

CONCORDIA

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



HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

WHEN IT COMES TO SYSTEMIC RACISM,
A LOT LURKS BENEATH THE SURFACE.
HERE'S WHAT CONCORDIANS ARE
DOING ABOUT IT.

SUMMER 2021 / SPACE RACE 2.0 / GIG ECONOMY / SPORTS VS. BRAIN HEALTH

Stories that...

INFORM CONNECT ENLIGHTEN



| The main building of Concordia's Loyola Campus.
PHOTOGRAPHER: PIERRE OBENDRAUF

The Montreal Gazette and its award-winning journalists are dedicated to bringing you comprehensive, trustworthy stories that matter to you and your city.

**TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
MONTREALGAZETTE.COM**



CONCORDIA

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

BRAIN WORK

How Concordians are impacting the field of sports-related head injuries

36



42

SPACE RACE 2.0

Welcome to a new golden age of cosmic exploration



WE'RE OPEN

Meet the Montreal restaurant owners weathering the pandemic

22



25

DISRUPTING THE WORKFORCE

The gig economy is transforming professional life, though not always for the better



28

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

When it comes to systemic racism, a lot lurks beneath the surface



summer 2021 volume 45 number 2

concordia.ca/magazine

COVER:
Illustration: Shutterstock

- 3 EDITOR'S NOTE
- 4 NEWS BITES
- 8 ALUMNI Q&As
- 10 THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA
- 15 SETTING AN EXAMPLE
- 16 EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...
- 18 IN GOOD COMPANY
- 46 FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS
- 50 ALUMNI EVENTS
- 52 STUDENT FICTION
- 54 ALUMNI UPDATES
- 59 IN MEMORIAM
- 62 WORDS & MUSIC
- 64 FIRST PERSON, LAST WORD

SEPTEMBER 21-26
2021

CONCORDIA HOMECOMING RETRouvailles



RECONNECT AND CELEBRATE!

JOIN US FOR EVENTS THAT ENTERTAIN, INSPIRE AND PROVIDE TOOLS FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.

INCLUDING: Homecoming keynote lecture with Emmy Award-winning actress **ANNIE MURPHY, BFA 10** President's Homecoming coffee house / Homecoming football game* / Alumni Career Services / Black alumni Queer Homecoming / Women & Leadership / Alumni reunions / Chapter events / **AND MORE!**

*Subject to change

VISIT CONCORDIA.CA/HOMECOMING
OR CONTACT ALUMNI@CONCORDIA.CA FOR THE LATEST
INFORMATION ON HOW AND WHERE EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE.



Navigating the unknown



No matter where you are in the world, you were affected by the pandemic in one way or another. Since the advent of the crisis, we have all had to adjust: new ways of teaching and learning, being furloughed or laid off, working from home with kids, grieving the loss of loved ones from a distance — and on it goes. The pandemic challenged our sense of normalcy and our ability to live with the unknown.

For Nadia Chaudhri, different circumstances forced her to recalibrate. In 2020, the Department of Psychology professor was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Rather than focus on the negative, she directed her energy toward creating a positive impact for the next generation by establishing the Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award at Concordia. The award will provide crucial funding to behavioural neuroscientists unable to participate fully in the field due to prejudice and other systemic barriers.

Chaudhri, who was born in Pakistan and studied in the United States before joining Concordia as a researcher, faced her own career hurdles simply

because she did not fit the traditional mould. Her award honours her steadfast commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion at Concordia and beyond.

In this summer issue, our cover story examines what alumni and researchers such as Chaudhri are doing to combat systemic and institutional racism at home and abroad (p. 28). And our features all explore how Concordians, like people the world over, are navigating a future full of uncertainty. You'll learn how Montreal restaurant owners are dealing with pandemic-related restrictions (p. 22); how experts are helping design a more equitable gig economy for workers (p. 25); how research into concussions is leading to more effective treatments for sports-related brain injuries (p. 36); and how Concordians are contributing to the exciting new explorations of outer space (p. 42).

In June, our new School of Health was officially approved by the university's Board of Governors (p. 41). In the coming months, you'll be hearing a lot more about the growth and evolution of the school, which will build on Concordia's expertise in community health, clinical research and prevention, and biomedical science and engineering research.

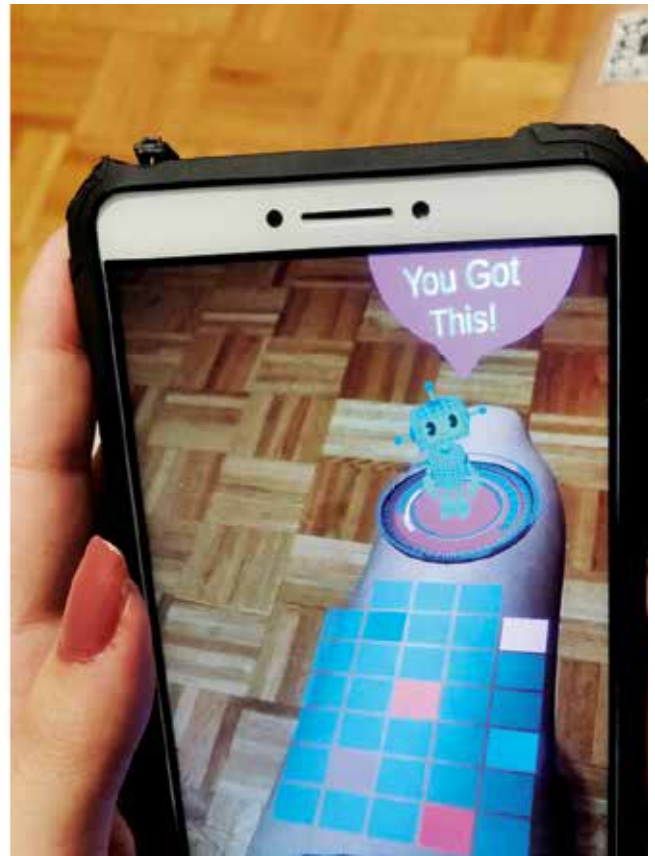
We also welcomed close to 7,000 graduates to our network of 230,000 alumni this June, with our third edition of CU Celebrate (p. 50). The past year has been anything but easy for our students, and I send out heartfelt congratulations to the new grads reading this magazine for the first time. Welcome to our community!

While there remain numerous unknowns with the pandemic — we're not yet in the clear — I look forward to sharing more positive university news and milestones with you in our fall issue.

Until then, I wish you a safe and restful summer. ■

Marta Samuel, GrDip 10
Editor, *Concordia University Magazine*
magazine@concordia.ca

To support the Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award, visit concordia.ca/wingspanaward.



DONYA MESHGIN, AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN THE REAL-TIME, EMBEDDED AND AVIONICS SOFTWARE PROGRAM AT THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE, **HELPED DEVELOP AN APP TO EASE THE ANXIETY OF LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**. THE APP USES AUGMENTED REALITY TO ALLEVIATE THE STRESS OF SELF-ADMINISTERING MEDICATION.

CONCORDIA'S CLIMATE INFLUENCER

Damon Matthews was named one of the world's most influential climate scientists. The professor and Concordia Research Chair in Climate Science and Sustainability, Geography, Planning and Environment has landed on the Reuters Hot List, ranking him **among the top 1,000 climate scientists around the world** — and fifth among Canadians.

WOMEN IN REAL ESTATE AWARD

John Molson School of Business students **Julie Stern** and **Louise Lambert de Beaulieu** were among seven recipients of the **2020 JILL Women in Real Estate Award**. The prize celebrates female students in commercial real estate who are pursuing a career in the industry.

THE RISE OF NETFLIX

The story of **Netflix's growth is more than just algorithms**, according to PhD student **Colin Crawford**. What started as a term-paper-turned-master's-thesis has now expanded into his recently published book, *Netflix's Speculative Fictions: Financializing Platform Television*. Crawford's work examines how the intersections of technology, finance and salesmanship combined into a transformative platform that has revolutionized the media landscape.



