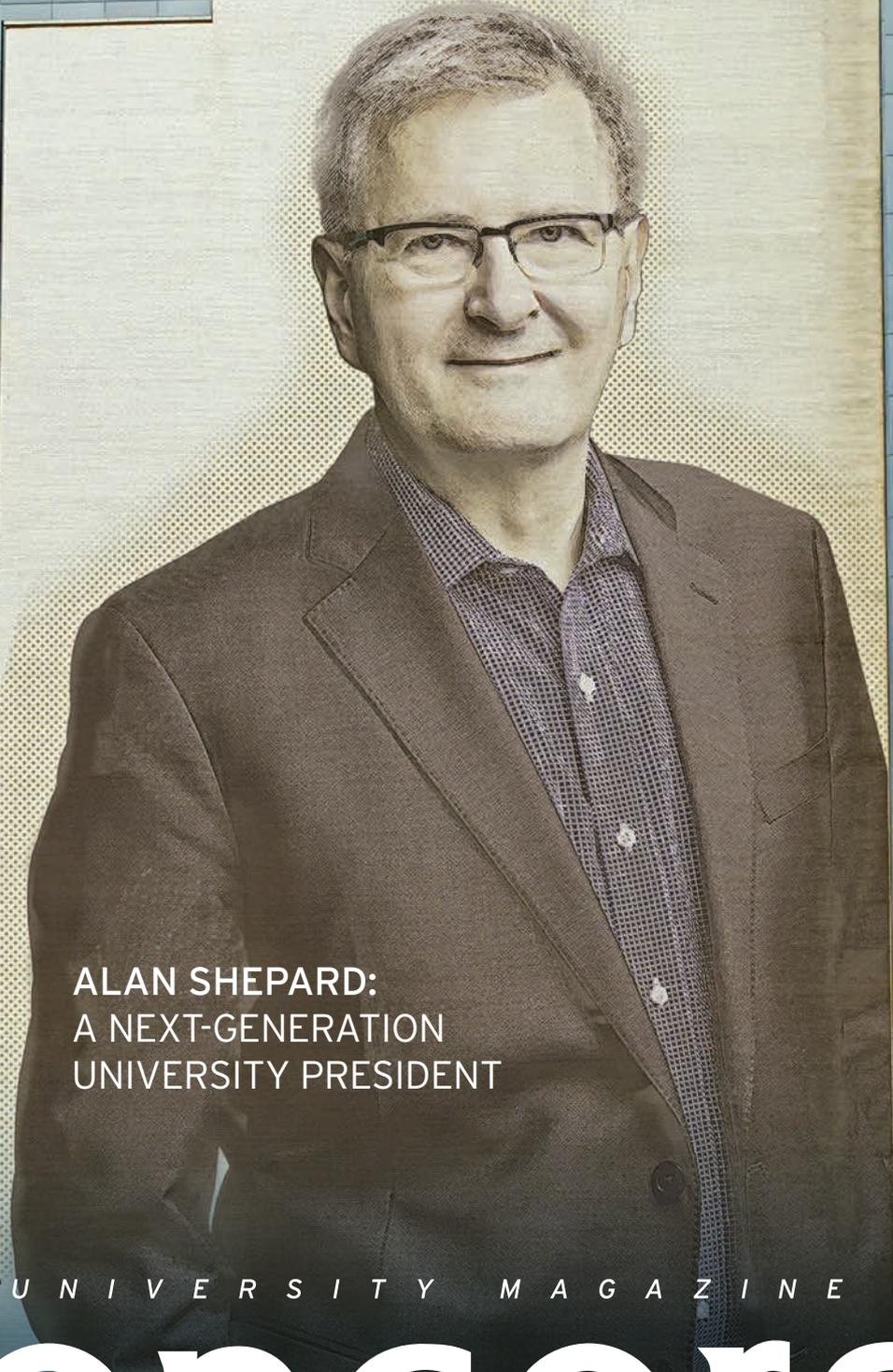


SPRING 2019

A portrait of Alan Shepard, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a brown blazer over a patterned button-down shirt. He is standing in front of a modern building with a perforated metal facade. The background shows other buildings and a clear blue sky.

ALAN SHEPARD:
A NEXT-GENERATION
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

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Concordia

MAJOR GIFT FOR FINE ARTS > TOP 50 UNDER 50 > INNOVATION IN AFRICA

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**SPARKING
 CREATIVITY
 IN FINE ARTS**

A \$5.6-million gift from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust will support three key areas: graduate student scholarships, field school awards and an arts innovation fund.

By Marta Samuel



**CONCORDIA RISING
 AS PRESIDENT LEAVES**

Alan Shepard is departing to take up the reins at Western University in Ontario. During his seven years here, he has transformed the university in many important ways.

By Doug Sweet



**TAKING OUT
 THE TRASH**

Three Concordia professors tell us how we might better manage the waste we generate. Suggestion 1: Make less of it in the first place.

By Maeve Haldane



**CONCORDIA SPURS
 INNOVATION IN AFRICA**

The university is committed to helping people in a number of African countries in a way that is collaborative, reciprocal and with an approach of humility and understanding.

By Damon van der Linde



TOP 50 UNDER 50

Concordia has produced an incredible collection of high-level leaders in various sectors of the business world.



**WHY REMEMBERING
 THE HOLOCAUST
 IS SO IMPORTANT**

Studies show the Holocaust is beginning to fade from the collective public memory. Concordia professors and organizations are working to make sure the memory survives.

By Monique Polak



**ROLOFF BENY
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**50 | FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
 GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
 AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

By Amanda Clarke

spring 2019 volume 43 number 1

concordia.ca/magazine

Cover: A non-permanent artistic illustration of Alan Shepard on a De Maisonneuve Blvd. building facing Norman Bethune Square. Design by Christopher Alleyne.

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\$5.6-million gift to spark creative discovery in Faculty of Fine Arts



CONCORDIA CELEBRATED THE LARGEST GIFT TO ITS FACULTY OF FINE ARTS – \$5.6 MILLION – AT A CEREMONY AT ST. JAX MONTREAL ON MARCH 14, 2019.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Next-gen support from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust will connect artists and scholars to Montreal, Canada – and the world

BY MARTA SAMUEL, GRDIP 10

Concordia’s Faculty of Fine Arts celebrated a milestone on March 14, 2019 – a \$5.6-million gift from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust, the largest so far in the Faculty’s history, and the largest ever in Quebec toward a university-based fine arts program.

This exceptional philanthropy gives momentum to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, and will support three key areas across the Faculty’s nine departments: graduate student scholarships, field school awards and an arts innovation fund.

“The fine arts are already very much oriented toward the next generation in terms of resilience, creativity, flexibility and entrepreneurship,” said Leslie Raenden, representative of the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust and stepdaughter of the late Peter Thomson. “It feels good to know that we’ve spread out the initiatives to have both short- and long-term benefits. We’re going to touch a lot of people.”

The new gift will advance Concordia’s 9 Strategic Directions, including to Go Beyond and to Get Your Hands Dirty.

Each year, seven Peter N. Thomson Family Graduate Scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in a master’s or

doctorate-level program. Valued at approximately \$20,000 each, the scholarships will be based on academic merit to attract and retain top talent.

And 30 Peter N. Thomson Family Field School Awards will be granted each year to undergraduate and graduate students across the Faculty’s nine departments. Field schools enable students to embark on cultural-immersion experiences across Canada and internationally, including Iceland, Japan, Colombia, Denmark and the Czech Republic.

SUPPORTING INNOVATION

A portion of the gift will support the Peter N. Thomson Family Innovation Fund, which will allow the Faculty to think big. The fund will be highly responsive and will help initiate large-scale,

signature projects through which students and faculty can push ideas beyond the classroom and studio into the cultural landscape of Montreal, Canada and the world.

“A very important aspect of this gift is that it gives us autonomy, mobility and responsiveness,” said Rebecca Duclos, dean of Concordia’s Faculty of Fine Arts. “Support from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust offers a clear signal that what is happening in Fine Arts right now matters enormously to people both inside and outside our university.”

The funds will have an immediate impact on graduate scholarships awarded this spring and students embarking on field schools throughout the summer.

PETER N. THOMSON: CORPORATE MOGUL AND LIFELONG ARTS DEVOTEE

Who is our new \$5.6-million donor? Follow his journey as a philanthropist

In the late 1950s, Peter N. Thomson inherited the original Power Corporation of Canada.

The Montreal-based diversified international management and holding company was started by his father; the son became president and chairman of the company in 1962.

Thomson remained at the helm of Power Corporation of Canada until it was sold in 1968. He remained involved in Montreal's business community as an investor and director in various companies. Throughout his life, he sat on more than 80 corporate boards, including the Royal Bank of Canada and Caribbean Utilities.

Thomson moved to the Bahamas in 1977 with his wife Linda Grace Thomson, and spent most of his remaining years there, though he often returned to Montreal.

His love of the arts and desire to support artists came through first-hand experiences. Having siblings involved in the arts, he



PETER N. THOMSON

empathized with their struggles to maintain a living.

"I think Peter would have taken great pride and joy knowing that we now have a home for the ideas he had," said his stepdaughter, Leslie Raenden.

Before his death in 2011, he formalized his wishes to leave a significant portion of his wealth to support deserving students, emerging artists and entrepreneurs.

Through the \$5.6-million gift from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust, he will enable the next generation of students, artists and researchers. ■

"This gift from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust is an extraordinary gesture," Concordia President Alan Shepard said. "We are deeply grateful to the family trust for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students and to create amazing and wonderful artistic experiences for our community."

Toward the end of his life, Peter N. Thomson began to establish a planned gift with his four children: he wanted a substantial portion of his wealth to be donated to artists, students and emerging entrepreneurs. He gifted each of his children the honour of making recommendations to the trustees, so that his donation wishes could be fulfilled.

Raenden took time to interpret what she thought her stepfather wanted. The two shared a common love of the arts and the top institution that came to mind was Concordia.

"I think that Peter would have taken great pride and joy knowing that we now have a home for his ideas," Raenden

said. "Concordia felt like a good place to connect what he wanted. How better can you promote and help an artist other than through a place like Concordia?"

Her connection to the university came by way of a colleague, Peter Kruyt, BComm '78, senior advisor to Power Corporation of Canada and former chair of Concordia's Board of Governors. Kruyt introduced Raenden to Duclos and Shepard.

Raenden found synergy between her stepfather's objectives and the Faculty of Fine Arts. "I knew the gift would be in good hands and that there was a custodianship that would be trusted at Concordia," Raenden said.

Raenden hopes Thomson's legacy will continue to inspire the next generation.

"To see that this generosity can have a lasting and lingering effect, I hope students will remember that they benefited from this gift and one day themselves give back," she said.



REBECCA DUCLOS (LEFT), DEAN OF CONCORDIA'S FACULTY OF FINE ARTS, AND LESLIE RAENDEN OF THE PETER N. THOMSON FAMILY TRUST.

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'The world is a big place and we need opportunities for students across the spectrum'

14 Concordia leaders, department chairs and friends reflect on Peter N. Thomson's \$5.6-million donation to the Faculty of Fine Arts

Alan Shepard
Concordia President

"Like all universities, we need the kind of private philanthropic support the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust offers us to do our very best. The world is a big place and we need opportunities for students across the spectrum to explore the depths of the human experience through artistic discovery in the classroom, in the studio and in the field. And all of that comes together in the Faculty of Fine Arts."



Rebecca Duclos
Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

"Being next generation has been the lifeblood of what it means to be an artistic practitioner for hundreds of years. What's exciting about this gift is that it will allow our students to really free themselves to become the best creative practitioners they can without being held back by concerns around funding or their ability to move freely in the world and to activate that world in the way they want to."



Daniel Cross, BFA 91, MFA 98
Associate professor and former chair, Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema

"Donor support is extremely important because it clarifies to the community and to students that what the students are doing is important and that they are the best at what they do. That kind of empowerment creates self-esteem. Self-expression builds self-esteem — these are the things that create great art, great work, great community and great citizenry."



Johanne Sloan, BFA 83
Chair, Department of Art History

"This gift is really a wonderful opportunity for many of us to collaborate in new kinds of ways. I think the range of projects that is enabled through this gift, in the form of experiential learning — which is to say field schools — as well as funding for graduate students, will create opportunities for forging links with specific communities, here in Montreal as well as further afield."



Juan Carlos Castro
Chair, Department of Art Education

"It's essential that philanthropy play a significant role in supporting public knowledge production and support, especially of the arts. Art-making and art education have a long history of benefactors. It's important that this history is kept alive and continues supporting creative knowledge production, which is necessary to enrich the broader cultural landscape."



Mark Corwin
Chair, Department of Music

"Getting a gift of this nature is really quite an important step, mainly in the recognition from outside of the academic field. The Faculty of Fine Arts is Canada's biggest; it's unique because it has virtually all of the visual and performing arts in one place, and few other institutions do this — certainly none in Quebec."



Silvy Panet-Raymond
Chair, Department of Contemporary Dance

"The long-term benefits of this kind of support allow for incubation. When you start to incubate, when you start to have peer-to-peer support and peer-to-peer learning, you're developing the next generation."



Ursula Neuerburg-Denzer

Chair, Department of Theatre

“This kind of gift allows us to think bigger, give more opportunities to our students and plan over a much longer term. Gifts like this make us feel pride and open up a lot of opportunities for everybody involved in the fine arts and that primarily means our students, through whom we receive the reputation we have. We hope students will be encouraged to do more work that pushes the discipline further, which in turn opens up new venues for our Faculty.”



Guyline Vaillancourt

Chair, Department of Creative Arts Therapies

“This gift is a great opportunity for our students, allowing us to offer more services to the population and the people we’re serving in different settings, and certainly to bring the best candidates into our program. We are the only creative arts therapy graduate program in Canada, so we get students from all over North America as well as from Europe, South America and Asia. This momentum will certainly be very attractive for students.”



pk langshaw

Chair, Department of Design and Computation Arts

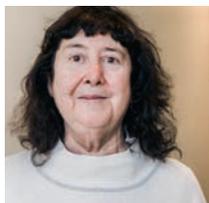
“I think increasingly we’re finding that finances are always a difficult area for our students coming in to graduate studies. Some of them have to work as well as take full-time studies and do their research on top of that. Having any kind of possibility of financial awards is really, really important to all our students. This gift sets a standard for future donors and is a recruitment tool to bring our best students in.”



Leila Sujir

Chair, Department of Studio Arts

“It is very exciting to see a donor be interested in our Faculty and interested in the long term. The visual arts and the fine arts aren’t always the first thought of donors, yet we are thrilled that they are thinking of that. I really appreciate a donor thinking of a school as an investment opportunity, because by investing, they’re contributing to the culture. With that, over time, there will be artistic discovery, artistic achievement and artistic innovation.”



Daniel Lalonde

Portfolio manager; senior vice-president, National Bank Financial

“Peter was like a second father to me. I’m so happy to see part of his legacy remain here in Montreal, his hometown, at a deserving university with a Faculty that he would have been proud of. To know that one day students and artists would benefit and thrive from his generosity — I think he would have truly appreciated this.”



Peter Kruyt, BComm 78

Senior advisor, Power Corporation of Canada; former chair, Concordia Board of Governors

“Peter N. Thomson came from a very successful and important family in Montreal — one that was generous and thoughtful to the citizens of this city. This gift is very much in the direction that Peter would have wanted, so I think it’s a perfect and wonderful idea and execution. What’s exciting about this gift is that it’s preparing new ground for the next generation.”



John Rae

Retired executive, Power Corporation of Canada

“This gift speaks volumes to the person Peter was — discreet and very generous. The arts are an extremely important and vital part of our society and we need to help a new generation of artists discover their craft and be able to communicate their talent to as many people as possible. We sometimes forget how important the arts are to keeping our society together and to expressing its values.” ■



Watch the video!
bit.ly/thomson-gift

The arts paint a vital part of any healthy society and require stronger support

BY LESLIE RAENDEN

Modern societies think nothing of devoting considerable resources to training people for jobs in today's tech-driven, knowledge economy. Generally, no one quibbles. Jobs are important. Progress is important. Being competitive in a global environment is important.

Yet what about training artists, or graphic designers, or musicians? Where is the value in those practices measured? Societies more focused on software might not always consider the importance of the arts. In truth, healthy societies need both. And universities are the ideal places to provide this kind of training and development.

Universities are sometimes considered remote institutions. Civic leaders, including Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante, have championed universities to interact to a greater degree with their local communities.

There is no better way for universities to engage with the populations that surround them than through the arts — a universal, easily shared forum for the exchange of ideas, enjoyment and feelings of community and togetherness.

In our current climate of sharp divisiveness and conflict from one issue to



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

LESLIE RAENDEN: "CONCORDIA WILL ENJOY A HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF CREATIVITY."

"There is no better way for universities to engage with the populations that surround them than through the arts."

another, we can use all the togetherness we can muster.

Canada Council CEO Simon Brault has said: "The arts remain one of the very rare human activities that could bring a sense of conciliation, inclusion and justice."

ECONOMIC IMPACT

And how important are the arts economically? Indicators from 2014, consistent with those from 2010, give us the answer. Statistics Canada estimates the direct economic effect of culture industries was \$61.7 billion in Canada in 2014, or 3.3 per cent of the country's

gross domestic product.

In 2014, some 700,100 Canadian jobs were directly related to culture industries — 3.9 per cent of our 18.1 million jobs, according to a report from Hill Strategies.

As has been made clear here and abroad, the arts world cannot always rely on government for the kind of funding that will keep it vibrant, fresh and relevant. A 2012 report by the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts, for example, indicates that, in U.S. dollars, Canada spent \$5.19 per capita on the arts, compared with \$19.81 in Germany, \$13.54 in England and \$8.16 in Australia.

So the arts in general, and fine arts in particular, need patrons who provide strong philanthropic support, who are prepared to trust whatever product emerges, to take chances and to understand that not everyone will agree on the value of a particular work of art or performance.

While more government funding is always welcome and worthy, it is vital for potential philanthropists to consider the importance of the arts in our society.

What will come from the \$5.6-million gift to the Faculty of Fine Arts from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust? Greater connectivity between the university and the community, as the shared cultural experience is broadened and enhanced.

A heightened level of creativity and an opportunity to pursue projects to completion. A greater richness in the wide variety of cultural offerings provided by Canada's largest fine arts faculty.

And — ultimately — a greater security for the arts in general. As Brault noted: "I think that the more [the arts] are embedded in day-to-day life, the more protected they are."

Canada's universities play a crucial role in cementing the arts in our everyday lives. That is definitely something to be celebrated. And supported. ■



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Claudia Dubois, forward,
women's hockey



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James Tyrrell
receiver, football



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Concordia receives largest donation in its history: \$30-million planned gift to support students

Contribution adds momentum to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

SYLVAIN-JACQUES
DESJARDINS, BA 97

The vision and generosity of an anonymous donor is marking Concordia's history with a remarkable bequest of \$30 million, the largest gift ever to the university in support of students.

The donor has made a planned gift to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

"We are deeply grateful that our donor has chosen Concordia as the steward of this historic and transformative gift," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "This bequest is an extraordinary act of generosity that will benefit generations of future students

and will give our university added momentum."

You can view a video that summarizes the effect of this gift at youtu.be/K6Vd8Rzuygg.

Concordia is beneficiary of an increasing number of planned gifts, which provide donors with creative and flexible strategies to achieve their financial, philanthropic and estate-planning goals.

Bequests allow Concordia alumni, faculty, staff and friends to create long-lasting legacies that benefit society, advance research and support the next generation of students.

Planned gifts also permit tax advantages for donors and their heirs.

"Since its founding,

Concordia has benefited from the trust of visionary donors whose planned gifts have helped shape the university and its people," says Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, University Advancement. "We are incredibly honoured to be custodians of this remarkable gift."

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: NEXT-GEN. NOW

As the largest appeal in the institution's history, the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now is raising \$250 million to support the university's ambition to rethink higher-education teaching and research.

Launched November 1, 2017, the Campaign for Concordia will support the university's nine strategic directions. According to rankings by the Times Higher Education, Concordia is among the top two per cent in the world and is Number 2 in North America for universities less than 50 years old.

The Campaign for Concordia will support research and teaching that benefit the university's 50,000 students, 7,000 faculty and staff and more than 215,000 alumni.

Learn more at concordia.ca/campaign. #CUpride ■



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Lino A. Saputo Jr., BA 89, captures Person of the Year award

JMSB and Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton celebrate Quebec business leaders and promising accounting undergrads

YURI MYTKO

Lino A. Saputo Jr., BA 89, chairman of the board and CEO of Saputo Inc. and co-chair of the university's \$250-million Campaign for Concordia: Next Gen. Now, took home the top prize at the inaugural Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton – John Molson School of Business Person of the Year Awards gala on May 9.

Saputo was chosen as the 2019 Person of the Year. The annual award will celebrate leaders who, through their vision and leadership, have brought their organizations to a higher level.

More than 500 guests, including prominent members of the business community, gathered at the event at Montreal's Windsor Station to honour Quebec's corporate leaders. Local radio personalities Gregory Charles and Rebecca Makonnen hosted the evening.

"We are tremendously proud of this successful first



MATHEU DESHAIVES PHOTOGRAPHE

CO-CHAIR OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: NEXT GEN. NOW, LINO A. SAPUTO JR., WON THE TOP PRIZE AT THE INAUGURAL PERSON OF THE YEAR GALA.

edition," says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School of Business (JMSB).

"These awards are unique in that they help foster a better connection with the business community while inspiring the next generation of business leaders studying at JMSB to achieve their greatest potential."

Launched in September 2018, the awards are a joint initiative of JMSB and the Canadian accounting firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT).

Designed to bring academia and industry together, they celebrate business people across the province who dare to do things differently and contribute to the development of Quebec.

The winners of the other three categories are:

- Eclipse – A leader in transforming a market or creating a new one: **Dominic Gagnon**, co-founder of Connect & Go
- Glocal – A leader who has created local jobs and contributed to the advancement of a Quebec-based company at the international level: **Patrice Marin**, co-founder of district m
- Instinct – A person responsible for an innovative and complex transaction that ensures the development and growth of a local leading-edge business: **Marie-Claude Boisvert**, partner at Clearspring Capital Partners.

The members of the selection committee also chose to grant an honourable mention to Nathalie Lehoux, president of

Pacini restaurants. The committee wished to recognize the fact that Lehoux is redefining what it means to be a leader.

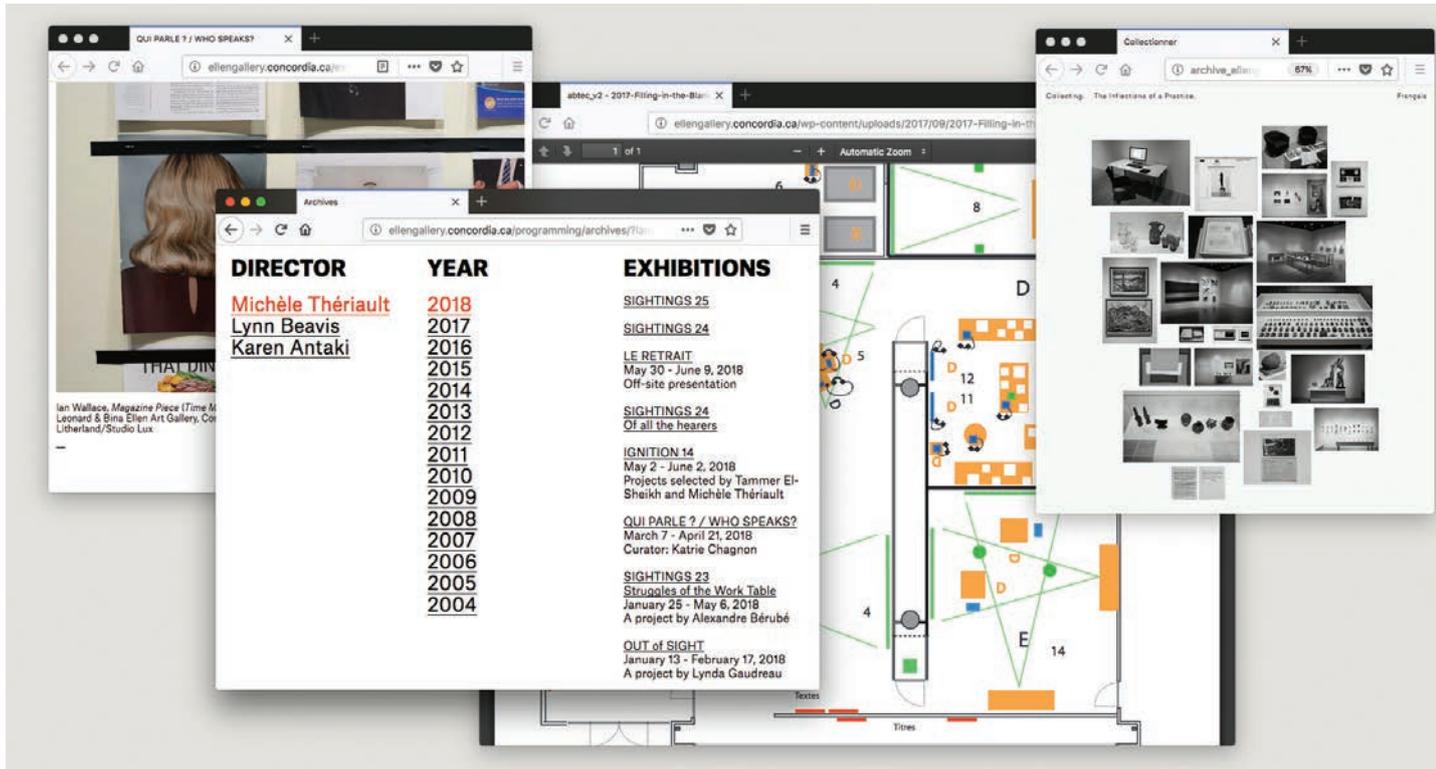
JMSB ACCOUNTING UNDERGRADS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

The gala, an evening dedicated to the celebration of excellence, also highlighted four outstanding JMSB undergraduate accounting students. Victoria Cardillo, Alex Tzotzis, Karine Wong and Wenjing Zhou were each awarded a \$5,000 scholarship funded by RCGT.

