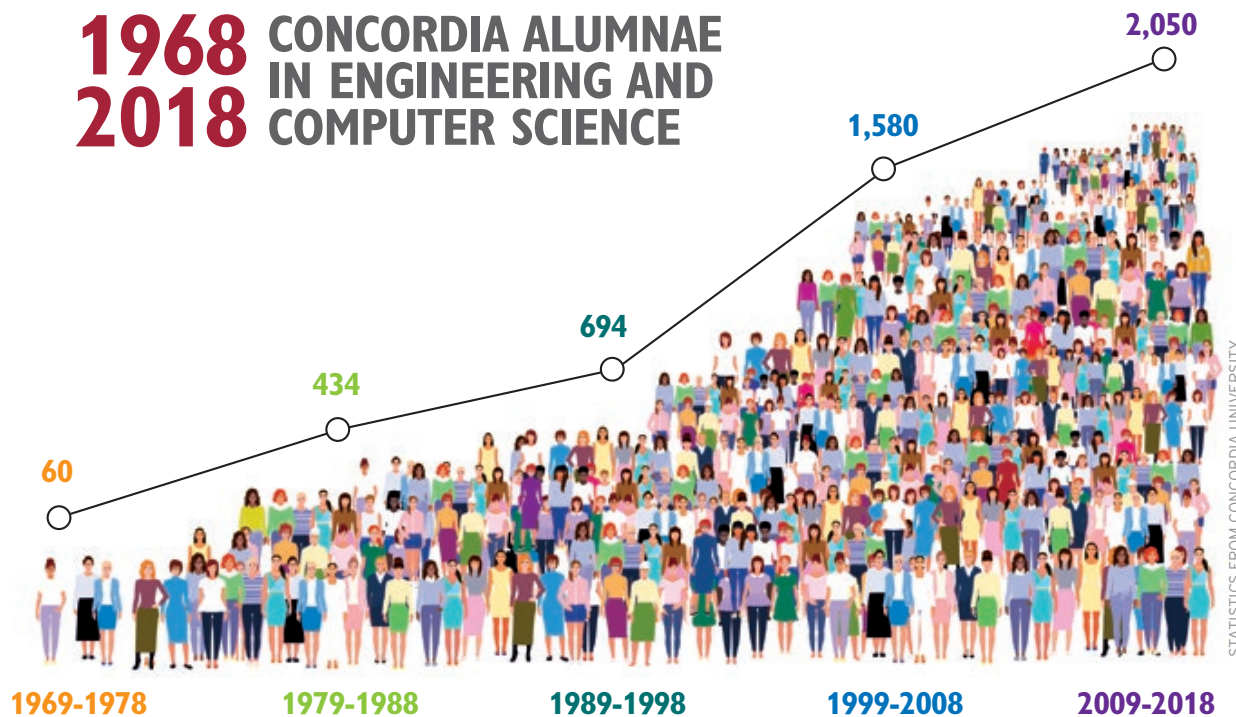




PICTURED ABOVE (CLOCKWISE): GINA CODY'S CONCORDIA STUDENT ID CARD FROM THE 1980S; CODY DURING HER GRADUATE SCHOOL DAYS; CODY AND CEDRIC MARSH AT HER PHD CONVOCATION IN 1989.

“The goal is that in 10 to 15 years there will be so many examples like me that I am forgotten. I hope there will be so many women in science, engineering and technology that it’s no longer an issue – that it becomes the norm.”

## 1968 CONCORDIA ALUMNAE 2018 IN ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



**“THEY ALL KNEW MY NAME”**

Standing out became the norm for Cody. As a student, she was often the only woman in her classes. And throughout her three-decade career, she would often be the sole woman at engineering events with hundreds of attendees.

“I would go to a meeting where there were 700 men and I would be the only woman in that conference,” she says. “I was respected for who I am because of my knowledge and understanding of the area of my practice.”

From early childhood onwards, Cody’s father fostered her innate confidence. “My father believed I had to be able to handle myself in a ‘man’s world,’” says Cody. “He would make me give speeches in public, and he would make me teach classes at the boys school he owned. It became very natural for me to handle myself in a male-dominated practice or classroom.”

While she enjoyed these experiences, Cody also found there was less room for error as a woman. She had to be sure her work was consistently flawless. “I was very competitive; I always wanted to be the best,” she says. “I was a perfectionist and if I didn’t get 100 per cent on my exams I would be up all night telling myself, ‘Next time, study harder, work harder.’”

**GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science is setting the pace to become Concordia’s largest. As of fall 2018, it includes:

- 10,036** students
- 5,575** undergraduate students
- 4,461** graduate students
- 26,222** alumni worldwide
- 223** professors
- 211** staff
- 53** programs
- 36** research chairs
- 12** research centres
- 7** departments

In the professional world, Cody’s high standards and relentless work ethic were immediately clear to those around her. She quickly distinguished herself, first as an engineer and then as president and principal shareholder of CCI Group Inc., a Toronto-based engineering consulting firm.

Under her leadership, CCI was named one of Canada’s most profitable companies owned by a woman by *Profit* magazine in 2010 and Cody was named one of Canada’s Top Women Entrepreneurs. She retired after selling her company in 2016.

Among Cody’s many career accolades is an Award of Merit from the Canadian Standards Association, a Volunteer Service Award from the Government

of Ontario and the Order of Honour at the officer level from the Professional Engineers of Ontario. Cody was named Alumna of the Year by the Concordia University Alumni Association in 2011 and a Great Concordian in 2014.

Her success came as no surprise to those who know her. Cody’s integrity and work ethic impressed Adam Salehi, president of Atlas Constructors Inc., and a long-time colleague and friend. “If there was something that wasn’t right, she always told her clients,” Salehi says. “She is honest, hard-working, knowledgeable and a problem solver. And everybody loves her. I haven’t met anybody in 25 years who has anything bad to say about her. I’ve learned a lot from Gina.”

**“This university gave me the credentials to establish my career and the experience and the confidence that I needed to succeed.”**







BELOW LEFT: GINA CODY PICTURED ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE CRANE IN TORONTO IN THE 1990S. AT LEFT, THE CODYS IN THEIR TORONTO HOME IN 2018 (CLOCKWISE): ROYA, TINA, GINA AND THOMAS CODY.

“Her work ethic is off the charts. She delivers on all her projects and she often goes beyond what is expected. You can’t help but be in awe.”

#### “THIS IS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION”

“Gina is an understated superwoman,” says Johnny Zuccon, interim registrar at the Professional Engineers of Ontario, where Cody volunteered for nearly 20 years. “Her work ethic is off the charts. She delivers on all her projects and she often goes beyond what is expected. You can’t help but be in awe.”

For Cody, helping others has always been a priority. “When I was at university in Iran, I would go to hospitals for needy children,” she says. “I couldn’t sleep after, but I felt I had to do something.”

As her business grew, Cody also made a point to be there for her family. Daughter Tina remembers: “She would prepare dinner, and then spend three to four hours tutoring me in physics. We would be up until midnight sometimes, and she’d be waking up the next day at 5 a.m. to go to work.”

Her daughter Roya adds: “She’d get home every night regardless if she was working out of town. Her rule was that she had to be there by the time I woke up the next day. So she would say, ‘OK, I’ll fly out to the site but I’m taking the red eye home to be there before you get up.’”

Cody is currently a member of Concordia’s Board of Governors and vice-chair of the Campaign for Concordia for the Toronto region. She has also given time to the Canadian Standards Association; the Canadian Condominium Institute; the Professional Engineers of Ontario; and Sketch, a community arts organization that supports young people who are struggling with poverty or homelessness.

“Gina is a role model to everyone around her, particularly young women,” says Rudy Ruttimann, executive director of Sketch, the community organization where Cody volunteers. “She mentors them and shows them how to focus on their passions, to build what they want to build and how to become the person they want to be in the world. Then, when they achieve that, to give back to their communities. Gina is a great example of that.”

Cody’s niece Christine Anahita Bigtashi, an engineering graduate student at Concordia, says her aunt is an inspiration. “Gina always told me to make sure I am doing something I love,” says Bigtashi. “She always loved what she did and it helped push her towards her goals. And if she can do it then I can, too.”

This ethos clearly extends to Cody’s alma mater.

“Concordia is a great institution — the level of education is amazing,” says Cody. “My gift is for the next generation, so that more people can succeed like I did. And hopefully, many years from now, there will be a similar donation. Together, we can make Concordia an even better and more amazing university for the next generation.” ■

—Joseph Leger



# #ThankYouGinaCody

On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, the Concordia community is sharing how Gina Cody's \$15 million gift – and her leadership – will have an impact on the university and beyond.

Join the celebration by using the hashtags #ThankYouGinaCody and #MerciGinaCody!

Here are some thoughts Concordia leaders have shared with us.

**ALAN SHEPARD,  
CONCORDIA PRESIDENT**



“Across Canada, only around 20 per cent of students in computer science and engineering programs are women and we would like to see that number grow significantly. To do that, we need role models like Gina Cody. She is an exemplar of success and her gift will allow us to create

new opportunities for women to come and study at Concordia. She is giving for the next generation, for students who aren't here yet. These students will benefit enormously and Concordia and society will also benefit.”

**AMIR ASIF, DEAN, GINA CODY  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**



“This gift is very timely. Our faculty has made big strides recently and this donation will allow us to rise to the next level. It will provide the resources to train the next generation of engineers and computer science leaders who will develop new technologies for the benefit

of society. This gift would enable that in five meaningful ways: research intensification; scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students; research chairs; equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives; and the acquisition of research infrastructure.”

**GOVIND GOPAKUMAR, CHAIR,  
CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING IN SOCIETY**



“The longstanding concern with diversity and inclusion in engineering practice and technological development is an important domain of focus for the Centre for Engineering in Society. Celebrating successes and creating role models are important efforts to address this challenge.

This gift is a signal that Concordia takes this concern seriously and is willing to announce to the world that it is actively engaged in responding to this challenge.”

**ABDESSAMAD BEN HAMZA, DIRECTOR,  
CONCORDIA INSTITUTE FOR  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING**



“Gina Cody's historic gift will establish the first endowed research chair of Internet of Things [IoT] at Concordia. IoT is an emerging technology of the digital revolution that will shape the classrooms of tomorrow and create smart schools, where teachers, students and devices become

more connected. Thanks to the generosity of Gina Cody, our students are well positioned for the future and better equipped to become excellent practitioners and stewards of next-generation technologies.”

**XENIA VRUVIDES, BENG 76, MENG 82,  
FRIEND AND GINA CODY'S  
FORMER CLASSMATE**



“Gina is an amazing friend. She's a brilliant person who encouraged me and everyone around her. Engineering is not an easy field — it wasn't then and it isn't now — and Gina inspired us to continue.”

**LATA NARAYANAN, CHAIR,  
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE  
AND SOFTWARE ENGINEERING**



"Concordia is proud of Gina Cody and she has always maintained her connection to her alma mater. As the first woman to earn a PhD in building engineering here, she is a pioneer who will inspire young women in science and engineering, at Concordia and elsewhere. Her historic gift gives a

big boost to our resources as well as to our motivation to make it to the next level in both research and teaching."

**MARTIN PUGH, CHAIR, DEPARTMENT  
OF MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND  
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**



"This gift will be a game changer for the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering. We have been wanting to expand our activities, in the area of mechatronics, robotics — electrically and computer-driven machines — self-driving cars and micro-machines.

This donation will create a high-level research chair in these areas, which adds the leadership and impetus we need to make us a major centre for these activities."

**WILLIAM LYNCH, CHAIR,  
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL  
AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**



"Gina Cody's gift, with its emphasis on excellence and inclusion, will have a profound impact on our faculty far into the future."

**ALEX DE VISSCHER, CHAIR,  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL  
AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING**



"The Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering was founded in 2017 and is in the process of developing labs, programs, a student population and a reputation. As a new department, we are dependent on significant resources in all these areas. Gina Cody's donation will enable us to

kick-start many of our activities and to position ourselves as a leading next-generation program in Canada and worldwide."

**CHRISTINE ANAHITA BIGTASHI,  
GINA CODY'S NIECE AND CONCORDIA  
ENGINEERING GRADUATE STUDENT**



"I'm so proud of my aunt Gina, who is one of my primary parental figures since my dad, Mahmoud Bigtashi, passed away. I'm really inspired by her. She laid the groundwork for women to become a larger population within Concordia's engineering and computer science faculty."

**ASHUTOSH BAGCHI, CHAIR,  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING, CIVIL  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**



"This gift is very important for the next generation of building, civil and environmental engineers as it will have tremendous impact on their experiential learning, classroom experience and community outreach.

It will make a big difference for scholarships and lab development and give students an enriched learning experience."

# A history of inspirational BEng alumnae

CONCORDIA'S FIRST BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING CLASS GRADUATED 50 YEARS AGO – AND THESE FIVE WOMEN GRADS HAVE MADE THE MOST OF THEIR DEGREES

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the initial Bachelor of Engineering class to graduate from Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions. As the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science becomes the first school of its kind in the world to be named after a woman, we bring you short profiles of five inspirational women graduates through the decades.

Expanded versions of these profiles will appear throughout 2018-19 at [concordia.ca/alumni](http://concordia.ca/alumni).

## 1970s

### JOANNY LIU TAKES A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO HELP ATHLETES RECOVER FROM THEIR INJURIES

Before Joanny Liu, BEng 79, enrolled in engineering at Concordia, she and her mother talked about her plans for the future and what she wanted to pursue as a career. "When I was 17 years old, I actually wanted to be a fashion designer," Liu recalls. "However, my mother had a totally different view on that."

Liu's parents wanted their daughter to apply to medical school once she graduated from Marianopolis College in Montreal. She complied, yet also submitted an application to Concordia after speaking with a family friend who was a civil engineer and someone she admired greatly.

"He told me it was actually the better choice to go into engineering," Liu says. "So I went into engineering at Concordia. I think there might have been eight of us females out of about 400 students in our very first class."

Liu and her classmates were warned that half of them would not make it through the program's first year. Yet she persisted, and completed her degree in civil engineering majoring in water resources. She eventually settled in Calgary and worked as an engineer for seven years before transitioning into information technology.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN POTENTIAL

Then, soon after the birth of her second child, a difficult personal experience thrust Liu's career path into an entirely new direction.

Liu returned to her family life and career as a professional engineer. And buried the story.

The ordeal took a psychological toll on Liu. She soon began to look at her surroundings through a different lens and realized she could no longer continue working in her industry.

In 2003, Liu returned to school and earned a diploma at the Alberta College of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine in Calgary.

Today, she operates Extraordinary Sports Medicine, based in Calgary, and specializes in treatments for concussions. She is also a bestselling author and in 2016 released her third book, *Heal Your Concussion: How to Quickly and Effectively Get Back in the Game* (Harmoni Health Inc.).

"The reason why I do what I do is to repair damage," Liu says. "My main goal in life is to make mental health and human potential the primary focus of health care throughout the world."



A PERSONAL TRAUMA INSPIRED JOANNY LIU TO SWITCH CAREERS AND FOUND EXTRAORDINARY SPORTS MEDICINE, WHICH HELPS ATHLETES DEAL WITH CONCUSSIONS.

Despite this significant career change, Liu still proudly wears her engineering ring on her pinky finger. She credits her degree at Concordia for helping her learn how to ask pointed questions, a skill she relies on heavily when she meets with patients.

"I needed the analytical skills — there's no doubt. I wouldn't be able to dig the mysteries out of someone's life and show it to them," Liu says. "My engineering degree prepared me to be a much better doctor. I really feel that way, so I have no regrets."

Looking back on her time at the university, Liu fondly recalls how professors made time to answer her questions outside of class. She also enjoyed the large international student contingent on the Sir George Williams Campus.

"I met people from all over the world," Liu says. "It felt very worldly without ever leaving home."

—Daniel Bartlett, BA 08



1980s

**CYNTHIA YAZDI TAPS INTO HER BENG AND ARTISTIC IMPULSES TO LEAD GLOBAL MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS AT MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS**

Cynthia Yazdi, BEng 88, travelled to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2000 on what was supposed to be a 90-day work assignment to learn about smart card systems at Motorola Solutions. Yazdi never took the return flight back to Canada, instead turning her opportunity into an 18-year career.

At the time, she was excited to gain experience with the innovative telecommunications company. "I left Montreal thinking, 'Wow, I'm going to have an opportunity to work as a contractor at Motorola,'" she recalls. "My goal was to be hired and ultimately to reach a leadership position there."



CYNTHIA YAZDI BELIEVES TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT STYLES WILL CHANGE AS MORE WOMEN TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES BECAUSE MEN WROTE MANY OF THE OLD RULES.