DORIS BROWN, BA 67, CELEBRATED A MILESTONE ON MARCH 15, THE CO-FOUNDER OF MARCHÉ TAU HEALTH FOOD STORES, WHO TURNED 100 YEARS OLD, ATTRIBUTES **HER LONGEVITY TO A HEALTHY DIET AND LIFESTYLE.**

A SPACE FOR STUDENT INNOVATION

Concordia's new **Innovation Lab** encourages industry and community partners as well as Concordians to **bring inventive projects into a hands-on university space**. Experiential learning — learning by doing — is central to the lab, which helps students develop innovation skills through workshops and by participating in activities not offered in a classroom environment.



NICO WILLIAMS, A CONCORDIA MFA CANDIDATE, AND LEILA ZELLI, A MASTER'S CANDIDATE IN VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS AT UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL, WON THE **2021 CLAUDINE AND STEPHEN BRONFMAN FELLOWSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY ART**. THE FELLOWSHIPS, EACH WORTH \$60,000 OVER TWO YEARS, ARE THE MOST GENEROUS POST-MFA AWARDS FOR EMERGING ARTISTS IN CANADA. WILLIAMS IS AN ANISHINAABE ARTIST FROM AAMIJWNAANG FIRST NATION WHOSE PRACTICE IS CENTRED ON SCULPTURAL BEADWORK.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Concordia University Magazine welcomes your comments.

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

Please address editorial correspondence to:

The Editor, **Concordia University Magazine**
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

Email: magazine@concordia.ca

Advertising: magazine@concordia.ca

Editor: **Marta Samuel**

Associate editor: **Ian Harrison**

Lead designer: **Christopher Alleyne**

Designers: **Trevor Browne** and **Elizabeth Chan**

Editorial support: **Marco Buttice**, **Delanie Khan-Dobson**, **Joanne Latimer** and **Doug Sweet**

Proofreader: **Christopher Korchin**

Photos by **Concordia** or courtesy of the subject (unless specified)

T22-70744

Keep in touch

To update your address, email or communication preferences — including where and how you receive the magazine — please visit our Alumni and Friends service hub at engage.concordia.ca.

ENGINEERING STUDENT ON FORBES 30 UNDER 30 LIST

Gina Cody School undergrad **Charlotte Savage** was recently named to the **2021 Forbes 30 Under 30 list**. Savage raised **\$5 million in seed funding for HaiLa Technologies**, where she serves as chief innovation officer. The company develops novel radio technology, a new generation of sensors and radios that don't need batteries or other power supplies to operate.

THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS (IEEE) NAMED **AKSHAY KUMAR RATHORE**, AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE GINA CODY SCHOOL, AN IEEE FELLOW – THE ORGANIZATION'S HIGHEST HONOUR. THE **GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADER IN POWER ELECTRONICS BECOMES CONCORDIA'S YOUNGEST ACADEMIC TO RECEIVE THE COVETED INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTION**, WHICH RECOGNIZES EXTRAORDINARY CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON SOCIETY.



RESILIENT SMART CITIES

Concordia professor **Chadi Assi** received \$1.8 million from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to lead a research project to develop resilient smart cities. Bringing together a team of Concordia's electrical engineering, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence experts, the project will **train the next generation of leaders to work with emerging technologies in a socially responsible and sustainable manner.**

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S YOUTH MEDAL

Three Concordia undergraduate students — **Camina Harrison-Chéry**, **Celeste-Melize Ferrus** and **Isaiah Joyner** (Joyner graduated this June) — are among the 2021 recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Youth Medal. The award recognizes the involvement and determination of Quebecers who have a **positive influence in their own community or throughout the province.**

OSTENHÁKTA: A SPACE FOR WARMTH AND SAFETY

Concordia's Aboriginal Student Resource Centre was given a meaningful new name: **Ostenháкта Student Centre**. Ostenháкта is a Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) word that means "near the fire," **a place that provides warmth and safety, where counsel is given and ideas are shared between equals.** The name was selected by Concordia's Indigenous Directions Leadership Council following a renaming contest among First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.



FREESTYLE SKIER **MARION THÉNAULT** WON HER FIRST CAREER AERIALS GOLD MEDAL IN KAZAKHSTAN IN MARCH. THE WORLD CUP WIN QUALIFIES THE AEROSPACE ENGINEERING STUDENT TO **COMPETE IN THE BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS IN 2022.**

NEW MINOR IN SCIENCE JOURNALISM

Concordia is the first university in Canada to offer a **minor in science journalism**. As of fall 2021, the minor will allow undergraduate science students to **significantly enhance their communication skills** and will provide them with the opportunity to engage a wide range of critical, science-based topics impacting the world.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN ECOLOGY

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) has added **Pedro Peres-Neto** to its esteemed list of fellows. Peres-Neto leads the Laboratory of Community and Qualitative Ecology in Concordia's Department of Biology, and was selected for **his innovative research, leadership and international collaboration in the field of ecology**. ESA fellows are elected for life.



CONCORDIA OFFICIALLY WELCOMED A NEW, YET FAMILIAR, PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC, **ANNE WHITELAW**, BFA 87, GRDIP 92, PHD 96, **AN EXPERT IN CANADIAN ART HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHED UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR AND ADMINISTRATOR**, BEGAN HER FIVE-YEAR TERM ON JULY 1. WHITELAW HAS HELD THE POST ON AN INTERIM BASIS SINCE JULY 2019, AND JOINED CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY AS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN 2011.

LANDMARK RULING ON HUMAN-RIGHTS CASE

Concordia's student-funded **Centre for Gender Advocacy (CGA)** won a landmark human-rights case in Quebec Superior Court on January 28. The court ruled on 11 articles of the Quebec Civil Code, which members of the CGA argued violated the integrity, safety, life, freedom, dignity and privacy of trans, non-binary and intersex people in the province. The court's decision to remove several significant physical, social and institutional barriers within these 11 articles has been **hailed by advocates as a major win for trans, non-binary and intersex people in Quebec**.



CONCORDIA'S NEWLY FORMED EQUITY OFFICE APPOINTED **LISA WHITE**, BA 12, AS ITS FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE OFFICE WILL HELP DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE UNIVERSITY'S EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN, COORDINATE AND HARMONIZE RELATED RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY, AND PROVIDE SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY. WHITE AIMS TO HELP ENSURE THAT "ALL CONCORDIA STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL HELP THEM TO SUCCEED."



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION AWARDED PROFESSOR **CHING YEE SUEN** WITH ITS 2020 KING-SUN FU PRIZE. SUEN, DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE, WAS HONOURED FOR HIS **GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH IN A FIELD THAT HAS BECOME THE BACKBONE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**.

Maya Johnson rises to the CTV Montreal News anchor desk

'I know that this is meaningful for a lot of people'

URSULA LEONOWICZ, BA 97

Maya Johnson, BA 06, recently reached a career milestone as a new anchor of CTV Montreal. When she assumed the role in March, she became the first Black woman to helm the newscast.

Johnson began her career at CTV in 2005. At 21, she was the station's youngest reporter.

In 2020, the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer compelled her to write an op-ed titled "For Black people, pain often hidden is now in plain sight." It generated a lot of attention.

"I just couldn't sit back anymore," says Johnson.

"The reaction to the piece, which described the realities of being a Black journalist and what it's like to cover issues of race, was very moving. When it was announced that I would be taking this anchor position, the reaction was very overwhelming, too; it was an outpouring of positivity."

'YOU HAVE TO MAKE SACRIFICES EARLY IN YOUR CAREER'

Johnson's parents emigrated separately from Jamaica to Montreal in the late 1960s and met through mutual friends. Their mantra, according to Johnson, was "education, education, education."

At Concordia, where Johnson excelled as a Department of Journalism student, the seeds of a successful career were planted.

"I wasn't even in his class anymore when [journalism instructor] Bob Babinski told me about an internship opportunity at CTV News, or CFCF, as it was known at the time."

That internship, part of a federally funded program for visible minorities, gave Johnson the opportunity to put classroom theory to the test while picking up new skills — such as patience and perseverance.

"There are a lot of night, weekend and holiday shifts; you have to make those sacrifices early in your career and I was willing to," she explains.

After graduating from Concordia, Johnson pursued a passion project — studying Italian in Florence — before returning to Montreal to continue working for CTV as a freelancer.