The scholarship recipients will participate in an "immersion in innovation" project, chaired by RCGT experts from Catallaxy, a subsidiary of the firm dedicated to blockchain technology, and Operio, another subsidiary specializing in cloud accounting.

"We must continue to educate young entrepreneurs and teach them how business plays a vital role not just in the economy but in society at large," says Emilio B. Imbriglio, BComm 81, GrDip 82, RCGT president and CEO.

"We must carry on recognizing the talent of those who make Quebec shine in business. Congratulations to the finalists, the award winners and the young scholars." Other finalists for the Person of the Year Award were Greg Rokos, BComm 82, president and CEO of ESI Technologies, and Parsa Famili, BSc 91, MSc 93, president and CEO of Novatek International. ■



LEONARD & BINA ELLEN ART GALLERY

\$100,200 GIFT FROM REESA GREENBERG LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL RESIDENCY PROJECT AT CONCORDIA'S LEONARD & BINA ELLEN GALLERY

Venture pairs technology and art history students on digital experiment

MAEVE HALDANE, BFA 91

A gallery's reach extends mostly to its physical visitors, yet a digital platform can reach the world. In the spirit of artistic and critical expansion, a new residency program will be introduced in Fall 2019 at Concordia's Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery on the Sir George Williams Campus.

Thanks to a \$100,200 gift toward the university's Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, Reesa Greenberg is helping to launch the Expanding Exhibitions Residency at the gallery.

Valued at \$15,000 per resident, the four-month venture will bring together two graduating students — one each from the departments of Art History, and of Design and Computation Arts — to create a web-based project working from the Ellen

Gallery's exhibition archive. The program will fund two student residents per year for three years.

"Faculty of Fine Arts Dean Rebecca Duclos's understanding of the digital era in which we live, coupled with gallery director Michèle Thériault's proven ability to embrace new exhibition challenges, gives me confidence that Concordia is the right institution for the Expanding Exhibitions Residency experiment," says Greenberg, an art historian and

former Concordia professor.

"We're grateful for Reesa Greenberg's generous gift, which is developing a new way to build upon the gallery's existing knowledge as well as create new models for disseminating it," Thériault says. "Residents will sift through the archives to choose a past exhibition — mining it and examining it through a discursive and digital light that will end up on our website."

Greenberg is a widely respected academic and her co-edited 1996 *Thinking About Exhibitions* remains a classic. The book is based on seminars Greenberg taught at Concordia, and compiles essays by curators, artists and critics that explore the different ways art is brought to the public.

"It is not so much about offering a better understanding of an exhibition, it is more about investigating it in a myriad of ways."

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS THROUGH DIGITAL TOOLS

Greenberg believes the support Concordia gave her was key to her success, and she lauds the university's commitment to innovation.

"A digital platform is using another structure and system to process and convey information. It allows for cross connections and accessibility in very different ways than in real space. It is not so much about offering a better understanding of an exhibition, it is more about mining it or investigating it in a myriad of ways," Thériault says.

She explains that digital approaches create new ways of reflecting on the issues and structures that are raised by an exhibition, or they can pointedly look at what was not addressed by an exhibition, using it as a jumping off point for an even more expansive and critical discussion available to anyone with internet access.

Greenberg laments that small art galleries often lack

the resources to experiment with digital projects. Since art history students rarely work in the digital medium, they are often unable to build up digital proficiency. Similarly, computation arts students don't usually work on art or exhibition projects.

The residency will bring together young scholars from these two disciplines, giving them a chance to hone their skills. Art historians will be able to confidently include digital methods in their future projects, and computational arts graduates could apply for jobs in museums and galleries.

Greenberg's own work has looked at national, gendered and ethnic identities in art exhibitions as well as contemporary art and war. Besides her 29 years at Concordia, she has taught at Carleton University, California College of the Arts in San Francisco and Moscow State University for the Humanities. She sat on Concordia's Board of Governors from 1985 to 1988.

"Reesa Greenberg has made numerous contributions to Concordia over the years, as well as to the arts in general in Canada," Paul Chesser, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement, says. "We are so grateful for her continued support of our students, our gallery and our art programs, as well as with the innovative approaches she brings to increasing the public's ability to develop a wider interest in and understanding of art." ■

For more information, please visit ellengallery.concordia.ca

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Concordians celebrate philanthropy

'Your generosity propels us to reach new heights we never imagined possible'

More than 300 guests attended the 2019 Donor and Student Awards Celebration event on March 28 at the Omni Mont-Royal Hotel.

Jamie Orchard, BA 91, senior anchor and assistant news director at Global Montreal, was the emcee for the event.

Student and alumni speakers took to the stage to share their Concordia pride and discuss the importance of philanthropy.

"To each of the donors in the room, you lift a weight off our shoulders and allow us to focus on being the best that we can be in whatever we do," said Katherine Purchase, a student at the John Molson School of Business and co-captain and goaltender of the Stingers women's hockey team. She received several scholarships during her Concordia years. "Your generosity propels us to reach new heights we never imagined possible."

"Concordia is a place where as a student you can experiment, you can



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

FROM LEFT: PAUL CHESSE, BA 94, GRDIP 97, VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT; DAVID MARINO, STUDENT, DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, MODERN LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS; JAMIE ORCHARD, BA 91, SENIOR ANCHOR/ASSISTANT NEWS DIRECTOR, GLOBAL MONTREAL; WILLIAM GAGNON, BEng 17, GREEN BUILDINGS ECOLOGY SPECIALIST, ECOLOGY NORTH; KATHERINE PURCHASE, STUDENT, JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, CO-CAPTAIN AND GOALTENDER, STINGERS WOMEN'S HOCKEY; STÉPHANIE JASMIN, BFA 99, CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, UBU THEATRE COMPANY, WINNER OF THE 2018 SIMINOVITCH PRIZE; CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD.

shape your identity and make connections – in one of the most exciting and progressive cities in the country. I'm a proud alumnus," said William Gagnon, BEng 17, who works as a green buildings ecology specialist at Ecology North in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

The 2018 winner of the prestigious \$100,000 Siminovitch Prize, Canada's top theatre award, Stéphanie Jasmin, BFA 99, is co-artistic director of the UBU theatre company. She was encouraged by awards received throughout her academic career, including at Concordia.



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CHRISTINE REGIMBAL, BCOMM 90, GRDIP 93, PARTNER AT RAYMOND CHABOT GRANT THORNTON (RCGT) WITH THE WINNERS OF THREE RCGT SCHOLARSHIPS.



CONCORDIA'S MICHELLE MIATELLO WITH DONOR AARON FISH, LLD 16.



DONOR MIRIAM ROLAND, LLD 18, WITH TWO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.



THREE STUDENT RECIPIENTS OF SHUFFLE SCHOLARSHIPS.



DONORS RONALD AND BARBARA KAY WITH STINGERS WOMEN'S HOCKEY HEAD COACH JULIE CHU (CENTRE).

“Learning to become an artist requires a subtle mix of life experience, knowledge and know-how... It’s during my years at Concordia – which were fundamental for me – that I truly learned to develop a singular artistic language of my own,” said Jasmin.

Concordia President Alan Shepard and Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, Advancement, thanked the donor community for helping the university surpass the halfway mark toward its \$250-million goal in the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

The audience was treated to a performance by crooner David Marino, a student in the Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics and a finalist on *La Voix*, the TVA television network’s singing competition. The event was hosted by University Advancement and the Financial Aid and Awards Office.

Watch the evening’s highlights and inspiring speeches on YouTube: bit.ly/alumni-playlist. ■

– Louise Morgan, GrDip 99



FROM LEFT: CONCORDIA'S ANTHONY BAKERDJIAN; INESSA SCICCHITANO, BA 93; MARIA COLUBRIALE; JAMIE ORCHARD, BA 91; ANTONIO COLUBRIALE, BCOMM 92, EMBA 02.

\$250,000 gift to support Concordia business students

Donation from Greg Rokos, BComm 82, will support annual bursaries and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students at John Molson School of Business

JOSEPH LEGER, BA 15

Greg Rokos, BComm 82, was 12 years old when his family left Greece to immigrate to Canada to seek a better life. His parents had only a few hundred dollars when they arrived in Montreal in 1970, yet they made the move because they wanted their children to have access to the best education.

Nearly 50 years later, Rokos is helping the next generation of business students have the same opportunities. On March 12, 2019, Rokos announced his \$250,000 donation to support seven annual undergraduate and graduate bursaries and scholarships at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB).

"I've always believed that you have to give to receive," says Rokos, co-founder, president and CEO of the Montreal-based data management and security company, ESI Technologies. "I received the gift of education when my parents brought me to Canada and now I want to give back. I want to support institutions and causes that are dear to my heart and Concordia and JMSB are right at the top."

"As a student, I was fortunate to have the support of

my parents," he adds. "I want to help students who have a lot of potential, who want to learn and better their lives, but who don't necessarily have the same support network I did."

Concordia president Alan Shepard says the Greg Rokos bursaries and scholarships will help attract the best students to JMSB.



GREG ROKOS IS THE CO-FOUNDER, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE MONTREAL-BASED DATA MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY COMPANY, ESI TECHNOLOGIES.

"Financial support is an important way to attract students," says Shepard. "We are competing with universities across Canada and the world for the best and brightest students. This gift from Greg Rokos will help us achieve our goals, while supporting our ambitious Campaign for Concordia. Next-Gen. Now.

We are deeply grateful for his generosity."

Rokos has spent more than 30 years as a business executive and he was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Quebec in 2015. With his wealth of experience, Rokos has a long history of giving back by volunteering his time and sharing his expertise.

He is the current chair of the JMSB Advisory Board — a group of business leaders and experts who help shape the JMSB's strategic directions. Since 2005, Rokos has been an active member and served as chair of the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. As an avid golfer, he has supported the Concordia Golf Classic for more than a decade.

emblematic of our incredible community. We take great pride having him as one of our graduates."

Rokos believes giving to higher education and supporting students is a way of building a stronger future.

"My gift is for the next stars and our future leaders," he says. "How we help the next generation build, create and innovate is critically important for the continued well-being of our society. My hope with these awards is that every one of the recipients will go on to achieve impressive levels of success and be able to give back."

"This award has helped me at a vital point of my graduate studies," says Sophia Chiovitti, BA 17, current master's student at

"Greg embodies the spirit of Concordia and his story is one shared by many of our grads," says Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, dean of JMSB. "He came from humble beginnings and used his Concordia education to achieve success. By choosing to give back and help others achieve success, Greg is

Concordia and the recipient of a 2018 Greg Rokos MSc Scholarship. "There are times where I asked myself 'Am I doing the right thing? Is this worth it?' and this award and recognition is a reminder that yes, I am doing the right thing." ■

CONCORDIA RECEIVES \$10M TO DEVELOP TOOLS, STRATEGIES FOR ZERO-CARBON COMMUNITIES

Ursula Eicker, a global leader in green urban energy systems, has been named the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities at Concordia.

The appointment comes with a seven-year, \$10-million grant that will allow Eicker to develop and lead an ambitious research program to establish pathways toward new tools, technologies and strategies for zero-carbon municipalities.

She will also be awarded \$425,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation’s John R. Evans Leaders Fund, plus matching funds from Quebec’s Ministry of Economy and Innovation

and Concordia. The funds will be used to develop an energy-management, modeling and visualization platform at the university.

Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, is thrilled to see Eicker join

the university’s faculty ranks.

“Over the past several years, the university has established itself as a leader in reimagining and reinventing communities and cities, and the appointment of this chair will further strengthen our expertise in this domain.”



COURTESY: URSULA EICKER

URSULA EICKER

The German physicist has held leadership positions at the Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences and its Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies. She has led international research projects in the fields of energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable energy supply systems.

“Being given this role is a great honour and brings a whole new dimension of possibility in terms of pursuing successful international activities in the area of smart and sustainable cities research,” says Eicker, who takes up her position at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science in June. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

CONCORDIA BEATS ITS CENTRAIDE GOAL

The 2018 Concordia Centraide Campaign, which ran from October 22 to December 10, surpassed its goal and raised more than \$162,000.

Centraide of Greater Montreal announced on February 18 that its 2018 annual campaign raised \$57.5 million. The

funds support 500,000 Montrealers and 350 local agencies and projects.

“The success of this year’s Centraide campaign once again shows how invested Montrealers are in the welfare of the entire community,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard.

“And as we saw from the results of our own campaign, members of the Concordia community, too, embody our direction to embrace the city, embrace the world.”

“We are very proud of the way so many faculty, students and staff stepped up to lend their support to the campaign,” says Nadia Bhuiyan, Beng (industrial) 95, vice-provost of Partnerships and Experiential Learning and campaign co-chair. “They did so through financial contributions as well as by volunteering in a variety of other ways.”

“We’re already thinking of the 2019 campaign – we’ve set the bar high but I have

no doubt that we’ll again hit and surpass our goal,” adds Philippe Beaugard, chief communications officer and the other campaign co-chair. “We’re already looking forward to kicking off the campaign in the fall and gathering another excellent team of volunteers.”

Centraide announced that former Concordia chancellor L. Jacques Ménard, BComm 67, LLD 06, president emeritus of BMO Financial Group, Quebec, received the Michèle Thibodeau-DeGuire Award for his exceptional contribution to the development of Centraide of Greater Montreal. ■

—Howard Bokser, MBA 85



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Experiential learning is a huge part of Next-Gen education

Vice-provost Nadia Bhuiyan pushes Concordia to the forefront in an expanding field

MEAGAN BOISSE, BA 17

Nadia Bhuiyan, BEng (industrial) 95, is Concordia's vice-provost of Partnerships and Experiential Learning.

She's got more than 17 years' experience shaping experiential learning (EL) opportunities for students – as a professor in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering and other senior roles. Nadia Bhuiyan has committed her career to helping Concordia students, and, more recently, professors, move outside the classroom.

We sat down to discuss what's next in EL, partnerships and advancements at Concordia.

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What's the most vital element in expanding EL opportunities?

Nadia Bhuiyan: Concordia's vision is to be a leading institution that offers students a next-generation experience. This includes creating new pathways for students to develop the competencies and knowledge needed to be the skilled workers, engaged citizens and thought leaders of tomorrow. Allowing our students to put their

knowledge into practice while they are studying can really have a huge impact on their learning experience, not only in terms of the technical skills they learn, but also the 'soft' skills.

A key element in expanding EL opportunities is developing meaningful partnerships with external organizations (whether it's industry, community, governments, or agencies) to create hands-on learning activities for our students.

Tell me about Concordia's recent collaboration with Riipen.

NB: Riipen (riipen.com) is an innovative EL platform that lets students, educators and organizations connect through projects. Riipen helps professors match an in-course project or assignment with an industry partner. Students then get the chance to work on real-world projects with an organization over the course of the term. We decided to work with them this past fall to scale up on micro-experiential learning opportunities.

The feedback I've heard from the first user of Riipen was that the experience was beneficial and her students said they wished they could have such assignments in every course. Moreover, the organizational partner loved the recommendations students came up with for them – so it was a win-win-win.

“A key element in expanding EL opportunities is developing meaningful partnerships with external organizations to create hands-on learning activities for students.”

What did the first user's experience entail?

Danielle Morin, a professor in Supply Chain and Business Technology Management at the John Molson School of Business, was the first to use Riipen for her MBA course. She partnered with the Toronto Police Service to create a project for her students that involved their developing and designing metrics for the services' Business Intelligence & Analytics Unit. It was a success, and she's currently using Riipen again this semester and has now teamed up with the District of Mission in British Columbia.

What are your hopes for the future of the Riipen partnership?

I'm hoping more professors will pilot an assignment in their classes. Since we established the partnership, we've been reaching out to faculty and staff, and holding workshops, webinars and information sessions. Riipen recently created a French version of its platform to reach more French employers, so I hope we can help generate more interest from organizations in Montreal and Quebec.

Concordia recently created a new Experiential Learning Office; what does this signify?

That Concordia is clearly committed to growing EL. My position was created in response to a need thousands of students expressed through a survey, in which EL ranked number one in terms of what they perceived as being most important for their futures. We're investing in partnerships and programs to offer students sustainable opportunities, and the new Experiential Learning Office will provide the necessary support to achieve this.

The office will provide support and coordination for EL activities across the university to assist students, faculty, staff and partner organizations. The EL road map is an example of a new tool that we developed for students. It allows them to search for different types of EL opportunities that are available to them, and to create a road map or a wishlist of EL activities that they would potentially undertake during the course of their program.

“Concordia is a model of experiential learning in higher education: it offers a wide diversity of meaningful experiences through which learning takes place, both within and beyond the classroom.”

The Co-op program grew by 24 per cent in the last year. What does this growth mean and what are your aspirations for the future?

It shows how important work-integrated learning (WIL) has become, not only for employers, but for the government as well, and this has been made clear through the generous funding that has been set aside for WIL; tens of thousands of new internships are being funded.

I believe Concordia is a model of EL in higher education: it offers a wide diversity of meaningful experiences through which learning takes place, both within and beyond the classroom – and by graduating students who then succeed on personal and professional levels. Our goal is for each student to graduate having had at least one meaningful EL activity in his or her field of study. ■



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Helping students discover their world

“Without Concordia, I would not have been able to achieve what I did — or become what I am today.

When I was a teenager, my father sold his button-making factory in Holland and our family emigrated to Canada in 1958. After finishing high school, I had to find a job immediately to contribute to the family finances. I certainly never expected to go to university — nobody in our family ever had.

I was always interested in studying languages. By chance, in 1963, I ended up taking Spanish and then other courses at Sir George Williams University [one of Concordia's founding institutions]. At the time, no other university offered evening courses, my only opportunity to take courses for credit toward a degree.

After graduating with my BA in 1968, I got married, had children, and took my MA at McGill — all the while teaching Spanish part-time at Sir George.

Once the children left home, I finally took a PhD at Université de Montréal, which led to a tenure-track position at Concordia in the early '90s. I moved through several administrative positions, including chair of what is now the Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics, and retired at the end of 2015, after more than 50 years at Concordia.

My life has been incredibly enriched by my studies and teaching, made possible by my beginning at Sir George Williams. There was never any question about my donating to Concordia University. It was important to recognize my own debt — and the best way of doing that was to help other students take courses, finish their degrees, and discover their world!”

Catherine Vanderplaats Vallejo, BA 68, distinguished professor emeritus, Concordia Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics, established the Catharina Vanderplaats Vallejo Scholarship in Hispanic Studies.

Find out how you can join Catherine Vanderplaats Vallejo in giving to Concordia.

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WHY ALCOHOLICS RELAPSE: RESEARCH

Treating alcohol addiction is no easy feat. While physical withdrawal symptoms can abate within days or weeks, up to 90 per cent of alcoholics are expected to relapse within four years of treatment.

Nadia Chaudhri, an associate professor of psychology in the Faculty of Arts and Science, wants to figure out what triggers the relapses.

In a paper published in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, Chaudhri and her team described two new models they created to better understand relapse in alcohol-seeking rats. This project was spearheaded by Concordia graduate student Mandy LeCocq.

The researchers used auditory signals to create a Pavlovian cue-elicited craving for alcohol. For about three weeks, the rats were trained using 10-second bursts of white noise followed by a drop of

alcohol into a fluid port in their cages.

“Over time, the rats come to learn that the white noise is a cue that predicts the delivery of alcohol,” said Chaudhri, a recipient of a Chercheur-boursier award from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé.

“As soon as the cue comes on, they enter the fluid port and wait for the alcohol to be presented to them. We can measure this conditioning over time and then we can see what factors influence that behaviour.”

With the rats now seeking alcohol in response to the cue, the researchers developed two models of relapse. Both involved first extinguishing the association between the cue and the alcohol.

In the Spontaneous Recovery Paradigm, three weeks after extinction has ended researchers presented the cue again.

“We found that the rats reacted very strongly,” Chaudhri added. “It’s as if they



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NADIA CHAUDHRI

remembered that the cue was a signal for alcohol delivery.”

This result suggests reactions to cues that predict alcohol never really go away. “Treatment can help to initially dampen reaction cues that predict alcohol,” Chaudhri says. “But then sometime after treatment is over, watching a vodka commercial on TV might once again trigger a craving for alcohol.”

In the second model, after the rats were no longer responding to the cue, they were reintroduced to alcohol. The next day,

their response to the cue by itself was tested. Rats once again reacted to the cue as though it was a signal for alcohol. This process, called reinstatement, leads to a complete return to responding to the trigger: after a taste of alcohol, the animal immediately reacted to cues for alcohol they had previously ignored.

Chaudhri hopes her models help researchers understand the psychological and neural processes that drive relapse, and how alcoholics can avoid relapse. ■

—Patrick Lejtenyi, *GrDip 99*

PROBING THE LINK BETWEEN SLEEP AND MEMORY

What role does sleep play in middle-aged and older adults’ memory function? That’s one of the topics researchers Thanh Dang-Vu and Melodee Mograss are investigating at Concordia’s Sleep Lab.

“We know that when we age our cognition and memory change, and some people are more susceptible to develop problems of memory with age,” says Dang-Vu, a neurologist and associate professor in

the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology.

“We think sleep plays an important role in memory function, but what’s going to be investigated is to what extent sleep contributes to memory decline with aging.”

Dang-Vu, also the Concordia Research Chair in Sleep, Neuroimaging and Cognitive Health and a member of the Centre for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology and the

PERFORM Centre, says he and his team are hoping to learn if there are sleep activity signatures that could help illuminate the connection between sleep and memory.

Mograss, a cognitive neuropsychologist who coordinates research activities at the Sleep Lab, is also investigating the benefits of sleep on cognitive functions. She is particularly interested in the combined effects of sleep and exercise on memory.

She is currently completing a study evaluating whether an acute physical exercise and a nap have synergistic benefits on memory functions in a group of young healthy participants.

Dang-Vu is also investigating insomnia in middle-aged and older adults, in collaboration with Jean-Philippe Gouin, associate professor and Canada Research Chair in the Department of Psychology. ■

—Kelsey Rolfe

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

Lucinda Chodan
Editor-in-Chief, Montreal Gazette

"YOU HAVE TO EARN
TRUST AND RESPECT...
I ALWAYS FEEL IF
YOU GET THAT RIGHT,
EVERYTHING ELSE SORT
OF FALLS INTO PLACE."



President takes his leave with Concordia on the rise

“I feel passionate about Concordia and I’m thrilled to have been its leader:” Alan Shepard

DOUG SWEET

Ask departing Concordia President Alan Shepard whether it’s tough to leave when things are going well and his answer might surprise you.

He feels he has done what he set out to do. He can leave with a feeling of comfort and satisfaction rather than regret and a sense of things left undone.

Enrolment is up substantially since Shepard began his tenure in 2012.

Funding for sponsored research is also up sharply over the same period, as is annual fundraising, with the university in the midst of a major campaign.

Things are clearly well-steered.

“I feel in some ways like I’ve done what I was meant to do at Concordia,” Shepard says. “I don’t mean that in some kind of grand cosmic sense,

it’s just that I’m somebody who likes to build systems, give people opportunities, get people excited about ideas and get them to believe in themselves.

“There’s something very satisfying – for me intellectually, professionally and personally – to say, ‘Wow! The team has done these amazing things!’ Because it’s not just me, it’s the team. For me, the excitement is plotting where you’re going, how you’re going to get there, and who’s going to be with you, and all of that.

“So I feel like when we’re at cruising altitude it’s time for me to look for a new challenge – it’s just who I am.”

That doesn’t mean Shepard, 57, who is leaving Concordia in June to take up the reins as president at Western University in London, Ont., doesn’t care about the place. And deeply.

“I feel passionate about Concordia and I’m thrilled to have been its leader,” Shepard says. “I am constantly intrigued by the tension in its mission between access and excellence and the ways in which we’re trying to pursue both, and I believe strongly in the ways that education changes people’s lives.

“I will take from Concordia all those examples of the transformation that education has over people and over a society. I like the entrepreneurial spirit of the place. And I like the sense of open debate. Sometimes that causes difficulties, but I think in general it’s a very lively, smart place, and not a place that’s complacent. I think complacency is pretty dangerous, so I really like that about Concordia.”



“Alan’s naturalness – his joie de vivre – can change the feeling of an entire room. He is genuine, he is kind and he has shown unwavering support for our fervent belief in the power of arts and culture in society.” *Rebecca Duclos, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts*

“I think Concordia was unbelievably fortunate to have Alan as president for the past seven years. He’s one of the true visionaries in North America about the future of higher education, and I think his time at Concordia has really pushed a university that always believed it was innovative to become even more innovative and to become even more experimental.” *Graham Carr, Provost and vice-president, academic*

“Alan is a natural leader with a strong executive presence. He is excellent at building trust and creating a culture of mutual respect. He certainly made his mark on Concordia as the university’s reputation rose steadily during his tenure.” *Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, Dean, John Molson School of Business*

It doesn't mean there aren't some things he wanted to see through to completion.

"One is the Campaign For Concordia. I wish I could have had the chance to bring it all the way across the finish line," Shepard says. "I'm grateful that it's doing well and we have really built a strong network of supporters. We're doing kind of deep background work with alumni and alumni communities and principal donors that will pay off very well for Concordia over the next 15 or 20 years. I would have loved to have been there at the checkered flag.

"I've said that for some big announcements or the close of the campaign, I want to come back. I want to be present."

Capital campaigns are hard work, Shepard says. "You have to earn trust and respect. That's been one of the main themes of my presidency – trust and respect. I always feel if you get that right, everything else sort of falls into place.

MOMENTUM IS VITAL

"We have a lot of graduates who have had prosperous lives and careers and they want to be asked to make a contribution to their alma mater. They want that opportunity to participate and to help us build and they want to be investors in the future of Concordia. I'm optimistic about that."

Then there's athletics. Shepard notes that the university's varsity facilities are "quite modest." At Loyola, they might be described as "less than modest," and in need of an upgrade. Facilities for recreational sports also need improvement, and could be a recruitment tool if handled well.

On the academic front, he says, things are going well. "I would like to see continuing progress on some of our multidisciplinary programs, interdisciplinary work. There are some good things in the works, we've got some new programs coming on line, and have come on line, but we also need

more. I think it's a real challenge for all universities, not just Concordia, to keep the curriculum fresh. And the speed at which we're able to do that – we need to get faster. All universities do."

Concordia is perhaps uniquely placed in Canada as a university able to make the jump to light speed as post-secondary education changes, dramatically and rapidly, in the coming years.