Yazdi feels her opportunity to work for an industry leader like Motorola Solutions is thanks in large part to her education at Concordia. "Motorola Solutions is a telecommunications company that has nothing to do with civil engineering," she says. "Yet having an engineering background really helped me gain credibility. Especially when you are in a project management-type role, you really need to know about technology to ask the right questions."

**"Having an engineering background really helped me gain credibility. When you are in a project management-type role, you really need to know about technology to ask the right questions."**

Yazdi reached that goal. She is now corporate vice-president of global marketing and communications at Motorola Solutions, as well as chief of staff to the chairman and CEO Greg Brown. Her responsibilities include creating and directing Motorola Solutions' marketing and communications, working with the executive team on a daily basis, filtering information that comes across the CEO's desk and making sure her team's efforts align with the company's larger objectives.

**BLENDING ENGINEERING AND ARTISTRY**

Before she began university studies, Yazdi wanted to be an architect. She admits she has always felt much more like an artist, something that was later confirmed when the Myers-Briggs Personality Profile identified her as an artisan.

Still, when the time came for Yazdi to decide what degree to pursue, she sought counsel from her father. "He kept pushing me or steering me more towards engineering. He said the end product is that I would think a certain way that would be easily adaptable to multiple industries and career opportunities," she says.

"If you want to go into business, if you want to go into design or if you want to be an architect, it's going to shape you in a way that is going to be very valuable — that's how he convinced me to go the route I did."

After she graduated, Yazdi landed a job at Monenco Inc., a Montreal-based engineering services company, where she started working in the oil and gas industry on refineries and construction sites. "I thought I was going to work in structural engineering and build foundations, buildings, bridges and pipe racks," Yazdi says. "My father knew in the back of his mind that it was just training for me and that eventually I would get to a place where I would fulfill my passions professionally."

Yazdi quickly realized her desire to interact with other parts of the projects she was working on. This realization led her to project engineering, which she used as a springboard to get to her current posting.

Yazdi is responsible for designing compelling marketing messaging for Motorola Solutions — a role that effectively combines her engineering and artistic talents. "You end up getting ultimately to where you should be," she says. "I love my position at Motorola Solutions, and I can't say enough about it. It's been a really great journey, and there's more to come."

—Daniel Bartlett, BA 08

1990s

FROM THE BRADY BUNCH TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT: NICOLE JARDIN'S UNEXPECTED PATH TO SUCCESS

Like many children her age, Nicole Jardin, BEng 90, grew up watching *The Brady Bunch* on television. The show, which ran from 1969 to 1974, depicted the family life of a father of three boys who marries a woman with three girls.

It's best remembered for being wildly successful with young people because it often addressed situations children could easily understand, including sibling rivalries and character building.

For Jardin, though, there was one more reason to tune in to the sitcom — she dreamed of becoming an architect just like the family's patriarch, Mike Brady. "I don't know why but, seeing him do the drawings in his home office, I really thought that seemed so cool," she recalls.

So when the time came for Jardin to apply to university years later, she decided to specialize in a discipline she thought most resembled her childhood dream job. "I applied to Concordia primarily because I saw building engineering as the closest thing to architecture," she says. "That's really what got me into that career path."

While at Concordia, Jardin realized she was much less interested in the design aspects of engineering than she was in construction and building. She sometimes struggled and admits that it was only after taking a class with Osama Moselhi, PhD 78, professor in the Department of Building, Civil

and Environmental Engineering, that she finally found her calling. "In the fourth year — which is when we had Dr. Moselhi — we were doing project management, and that's when I realized that was more my speed," Jardin says.

She remembers doing very well in Moselhi's course and developing a rapport with the professor. The relationship eventually led him to hire Jardin for the summer after her graduation and recommending her to individuals he knew in the industry.

Moselhi's praise eventually landed Jardin her first position working as a claims consultant. "He got me in touch with Revay and Associates and they hired me," Jardin recalls. "He helped me find a job, which was wonderful."



NICOLE JARDIN SAYS WHAT SHE ENJOYED MOST AT CONCORDIA WAS THE NICE SYNERGY AMONG THE SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS IN THE BUILDING ENGINEERING PROGRAM.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Today, Jardin is CEO of Calgary-based Emerald Associates, a company she founded in 1995. Emerald provides project management solutions to its clients through Oracle Primavera software applications, focusing on product control systems that help plan, schedule, manage and deliver tasks more efficiently.

Jardin's day-to-day responsibilities include working on design sessions with clients and supporting her customers with what they are already doing with the tools. She is also involved in business development and explains to potential clients how they can take advantage of these technologies to better drive their businesses moving forward. "I think that an engineering background definitely lends itself very well to that out-of-the-box thinking that you need to try and innovate and come up with new ideas," Jardin says.

With 20 consultants working in Canada, the United States and the Philippines, as well as programmers in other parts of the world, Jardin is pleased her company has helped cultivate the next generation of talent in the industry. She has always loved teaching and credits her own mentors for getting her to where she is today.

"It's really important to have someone who can help point you in the right direction," Jardin says. "It's something we do with our clients, too — it's a key passion of mine and it's why Emerald tries to help people do their jobs better."

—Daniel Bartlett, BA 08

"I think that an engineering background definitely lends itself very well to that out-of-the-box thinking that you need to try and innovate and come up with new ideas."

“The professor said, ‘Getting an A doesn’t make you smart. It just means you’re good at input and output.’ That had a profound effect on how I evaluated performance.”

**FAY ARJOMANDI'S ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEGREE HELPED LAUNCH THE CALIFORNIA-BASED BUSINESSWOMAN'S REMARKABLE CAREER**

Fay Arjomandi, BEng 98, was 25 when a friend told her she was too old to go back to school and get a degree in electrical engineering. “Nobody was going to set my limits,” says Arjomandi. Instead, she went on to earn the degree at Concordia, then co-founded three technology companies, authored 14 patents and thrived in C-level executive roles in large corporations in telecomm and health industries.

Based in Los Angeles, Calif., Iranian-born Arjomandi is now chairperson at h2 Wellness, which provides digital health solutions, and founder and chief product officer at mimik, a company focused on creating a decentralized cloud platform.

The Concordia University Alumni Association named Arjomandi its 2018 Alumna of the Year.

**ESCAPE FROM IRAN**

Arjomandi was a child in Iran when the revolution erupted in 1979. In grade seven, she made a joke that displeased authorities. “I got into trouble with the Islamic regime and that trouble stayed with me,” recalls Arjomandi. “At 17, I left Iran with a fake passport. I joke that my escape was like the movie *Argo*. But it was very difficult, emotionally, to leave my family.”

Once free, she eventually moved to Montreal in the mid-1990s, when she began her studies at Concordia. “I experienced a life-defining moment at Concordia,” says Arjomandi. “Linda MacDonald [BA 68] in the admissions office told me that it was her job to give me the opportunity to get a degree, but it was my job to do something with it. That became an important personal principle — to make the most of every opportunity.”

While in the Department of Electrical Engineering, she experienced another revelation. “We got a test back and people were discussing their grades,” recalls Arjomandi. “The professor said, ‘Getting an A doesn’t make you smart. It just means you’re good at input and output.’ That had a profound effect on how I evaluated performance for myself and others.”

Arjomandi put her admissions officer’s advice into action and “did something” with her degree. She first landed a job as an engineer and after a short time started to apply her entrepreneurial skills.

In 2014, Arjomandi moved to the health care sector as senior VP of product strategy at NantWorks, a group of software companies in genomics, among other related technologies. “My parents are cancer survivors, so like many people I had a personal stake in the improvement and personalization of health care solutions,” she says.

With Arjomandi at the helm as CEO of NantMobile, it became a thriving health care platform. She launched Cancer Connect, an application to bring personalized information to cancer patients and their family members, clinical trials and treatments, and genomic testing.



FAY ARJOMANDI WAS NAMED THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S 2018 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR.

Her strong feelings about decentralization led her to found mimik, previously called Disternet, a decentralized cloud platform. The technology company provides a scalable distributed edge cloud software platform.

“We’re going through an ecosystem tsunami right now,” she says, referring to the fact that 70 per cent of the internet traffic is influenced by just three players — Facebook, Google and Amazon. “That’s quite frightening. This wasn’t the core proposition of the internet. That’s why I’m such a fan of decentralization, peer-to-peer communication and distributed platforms.”

Arjomandi’s days are full. “There isn’t much free time, granted, but it doesn’t feel like work,” she says. “When I pick a project, it has to give me butterflies. It’s like falling in love.”

—Joanne Latimer, MFA 94



2000s

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT  
FOR AEROSPACE ENGINEER  
NILOOFAR MORADI

Long before entering Concordia's Department of Mechanical Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, Niloofar Moradi, BEng 10, had a clear idea of her life path. "Even as a young girl growing up in Iran, I knew I'd pursue a career within the STEM subjects," she says, referring to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. "Like my father, who's a mechanical engineer, I always loved math, physics and airplanes."

Today Moradi is a turbine mechanical designer at Pratt & Whitney Canada in Longueuil, Que. Her impressive resumé also includes stops at NASA and Rolls Royce Canada.

She's been keeping busy — and earning recognition for her stellar work. In 2018, Moradi received the Northern Lights Aero Foundation's Elsie MacGill Award, which honours women for their contributions in specific aviation and aerospace disciplines, and was named Young Alumna of the Year by the Concordia University Alumni Association.



NILOOFAR MORADI, A TURBINE MECHANICAL DESIGNER AT PRATT & WHITNEY CANADA, AND WAS NAMED YOUNG ALUMNA OF THE YEAR BY THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN 2018.

THE PATH TO PRATT &  
WHITNEY CANADA

Moradi credits her undergraduate engineering degree from Concordia for giving her a thorough grounding in "the basics" — foundation courses in thermodynamics, materials properties and mechanical design.

She singles out her three internships organized through the Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation for helping propel her career. "I did an internship at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, which was a dream come true," she says. "I helped develop a system to manage data reduction for a centrifugal compressor. It was such a rich experience."

During another internship, this time at Rolls Royce Canada in Montreal, she performed aerodynamic analysis of industrial intakes using 3D computational fluid dynamics methods. Rolls Royce Canada hired her after graduation. She joined Pratt & Whitney in turbine aerodynamics in 2010.

"Exposure to the real-world environment was invaluable," says Moradi of her internships. "You get exposed to the real world, which allows you to pinpoint your passion and learn the crucial soft skills."

Her passion, it turned out, was developing products for market. "There's a thrill being involved in the development of a company's new product — being there for the design phase through to implementation," Moradi says.

While working full time at Pratt & Whitney Canada, Moradi completed her master's of applied science degree at École de technologie supérieure in Montreal in 2015. Yet it was two of her Concordia mechanical, industrial and aerospace engineering professors who made a lifelong impression on Moradi.

"I'll never forget my professor Lyes Kadem," she says. "To demonstrate a thermodynamics concept, he brought in an experiment and explained how the concept would be applicable in the industry and in everyday life. That had a big impact on me."

Equally impressive for her was Martin Pugh, who taught Moradi a course in materials. "He actually brought in hardware — parts of machines — for us to pass around and feel and touch," she recalls. "It really drove home his point about how stark the difference in density and weight can be between similar-looking parts of different materials, and how crucial this can be in its application."

With a booming career underway, Moradi still finds time to encourage young women to get involved in STEM studies and occupations.

Moradi also organizes scuba diving trips with her husband, Jayson MacKiddie, BEng 10, an electrical engineer who works at Bombardier in Montreal. "We met in advanced engineering mathematics class," she says. "This fall we're going to drive along the coast of Portugal and dive the Azores. It's funny where life can take you." ■

— Joanne Latimer, MFA 94



MORADI ENJOYS SCUBA DIVING. SHE IS PICTURED OFF THE COAST OF COZUMEL, MEXICO, IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA.



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# A HIVE OF ART AND HEALING





Spearheaded by professor Janis Timm-Bottos, the Concordia Art Hive welcomes members of the university and public to make art and learn from each other, while also building communities

SIMONA RABINOVITCH

The new Concordia Art Hive Headquarters, located in a bright corner on the fifth floor of Concordia's Engineering and Visual Arts Integrated Complex, offers visitors a warm and inspiring space — which is exactly its goal.

The Concordia Art Hive, accessible to the public twice a week and special groups at other times, opened in 2018 with the support of a gift from the Rossy Family Foundation (see the sidebar "Canadian first" on page 28). The gift provides for the development of the International Art Hives Headquarters and two campus art hives.

As explained on the initiative's website ([arthives.org](http://arthives.org)), art hives are open studios that deliver access to art-making as means of healing, learning and community-building. To be considered an art hive, a community studio is encouraged to follow principles such as social inclusion, respect, offering free access and welcoming *everyone* as an artist.

Led by Janis Timm-Bottos, associate professor in Concordia's Department of



"BEING COMFORTABLE BECAUSE YOU'RE ENGAGED IN YOUR OWN ART-MAKING IS ONE WAY TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE AND ISSUES THAT YOU'RE NOT SO COMFORTABLE WITH," SAYS JANIS TIMM-BOTTOS, DIRECTOR OF THE ART HIVES NETWORK.

Creative Arts Therapies, the Art Hives Network was launched in 2012 thanks to the support of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. The initiative's growing network of art hives includes 35 in Montreal, several in the United States and Europe, and one each in Morocco and a refugee camp in Iraq.

"When you look at the network, the basic premise is about creating a welcoming space and time for people to get together to meet each other and have access to materials," Timm-Bottos says. "While some workshops can be associated with art hives, mainly, it's a non-directed space. The fact that it's unprogrammed is what makes it really work."

Timm-Bottos, who also served as Concordia's Provost Fellow of Community Engagement, Fine Arts, coined the term "art hive" — although she's quick to point out that the tradition has been around for ages. Prior to arriving at Concordia in 2010, she had been a pediatric physical therapist in Albuquerque, N.M., where she developed the first of the six art hives she began in North America.

### THIRD SPACE

Rachel Chainey, MA (art therapy) 2018, is the Art Hives Network coordinator and has been working with Timm-Bottos since 2010. She was part of the team that in 2011 opened La Ruche d'Art in the St. Henri district, the first art hive in Montreal. La Ruche d'Art is open twice weekly to the public in addition to three closed groups for special populations: cancer patients, seniors and veterans. It's also a teaching site for Timm-Bottos's Concordia course about how to start a community art studio.

Chainey, who co-founded the Montreal art hive Coop Le Milieu, says the vision is to have an art hive in every neighbourhood. "It's an open-source model, so we want people to replicate it," she says.

Taking an art therapy approach, the art hive focus is on process, not product. "Sometimes people will make art that has a profound personal meaning for them, that they might not make at home because they might not have the motivation or the supplies," Chainey says. "When everyone else is creating and you see what people are making, you become inspired."

Rebecca Duclos, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, feels the attention the university has paid to the art hive movement in recent years echoes a growing and more holistic interest in the health and well-being of the university community. She feels Timm-Bottos's work has been instrumental in cultivating that interest.

"The amazing thing about art hives that is so simple and brilliant is that it brings the often private activities of therapy and public activities of creation together into a single space," Duclos says. "It's like a third space, this middle space where people who may or may not know each other are actually creating things together in a very open-ended, comfortable, non-competitive, communal atmosphere."

This approach can be called "public practice art therapy," another term dubbed by Timm-Bottos. "Often, we'll hear about private practice art therapy, which happens in a closed office, in a confidential manner," Chainey explains. "Public practice arts therapies bring the healing work to the public space."

Chainey also describes the Concordia Art Hive as a "third space" between institution and community. "It's a

dynamic space where people learn from one another," she says. "It's a space where you can enter the university and mingle with the students, when everyone learns from everyone in surprising ways, as people have different life paths and stories."

She explains that Concordia's art hive includes a social component. "It invites in everyone on campus to take care of their mental health and creative well-being," Chainey says.

"For students or staff experiencing stress, being able to come here on their lunch break or when they have time to use the materials, relax, talk to someone, is valuable," she adds. "It's not necessarily easy for people to engage with one another in academia. You don't always know your peers."

Concordia art therapy student Ana Garcia hails from Columbia. Her research, she explains, is about "adapting the art hives to the Columbian environment." After working as a psychologist for five years, she came to the university specifically to study art therapy. "When you're not from here, it's very hard to feel that you're part of something," Garcia says. Working at the Concordia Art Hive has given her a valuable sense of community.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

RACHEL CHAINEY IS THE ART HIVES NETWORK COORDINATOR. "THE ESSENCE OF THE NETWORK IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS; THOSE WE CULTIVATE OVER THE YEARS WITH PARTICIPANTS, STUDENTS OR SEASONED PRACTITIONERS WHO FIRST COME IN CONTACT WITH ART HIVES THROUGH CONCORDIA; AS WELL AS THOSE RELATIONSHIPS WE BUILD WITH COMMUNITY OR HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS," SHE SAYS.