She was finally promoted to permanent, full-time status in 2012. She moved to Quebec City and became bureau chief in 2016.

Some of the breaking stories Johnson has covered include the Lac-Mégantic rail disaster and the plane crash that killed former Liberal cabinet minister and political commentator Jean Lapierre.

'I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS NOT JUST A JOB'

The deadly terrorist attack at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City in 2017 had a particularly powerful impact on her.

"I remember that night so clearly," recalls Johnson. "I was in bed and started seeing these tweets about a shooting but I couldn't believe it, because Quebec City is so quiet."

"It was traumatic, to be honest, and I had a very visceral reaction every time I was asked to cover something about the mosque, or another act of Islamophobia. You gain strength from the people who lived the experience and show incredible resilience and an ability to



MAYA JOHNSON, BA 06, JOINED CTV IN 2005.

go on — people who have this incredible compassion, despite everything that's happened to them."

As for her new role as anchor and the increased visibility that comes with it, Johnson acknowledges the importance of the milestone and the moment.

"I recognize that this is not just a job," she says. "It represents something bigger than just me. I know that this is meaningful for a lot of people."

"It's significant for me personally and professionally, but it carries a certain weight and responsibility — and I take that very seriously." ■

Grad's handheld test kit takes aim at detecting COVID-19

Anas Alazzam traces his passion for mini-devices back to Concordia

CHARLIE FIDELMAN

Mechanical engineer Anas Alazzam, PhD 10, finds beauty in small things. His expertise lies in creating tiny tools that make quick work of repetitive tasks. He's developed lab-on-chip devices for cancer detection, and his latest device on a small scale is a portable test kit that can detect COVID-19 infection within minutes.

An associate professor at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi, Alazzam began working on the device after the coronavirus struck last year. It became clear that rapid testing was crucial to combatting the pandemic, says the lead investigator, whose research accelerated local efforts against the virus.

The device was recently approved by Abu Dhabi's Department of Health and will be ready for use following an additional round of validation in its labs.

How did the device come to be?

We started in May 2020. But after two months of work, we realized that a disposable, single-use per person PCR [polymerase chain reaction] device was too expensive and too complicated.

We changed gears and by October we had a device that was small, efficient, low-cost and as accurate as current PCR tests. The device fits in the palm of a hand and can yield results of up to 16 tests every 45 minutes — and costs less than \$10 USD per test.

It can be used to test front-line workers in clinics and offices, and travellers at bus stations, airports and on planes — anywhere where quick detection of disease would be useful.

How does it work?

The kit detects COVID-19 from a patient's nose swab. It uses a primer and a method called LAMP, a 20-year-old amplification technology that is ultra-sensitive to virus detection.

It magnifies traces of the virus from the nasal swab to the point where we can see a colour change. When the test is done, the results are colour-coded: fuchsia for negative and orange-yellow for positive. Our team is now looking to change the nose swab for a saliva sample to make screening easier on kids.

How did Concordia influence your path after graduation?

When I was deciding to further my studies, I was attracted to Concordia's reputation for excellence. I sent one PhD application to Concordia, and I was accepted immediately. I would do it all over again. I would work with the same advisors,

Rama Bhat and Ion Stiharu, both with whom I have long-lasting ties. I continue to collaborate with Professor Stiharu and my family visited his in Montreal in 2019.

I have great memories from Concordia, including building a clean room facility in Stiharu's laboratory for research on microdevices, creating a device that could separate cancer from blood cells, volunteering at the Montreal Jewish General Hospital and, of course, defending my thesis.

Following a position at the Canadian Space Agency in Montreal, I returned to academia when Khalifa University offered me a job in Abu Dhabi. There's a direct link between my current work and the knowledge I gained at Concordia researching microfluidics, dielectrophoresis and health-care applications of microdevices. I still refer to my classroom notes today. For me, it's all about the quality of education. ■



ANAS ALAZZAM, PHD 10, AND HIS TEAM IN ABU DHABI HAVE DEVELOPED A PORTABLE DISEASE-DETECTION DEVICE THAT PROVIDES RESULTS WITHIN MINUTES.

THE LATE L. JACQUES MÉNARD, BCOMM 67, LLD 06, SERVED AS CONCORDIA'S CHANCELLOR FROM 2011 TO 2014 AND WAS PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF BMO FINANCIAL GROUP, QUEBEC.



BMO Financial Group gives \$2.5 million to Campaign for Concordia

Gift in honour of L. Jacques Ménard bolsters John Molson School of Business and Faculty of Fine Arts

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

BMO Financial Group is supporting next-gen teaching and learning for students at Concordia through a major gift to the John Molson School of Business and Faculty of Fine Arts.

BMO has given \$2.5 million to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now to establish the L. Jacques Ménard – BMO Centre for Capital Markets and the BMO Fine Arts Internship Program.

L. Jacques Ménard, BComm 67, LLD 06, who passed away in 2020 at the age of 74, was chancellor of Concordia from 2011 to 2014 and president emeritus of BMO Financial Group, Quebec.

'GENEROUS DONORS WHO MATCH OUR PASSION AND AMBITION'

"Our university is immensely grateful to BMO Financial Group for investing in our Campaign for Concordia and honouring the extraordinary

contributions of our late former chancellor, L. Jacques Ménard," says Concordia President Graham Carr.

"To achieve our community's full potential, we need generous donors who match our passion and ambition. The creation of the BMO Centre for Capital Markets will train the next generation of financial professionals, while the BMO Fine Arts Internship Program will offer experiential learning for tomorrow's creative talent."

"Long before BMO declared our purpose — to boldly grow the good in business and life — Jacques Ménard was living it," says Darryl White, CEO of BMO Financial Group.

"A proud Concordia alumnus, Jacques's legacy endures today at BMO, ingrained in the way we work: growing businesses and communities for a thriving economy, and supporting the access to high-quality education that fosters creativity and helps young people develop careers."

Claude Gagnon, president of BMO Financial Group, Quebec, says Ménard's impact as a humanitarian and executive inspired the gift: "BMO is supporting business education and fine-arts practice for the benefit of students and the organizations that hire them."

SUPPORT FOR FINANCE AND ARTS AND CULTURE SECTORS

The L. Jacques Ménard – BMO Centre for Capital Markets will provide students with an education grounded in theory and practice. The centre will develop future finance professionals and drive scholarly research on the challenges faced by the industry.

"The L. Jacques Ménard – BMO Centre for Capital Markets fully supports our strategic imperative to promote collaborative and impactful research, as outlined in the school's newly adopted strategic plan," says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School of Business.

DARRYL WHITE, CEO OF BMO FINANCIAL GROUP



Annual BMO Fine Arts Internships will allow standout undergraduate students in art history, film studies, film production and film animation, design and computational arts, or studio arts an opportunity to acquire experience with external organizations. Stipends for student internships will be remunerated thanks to the BMO Fine Arts Internships to help cultural organizations thrive.

“The BMO Fine Arts Internship Program will offer invaluable professional experience to gifted undergraduate students at museums, cultural festivals, exhibition spaces, community theatres, arts and entertainment groups, artist-run centres and more,” says Annie Gérin, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

‘AN INSTITUTION SO DEAR TO HIS HEART’

Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement at Concordia, says L. Jacques Ménard took pride in Concordia’s roots and the university’s role in educating the next generation.

“Jacques dedicated his professional life to BMO — like many of the 700 Concordia grads who work for the company — and it is heartening that BMO is honouring Jacques’s legacy at both our institutions,” says Chesser.

“We are grateful that BMO has generously given to the Campaign for Concordia in his name.”

The family of L. Jacques Ménard adds: “We thank BMO, Darryl White and Claude Gagnon, friends and cherished collaborators. We thank Concordia as well, an institution so dear to his heart. We are deeply grateful for this act of generosity made in Jacques’s memory.” ■

CONCORDIA PRESIDENT **GRAHAM CARR** AND **PAUL CHESSE**R, VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT, DELIVERED REMARKS AT A MARCH 30 VIRTUAL EVENT TO ANNOUNCE BMO’S GIFT TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA.