"We're just at the very beginning of the digital revolution," Shepard says. "I have no idea, I don't think any of us really knows, how profoundly it will change higher education, but it will for sure."

"At Concordia, we're teaching about 36,000 (of 50,000) students in online courses today. That number will grow. We'll never be an online university, we'll always be a face-to-face university. More online learning will not mean that we need fewer buildings or bricks and mortar. What we're going to have is an intensification of the interpersonal exchanges, because



"Alan Shepard's commitment to Concordia has been unwavering. The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science has benefited tremendously from his exceptional leadership. We became an inclusive engineering and computer science school renowned internationally for research excellence, innovative programs and training next-gen technical leaders. We received the largest donation ever by a university faculty and we became the first engineering school in Canada to be named after a woman." *Amir Asif, Dean, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science*

"Alan has been an invaluable champion of Concordia's School of Graduate Studies. Under his leadership, we have enhanced our international prestige, attracting the brightest students in cutting-edge research. Alan was instrumental in the development of next-generation initiatives at the graduate level, including the Public Scholars Program and the Horizon Postdoctoral Fellowships. His legacy of inspiration and dedication will continue to inspire future generations." *Paula Wood-Adams, Dean, Graduate Studies*

"I think you're going to see more personalization of education. It's going to be an exciting time."

a lot of the rote learning will happen online. And what you do in a classroom or a lecture hall or studio will be much more personalized education and very intense, maybe in small groups.

"I think Concordia is extremely well positioned for the next phase, the next evolution of higher education," Shepard says. "The urban nature, the diversity we have here, the kind of real education for the real world orientation that's etched into our DNA – that's all to the good."

"I think there are big changes coming," he says. "I think there will be hundreds and thousands of curriculum pathways. I think you're going to see more personalization of education. It's going to be an exciting time. And our sector is not one that changes very radically or very gracefully, so I think there could be some pretty rocky times, too."

Concordia is already a leader in Canada in online learning.

"Historically," Shepard says, "continuing education or adult learning has been the poor step-cousin for undergraduate degrees. It's kind of on the side. It doesn't get many resources or much attention."

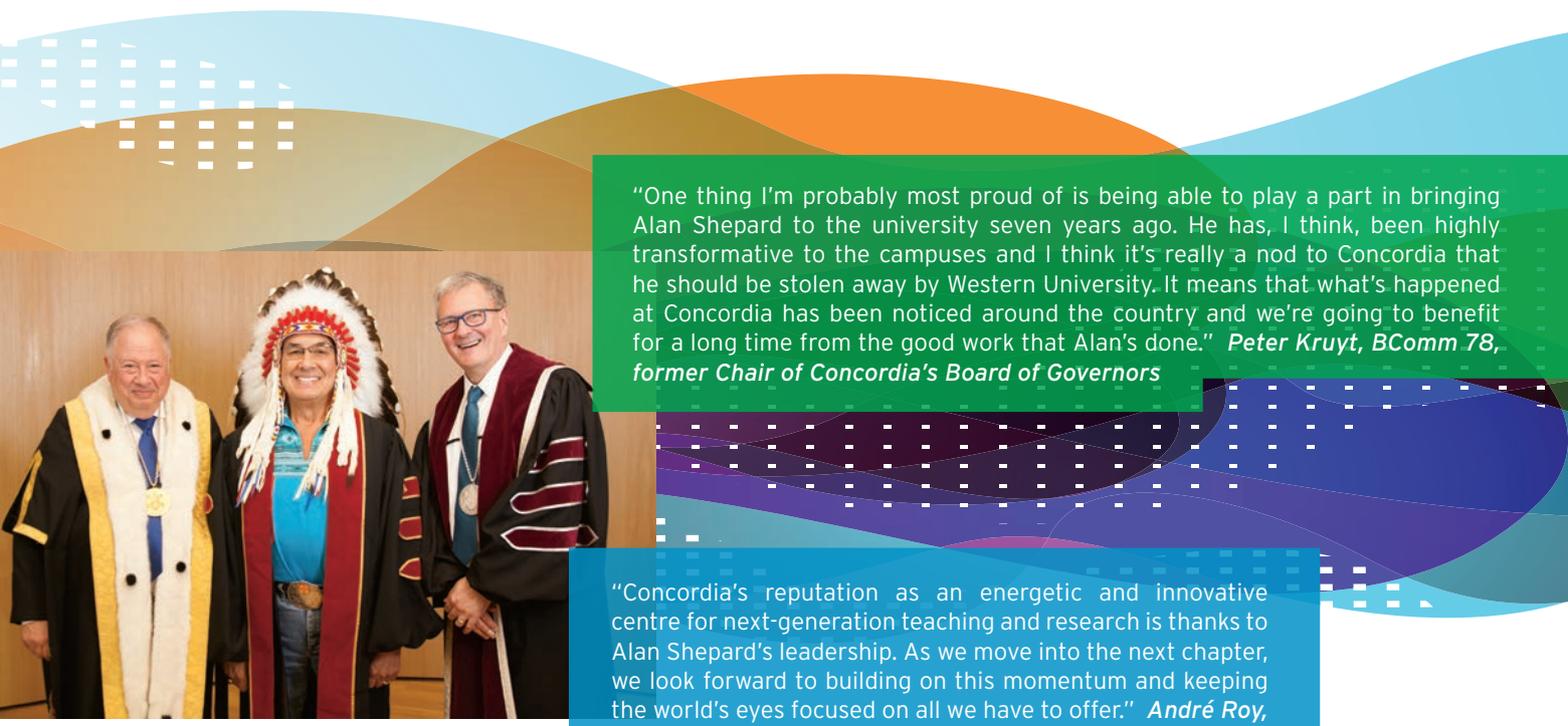
"But in this fast-paced world we're talking about, it won't matter if you're 30, 40, 50, 60 or whatever, you're going to want and need to keep up your learning and you're going to keep your skills sharp by kind of coming in and out of the university."

"I think Concordia's better positioned for this than almost any institution I'm aware of. There needs to be a certain porosity to our boundaries. So, you're 40 and you want to do a refresher. We shouldn't make you do the six-month program, there should be some

combination of online and/or weekend opportunities around your schedule, your kids' schedules. There are huge, huge, huge opportunities there. And you're starting to see some of the major institutions in North America start to wake up to this. There's a lot of opportunity there and we can do a lot of good for the world."

One of the things universities will have to do is a better job of engaging with their communities, Shepard says, pointing to Concordia's three-year-old Public Scholars Program as an example of how this engagement can occur.

"The Public Scholars Program is a wonderful example of Concordia responding to the real world. One of my obsessions/passions is how universities engage with the communities that sponsor us. We owe the public the respect of helping them understand what's happening inside our institutions and how we are contributing to the overall well-being of the society that sponsors us."



"One thing I'm probably most proud of is being able to play a part in bringing Alan Shepard to the university seven years ago. He has, I think, been highly transformative to the campuses and I think it's really a nod to Concordia that he should be stolen away by Western University. It means that what's happened at Concordia has been noticed around the country and we're going to benefit for a long time from the good work that Alan's done." *Peter Kruyt, BComm 78, former Chair of Concordia's Board of Governors*

"Concordia's reputation as an energetic and innovative centre for next-generation teaching and research is thanks to Alan Shepard's leadership. As we move into the next chapter, we look forward to building on this momentum and keeping the world's eyes focused on all we have to offer." *André Roy, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science*

ELITE INSTITUTIONS

"The Public Scholars program was born out of this idea that we should try to close the gap between what's going on inside the institution and social needs, questions and big problems that are facing society."

The program, in partnership with the *Montreal Gazette*, trains next-generation PhDs to be public scholars, to communicate their ideas and their research to journalists and lay audiences, in order to better convey to non-academics the value of their work.

For centuries, universities were elite institutions preparing society's elite for elite work – physicians, lawyers, clergy, and such. More recently, they began training for more "middle class" jobs, like insurance, banking and so on.

"In the old days, we were at the margins of society in the sense that

we were preparing the one per cent," Shepard says. "These days we're asked to be engines of commercial activity, engines of innovation – we're asked to do so many more things than we once were. In the old days, we were asked to teach students, do some research, graduate them, and hope for the best.

"Now, we're seen as integral to this economic and innovation ecosystem that's got high stakes, where the prosperity of a nation is in a large way tied to what's happening inside the university."

Universities, he says, have to learn to move at a much faster pace if they are going to meet those challenges.

That includes managing the earth-shattering effects of social media.

"It won't be a surprise that I think social media has changed everything – sometimes for the better and sometimes not. We're in a world

where everyone with an iPhone is now a journalist and can post things before the university can really understand a situation, understand what's going on – you have people commenting, criticizing us, proposing solutions, and that's changed for sure, that's changed for all of us.

"It will have profound impacts on the notion of leadership, of institutional authority, institutional autonomy, the role of leaders, the speed and pace at which leaders must make decisions, how you handle a crisis. A crisis 20 years ago was something that would unfold over days and weeks. Now it unfolds in minutes, and it requires a different kind of response."

The presidency of a university, Shepard says, is really a service job. One of the main roles is to help others. "I've always gotten incredible personal and



"When Alan arrived, it didn't take long to know we had somebody of great talent, dedication and passion. He made sure he had the right team around him. Once that was done, it was time to look at the future. That brought his 9 Strategic Directions, in which he really took the time and effort to involve everyone. I think the greatest thing is that we've been able to attract vibrant new talent." *Norman Hébert, BComm 77, Chair, Board of Governors*

"I really take pride in helping Alan Shepard's effort to make this university No. 1 in Canada and around the world, and I'm really hopeful his vision is accomplished. Concordia is training students for the future. Whether it's in science or in engineering, or all the other disciplines, the research being done here is going to help future generations." *Hardeep Grewal, BComm 83, major donor*

professional pleasure from helping other people succeed in their careers,” he says. “There’s a real joy in being able to bring people together, get them working together, get them wanting to collaborate with each other, finding the resources to make that collaboration possible, and helping them achieve their dreams.”

9 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Shepard’s deft handling of the development of new strategic directions for the university, including a rigorous consultative process that produced a dynamic road map, is the kind of modern approach to advancing an institution that has sparked praise from various corners of the university – and beyond. “I think people have been inspired by it. I hear that. People say it to me. People inside and outside Concordia say it to me.”

Projects that emerged from the 9 Strategic Directions include: District 3, an innovation hub for entrepreneurs; the 4TH SPACE, at once a science centre, living lab, theatre, design showroom and exhibition space that offers the public the opportunity to become a part of a unique experience; and the Public Scholars Program, which aids in the communication of research work to the general public.

But that begs the question: how has Concordia changed Alan Shepard?

Like most people in a world that travels at the speed of a smartphone, he has developed the multitasking and juggling skills required of a complex, sprawling job. Developing a divided attention span is par for the course these days, only more intensively when you’re leading a large university. “There’s something about the pace, I think for all of us, but

particularly if you have responsibility for an institution of this size, there’s something kind of non-stop about the role. That’s one thing that’s changed me. I’ve become extremely organized; I just have to be in order to survive. And I have a wonderful team of people who help me stay organized and really support my work and I’m very, very lucky to have them. We have a great team in the president’s office.

“I’ve become more of an extrovert. I’m by nature an introvert, but I’ve become more of an extrovert. I also think I’m more careful about what I eat, getting enough sleep, certain basic things just so I can be well in the job.

“I’ve enjoyed the opportunity to meet people from such fascinating walks of life. I’ve met Arctic explorers, I’ve met army generals, I’ve met people who were the first in their family to come here

“A crisis 20 years ago would unfold over days and weeks. Now it unfolds in minutes.”

“I believe in Alan Shepard’s vision, I believe in the orientation of the new style of teaching; I like the orientation of the 9 Strategic Directions and I just wanted to be a part of that. I think education needs to evolve as well and so, when you think about the nine pillars Alan is leading, they’re actually very much in sync with where society is going.” *Lino A. Saputo Jr., BA 89, Co-Chair, the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now*



“We have great leadership, we have a fabulous Board chair, we have had a fabulous president in Alan Shepard. To be able to have supported them with their vision for the future has been an honour, a pleasure and a delight.” *Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, Chancellor*

and they came from a war-torn country and now they're thriving. I've met this huge range of people. In any given year, I must meet thousands of people and hear their stories. And that's such an incredible joy and privilege for me."

What is he going to miss most about Montreal and Concordia?

"I'm going to miss the energy and dynamism of the city. It sounds clichéd, but I'm going to miss the joie de vivre of the Island of Montreal, the obsession with public art, the interest in food and the arts. I find that incredible. It's a very rich and complex place to live and that's incredibly fun.

"I'm going to miss Concordia very much," says Shepard, who was recently named an Honorary Life Member of the Concordia University Alumni Association. "I've loved the can-do spirit of the place. I really love its mission."

Shepard doesn't think university presidents leave legacies.

"I don't have some kind of grand notion that presidents leave a legacy. I just don't think it works like that. I think you do the best job you can do and then you hand the reins to somebody else. You hope that person does the best job they can. It's a role, it's an important role, but there are lots of important roles at the institution, and you just try to do the best job you can.

"Overall, I'm really happy with the work I've done, and my team has done. I've built a diverse team and I'm proud of that. I think respect for Concordia is really doing well and that matters a lot to me. I think it's a wonderful place.

"I'm really proud of the respect and self-respect that people at Concordia are showing toward the institution. And I often say in my alumni talks that of the 9 Directions, the one that means the most to me is Take Pride. And my argument is that if people are taking pride, whether that be in their studies, their job, their research, the institution itself, whatever their job is here, if they take pride in Concordia, all the rest of it will fall in.

"Because if you have pride in something, you're wanting to nurture it, defend it, protect it and challenge it." ■



"We know enrollment has increased, but more and more students are here because it's their first choice and there is a sense of pride that Alan Shepard had in what was going on – a notion that every student was an individual, every student had something worthwhile to contribute. And if the university could find what that was and nurture it, then all of society would be better." *Miriam Roland, LLD 18, donor, former member, Board of Governors*

"I first met Alan Shepard at a welcome event for international students. It was incredibly nice to have such a warm greeting and conversation with the president of the university on my first week in Canada. Being president of the 61st Garnet Key Society has given me the chance to meet him at various events while representing Concordia. He always approached me and my fellow keys with a smile and it has been an honour to have him support the Society throughout his seven years at the university." *Bruna Guarino Moraes, President, 61st Garnet Key Society*

'CONCORDIA'S GOT A LOT OF MOMENTUM,' INTERIM PRESIDENT SAYS

Provost Graham Carr to steer the university until next leader in place

As Alan Shepard departs, Provost Graham Carr becomes interim president until a new leader is installed, most likely in one year, according to those familiar with the process to pick new presidents.

While Carr's title is "interim," that should not be equated with "caretaker," he says.

"Concordia's got a lot of momentum in many areas, in terms of advancing its academic mission, its strategic directions, its fundraising, its physical infrastructure - all of those things continue," says Carr, who has also served at Concordia as vice-president of research. "An interim president should be doing what a president does. You can't put the car in neutral. In fact, it would be a fatal error for Concordia to put the car in neutral because we're in a good spot and we want to continue that."

The university has, according to rules and regulations, struck a search committee that includes membership from various communities in the university, including students, faculty, board members and others. The committee has held its first meeting and has sought input from the community on its draft job profile, says Concordia's associate secretary-general Danielle Tessier.



Concordia University

PROVOST GRAHAM CARR HAS LOTS TO DO WHILE AWAITING THE UNIVERSITY'S PRESIDENT, LIKELY TO BE IN PLACE ABOUT A YEAR FROM NOW.

University leaders tend to change jobs at the end of an academic year, so the expectation is that the Search Committee, with the help of a headhunting firm, will consider and interview candidates beginning in late summer or early fall and have a preferred candidate by early 2020, who would likely be in place by June or July, Tessier says.

Dramatic changes at Concordia in the last decade, including a sharp rise in the number of graduate students (9,000) as well as undergrads (37,000), mean the university now has to "develop a pattern and a pace of growth that we can fully support and that is best aligned with the areas we want to prioritize," Carr says. "That's a long-term game. You know, Concordia's been in a situation the last few years where students have been knocking down the doors to come here. Our enrolments have been positively out of sync with the experience in the rest of the province. But we're at a point where we just can't continue to grow everywhere, so we just have to think about where we want to grow."

So there's lots of work for our interim president.

Carr is a big supporter of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. "It's really exciting to see how the campaign has unfolded and that in a relatively short space of time, not only have we been able to get more than halfway to our goal, but we've done it through a combination of attracting the largest-ever gifts the university has received - both the Gina Cody gift and the anonymous planned giving gift - while at the same time getting great take-up from smaller donors who are equally important.

"They're all sending the same message collectively about their pride, confidence and trust in the university."

-Doug Sweet

"As I've observed Alan, the things I respect the most in his character are the way he exudes a quiet confidence and humility, but also a steadfast leadership, as well as his willingness to do what's right and to call things as they are. Alan didn't just stay in his office. He moved around, he made himself accessible and that went a long way toward improving the atmosphere and morale within the university."
L. Jacques Ménard, BComm 67, LLD 06, former Chancellor and chair of the search committee that recommended Alan Shepard be chosen as Concordia's president

TAKING OUT THE TRASH:

Incineration? Compacting? And what about just making less waste in the first place?

MAEVE HALDANE, BFA 91

The first step to dealing with waste, everyone agrees, is to stop making so much of it to begin with. That's the easy part. Progress gets more complicated.

In cities, where so many live in such close quarters, a lot of waste is produced and needs to be transformed somehow or placed somewhere. The ease with which waste can be properly handled depends very much on where you live, and must take into account climate and geography, infrastructure and cost.

Concordia is one of Canada's leading universities in the study of cities, and waste management is one of more than 115 programs or areas of study here. We talked trash with three Concordia experts, and some of their observations might surprise you.

Even the category of waste itself is tricky, says Chunjiang An, assistant professor in Building, Civil, and Environmental Engineering. He's consulting for the City of Montreal on greenhouse gases and disposal systems.

If something isn't considered useful, it's waste – though that can be a matter of whether a piece of paper stays on your desk, goes into a recycling bin or is tossed in the garbage can.

Though the idea is slippery, Professor An explains that waste can be broken down into three basic categories: green waste to be composted, waste to be recycled, or general waste to be disposed of.

In countries where land is at a premium, as in Japan, for example, incineration is best. The initial investment is very high but the ash remaining is only 5 per cent of the original mass. Some plants have "waste-to-energy" systems that generate electricity during the burning process.

In Canada, with an abundance of space, landfill is cheap to create, though we have to pay attention to the leaching of pollutants into the surrounding area as well as biogas emissions.

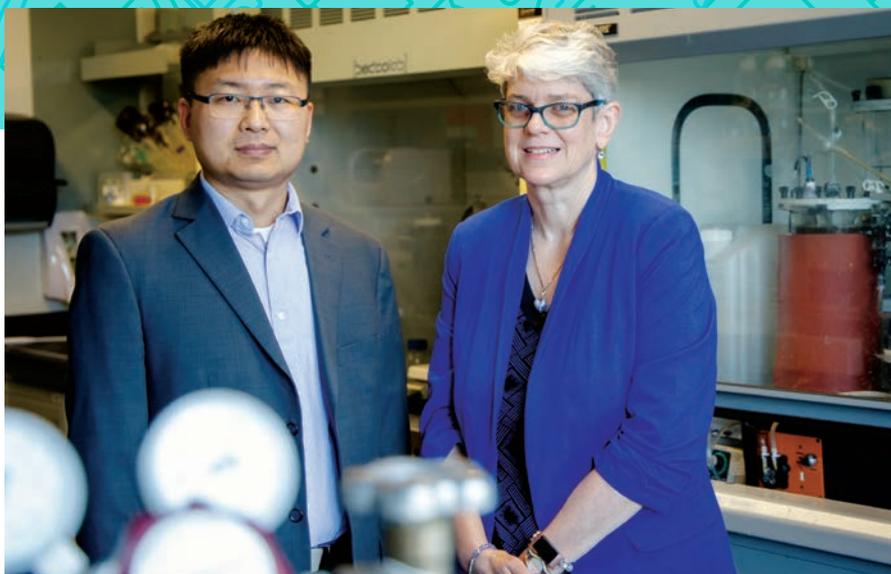
And landfill does fill up. We can reduce the burden on landfill by changing our habits to produce less waste. An lauds Concordia's tiny garbage cans in each office; people have to think twice about throwing something out. "If we have a big bin, we want to throw anything into the bin!" he says. Smaller bins lead people to throw out only what is "truly not useful."

"A major issue for waste is volume," says An. There are some new types of trashcans equipped with solar-powered compactors, An says, so they can hold more. Downtown buildings could have one large semi-buried waste container instead of many smaller ones, which would centralize garbage collection. Trucks could also have better compacting systems. By reducing the volume of waste as well as pickup points, collection and transportation costs could be halved. Some waste could go directly to landfill, while other waste could go to incineration.

"If we have a big bin, we want to throw anything into the bin!"

-Professor Chunjiang An

CONCORDIA PROFS PROFFER SOLUTIONS



TREVOR BROWNE

IN THE LAB: CHUNJIANG AN AND CATHERINE MULLIGAN WORK ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT.

‘YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE’
An would like to see better separation at the source, too. If a printer breaks, for example, the components could feasibly be separated and sent to facilities that could recuperate or recycle them.

An has confidence our cities can tackle what seems an insurmountable problem, with effort and a willingness to spend. “In the history of our society, we always have pollution first, then we do pollution control,” he notes. “I’m an environmental engineer. We can reduce waste and remove pollution from the water and air. There’s only one big problem: “The cost.”

Professor Catherine Mulligan, thinks people get too caught up in single issues, like banning plastic bags that don’t actually take up much space in a landfill. “In the long run it doesn’t make very much difference,” the specialist in sustainable engineering insists. Holder of a Concordia Research Chair in Geo-environmental Sustainability, and an associate dean of research and graduate Studies at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, Mulligan is also director of the new Concordia Institute of Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems.

“The problem is everybody looks at a little bit here, a little bit there. You have to look at the whole.” Making reusable cloth bags and plastic mugs takes a lot of resources, and when tossed into landfill, “they take up far more space than plastic bags.”

She sees waste as a systems problem. Plastic could be reused or collected properly, or could be engineered to be fully biodegradable. When people complain about plastic in the ocean, she asks, “Why is it going into the ocean in the first place?”

One solution to the waste of our stuff, Mulligan asserts, is to have better modular design. When a component breaks in your refrigerator or computer, it should be easy to remove and replace. We should be able to recuperate the scarce and precious metals from our old phones. “This is where the problem is, not a little plastic bag,” Mulligan says.

Mulligan feels confident that Montreal’s current landfills, which use low-permeable geotextile liners and are properly monitored, are well run.

Very active and mixed-waste landfills produce high concentrations of methane, which is bad for climate change, but useful if captured and converted to electricity. Unfortunately, not many landfills worldwide do this, but Montreal's do. "If it's economic to produce methane," Mulligan says, "go ahead, don't suck out the useful organic waste. It makes sense to cut out all these other waste materials that don't degrade, that's what you should be focusing on."

Mulligan likes how the city dealt with Miron Quarry, which produced the limestone for many Montreal houses before becoming one of North America's biggest landfill sites. As it reached capacity (and in response to protests of locals), the city turned it into the second-largest park in Montreal and built the St-Michel Environmental Complex. There are composting and recycling centres and a power plant for biogas conversion. The Circus Arts City TOHU is at the south end. Mulligan routinely brings colleagues and students to visit the repurposed landfill, planted with wild grasses and shrubs, a refuge of nature for citizens.

REDUCE AT SOURCE

And then there's organic waste. Suzelle Barrington, affiliate professor with the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, is associated with consultants working out of St-Hyacinthe, a city east of Montreal with a good sorting system to remove random plastic and metal from organic waste, which is then fed through an anaerobic digester to produce natural gas. The solids left over are dehydrated and can be composted and used for agriculture or in parks.

Still, waste needs to be reduced at source. Barrington says food production waste is as high as 45 per cent and is the third-largest greenhouse-gas producer in the world. She's frustrated by misconceptions in the food industry. "It's hard to talk to people about food, they get very emotional. And when they get emotional, they won't listen to you," she emphasizes.

People must realize no food-production system is perfect, Barrington says. Even organic farms have an



NATHALIE WATTIE, WATTIE PHOTOGRAPHY

SUZELLE BARRINGTON FOCUSES MUCH OF HER ATTENTION ON REDUCING WASTE IN THE FOOD-PRODUCTION BUSINESS.

"There are alternatives out there, but they are probably more expensive."

-Professor Suzelle Barrington

environmental impact in terms of poorly balanced fertilization, mainly based on manures, leading to excessive nitrogen applications and water pollution. "People should ask the right questions rather than believe what they want to believe," she says.

Many insist that choosing plant-based foods instead of beef is better for the environment, yet Barrington points out that growing fruit and vegetables has effects as well. Fruit and vegetable production requires huge amounts of irrigated water, taking away from human water supplies, whereas raising beef uses rain lost as it falls on land that couldn't be used for crops in any case. The food waste from crops is high, and is often left to rot on the ground, creating greenhouse gases.

Barrington favours the "reasonable agriculture" approach, which falls between conventional and organic, minimizing the negative impact of each. What she'd really like to see, though, is better market organization. She finds food suspiciously expensive, given that only 10 to 12 per cent of the price is going to the farmer.