PHOTOS BY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



THE CONCORDIA ART HIVE OFFERS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN MAKING ART AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY BONDS. IT PROVIDES VISITORS SUPPLIES, WHICH ARE RECYCLED, DONATED AND AVAILABLE MATERIALS THAT COME MOSTLY FROM THE CONCORDIA CENTRE FOR CREATIVE REUSE (CUCCR.CA) AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS.



## PUBLIC BENEFIT

One of the Concordia Art Hive's main intentions is to bolster the mental health of members of the university and local community by providing an equal footing.

"The art hive becomes a place where identity is flexible, whether it's the role of being a person surviving homelessness on the street or the president of the university," Timm-Bottos says. "We can all put aside these labels and meet up as humans. It's very nourishing to learn in this way. You may be the person grieving one day and then another time be supporting someone else dealing with a hardship. We all need these flexible third spaces to regenerate."

She adds that our society privileges those with linear ways of thinking. "Yet each of us is born with a different type of intelligence. So those of us who are

more visually oriented or kinesthetic don't always do well in the standardized ways we think about education," Timm-Bottos says. "The art hive presents an opportunity for people to be who they really are. There is a sense of liberation that comes with suddenly walking into a space that honours different ways of knowing, different types of intelligence."

Her research explores the idea that without having all these multiple intelligences meeting up in one place, society may never solve its bigger issues. "We have to eliminate the walls so more people can enter," Timm-Bottos says. "The art hive can be a place where people learn they have a voice and express who they are; they are not just one thing but many things."

The model's broad definition of art-making and creativity is not limited to

traditional fine arts. "Art-making could be everything from cooking a special meal to making something for someone else," Timm-Bottos says.

Chainey adds, "The Art Hive is also a place participants use to make personalized gifts for their loved ones, or even to start a mini-enterprise selling their art."

The concept is spreading to music and drama. Brennan is a drama therapy student in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies and a facilitator at the Concordia Art Hive. Her research focuses on developing a drama therapy equivalent to the art hive, whether "through improv, mask-making, puppet-making and trying to create a community model," Brennan says. "I believe in the healing power of art. For me it's always come from the body, yet it's the same healing power, just in a different form."



## SOLVING PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY

Timm-Bottos's next area of research addresses how art hives and the communities they build could help tackle society's larger problems.

"In addition to understanding the mental health and wellness component, the other big area of research has focused on how this model works in communities, neighbourhoods and institutions, which is what we're doing now," she says. "We have these amazing art hives at Concordia, and we'll be collecting data; how does it work in a university setting?"

Art Hives are also connected to the Living Labs movement, which Chainey explains are an innovation model that involves hands-on problem solving of real-life issues and the mixing of community members and experts to come up with novel solutions.

For instance, Science Shop talks are held at some Montreal art hives. Timm-Bottos explains that the talks offer the public a chance "to learn more about topics the community has said they want to learn about: food security, how their clothes are made, how to grow plants in the soil in their neighbourhood, how to deal with issues of homelessness." She feels the university has a responsibility

to address these questions, conduct research, then provide support to the needs expressed by communities.

As well, Timm-Bottos and her students are meeting with local community members, workers and police officers at one of Montreal's original art hives to see how they can understand — and maybe help — the gun violence issues that have emerged nearby. "It's a big leap for us, but it's time to take the challenge and see if we can respond to the call," she says. "We've been there for seven years, so there is some trust."

Timm-Bottos reports that the city's network of 35 art hives offers an endless resource of information. "Our students are coming up with research ideas and locating themselves in different parts of the city," she says. "We have students working with immigrant youth, seniors in residential care and young adults living with epilepsy, for example."

## AN INSPIRED "EXPERIMENT"

"One of the wonderful things about the art hive is that it has this feeling of potential," Timm-Bottos says. "You don't know who you're going to meet, who your next collaborator will be or what book will fall off the shelf when you're gathering materials that will provide you with your

next direction. You're going to go there and get another piece to a puzzle that you've been looking for."

With social masks off and a purposeful absence of structure, the improvised nature of this experience can make some people uncomfortable at first, which Timm-Bottos and Chainey describe as a positive outcome.

"The world needs you to bump into people who you aren't comfortable with in a space that will help you look at your own work, but also to be in relationship to things that aren't comfortable," Timm-Bottos says, citing French philosopher Michel Foucault's ethics of discomfort. "That is a big part of the studio — to have places where we can actually meet up with people we may not ever talk to otherwise."

While different people go to art hives for different reasons, they might sense common ground simply by creating side by side. "When I started this work, it had a lot to do with people who were homeless. I wouldn't have felt comfortable walking up to somebody in the street and having a conversation, but in the studio it becomes an amazing space to connect people," Timm-Bottos says.

"We don't have many opportunities to cross over our socioeconomic places, different religious beliefs or languages; we tend to gravitate to people like ourselves. Being comfortable because you're engaged in your own art-making is one way to interact with people and issues that you're not so comfortable with."

Perhaps, as she puts it, art hives can be seen as an experiment of how to live in a world we'd like to live in. "Things come out of it linked to potential, innovation and asking questions about your community that you never thought you were allowed to ask," Timm-Bottos says. "The hope is that it will affect policy change."

Chainey agrees: "We're here learning from one another, growing with one another, and seeing the impact that the space and art-making has on people's well-being and sense of meaning and purpose, of being competent human beings."

—*Simona Rabinovitch is a Montreal freelance writer.*



# Concordia opens campus art hive and International Network Headquarters



## New space and headquarters will help develop creativity and strengthen community thanks to the Rossy Family Foundation

Concordia recently launched its first-ever Art Hive on its Sir George Williams Campus – made possible thanks to the generous support of the Rossy Family Foundation. The art hive, opened on June 11, 2018, will also serve as the heart of the International Art Hives Network – a Canadian first in community-based inclusive spaces that advance well-being through art.

Art Hives are a vibrant and growing network of therapeutic art studios that strengthen communities far and wide by uniquely promoting community-generated innovation. “They assure inclusive places in our communities and campuses where everyone is welcome to share ideas, make art, and participate in cultivating a responsive and caring world,” says Timm-Bottos, associate professor in Concordia’s Department of Creative Arts Therapies.

Launched seven years ago by Timm-Bottos, art hives are truly a grassroots movement – one that is deeply connected to Concordia. The network has since grown to more than 135 art hives across Canada and beyond, including 50 in Quebec – 35 of which are in Montreal.

“Concordia has watched the art hive network expand and deepen all these years through the work of Janis Timm-Bottos and her partners,” says Rebecca Duclos, dean of Concordia’s Faculty of Fine Arts. “Having the headquarters housed at our university will allow new research, new activity and new communities to thrive.”

ABOVE: CONCORDIA CELEBRATED THE LAUNCH OF ITS FIRST-EVER CAMPUS ART HIVE ON JUNE 11, 2018. THE ART HIVE WILL ALSO SERVE AS THE INTERNATIONAL ART HIVES NETWORK HEADQUARTERS. PICTURED ARE JANIS TIMM-BOTTOS, ART HIVES FOUNDER AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES, AND STEPHANIE ROSSY, VICE-CHAIR OF THE ROSSY FAMILY FOUNDATION.

### HANDS-ON APPROACH TO COMMUNITY BUILDING

The latest National College Health Assessment – a survey of 43,000 Canadian university and college students – found that mental-health issues have significantly increased since the previous 2013 survey. Loneliness is on the rise in North America as social bonds continue to erode.

“Meeting spaces such as art hives – that are open to all – empower individuals to come together to create and participate, leading to improved well-being,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “Thanks to the Rossy Family Foundation’s support, we continue to offer our students and community rich learning experiences through which they can explore their true potential.”

“The Rossy Family Foundation is pleased to help provide university students access to engaging experiences and enhanced well-being with the launch of the first Concordia campus art hive,” says Stephanie Rossy, vice-chair of the Rossy Family Foundation. “We are eager to learn more about the impact of art hives on well-being, inclusivity and social bonding through the work of the International Art Hives Network Headquarters.”

Campus art hives will provide additional training opportunities for emerging arts therapists while offering all students the multiple benefits of therapeutic art-making and community building.

Through the support of the Rossy Family Foundation, the Concordia-based art hive and International Art Hives Network Headquarters will help foster partnerships with the community, as well as contribute to international outreach and build interuniversity collaborations. ■

–Marta Samuel, GrDip 10

# THROUGH A PHOTOJOURNALIST'S EYES

Concordia alumni document  
their experiences through  
dramatic photographic images

Photojournalists can best be described as visual storytellers. While their pictures — whether still or filmed — are usually accompanied by words, the photography propels their narrative.

We introduce you to the work of four Concordia alumni photojournalists at the top their game.

## BARBARA DAVIDSON: POSITIVE CHANGE

“Going freelance in 2017 opened up new and exciting projects for me. In early 2018, I collaborated with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. I was commissioned to photograph conditions, and government solutions, to end violence against children in Indonesia, Tanzania, Mexico and Sweden. The photographs appeared in an exhibition at the world Solutions Summit in Stockholm.

In this photograph <sup>1</sup>, Anisa, 11, sits with her father, Afandi, on their makeshift bed near a temporary garbage dump, where they live homeless in Northern Jakarta. Anisa and her brothers attend a Save the Children youth-empowerment protection program that provides informal education and a child-friendly space to learn and play.

While in India on another project, I discovered the amazing world of the jute labourers. <sup>2</sup> Jute is the second-most important vegetable fibre after cotton because of its versatility. For over 100 years, jute has been an integral part of the East Bengal, India, manufacturing industry. The British began trading it in the 17th century. Today the mills are Indian owned, yet unrest is growing as workers want more money while the value of jute keeps slipping, and millennials don't want to do this kind of gruelling labour. The photo essay will run in the *Los Angeles Times* later in 2018.”

*Barbara Davidson is a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and an Emmy-awarded photographer. She has twice been named International Photographer of The Year by the Pictures of The Year International competition. The Montreal native is currently based in Los Angeles, Calif., where she works on film, commercial and editorial assignments. @photospice Twitter and Instagram [barbaradavidson.com](http://barbaradavidson.com)*







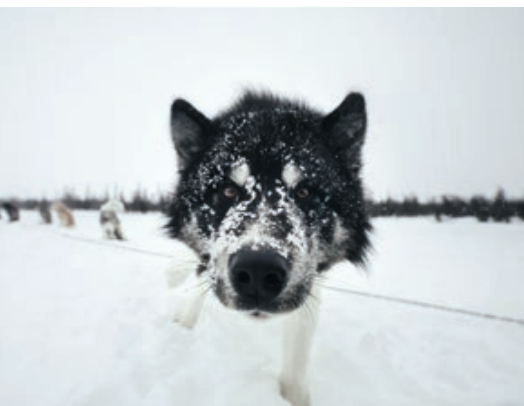
## MATTHEW HOOD: FAR NORTH IMAGES

“These images were taken during the production in 2017 of my short film, *My Irnik*. The film highlights a young father and mother, raising their son (Irnik) with an emphasis on shared adventures, connection to the land, the heritage of dog sledding, learning from the environment and experiencing all that is the Far North — the dark rawness of the winter, the thaws of springtime, the seal soup of summer and the caribou hunting of the fall.

The film is about familial lines, ancestral culture, the generational transference of knowledge and the individual’s path to seek his or her own dreamscapes.”

*Matthew Hood, BFA 11, is a documentary filmmaker and photographer who focuses on adventure, environment and wildlife. His work illustrates remote subject matter through compelling and powerful imagery. He employs a consciousness and sensitivity to ensure integrity and authenticity to each story being told and brings a strong foundation of both the conceptual and technical aspects of the visual medium.*

**hoodvisuals.com**







## LINDA DAWN HAMMOND: MERMAIDS ON PARADE

"I travelled to Coney Island, N.Y., in 2013 to photograph the wildly eclectic and entertaining Mermaid Parade, which heralds the start of summer for Brooklyn, N.Y., residents. Since 1983, the parade has wound its way along the sea front, delighting thousands of onlookers, whose outrageous and inventive costumes often rival those of the official participants.

Marchers register with the Family Friendly section or the Adult/Artsy group, where varying levels of undress are allowed. The Mermaid Parade's distinctly nautical and mythological themes are interpreted liberally and always with great humour. Mermaids, mermen and sea creatures of every imaginable description abound, all vying for best costume prizes."

*Linda Dawn Hammond, BFA 90, also earned an MFA in visual arts from York University in 1996. Her work has been published and exhibited in Canada, United States and United Kingdom. She is a freelance photographer in Toronto, where she also teaches photojournalism at Collège La Cité. [IndyFoto.com](http://IndyFoto.com)*





## FRANÇOIS PESANT: AN ENEMY WITHIN



"At the beginning of 2012, I had just moved to New York City. I was trying to meet female veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan for a magazine story. I spent hours in front of veterans' hospitals and shelters for homeless veterans. That's how I met Shatiima Davis. We started chatting and, after a few minutes, she said that she was raped by a comrade in Iraq. I was shocked. She started the whole project.

I worked on the project over the following four years, documenting the stories of military rape survivors in the U.S. Every year, around 25,000 U.S. soldiers are sexually assaulted by brothers in arms. Victims are often forced to resign and perpetrators are rarely brought to justice. The project became a book and a film, both titled *An Enemy Within*.

*François Pesant, BA 09, is a photographer and cinematographer. He specializes in capturing in-depth stories and working on long-term projects about underreported issues. His work is regularly published by top media outlets around the world and is part of various private and museum collections. Pesant has received numerous awards and honours internationally, including two National Press Photographers Association Best of Photojournalism prizes.*

[www.francoispesant.com](http://www.francoispesant.com) ■



## English Department Drama Award: **Justin Hebert**



SECOND-YEAR CONCORDIA STUDENT JUSTIN HEBERT WON THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT DRAMA AWARD IN 2018.

MOLLY HAMILTON

Every year, Concordia's Department of English honours students with prizes, awards and scholarships for their work in English literature, creative writing and drama.

In spring 2018, the English Department Drama Award, worth \$300, was presented to second-year student Justin Hebert for his piece *Picking the Under*. The prize is given to a currently registered undergraduate student who demonstrates excellence in drama writing.

"It's just a relief to have people who are reputable in this field of work acknowledge your writing, tell you that you're good and that you have a lot of potential in, basically, your dream field of work," he says.

Hebert's drama explores the complicated nature of family. "It's about the relationship between a young, troubled, violent son and his estranged father, and how they've been forced under unfortunate circumstances to live together again," he says. "It's about the conflict that arises from that forced living situation. And it's about addiction, largely, and gambling and substance abuse."

Although the plot may sound dark, Hebert says it's a little bit more lighthearted than one would expect. "It's not too dark — it's more of a dark comedy than anything, if you can imagine," he says.

Hebert is majoring in creative writing at Concordia and hopes to pursue a career in writing for the screen. "I ideally want to go into screenwriting, working in television or film," he says.

After a summer internship at a video production company, Hebert is one step closer to achieving his goal. "For my internship, I did the storyboarding and scriptwriting. It's definitely a foot in the door and having a little bit of background in playwriting definitely helps in terms of actually throwing a script together, understanding dialogue and understanding space," he says.

"It's all been extremely helpful and I am extremely grateful to Concordia for offering the program."

# Picking the Under

BY JUSTIN HEBERT

## OPENING: SCENE 1

*Mike and Tom, two men in their late 50s, are at their favourite dive bar on a Saturday night to watch the Canadiens play, as they have ever since they were young men. The Brass Clover is ominously quiet and desolate. Tom is drunk and giddy. However, Mike is visibly troubled, reflecting on how to deal with his complicated situation at home. Time runs out in the game, the buzzer sounds and, once again, the Canadiens lose.*

**Mike:** They don't get much luckier than me, eh?

*He hands over a few hundred-dollar bills to Tom, who counts the money with a grin as he takes out his pocket book and scribbles a few numbers into it.*

**Tom:** Know what this place always reminds me of? The fellas from back in the day, with their fancy threads and their shiny shoes. They'd all come to my spot, and boy they loved my Bolognese. Practically drank the stuff. No matter how busy, they always made time for me. I mean, they *came* for the drop, but they *stayed* for the Bolognese. It's like science; the ratio of pork to beef to veal, and you gotta add just the right amount of sugar to balance the saltiness. Then, you know, one day this pesky bastard comes in and says he works for the something de la santé, says I got pellets in the kitchen, so I say...