Inspirit Foundation supports investigative reporter with \$110,000 gift

JOANNE LATIMER, MFA 94

Concordia's Institute for Investigative Journalism (IJ) has put out a public call for an investigative reporter, thanks to \$110,000 in support from the Inspirit Foundation. The new position will help foster pluralism and inclusion in media by augmenting the number of Indigenous journalists working in Canadian newsrooms.

While Concordia is also committing \$20,000 per year to the cause, the foundation's gift will create a full-time position for an investigative reporter at the IJ.

Funded over two years, the position will build capacity to provide



INSPIRIT FOUNDATION

experiential learning opportunities for journalism students nationwide, with the goal of supporting quality public service journalism for underserved audiences.

"This gift will allow the IJ to amplify Indigenous voices in media," says

Concordia President Graham Carr.

"We are grateful to the Inspirit Foundation for helping our university Indigenize journalism education."

"Investigative journalism is a crucial civic function," says Sadia Zaman, CEO of the Inspirit Foundation. "The framing of this important work must include Indigenous worldviews and knowledge."

Adds IJ director Patti Sonntag, BA 00: "A woman-led enterprise, the IJ is proud of the diverse perspectives we bring to Canadian newsrooms. Over the summer, 17 out of 19 journalists contributing to the IJ counted themselves as members of communities historically excluded from the specialized field of investigations." ■

\$150,000 gift from Jean Paul Riopelle Foundation funds digital oral archive of the iconic painter's life

The Jean Paul Riopelle Foundation and Concordia have partnered on a new research project to compile a digital oral archive on the life and career of the Montreal-born painter and sculptor.

The result of a new agreement with Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS), the project was made possible by a \$150,000 grant from the Riopelle Foundation, with additional support from the Audain Foundation and the Jarislowsky Foundation.

"This archive promises to take us beyond the images, photos and works of Riopelle to discover the artist behind the art," says Manon Gauthier, executive director of the Riopelle Foundation.

The grant will support the work of Lea Kabiljo, BFA 04, MA 09, an oral-history expert and doctoral student in the Department of Art Education at Concordia.

"An artist of Riopelle's calibre leaves his mark on the world around him in many ways," says Kabiljo. "It will be fascinating to discover the extent of his influence."

In her research, Kabiljo will work closely with Emma Haraké, MA 19, the COHDS's coordinator, under the direction of Sébastien Caquard, the COHDS's co-director. The team will also benefit from the support of Colette St-Hilaire, a researcher for the Riopelle Foundation.

The goal is to make the collected archive accessible to the general public in time for the centenary of Riopelle's birth in 2023. ■



LEA KABILJO, BFA 04, MA 09, WILL LEAD INTERVIEWS WITH RIOPELLE'S FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES AS WELL AS ARTISTS WORKING TODAY WHO HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY HIS OEUVRE.

Gift of \$500,000 to Campaign for Concordia creates first-of-its-kind centre to advance women in business

New Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership at the John Molson School of Business

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

A new gift to the Campaign for Concordia will support research, learning and women's leadership at the John Molson School of Business.

Barry F. Lorenzetti, the founder of insurance brokerage BFL CANADA, has given \$500,000 to establish the Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership. The gift will also endow research grants and scholarships.

The centre will be led by Ingrid Chadwick, a Department of Management faculty member who will serve as co-director, Academic, and Louise Champoux-Paillé, the John Molson School's executive-in-residence, who will assume the role of co-director, Practice.

The scope of the centre's work will include initiating gender-related collaborative projects pertaining to entrepreneurship, leadership, governance and family-business practice; introducing proposals to advance women in entrepreneurship and leadership; and fostering partnerships between the business community and academia.

"This first-of-its-kind centre in Canada consolidates our strengths as a business school, recently recognized by the Princeton Review as one of the best for graduate entrepreneurship studies," says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School.

Adds Lorenzetti: "Women-led entrepreneurship is fundamental for creating new jobs and contributing to the social and economic growth of our society."



THE CENTRE FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP AT THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS WILL BE LED BY **LOUISE CHAMPOUX-PAILLÉ**, CO-DIRECTOR, PRACTICE, AND **INGRID CHADWICK**, CO-DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC.

Chadwick, whose academic research has focused on how female executives can be better supported, affirms that this "gift further advances Concordia's place at the forefront of innovative entrepreneurship research, especially through a gendered lens."

Champoux-Paillé, a 2016 Order of Canada inductee who has mentored close to 100 women professionally

over her successful business career, says that "the centre will encourage knowledge exchanges in the form of mentorships, symposia and other outreach events. That knowledge will be used to encourage policy developments that support women and foster gender parity and equity."

"Our university is immensely grateful to Barry Lorenzetti for this generous gift to our Campaign for Concordia," says Concordia President Graham Carr. "The new centre will further our mission to build a more equitable and inclusive society." ■



BARRY LORENZETTI, PRESIDENT, CEO AND FOUNDER, BFL CANADA

'Sir George welcomed me with open arms'

At age 96, grateful grad Robert Kouri wants to give back

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

When Robert Kouri, BSc 48, BA 50, first graduated from what was then known as Sir George Williams College, the institution — which would later merge with Loyola College to form Concordia — had just been granted a university charter.

The year was 1948.

“It was a special time to be on campus,” says Kouri, a past president of Sir George’s alumni association who has made a generous bequest to support the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. “It was much more of a family atmosphere than a college.”

Kouri soon earned a second degree from Sir George and was accepted to McGill University’s Faculty of Dentistry.

Tuition, however, was beyond what Kouri and his family could afford. Albert, his father, a native of Rashaya, Lebanon, eked out a modest income as a dry-goods salesman and his mother, Fadwa, who had married at 14, had a household of nine children to manage.

Kouri became an educator with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal — a decision that had a profound impact on the rest of his life.

BELOVED TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL

Kouri’s career began at Nesbitt Elementary School. Over the next three and a half decades, he taught at many Montreal-area schools and also taught English as a second language at McGill and Université de Montréal.

Of Kouri’s many career accomplishments, his tenure as the last principal of Baron Byng High School is his proudest.



ROBERT KOURI AND JOAN BOSADA ON THEIR WEDDING DAY, JULY 30, 1955 (TOP)



For decades, Baron Byng, located in Mile End, Montreal, was one of the most academically successful public high schools in the city.

Largely populated throughout its history by Jewish students — whose notable ranks included Irving Layton, LLD 76, Aaron Fish, LLD 16, and Frederick H. Lowy, LLD 08, president emeritus of Concordia — the school was forced to close in 1980, a victim of deficient enrolment and Quebec’s Bill 101.

Baron Byng’s most famous graduate, Mordecai Richler, sponsored a literature scholarship for students.

“I would go to his apartment on Sherbrooke Street to pick up the cheque,” says Kouri. “Richler was marvellous with our students. At our reunions, which he always attended, they would crowd around him and he would answer all of their questions.”

'MY CONFIDANTE, MY SOULMATE'

Just as his career was about to take off, another major event changed Kouri’s life when he wed Joan Bosada, a graduate student at McGill, in 1955.

The couple juggled busy careers — Joan, who took her husband’s name, worked as a remedial therapist at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and later served as commissioner of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada — with an array of charitable and community commitments.

Joan Kouri passed away suddenly on February 6, 2018, at the age of 86.

Now 96, Robert Kouri lives alone and credits an active daily routine — and happy marriage — for his longevity. He thinks a lot these days about his partner of 63 years and what she meant to him.

“Joan inspired me,” he says. “I owe my success to her. She was my confidante and my soulmate.”

Kouri says that his decision to make a bequest to Concordia is a testament to Joan’s legacy.

“Concordia has been very good to me. Sir George welcomed me with open arms in 1944. For that reason and more, I felt that I should give back. I do this with encouragement and support from Joan, my rock.” ■

A legacy of love

Doreen Haddad honours daughter's life by supporting the school and sport she loved

DOREEN HADDAD

When I was a young mother, my biggest hope was that my daughters would have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. I knew that a university education would open many doors for them. The knowledge they would acquire and the new friendships and experiences that university brings were so important to me — and they still are. I did not have these opportunities. I wanted more for my children.

Our family was so proud of our eldest, Kelly-Anne, when she graduated from Concordia with a Bachelor of Arts in 2002. During her time at the university, Kelly-Anne played for the Stingers women's rugby team. Her priorities were her family, her studies and her sport.