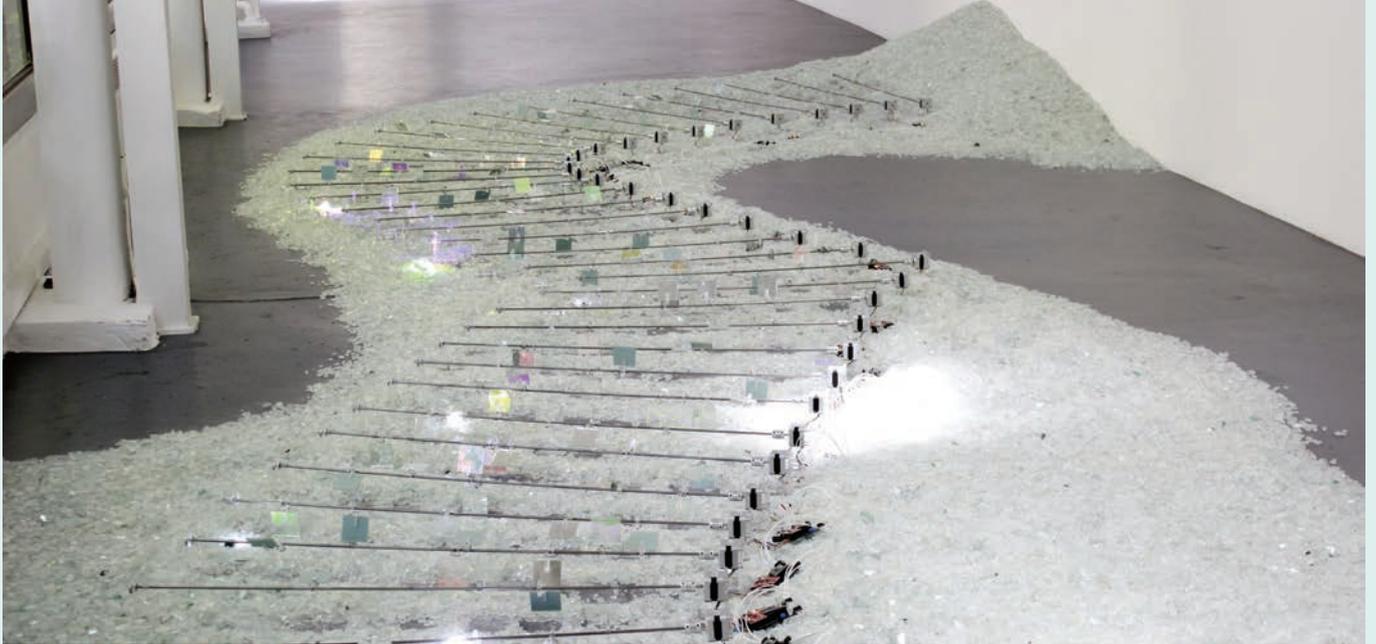
Barrington sees an answer in the quota system (like with Quebec's dairy production), in which the government regulates food production to match what the population consumes, plus a reserve. While Canadian milk costs more than milk in the U.S., it receives no subsidies and part of the cost goes toward environmental stewardship at the farm. The quota system removes all incentive to overproduce.

"In Canada, nobody wastes a drop of milk," she says. "In the U.S., where milk is government subsidized at the rate of at least 0.30\$/L, if a little mistake happens during processing, they dump the whole big tank in the sewer, pick up the phone and buy more government-subsidized milk." Then the wastewater needs treatment, too, adding to the cost.

There's food production, then how we bring it home. "Plastics is a big issue," says Barrington. Though we can't avoid plastic, we should minimize it. She'd like to see grocery stores sell reusable bags alongside their fruit and vegetables, and for coffee shops to charge exorbitantly for plastic-lined single-use cups so customers would have further incentive to bring their own. And we should avoid ready-made meals and convenient-but-overpackaged foods. "This younger generation, they don't want climate change, but their way of life is not geared towards reducing plastic and waste," she says. "They don't cook!"

"There are alternatives out there, but they are probably more expensive than regular petroleum plastic. People have to be willing to pay for it," she says. This goes for big items, too. So much of what we buy doesn't last long, from our laptops to household appliances. Barrington would be willing to pay more for a durable, well-made refrigerator. "Maybe we're better off to give them a bit more profit, but then make sure it lasts longer."

Engineers not only see the big picture, but also the long run. "There are a lot of solutions out there today. We should never limit ourselves to a single solution," Barrington says, "People have to open their minds to the fact that it's a combination of things that will make the world work." ■



LIGHTHOUSES, WITH VINCENT EVRARD, 2017, KINETIC INSTALLATION, VARIABLE DIMENSIONS, RECYCLED GLASS, MOTORS, DICHRIC GLASS, MIRRORS. PRESENTED DURING MICRO-SILENCE, GALERIE DES GRANDS BAINS DOUCHES DE LA PLAINE, MARSEILLE

DRIVING ON BROKEN GLASS: MANY USES FOR WHAT IS BASICALLY SAND

Alice Jarry's expertise in glass as an industrial material came about through her research-creation. She's a new tenure-track hire for Concordia's smart cities cluster, in the Department of Design and Computational Arts, and her work has been shown widely and internationally. Already exploring the idea of materiality - the potential and agency of things through a social and technological lens - and design for socio-environmentally responsive cities, Jarry's focus on glass started with her cross-Atlantic residency in Belgium with artist Vincent Evrard.

Looking for broken glass to create sound effects for their Transnumérique Biennale exhibition, Lighthouses, Evrard and Jarry went to hardware stores and window companies but no one had leftovers to give because glass was considered a valuable material. So they tried their luck at a recycling facility where Jarry had her "aha moment," she says. "This facility was a spectacular assemblage of waste, of people, of technologies and infrastructures. These recycling systems really sparked questions about time, durations, process and life-cycles of materials."

ALICE JARRY AT MINÉRALE S.A, LODELINSART, BELGIUM.

Back in Quebec, Jarry pursued this interest and visited recycling plants to collect broken glass or glass dust that accumulated near ventilations systems. The facilities let her stay to observe the process and look at the machinery and computer systems. "When I started working with light, colour and glass, I would have never expected to end up working in recycling facilities, shoveling glass and dust," she remarks with a laugh. "When you speak about how materials have impact and potential - perhaps that's the agency of glass, to bring you and your research somewhere else?"

All facilities were trying to make something useful or productive out of glass, but it's a problematic material, she notes. Quebec has a single-stream recycling system, in which all recyclables are mixed at pickup, then sorted later so the level of cross-contamination of materials is high.



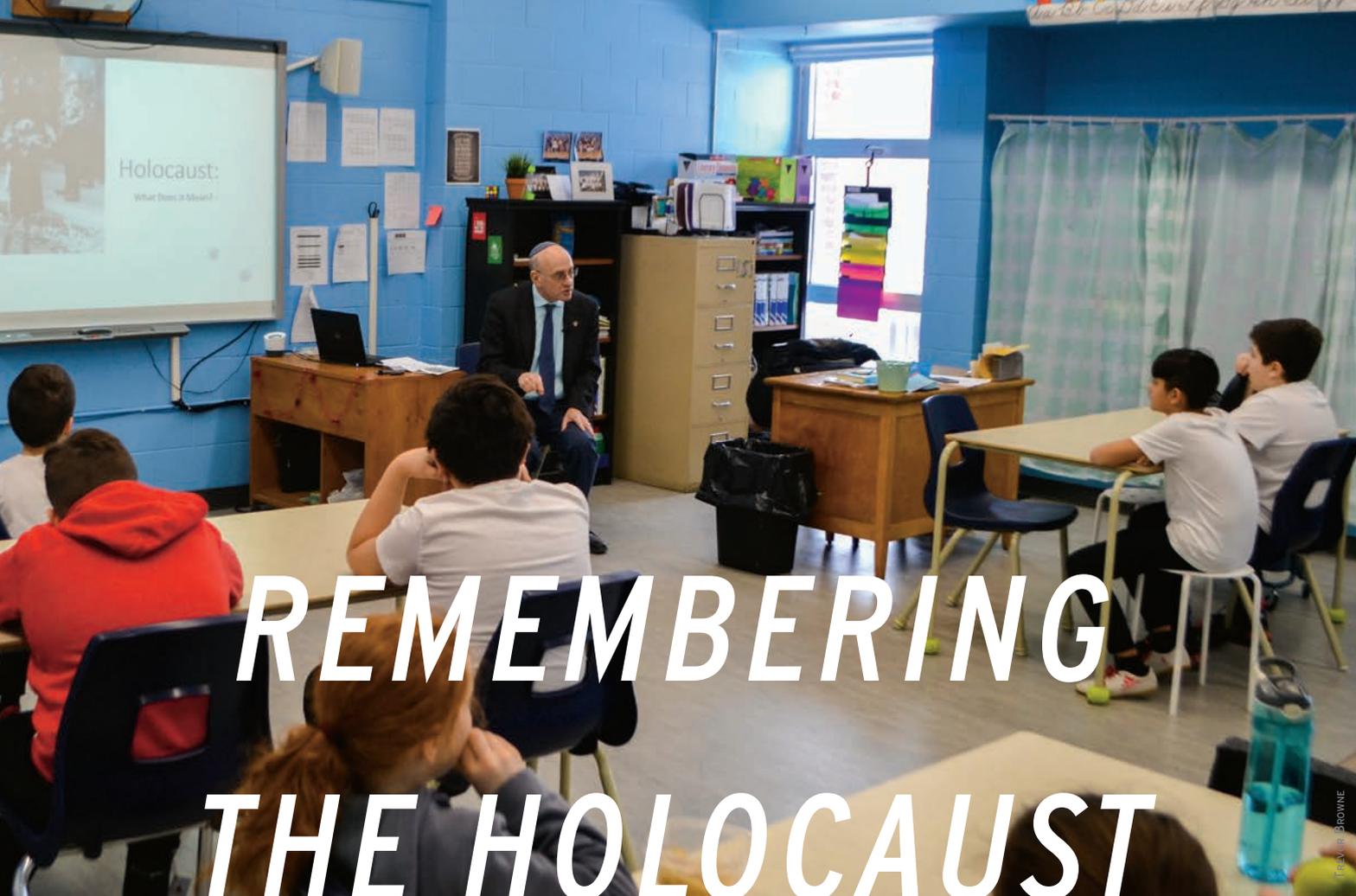
VINCENT EVRARD

A few years ago, much of our recycled material ended up in landfill, while facilities scrambled to put new systems in play. Because glass is basically sand, Jarry notes, it's not toxic in landfill the way plastics are. "But it's such a waste of resource at all levels - natural, human, infrastructural, financial," she says.

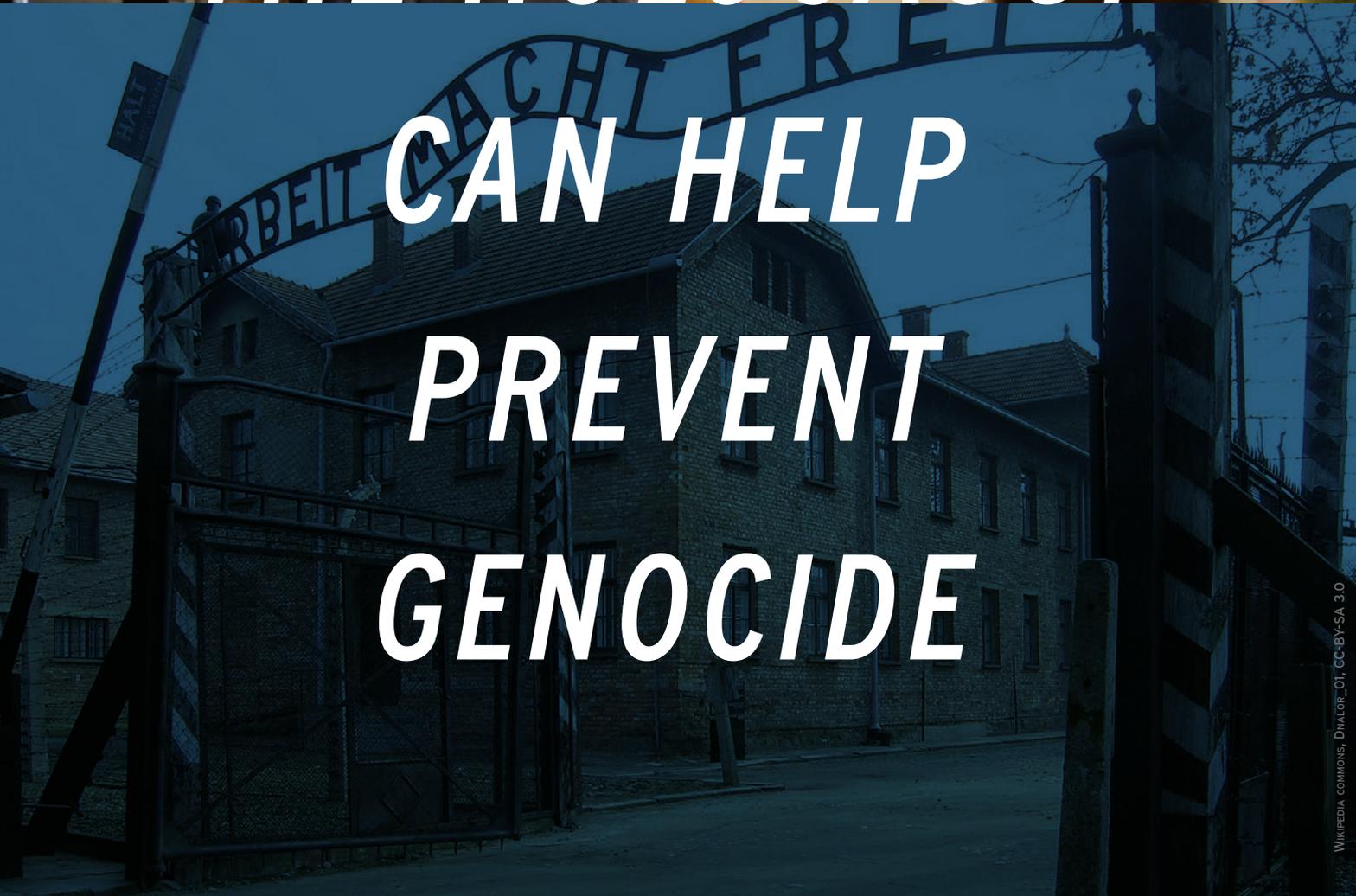
Europe's separate-stream system means glass is easily recuperated to melt and form new glass. Or there's the consignment system in which glass - think beer bottles - is washed and reused, and, at some point recast into new bottles. To Jarry, this closed-loop system makes best sense: "Let's make glass out of glass." But she acknowledges Quebec faces many infrastructural and organizational problems that don't make this as easy as in Europe. Separate-stream recycling is more common and easier in Europe's smaller, population-dense countries. And energy and resources are costly, so making new glass is more expensive than recasting old glass.

But Quebec has developed other ways to use glass remains. It can be transformed into mineral wool for insulation, cellular glass for roads and landscaping, or a powder cement additive to mix with concrete. For the construction industry, glass is a less-toxic abrasive for sandblasting, so workers are at less risk for silicosis. ■

-Maeve Haldane, BFA 91



**REMEMBERING
THE HOLOCAUST**



**CAN HELP
PREVENT
GENOCIDE**



Young people are beginning
to forget the horrific event
and not understand its
overpowering significance

MONIQUE POLAK, MA 84

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

These famous words, attributed to philosopher George Santayana, makes recent news that one in five Canadian youths do not know about the Holocaust especially disturbing.

The survey, sponsored by the Azrieli Foundation and released in time for this year’s International Holocaust Day – the day marking the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the most notorious of the Nazi death camps – revealed that 20 per cent of Canadian youths either have not heard of the Holocaust or are not sure what the word Holocaust means. *A New York Times*

report on a similar survey in the United States at about the same time showed 31 per cent of Americans, and 41 per cent of millennials (aged 18-34), believe only 2 million or fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust; the actual number is three times that. The *Times* reported that 41 per cent of Americans, and 66 per cent of millennials, cannot say what Auschwitz was. And slightly more than half of Americans wrongly think Hitler came to power through force, the survey suggested.

Some 40,000 survivors of the Holocaust settled in Canada, many in Montreal. Most have since died; those who remain are elderly. Today’s youngsters are the last generation who

PHOTO AT LEFT: IRA ROBINSON, DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S INSTITUTE FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES AND PROFESSOR OF JUDAIC STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIONS AND CULTURES, VISITS A CLASS OF GRADE 5 AND 6 STUDENTS AT GERALD MCSHANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MONTREAL NORTH.

may have the chance to meet Holocaust survivors. If, as many believe, Santayana was right, the need for Holocaust education has never been more urgent.

For many years, Concordia has been at the forefront of Holocaust studies in Canada. The university has offered courses related to the Holocaust and other genocides since the 1980s, but also now brings together academics and members of the community to work to preserve the memory of the Holocaust – and pass on its lessons.

“My students want to know and understand.”
-Ira Robinson

SURVEY DOESN'T SURPRISE

Here's one example. In the spring of 2019, Ira Robinson, director of Concordia's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies and professor of Judaic Studies in the Department of Religions and Cultures, visited a class of Grade 5 and 6 students at Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North. His subject was the Holocaust and he drew on examples to which his young audience could relate. Robinson compared what happened during the Holocaust to bullying. “Imagine,” he told the class, “if someone in your school was being bullied, and there was no one to stop them, and everyone thought it was OK.”

It was Krystina Gruppuso's idea to invite Robinson to the school. A student in Concordia's Department of Education, Gruppuso was completing her student-teacher stint at Gerald McShane. “I warned the students that the Holocaust was a very heavy topic, but that we need to talk about it,” Gruppuso says.

Robinson is not surprised by the results of the Azrieli Foundation study. “The primary and secondary school curricula in Canada and elsewhere don't say very much about the Second World War and don't give enough time for much contextualisation of what was going on. Also, the events are fading into the past,” he says.

Robinson grew up in Massachusetts. “I kind of knew people who were Holocaust survivors,” he recalls. “In the '50s and '60s, there were many people who didn't quite know how to deal with either the fact of the Holocaust or the survivors,” he adds, pointing out that



AN ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHY OF ANNE FRANK IS AMONG THE BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM.

TREVOR BROWNE

Raul Hilberg, a pre-eminent scholar of the Holocaust, struggled to find a publisher for his seminal work, *The Destruction of the European Jews*.

Robinson was deeply affected when, as a teen, he read the late Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*. Later in life, Robinson was also influenced by his parents-in-law, both Holocaust survivors. His mother-in-law had been imprisoned at Auschwitz; his father-in-law was interned in a Hungarian forced-labour camp.

Robinson believes a variety of methods is needed to raise young people's awareness about the Holocaust. “No one approach will be the magic bullet,” he says. For Robinson, these approaches include publication, the development of school curricula, and teaching teachers. “You can publish the best curriculum in the world, but if the teachers aren't oriented toward it, it will be worse than useless,” he says.

Robinson's most recent book, *A History of Antisemitism in Canada* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) includes a chapter on Holocaust denial, another phenomenon which highlights the need for Holocaust education.

Concordia's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies has published a series of autobiographies of Canadian Holocaust survivors — available on the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) website, (concordia.ca/migs) — and hosts public lectures. In April 2019, Sharon Delmendo, a professor at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., visited Concordia to speak about a little-known chapter of the Holocaust: the rescue of 1,300 European Jews by Manuel Quezon, who was president of the Philippines.

In a course Robinson teaches about modern Judaism, he includes lectures about the Holocaust and its effect. His students — about 20 per cent of whom

Robinson estimates are Muslim – represent a cross-section of Concordia. “And Concordia is a cross-section of the whole world,” he says. “Some of my students have heard all kinds of wild things about Jews, Jewish history and the Holocaust. But I see a curiosity. They want to know and understand.”

MIGS is a Concordia-based think tank with members from both the university and the community. Its best-known non-academic member is retired general Roméo Dallaire, who led the UN peacekeeping mission during the Rwandan genocide 25 years ago.

MIGS was founded in 1986 by Concordia professors Frank Chalk and Kurt Jonassohn, both of whom had family who perished during the Holocaust. Together, the pair introduced a course in 1986 called “History and Sociology of Genocide.” In 1990, at the request of students, Chalk developed another course called “The History of the Holocaust.” Jonassohn died in 2011, but Chalk continues to teach both courses. Since 1986, he has taught more than 2,000 students about the Holocaust.

THE LARGEST GENOCIDE

MIGS conducts research about conditions that lead to genocide and crimes against humanity and advocates to prevent future mass atrocities. The institute also trains government and United Nations officials about the prevention of mass atrocities and organizes conferences and workshops, such as a recent panel discussion about anti-Semitism online.

Though MIGS works to draw attention to and fight every form of genocide, the memory of the Holocaust guides the institute. “The largest genocide we’ve seen is the Holocaust. It’s an example of how humanity can turn to absolute barbarism, destroy millions of lives and destabilize the planet,” says MIGS executive director Kyle Matthews.

Like other members of the think tank, Matthews is alarmed by the rise of anti-Semitism, pointing not only to recent events in Europe, but also to the 2018 attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue. “Anti-Semitism is coming both from the far left and far right,” Matthews warns.

Matthews believes Canadian children need to learn not only about the Holocaust and genocide, but also about the consequences of discrimination. Together with members of the Foundation for Genocide Education (gened.org), MIGS representatives have met with Quebec’s Minister of Education to lobby for the inclusion in the curriculum of more information about the Holocaust and genocide prevention.

Sometimes, Matthews says, he needs a break from following world news. “But I’m committed to doing whatever I can to work toward the betterment of humanity. Hope is all we have. If we don’t hold on to hope, we lose our will to change the arc of history.”

For Csaba Nikolenyi, political science professor and director of Concordia’s Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, the greatest sign of hope in a post-Holocaust world is the existence of the State of Israel. The Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies was created by the Azrieli Foundation, which has offices in Montreal and Toronto. The foundation publishes a series of memoirs of Holocaust survivors, first-hand testimony that has become an important primary resource for Holocaust researchers. The foundation also endowed the Azrieli collection at Concordia’s Webster Library, one of the largest collections in North America of material related to the Holocaust.

Housed in the Samuel Bronfman Building, the Azrieli Institute also operates a reading room that includes the 81 memoirs published to date in the Azrieli series. The institute also organizes special events such as the 2014 presentation, co-sponsored by the Azrieli Foundation and MIGS, by Francesco Lotoro, an Italian professor and concert pianist who reconstructed music written by prisoners in the concentration camps. “The fact that music was created in the camps is testimony to the resilience of the human spirit in the darkest times,” says Nikolenyi.



USHMIM/BELARUSIAN STATE ARCHIVE OF DOCUMENTARY FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY

CHILD SURVIVORS OF AUSCHWITZ, WEARING ADULT-SIZE PRISONER JACKETS, STAND BEHIND A BARBED WIRE FENCE.

NOT A REFUGEE CAMP

Growing up in communist Hungary, Nikolenyi knew little about the Holocaust. "It was not part of the official curriculum, though it is now," he explains. Nikolenyi believes Holocaust education must include the study of Israel. He points to the common misconception that Israel began with the Holocaust. "If you say that to an Israeli, it raises a sensitive topic. Israel didn't begin as a kind of refugee camp. The creation of Israel is rooted in the achievements of the Zionist movement which officially started in 1897, and even that builds on the ancient Jewish connection with the land of Israel," Nikolenyi says.

This summer, Nikolenyi will again take 13 Concordia students to Israel for a month-long seminar. The group will visit Yad Vashem, the country's Holocaust memorial, as well as a kibbutz established by Holocaust survivors in the Negev, a region where the salty soil made farming difficult.

The kibbutznim persevered, and the kibbutz became a centre for the development of drip irrigation technology, now used all over the world. "For the students to witness the success of Israel is to see the ultimate triumph against Hitler. He did not wipe out the Jews," Nikolenyi says.

Though the numbers are shocking and vital to know – 6 million Jews, gypsies and LGBTQ people perished during the Holocaust, along with more than 5 million Soviets – it is always the individual stories that resonate most. This, combined with the fact Holocaust survivors are dying off, makes the work of Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (storytelling.concordia.ca) so valuable.

Initiated by history professor Steven High in 2006, COHDS's work includes the Montreal Life Stories Project, which focused on the stories of individuals displaced by mass violence and genocide. The project brought together various groups, including one called the Holocaust and Other Persecutions Against Jews Working Group. Composed of both academics and community members, this group collected stories from Holocaust survivors as well as their children.

"As we know, there's not just one story about what happened during the Holocaust. People who were children, women, people from different countries had very different experiences during the Holocaust," says Cynthia Hammond, who teaches art history and is co-director of COHDS.

COHDS has shared its resources with organizations including the Montreal Holocaust Museum (museeholocauste.ca/en), the Museum of Jewish Montreal (imjm.ca) and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (pier21.ca). The digital interviews collected through the Montreal Life Stories Project can be consulted at COHDS, located on the 10th floor of the J. W. McConnell Building.

"The most consulted of these materials have to do with the Holocaust. Since 2017, the centre has seen an increase in requests for access to our archived interviews about the Holocaust. I'm glad researchers are using the collection. That's what it's there for," Hammond says.

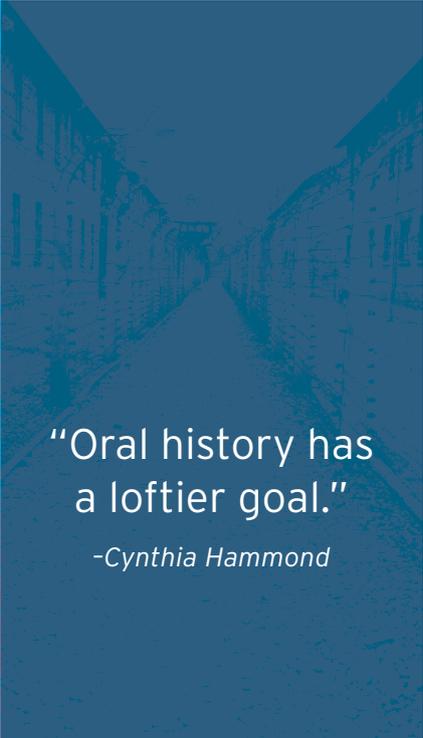
Several members of the Holocaust working group have gone on to do related research and creative projects. A 2018 tour called Survivors on the Main: A Historical Walk introduced participants to a Montreal neighbourhood where many child refugees from the Holocaust settled – and to two child survivors of the Holocaust. Hammond, who took part in the walk, found it deeply moving.

MEETING THEIR FUTURE WIVES

"These two very elderly men were still full of life and believed in the importance of sharing their experience," she says. "They also wanted us to know about their life as Montrealers – not only as survivors. For example, they spoke about meeting their future wives at dances organized by members of the local community who had welcomed them."

Hammond believes while the study of history aims to increase our understanding of the past, oral history has a loftier goal. "Oral history is often undertaken with the goal of a better future – a more just, egalitarian and humane society. If you decide to make your story public, it's so that someone will be moved to see the world differently and take action," she says.