**Mike:** Do you have to tell this story every time?

**Tom:** As a matter of fact, yes I do. So... I say, "What pellets?" He says it means rat shit. I say, "Fuck you, you're rat shit." He gets all high and mighty on me, tells me how I can't talk to him that way, and he threatens to report me. One thing leads to another and I break his cheekbone with a rolling pin. Fourteen stitches. Can you believe that? Fourteen stitches, as if that means something. Five years go by while I'm locked up in Bordeaux and my kids finish high school without me and everyone forgets about my Bolognese.

**Mike:** So? Is there ever a point to this story?

**Tom:** Sure there is. My point, Mike, is that you and me got the same problem.

**Mike:** How the hell is losing money on sports the same as going away for assault and battery?

**Tom:** Well, Dr. Smarty Pants, if you must know, you and me got what they call in AA a "tendency for self-destructive behaviours," or some bull. Not to mention other stuff.

**Mike:** I don't see how the two are related, but hell... maybe you're right.

*Mike finishes the remaining sips of his beer, and buries his face in his arms.*

**Tom:** You know, Mike, if I knew you were gonna be so sour I woulda just called it a night after the second period. What's on your mind?

**Mike:** Nothing. Forget about it. Just some stuff I'm trying to sort out.

*Tom stumbles closer to Mike, nearly falling off his chair, and puts his big, plump hand on Mike's shoulder.*

**Tom:** Mikey my boy, after 40 years of being thick as thieves, I hope you think of me as your best friend and not just your bookie. My second wife always said I was a pretty good listener.

*Tom motions his hand as if he were a priest, drawing an invisible cross on Mike.*

**Tom:** Please, tell me your troubles, my son.

**Mike:** I don't know... it's just... it's tough. Readjusting to living at home again. Joanne agreed to move in with her boyfriend so that I could be closer to Jay, but everyone seems kinda bitter about the whole thing and now I just feel guilty all the time. Jay looks at me as if I'm the Antichrist. Like I messed everything up all over again. And on top of that, my doctor tells me that my blood pressure is too high and he wants me to come in for a whole bunch of tests that I just can't find the time for. Also, I know this sounds weird, but do you think I look fat?

*Tom cracks up laughing.*

**Tom:** (Teasingly) I think you're beautiful, Mike. But I ain't exactly Fabio with this gut, so I can't really comment. You should see my shrink, though. I don't buy into all the brainy witchcraft, but it's nice to have a smart person to talk to about this kinda stuff. Great ass, too.

*Mike smiles.*



**Mike:** It's not my fault. I'm a dentist; we tend to sit a lot. Sit for work, sit to read, watch TV, that kind of thing. Joanne calls it "the new smoking." I've never smoked a day in my life, but she did. She says she doesn't anymore but I see it on her teeth. Dentists notice that stuff. Still, *sitting is the new smoking.* And then it's other stuff:

"You can always walk the dogs when you're bored," she says. "I walk them in the morning."

"That's not nearly enough." "Then why don't you do it?"

"This isn't about me. I do yoga four times a week."

*A beat. Mike stares at his empty glass.*

**Mike:** I'm glad she still cares about my health though, being my ex-wife and all. But I don't know, I just feel like I don't look good, I look 56. I mean, I am 56, but you're not supposed to look 56 when you're 56. You're supposed to look 45. It's age politics. Nobody hands out flyers around the neighbourhood or hosts a candlelight vigil for the dead 56 year old.

*Tom finishes his drink.*

**Tom:** You know... smoking ain't that bad for you. Doctors are running a racket on this whole cancer thing. I've been smoking since I was nine. That's like... like... a lot of years! And I feel healthy as a horse.

**Mike:** It's 47 years, Tom. You've been smoking for 47 years.

*Tom shoots back a look of adorable confusion, visibly trying to do the math with his fingers.*

**Tom:** How the hell you know that?

**Mike:** First-grade math...

**Tom:** You remember what you learned in the first grade? I sure don't.

*Mike clutches at his chest and tries to massage out a sudden pain.*

**Mike:** Oh god, I feel like I'm going to be sick.

**Tom:** Yeah, well, that's what you get for not smoking. Can't beat that irony.

*Mike looks at him unamused.*

**Tom:** If it makes you feel any better, my old man used to tell me that you ain't truly a man in this world until you've had your first kid, your first heart attack, and your wife tries to stab you in your sleep. Or I guess, in your case, your ex-wife.

**Mike:** I've already got one down. At this rate, I'll probably earn the next two in the coming month. Let's settle the tab. I gotta head out. I need to be up early tomorrow. I promised Joanne I'd pick up her dry cleaning and walk the dogs before I leave for the office.

*Tom laughs in Mike's face.*

**Tom:** You crack me up, bud. Not only does your wife bang some other dude and then kick you out of the house, she's still got you on a tight enough leash to pick up her dry cleaning? Leave me your e-mail, I'll send you the info to a good doctor who can reattach your balls for you.

**Mike:** Hey! That's not how it is! She didn't kick me out. We have an arrangement, OK? It's a lot more complicated than you think.

**Tom:** Ha. Complicated. Here, let me tell you another little story.

**Mike:** Jesus Christ...

**Tom:** Being locked up in Canada is a lot like summer camp, only a little less boring and a little less dangerous. And you know, while I was in they had me doing kitchen duty some odd days a week, cleaning dishes 'n spoons 'n whatnot. Anyway, the more dishes I did the more I realized there's no way around doing 'em right. No shortcuts. No scams. You can half ass 'em but it won't make 'em as clean. You can feel the grime when they ain't been washed right. More and more you realize that's how life works sometimes. Like marriage. That shit's like dishes, man. No shortcuts. No tricks. You put in the work and you be good and you'll have shiny glasses and a nice empty sink. You cut corners, and the grime will start to build up on you. Nobody wants a kitchen with dirty dishes in it, makes people uneasy. We both cut corners, Mike. That's why we're sitting here while they're out getting fucked 'n well fed by the better versions of us.

Yeah... yeah that makes sense don't it?

*Mike stares at him for a moment in awe.*

**Mike:** (sarcastically) Gee, Tommy. You got a real way with words. What was that, T.S. Eliot?

**Tom:** I dunno, I don't follow politics. Anyway, if you want my professional opinion, I think all the blues you're feeling has got to do with losing.

And you wanna know what the best medicine for that is? Doubling up on football, and tomorrow just happens to be Sunday, or as I call it, weekly Christmas. The Dallas Cowboys, America's Team, are an absolute lock against Cleveland. You want a piece of the action?

**Mike:** Nah... put me down for 500 on the Chargers. Throw in a side bet, 200 for the under.

**Tom:** Again? Jesus. The Chargers have been helping you pay my mortgage all season. But, if you insist, I won't stop you...

**Mike:** Maybe I'm just feeling luckier than usual.

**Tom:** Lucky? Nobody's lucky these days. Look at the Habs. Your old man would be rolling in his grave if he could see them now. We're practically the Soviet Union on Ice.

**Mike:** Yeah, I suppose he would.

**Tom:** You ever miss him?

**Mike:** Miss who?

*Tom doesn't say anything. A beat.*

**Mike:** I don't miss the bad shit, if that's what you mean.

*Tom puts his hand on Mike's shoulder and smiles.*

**Tom:** Yeah, I miss my old man, too. Couldn't throw a half-decent punch near the end anyway, not with the shakes and all.

*He holds up his empty beer glass.*

**Tom:** To the old bastards of the world. Cheers.

**Mike:** To death. *Santé.*

**END SCENE. ■**

THE JOHN MOLSON MBA

LOOKING  
GOOD AT

50

## As Concordia's esteemed graduate program celebrates its golden anniversary, it looks forward to an even brighter future

DAVE LANK

The late 1960s in Montreal was a time for dreaming big. The city was still flush with the excitement of hosting the world at Expo 67; Trudeauomania, v. 1, was in full swing; and Major League Baseball awarded the Montreal Expos a franchise in 1968.

In the fall of that year, Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's two founding institutions, gave birth to a new graduate degree program, the Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Five decades later, the program, now called the John Molson MBA, has gone on to international recognition. It placed ninth in Canada by Paris's Eduniversal Business School Ranking in 2017, and consistently appears near the top of other Canadian and world rankings. It has helped propel the careers of thousands of alumni. (See the sidebar "Alumni through the decades" on page 48.)

Thirty-nine students were enrolled in the newly launched MBA on day one. The program's first director, Bruce Mallen, BComm 58, BA 64, LLD 04, described that initial student cohort as *la crème de la crème*. They were experienced executives, mostly bankrolled by their companies, there to learn what an early news release described as "the new techniques of decision-making and management."

They saw the MBA, with its part-time curriculum, as a new way to advance their careers while keeping their day jobs.

"I had four kids and was working full time," says Robert Briscoe, BSc 67, MBA 73, LLD 18, a member of that pioneering class. With courses that ran from 4 to 7 p.m., the program was a perfect fit for Briscoe. It allowed him to balance his studies with family life — and move on to a highly successful business life. That ethos of flexibility and accessibility remains a hallmark of the MBA to this day.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ROBERT BRISCOE, A MEMBER OF CONCORDIA'S FIRST MBA COHORT, RECEIVED AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY IN JUNE 2018.

As the years progressed, the popularity of and demand for an MBA swelled. By the mid-1970s it had more than 400 students enrolled.

Alan Hochstein, BComm 66, is a long-time professor in the Department of Finance of Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB). He directed



## “Right from the beginning, [students are] not just thinking about the bottom line. They’re thinking, ‘Maybe it’s the community, maybe it’s the employees.’”

the MBA program from 1988 to 1990. Hochstein explains that since most of the students worked full time, it presented a distinctive opportunity to bring in examples from their own business experiences to the classroom.

“That really made the challenge of teaching tremendous,” he says. “We were always analytical and theoretical but always doing real-world stuff.”

Hochstein adds that since its inception the program has never swayed from equipping students with the core skills — accounting, finance, marketing, strategy and human resource courses — needed to foster strong managers. “We never got away from the basic fundamentals and I think that is what differentiates what we do,” he says. “When students leave the program, the question is what they put into operation Monday morning when they go back to work.”

### KEEPING PACE WITH THE TIMES

As the world of commerce has evolved at breakneck speed, the program has adapted to keep pace and meet the needs of the modern business student.

Two years ago, the John Molson MBA went through a major restructuring in an effort to make one of Canada’s top business programs even better. It was shortened from 57 to 45 credits, the equivalent of 15 courses instead of 19. The streamlined program allows greater accessibility to working and part-time students to get their diploma faster. Courses were completely redesigned to enable more integration between various topics. There’s now a greater

number of elective courses, so students can deep dive into topics they deem relevant to their career path.

A schedule that has always being very flexible has become even more so. Almost every course offered can also be taken in the evening, so each student, whether working or not, can get the same experience.

“The majority of our students do not have an undergraduate degree in business, yet they need those management skills,” says Sandra Betton, associate dean of the JMSB’s Professional Graduate Programs, who oversaw the revision of the new program during her tenure as MBA director. “Roughly half of them know that the way their career was going is not what they want,” she says. “Then we have students who are in a career they love, see the progression they want but need the degree to take the next step.”

Top-of-mind issues relevant to today’s workplace, such as ethics, governance and sustainability, were also moved to the front of the curriculum. The mandatory Responsible Manager course kick-starts the program and sets the foundation for preparing students

to become leaders conscious of the environmental and social impacts of business.

“Right from the beginning, they’re not just thinking about the bottom line,” says Betton. “They’re thinking, ‘OK, it’s not just about the shareholders. Maybe it’s the community, maybe it’s the employees.’ It’s about a bigger picture than just ‘what were my earnings?’”

### LEARNING BY DOING

A major part of the MBA experience occurs outside the classroom, something that distinguished the John Molson MBA. Anne Beaudry, the program’s current director, points to the many hands-on learning projects with credit value available to students as a key differentiator.

Beaudry explains that today MBA students and those who will employ them are looking for experiential learning opportunities “where they can actually put their knowledge to the test before they graduate. You learn so much from these experiences,” she says.

Examples of the type of beyond-the-classroom programs where students can activate their learning in complex

THE FIRST MBA GRADUATES IN SPRING 1971, AT THE WILLIAM TELL RESTAURANT. FIRST ROW (L TO R): PETER S. CROMBIE; ROMESH P. ATHAIDE; WILLIAM (BILL) J. NOBLE; MARK MACPHERSON. BACK ROW (L TO R): PROF. ANDREW BERCZI; PROF. GUNTER BRINK (DEAN); AND BRUCE MALLEN.



environments include the Concordia Small Business Consulting Bureau and the Community Service Initiative. Run like small-scale consulting firms, both initiatives expose students to activities associated with being an actual consultant.

Participants in the bureau provide their expertise to Montreal business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. Those in the Community Service Initiative focus on giving back to the community by working with non-profit, service-oriented organizations.

Beaudry stresses the tangible value for students. "They have to go and find clients, they have to price their services, they have to collect on their bills and they have to sometimes deal with annoyed clients — all the issues associated with actually being a consultant, as opposed to being a student in a consulting course," she says.

Arguably the most popular, and well known, activity for MBA students is the John Molson MBA International Case Competition, the oldest and largest case competition in the world. The event was started in 1981 by two enterprising students, Nora Kelly, BA 72, MBA 88, and Annette Wilde, MBA 82. They sought to bring together Concordia and four other institutions — McGill University, University of Ottawa, Université Laval and Université du Québec à Montreal

— in the spirit of friendly rivalry.

The competition went international in 1992, and today 200 MBA students from 36 teams around the globe flock to Montreal every January to be a part of the experience.

For the students who organize the competition for credit, it's a colossal undertaking. "They have to solicit the schools, design the marketing plan, manage budgets, raise over \$250,000, and they're answerable to a board of community members. It really is their show," explains Betton. These students say their work on the case competition is the hardest they have ever done, Betton reports — yet the highlight of their MBA journey.

#### LEADING WITH DIVERSITY

As the call for more diversity in the workplace becomes louder, the John Molson MBA is well positioned in preparing the next generation of female executives and leaders. In its early days, students were mainly men. Today close to 40 per cent of the student body is female.

"Fifty years ago, when it was time to sell the program, they provided free bus passes for the spouses of students," says Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, dean of JMSB. "That tells you that it was really designed with men in mind."

The multicultural and international face of the MBA has also steadily and

**"[Students] have to find clients, price their services, collect on their bills — all the issues associated with being a consultant, as opposed to being a student in a consulting course."**



Concordia University

ANNE BEAUDRY BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE JOHN MOLSON MBA IN 2018.

significantly grown in recent years.

The educational and career experience that students bring to the classroom has also widened. In addition to those with business, engineering and IT degrees, many are now joining the program with, for example, medical or entrepreneurial backgrounds.

"The fact that we have a variety at that level too when it comes to educational backgrounds adds to the diversity," explains Croteau. "Everybody learns from each other in the classroom, including the teachers."

A familiar sight in MBA classrooms are alumni who return as guest speakers to share their own career experiences with students. "We have close to 100 alumni coming back every year speaking to our various classes, and we try to have more and more of them," says Croteau.

At 50, the John Molson MBA is thriving. With a focus on accessibility since inception, and an agility to shift with the times, the decades to come for the program look brighter than ever. —Dave Lank is a Montreal freelance writer.

# Alumni prove the lasting value of Concordia's MBA

Meet graduates who have taken their business degrees to the next level

Earning a Concordia MBA has helped launch the careers of thousands of alumni. We introduce you to four who graduated in different eras.

*Expanded versions of these profiles will appear throughout 2018-19 at*

[concordia.ca/alumni](http://concordia.ca/alumni).

## 1970s

### FOR RUDY KERKLAAN, IT'S ALL ABOUT GIVING BACK

Rudy Kerklaan, BSc 75, MBA 77, is quick to credit Concordia's MBA program for the key role it played in his success.

Vancouver-based Kerklaan is currently vice-chairman of Connor, Clark & Lunn Private Capital, an affiliate of the CCL Financial Group, which he and his colleagues built from the ground up to become the largest independent money-management firm in Canada.

"It's been pretty amazing for three or four of us to start that company about 35 years ago and watching it continue to grow," he says. "So I'm now in a position to give back a bit more to the university, and I feel good about doing that."

Born in Holland, Kerklaan spent most of his early childhood on the move before arriving in Montreal at age 14. "I did a few years of high school before going to Concordia, which had just recently changed its name." Sir George Williams University and Loyola College merged to create Concordia in 1974.

#### DENTISTRY VS. BUSINESS

Kerklaan's original ambition was to become a dentist, so he focused his undergraduate studies on the sciences. Yet his career path soon took a sharp turn when he decided to enrol in the MBA program. "Someone told me I'd make more money by going into business," he recalls.



RUDY KERKLAAN IS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF CONNOR, CLARK & LUNN PRIVATE CAPITAL IN VANCOUVER.