In October 2004, Kelly-Anne lost her life suddenly in a domestic-violence altercation — a heinous crime that left her family, friends and an entire community in insurmountable shock and grief. This is not part of the circle of life. A child leaving this earth before their parents should never happen. We will always remember why Kelly-Anne

died, and as we continue to build awareness about domestic abuse, we must equally remember how she lived.

Kelly-Anne loved life. Her love for children and animals was beautiful. Until her passing, she worked at a private day care and school. She taught English as a second language and entertained the younger ones with her rendition of Bryan Adams's "Summer of '69" while playing air guitar.

After many years of soul-searching, I thought about what Kelly-Anne would do if she were alive and wanted to remember someone close to her who made a difference in the community. My thoughts brought me to Concordia, a place where she spent some of the happiest years of her life.

The Stingers created the Kelly-Anne Drummond Cup in 2005, a yearly rugby game commemorating their teammate — a competition on the field that was more than just a rugby game. It was love and many tears of endearment.

For me, a scholarship honouring my daughter was the natural thing to do. In 2019, after discussions with the university, the Kelly-Anne Drummond Scholarship was established.



IN 2019, **DOREEN HADDAD** CREATED THE KELLY-ANNE DRUMMOND SCHOLARSHIP TO HONOUR HER LATE DAUGHTER.

A yearly gift of \$1,000 would support a deserving woman studying full-time while playing for the Stingers rugby team. I believe that this is what Kelly-Anne would want me to do to honour her legacy in an environment she loved and respected. Kelly-Anne cared and supported her teammates. She was a guiding light with an infectious smile.

I believe that every woman can have the opportunity to obtain the education they want without barriers. This scholarship is open to all full-time female students in their second year of study or higher at Concordia, who play rugby. Candidates for this scholarship are students who demonstrate academic achievement and are role models. Students like Kelly-Anne.

My daughter's legacy will continue for many years. Creating a scholarship that honours someone you love, someone who left their mark on their community, is something we can all do. We are helping others succeed. It is a small part, a small gesture, yet has a lasting impact on the next generation. ■

Join our university donors' support of the Campaign for Concordia by visiting concordia.ca/campaign.



KELLY-ANNE DRUMMOND, BA 02 (BACK ROW, THIRD FROM LEFT) SPENT SOME OF HER HAPPIEST YEARS AT CONCORDIA AS A MEMBER OF THE STINGERS WOMEN'S RUGBY TEAM.

'Textile ecoliteracy' and why we need it

VANESSA MARDIROSSIAN

Long before I began my PhD research on textile dyes at Concordia, I graduated with my MA in textile design from the University of the Arts London.

It was 1998 and I was excited to embark on a career in fashion. I moved to Paris and worked in all aspects of the industry, from prêt-à-porter to haute couture.

After more than two decades, however, I decided that I wanted to develop a more profound relationship with fashion and textiles. Two factors led to this shift.

Around 2015 I began to watch a number of documentary films that chronicled the environmental and human tolls of the fashion industry. My concerns had also evolved as a mother of three, as more and more scientific evidence confirmed the relationship between environmental toxicity and a rise in cognitive disorders among children.

I turned to books like *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*, by biologist Janine Benyus, which inspired many of us in the creative community to completely rethink our modes of production. Designer William McDonough and chemist Michael Braungart also influenced how I thought about waste with *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*.

These two books — as well as research on how toxic chemicals used by the textile industry harm workers and consumers — inspire my research today.

We know that synthetic dyes can interfere with the nervous system and cause a variety of health problems. As part of my Individualized Program (INDI) PhD research at Concordia, I develop sustainable dyes for textiles.

At first, I was interested in the molecular aspect of colours and wanted to be supervised by a multidisciplinary



committee that combined design and chemistry. I deeply believe in the designer Victor Papanek's vision from the 1970s, that responsible design requires a diversity of expertise.

At Concordia's Speculative Life Biolab, I stimulate the growth of colour-producing bacteria by feeding them food waste to produce rich and vivid pigments. As a print-textile designer, I also use food waste, such as avocado or onion skins, to dye textiles prior to printing them with bacteria whose growth is guided through stencils.

This approach requires careful manipulation — nutrients, temperature and oxygen must be constantly monitored to maximize pigment growth — but saves valuable resources such as water, energy and land.

Ancient plant-based techniques in tandem with modern biodesign methods of colour production can generate most shades from the Pantone palette (the colour reference in fashion). Crucially, we can obviate the need for harmful petrochemical compounds.

My research at Concordia's Department of Design and Computation

Arts also touches on the concept of "textile ecoliteracy." The term refers to the development of an ecological knowledge of the materials we use.

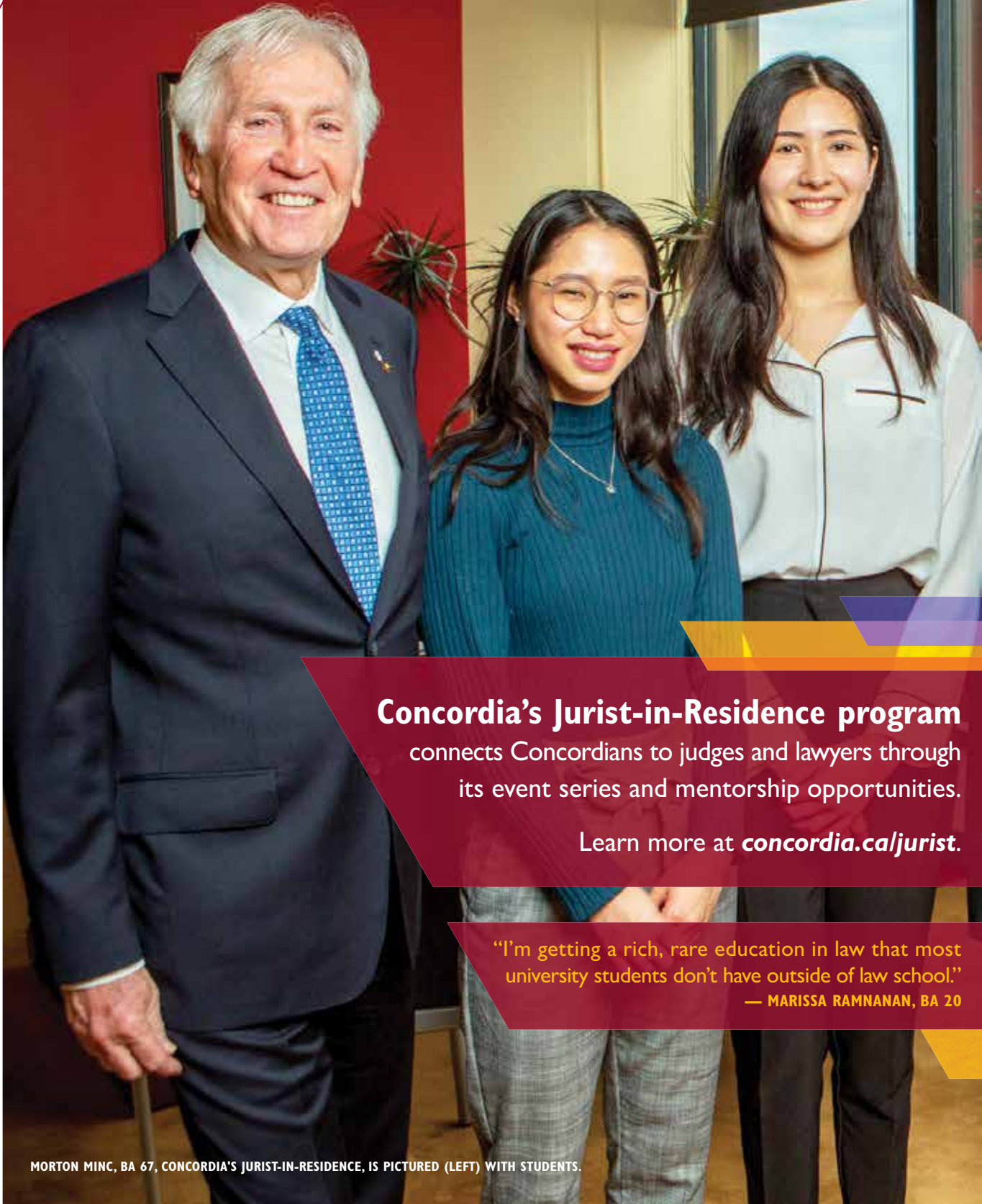
Ecoliteracy, as a general concept, was coined by physicist Fritjof Capra, who suggested that a critical approach to how we make and dispose of our materials is needed to foster a more sustainable relationship with the natural world.