It has been nearly 75 years since the Holocaust ended. The work that has been done and continues to be done at Concordia regarding the Holocaust is another hopeful sign. Every lesson connected to the Holocaust shares a moral imperative – that its history and stories must be passed down to future generations. ■



"Oral history has a loftier goal."

-Cynthia Hammond

THE YELLOW STARS ARE A SIGN...

Excerpted from *What World is Left*, by Monique Polak, MA 84, published by Orca Book Publishers, 2008, with permission of the author

Just when I think things cannot get any worse, I hear a loud whirring in the air. "German airplanes!" someone shouts. "Bombers!"

Bombers? Why would the Nazis send bombers now?

We crouch together on the wet ground, crying and shaking. The fear eats at my insides like a parasite, hollowing me out until it feels as if there is nothing left of me. Except pure fear. Pure cold fear.

The airplanes dip down over the field like hawks swooping in on their prey. One comes so close I can feel the wind of its wings and hear the screws on the wings rattle. The noise of the engines is almost too much to bear. A woman near me screams, but I can't hear her over the engines. I can only see her mouth open in terror.

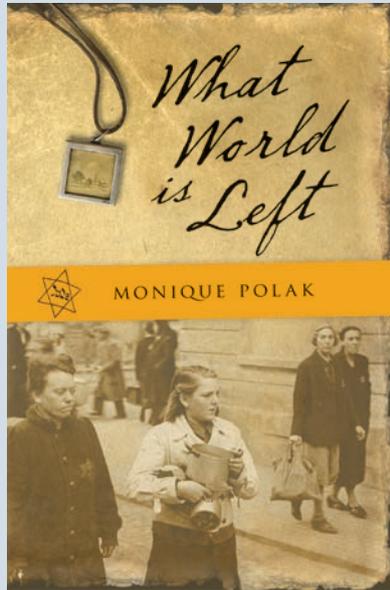
I try to block the sound by covering my ears. But it doesn't help. Surely, they are going to kill us. Is this, I wonder, how my life will end? Just like that — without any final words or ceremony of any kind? I try to think of Franticek. I try to remember his kiss, but the fear is too big. It's swallowing me whole.

Now there is another plane coming toward me, headed right for where I am crouched on the ground. I flatten myself against the earth. Mother and Theo are with me, but all I can feel is my own heart beating.

Then, just like that, the airplanes take off, disappearing into the night sky as quickly as they came. My ears are still ringing. "It was just a way to frighten us," Frau Davidels whispers.

The night grows even darker. But wherever I look, I see the dim outlines of people.

"I heard one of the Nazis say there are already three hundred dead," a voice whispers. Some of the dead are elderly, too weak to last through the second census count. Some are trampled by the crowd. Some give up. The rest are shot.



When we file past the bodies, we turn our heads away. It is a sign of respect, but I know, too, that not to look at them is also a sign of cowardice. I don't have the courage to look at the corpses, to see their faces. It is too easy to imagine myself there with them on the wet grass.

At about four in the morning, an old man with a gray beard pushes his way through the crowd. "What do you want, old man?" someone asks. "Don't draw attention to yourself or they'll shoot you. Just like they did to that poor woman before."

When the old man turns toward us, I notice his eyes are bright blue. "I'm not afraid of being shot. Besides, I have something to tell you... a message you need to pass on to the others waiting in line."

"He's probably senile," a woman's voice calls out. "What does he know?"

"Hush," Fraulein Davidels tells the woman. "Don't you know who the old man is?"

"Why should I know him?" the woman answers.

"He's Rabbi Baeck — Leo Baeck — the chief rabbi of Berlin."

"What do rabbis know?" the woman continues. "It's because of them and their religion we're in this mess."

"What is it you want to tell us, Rabbi Baeck?" Frau Davidels asks, raising her voice.

"Look up ahead," he says. We all look up ahead at the mass of bodies milling in front of us. "Do you see the stars?"

I look up at the sky, but the rabbi is wrong, there are no stars. Not one. Perhaps the stars witnessed what went on here tonight and decided not to shine.

Other people look up. When Rabbi Baeck speaks again, his voice sounds less patient. "Not up in the sky. Ahead of you."

And suddenly I understand what Rabbi Baeck is talking about. Up ahead, extending all the way to the horizon, are row after row of stars. Yellow ones — the stars we are forced to wear on our shirts and jackets.

"The stars meant to humiliate us Jews provide illumination in the gloom. They're a sign," Rabbi Baeck says.

"A sign of what?" the same woman who sounded so angry before asks.

"A sign we mustn't ever give up."



Concordia grads steer one of Canada's largest restaurant franchisors

Alumni Elizabeth Lund, Peter Tsafoulias and Renée St-Onge lead the charge at MTY Group with expert advice, training and guidance

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 or @ConcordiaAlumni on social media.

DANIEL BARTLETT, BA 08

Ask most Concordians if they've ever heard of Bâton Rouge, Thai Express or Café Dépôt and you're likely to get nods of affirmation. Inquire about the Montreal-based company behind these successful brands and you might need to serve up a few more details.

Founded in 1979, MTY Group is the second-largest restaurant franchisor in Canada, operating more than 70 brands and 6,000 restaurants.

In July 2016, the organization made its largest purchase to date when it acquired Kahala Brands and its portfolio of 18 franchises, including Cold Stone Creamery, Pinkberry and Planet Smoothie. Along with other dealings, MTY Group's franchisee network generated close to \$2.8 billion in revenues in 2018.

A large number of the company's 700 employees are Concordia graduates, including several of its highest-ranking executives.

Here are three Concordia alumni who are making an impact at MTY Group.

RIGHT IN HER BACKYARD

Elizabeth Lund, GrDip 11, first heard about MTY Group while working for Deloitte.

Her future employer was one of her auditing clients where she developed a relationship with Eric Lefebvre, GrDip 01, who became MTY Group's chief executive officer in November 2018.

"It was my first foray into the company and it was incredible to realize how many brands they owned," Lund says. "This was a company that was right here in my backyard in Ville Saint-Laurent."

Little did Lund know she would eventually join the organization as its first director of financial reporting in April 2017. Today, her responsibilities include overseeing MTY Group's external financial reports, determining appropriate accounting treatments and policy choices, and working on complex or non-routine transactions, such as acquisitions.

She notes that her newly created role is indicative of a company that has grown significantly since she first completed her audit.

"It's an organization that is very energetic — it's fast-paced," Lund says. "I could just see the endless possibilities in the company and that's what enticed me to work here."



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH LUND

ELIZABETH LUND, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL REPORTING, SAYS ONE OF HER GOALS IS TO TRY TO EAT AT EVERY FRANCHISE UNDER THE MTY GROUP BANNER.

As a Concordia graduate student, Lund met many in her program who would go on to specialize in various facets of accounting. The experience helped her to establish a network of peers she still calls upon.

"Some went into business valuation and some became tax experts," Lund says. "You have the same fundamental training — similar thought processes — and that's what is really nice when you leave."

Her advice for students interested in financial reporting?

"Have a strong foundation of the accounting standards — it's mission-critical to go into this role," she says. "It's a job that requires a lot of independent research and a strong desire to continuously learn. Standards continuously evolve and so can the expectations of your stakeholders and regulators."

NOT YOUR TYPICAL NINE-TO-FIVER

After Peter Tsafoulis, BComm 86, completed his undergraduate studies at Concordia, he and a couple of classmates opened a small but successful car-stereo business called Auto Acoustics Inc., in Laval, Que.

But when the three partners teamed with another friend to open a jet-ski company in Margarita Island, Venezuela, things didn't go as planned.

"Unfortunately, we lost our shirts because there was a military upheaval that happened back then," Tsafoulis recalls. "Within a six-month period, we went from tourism — thousands of people — to curfews at night."

This didn't discourage Tsafoulis from pursuing different ventures throughout his career.

Now the director of franchising, casual dining, at MTY Group, he regularly puts in 10-hour days, including some weekends, to help people achieve their dreams of owning a franchise.

"There's always a personal satisfaction overseeing and facilitating people's success. At the end of the day, if they're successful, we're successful," Tsafoulis explains.

He comes by his interest in restaurants honestly. Growing up, his father and uncles owned restaurants and worked 14 to 16 hours per day. He also spent more than 10 years at Imvescor Restaurant Group Inc., a franchising and licensing organization that focused

on the family- and casual-dining industry. MTY Group acquired the company in March 2018.

While at Concordia, he remembers taking a real-estate course with Pierre Sévigny, a former federal associate defence minister.

"I connected with his real-life stories and examples, as opposed to having somebody who is teaching out of a book," Tsafoulis says.

WORTH THE WAIT

When Renée St-Onge, BComm 02, GrDip 08, turned down an offer of a senior accounting position at MTY Group, she never expected to hear back from them, even though they said they would keep her resumé on file.

Two years later, CEO Eric Lefebvre called to ask if she would like to become the company's new controller.

"I was extremely, extremely surprised," St-Onge recalls. "Most of the time, you expect them to throw your resumé out in the trash. Eric kept his word and the right position came up."

Now the chief financial officer at MTY Group, St-Onge began as a senior accountant at Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton. From there, she worked for more than five years as a manager of corporate accounting at Bell Canada.

When the senior accounting position at MTY Group came up, she was interested in the company, but says the timing wasn't right for her to make the leap.



COURTESY OF MTY GROUP

RENÉE ST-ONGE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AT MTY GROUP, ADVISES STUDENTS NOT TO GIVE UP IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY: "I AM WHERE I AM TODAY BECAUSE I PERSEVERED THROUGH THOSE LITTLE DOWNFALLS."

"I wasn't unhappy at Bell — I just knew that it wasn't going to be my long-term trajectory," St-Onge says.

"It's only really when Eric called me that I said, 'You know what? This is it. This is where I see myself.' The things that he was offering — the variety of tasks I was going to oversee and the trajectory that I saw MTY heading toward — I thought this is the company that I want to work for."

In her new role, St-Onge manages teams in the company's Canada and U.S. offices who review all month-end operations, including all financial statements, as well as management discussion and analysis.

She is also in charge of implementing new International Financial Reporting Standards at MTY Group.

"I've known that I wanted to be an accountant since probably the middle of high school," St-Onge says. "I was always a numbers girl and my father was also in finance and accounting. He guided my career trajectory in some part."

Looking back on her time at Concordia, St-Onge is grateful for the flexibility her program offered to take courses and get professional experience simultaneously. Once she was out of school, her experience at university helped her feel more prepared to approach the working world.

"What I loved about Concordia was its diversity," St-Onge notes. "Yes, there were some amazing teachers — the classes were great — but it's the diversity, for me, that stood out." ■



COURTESY OF PETER TSAFOULIS

PETER TSAFOULIS, DIRECTOR OF FRANCHISING, CASUAL DINING, NOTES THAT MTY GROUP HASN'T EVEN SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF THE U.S. MARKET YET.

CONCORDIA'S TOP 50 UNDER FIFTY SHAPING BUSINESS

Whether startup or corporate giant, all businesses are facing acceleration and disruption like never before. What does it take to not only compete but also thrive in today's climate? We surveyed our global community to find out.

From finance masterminds to tech magnates and retail moguls, Concordia's Top 50 Under 50 Shaping Business spans movers and shakers across industries and around the world.

Here are the names of the 50 selected Concordians and testimonials from nine of them. To read all 50 testimonials, visit concordia.ca/alumni/50under50.

#CU50under50

DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

**THE P-3 EXPERT:
CANDICE ALDERSON, BA 93**

As senior vice-president, infrastructure investments, at a leading North American construction company, Ledcor Group of Companies, Candice Alderson oversees major infrastructure and public-private partnership projects like the B.C. Children's Hospital Teck Acute Care Centre. She also served as a hospital governor between 2012 and 2016.

The first woman in the company's history in charge of a profit-and-loss division, Alderson is a lawyer by training who double-majored in international politics and human/environmental relations while at Concordia. She calls her undergraduate education "extremely satisfying." The lessons she learned outside the classroom, however, were as instructive as the ones she learned in it.

"Just attending Concordia required me to move from Vancouver to Montreal at a young age. I did not know anyone in Montreal and had to find a place to live, register for courses and look after myself without a parental safety net. That's a big step for any young person," she says.

ON-THE-JOB LESSON:

"I stepped into a very complex transaction late in the game and couldn't give it my typical due diligence. I learned it's important to set reasonable expectations when you are given stretch opportunities with demanding deadlines. If you don't or can't get the necessary support for a project, figure out where your efforts are most necessary instead of trying to do it all or even part of it."

BEST CAREER ADVICE:

"Some rejections are blessings in disguise and if opportunities don't come your way — create them!"



BIGGEST UNDERGRADUATE HURDLE:

"I paid for my own education. I worked two jobs while maintaining a full course load. Suffice it to say, the work-life balance test started early for me and it took many years for me to figure out how to get a passing grade!"

EXTRACURRICULAR WISDOM:

"I took a class with political science professor Henry Habib and became involved in Concordia's Model United Nations. Aside from learning how to debate, my fellow classmates and I also had to fundraise for these competitions that required travel. When you're in these types of situations, you learn a lot about people."

PROFESSIONAL FEEDBACK:

"That I push for the right results across all ethical, legal and moral lines, that I place importance on developing positive relationships and that I genuinely care about those I work with."

- Jasmin Legatos

ENTERTAINMENT, MEDIA, SPORTS

THE VIRTUAL REALITY CREATOR: FÉLIX LAJEUNESSE, BFA 03

The co-founder of the multi Emmy-Award-winning Felix & Paul Studios is revolutionizing media from Montreal to Los Angeles. The production company is leading the way in storytelling and virtual reality. Having worked on projects with the likes of Eminem, LeBron James and, currently, the International Space Station, there's no doubt about the company's success, but that wasn't always the case.

"When we started, it was difficult to convince people that what we were doing was worth believing in because there wasn't even an industry yet," says Félix Lajeunesse.



ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDENT COMMUNITY:

"Through working on each other's movies and films, you really start to learn the fundamentals of what it is to actually make a proper production, including the human dynamic. It's kind of like a microcosm of the film industry."

TEACHERS WHO INSPIRED HIM:

"Jean-Claude Bustros, who taught film production, and Micheline Lanctôt, who taught the class 'Directing Actors.' Bustros's background was in experimental film, so he had

a wide perspective on what film could be. Knowing a teacher who didn't have a rigid view of the medium was eye-opening for me. As for Lanctôt, to this day, I remember pretty much everything she said. She had unique experiences in directing, producing and acting. I learned a lot from her."

ON WORKING WITH THE OBAMAS:

"We did two projects in virtual reality with President Obama and Michelle Obama in the last year of his term. We started filming the second one the day after the 2016 election, which was interesting. To be there witnessing this time and to be creating work with them was an incredible privilege."

ON HIS FAVOURITE PART OF THE JOB:

"I love that we keep inventing stuff. We invent stories, technology, we contributed to the invention of an industry, we are constantly in innovation mode."

- Emma Brayley, BA 19

THE TEAM-BUILDER: JULIEN BRISEBOIS, MBA 07

After almost a decade with the Montreal Canadiens hockey club, Julien BriseBois joined the Tampa Bay Lightning, where he is now general manager. Not only does he lead the NHL team, but he's also in charge of its American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate, the Syracuse Crunch. Before being promoted to GM, BriseBois was the organization's assistant general manager. Under his leadership, he helped transform the team into a perennial Stanley Cup contender.

BriseBois holds a law degree, is a member of the American Bar Association, the Quebec Bar and the Sports Lawyers Association. In 2013, he won the John Molson School of Business "MBA Alumnus of the Year" award. *The Hockey News* magazine ranked him No. 1 in its annual Top 40 Under 40 people of power and influence in 2010.



WHAT HE LEARNED AT CONCORDIA:

"When facing a difficult management decision, someone has probably already researched the question and determined the best course of action. My degree taught me to look for these answers and where to find them."

FINDING INSPIRATION IN THE CLASSROOM:

"During my MBA, I often found myself sitting next to André Couillard, who became a great friend and advisor. I've consulted him many times over the years when I've been faced with human-resources situations."

PROUDEST PROFESSIONAL MOMENT:

"Hiring Guy Boucher, Jon Cooper and Benoit Groulx as head coaches of the American Hockey League's Hamilton Bulldogs, Norfolk Admirals and Syracuse Crunch when I was general manager of those teams. All three are exceptional leaders who contributed significantly to their teams' success."

CAREER WISDOM:

"Focus on doing quality work. Opportunities and compensation will take care of themselves."

PEER FEEDBACK:

"That I am optimistic and goal-focused."

- Jasmin Legatos

TECH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

THE YOUTUBE CUSTODIAN: RADHA PENEKELAPATI, MENG 00

YouTube is used by 2 billion people and its director of trust and safety helps protect the platform by leading a global operation responsible for all the people who review the site's content.

With the unprecedented speed and scale of YouTube, Radha Penekelapati has scaled operations exponentially across many countries, developing and exploring new ways to keep the community safe — from incubating policies and tools to driving continuous quality improvements.

Penekelapati says the experience of doing her master's degree at Concordia helped her become more resourceful. She moved to Montreal from India to study while working as a software developer. Balancing her workload with the demands of school wasn't easy.

THE CLOUD-BASED SOLUTION PROVIDER: TERRY MELNIK, BA 93

The general manager at OpenAir, the professional service automation solution from NetSuite, a subsidiary of Oracle, has a complex job. The product's popularity has grown exponentially with clients ranging from industry giant HP to Amazon Robotics.

Melnik has his finger on the pulse of every aspect of the division, such as growth, value, client satisfaction and more. Luckily, the relationships he developed in university helped prepare him: "The incredible friendships I developed at Concordia are invaluable. We supported each other throughout our program and that extended into our professional lives."



"Being away from home in a foreign country, I had to learn many life skills, ranging from mundane stuff like cooking and doing laundry, to getting a part-time job and paying my bills," Penekelapati says.

CONCORDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESS:

"Although I am not using my Mechanical Engineering degree in the traditional sense, my educational background has taught me problem-solving skills and resilience."



PROUDEST CAREER MOMENT:

"When the startup where I was part of the executive team, RingCentral, went public, I was fortunate to go to the bell-ringing ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange. I had only seen the trading floor and ringing of the opening bell on TV, so experiencing it was surreal."

BIGGEST PROFESSIONAL LESSON LEARNED:

"After starting a web company in Massachusetts, I learned so much growing through two economic crises in the United States. We stuck with it despite the financial difficulties. By persevering through the rough times, I was able to gain skills and experience which allowed me to get to where I am now — a great place professionally.

"Do not let fear of change be the factor that limits your growth. Take chances — you'll be better off in the long run."

PROFS WHO HAD A LASTING IMPACT:

"Frank Hayes and Akira Takahashi. Hayes, from the Department of Economics, taught me the effectiveness of storytelling when communicating an idea. Takahashi, also a part of the economics faculty, showed me that even the most difficult

BIGGEST CAREER CHALLENGE:

"Navigating the political landscape at work. It didn't come naturally to me and I resisted it. I believed it conflicted with my personal values. I lost some leadership opportunities because

I didn't know how to neutralize negative politics. I realized after some setbacks that to be an effective leader one has to invest in understanding the informal networks, build one's circle and be astute in using influence at the right time."

BEST CAREER ADVICE:

"Instead of focusing on what others are doing wrong, focus on what you can do right to help. It works not just in professional settings but in your personal life, too."

- Damon van der Linde, BA 08

concept could be cracked open with perseverance. Even today, more than two decades later, their names and lessons come immediately to mind."

BEST CAREER ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:

"Leave others better off than when they came to you. Basically, if someone needs help, do what you can. If that means giving them advice or introducing them to someone more knowledgeable, do it. It fosters great relationships and creates social currency. The more currency you create, the wealthier your network becomes."

MOST UNDERAPPRECIATED BUSINESS TRAIT:

"Being a good listener. It's a bit of a lost art in the business world these days. And it's probably one of the easiest ways to set yourself apart from most others."

- Emma Brayley, BA 19

FINANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

THE WEALTH MAKER AND PROTECTOR: RANA GHORAYEB, BA '97, MENG '01

In May 2019, Rana Ghorayeb was named president and chief executive officer at Otéra Capital, a division of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ).

In her previous role at CDPQ, one of Canada's leading institutional fund managers, Ghorayeb managed a portfolio of more than \$20 billion, which included projects like London's Heathrow Airport and the port of Brisbane, Australia.

Born in Lebanon and raised in Montreal, Ghorayeb got her start in construction before setting her sights on real-estate investment. She moved to New York to pursue a Master of Finance and gained international experience both in New York and London before returning home.

THE TRADER WITH A HUMAN TOUCH: DANIEL SCHLAEPFER, MBA '08

Daniel Schlaepfer, president and CEO of Select Vantage Inc., is transforming the reputation of day trading — the high-stakes world of buying and selling securities the same day. With more than 2,200 employees trading up to \$3.9 billion daily, his model is a novelty in an increasingly automated world.

He relies on human beings to make trades — not computers.

"People regularly assume that our company is a giant computer," says Schlaepfer. "In fact, we trade in a lot of stocks that automated systems won't be- cause our trades require an element of human insight."



Ghorayeb says working at the Caisse is her defining professional moment. "I'm investing money for Quebec and my people. This is really it; I'm having tons of fun right now."

HOW CONCORDIA SET HER UP FOR SUCCESS:

"I stumbled into the urban planning degree for my undergrad, but it's served me very well over the years and helps me understand how the urban fabric might evolve around an asset I'm looking to invest in. That plus the engineering, and later the finance degree, set me apart from the competition and gave me the edge I needed."



OBSTACLES THAT AFFECTED HER EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY:

"I worked full time in construction while pursuing my degree in building engineering. I had to learn to manage my time, but my work gave me practical insight that I brought to the classroom. It was more of an opportunity than a hurdle."

ON EDUCATION AND HIS CONCORDIA DEGREE:

"I'm in a field where, previously, there wasn't a lot of academic credibility. Guys would rely purely on their instincts. Because of my education, the exchanges and banks took our firm more seriously. My MBA and CFA (chartered financial analyst) credentials gave me the skills to present what we do to the industry in a more data-oriented, professional way."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS A STUDENT:

"Trying to grow a business while going to school. Finding the work-life balance was all-consuming. It made me better at time management. Now, life doesn't seem as hard as it was back then, though the challenges today are probably much greater."

INSPIRING CONCORDIA PROFESSOR:

"I wouldn't be where I am today had it not been for Ted Stathopoulos. I was going to do another bachelor's after my undergrad, but he gave me the opportunity to do my master's instead."

OUTSIDE THE 9-5:

"I'm on Concordia's Board of Governors and the advisory committee for the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. This really means the world to me."

WORDS OF WISDOM:

"If you don't work hard enough, it's because you don't want it hard enough.

If you're driven by what you do and it brings you satisfaction, you'll put in 150 per cent."

- Jasmin Legatos

BIGGEST CHALLENGE TODAY:

"The size and scale of our firm and the regulatory challenges that come with it. We're constantly justifying our existence. We constantly tell regulators around the world: 'Just because we are not what you would expect does not mean what we do is wrong.' They're not used to what we have built so we are educating the industry on who we are."

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:

"That I wake up excited to do what I love. It doesn't feel like a job or a career. That's what I'm most proud of — being happy every day."

- Jasmin Legatos

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

THE MINING MASTERMIND: CHANTAL GOSSELIN, MBA 05

Chantal Gosselin knows her industry inside out, from the depths of mines to high-rise boardrooms. She is currently an independent director at Wheaton Precious Metals Corp., Lundin Gold Inc., Reunion Gold Corporation and Windiga Energy. Wheaton, Lundin and Reunion are three important players in mining globally, while Windiga is developing renewable-energy plants in western Africa.

After completing her degree in mining engineering, Gosselin worked in the development of mines in Canada, Peru and Nicaragua. Wanting to be more involved in the financial aspect of the industry, she decided to complete an MBA at Concordia.



One thing keeps Gosselin pushing forward: "A genuine love of the mining industry. When you enjoy what you do, you want to feel good about it and you want to get better at it."

BIGGEST OBSTACLE WHILE AT CONCORDIA:

"Learning the language as I was completing an MBA. English was my third language after French and Spanish, so reading and writing was tedious. Eventually, I developed techniques using a dictionary and keeping a cheat notebook of words while reading papers and the news."

ON BEING A WOMAN IN FINANCE AND MINING ENGINEERING:

"Being a minority in a male-dominated industry has not been an easy ride. It required a lot of patience and guts to push the boundaries. I was fortunate to meet exceptional people along the way who supported me and believed in my capabilities."

"Some progress has been made over the past 25 years. However, more needs to be done not only to encourage women to pursue a career in the sector but also promote them within the mining operations and up to the executive team. As great as it is to acknowledge the lack of women in our industry and on boards, change doesn't happen overnight. Having more women on boards starts from the bottom, not the top."

ON RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER 10 YEARS:

"It was definitely a game changer. The teachers and the environment made it a wonderful experience. I loved the case studies and was fortunate to be part of the team competing in the John Molson International MBA Case Competition, one of the biggest and longest-running competitions of its kind."

- Emma Brayley, BA 19

RETAIL AND MANUFACTURING

THE RETAIL WARRIOR: LILI FORTIN, BCOMM 04

When a number of Canadian retail brands are filing for bankruptcy, Quebec-based Tristan is holding its own. Fortin, who took over as president of the family company from her father Gilles Fortin in 2017, is helping a new generation discover its wares. The vertically run business — about 30 per cent of its items are made at Tristan's two factories east of Montreal — operates more than 40 locations in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.

"We know we have a product that has a place in the market. We know that trends come and go, but style remains."

During difficult times, we invested in our style, in the quality of our product, in sustainable fashion," Fortin says.

HOW CONCORDIA SET HER ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS:

"It got me ready for the real world. Among other things, I learned the true value of diversity, collaboration and innovation. I worked full-time during my degree, so I learned valuable organization skills and how to be as efficient as possible. These skills still shape my day-to-day work life."



BIGGEST CAREER CHALLENGE:

"The years following the 2008 financial crisis left a significant mark on the retail industry. We had to make major changes to our internal structure and transform

our company into an agile organization. One important lesson I learned was that you can't go forward if you keep pulling back. At one point after the crisis, it was time to move on, to take risks and turn our vision into reality."