It was during his MBA studies that Kerklaan made a decision that not only got him noticed but would eventually lead to a momentous job offer: he ran for student office.

"A few students encouraged me to get more involved in the program, so I became president of the MBA Students Association in my second year," he says. "That was a big turning point for me because I was a relatively quiet, shy person, and that got me involved in politics and interacting with students and professors. It also gave me a much better understanding of how the university worked."

Enter Jim Beckerleg, MBA 76, who was a year ahead of Kerklaan in the program. He had recently graduated and was now working for Commerce Capital Trust. "Jim was looking for somebody to run their money market desk, and so he asked about Rudy Kerklaan because he remembered that I had been president of the students association at Concordia," Kerklaan recalls.

"I ended up having an interview with him and his boss, Larry Lunn. My career started in Montreal. Then I came out to Vancouver and helped start Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management."

Kerklaan maintains that it was his involvement in the MBA program that launched him. "I tell people you've got to be a bit lucky, but also you've got to place yourself to be in a lucky position," he says.

Later in his career, Kerklaan became engaged with the United Way. He's now giving back to his alma mater as a volunteer West Coast co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. "I feel that this university project is just as important, and I'm willing to give some time and effort to get people to donate," he says.

"I feel that Concordia is on the cusp of introducing some new initiatives in terms of education and maybe changing the way we're teaching kids to learn through university. I'm really encouraged by that. That's what's behind my involvement here."

—Wayne Larsen, BA 98, MA 14



## 1980s

### JOSÉE PERREAU SETTLES INTO BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS

How did the manager of a fitness club in Montreal take the step to senior vice-president of world business at Oakley, the iconic sunglasses and lifestyle brand, and then make a further unlikely jump to the maker of Ski-doo, Sea-doo and other recreational vehicles?

It was natural for Josée Perreault, MBA '89. She had been working at a downtown Montreal location of Nautilus Plus in the 1980s when she decided to pursue her MBA at Concordia. "The MBA really focused my ambition and directed me toward my strengths in marketing, HR and qualitative aspects of business," says Perreault.

She spent 23 years at Oakley before becoming a senior vice-president at Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) in 2016. Perreault's mandate at BRP is to set up an incubator inside the company to focus on their three-wheel vehicle. Perreault built a team of 30 and set to work. "We're having a major product launch this fall that will re-imagine and re-energize the company's three-wheel category," she reports.

The leap from Oakley to BRP wasn't as incongruous as it may sound. Oakley is about more than sunglasses: its first product was motocross grips, which evolved into other products dedicated to power sports.



AS SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS, JOSÉE PERREAU LEADS THE EFFORT TO RELAUNCH THE COMPANY'S THREE-WHEEL CATEGORY.

#### LEARNING FROM THE BEST

Looking back on her MBA, Perreault was most influenced by a course in entrepreneurship. "The lecturer was a business person with a multimillion-dollar company who gave us very practical information," she recalls. "I'll never forget one class where we had to evaluate a real Montreal business case. I got an A because I realized it had to go bankrupt. It was an enlightening moment. I learned that the right decision isn't always easy and you have to make tough calls."

After her MBA, Perreault made three career stops before she began her ascent at Oakley, where she expanded her responsibilities and geographical

reach with each new role. "Oakley gave me my wings," says Perreault. "It was an exciting time because the brand was exploding and I was part of that growth. I had tremendous opportunities, working in Paris and Zurich and living in California. It was my dream job and they were my family."

When corporate ownership dismantled the Oakley executive team in 2015, Perreault returned to Montreal, where her husband works, to rebuild her network and enrol her son in university. She soon landed at BRP.

"It was an easy decision to settle in Montreal. My family is here and I love the city," says Perreault, who spends as much free time as possible on her electric mountain bike. "Montreal is booming and has a small but mighty business machine. Also, AI [artificial intelligence] is coming, and that's quite exciting."

Reflecting on her time at JMSB, Perreault says, "Concordia's MBA provided an incredible base. I think the value of the degree is increased tenfold if you work a few years after your undergraduate degree. It puts things into context and you can draw on your own experiences."

She speaks from knowledge. After earning an undergraduate degree in urban planning, she worked in management at the fitness club before furthering her education. "I really loved managing a business provided by the fitness club," she says. "I knew I had more to offer and an MBA was the perfect vehicle to go forward."

—Joanne Latimer, MFA '94

"Concordia's MBA provided an incredible base. I think the value of the degree is increased tenfold if you work a few years after your undergraduate degree."



## 1990s

## GERT RAUTENBERG HASN'T LOST HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

When Gert Rautenberg, MBA '91, gets the chance to sail, he prefers the Baltic Sea over calmer waters. "The Mediterranean is lovely, but it's more like drifting — not sailing," he says.

Rautenberg's approach to sailing is an apt metaphor for his career. He is constantly challenging himself. Four years ago — at age 49 — he left a managing directorship at a prominent American financial institution to co-found a new company, Global Fund Analytics (GFA). Based in Luxembourg, GFA provides data analytics and business intelligence for the financial services sector.

Today, the company is thriving. GFA builds on a fintech platform, providing data analytics and distribution intelligence solutions to fund managers and service providers.

"Our team may be lean, with 10 people, but we have sizable clients," says the German-born Rautenberg, who's GFA's CEO. "We provide service to between five and 10 of the top 20 global asset managers. I lead the strategy and business development end, while my business partner and cofounder Jan Lux is the tech and ops guru."

Rautenberg notes that doing his MBA at Concordia in what now is the JMSB was formative in ways he never imagined. A decision-making lecture, for example, took an unexpected turn.

"It was an evening class about something I thought was going to be dry and logical — business negotiating — but it became quite emotional," Rautenberg recalls. "The class highlighted that you can't always make everyone happy. Emotions flared. You need to be careful as to how you position yourself to create the best outcome, but also so that you can look at yourself in the mirror. That really stuck with me."



GERT RAUTENBERG, CEO AND PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL FUND ANALYTICS IN LUXEMBOURG, IS ALSO AN AVID SAILOR.

"Many people would like to be entrepreneurial, but simply don't dare for risk of failure. We were more afraid of not trying than failing."

### ENTREPRENEURIAL INSTINCTS

Rautenberg lived in Germany until the age of 11, when this family moved to Hong Kong in 1977. His father shifted their textile manufacturing business to Asia after decades in Europe.

As a young adult, Rautenberg decided to go his own way professionally, rather than run his father and grandfather's textile company. He moved back to Germany and, as was customary in Europe at the time, he did an apprenticeship — banking — before starting university in Koblenz. His undergraduate business degree included two exchange semesters in Canada: one at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., and one at HEC Montréal.

Next he applied to Concordia's MBA program. Upon graduation, Rautenberg immediately secured a job at Arthur Andersen (now dissolved) in Dusseldorf, Germany, and Luxembourg, eventually becoming a senior manager and director.

After nine years, he resigned with colleague Jan Lux to start their first company, European Fund Services (EFS) in Luxembourg. It was a bold move, to leave such a senior position in an established firm.

"In North America you have a bit more of an entrepreneurial culture, whereas in Europe, it's more of a corporate culture," says Rautenberg. "Many people would like to be entrepreneurial, but simply don't dare for risk of failure. We were more afraid of not trying than failing."

Rautenberg and Lux struck out on their own again in 2014 with GFA. "I sincerely feel privileged at my age to still be involved with an aspect of the industry that is relatively new — data and what to do with that data now that processing has become so automated," Rautenberg says. "I'm happy to be able to still do something entrepreneurial."

—Joanne Latimer, MFA '94

## 2000s

### IN THE RING WITH KICKBOXING CHAMP AND ONCOLOGY ADVISOR SHERIN AL-SAFADI

It's no surprise that the winner of the first Canadian women's belt in K1 kickboxing trains hard — five to six nights a week. Outside the gym, Sherin Al-Safadi, MBA 10, PhD 14, is equally driven.

By day, Al-Safadi is a medical advisor in oncology at the Toronto offices of Bayer, the global pharmaceutical and life sciences company. Add to those credentials her role as co-founder and president of Fondation Amal, a non-profit organization that improves the quality of life of children with physical and mental impairments.

The Toronto-based neurobiologist, philanthropist and ranked athlete sees her time pursuing an MBA at the JMSB as playing a key role in her success. Al-Safadi, who was born in Saudi Arabia, had earned an MSc in pharmacology and therapeutics in cancer drug development from McGill University. "The MBA expanded my perspective, taught me a new business language, grounded me and opened my eyes to the real world — working in teams and doing presentations. It was life changing," she says.

Al-Safadi particularly appreciated Harjeet Bhabra, professor in the Department of Finance, and Tim Field, senior lecturer in the Department of Management and Miriam Roland Fellow in Business Ethics. "His ethics course had a big impact on me," Al-Safadi says. "We explored how a food company's decisions have real impact on the community. This forced me to think about the role of the pharma industry and it helped me build a mindset for how I would act in the field."



SHERIN AL-SAFADI (ABOVE AND BELOW RIGHT), A COMPETITIVE KICKBOXER, SHOWED UP AT BAYER FOR HER FIRST INTERVIEW WITH A BLACK EYE. NOW SHE'S THEIR MEDICAL ADVISOR IN ONCOLOGY.

#### FROM MBA TO PHD

Al-Safadi earned her PhD in neurobiology at Concordia following her MBA. Her research at the Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology focused on how stress affects circadian rhythms.

At the same time, she took up recreational kickboxing at Concordia. She was a natural at all three forms of kickboxing — Savate (French), K1 (Dutch) and Muay Thai. Al-Safadi was part of Team Canada for Savate kickboxing from 2014 to 2017, competing in Italy, Bulgaria, Finland and Croatia. "My kickboxing coach and mentor at Concordia, Raphael Martins Esteveo, suggested I start competing and training forced me to leave the lab," she says. "I learned how important it is to take a mental break."

Al-Safadi's kickboxing sideline hasn't hindered her career — although it might have. She had a black eye during her first interview at Bayer in 2014. The interviewing committee understood it was an occupational hazard for kickboxers

and offered her a job as medical science liaison in ophthalmology.

In her current medical advisor role, Al-Safadi develops and executes medical strategy and tactics for the prostate cancer drug Xofigo, among other pipeline oncology drugs. "I'm passionate about translational medicine in oncology and bridging the 'bench to bedside' gap through patient-centric health care and innovative medicines," she says.

Not satisfied to simply enjoy her dream job and training sessions, Al-Safadi rallied friends from her MBA at Concordia to start a non-profit for children. Fondation Amal has raised over \$350,000 since its launch in 2012.

Back at the gym, Al-Safadi predicts she has one or two more years left to compete. "Kickboxing is physically and mentally tough, but you learn about yourself — your strengths and weaknesses, your fears and how to cope with your emotions," she says. "It teaches you humility and motivation and persistence — all good things for your professional life." ■

—Joanne Latimer, MFA 94



"The MBA expanded my perspective, taught me a new business language, grounded me and opened my eyes to the real world. It was life changing,"





## The Alternative becomes Concordia's first political party-in-residence

Art and politics may mix at some university house parties, yet it's almost unheard of for a political party to take up residence at a university. One exception: Concordia.

The Faculty of Fine Arts has invited the Alternative, a Danish political party and social movement, to work with Concordia students from all disciplines on a year-long project focused on how the arts can influence political decision making.

The Alternative is not only Concordia's first political party-in-residence; it may be the first at any Canadian university. **1**

Concordia's invitation made sense to Uffe Elbaek, founder and leader of the Alternative. Before starting the political party, Elbaek founded KaosPilots, an international school of new business design and social innovation. He's also a former culture minister for the Danish Social Liberal Party.

"Given my background within education, I feel the space between politics and education is one of the important domains of our time," says Elbaek. "We need a critical, alert and alive generation of young people to navigate the problems that face us today."

"We're treating this residency as an experimental laboratory," says Rebecca Duclos, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts. The Alternative's approach resonates with creative practices in the arts, Duclos adds. Some 40 students and faculty members from across Concordia will participate.

Dave LeRue, an MFA student in the painting and drawing program, wants to improve the current state of political discourse. "We've witnessed all political stripes devolve into talking points, ideological positions and a dehumanization of the other," says LeRue. "The Alternative is trying to do the seemingly impossible by reinventing politics as we know it. I'm interested in exploring what conversations come out of this collaboration. I know we can do better."

The residences take place over three three-week periods. The first two were in April and September 2018 and the last will be in November. Students attend classroom workshops on methodologies and travel to various locations around the city, including the old Royal Victoria Hospital, the Darling Foundry, Project Young and the Champ Des Possibles.

### **BABY TANGO DOLL ENCOURAGES EMPATHY IN CHILDREN BY RESPONDING TO THEIR TOUCH**

As children turn to tablets and smartphones as sources of entertainment, parents and researchers are becoming increasingly concerned about the effects these devices have on the emotional and social responses of very young people.

Joanna Berzowska, BFA (design & comp. arts) 95, is associate professor in Concordia's Department of Design and Computational Arts and associate dean of research in the Faculty of Fine Arts. **2** She hopes her research-creation

**1**

**1** JOANNA BERZOWSKA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND COMPUTATIONAL ARTS, HAS DEVELOPED SOFT, INTERACTIVE DOLLS THAT RESPOND TO A CHILD'S TOUCH.

**2** UFFE ELBAEK IS FOUNDER AND LEADER OF DANISH POLITICAL PARTY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENT THE ALTERNATIVE.

innovation project will stimulate those responses, while also giving children something to cuddle.

An expert in electronic textiles, Berzowska has developed soft, genderless, anthropomorphic, interactive dolls that respond to a child's touch with lights, vibrations and sounds. She calls the textile toys Baby Tangos.

While interactive dolls are hardly new, they are usually made of hard plastic with buttons or simple switches. Berzowska's are distinctive in that they rely on textile sensors made with smart threads instead of traditional electronics. These silver-coated threads are embroidered into each doll's fabric in a variety of decorative and functional patterns.

The embroidery allows the sensors to be embedded directly into the textile "skin" of the doll and creates a range of colours, shapes and textures for visual and tactile stimulation. The sensors feel the child's touch and are programmed to respond accordingly.

"There are different ways of squeezing them," Berzowska explains. "Their sensors are embroidered all throughout the doll. If you squeeze it in a certain way, it will vibrate in a certain way. If you caress it, it will make a different kind of vibration and sound. If you really hold it against your full body, its cheeks will glow."



Berzowska and her team of students, drawn from the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and Faculty of Fine Arts, created the dolls in collaboration with Concordia's District 3 Innovation Center and the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology. With more than two decades of experience in the field of electronic textiles, Berzowska says she wanted to use new smart textile technologies to create something that was both soft and interactive.

"One of the code terms I gave to the team was the 'illusion of life,'" she says. "We wanted to create these little creatures that are completely soft, that children can hold against their whole body and that don't have any hard plastic edges. At the same time, when you touch them, they'll react to you — they'll vibrate or light up or whisper to you."

#### STUDIO ARTS GETS CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS IN INDIGENOUS ART PRACTICES

Concordia has received funding for three new Canada Research Chairs (CRC) and one renewal, a total investment of \$2.4 million over five years.

Artist Nadia Myre, MA (studio arts) 02, newly tenured assistant professor of studio arts, will join the ranks of the country's more than 1,600 chairholders. Myre, an internationally acclaimed artist, plans to use the chair to create innovative developments in Indigenous visual arts and scholarship.

She will bring together ancestral and contemporary methods of working to facilitate meaningful, intersectional exchanges between Indigenous peoples and colonial-settler society.

As the CRC in Indigenous Art Practice, Myre will examine the histories of cross-cultural objects and ideas between European and Indigenous cultures to further critical inquiry into material practices.

#### CONCORDIA CRACKS TOP 100 FOR ART AND DESIGN WORLDWIDE

It's official — Concordia is one of the world's best universities to study art and design.

According to the 2018 QS World University Rankings by Subject, released in February 2018, Concordia ranked among the top 100 art and design universities. Out of 1,130 institutions worldwide, Concordia placed 51-100 in the QS Art and Design category, a 100-spot jump from 2017 and nearly 200-spot increase from 2016.

"This faculty is on fire," says Duclos. "Every day I'm reminded of why the world needs the kind of thought and action we generate: we think about what it means to inhabit this planet with grace, we pose radical questions that deploy all the senses, we toggle constantly between the material and immaterial — and we do so with humour and conviction and joy." ■

—Andy Murdoch

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## Concordia recognizes 11 new honorary degree recipients

Every year at its fall and spring convocations, Concordia awards honorary degrees to individuals who have achieved outstanding success in their respective fields. The university bestowed 11 honorary degrees at its spring 2018 convocations, held at Place des Arts' Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier from June 11 to 13.