Capra defined the term in 1996; given the urgency of climate change, I feel compelled to help build on his work.

Ultimately, my research is inspired by how the natural world creates materials. I like to think of it as a dialogue between design, chemistry and environmental health, and hope to inspire a more profound reflection on textile materiality to address complex societal issues through the prism of biodesign and colour. ■

Vanessa Mardirossian's research is funded in part by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Hexagram, the Textiles and Materiality Research Cluster, the Sustainability Action Fund, and the Colour Research Society of Canada.

To learn more, visit textilesandmateriality.com/tag/vanessamardirossian.



Concordia's Jurist-in-Residence program connects Concordians to judges and lawyers through its event series and mentorship opportunities.

Learn more at concordia.ca/jurist.

"I'm getting a rich, rare education in law that most university students don't have outside of law school."

— **MARISSA RAMNANAN, BA 20**

Powered by Concordia alumni, BrainBox AI improves the efficiency of heating and cooling systems

SUZANNE BOWNESS

Step inside an air-conditioned building on a hot summer day and the drop in temperature can be drastic. Regulation is key, and there's a Montreal-based startup on the case: BrainBox AI is putting the power of artificial intelligence to use in developing smart controls for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

BrainBox AI piggybacks its software on top of existing building-management systems to increase efficiency and cut costs. Using internal and external information such as weather, occupancy and historical and energy data, the software enables the HVAC system to be more energy-efficient.

Named one of *Time* magazine's Best Inventions of 2020, BrainBox AI's technology is already being used in commercial office buildings, shopping malls and mid-size retailers around the world.

The company has also become a magnet for Concordia grads whose expertise in areas such as management, marketing and software development is helping drive the company forward. Meet some of the alumni at the edge of smart technology.

SMARTER, GREENER, BETTER



BrainBox AI

REBECCA HANDFIELD, BCOMM 14: EMPLOYEE NO. 9

Rebecca Handfield's title at BrainBox AI is vice-president, Marketing and Public Relations, but she also holds another impressive title at the company: employee number 9.

Handfield started helping the BrainBox AI team before the startup even had a name. She jumped at the opportunity to build the brand from scratch, handling all external communications, from marketing and public relations to events and content creation.

"BrainBox was really young at that time; it was basically being born within RealTerm Energy, its sister company," says Handfield. "I wanted to get involved and help develop the brand, and eventually BrainBox AI took on a life of its own."

Handfield credits Concordia's Institute for Co-operative Education with kick-starting her career. Early communications and marketing roles at Pratt & Whitney, MédiaMed Technologies and Rinaldi Communications provided a start and inspired her to specialize more in technology. She then became marketing manager at Logibec, a health-care technology organization, while pursuing a master's degree in management part-time at Harvard University.

Handfield cares about bringing attention to the climate crisis. "Our solutions can dramatically change the course of climate change, and that's a huge motivating factor," she says. She is also drawn to the creativity of marketing in general. "It's the perfect balance of the left and right side of your brain. There's a component of analysis, strategy and planning, which is linear and logical. But then you also have the other side, creative and artistic.

"For me, having the opportunity to work in both is really interesting."



SAEID VOSOUGHI, MASC 19: THE AI WIZARD

Saeid Vosoughi is proud to be able to apply the knowledge gained during his Master of Applied Science degree at Concordia to his everyday work. When he joined BrainBox AI in December 2018, his role focused on the software development required for AI, working with databases and building the core technology.

Now, as manager, AI architect, Vosoughi oversees the ecosystem team focused on providing the infrastructure that integrates BrainBox AI's solution into HVAC systems. The process includes software design, data engineering, hardware preparation and other elements that allow buildings to adopt the new technology.

Hired before he had even completed his thesis, Vosoughi learned about BrainBox AI from an existing employee and appreciated being able to do a lot of hands-on work right away. "In new companies, like BrainBox AI, you get the opportunity to do a lot of work at the core, even if you're not that experienced. It was a great way to learn." He also likes that the company's technology helps solve a very tangible, real-world issue.

Vosoughi says working at BrainBox AI has led him to realize the HVAC sector has historically had a lot of inertia. He finds it exciting to be leading change in an industry with so much potential for improvement.

At Concordia, Vosoughi completed his thesis under the supervision of Maria Amer, professor of electrical and computer engineering, looking at 3D reconstructions of human poses from 2D images using AI. Courses that covered topics such as digital signal processing piqued Vosoughi's interest as they provided the mathematical basis needed for his studies, and which he now uses in his current role.

As a recent grad, Vosoughi advises students to remain focused and broaden their skill set as much as possible. "Universities are great places. Go wild and learn whatever you can — you'll use it for the rest of your life."



CATHERINE STEPHANO, BA 92: THE 'SWISS ARMY KNIFE' OF LEGAL

Hired in October 2020 as BrainBox AI's vice-president, Legal and Corporate Counsel, Catherine Stephanou has a huge task ahead: building a legal team from the ground up to keep pace with the fast-growing startup.

As the firm's first lawyer, Stephanou calls herself its legal "Swiss Army knife," handling everything from contracts to employment law. She balances her daily legal work with planning to create processes that will take the company to scale.

"I have to look at the wider business impacts of what I'm doing," she says. "For example, a time-sensitive deal affects revenue, but I also have to keep in mind things like marketing or employment structure. I consider myself part of every team in the company."

A highlight of Stephanou's Concordia student days was being a part of the School of Community and Public Affairs, where she took most of her courses with the same group of 20 or so students. "We were able to do a lot of research projects together. It made the university experience very special," she recalls. Stephanou also got involved beyond the classroom, including at the Women's Centre of Montreal, on the debate team and in the Harvard Model UN competition.

After completing the civil law program at the University of Ottawa, Stephanou spent the first decade of her career at a legal firm before going into private practice. For part of that time, she lived in Europe, eventually returning to Montreal where she joined Automobile en Direct as in-house legal counsel before moving to BrainBox AI.

Stephanou now says her "heart is full" at BrainBox AI. "It's different every day. I love the idea that I have to think outside the box and find practical solutions to the issues and challenges faced by a startup that is scaling globally at such a fast pace," she says. "That's challenging for me, and I love it. It's changing who I am as a person, and as a professional."

FRANK SULLIVAN, BA 94: THE NEXT CHAPTER

Frank Sullivan joined BrainBox AI in the middle of the pandemic, but the move was far from risky, given his belief in the company's mission. Already on BrainBox AI's board and contributing as a consultant, Sullivan says the company's environmental dedication, strong team and dynamic, youthful workforce were too good to stay on only part-time.

"I decided I wanted a full-time role contributing to the growth of this exciting business," says Sullivan. His role as chief business development officer involves identifying and working with the company's strategic partners, from equipment manufacturers to partners who will position BrainBox AI's solutions across the globe.

Although he is new to the environmental niche, technology has been a long-time focus of Sullivan's. After graduating from Concordia, he joined Cisco Systems' telecommunications equipment manufacturer, where he spent 18 years moving from account manager to regional vice-president of sales. He also worked at Bell Business Markets, and as vice-president of sales and country manager for Juniper Networks.

Sullivan has fond memories of his alma mater, notably spending his second year studying abroad at the Université canadienne en France, and meeting his now-wife while participating in the Harvard Model UN. "We represented Paraguay, and successfully debated nuclear non-proliferation," Sullivan recalls.

As he settles into his role at BrainBox AI, Sullivan is happy to be based in Montreal. "The diversity, strength and calibre of talent that is graduating from the Montreal community — including from Concordia — really speaks to our future," he says. "There's no better time to do business from Montreal. This is what I want to do for the next chapter of my life."