BEST CAREER ADVICE RECEIVED:

"It is OK to make mistakes. If you don't try anything different or new, you won't get anything different. The status quo is rarely a solution. Just make sure your hits are bigger than your misses." ■

- Jasmin Legatos

THE 50 UNDER 50 LIST

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Nicole Brennig, BA 00

Partner at DLA Piper

Gary Chateram,

BSc 00, BComm 02, MSc 05

Vice-president of institutional sales at Fidelity Canada

Kathleen Ffrench, BA 01

Vice-president of sales at Northleaf Capital Partners

Chantal Gosselin, MBA 05

Director at Wheaton Precious Corp., Lundin Gold Inc., Reunion Gold Corporation and Windiga Energy

Brian Gottlieb, BComm 08

Vice-president at ITN Logistics Group

Elie Hanna, EMBA 02

President Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean at Ericsson Inc.

Lisa Hebert-Losier, BSc 05

Director of individual reinsurance solutions at Munich Re Canada

Naveed Irshad, BSc 93

Head of North American legacy business at Manulife

Geneviève Mottard, BComm 98, GrDip 99

CEO and president of the Order of CPAs of Quebec

Nicola Patone, BEng 96

Senior director retail construction development at Loblaw Companies Limited

Sarah Young, MA 98

Managing partner of Atlantic Canada at NATIONAL Public Relations

DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

Candice Alderson, BA 93

Senior vice-president infrastructure investments at Ledcor Group of Companies

Lauren Hitchman, BComm 05

President at Naylor Building Partnerships

Bradley McAninch, BEng 97

CEO at Modern Niagara Group Inc.

Jason Parravano, BComm 11, GrDip 14

CEO and president at Fronsac Real Estate Investment Trust

Martin Rouleau, BComm 94

Real estate broker for Engel & Völkers

ENTERTAINMENT, MEDIA, SPORTS

Orit Blankrot, BA 04

Vice-president of business affairs at NBC Universal

Julien BriseBois, MBA 07

General manager of Tampa Bay Lightning and Syracuse Crunch

Félix Lajeunesse, BFA 03

Co-founder of Felix & Paul Studios

Darren Solomon, BA 95

Vice-president of creative strategy and marketing at Cineplex Digital Media

FINANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

Lina Batshon, BComm 01, MBA 07

U.S. Western region vice-president of liquidity services and margin segregation at the Bank of New York Mellon

Rana Ghorayeb, BA 97, MEng 01

President and CEO of Otéra Capital, a division of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

Heidi Gunkel, MBA 13

Head of client services at RBC Global Asset Management

Evelyn Kamiliotis, BComm 91

Director at Scotiabank Global Banking and Markets

Jito Kayumba, BA 08

Partner at Kukula Capital

Hervé Larren, BComm 02

Co-founder of Global Crypto Ventures and partner at Dybaw

Erik Levy, BSc 97

Managing director at BlackRock

Devendra Maharajh, BA 08

Vice-president of sales and business development for Central and Northern Ontario at CI Investments

Dario Mazzarello, BComm 93

Managing director and head of institutional management, U.S. and International at Jarislowsky, Fraser Ltd.

Jonathan Sargent, BComm 08

Vice-president of investment banking at Canaccord Genuity Group Inc.

Daniel Schlaepfer, MBA 08

President and CEO of Select Vantage Inc.

Annamaria Testani, BComm 93, EMBA 00

Vice-president of national sales at National Bank Investments

RETAIL AND MANUFACTURING

Eva Azoulay, MBA 04

Vice-president of commercial aftermarket at Pratt & Whitney

Bonita Birollo, EMBA 06, GrCert 10

Vice-president of operations for Western Canada at Circle K

Farla Efros, BComm 96

President of HRC Retail Advisory

Lili Fortin, BComm 04

President at Tristan

Samir Kersheh, BComm 94

President at Vêtements Va-Yola Ltée

TECH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Peter Balyta, MSc 00

President at Texas Instrument (TI)

Wayne Burke, BA 10

Co-founder and president of Dominion New Energy Resources

Lydia Chicles, BA 97

CEO at BOLD! Technologies, LLC

Isabelle Dessureault, MBA 99

Mentor at Zone Startups/India

Terry Melnik, BA 93

General manager of OpenAir at NetSuite

Yan Morin, BSc 03

Owner and president at ISOPARK Analytical Solutions

Leah Olson-Friesen, BA 98, MA 00

CEO at Dot Technology Corp.

Michael Pelosi, BComm 08

Account executive, financial services at Google

Radha Penekelapati, MEng 00

Director of trust and safety at YouTube

Rebecca Reeve Henderson, MA 07

CEO at Rsquared Communication

Caterina Rizzi, BFA 04

Co-founder, advisor and entrepreneur at Breather

Brian Scudamore, attendee

Founder and CEO of O2E Brands

Carolyn Vogelesang, BComm 96, MBA 98

Founding partner at Evolution Health Group

Read their stories at
concordia.ca/alumni/50under50

MEET 3 WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME

The Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership program empowers women graduates to connect, share professional experiences and expertise and learn from each other. In this new series, meet leaders from among Concordia's nearly 100,000 alumnae who fill the ranks of business, media, engineering, science, the arts, humanities and more. Each issue, we'll profile both young and seasoned alumnae who will share their insights, challenges and lessons learned. (concordia.ca/alumni-friends/alumni-network/women-leadership)

DONNA NEBENZAHL

It's no exaggeration to describe Anne-Marie Hubert, LLD 15, as a woman of influence. A CPA and Quebec managing partner at the consultancy firm EY — a business she helped build since joining the firm in 1985 — Hubert was awarded the Order of Canada in 2017 and four times has been named by the Women's Executive Network as one of Canada's Top 100 "most powerful women."

Based in Montreal, Hubert has led EY Canada's gender-equity initiatives, serving as the Canadian representative on the Americas Gender Equity Task Force. She received an honorary doctorate from Concordia in 2015 in recognition of her "exceptional contribution to the advancement of women in business."

Her job is to advise organizations on strategies, governance and performance. Bringing people together for growth, giving them support and coaching to embrace the future are also skills Hubert brings to her work for women.



"Whether it's my college or my babysitter or the leader of a not-for-profit organization, the more we help others succeed, the more we succeed. That's my common theme."

Nevertheless, there's a lack of role models for women, she says. "Little girls make choices early on. If we can look at this as a challenge and see a collective responsibility to create a society where women can contribute their full potential and where men and women can succeed in all aspects of their lives, we will create a better world."

As member of the Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership advisory group, she's looking for change. "The aging population is creating a scarcity of talent," she says, "so it becomes a business imperative more than it was before. There are more and more men who realize that making the investment to give women a chance has had a positive impact on their business. That's driving change."

In her own workplace, Hubert, 55, was able to learn and grow. "Once you say 'yes' and manage to deliver results, you get more opportunities. Although I had to say 'no' at certain points — at different stages of life I had to slow down to succeed in all aspect of life, including family. Yet in the long run, I'm pleased with the choices I've made."

While there are lots of women in the credit business, there are very few at her level, says Madeleine Féquière, BA 85, director of Corporate Credit Risk Management at Domtar Inc.

She has held senior positions in global credit at AbitibiBowater Corp. and Teleglobe Canada. And it all started with her Concordia degree in translation. "I worked for a company as a translator and someone suggested a transfer in finance and that was it for me," she says. "I entered the credit world by accident and I remained by choice."

Féquière's decision to specialize in credit-risk management has served her well, with its focus on analytics and diplomacy. She leads seven credit groups around the world.

"I help the company maximize its sales and keep debt to a minimum, while ensuring the best-in-class status of my credit operations, in terms of people, governance and solutions."

Founder and CEO of Rsquared Communication, a thriving PR-strategy company in San Francisco, Rebecca Reeve, MA (media studies) 07, was once a speechwriter for the premier of British Columbia.

Her decision to do a master's at Concordia was a turning point, Reeve says. "The program made me a much better thinker, improved my writing process."

The clients at her 10-year-old company are billion-dollar, high-growth technology companies, seeking her help to build profiles and deliver their messaging. Rsquared has created a well-defined niche, from Vancouver to San Francisco and Toronto, with offices in each city.

She took some risks to get here. Once she decided to work in technology, she moved to San Francisco and found an apartment and a job on Craigslist. Not long after, Rsquared Communications was born.



JEAN-SÉBASTIEN DÉNOMMÉ - CURIOUS MONTREAL

She has also contributed outside her field for the past 25 years — since 2014 as independent director of Investissement Québec and currently as a board member of Conseil des Arts de Montréal. She has always been involved with women's causes and preparing the next generation of leaders.

"My world changes as the company grows," Reeve, 39, says. She has had two children in the last five years, which has forced her to let others take leadership roles in the company.

She believes the tech industry has had its own reckoning, driven by the #MeToo movement. "There is more open conversation and efforts at dismantling antiquated views around things like when you're hiring and you open your screening process to make sure that women are interviewed for open positions, that somehow means there's a lower bar," says Reeve. "There has been a lot of encouraging change, a shift in what can be spoken aloud and other things that are no longer OK to say. That's progress."

"It's incredibly encouraging and inspirational to see leaders like Jennifer Tejada take PagerDuty public earlier this year, and Jennifer Hyman taking Rent the Runway through an IPO at nine months pregnant," says Reeve.

"I was invited to join the Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership advisory group by its president, a colleague from the International Women's Forum," she says. "Since its creation, we've accomplished so much together, by connecting with and learning from each other."

One of her goals is to foster leadership qualities. "I remember giving a presentation at Concordia and a lot of students came to me afterwards and said, 'You changed our perspective. We didn't know we could do all that and be all that.' I told them, 'Get a degree, then the sky's the limit!'"

Her advice to graduates? "You have to be passionate about whatever it is you want to embrace; with passion you can do anything," she says. "Don't be afraid to change career paths or move from one assignment to another, experience life elsewhere. The idea is to learn as much as you can and to grow in the process."



"It's slow, but changes are happening and I think the leadership women are providing around funding the next generation of companies is profound," she says. The wealth in Silicon Valley is from equity, not salary. "So if you can change the equation so that women are influencing what types of products get built and how they get built, that really starts to shape our reality." ■

The push for equity, diversity and inclusion in STEM

AMANDA CLARKE

Why are women and minorities historically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)? How can we halt the reproduction of unconscious biases when we think of STEM?

These are primary concerns for Tanja Tajmel, associate professor at Concordia's Centre for Engineering in Society at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Her research explores how identity narratives in STEM fields reinforce low participation levels of girls, women and other underrepresented groups — and how the language around the lack of diversity hinders a thorough understanding of its root causes and potential solutions.

Tajmel co-organized the International Symposium on Human Rights and Equality in STEM Education in October 2018. Together with Klaus Starl from the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy and Susanne Spintig from the Professional School of Education at Humboldt University of Berlin, Tajmel gathered international scholars from across disciplines of STEM education, educational research, human rights and gender and diversity studies.

In collaboration with UNESCO, symposium participants and collaborators adopted a declaration that everyone should have the right to participate in up-to-date science education and, most important, that STEM education must be accessible and acceptable for the learners in its content, representations and purposes.

How can we “stem” unconscious biases?

Tajmel will put this mission into action over the summer as she co-leads a graduate course on equity, diversity and inclusion with Stephanie Ruel, assistant professor at Concordia's John Molson School of Business. Twenty master's and PhD students from around the world will participate in the week-long (May 27-31) program.

Her expertise on barriers limiting participation in STEM will be put to good use in creating a next-generation learning and teaching environment for anyone passionate about science and technology.

Tajmel's first year at Concordia has come at an exciting time. In fall 2018, the faculty became the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science — the first engineering school in Canada named after a woman.

It also appointed its first associate dean of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, professor Anjali Agarwal. She will offer an All-Girls Summer Engineering and Technology Program this year to encourage women in high school and CEGEP to pursue STEM careers.

The school's Women in Engineering Society has hosted hands-on workshops from industry leaders and talks from female leaders for hundreds of young women to break down barriers to STEM education.

“The Gina Cody School is working to make access to engineering and computer science fields inclusive and equitable to women, members of the Indigenous and LGBTQ communities and internationally educated professionals,” says the school's dean, Amir Asif.



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1 THROUGH HER RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY, TANJA TAJMEL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING IN SOCIETY, WORKS TO PROMOTE STEM EDUCATION AS A HUMAN RIGHT.

2 GEORGIOS VATISTAS, PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, HAS SPENT DECADES DECODING SOLITARY WAVES AND PREDICTING THEIR MOVEMENTS.

3 THE ANNUAL CONUHACKS HACKATHON GIVES STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS, AND ENABLES BUSINESSES TO RECRUIT NEW TALENT.

DECODING MOVEMENT PATTERNS OF TSUNAMI-LIKE SOLITARY WAVES

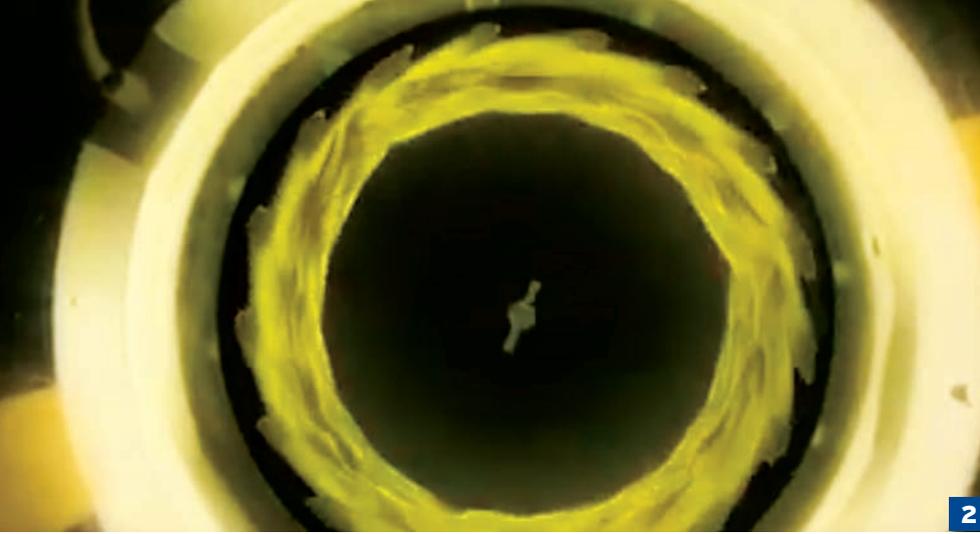
A phenomenon has confounded scientists for almost two centuries: lone waves, strangely tall and fast, moving independently of the ebb and flow around them.

More recently, an urgent reason to understand these waves became clear, when “monster tsunamis” killed more than 250,000 people in southern Asia in 2004 and close to 20,000 in Japan in 2011.

Georgios Vattistas, professor of mechanical engineering at Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, has spent decades decoding these solitary waves and predicting their movements. His newest findings pushed the field forward by observing how the waves behave when they occur in a series.

Vattistas's research suggests there's much to learn from these “clusters” of solitary waves. They organize themselves in intriguing ways, moving in unexpected harmony.

The team in his lab recorded the waves arising spontaneously but simultaneously. They quickly arranged themselves symmetrically, all evenly spaced, travelling at the same speed.



“Watching them, an observer would be reminded of a dance,” Vatisas says.

“If you have two solitary waves, for example, travelling toward each other, they can pass through each other practically unaffected,” Vatisas explains.

Simulations have shown that waves will collide and then continue on their way. Even more dramatically, ocean tsunamis can travel incredibly fast — faster than a jumbo jet.

Vatisas uses a cylindrical tank made out of Plexiglas with an outlet at one end stopped with a cork. The tank can be filled with water and then steered, with the water’s movement captured on camera.

His research team consists of Hamid Ait Abderrahmane of Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi, Concordia engineering professor Hoi Dick Ng and graduate student Pooya Soltanian Sedeh. For this study, they created a cluster or series of the waves.

After their surprisingly coordinated “dance,” the team watched as all the waves collected themselves at the same location and then died simultaneously, a moment they are currently trying to quantify more precisely.

The new paper will likely be especially interesting to mathematicians, he says. The waves’ pace wasn’t anticipated, suggesting they can’t be fully modelled by the existing formula for predicting their movements, called the Korteweg-de Vries model. New math must be discovered to account for them.

“We know how the clusters behave. Now, as engineers, how do we use this to better human life?”

FIRST PLACE AMONG 700 HACKATHON COMPETITORS

A team of four Concordians beat 700 competitors at the fourth annual ConUHacks hackathon.

All worked feverishly through the night of January 26 to create the best technology-based project possible in a 24-hour period. They produced 172, including websites to virtual reality applications to physical tools.

The winning Concordia team of Francesco Valela, Jacob Gagné, Tobi Décary-Larocque and Benjamin Barault developed a phone app to help the hearing impaired.

HEAR is an iOS application that uses speech-to-text technology integrated with augmented reality and facial recognition features. It allows for real-time subtitling to appear under each speaker, even if a phone is moving during a conversation.

Nearly 50 schools from across North America were represented.

“It took us between seven and eight hours to get here,” says Joshua Smith, a student at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, Ont. “It’s worth it because you get hands-on experience that you don’t necessarily get in school. Here we get the chance to really develop an idea.”

One of ConUHacks’ co-founders, Buruç Asrin, BEng 17, says it took two years to set the event’s initial frameworks and logistics. That included lobbying to take over the John Molson Building for 24 hours, feeding hundreds of students and creating an event so fun that talented students would want to apply. This year 3,000 did so, though organizers could only accept 700.

“We work about eight to nine months a year to get the event off the ground,” says Asrin, who has graduated yet remains a consultant for HackConcordia, the student group behind the event. ■





HOW CONCORDIA SPURS INNOVATION IN AFRICA

Students, research and partnerships play larger role
in infrastructure, education, economic progress



By 2030, the United Nations has projected that one in five people in the world will be from an African country. The continent is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies where there are massive opportunities to build infrastructure, alleviate poverty, develop technology and increase and improve education.

As an institution that produces innovative solutions that contribute to society, Concordia is in an ideal position to make an impact in Africa and around the world.

In addition to welcoming 681 international students from 36 countries across the continent in the 2017/18 academic year, the university is building transformative relationships with African communities and institutions toward the development of a sustainable and equitable world.

Concordia works with international organizations on funding opportunities, research and mobility experiences in different African countries. These initiatives seek to celebrate an incredibly diverse continent by challenging tired narratives of famine, conflict and poverty. Although Concordia uses its resources to support solutions in different African countries, it is doing this in a way that is collaborative and reciprocal, with an approach of humility and understanding.

In academics, the university has an African Studies Working Group that brings together faculty and graduate students from different disciplines to workshop their proposals, papers and other research that addresses the intertwining of social, economic, and political processes in the ongoing transformation of the African continent.

Since the 1980s, the African Student Association of Concordia has supported and represented international students as well as others of African descent. It serves as a conduit for members of the diaspora to engage with student life through advocacy and social events, as well as hosting

events in Montreal that feature speakers from different African countries.

These initiatives are part of Concordia's growth as an institution with a global impact, not only through its alumni and research, but through the positive development of an increasingly interconnected world.

ABRACADABRA: HELPING A CONTINENT WITH LITERACY

Better education not only improves the lives of students and their families, it helps build a more productive society with benefits that ripple beyond borders and reach future generations. Yet around the globe, there are 250 million girls and boys who cannot decipher a single sentence, even though many have spent years in school.

Concordia's Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance (CSLP) aims to build tools to advance the teaching and learning process.

"By having Kenyan teachers as ambassadors, you can't imagine how it has generated excitement."

The CSLP team has developed the Learning ToolKit (LTK+), a suite of evidence-based software. These programs support the development of literacy, numeracy, inquiry and other competencies within an environment that encourages student-directed learning and student ownership.

Funded by Concordia, the Aga Khan Academies and other partners, the CSLP began research in Mombasa, Kenya in 2012, focusing on the impact of its ABRACADABRA early literacy software and library of digital books, called READS (ABRACADABRA has been piloted around the world by educators).

Over the years, results have consistently shown improvements in student learning, with girls achieving at the same rates as boys. Across the board these youngsters not only demonstrated a marked and consistent improvement in literacy and math, but also in science and social studies.

"We've learned over time that it doesn't matter where the children are, that even in remote regions they can compete with the best students in Kenya if they are just given the right opportunity," says Phil Abrami, a professor of education in the Faculty of Arts and Science, and founder of the CSLP.

"It's not about the kids and their ability. It's about providing them with the educational support to unleash their unlimited capacity for learning. It's not the kids who do poorly; it's the education systems that do poorly."

Abrami emphasises that although ABRACADABRA and the rest of the Learning ToolKit is software, the focus is on education, not technology. "Too often people get caught up in the 'whiz-bang' nature of the technology and forget that technology has to be in service of learning, not the other way around," he says.

What this means in practice, Abrami says, is that the continuing success of ABRACADABRA relies on buy-in from the government, NGOs and especially educators.

"By having Kenyan teachers as ambassadors, you can't imagine the impact it has had on generating excitement,

positive energy and motivation among all of those other teachers that were so hard to reach in previous years. Now the implementation has increased substantially," says Anne Wade, who has acted as project manager on a variety of CSLP research and development projects, including the Learning ToolKit.

With support from the Kenyan government, LTK+ is being implemented in both rural and urban communities, while the CSLP is looking to expand the initiative to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

"We definitely want to grow in a sustainable way. We have helped thousands and thousands of students and teachers so far, but it's really just a drop in the bucket," Abrami says. "There are millions of children in Kenya, so there's a big gap between where we are now and where we could be."

THROUGH CEED CONCORDIA, STUDENTS HAVE AN IMPACT

In 2006 Concordia undergraduates Awel Uwhanganye, BA 08, and Peter Schiefke, BA 07 brought an ambitious idea to their peers: through a student fee levy they would fund a volunteer organization that allows Concordians to employ their skills outside the classroom in Uwhanganye's home country of Uganda.

"As an African student, I was very interested in exposing students at Concordia to Africa because I wanted opportunities for future leaders to be exposed to one of the most important parts of the world, which is mostly very misunderstood," said Uwhanganye. "We didn't want to just replicate some of the other models out there where students can go abroad, but it really can be quite expensive."

Named the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program (CVAP), it connected passionate young people to organizations in Gulu, a city of about 150,000 people in northern Uganda. There, Concordia students would work on entrepreneurship, agriculture and sustainable food production, childcare and child healthcare, HIV/AIDS and other related projects.

The organization gained traction. In 2011, the first CVAP volunteers stayed at the newly built facility in Gulu, constructed with design support from Concordia graduate students to be a demonstration centre for sustainable technologies. In 2014, CVAP was renamed CEED – Community, Empowerment, Education, Development – to reflect the experiential learning aspect of the organization above volunteering.

"We consciously wanted to go against that 'volunteer abroad' model. Not because there isn't a place for it, but we just felt like other people are doing it better," says Thomas Prince, BA 11, MA 15, executive director at CEED Concordia.



AWEL UWHANGANYE

CEED Concordia and CEED Uganda emerged as two partner organizations, each guided by its own board of directors, staff and community of stakeholders. With a focus on empowering youth, CEED developed core in-house projects on entrepreneurship, communications and environmental sustainability.

Each year, CEED brings together undergraduate and graduate students from Concordia and a variety of different universities in Gulu. These cross-cultural internships provide a unique opportunity for hands-on learning and engaging critical issues affecting youth in northern Uganda and beyond. It is also an opportunity to build job skills students can carry forward in their careers. The internships emphasize social, community and personal development through experiential learning and cultural and skills exchanges. At Concordia, the organization benefits students through the internships, as well as public events, academic courses, research opportunities, and employment opportunities.

Josie Fomé, BA 17, Gr. Dip 18, first

joined CEED as an intern in the summer of 2018 as part of the Youth Advocacy & Communications project where with her team she helped produce a monthly radio talk show that highlighted young achievers in the community.

"It was really challenging and it helped me grow in multiple ways by learning how to listen and understand, not just respond. I learned how to take a step back because this isn't my space and this isn't my culture," says Fomé.

Fomé returned to CEED as the intern coordinator where she is responsible for the recruitment, training and support of interns throughout the summer program to ensure that they have a challenging and fulfilling learning experience.

"Because half the interns are Canadian and half are Ugandan, you have locals who are going through this with you. They are literally your peers because they are university students as well," she says.

To date more than 250 Concordia students and 150 Ugandans have participated, with CEED making sustainable contributions beyond the three-month internships by supporting the Ugandan office in its year-round activities.

"We're not only providing a university experience for Concordians, but actually building a collaborative and peer-to-peer learning model where students can apply their skills from the classroom and further their passions," says Prince.

Prince says as an institution, Concordia has been extremely supportive of CEED, not only from the student-fee levy but through leadership at the Concordia Student Union

"We're not only providing a university experience for Concordians, but actually building a collaborative and peer-to-peer learning model."

as well as champions in faculty and the administration.

“The impacts have been immense,” says Uwhanganye. “Students who started with CEED and CVAP are now working in international development or for governments. I think as a result we’ve also seen an increase in understanding about Africa through the different initiatives that take place on campus.”

“I realized we could dedicate an initiative to the continent by which we would train young people – especially women – on how they can develop services through these smart devices,” Cheaib says. “They will be able to create their own jobs and empower themselves rather than waiting for someone to help them.”

Working alongside CEED founder Uwhanganye, in 2018 Cheaib launched the Concordia Africa Initiative (CAI) with the goal of building transformative

galvanize relationships with governments and other big institutions,” says Uwhanganye. “The whole world is interested in what’s happening in Africa. Investors should be bold.”

CAI is in the early stages of developing boot camps for entrepreneurs in collaboration with startup incubators in four countries: Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia. This work would be in partnership with the Concordia-based District 3 Innovation Center, Montreal’s leading innovation hub for empowering innovators, entrepreneurs, and academics to create meaningful impact.

“The idea would be to use the tools we have here and train innovative entrepreneurs in Africa,” Cheaib says.

From there, Cheaib says the most promising group would attend events such as the International Economic Forum of the Americas Conference of Montreal, where they could pitch matured ideas to high-profile funders such as finance ministers from different countries, NGO directors and business leaders.

“It’s not that we’re bringing them to Montreal and developing the ideas here, it’s that they will be developed locally in their countries,” he says.