Honorands offered words of wisdom to 5,600 graduating students, who joined Concordia's 215,000 alumni.

Below are excerpts from the inspiring speeches delivered by honorary degree recipients. To see videos of the full speeches, visit [concordia.ca/graduation-convocation/ceremonies/past](http://concordia.ca/graduation-convocation/ceremonies/past).

### FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, JUNE 11

**Edith Cloutier**, LLD 18, <sup>1</sup> of the Anicinabe Nation, has dedicated her life's work to defending the rights of First Peoples in urban settings. She has been an important advocate for Indigenous women who are victims of racism and physical and sexual misconduct from police officers.

"At the dawn of the next stage of your lives, you have the opportunity to plant seeds of reconciliation. These will generate new solidarities, forge new alliances and contribute to build[ing] bridges and new pathways to be followed by the next generation."

**Serge Chapleau**, LLD 18, is a political cartoonist who has made a career of drawing satirical and ironic cartoons on current events. He has been with *La Presse* since 1996, and has been nominated 14 times and won seven prestigious National Newspaper Awards.

Best known under his pen name Aislin, **Terry Mosher**, LLD 18, is a political cartoonist. Aside from his daily contributions to the *Montreal Gazette* for more than 50 years, Mosher has authored 49 books and speaks regularly about the importance of cartooning as a communications tool.



"Follow your nose. Find something that interests you and then find out everything you can about it. Become passionate about the subject. And if you can't immediately do that, do what you have to do so you can do what it is you want to do." — **Terry Mosher** <sup>2</sup>

**Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild**, LLD 18, <sup>3</sup> is an accomplished lawyer who works towards bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. He is the first Indigenous person to be appointed to Queen's Counsel by the Alberta Law Society and the first Treaty Indian Member of Parliament.

"I challenge you now, tonight, to read the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] calls to action. Pick one that speaks to you and implement it. With your skills and tools that are being recognized here — we need you. Canada needs you. You are so important. So go out now and be the change in Canada."

### GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE, JUNE 12

**Meyya Meyyappan**, DSc 18 (pictured with Concordia President Alan Shepard), <sup>4</sup> is chief scientist for Exploration Technology at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif. He is also a founding member of the Interagency Working Group on Nanotechnology established by the United States Office of Science and Technology Policy.



"Success comes with hard work — you are creating opportunities for yourself and, also, taking the opportunities that are coming your way and taking chances. Things don't always go the way you want or the way you planned — you just have to take chances. Even a blind squirrel is going to find a nut sooner or later, here or there, and you are better than a blind squirrel."

**Lorne Trottier**, LLD 18, and **Louise Trottier**, BA 76, LLD 18, Louise Trottier was a senior economist for the Government of Canada. Lorne Trottier co-founded graphics imaging and video design innovator Matrox in 1976. In 2000, the couple established the Trottier Family Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting organizations that work towards advancing scientific enquiry, promoting education, fostering better health and protecting the environment.





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"You and the accumulated knowledge you represent are the key to our future. You are part of the next generation of technology and business innovators. Louise and I wish you all tremendous success in the new technological revolutions that will continue to unfold. It is bound to be an exciting ride."

—Lorne Trottier **5**

### JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, JUNE 13

As an international trade and investment lawyer, **Clare Akamanzi**, LLD 18, **6** has served as the CEO of the Rwanda Development Board and member of the cabinet of Rwanda. *Forbes* magazine named Akamanzi one of Africa's Top 20 leading women in economic development in 2013.

"Never accept the status quo. However much the odds are against you, you can always aim and achieve better. Never underestimate your potential to be among the best in the world. Aim high and stay focused on your goals.

Leave no one behind. Be inclusive. Whatever you choose to do in life, always remember this: involving others in designing solutions that affect them will ensure ownership and ultimately, sustainability. Stand for what is right and be willing to fight for it, even if it's not popular."

During his 40-year professional life, **Robert Briscoe**, BSc 67, MBA 73, LLD 18, **7** has enjoyed tremendous success as an entrepreneur and philanthropist. An advocate for business ownership, Briscoe established the Bob and Raye Briscoe Centre in Business Ownership Studies at the John Molson School of Business.

"I decided that I wanted to encourage commerce students to look at the rewards — both financial and personal — of owning a business. Taking that risk is the ultimate test in management but if you succeed it is also the most satisfying. Many great entrepreneurs were highly motivated individuals who didn't start rich."

### FACULTY OF FINE ARTS, JUNE 13

**Cornelia Hahn Oberlander**, LLD 18, **8** is a Canadian landscape architect. At a special ceremony, she was recognized by Concordia for her years of work designing high-profile buildings in North America and for being a pioneer in researching green solutions.

**Peter Schumann**, DFA 18, **9** founded the Bread and Puppet Theatre in New York City in 1963. Schumann used his puppets to bring attention to local injustices and the Vietnam War.

"A note to aspiring puppeteers and other possibilarians: puppet shows are not necessarily good for the bread-and-butter requirements of life. Puppet shows are meant strictly for the jolly — or not so jolly — dismantling of 'there's no alternative capitalism,' which ruins the planet. Consequently, you got to make bread. Bread represents usefulness — it is the ultimate useful object."

—Molly Hamilton

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

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



## ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year, the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) honours alumni, students, friends, faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to the Concordia community both at home and abroad. This year's event, held at the Sofitel Montreal Golden Mile hotel on May 14, 2018, commemorated 13 outstanding individuals. Joining the recipients were Concordia President **Alan Shepard** (centre) and **Samuel Rancourt** (far right), GrDip 15, CBC/Radio-Canada anchor, who served as master of ceremonies. **1**

### Alumni Award for Innovative

**Teaching: Yasmin Jiwani** is a professor in the Department of Communication Studies and the Concordia University Research Chair in Intersectionality, Violence and Resistance. Her research focuses on the intersectionality of

race, gender, class and violence, as well as representations of women of colour in popular media. Jiwani is a devoted mentor to her graduate students, an exceptional public scholar and a relentless advocate for marginalized peoples.

### Benoît Pelland Distinguished

**Service Award:** Since graduation, **Donal P. Ryan**, BComm 67, has gained extensive experience in securities sales, corporate and investment banking and investment management. He has worked around the world, including in Geneva, Zambia, New York City, Vancouver and Montreal. In 2013-2014, as both the president of the Loyola Alumni Association and executive vice-president of the CUAA, Ryan was instrumental in ensuring a successful merger of the two alumni associations.

**Outstanding Staff Award:** Since 1988, **Rosa Cerone**, BComm 91, GrCert 94, has worked for Concordia in different capacities. She is now internship coordinator for Concordia's Department of Education. She is recognized for caring deeply about the students and always going above and beyond what is asked of her.

The inaugural **John F. Lemieux Medal** is presented to a member of the Concordia community for his or her trailblazing spirit: **Thomas Dowd**, BComm 92, left the corporate world in 1995 to begin his studies for the priesthood. Ordained in 2001, he is now auxiliary bishop and vicar-general of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal.

The new **International Excellence Award** is given to a graduate or community of graduates outside Montreal who have enhanced the reputation and prestige of the alumni association and university:



As co-president of the New York City Chapter of the CUAA, **Gerard J. Walsh**, BA 71, has provided leadership integral to the success of the chapter. Over the last 15 years, the chapter has raised more than \$50,000 for cancer research at the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

**Rita Kwai Ching Ng**, BSc 87 (not present), studied actuarial mathematics at Concordia. After graduation, she moved back to Hong Kong and since then has had a successful career in insurance. She is vice-president of the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation Committee and a member of the Hong Kong Chapter of the CUAA.

**Young Alumna of the Year Award:** Since graduating from Concordia, **Niloofer Moradi**, BEng 10, has built an impressive resumé. In 2011 she began at Pratt & Whitney in Montreal, where she designs and integrates turbine components and coordinates interfaces with other modules. She is dedicated to creating new opportunities for the next generation of engineers, especially female engineers, and is an active participant in Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership events.

**Alumna of the Year Award:** **Fay Arjomandi**, BEng 98, is chairperson of h2 Wellness and founder and chief product officer at mimik. In 2007, she was the Canadian technology and innovation representative to the White House. In 2014, *San Francisco Business Week* named her one of the most influential women business leaders in Silicon Valley.

**Humberto Santos Award of Merit**, for lifetime contribution of exceptional leadership and service to Concordia and the community: **Susan E. Raymer**, BA 71, and **Benjamin Wygodny**, BA 69, have been long-time supporters of their alma mater and of higher education. Among other achievements, they have been deeply committed to bringing together Concordia and Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

**Outstanding Student Leader Awards:**

**Rachel Rammal**, a full-time undergraduate psychology student, is involved both at the university and in the broader community. Among many other activities, she was a member of the 60th Garnet Key Society, vice-president of Academic and Loyola Affairs for the Arts and Science Federation of Associations and vice-president of External Affairs for the Concordia Undergraduate Psychology Association.

**Maxime Desharnais** is an undergraduate student in civil engineering. Since 2016, he has been president of the Engineers Without Borders' Concordia Chapter and, in March 2017, he helped host the largest Sustainable Development Goals youth training in Canada.

**Honorary Life Membership:** **Oscar A. Pekau** (not present) retired in 2017 as Distinguished Professor Emeritus after 46 years of service. He joined Concordia in 1971, when he was asked

to transform the undergraduate program in the Department of Civil Engineering from five to four years. He also took on the task of modernizing the undergraduate curriculum and expanded the department activities to include environmental engineering.

**CONCORDIA STINGERS HOCKEY**

The Concordia Stingers men's and women's hockey teams gathered to celebrate their successful 2017-2018 seasons at La Plaza in Montreal on April 7, 2018. Pictured are **Julie Chu**, current Stingers women's hockey head coach; **Les Lawton**, team advisor; **Marie-Joëlle Allard**, defence; **Suzanne Kaye**, BA 03, GrDip 13, former Stinger; and **Mike McGrath**, BComm 94, assistant coach. <sup>2</sup> From the men's team, pictured are Michael Blundon, BComm 13, former Stinger; **Francis Brunelle**, forward; and **Jim Corsi**, BEng 76, assistant coach. <sup>3</sup>

**WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP**

The Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership program was busy in spring 2018, hosting three events. At the Presence and Personality: Tips from the Stage for Executives event in Montreal on April 17, attendees learned about how their presence and improvisation can help transform their leadership style. Pictured are emcee **Christine Lengvari**, BSc 72, moderator **Melissa Sonberg**, co-chair, International Women's Forum (IWF) leadership exchange and programming; and speakers **Angélique Willkie**, assistant professor, and **Silvy**







**Panet-Raymond**, professor, Concordia Department of Contemporary Dance; **Madeleine Féquière**, BA 85, president, IWF Montreal chapter; and mezzo-soprano **Irene Feher**, BFA 99, GrDip 02. <sup>4</sup>

At the Toronto Region Board of Trade on May 1, the Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership program hosted the Female Founders: Entrepreneurship's New Reality event. Guests heard from **Ingrid Chadwick**, assistant professor, Concordia's Department of Management; moderator **Heather Seaman**, BEd 97; **Inder Seth**, BComm 00, CEO, Limelight; **Laura-Jean Benhardson**, BFA 92, founder and CEO, Fresh Collective; **Rubina Salim Havlin**, BComm 07, chair, evoQ International; and **Temi Akin-Aina**, associate director, Alumni Relations. <sup>5</sup>

A similar Female Founders event was held in Montreal at the Loews Hôtel Vogue on May 3. Speakers included management professor **Ingrid Chadwick**; moderator **Angela MacKenzie**, GrDip 14, reporter and video journalist, CTV Montreal; **Sarah Sajedi**, BSc 91, CEO and co-founder,

ERA Environmental Management Solutions; **Georgiana Laudi**, BA 04, marketing executive, A Better CX Inc.; **Tamara Close**, MSc 01, founding partner, Close Group Consulting; **Noor El Huda El Bawab**, managing director, Concordia's District 3; and **Kim Fuller**, BFA 96, president, CUA. <sup>6</sup>

### THIS IS CONCORDIA. NOW.

The This is Concordia. Now lecture series allows Concordia alumni from across North America to hear from the university's innovative researchers and learn about its vision as Canada's next-generation university.

At the Richmond in Toronto on April 11, 2018, alumni discovered more about digital currencies from **Jeremy Clark**, assistant professor at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering. <sup>7</sup>

At the I can make that myself: Maker Culture and Learning lecture in Montreal on April 19, 2018, guests heard **Ann-Louise Davidson**, Concordia's Research Chair in Maker Culture and associate director of the

Millieux Institute of Arts, Culture and Technology, talk about maker culture and maker spaces. The event included a lively discussion and Q&A moderated by CTV Montreal News reporter **Aphrodite Salas**, MA 99. <sup>8</sup>

At Vancouver's This is Concordia. Now lecture on April 24, 2018, **Claudine Gauthier**, assistant professor in the Department of Physics (right) presented her research on new methods to measure brain health, which can be used to help prevent and treat neurovascular diseases. Among the guests were **Beverley Patwell**, Cert 87, BA 89, MA 97, and **Nancy Johnson**, BA 91. <sup>9</sup>

April was a busy month for Claudine Gauthier, as she also presented her research at Calgary's This is Concordia. Now lecture on April 26, 2018. In attendance were **Alexander Leith**, BA 69, **Daniel O'Connor**, BComm 81, and **Christopher Wisniewski**, BComm 79. <sup>10</sup>



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## JOURNALISM

Concordia's journalism alumni had the opportunity to catch up for cocktails and connections at L'Assommoir Notre Dame in Montreal on March 21, 2018. Guests included **Julian McKenzie**, BA 16, **Mathieu D'Amours**, BA 17, student **Etienne Lajoie**, and **Salim Valji**, BA 17. <sup>11</sup>

## JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The John Molson School of Business Alumni Chapter hosted an engaging panel discussion on venture capital investment in Montreal on April 19, 2018. Speakers included **Christophe Bourque**, partner, White Star Capital; and **Jean-David St-Martin**, co-founder and co-CEO, Chronogolf. <sup>12</sup>

## 2018 BRONFMAN FELLOWS

Concordia, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), the Bronfman family and guests celebrated the two young artists who were awarded the 2018 Bronfman Fellowships. At Concordia's Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery on May 3, 2018, were **Mutsumi Takahashi**, BA 79,

MBA 95, LLD 13, chief news anchor of CTV Montreal News, recipient **Émilie Serri** (Concordia) MFA 15, **Claudine and Stephen Bronfman**, recipient **Frédérique Laliberté** (UQÀM), **Jean-Christian Pleau**, dean of UQÀM's Faculty of Arts, and **Rebecca Duclos**, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts. <sup>13</sup>

## GARNET KEY ALUMNI BANQUET

Membership in the Garnet Key Society is one of the highest honours a Concordia undergraduate student can achieve. Each year, the society honours the past Key and inducts a new one. At the Atwater Club in Montreal on May 12, 2018, Concordia President Alan Shepard recognized the 60th Key for its remarkable accomplishments and inducted the 61st Key. Newly inducted members of the 61st Key include **Adelaide Buadu**, **Amina Ayesha Quraishi** and **Erica Chelini**. <sup>14</sup>

## FINTECH AND CONCORDIA

Concordia alumni attended an exclusive event in New York City on May 16, 2018. Sandra Betton, associate dean of Professional Graduate Programs at the John Molson School of Business, and Rich Cancro, founder of AdvisorEngine, discussed the impact of technology on financial markets and how Concordia is preparing the next generation of leaders in this field.