MEET THE NEXT GENERATION OF BRAINBOX AI

BRAINBOX AI RECRUITS TALENT AT ALL LEVELS. HEAR FROM RECENT INTERNS ON WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GAIN EXPERIENCE AT A STARTUP ON THE RISE.

WHAT DO YOU DO AT BRAINBOX AI?

Minhajul: I test algorithms creating cases and procedures to catch bugs or quality issues.

Christopher: I put technical information into marketing wording and pieces, doing competitive landscape work, and more.

Jacqueline: I support the algorithm research team by looking at the energy consumption and trends for HVAC equipment in buildings to strategize their improvement.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR INTERNSHIP?

Christopher: The culture and the common value of wanting to solve a big problem. Also, having mentors that understand where you are in your life and who are there for you is huge.

Jacqueline: It's an amazing work environment. I am surrounded by inclusive, friendly and open-minded mentors. I like that our main focus is fighting climate change. My position allows me to interact with people in different departments.

Minhajul: I really enjoy BrainBox AI's atmosphere and collective mindset. Being a smaller company, you get to know everyone on a deeper level.

HOW WILL YOUR TIME AT BRAINBOX AI ADVANCE YOUR FUTURE CAREER?

Jacqueline: I learn something new every day in the world of AI, smart controls, prediction models and more. I'm challenged to learn and actively play a part in an important world issue I am very passionate about.

Minhajul: I am learning how to have great code quality and how to create proper testing for scripts. More importantly, I am working in the AI field, which is what I am most passionate about.

Christopher: I am learning a lot – things like developing the thoughts behind an idea or how to communicate and collaborate with different departments. These things put me one step ahead. ■



MINHAJUL HOQUE, BENG 21
FORMER ENGINEERING INTERN
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AS OF MAY 2021



JACQUELINE MLAKAR, BENG STUDENT
DATA ANALYST INTERN



CHRISTOPHER HUM, BCOMM STUDENT
SALES AND MARKETING INTERN



HOW RESTAURANTS RUN BY CONCORDIA GRADS WEATHERED THE PANDEMIC

MAEVE HALDANE, BFA 91



Montreal restaurateurs vividly remember the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Ngoc-An Trinh, BFA 12, the co-owner with husband Gabriel Gallant of the lively Monopole in the Cité Multimedia district, it began with customers saying they

needed to quarantine after business trips.

“Gabriel and I would just look at each other,” says Trinh. “Our biggest issue is that we had to protect our staff.”

The couple ultimately chose to close before it was mandated. What provisions they couldn’t use up were bagged and delivered to their workers.

While indoor dining resumed in Montreal on June 7, 2021, after 15 months of uncertainty, the pandemic exacted a heavy toll on the city’s restaurants. Those that survived received some federal help to cover rent and other costs. But the proceeds from takeout only made up for so much.

Many had to find creative ways to get by. Trinh changed licences from a wine bar to a restaurant so Monopole could sell both wine and food for takeout.

With some expenses down — no stemware to wash, no broken glassware to replace — Trinh managed to rehire much of her staff. Sadly, she couldn’t afford to keep on her chef.

“It was a really hard time,” says Trinh. “He was a good friend.” They gave him a good severance package, bought his recipes and now make do with line cooks.

'A SERIOUS LACK OF RESPECT'

Raegan Steinberg, BA 08, of brunch spot Arthur's Nosh Bar in Saint-Henri, was equally concerned for her staff.

"Restaurants are the only places where people actually remove their masks," she points out. Many clients were patient and understanding, but from others, "there was a serious lack of respect."

Waits for tables were long and people got frustrated and were sometimes rude. Some wouldn't put on masks to go to the bathroom; others would just cover their mouths by pulling up their shirts.



Steinberg had been scheduled to open a fine-dining restaurant the week after the pandemic hit. Ineligible for government help, her business partner Shah Kashizadeh thought to remake the space into a fried-chicken restaurant and dubbed it Bucky Rooster's. It's proven popular.

Steinberg feels fortunate to still be in business and to be able to spend time with her mother. She'd previously lost her father to cancer and has learned to never take health for granted.

"Just to get this time as a family has been special because no one's been sick. I feel really lucky in that sense."

Over in the Mile-Ex neighbourhood, Dinette Triple Crown has long provided picnic hampers laden with Southern United States fare for customers to enjoy in a park across the street. Though that may seem fine for low-contact business in mild weather, chef and owner Colin Perry, BA 03, a native of Kentucky, decided it was too much of a risk.

With the advent of COVID-19, Perry closed his restaurant, settled accounts and helped staff navigate government assistance. He doesn't think he'll open the dining room until everyone's vaccinated.



"I wouldn't want a decision I made to result in one of my employees getting sick," he says.

Perry would have liked better lockdown protocols and more creative alternatives for out-of-work restaurant workers. Perhaps programs could

have been put in place to feed those disadvantaged by the pandemic, he says. "Takeout is a luxury, food is a necessity."

Perry has heard some suggest that restaurants don't deserve to be saved. But restaurants are a huge part of the tourism economy, he points out.

"We all work hard, pay our fair share of taxes and bring in enormous tax revenue. Then we're told it's a bad business model and we should figure it out on our own. It's crazy."

He wishes restaurateurs would band together more. "People often refer to 'the restaurant industry,' but that would imply we all attend meetings and make plans collectively, and that's not the case."

'PIVOT BY NECESSITY'

Jon Cercone, BA 10, manager and partner of Tavern on the Square in Westmount, says he used to see up to 250 customers a day.

"The media emphasizes how people are pulling together and pivoting," he says, but adds that this narrative downplays the toll of the pandemic.

Cercone can't hire back as many employees as smaller places can, and had to personally start a wine distribution business to make ends meet for his young family.

"This hasn't been an opportunity to pivot, this has been pivot by necessity."



"It's our duty to band together and keep everybody safe until this is over. And then we can get back to business."

- COLIN PERRY, BA 03

“This hasn’t been an opportunity to pivot, this has been pivot by necessity.”

– JON CERCONI, BA 10



Cercone thinks restaurants are unfairly subject to overblown bureaucracy. During the pandemic, Tavern on the Square endured two health inspections, a liquor inspection and a federal inspection to see if the restaurant was paying for the music he’s allegedly streaming to customers that obviously aren’t there.

His hope going forward is for a clear plan from government. “If you tell me I can open my restaurant in three days, I can’t do it. I have to rehire people, buy food, reboot my reservation system, a million things! I’m having a panic attack just thinking about it.”

With summer in full swing and many still not fully vaccinated for COVID-19, Steinberg has other concerns.

“I’m worried. I think it’s going to be wild. Everyone will be travelling and eating out. I think people are going to be very excited about their freedom after the tough winter we had.”

Trinh, too, wonders about the future. The office workers Monopole depended on are all at home. A big company located across the street recently decided not to renew its lease. She predicts that many customers will still prefer takeout after the pandemic subsidies.

“A lot of people are happy to save those few extra dollars. I don’t think that’s going to change for a while.”

Perry says Triple Crown is only getting through these tight times because he watches every dime. He assumes other restaurants are slowly slipping into debt.

“They may outlast the pandemic, but they may not last much longer and it will be because of the crisis,” he says. “It’s our duty to band together and keep everybody safe until this is over. And then we can get back to business.” ■

Learn how these and other Concordia grads have faced the pandemic by visiting concordia.ca/CommunityvsCOVID.



DELIVERY DILEMMAS

Which delivery app to sign up with? This has become a major question – and source of stress – for restaurateurs throughout the pandemic.

When Montreal first imposed a city-wide curfew, Jon Cercone opted for Uber Eats and Door Dash for Tavern on the Square. Sales went up.

“They already have the infrastructure, so at a certain point you just have to bite the bullet,” he says.

These companies, however, can charge up to 30 per cent of the full price of a meal. In March, Quebec looked at capping this at 20 per cent for the duration of the pandemic, but has yet to actually do so.

That would be better, but still not great, says Raegan Steinberg. “This is a penny industry. Twenty per cent is basically your profit.”

And reliability is iffy. “There have been glitches, tech problems. There was one week I was on the phone with them for hours,” says Cercone.