So far, Cheaib has been meeting with leaders in partner countries, which he hopes will soon result in collaboration with government, NGOs and businesses.

At last year’s Conference of Montreal, CAI hosted a panel about women in business in Africa, which was introduced by Concordia President Alan Shepard, and featured panellists from Rwanda’s Development Board, the First Bank of Nigeria and the African Union.

“We’re hitting on something that is very much needed in Africa and we’re happy to be contributing to that,” he says. “Concordia has always been proud to be connected with the community, and in this case it’s about being connected with the global community.”

For Cheaib, CAI is indicative of Concordia’s unique identity of being a strong academic institute that also prioritizes its role as a community leader. ■



CONCORDIA AFRICA INITIATIVE BUILDS TRANSFORMATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

More than half of the 1.2 billion people in Africa are under the age of 21, while two-thirds are younger than 30. Meanwhile, the continent has a staggeringly high rate of unemployment – especially among young people.

Paradoxically, the continent is home to eight out of 10 of the fastest-growing economies, though not everyone has equal access to new-found wealth in these emerging markets.

William Cheaib, associate vice-president international, in the Office of the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies, sees this great challenge as an opportunity. He noticed that almost everyone had access to a smart phone, and that this technology could serve as a tool to harness untapped entrepreneurial potential.

relationships with African communities and institutions by directing the university’s strengths toward key areas affecting socioeconomic development.

“We’re always looking for new places for Concordia to be connected. We want to be connected at a different level with Africa in a way that is meaningful both for people there as well as for Concordia,” says Cheaib.

At a time of Concordia’s growth in influence within global engagements, CAI presents an opportunity to bring more African insights to the university’s teaching and learning, and more of Concordia’s research and outreach to Africa.

“While CEED is a student-led, student-owned organization that has done a lot of good work, CAI brings the opportunity for Concordia to engage more with Africa on an institutional level and

There's a subtle eeriness to much of Matthew Brooks's photography, and it's deliberate. The Winnipeg native – BFA16 – who is now in pursuit of a master's in fine arts at Concordia, prefers it when the audience is at least a little uncomfortable when viewing his hyper-realistic work.

His large-format photographs often evoke scenes from cinema – that, too, is deliberate – and embrace bygone architecture in places like Wildwood, N.J., where the classic kitsch of dozens and dozens of 1950s motels has provided him with plenty of visually compelling material.

Brooks received the 2017 Roloff Beny Fellowship in Photography, a \$10,000 fellowship awarded yearly by the Concordia Department of Studio Arts' photography program to a graduate student for outstanding artistic and academic achievement. The award allows a student to pursue a photography project to be shown at a later date. In Brooks's case, that was a 2018 exhibition at the Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery on the Sir George Williams campus.

"In the first phase of the project, I photographed various scenes as I explored the town as though location scouting for a film which doesn't exist," Brooks said. "The resulting images are strict and sculptural, revealing the formal qualities of Wildwood's aging architecture and using light and colour to create a cinematic atmosphere.

"Drawing on the rich iconography of the motel and its place in the histories of film and photography, the images... function both as documents of this fading architecture and moody cinematic tableaux, occupying a complex position between reality and fiction."

Brooks was also awarded a Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Master's scholarship in 2017 and received a master's scholarship from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture. In 2019, he was long-listed for the Scotiabank New Generation Photography Award.

Visit matthewbrooks.info.

– Doug Sweet



MATTHEW BROOKS

Roloff Beny Foundation Fellowship in Photography: Matthew Brooks



"CARIBBEAN MOTEL"
DIGITAL C-PRINT
50" X 62"
2018



"QUEBEC MOTEL"
DIGITAL C-PRINT
50" X 62"
2018



"LAUNDROMAT (FOR HOPPER)"
DIGITAL C-PRINT
50" X 62"
2018



"MOREY'S PIER"
DIGITAL C-PRINT
50" X 157"
2018

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

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



2019 ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS WITH PAUL CHESSER, VICE-PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT (FAR RIGHT).

ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Concordia University Alumni Association honoured Concordia's finest at its annual Alumni Recognition Awards ceremony on May 2 at Pointe-à-Caillière Museum. **Mutsumi Takahashi**, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, chief news anchor at CTV Montreal News, emceed the sold-out event. Meet our 2019 honorees:

Humberto Santos Award of Merit

Peter Kruyt, BComm 78, is senior advisor to Power Corporation of Canada, which he joined in 1981. The former chair of Concordia's Board of Governors is an active member of the community, supporting Centraide of Greater Montreal and St. Mary's Hospital, and is a member of numerous boards, including the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Montreal International and the McGill University Health Centre.

John F. Lemieux Medal

Concordia's first jurist-in-residence, **Morton S. Minc**, BA 67, is former chief justice of the Municipal Court of

Montreal and has served in the justice system for more than 20 years. His work has supported programs that help offenders dealing with mental-health issues, homelessness and substance abuse. In 2014, he was awarded the Prix de la justice du Québec and in 2018 was inducted into the Order of Canada and the Order of Montreal.

Honorary Life Membership

Alan Shepard has been president and vice-chancellor of Concordia since 2012, leading the university community through 9 Strategic Directions — the institution's road map guiding its development. Under Shepard's leadership, initiatives that have distinguished Concordia as a next-generation university include: the Public Scholars Program, Horizon Postdoctoral Fellows Program, Concordia University Press, Indigenous Directions Leadership Group, 4TH SPACE research hub, the university's Digital Strategy and the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

Benoît Pelland

Distinguished Service Award

President and CEO of Lengvari Financial Inc., **Christine C. Lengvari**, BSc 72, was named one of "50 Women of Influence in Canada's Life Insurance Industry" in 2014, and was also awarded the Prix de Distinction from the Chambre de la sécurité financière in 2017. Lengvari is involved on various boards and committees at Concordia and in 2017 gave back to her alma mater with a \$1-million planned gift.

Alumnus of the Year

Vivek Venkatesh, MA 03, PhD 08, is the UNESCO Co-Chair in Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism and associate professor in Concordia's Department of Art Education. Venkatesh investigates the psychological, cultural and cognitive factors influencing the design, development and inclusive adoption of digital media in educational and social contexts.



MBA Alumnum of the Year

Kenneth M. Brooks, MBA 99, has more than 25 years of experience in mergers and acquisitions as well as restructuring. He is a partner and senior vice-president at Ernst & Young Orenda Corporate Finance. Brooks joined the board of directors of the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) International Case Competition in 2013 and became its chair in 2015. In 2016, he became a member of JMSB's advisory board and in 2018 was appointed to Concordia's Board of Governors.

International Excellence Award

Originally from Hong Kong, **Winston Kan**, BAdmin 81, came to Concordia in 1978 as a student and then served as a representative on the University Senate and the Commerce and Administration Faculty Council. Kan co-founded Concordia alumni chapters in Beijing and Shanghai and supports fundraising initiatives via the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation Limited and the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now as part of the Beijing chapter.

Alumni Award for Innovative Teaching

Eva Pomeroy is the current social-innovator-in-residence for Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science and a lecturer in the Department of Applied Human Sciences. In 2016, she co-founded the Concordia U.lab Social Innovation Hub — an experimental learning space to engage in a social innovation process based on the U.lab framework to create fertile ground for community-based social innovation.

Outstanding Staff Award

Alain Tessier joined Concordia in 2002 and was instrumental in setting up the physics laboratories when they moved from Sir George Williams Campus to Loyola Campus. In 2004, he joined Concordia's Centre for Biological Applications of Mass Spectrometry in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, where he continues to support graduate students, researchers and members of the faculty with scientific investigations.

Young Alumnum of the Year

Former co-captain of the Stingers cross-country team, **Antoine Labranche**, BA 09, is a mountaineer, military pilot, mentor, motivational speaker and social activist. He enlisted in the Reserve Force of the Canadian Army in 2006, while studying at Concordia. Labranche is currently serving in Mali with the United Nations, as part of an international effort to help bring stability to the country.

Outstanding Student Leader Award

A Kanien'kehá:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, **Brandon Montour** is a political science student who aspires to become a lawyer. Inspired by his First Nations status, he hopes to advocate for change and address challenges faced by Indigenous people across Canada. Montour serves as a community project chairperson of the 61st Garnet Key Society.

Outstanding Student Leader Award

A student at Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, **Constantina Roumeliotis** currently serves as president of the Engineering and Computer Science Association (ECA). Through the ECA, she helps students integrate into the university environment and provides them with tools and information they need to succeed.

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Concordians enjoyed an evening of laughter on Holiday Comedy Night at the Comedy Nest on December 3, featuring alumni comedians, including **Tranna Wintour**, BA 10. **2**

Alumni gathered to celebrate the holiday season at chapter events in Ottawa, Toronto, New York City, Boston, Vancouver and Calgary. Pictured are Ottawa alumni at the National Arts Centre on December 4 **3**; Boston alumni at Central Wharf Co. on December 6 **4** and New York City alumni at Maman Tribeca on December 6. **5**

Concordia University Alumni Association board members, including **Helen Downie**, BA 11, MA 16, and **Tania De Capua**, BComm 11, marked the holidays at a gathering at the Concordia Conference Centre on December 18. **6**



2



PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI TOUR

On an alumni tour with 10 stops across North America and Europe from February to April 2019, Concordia President Alan Shepard shared news about Concordia's steady progress as Canada's next-generation university. Concordia celebrated his contributions as he prepares to step down after seven years of outstanding leadership. Pictured in London, U.K., are **John Anthony Coleman** (second from left), Agent General, Government of Québec; **Paul Chesser** (left), BA 94, GrDip 97, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement; **Leisha LeCouvie**,

senior director of Alumni Relations; and President **Alan Shepard** on February 26 at the Quebec Government Office. **7**

The tour stopped in Vancouver, where Concordia's vice-president of Advancement **Paul Chesser** (left), BA 94, GrDip 97, is pictured with alumni at TELUS Garden on April 4. **8**

THIS IS CONCORDIA. NOW. PART OF CONCORDIA'S THINKING OUT LOUD EVENT AND PODCAST SERIES

Highlighting the 50th anniversary of the John Molson School of Business MBA program, Dean **Anne-Marie Croteau**,

BSc 86, (second from left) hosted a lively discussion on the Canadian mergers and acquisitions market with **Ken Brooks** (left), MBA 99, senior vice-president and partner at Ernst & Young; **Sandra Betton** (second from right), associate dean of Graduate Professional Programs at JMSB; and **Valery Zamuner**, MBA 13, mergers and acquisitions consultant. Moderated by **Jacob Serebrin**, BA 17, business reporter for the *Montreal Gazette*, the discussion took place February 12 at the Concordia Conference Centre. **9**

In her talk "Exercising Hearts and Minds," **Claudine Gauthier**, assistant

professor in Concordia's Department of Physics, discussed new methods to measure brain health that can be used to help prevent and treat neurovascular diseases. CBC reporter **Simon Nakonechny**, GrDip 16, moderated at the February 28 event. **10**

Guests were treated to an evening of storytelling on March 25 by (from left) **Johanne Pelletier**, director of strategic initiatives, University Communication Services; **Emma Lanza**, administrator at Concordia's Centre for Clinical Research in Health; **Tranna Wintour**, BA 10, comedian, producer and writer; **Taylor Tower**, communications advisor for the Faculty of Arts and Science; and **Rebecca**

Duclos, dean, Faculty of Fine Arts. **11**

On April 15, Faculty of Arts and Science dean **André Roy** (left), hosted a lively panel discussion on journalism. Moderated by **Aphrodite Salas** (second from left), MA 99, assistant professor of journalism, the panel included (from left) **Rachel Lau**, BA 13, Quebec on-line producer at Global News; **George Kalogerakis**, BA 87, freelance journalist and former managing editor at *Le Journal de Montreal*; **Julian McKenzie**, BA 16, freelance journalist and news reporter at CTV Montreal; and **Patti Sonntag**, BA 00, director at the Institute for Investigative Journalism and a former managing editor at *The New York Times*. **12**

STINGERS

Women's hockey alumnae and friends cheered on the Stingers, who beat the Université de Montréal Carabins, during the Pink in the Rink fundraiser for the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation on February 9 at Concordia's Ed Meagher Arena. **13**

Alumni and friends celebrated the 2018-2019 Concordia Stingers women's and men's basketball teams at our annual banquet on March 22. **14**

A similar event for the 2018-2019 Stingers hockey teams took place on April 6.

Both events were held at Montreal's Hilton Garden Inn Centre-Ville.





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SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS (SAE)

At their annual auto exhibition on April 4, past and present Concordia SAE members celebrated the launch of a new race season and got a sneak peek at the new 2019 race vehicles. **15**

ALUMNI MATTERS GRADUATION CONFERENCE

Graduating students and young alumni enjoyed at two-day professional development conference with sessions ranging from crafting an impressive resume and LinkedIn profile to developing interview skills and learning to manage stress. The events took place at Concordia on March 18 and 19. **16**

THE POWER OF VISUAL NOTE-TAKING

Capitalizing on the brain's ability to process visuals 60,000 times faster than text, **Alina Gutierrez Mejia**, BFA 09, MA 16, taught the key elements of visual note-taking during hands-on workshops on March 27 and April 16. **17**

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

63 Richard Pound, BA, LLD 10, was appointed chair of the advisory board of the International Institute for Sports Business and Leadership at the University of Guelph.

68 Morris Zand, BComm, runs a marketing communications agency in Geneva, Switzerland. In September 2018, he was named adjunct professor at the Geneva Business School, where he teaches marketing strategy.

74 Constantinos (Costas) Spiliadis, BA, is founder and president of Milos Restaurants, with locations in Montreal, New York, Athens, Las Vegas, Miami and London. An Estiatorio Milos opened in March in the new Hudson Yards development in New York, while one in Los Cabos, Mexico, is planned for the summer and another in Dubai for later in the year.

77 Mario Settino, BComm, was named EVP for Corporate Development and CFO at Trueblue, a technology solutions provider for the pharmaceutical industry.

79 Francis Chartrand, BSc (geol.), was appointed technical advisor at Kintavar Exploration Inc, a Canadian mineral exploration firm.

82 Ellen David, BFA, co-starred in the Centaur Theatre's production of the comedy Shoplifters from March 19 to April 7, 2019.

Brenda Gewurz, MBA, was named co-chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs-Quebec, the advocacy arm of Federation CJA.



Two Stingers linemen selected in 2019 CFL draft:

Concordia Stingers offensive tackle Maurice Simba (left) was selected 29th overall by the Toronto Argonauts and defensive tackle Michael Sanelli was picked 39th overall by the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League draft on May 2, 2019.

83 Nelson Gentiletti, BComm, was named COO and CFO at Loop Industries, a technology innovator in sustainable plastics, in December 2018. He was previously with Transcontinental Inc.

84 Joseph Canavan, BAdmin, was named CEO at NEXT Canada, a non-profit that aims to increase Canadian prosperity through programs that provide education, resources, empowerment, incubation and support for exceptional entrepreneurs and innovators.

85 Geneviève Morin, BA (econ.) joined Anges Québec Capital as CEO. Anges Québec Capital is an \$86-million investment fund, sponsored by Investissement Québec.

86 Steven Leonard, BComm, GrDip (acct.) 89, was appointed CFO at Aimia, effective in May 2019. With Aimia since 2010, he previously worked at Air



Canada, Vivendi and Seagram in senior finance roles.

87 Rita Lord, BComm (acct.), was named CFO at St. Michaels University School, a private co-educational, independent day and boarding school in Victoria, B.C.

88 Dominic Porporino, BA (econ.), was appointed president at UPS Canada in February 2019. He returns to Canada from Brussels where he was working as vice-president of operations in UPS's European headquarters.

89 Danny Di Perna, BEng, was appointed president at Bombardier Transportation. He joined the company in 2018 and most recently led Bombardier's Aerostructures and Engineering Services (BAES) segment.

Timothy Rahilly, BA (psych., ed.), was recently named president and vice-chancellor of Mount Royal University in Calgary. He started his five-year term on May 1. Timothy had been at Simon Fraser

University in Burnaby, B.C., for the past 16 years, most recently as vice-provost students and international, and as an associate faculty in the Faculty of Education.

90 Stephane Koeman, BA (poli. sci.) was named vice-president of sales and marketing for Global Airline Catering and Retail North America at Fleury Michon Amérique. He was previously with Les Plats du Chef.

91 Marilyn Horrick, BA (comm. studies), joined MSA Research Inc. as EVP and COO. She is also COO for Northwind Professional Institute.

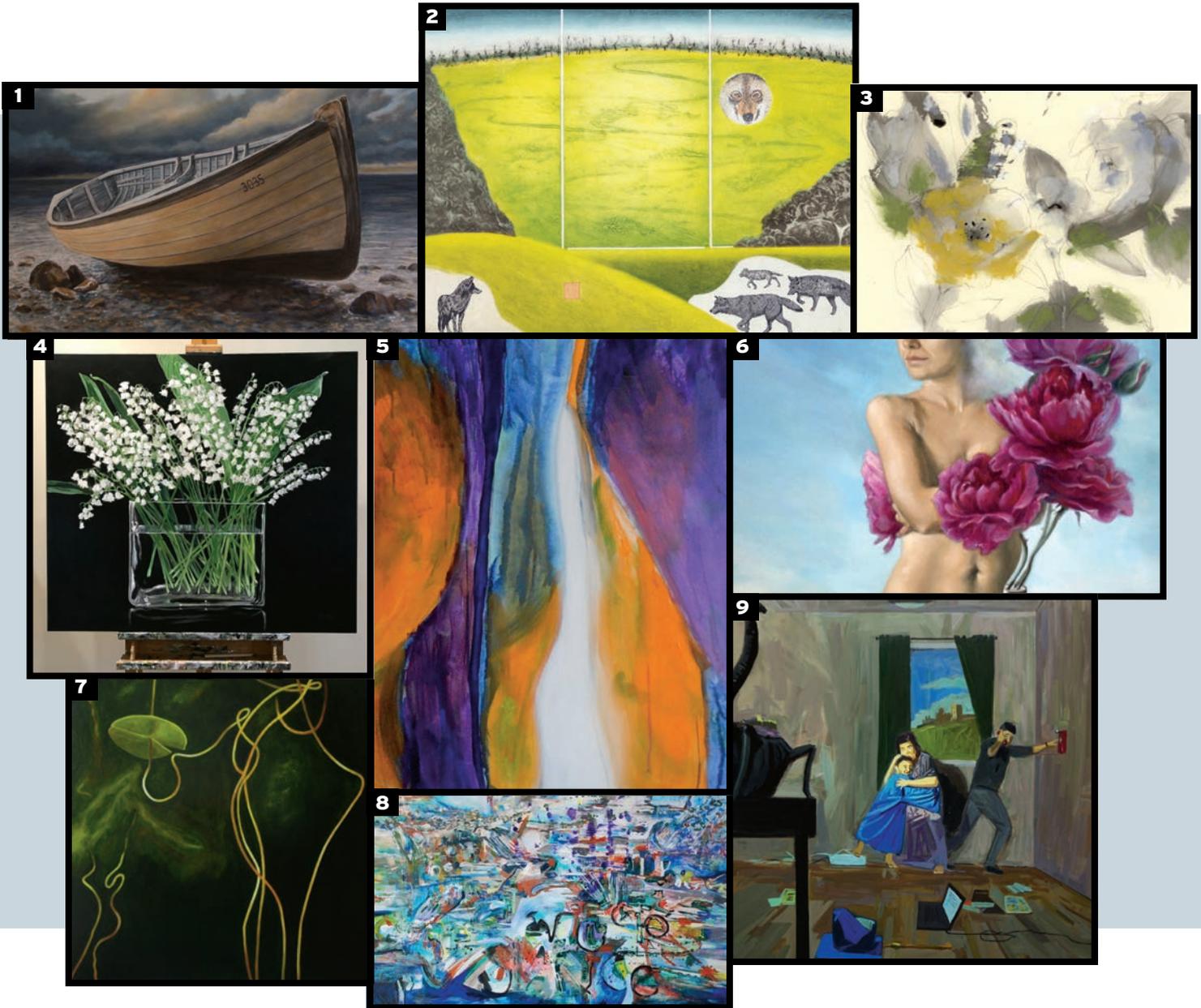
92 Dean Anderson, BA (poli. sci./history), was named associate director of operations for Postgraduate Medical Education at McGill University's Faculty of Medicine in February 2019.

Paul Sislian, BComm, was named president of Bombardier Aerostructures and Engineering Services. He served most recently as Chief Operating Officer for Bombardier Business Aircraft.

93 Peter Imperioli, BComm (acct.), joined McGill University's Faculty of Medicine as associate director of Systems, Medical Education. He has 20 years of management experience in the IT sector.

95 Nicolino Iannotti, BComm (acct.), was appointed vice-president of finance at Solotech, a global provider of technological solutions in audio, video, lighting and rigging.

Gwen Tolbart, BA (journ.) was named 2018 Champion of the Year by the non-profit Comfort Cases, which supports youth in foster care. She received their annual Barbara Harrison Award.



1 **Martin Foley**, BA 69, exhibited "A Northern Perspective" at the Classic Theatre Cobalt, in Cobalt, Ont., from March 7 to April 27, 2019. His next show will be at the Timmins National Exhibition Centre in Timmins, Ont., in April 2020. martinfoleyartist.com 1) 3035

2 **Ann McCall**, BFA (studio arts) 78, was selected to participate in the MULTIPLES project at Montreal's Atelier Circulaire on February 7, 2019. 2) *Persistence*

3 **Raymonde Jodoin**, BFA 83, took part in a group show, "Fleurs, plantes et jardins," from February 6 to March 31, 2019, at Maison Antoine-Lacombe in Saint-Charles-Borromée, Que. 3) *Fleurs V*

4 **Susan Pepler**, BFA (studio art) 84, was selected to participate in the Tour des Arts, an annual summer event in Quebec's Eastern Townships. Her studio in Knowlton, Que., will be open July 13 to 21, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (susanpepler.com) 4) *Lily of the Valley*

5 **Erik Slutsky**, BFA 86, had five paintings chosen by Le Portage as part of the permanent collection in its Montreal facility for its Mentally Ill Chemical Abusers rehabilitation program. 5) *Mojave Crevice*

6 **Homeira Mortazavi**, BFA 94, MFA 02, held a solo show "Symbiose retrouvée" at Musée Beaulne in Coaticook, Que., from February 3 to March 3, 2019. 6) *Venue d'ailleurs*

7 **Shelley Freeman**, BFA 99, exhibited her current series of underwater paintings at La Maison Trestler in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Que., from March 21 to June 2, 2019. 7) *Deep-rooted Series #8*

8 **Chrissy Cheung**, BFA 00, exhibited at Parker Art Salon in Vancouver, B.C., from May 24 to 26, 2019. She will also be featured in PAINTER8 Invisible art exhibition at Galerie Cité in Edmonton, Alta., from September 26, 2019, to January 11, 2020. 8) *Marine City*

9 **Diego (Don) Morales**, BFA 03, held an exhibition, "Appel d'urgence à Aristote," at the POPOP Gallery in Montreal from February 19 to March 3, 2019. 9) *Appel d'urgence à Aristote !!!*



Gina Cody, Meng 81, PhD 89, **1** was appointed chevalière to the Ordre de Montréal. She was honoured by the City of Montreal as the first woman namesake of a university engineering faculty in Canada. Cody's \$15-million donation to Concordia in September 2018 has been widely hailed as a groundbreaking gesture of philanthropy from the woman who also was the first female to graduate with a PhD in building engineering from Concordia.

Karen Macdonald, BA 82, news director and station manager at Global Montreal, was recognized by the Radio Television Digital News Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award for the Central region, presented May 10 in Toronto.

T'Cha Dunlevy, BA (comm. studies) 95, **2** a journalist at the *Montreal Gazette*, won the 2019 Judith-Jasmin award in the Arts, culture et art de vivre category, for his series of articles and columns on the controversial Robert Lepage production SLAV.

Indo-Canadian filmmaker **Deepa Mehta**, LLD 13, **3** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television on March 31, 2019.

Serban Ghenea, BFA 92, was co-winner of a 2019 Grammy Award in the category of "Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical" for *Colors*.

CEO of Groupe Park Avenue, **Norman E. Hébert**, BComm 77, **4** was named a 2019 Mercedes-Benz Star Dealer. He is also chair of Concordia's Board of Governors.

Co-president of Groupe Germain Hôtels, **Christiane Germain**, LLD 13, **5** was inducted into l'Académie des Grands Québécois. She and her brother founded the boutique hotel chain in 1988 and have since expanded to seven hotels and a large development in Calgary with hotel, office and condo space.

Gabriel Bran Lopez, BA (comm. studies) 08, **6** founding president of Youth Fusion, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division) on March 29, 2019, by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada.

OSCAR NOMINATIONS

Concordians were nominated for Best Short (Live Action) at the 2019 Academy Awards:

- Jérémy Comte**, BFA (film prod.) 13, wrote and directed *Fauve*, which
- Evren Boisjoli**, BFA (film prod.) 13, co-produced. The cinematographer was
- Olivier Gossot**, BFA (film prod.) 10.
- Marie-Hélène Panisset**, BA (comm. studies & journ.) 95, produced the film *Marguerite*, with cinematography by **Marc Simpson-Threlford**, BFA (film prod) 99.

2019 CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS

Concordians won big at the Canadian Screen Awards on March 31, 2019, in Toronto. Winners include:

- Scott Bailey**, BA 01, **Jennifer Gatien**, BA 97, and **Petro Duszara**, BA 98, Best Factual Series for *The Detectives*

- Glenn Berman**, BFA 78, Best Picture Editing, Factual for *The Detectives – The Wells Gray Gunman*
- Ian Caldwell**, BA 87, Best Local Newscast for *CTV News Toronto at 6*
- Jordan Canning**, BA 04, Best Direction, Variety or Sketch Comedy for *Baroness von Sketch Show – Is that you Karen?*
- Laura Clunie**, BA 97, Best Animated Program or Series for *PAW Patrol*
- Jonathan Dowler**, BFA 00, Best Picture Editing, Reality/Competition for *The Amazing Race Canada – Just a Beaver Hero*
- Jennifer Kawaja**, BA 82, GrDip 84, Best Limited Series or Program for *Cardinal: Blackfly Season*
- Sara Kay**, BFA 99, Best Achievement in Casting for *Letterkenny*
- Aaron Munson**, BFA 10, Best Photography, Documentary or Factual for *Equus: Story of the Horse – Origins*
- Heather Phenix**, BA 02, Best Original Interactive Production for *Nuclear Dissent*
- Lindsay Rempel**, BA 16, Best News or Information Segment for CBC News: *The National – The Ruins of Ragga*

GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIPS

Photojournalist **Barbara Davidson**, **7** BFA (cinema) 90, and painter-sculptor **Fabienne Lasserre**, BFA (studio art) 96, were named 2019 Guggenheim Fellows. The fellowships are intended for individuals who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.