## INDUSTRY NETWORKING

The Concordia Alumni Industry Council hosted its first industry networking breakfast in Toronto on May 23, 2018. The event included a panel discussion with banking and finance experts: **Ron Schwarz**, BComm 91, corporate director, independent portfolio manager and equity capital markets consultant; **David Rozin**, BA 00, associate vice-president, Technology Banking, Business Services, National Bank of Canada; **Nkechi Nwafor-Robinson**, BSc 96, associate vice-president, Segment Technology executive, TD Insurance; and moderator **Ron Charles**, reporter at CBC News. <sup>15</sup>





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### CONCORDIA HERITAGE SOCIETY COCKTAIL RECEPTION

The Concordia Heritage Society was established to recognize donors and emphasize the importance of planned gifts. The society gathered to pay tribute to its current and new members at Concordia on May 31, 2018. **Michael Minkoff**, BComm 68, and **Antonio Costanzo**, professor in Concordia's Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics, were among those honoured. [16](#)

### ALUMNI TAILGATE AND CFL FOOTBALL GAME

Concordia alumni came out for an exclusive tailgate party before the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes took on the Ottawa Redblacks at Molson Stadium in Montreal on July 6, 2018. Among those in attendance were **Kim Fuller**, BFA 96, president of the alumni association, and the raffle prize winner of a Concordia sweatshirt. [17](#)

### CHINA

Graham Carr, provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs, and Leisha LeCouvie, senior director of Alumni Relations, visited local alumni in China in June 2018. They stopped in Hong Kong to honour Rita Ng, BSc 87 (see story on page 58), on June 19, and for cocktail receptions in Beijing on June 21, Xi'an on June 23 and Shanghai June 25. Pictured are **François Dansereau**, chef du service des affaires politiques et publiques au Bureau du Québec à Shanghai, and **Wei Cui**, BComm 12. [18](#)





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### ALMOST ALUMNI BRUNCH

Immediately prior to the June 2018 convocation ceremonies, members of the Class of 2018 — who were about to become full-fledged alumni — enjoyed a brunch courtesy of Concordia at the Pub Burgundy Lion on June 8 and 9. <sup>19</sup>

### GRADUATING STUDENTS EXHIBITION VERNISSAGE

**Rebecca Duclos**, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, and **Kim Fuller**, BFA 96, president of the alumni association, helped celebrate the faculty's graduating-student vernissage at the university's VAV Gallery on June 13. The alumni association sponsors the annual event and awards prizes for the best art work. <sup>20</sup>

### 2018 MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Concordia alumni enjoyed some sweet musical sounds in the comfort of the TD Lodge at the 2018 Montreal International Jazz Festival on July 2. TD Insurance sponsored the event, which was hosted by Beth McKenna, an award-winning band leader, composer, educator and founder and director of the Beth McKenna Jazz Orchestra. Al Muirhead's Canadian Quintet also provided entertainment. <sup>21</sup>

### AN ENTREPRENEURIAL EVENING

Alumni gathered at the Concordia Conference Centre in the John Molson Building on August 9, 2018, to network and learn about business planning and pitching innovative ideas. **Layial El-Hadi**, assistant professor and program director of Concordia's Graduate Certificate in Innovation, Technology and Society, **Inder Bedi**, BComm 96, founder of Matt and Nat, and **Noor Elhuda El Bawab**, managing director of the university's District 3

Innovation Center. (pictured with Olivia Piccirelli, student and young alumni officer at Concordia, second from right), led a discussion about what it takes to succeed as an entrepreneur today. <sup>22</sup>

### GOLF CLASSIC

The Concordia Golf Classic celebrated its 15th anniversary at Golf Griffon des Sources in Mirabel, Que., on September 4, 2018. Some 150 business leaders and friends of Concordia helped raised more than \$390,000 for Concordia students. Since 2004, the Golf Classic has brought in \$5.4 million for scholarships and bursaries. Pictured are **Kenneth Woods**, MBA 75, **Georges Paulez**, BComm 77, **J. Sebastian van Berkomp**, BComm 69, **Anne-Marie Croteau**, BSc 86, dean of Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB), **Nicole Fauré**, BComm 84, and **Joseph Capano**, principal director of development, JMSB and Special Initiatives. <sup>23</sup>



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

**62 Henry Mintzberg, BA, LLD 01,** received McGill University's David Johnston Faculty and Staff Award in April 2018. Henry is the Cleghorn Professor of Management

Studies in McGill's Desautels Faculty of Management. He is one of the world's most highly regarded experts in his field.

**67 L. Jacques Ménard, BComm, LLD 06,** Concordia Chancellor Emeritus, was appointed president emeritus at BMO Financial Group in April 2018. As president emeritus, Jacques will continue to make contributions

to BMO, its clients, the local community and Quebec.

**72 Larry Carrière, BComm,** was appointed director of player personnel for the Laval Rocket Hockey Club of the American Hockey League (AHL) in May 2018. Larry will continue to be senior advisor for hockey operations for the Montreal Canadiens. In his new role, he oversees scouting

operations at the AHL level and for the East Coast League.

**77 Jana Sterbak, BFA,** was appointed to the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec in May 2018. The prestigious award is given to individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the development and promotion of Quebec arts and literature. The subject of Jana's sculpting



work is the body, which she uses to explore identity and issues such as gender politics, social conformism and mortality.

**79 Susan Cheng**, BComm, was named chief operating officer of Mohr Capital in April 2018. The real estate investment firm, based in Dallas, Tex., specializes in the acquisition and development of industrial and office assets throughout the U.S. As COO, Susan oversees the day-to-day management of the company's operations, finance, accounting and investments.

**80 Howard Davidson**, BComm (acct.), received an Honorary Life Membership from McGill University in April 2018. Howard was honoured for his role as treasurer and now president of the R. Howard Webster Foundation. He is also chair of the Concordia University Foundation.

**80 Pellegrino "Nino" Pionati**, BComm (mktg. & personnel mgmt.), was named vice-president of international and business development at ACell Inc. in May 2018. ACell is a regenerative medicine company based in Columbia, Md.

**81 Richard Wait**, BComm, GrDip 85 (acct.), was appointed vice-president of finance and chief financial

officer of Reitmans Canada in Montreal in April 2018. Before the appointment, Richard was vice-president and controller at the specialty fashion retailer.

**82 Florence Bordage**, BA, writes, "I was recently promoted to director of Continuing Education for Université de Montréal, where I have been working since 2012. This new challenge will enable my new department and team to support the continuing education activities of 15 faculties or schools."

**Moyra Davey**, BFA, won the 2018 Scotiabank Photography Award, worth \$50,000, in May 2018. The award was created in 2010 to celebrate the creative vision and accomplishments of some of Canada's most gifted photographers. Moyra is now based in New York City.

**84 Giovanni "John" Visentin**, BComm (mktg.), was appointed vice chairman and chief executive officer at Xerox Corporation in Riverside, Conn., in May 2018. John previously managed various multibillion-dollar business units in the IT services industry.

**85 Darin Scanzano**, BA, was appointed CEO at Everest Insurance Company of Canada in Toronto in June 2018.

Darin previously was executive vice-president and chief agent for insurance company Axis Capital in Toronto.

**87 Manon Bernard**, BA (urban studies), became director general of the City of Brossard, Que., in June 2018. Manon previously was executive director of three Quebec cities and Montreal's Saint-Laurent borough.

**89 Robert Coallier**, MBA, was named 2018 Agri-Food Person of the Year by the Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec in March 2018. The award honours a person who has made a major and lasting contribution to the Quebec food industry. Robert is CEO of the Agropur dairy farmer cooperative based in Longueuil, Que.

**Christine Jones**, BFA (theatre), won a Tony Award, her third, for Best Scenic Design for the Broadway play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. Christine won a 2017 Olivier Award from the Society of London Theatre for set design for the original London production of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.

**90 Max Wallace**, BA (journalism), was shortlisted for the 2018 RBC Taylor Prize for Canada's

best work of literary non-fiction for his book *In the Name of the Humanity: The Secret Deal to End the Holocaust* (Penguin/Random House).

**91 Sheila Isaac**, BA (poli. sci.), was appointed a member of the newly created Indigenous Women's Circle in May 2018. The circle will provide an opportunity for Status of Women Canada to consult with leaders in Indigenous communities on the challenges they face and their priorities for the Government of Canada in terms of advancing gender equality.

**92 Daniel Gauvreau**, BComm (fin.), recently became vice-president of sales and marketing at Artificial Intelligence in Medicine Inc. (AIM) in Toronto. AIM focuses on using informatics to improve health care. Daniel is responsible for Canadian-based sales of AIM's artificial intelligence and natural language processing tools.

**Khaled Ismail**, BComm (mktg.), was recently appointed vice-president of communications for Europe and Central Asia for Tetra Pak, in Dubai, U.A.E. This new role will be in addition to his current position as VP of communications for Middle East and Africa region.

**1 Héliène Beland-Robert**, BFA 78, GrDip 79, held an exhibit, "Sculpture au Jardin: Third Edition," at Jardin Moore in Mascouche, Que., on June 20, 2018. *1) Sky Child*

**2 Hoda Ackad-Wenger**, BComm 81, BFA (studio arts) 01, held an exhibit, "The Power Behind the Scenes: Culture Montreal Portraits," at the Galerie Luz in Montreal from June 20 to July 7, 2018. *2) René Angéil*

**3 Rochelle Mayer**, BComm 83, BFA 10, participated in the annual exhibition of the Women's Art Studio of Montreal at the Centre d'Art E.K. Voland from May 24 to 28, 2018. *rochellemayer.ca 3) The red eyes are in town!*

**4 John Hood**, BFA (studio art & art hist.) 86, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012 for his contributions to the mural arts in Ontario. John placed

a mural-sized oil in the collection of Veterans Affairs Canada in 2017 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid during the Second World War. *johnhood.com 4) Dieppe 75*

**5 Mary Martha Guy**, BFA 88, will participate in a two-person exhibit at Victoria Hall Gallery in Westmount, Que., from September 27 to October 26, 2018. *5) The White House*

**6 Chrissy Cheung**, BFA (design & comp. art) 00, curated and participated in the group exhibit "Whisper" at the ModArt Gallery in Miami, Fla., from July 21 to September 7, 2018. *6) Horizons*

**7 Patricia B. Belmar**, BFA (studio arts) 14, exhibited at the "Juried Art Exhibit and Sale" at Concordia's Grey Nun's Residence Hall from May 11 to 13, 2018. *7) Journey Towards the Light*





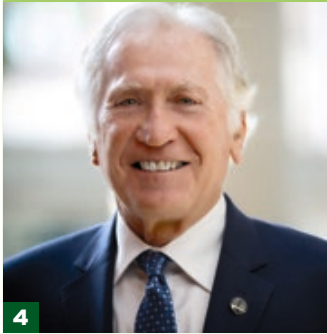
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**Benoit-Antoine Bacon**, BA (psych.) 95, began his role as president of Carleton University in July 2018. Benoit also took on a tenured professor position in Carleton's Department of Psychology. He was Concordia's provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs from 2013 to 2016. **1**

**Lino Saputo Jr.**, BA (poli. sci.) 89, was awarded an honorary degree from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., in May 2018. Lino is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Montreal-based Saputo Inc., one of the top 10 dairy processors in the world. He is also co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia. Next-Gen. Now. **2**

**ORDRE DE MONTRÉAL**

The Ordre de Montréal, created in 2015, recognizes women and men who have contributed in a remarkable way to the city's development and reputation. The city announced the 2018 inductees on May 17.

**Richard Pound**, BA 63, LLD 10, was named Commander of the Ordre de Montréal. Richard, a tax lawyer, has been dedicated

to promoting the international reputation of Montreal through his work as an Olympic official and on sports ethics. **3**

**Morton Minc**, BA 67, was named an Officer of the Ordre de Montréal. Morton, former Chief Justice of the Montreal Municipal Court, is Concordia's jurist-in-residence. He was recognized for his encouragement as Chief Justice of social programs for offenders and victims who have been disadvantaged in society. **4**

**Jonathan Wener**, BComm 71, was inducted as a Knight of the Ordre de Montréal. Jonathan is Concordia's chancellor and is chairman and chief executive of Montreal-based property development firm Canderel. He dedicates much time and expertise to various causes, including cancer research and higher education. **5**

**ORDER OF CANADA**

The newest appointments to the Order of Canada were announced by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, on June 29, 2018. The appointments include the following eight members of the Concordia family:

**COMPANIONS:**

The Right Honourable **Beverley McLachlin**, LLD 11, former Chief Justice of Canada

**Roberta Lynn Bondar**, 2009 Loyola Medal recipient, astronaut and researcher

**OFFICER:**

**Lise Bissonnette**, LLD 86, pioneering journalist

**MEMBERS:**

**Virendra K. Jha**, PhD 82, Canadian Space Agency veteran

**Morton Minc**, BA 67, former Chief Justice of the Montreal Municipal Court

**Calin Rovinescu**, LLD 16, chief executive officer of Air Canada

**Sharon Sholzberg-Gray**, BA 64, health care champion

**Mutsumi Takahashi**, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, chief news anchor, CTV Montreal News **6**

Khaled's responsibilities include managing the company's reputation and corporate identity, sponsorship and crisis management.

**93 Helen Gregory**, BFA, recently became curator of the McIntosh Gallery of Western University in London, Ont. Helen's own artworks can be found in several major public collections.

**95 Adriana Palanca**, BA (creative wr.), MA (Eng.) 99, was named creative director at Havas Montreal in May 2018. Adriana started at Havas Montreal as a copywriter in 2017.

**Kristian Puhvel**, BA (geog.), was appointed executive director of Ontario's Lake Country in May 2018. The marketing organization is responsible for the Orillia, Ont., region. "I am looking forward to exploring Ontario's Lake Country regions and experiences and getting to know the community."

**Isabelle Racicot**, BA (comm. studies), Montreal television and radio host for at CJFM-FM, was named the new spokesperson for the CIBC Run for the Cure in Quebec in May 2018. Isabelle has supported the CIBC Run for more than 20 years.

**96 Nicole Lapalme**, BComm (acct.), recently began as controller of Image Comics in Portland, Ore. Nicole has 20 years of experience in accounting, including in accounting specific to the comic industry.

**98 Apraham Niziblian**, BA (poli. sci.), is now director of executive and professional specialized recruitment at Groupe Montpetit. The Montreal-based agency specializes in recruiting administrative and legal support staff, and human resources management services.

**Dominic Racine**, BComm (fin.), was named executive director of the Professional Golfers Association of Canada's Quebec zone in May 2018. Previously, Dominic was director of operations for Global Golf Management Inc. for a decade. He has more than 15 years of experience in the golf industry.

**Martin Tuchsherer**, BSc (geol.), was recently appointed chief geologist of exploration at Azimut Exploration Inc. Martin has more than 15 years of international experience with major and junior mining companies in Canada, the United States and Africa.

**99 Lita Barrie**, BFA (art hist.), became chief executive officer at the Burlington Public Library in Burlington, Ont., in June 2018. Lita has held various positions at different libraries in Ontario. "I am so thrilled to continue the library's commitment to innovation and to providing stellar library services and programs to serve this wonderful city."

**Steven Engler**, Ph.D. (religion), gave the keynote address, "Theorizing Healing in Umbanda," at the Second International Conference on Religion and Healing at Sogang University in South Korea in May 2018. He also delivered the keynote address, "Theorizing in the Study of Religion," at the Sixth Colloquium of the Research Group on Religion and Culture at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais in Brazil in August 2018. Steven is professor of religious studies at Mount Royal University in Calgary and an affiliate professor in Concordia's Department of Religions and Cultures.

**00 Mouna Andraos**, BA (comm. studies), was recently appointed to the advisory committee for

the urban and architectural integration for the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) project. The REM is a new, 67-km integrated public transit network that will feature 26 stations and link downtown Montreal, universities, South Shore, West Island, North Shore and Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport through a fully automated, electric light rail system.

**01 Steve Forte**, BComm (acct.), became chief financial officer at Clementia Pharmaceuticals in Montreal in August 2018. Clementia is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company innovating new treatments for people with ultra-rare bone disorders and other diseases. Steve's experience includes nearly a decade at Aptalis Pharma Inc., where he was responsible for the overall corporate controllership.

**Eric Lefebvre**, GrDip (acct.), will become CEO of MTY Food Group Inc., in St.-Laurent, Que., in November 2018. Since 2012, Eric has been chief financial officer of MTY Food Group, a franchisor and operator of multiple concepts of restaurants in Canada and the U.S.

**02 Dmitriy Kolomytsyn**, MSc (admin.), was recently appointed group director, IR and Capital Markets at NLMK Group, a global steel company in Moscow, Russia. Dmitriy joined the company in 2016 as head of corporate development.

**03 István Imre**, PhD (biol.), was named assistant academic dean of Student Success and Well-Being at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., in June 2018. István is associate professor in the Department of Biology at the university, where he's been since in 2006.

**05 Brad Collinson**, BA (leisure sci.), became the new head coach of the Stingers football program in June 2018. Brad, a native of St. Bruno, Que., was an assistant coach with the Stingers from 2004 to 2010. Prior to his return to Concordia, Brad spent seven seasons with the Laval Rouge et Or as running back coach and recruiting co-ordinator and in an academic support role. He was also head coach of Football Canada's U18 team and Team Québec.

**07 Sarah-Wenja Zhu**, MBA (investment mgmt.), became chief financial officer at North American Nickel Inc. in Vancouver in May 2018. Sarah-Wenja has more than 15 years of experience in finance and accounting in both the public and private equity markets, largely focused on the natural resources sector.

**08 Justin Kausel**, BA (poli. sci.), was hired as director of business development at Greenstream Networks Inc. in Montreal in June 2018. Justin is responsible for the company's business development strategy and implementation of new business opportunities in the cannabis sector.

**10 Joëlle Boutin**, MA, was selected as the Coalition Avenir Québec's candidate for the Quebec City provincial riding of Jean-Talon in May 2018. The Quebec provincial election will be held October 1, 2018.

**13 Moses Gashirabake**, BA (poli. sci.), was recently appointed part-time director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation by Mélanie Joly, former Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism.

**PERSON**  
OF THE YEAR Awards

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
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**Dorothy Anderson**, BA 48, July 14, 2018, Montreal. She was 97.

**Paul Clément Larocque**, BA 50, April 7, 2018, Ottawa. He was 88.

**Daniel D. Zakaib**, BSc 53, May 17, 2018, Toronto. He was 93.

**Rose (Wisenthal) Weiner**, BA 56, August 3, 2018, Toronto. She was 103.

**John M. Little**, BA 57, June 10, 2018, Montreal. He was 79.

**Philip Britton Allmen**, BA 58, April 22, 2018, Toronto. He was 81.

**Hanns Bertram Wernecke**, BSc 58, June 23, 2018, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 89.

**Lawrence B. Oneson**, BSc 60, Victoria, July 21, 2018. He was 88.

**Bruce Morrison**, BA 61, July 10, 2018, Montreal. He was 81.

**John R. McBratney**, BComm 62, June 30, 2018, Brockville, Ont. He was 82.

**Zénon Bryniawsky**, BA 62, April 13, 2018, Montreal. He was 79.

**Jack Boidman**, BA 63, July 3, 2018, Montreal.

**Arnold "Arnie" Gendron**, BSc 63, June 24, 2018, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. He was 79.

**Bernard Skarf**, BSc 63, June 27, 2018, Montreal. He was 78.

**Merrill R. (Goldberg) Tenenbaum**, GrCert 93, July 15, 2018, Scotch Plains, N.J. She was 63.

**Philip S. Cohen**, BA 64, May 6, 2018, Montreal.

**William W. McNeill**, BA 64, March 25, 2018, Victoria. He was 81.

**Francois Feldmuller**, BSc 65, May 8, 2018.

**Emil D. Ondrechak**, BSc 65, May 29, 2018, Montreal. He was 82.

**Yetta (Stam) Garellek**, BA 67, MA 72, June 13, 2018, Montreal. She was 75.

**Harice Parkinson**, BA 68, April 10, 2018, Sidney, B.C. She was 93.

**Heinz H. Rieger**, BComm 68, April 7, 2018, Toronto. He was 78.

**Annibale J. Dolce**, BA 70, June 2, 2018, Montreal. He was 68.

**Patricia Sheppard**, BA 70, May 22, 2018, Victoria.

**Stephen M. Freedman**, BSc 71, July 2, 2018, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. He was 68.

**Audrey Burkowsky**, BA 72, June 28, 2018, Montreal.

**Suresh M. Karnick**, BEng 72, April 14, 2018, Montreal. He was 75.

**Thomas Andreas Weyersberg**, BA 72, May 15, 2018, Montreal. He was 82.

**George Boutilier**, MA 73, April 23, 2018, Pierrefonds, Que. He was 81.

**Carmen (Turcotte) Hemens**, BFA 73, April 19, 2018, Montreal. She was 90.

**Allan L. Gladstone**, BComm 74, April 4, 2018, Ottawa. He was 72.

**Erwin Witwicki**, BA 74, May 22, 2018, Montreal. He was 75.

**Richard D. Zawalykut**, BA 74, April 8, 2018, Sainte-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson, Que. He was 74.

**William Kenneth Stevens**, BA 75, May 12, 2018, LaSalle, Que. He was 67.

**Margaret (Rogers) Bolo**, BA 76, June 15, 2018, Montreal. She was 85.

**Angela M. Burlton**, BEng 76, July 12, 2018, Montreal. She was 65.

**Carolyn L. Lowrie**, BA 76, July 3 2018, Greenfield Park, Que. She was 77.

**John A. Barr**, BA 77, June 1, 2018, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 84.

**Edward M. Baltayan**, BSc 78, May 31, 2018, Montreal. He was 81.

**Nigel Howard Cowan**, BA 79, June 2018, Montreal. He was 64.

**Lois (Le Marquand) Warmuth**, BA 79, April 19, 2018, Rosemère, Que. She was 84.

**Sara (Wiener) Weinberg**, MA 79, June 27, 2018, Montreal.

**Zvi Harry Galina**, BA 81, MA 82, PhD 86, June 2, 2018, Montreal. He was 67.

**Lysanne Thibodeau**, BFA 81, MFA 00, April 15, 2018, Montreal. She was 59.

**Michael A. Russell**, BComm 82, EMBA 88, April 8, 2018, Montreal. He was 59.

**Zora (Zaichkowsky) Kightley**, BComm 84, March 28, 2018, Ottawa. She was 56.

**Barbara (Sheinkman) Kunigis**, BComm 86, March 28, 2018, Côte-Saint-Luc, Que. She was 90.

**Marion Chornobrywy**, BFA 87, May 28, 2018, Saskatoon. She was 85.

**Shari Kolker**, BComm 87, April 19, 2018, Richmond Hill, Ont. She was 54.

**Lilian L. (Provost) Marier**, BA 87, April 28, 2018, Montreal. She was 87.

**James G. Lewis**, BA 88, June 16, 2018, Montreal. He was 70.

**Norma Phillips**, BA 88, June 9, 2018, Winnipeg. She was 78.

**Patricia Kirkwood**, BA 89, February 3, 2018, Lachine, Que. She was 101.

**Jeffrey Jonathan Glazer**, BA 93, GrDip 94, MBA 97, May 16, 2018, Toronto. He was 48.

**Alfredo Abeijon**, BFA 95, June 5, 2018, Montreal. He was 78.

**David Hendricks**, BSc 99, June 7, 2018, Montreal. He was 57.

**Michele L. McHugh**, BA 99, April 23, 2018, Montreal. She was 43.

**John Kirwan (Kerry) Martin**, MA 08, July 11, 2018, Montreal. He was 76. ■





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## Great wars, broken notebooks and uncertain weights

CAROLINE  
SHAUGHNESSY AND  
MOLLY HAMILTON

The work of poet and award-winning writer **Keith Garebian**, MA 71, has appeared in more than 100 international newspapers, journals, magazines and

powerful retelling of the experiences of Canadian troops fighting on the Western Front during the Great War in ***Courage, Sacrifice and Betrayal: The Story of the Victoria Rifles of Canada, 60th Battalion, in the First World War*** (ECW Press, \$39.95). The 60th Battalion was only one of 50 battalions

is the first-ever English-language collection of the best Israeli science fiction and fantasy literature since the 1980s, from authors such as Shimon Adaf, Pesach Amnuel and Nava Semel. Teitelbaum is an award-winning writer and has been published in the *Los Angeles Times*,

must solve the mysteries in order to help maintain peace in their small town.

In Ancient Greece, there was a practice of burying the dead with marble sculptures of female bodies. Yet archeologists are still puzzled by the meaning of these figurines and their burials. In his



anthologies, and he has published 23 books. Garebian recently released two books with Guernica Editions. **William Hutt: Soldier Actor** (\$32.74) is a biographical account of the iconic late Canadian actor William Hutt, offering readers a glimpse into Hutt's public and private life. **Poetry is Blood** (\$20) is a collection of introspective poems that illustrate the trauma and memories of the Armenian genocide.

Inspired by his grandfather Edward Lewis Pyves, **Richard R. Pyves**, BSc 72, presents a

to fight as a unit as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the war. Set in four western European trenches, the book incorporates soldiers' personal stories and letters to provide readers a detailed account of their day-to-day lives in the trenches.

Montreal-born Los Angeles native **Sheldon Teitelbaum**, BA 77, recently collaborated with Emanuel Lottem to co-edit a graphic novel anthology, **Zion's Fiction: A Treasury of Israeli Speculative Literature** (Mandel Vilar Press, \$24.95). The compilation

*Cinefantastique*, *The Jerusalem Report*, *Foundation: the International Review of Science Fiction* and *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*.

**Sylvia McNicoll**, BA 78, author of more than 30 books, continues her humorous middle-grade series *The Great Mistake Mysteries* (Dundurn Press) with two new titles: **The Artsy Mistake Mystery** (\$8.99) and **The Snake Mistake Mystery** (\$8.99). The books provide young readers a front-row seat into the investigations, adventures and mischief of the main characters, Renée and Stephen, who

novel **The Broken Notebooks** (Ellipse Editions, \$28.50), **John Gilmore**, BFA 81, describes one man's journey to find the answers to these questions. His travels bring him to museums in London and Athens and to looted graves on the hillsides of Greek islands. They also force him to confront his own past. Gilmore also recently translated **Anarchy Explained to my Father** (New Star Books, \$18), by Francis Dupuis-Déri and Thomas Déri. Dupuis-Déri, a professor of political science and a radical anarchist, reveals the deeply humanistic and peaceful roots



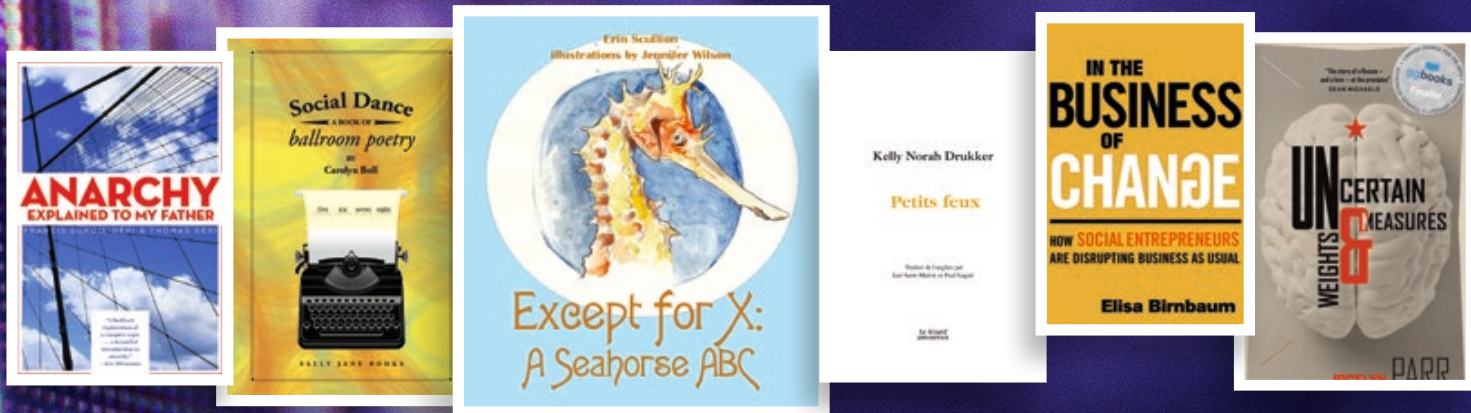
of anarchism through a dialogue with his father, Thomas Déri. Father and son discuss the ideas of both the classical and contemporary thinkers of anarchism, anarchist views on different systems of oppression, the contributions anarchists have made to society and the return of anarchism in protest movements.

by **Erin Scullion**, BA 86. It is a story about helping the alphabet make up for forgetting about the letter X and contains dozens of seahorse facts. Jennifer Wilson's striking illustrations of seahorses fill the pages. Scullion has published two other books, *The Canadian Dairy Commission: A 40-Year Retrospective* (2006) and *I Need*

University First Book Award from the Quebec Writers' Federation and was a finalist for the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal. Drukker is now pursuing her PhD in humanities at Concordia.

**Elisa Birnbaum**, BA 93, is a senior journalist, publisher and editor-in-chief

*Uncertain Weights and Measures* (Goose Lane, \$22.95), the recent novel by Montreal-based writer **Jocelyn Parr**, MA 06, MA 11, took home the 2017 QWF Concordia First Book Prize, was a finalist for the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award in Fiction and was named a *National*



As a dancer and choreographer, author **Carolyn Boll**, BA 85, MA 95, seamlessly intertwines her passion for dance, images and words in her new book, *Social Dance: A Book of Ballroom Poetry* (Sally Jane Books, \$18.46). Boll presents a collection of vibrant and intense poems full of movement that give readers both a physical and visual experience. Boll has had several of her poems published in *The Gay & Lesbian Review* and *Lavender Review*.

*Except for X: A Seahorse ABC* (Fomorian Press, \$15) is the first children's book

*You to Know: A Bouquet of Stories for My Son* (2015). She currently lives in Ottawa and works for the federal government.

*Small Fires* (2016), the debut poetry collection by **Kelly Norah Drukker**, BA 99, MA 13, has been translated into French by award-winning translators Lori Saint-Martin and Paul Gagné. *Petits Feux* (Le Léopard Amoureux, \$17.95) emphasizes aspects of landscape and culture in parts of the world haunted by silenced histories. *Small Fires* won the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry, the Concordia

of *SEE Change Magazine*, a global digital magazine on social entrepreneurship. Her newly released book, *In the Business of Change: How Social Entrepreneurs are Disrupting Business as Usual* (New Society Publishers, \$17.99), showcases the stories of social entrepreneurs from New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Vancouver. Birnbaum reveals how they use their business skills to address current social problems. Her writing has also appeared in *The Globe & Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *Huffington Post* and *Zoomer* magazine and on [cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca).

*Post* Best Book of 2017. Set in Moscow in 1921, the story follows Tatiana, a promising scientist, and Sasha, an artist. After they fall in love, their relationship is put to the test when Tatiana begins working for a state-sponsored research institute and Sasha begins to feel disenchanted by the communist state. Parr's novel is a love story, mystery and thriller all in one. ■



## An in memoriam moment

GABRIELLE LYNCH-STAUNTON, BFA 87, BEEd 90

I was tucked in for a good dose of *Concordia University Magazine*. Nice reading for a week night. I always looked forward to it.

The In memoriam section must be among the shortest obits on the planet and leaves a lot to the imagination. Typically one page with four columns listing around 60 deceased alumni chronologically by year of graduation. The names are in bold font, first then last name, and sometimes a middle name or initial. This is followed by the degree, year of graduation, date of death and where they died. More often than not, the age of death is stated very briefly, for example, "He was 27" or "She was 101."

While I've never once recognized anyone's name, I've always found the format intriguing and wondered: What did this person do with her degree? Did she love Concordia as much as I did? Years and years after graduation, did he find himself visiting the Hall Building to ride up and down the escalators and feel wistful? Did she never want to graduate so she could extend her student status for an eternity?

Are alumni aware of the incredible changes to the downtown campus in the last quarter century? Were they blown away to discover a tunnel linking the Henry F. Hall Building to the Guy-Concordia metro — and immediately remember the countless times escaping near-frostbite sprinting from the metro to the Hall Building or library?

I was doing the usual In memoriam perusal until I was stopped in my tracks. My brother's name was there:



GABRIELLE LYNCH-STAUNTON AND HER BROTHER, PETER LYNCH-STAUNTON, IN 2015.

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

I knew he was dead. It had been several months since he died so suddenly, so it didn't knock me over in shock. I just never ever expected to see Peter's name listed in our alumni magazine's obituary page. I cried myself to sleep on a sorrow-soaked pillow.

**"I miss both Concordia and Peter terribly at times. They were a huge part of my life and provided so many dear and precious memories."**

Peter was a much loved cool guy who used to call me "Sis." We were close in age and only a year apart in school. He majored in political science, while I majored in art history and education. Concordia instilled in us a passion for lifelong learning. We shared a love of many things, including reading, writing, history, photography, music and movies.

At the corner of Guy and Ste. Catherine streets, where the impressive EV Building now stands was the York Theatre, a beautiful Art Deco building. Four decades ago, Peter let his kid sister tag along with him and his buddy to catch *Saturday Night Fever*. It was my first 14-and-over cinematic experience.

Being underage, it was a huge deal.

I remember that evening vividly. It was a bitter cold December night. We waited in a slow-moving line on a dry and salt-stained sidewalk. Standing as tall as I could at the box office counter, on the very top of my tippy toes and full of nerves, I requested a ticket, fearing that I'd get asked for ID and denied entry to a movie I was dying to see. The movie remains one

of my all-time favourites. While Peter's no longer in the land of the living and the York Theatre is long gone, the disco vibe is with me for life.

I miss both Concordia and Peter terribly at times.

They were a huge part of my life and provided so many dear and precious memories.

I wonder if the person who recognizes my name listed in the In memoriam section will have a similar reaction to my seeing bro Pete's. ■

*Quebec native Gabrielle Lynch-Staunton, BFA 87, BEEd 90, is a Vancouver-based writer, world adventurer and aspiring photographer. She has a passion for expressing her thoughts and observations, particularly in the realm of arts and human connections.*



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