96 Stephane Morneau, BComm, GrDip 98 (acct.), joined Montreal-based Golo Mobile Inc. in 2018. He has also been employed by Paysafe since May 2009, and is currently senior vice-president Finance for North America.

97 Kim Nguyen, BFA, wrote and directed the Hollywood blockbuster *The Hummingbird Project*, starring Jesse Eisenberg and Alexander Skarsgård. The film was released in theatres across Canada in March 2019 and screened at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2018.

99 Apostoly Peter (Toly AK) Kouroumalis, BFA (film anim.), received an award of recognition at the *Accolade Global Film Competition* in February 2019 for his experimental film *50 Shades of Grey Matter*.

01 Ardem Keshishian, BSc, MBA 06, was named CFO at Royal Road Minerals Limited, a gold- and copper-focused mineral exploration and development company.

Emad Rajaie, BEng, joined DoubleLine Capital LP as head of the firm's Middle East relationship management. Previously at PIMCO in London, U.K., he was co-head of the fixed-income investment manager's business in the Middle East and Africa.

Emily Smith, MA (Engl.), was named executive director at the Victoria Playhouse in Victoria, P.E.I.

03 Yuri Cormier, BComm, was named executive director of the Conference of Defence Associations (CDA) and CDA Institute, based in Ottawa. He is an assistant professor at Royal Military College of Canada, lectures at Royal Military College Saint-Jean and Canadian



Tarah Schwartz, BA 94, former CTV News anchor, took on a new role in March 2019 as director of communications, media and marketing, for Plank. The award-winning digital design studio was founded by fellow alumnus **Warren Wilansky,** BA 96.

Forces College and works as an associate researcher at the International Centre for the Study of the Profession of Arms.

04 Elias Makos, BA (journ.) joined CJAD Montreal in December 2018 as mid-morning talk show host and also serves as an analyst on CTV Montreal. He was previously a host and producer on Citytv's Breakfast Television Montreal.

05 Stuart Kozlick, BEng, MAsc 14 (mech.), was appointed chief of healthcare technology strategies and business development at BCF Business Law.

Michael Marcotte, BComm (fin.), was named vice-president of investor relations at Champion Iron Limited. He was previously with Macquarie Capital Markets Canada Ltd.

08 Anthony Gaglio, BComm, GrDip 10, is partner at Crowe BGL LLP. He joined the firm in 2015.

09 Jean-Yves Bouchard, BA (econ.) was named Canada research director at CoStar Group, which provides data and analytics for the commercial real estate industry.

Caroline Grandoit, 09 (act. Math., fin.), was named vice-president of Liability Driven Investing and Multi Asset Class Solutions at Fiera Capital in March 2019. With a dozen years' experience, she joined as senior analyst and rose to VP in less than two years.

10 Lawrence-David Bisse, BA (poli. sci.), earned a master of laws degree from Harvard Law School in 2018 and has since returned to Canada where he serves as legal counsel with Canada's Department of Justice and as adjunct professor of law at the University of Ottawa. He holds degrees in common and

civil law from McGill University and credits Concordia with giving him the tools to succeed.

11 Marie-Line Leblanc, BFA (art hist.), won the Prix du CALQ - Œuvre de l'année aux Îles-de-la-Madeleine from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec for her art book *Fixity and Flow*, in April 2019.

12 Rémi Fréchette, BFA (film prod.), was named director for Fantastiques weekends at Fantasia International Film Festival in April 2019.

15 Aryeh Nissan, BComm (fin.), was appointed district vice-president at Mackenzie Investments, based in Montreal.

16 Hua Jin, MFA (studio arts), won the 2018 Cultural Diversity in the Visual Arts Award from the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the City of Montreal. It recognizes a culturally diverse artist over the age of 40 who has practised professionally in Quebec for more than five years.

18 Erin Doiron-Hartle, BA (human rels.), received a Prix Levier honouring her commitment to the community for her work with Centre Amitié, Ressources et Entraide pour la Jeunesse, which provides support to youth in care. ■



Gemini Award-winning actor and television host **Marc Labrèche** visited the university on February 24, 2019, to mentor Team Concordia members ahead of the 2019 Jeux de la communication, a French-language inter-university communications competition.

Concordia University Press begins publication in 2019 with two books and four series, available in print and freely accessible online. Funded through generous gifts to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, the non-profit, open-access scholarly book publisher is one of a kind in Quebec and one of just a few in North America.

“University presses exist for the public good and the work of the press directly supports Concordia’s mission to transform the individual and strengthen society,” says Geoffrey Robert Little, MA 15, interim director at Concordia University Press.

The catalogue includes two forthcoming books in 2019. *Everything is Relevant: Writings on Art and Life, 1991–2018* is a collection of Canadian artist Ken Lum’s writings, including a letter to an editor, diary entries, articles, catalogue essays and more — sparking debate around subjects like race and class.



RICHARD FOLTZ

BUDDHIST STUPA AT VRANG, TAJIKISTAN, TAKEN FROM THE FORTHCOMING *LES RELIGIONS DE LA ROUTE DE LA SOIE : LES CHEMINS D'UNE MONDIALISATION PRÉMODERNE*, TRANSLATED BY BENOIT LÉGER

Les religions de la Route de la soie : Les chemins d'une mondialisation prémoderne is Concordia professor Benoit Léger’s translation of the book by fellow faculty member Richard Foltz. It explores the networks of religions and cultures that existed across Iran, the northern Eurasian steppe

and the Indian subcontinent.

The series that have been established are: *Authors, Publishers, Readers, Texts: Studies in Book History and Print Culture*, edited by Ruth Bradley-St-Cyr and sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of Canada; *Media Before 1800*, edited by Daniel Kline, Fiona Somerset and Stephen Yeager; *Text/Context: Writings by Canadian Artists*, edited by Little; and *Building Arguments*, a collaboration between the Press and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. ■

(concordia.ca/press)

—Louise Morgan, GrDip 99

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Fr. Remi Limoges, BA 45,
March 7, 2019, Pickering, Ont.
He was 93.

Edward Rauch, BSc 49,
January 21, 2019, Montreal.

Aldo S. Cappelli, BA 51,
December 17, 2018. He was 90.

Donald D. Paré, BSc 51,
March 8, 2019. He was 90.

Michael Blonar, BA 54,
Winnipeg, Man.

Amy Jancis Stead, BA 55,
February 8, 2019. She was 89.

Lawrence B. Muttly, BA 56,
April 23, 2019, Castine, Maine.
He was 85.

Henry B. Schlachta, BSc 58,
April 4, 2018, Pointe-Claire,
Que. He was 84.

Joseph Osman, BSc 59,
January 4, 2019, Kirkland, Que.
He was 81.

**William (Bill) Kovalchuk
Sr.**, BSc 60, April 11, 2019,
Montreal. He was 84.

Gerald L. Harold, BSc 62,
December 3, 2018, Oldsmar, Fla.

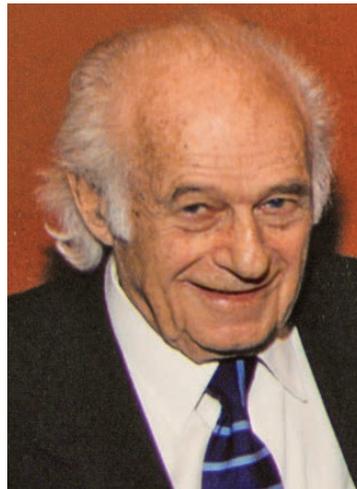
Allen Geller, BA 63, February
22, 2019. He was 77.

Ralph A. Brehn, BComm 64,
November 29, 2018, Montreal.
He was 87.

G. Ross MacCormack,
BComm 64, January 8, 2019,
Newport Center, Vt. He was 77.

**Bernice (Averback)
Rothfleisch**, BA 65, March 17,
2019, Montreal.

Alec B. Deer, BSc 66,
January 12, 2019, Montreal.
He was 74.



Avrum (Avi) Morrow,
a long-time supporter
of Concordia, passed
away on January 5,
2019. The philanthropist
and businessman –
posthumously revealed
to be Montreal's famous
Bikeman – supported
education, the arts and
community. He was 93.

James Iwanaka, BSc 67,
April 3, 2019. He was 82.

Chantal Levy, BA 68, died on
January 19, 2019. She was 77.

Eric Lemberg, BSc 68, April
12, 2019, Burlington, Ont.
He was 72.

David Raizenne, BA 68,
March 2, 2019, Montreal.
He was 71.

Lilian (Kaplansky) Zacharin,
BA 69, February 15, 2019.

**Sharon R. (Shulman)
Browman**, BA 70,
February 5, 2019.

Avrum (Avy) Furt, BComm
71, February 15, 2019.
He was 68.

Irving (Irv) Cwilich, BA 72,
March 8, 2019, Montreal.
He was 67.

Bruce Charron, BComm 72,
February 10, 2019, Jay, Vt.
He was 68.

Gail P. Shannon, BA 73,
January 1, 2019. She was 71.

Bruce R. Barnewall, BEng 73,
January 27, 2019, Victoria, B.C.
He was 70.

**Simone Johanna de Smit-
Spetz**, BA 73, February 18,
2019, Erie, Pa. She was 66.

Mary Cora Hackett,
BComm 74, February 17, 2019.
She was 94.

Isabel A. (McOuat) Bailly,
BA 74, February 14, 2019,
Pointe-Claire, Que. She was 88.

Leopoldina M. Fuessel, BA
74, April 13, 2019. She was 97.

Davy Yee Pon Lee, BEng 75,
January 17, 2019. He was 69.

John H. Gilmore, BA 75,
December 22, 2018, Pointe-
Claire, Que.

Irene Norman, BA 75,
December 21, 2018, Montreal.
She was 91.

Veronica P. Sheridan, BA 76,
December 23, 2018, Kingston,
Ont. She was 79.

Albert A. Kmec, BComm 76,
March 10, 2019, Montreal. He was 81.

Kevin Meagher, BA 77,
January 4, 2019, Oakville, Ont.
He was 63.

Margaret (Stofman) Gross,
BA 78, January 14, 2019,
Florida. She was 72.

Miron Macyshyn, BA 78,
October 31, 2018. He was 79.

Susan Christina Crompton,
BA 79, BA 81, March 1, 2019,
Ottawa. She was 62.

Michael Sibalis, PhD 79,
April 9, 2019, Kitchener, Ont.
He was 69.

Marjorie (Atherley) Jordan,
BA 81, January 11, 2019.
She was 78.

Magno G. Testa, BComm 81,
April 9, 2019, Montreal. He was 61.

**Margaret M. (McNally)
Million**, BA 82, MA 85, PhD 99,
January 18, 2019, Montreal.
She was 81.

Gerald B. Yampolsky,
BComm 82, February 11, 2019,
Ra'anana, Israel.

Michael John Rider, BComm 82,
January 5, 2019, Largo, Fla. He
was 59.

Anita Mathisen-Roy, BFA 84,
January 14, 2019, Longueuil,
Que. She was 76.

Normand E. Lefebvre, BA
85, December 8, 2018, Kirkland,
Que. He was 64.

Nicholas James Pogue, BA
85, January 4, 2019, Montreal.
He was 64.

Claudia L. Gass, BA 87,
April 18, 2019. She was 73.

Laurie A. Swailes, BFA 92,
February 14, 2019. She was 52.

Adrian Clark, BFA 93,
January 1, 2019. He was 48.

Jason Potts, BA 93, MA 96,
January 31, 2018, Montreal.
He was 50. ■

Prime ministers, art interviews and impotent avengers

HOWARD BOKSER,
MBA 85 AND LOUISE
MORGAN, GRDIP 99

Questions concerning the value of a free press in Canadian democracy and how cutbacks and social media threaten its viability are more pertinent than ever. Veteran journalist

development at Rogers Media and chair of the Canadian Journalism Foundation.

Fans of the Montreal Canadiens are likely well acquainted with the work of *Montreal Gazette* hockey writer **Pat Hickey**, BA (history) 74 — he began to cover the legendary team in 1968.

life. By day, Finn Riley is a middle-aged, stay-at-home New York City dad. Yet when night falls, Finn turns into the Curmudgeon Avenger, fighting what he perceives to be ills of the modern world. *New Yorker* staff writer John Colapinto says *The Impotent Avenger* “is lively, it’s funny, it’s serious and sad, it’s real

a dark secret that leads him to plan high-stakes revenge against a powerful family. Houseman is co-owner and board member of Elit’Avia and founder of Zenith Jet in Montreal.

Curator and art critic **John K. Grande**, MA (art ed.) 97, interviewed 20 major contemporary artists whose work



and former *Maclean's* editor-in-chief **Robert Lewis**, BA (Eng.) 64, tackles these and related issues in *Power, Prime Ministers and the Press: The Battle for Truth on Parliament Hill* (Dundurn, \$24). Lewis portrays the men and women who have covered the news throughout Canadian history, covering 23 prime ministers, from Sir John A. Macdonald to Justin Trudeau, and 42 elections. Lewis, who now lives in Toronto, is also a former Parliamentary correspondent, vice-president of content

Hickey brings those five decades of experience and insider access to *If These Walls Could Talk: Montreal Canadiens* (Triumph Books, \$23.95). The anecdotes include Hickey’s ice- and press-box-level view of the Habs’ glory days of the 1960s and ’70s and of players such as Jean Béliveau, Chris Nilan and P.K. Subban.

The Impotent Avenger (Stiff Publications, \$12.99), the second book and first novel by award-winning author and magazine writer **T.S. (Todd) Farley**, BA (Eng.) 89, is an irreverent take on contemporary urban

and true and it’s risky as hell.” Farley’s work has appeared in many publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Detroit Free Press*. tsfarley.com

Aviation business executive and entrepreneur **Nick Houseman**, MBA 99, has independently published his first novel, *Old Country Wounds* (\$12.89). The suspense story follows James Sutherland from working-class Scotland to Canada, where he builds a successful life in the Alberta oil business. After his retirement, Sutherland returns to Scotland. He soon discovers

— including sculpture, nature interventions, performance, body art and installation — relates to nature. Grande presents these discussions in *Art, Space, Ecology: Two Views – Twenty Interviews* (University of Chicago Press, \$83 hardcover, \$23 paperback). The volume, which includes 80 striking photographs, reveals the artists’ relationship with the natural environment. Grande lives in Montreal and has published many books and articles on art. johnkgrande.com

Souraj Salah, MEng (mech., ind. and aero. eng.) 02, is a part-time

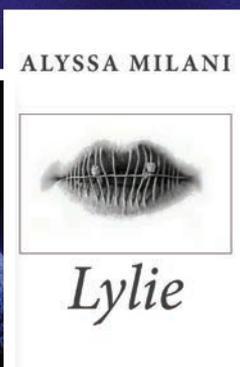
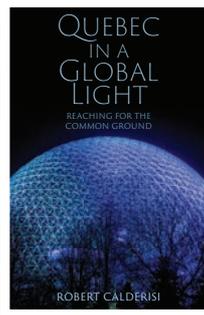
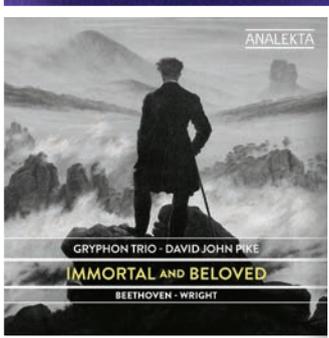
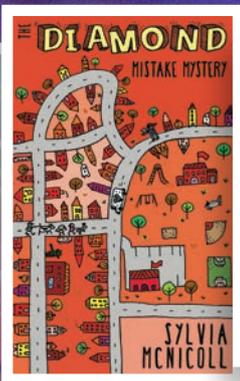
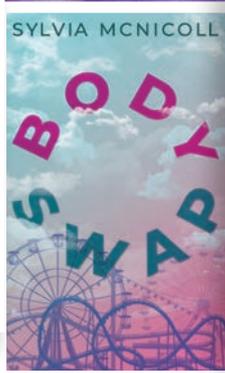
adjunct-professor at the Abu Dhabi School of Management and Hamdan Bin Mohammad Smart University, both in the United Arab Emirates. Salah and his co-supervisor, Abdur Rahim, have published a guide for business managers, **An Integrated Company-Wide Management System;**

Hoping to obtain his licence to practise in Canada, he drives around at night in a borrowed taxi, illegally treating the ill and injured, while leaving his loved ones behind.

Sylvia McNicoll, BA (English) 78, author of more than 30 books, continues her middle-grade series The Great Mistake Mysteries

A new CD featuring Luxembourg-based baritone **David John Pike**, BComm (accountancy) 89, accompanied by the Gryphon Trio, **Immortal and Beloved** (Analekta, \$16.95) includes chamber works by Beethoven and a new piece by Canadian composer James Wright, inspired by love letters by

successfully with two of the West's most daunting challenges: protecting national values in the face of mass immigration and striking a proper balance between economic efficiency and a sound social safety net. Calderisi argues that the values uniting Quebecers make them the most "Canadian" of all Canadians. **robertcalderisi.com**



Combining Lean Six Sigma with Process Improvement (Springer, \$159.99), which combines five management systems integrated into a single approach. The text is a valuable resource for practitioners and academics alike.

Elaine Kennedy, BA (translation) 81, recently published the English translation of *Ce pays qui est le mien*, by Governor General's Award finalist Didier Leclair. **This Country of Mine** (Deux Voiliers Publishing, \$25.95) tells the story of Apollinaire, a doctor in his African homeland, who works as a call-centre agent in Toronto.

(Dundurn Press) with two new titles. In **Body Swap** (\$14.99), 15-year-old Hallie gets knocked flying by an SUV and her life ends without her ever having kissed a boy. At an otherworldly carnival, she meets the 82-year-old driver. Both return to life — except they've swapped bodies.

In **The Diamond Mistake Mystery** (\$8.99), a dog walker is recruited to walk kindergartner Pearl Lebel to and from school while her mother is away and her father is ill. The adventures begin when Pearl runs away from home and loses her family's rare pink diamond ring.

Beethoven to his "immortal beloved." Texts and translations are included. Pike has worked with leading ensembles including Glyndebourne Festival Opera, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, London Philharmonic, and the Schweizer Kammerchor. **davidjohnpike.com**

In his latest book, **Quebec in a Global Light: Reaching for the Common Ground** (University of Toronto Press, \$32.95), former World Bank director **Robert Calderisi**, BA (hist.) 68, LLD 17, offers a masterful survey of the major social and economic issues facing Quebec. It has wrestled

Lylie (Create Space Independent Publishing Platform, \$11.04), a novel by **Alyssa Milani**, BA 14, chronicles the adventures of the daughter of New York's most renowned mob boss. After her mother dies mysteriously in a car accident, Lylie travels to New York City to meet the man her mother warned her about all her life: her father Gaelan. From the legal age of 18, Lylie is forced to work as his messenger. When a new member joins the crew, Lylie develops a curiosity to control the business. ■

Climate action alleviates eco-anxiety

WILLIAM GAGNON, BENG 17

I'd like to paint a picture in your mind. Close your eyes.

You're standing on Great Slave Lake in the Canadian Arctic. There is nothing but crisp snow, ice, wind and sled dogs barking in the distance. The northern lights dance in the sky. It's the middle of February — and 55°C below zero. Just you and your thoughts in the dark.

This is the Great North.

I live in the Northwest Territories — in Yellowknife. Our city's famous Snow Castle closed early this year due to melting. A local fisherman recently told me he's witnessed the thickness of the ice drop from two metres to one in just 10 years.

Trucks that bring fuel and food to communities are falling through ice roads. The village of Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., is literally sinking into the Arctic Sea because of melting permafrost. The caribou population is declining and the tree line is moving north.

Indigenous populations struggle with a feeling of homesickness — even without leaving home — because of these rapid environmental changes. It's so prevalent there's even a word for it — solastalgia.

Standing on the ice, it's warm. I can hear the ice sheet below my feet crack and pop and move. I can't help but be reminded everyday: we're in a climate crisis, walking with eyes closed toward a food-system breakdown.

There are days when I am so scared that I call my psychologist. He tells me action alleviates anxiety. Climate action alleviates eco-anxiety.



WILLIAM GAGNON

WILLIAM GAGNON: "WE ARE IN A CLIMATE CRISIS."

There's an emergency doctor in Yellowknife. Courtney Howard, who is also a respected environmental leader. She prescribes climate action — and calls eco-anxiety a constructive, unpleasant emotion. Just like our natural instinct to run away when we see a bear, eco-anxiety is a constructive emotion if we know what to do with it.

Concordia allowed me to feel those constructive emotions — to harness them and focus my energy on finding innovative solutions to accelerate the clean-energy transition.

It's hard to do alone, but Concordia gave me strength.

Concordia has one of the most innovative solar research labs in North America, under the direction of Andreas Athienitis, professor of Building Engineering. He inspired my work.

Concordia is diverse, inclusive and a front-runner on climate change, divestment, LGBTQ issues and Indigenous resurgence.

Concordia says: "Hey — there's a problem, and we're going to solve it."

Climate-change denial is always rooted in conflicting personal interests; it's just a form of self-protection and must be treated with empathy.

Concordia has given me the tools and knowledge to not feel threatened by this clean-energy transition. Instead, it gave me the opportunity to thrive in it.

You may not have realized it, but I just walked you through the first four psychological barriers to climate change: distance, doom and gloom, dissonance and denial.

The last barrier is identity. Concordia is a place where as a student you can experiment, shape your identity and make connections — in one of the most exciting and progressive cities in the country.

I think it's important to talk about climate change, to speak up — not be shy about it. I used to be reluctant, especially in a professional setting. Yet at some point I realized that if I don't talk about it, nobody will. I think we must also question our own behaviour. Look at what you know, and what you are doing, and see if it matches. ■

William Gagnon, BEng 17, is a green buildings ecology specialist at Ecology North in Yellowknife, N.W.T. He is a long-time affiliate of the Green Party of Canada and was named among 2018's Top 30 Under 30 in Sustainability by Corporate Knights magazine. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @wvagnon.



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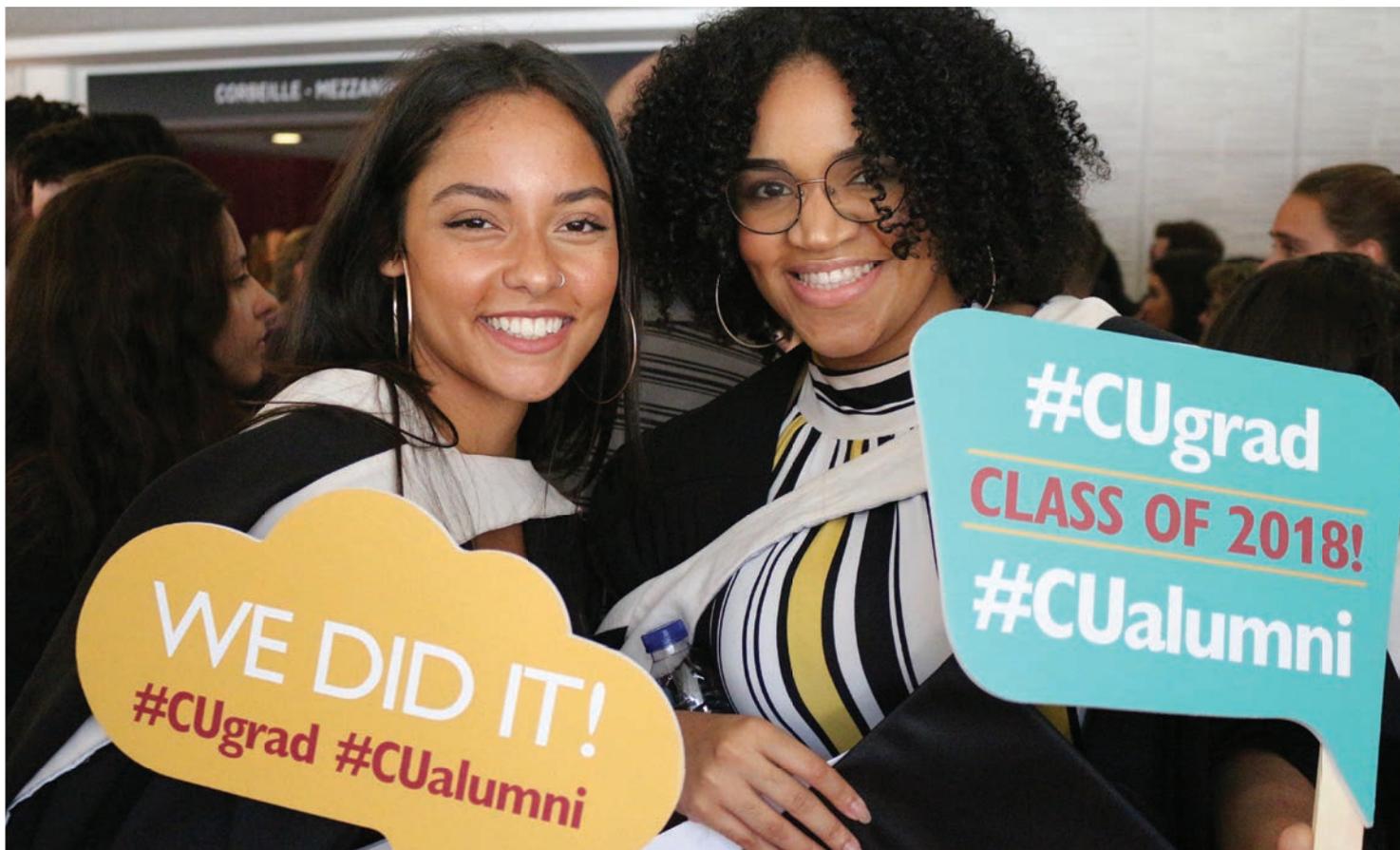


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