Steinberg says drivers can be rude. She’s even had food stolen.

Cercone puts his better menu items and full wine list on Montreal startup ChkPlz, which he says has a more favourable business model for local deliveries.

“If someone wants my prized wines, I want to be making the full balance. I don’t want to be giving anything to a tech company that doesn’t even know I exist.”

Steinberg praises ChkPlz for ease of use for pickup orders, but for deliveries far from Arthur’s Nosh Bar, she gets charged a lot. “If you’re ordering from Mile End, Montreal, for example, we could end up paying as much as \$15 for that delivery.”

DISRUPTING THE WORKFORCE

THE GIG ECONOMY IS TRANSFORMING PROFESSIONAL LIFE, THOUGH NOT ALWAYS FOR THE BETTER. HOW CAN WE ENSURE IT BENEFITS NOT ONLY CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES, BUT ALSO WORKERS?

SAMANTHA RIDEOUT, GRDIP 10

Like many city dwellers, Nura Jabagi, MBA 14, PhD 21, relies on the ride-hailing Uber application to get around. As a researcher at Concordia's John Molson School of Business, she's not only thinking about this form of transportation from a passenger's perspective — she's also curious about the experience of the drivers.

"When I saw how everything is automated by a digital platform, I started asking questions," Jabagi says. "I got to hear about what it's like to be managed by this app that's sort of barking orders at you."

As people who earn an income without formal employment, Uber drivers are part of a growing trend in the labour market. According to Statistics Canada's latest estimate, more than eight per cent of Canada's workers now go from one gig — a short-term task, contract or assignment — to the next.

Gig workers are a diverse group ranging from dog walkers and freelance photographers to high-earning independent business consultants. What they all share is a lack of access to benefits such as paid time off, minimum-wage protections, sick leave, parental leave, prescription-drug insurance or job security. For some, this is a worthwhile trade-off for autonomy, flexible hours and work-life balance. Yet, many gig workers do not enjoy those perks, either.

As businesses rely increasingly on external labour to control costs and maintain flexibility, the gig economy is expected to continue growing. Knowing this, Concordia researchers are investigating ways to improve the experience of gig work.



NURA JABAGI, MBA 14, PHD 21

THE AUTONOMY PARADOX

For her part, Jabagi is focused on gig workers whose experiences are mediated by digital platforms such as websites and smartphone apps. Examples include DoorDash, which employs food couriers, Handy, which offers housecleaning and home repair services, and Upwork, which mediates desk work such as accounting or graphic design.

"The gig economy offers a lot of opportunity," Jabagi says. "And many people who lost their jobs [because of the COVID-19 pandemic] turned to it to keep themselves afloat."

In spite of this, however, Jabagi feels that most digital platforms have plenty of room to improve when it comes to worker management and experience. Her recent PhD thesis at Concordia explored how app designs and algorithms can influence workers' intrinsic motivation, their perception of organizational support, their sense of being treated fairly and their sense of whether the organization supports their autonomy.

"Autonomy is one of the big reasons why people are drawn to the gig economy," she says. "But ironically, many platforms — especially those that are mediating lower-skilled work — break it down into little pieces and scrutinize it. They micromanage people, in other words." Uber's app, for example, tracks, rewards and penalizes drivers' speeds, braking habits, exact routes and acceptance rates of customer hails.



JEAN-PHILIPPE WARREN

Jean-Philippe Warren, a professor in Concordia's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, came to a similar conclusion while writing a book about the history of taxi drivers, including Uber drivers, in Montreal. "Drivers are now connected to a computer that dictates their job," Warren says. "GPS steers them almost like a coachman steers a horse." Plus, they typically need

to work long hours to make a living wage. "Proud of their independence, they nevertheless feel like prisoners," he writes in *Histoire du taxi à Montréal* (Éditions du Boréal, 2020).

"They can stop working whenever they like, yet they work unceasingly."

There is one notable difference between taxi drivers and their ride-hailing-app counterparts, according to Warren. "Most Uber drivers work part-time or for a short period," he says. "Ninety-five per cent of the people who register to become Uber drivers are gone after a year. They don't feel as much like prisoners as regular taxi drivers do, because they don't intend on making a living out of this occupation for long."

One of the many steps companies could take to enhance gig workers' sense of autonomy — and perhaps also retain them for longer — is to offer them meaningful choices, Jabagi suggests. For example, instead of merely threatening to deactivate

a worker who doesn't initially perform as well as hoped, an app could echo what a human trainer would say, such as: Here are three areas where you have room to improve. Which one would you like to focus on? Here are some strategies that might help.

"This is an example of what we call user-centred gamification," Jabagi says. "There's more agency in it."

Jabagi recognizes that even the most thoughtfully designed app wouldn't always make workers feel adequately supported. "An algorithm can only go so far," she says. "There has to be a way for workers to meaningfully reach a human being when necessary."

Despite its current shortcomings, Jabagi sees hope for the future of the digitally-mediated segment of the gig economy. "The reality is that these platforms are not hard to reproduce," she says. "The technology is easily copied, and then it's a matter of getting a critical mass of users. We're already seeing platform co-operatives that are growing." She points to the Montreal-based driving co-op Eva as a local example. Eva's drivers take part in company decision-making and bring home a larger share of its income.

"I think there's room for socially conscious options, even though customers might have to pay more," Jabagi adds. "A lot of the dominant companies are operating on models that are hemorrhaging money. They've cut prices so much that the only place to get more money is out of workers' pockets. I don't think it's sustainable to keep treating workers like they don't matter."

"Autonomy is one of the big reasons why people are drawn to the gig economy."





MOSTAFA AYOOBZADEH, PHD 19

SUPPORTING FREELANCERS DURING TURBULENT TIMES

Another important segment of the gig economy, namely freelancers, has been on the mind of Mostafa Ayoobzadeh, PhD 19, an assistant professor at Université du Québec à Montréal and a former John Molson School lecturer. Examples include freelance programmers, actors, writers and cosmetologists. Unlike

workers who receive a stream of potential clients through an app, these must find and negotiate their own gigs.

The pandemic has intensified the employment instability that many freelancers face. However, certain career competencies make them less likely to struggle. For a 2021 study, Ayoobzadeh examined the influence of “knowing why to work” (passion and motivation), “knowing how to work” (expertise and skills) and “knowing with whom to work” (professional relationships) on freelancers’ confidence in their ability to seek out new opportunities. The first two resources had a clear positive effect on job-search efficacy, while contacts did not.

“Professional networks were helpful for some participants and not others,” Ayoobzadeh says. “One possible explanation is that people kept receiving bad news about others losing their work. This wouldn’t be good for your confidence during times of crisis, even though a large network is probably helpful under other circumstances.”

According to Ayoobzadeh, the organizations that hire freelancers could do more to help them develop their careers. “Full-time employees often have access to training, mentoring, supervision and feedback,” he says. “Meanwhile, freelancers are on their own. Businesses [that rely on freelance work] could give back to the community by initiating skills-development programs. I’m not asking them to invest billions of dollars. For a corporation, that investment is nothing, but for a freelancer, it’s a gesture that could make a meaningful difference.”

Educational institutions also have a role to play: they can equip students to navigate the freelance market by honing abilities such as leadership, networking or negotiation. “This would help them to be successful with virtually any project in any industry,” Ayoobzadeh says. “It would also increase their motivation: research has shown that when people see themselves as more competent, they have more passion for what they do.” Concordia currently offers resources of this kind through CU at Home (concordia.ca/cuathome) and the Student Success Centre’s FutureBound program (concordia.ca/futurebound).

Like Jabagi, Ayoobzadeh is optimistic about the future of gig work. In part, that’s because freelancers offer a type of service that is truly needed. “We don’t want all of them to give up and take traditional jobs instead,” he says. “There are good reasons for everyone — universities, governments, corporations — to help them feel like they’re supported, and not alone.” ■



“When people see themselves as more competent, they have more passion for what they do.”



HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

JAMES ROACH

ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK



**WHEN IT COMES TO SYSTEMIC RACISM,
A LOT LURKS BENEATH THE SURFACE.
HERE'S WHAT CONCORDIANS ARE DOING ABOUT IT.**

Systemic racism — and how it can be dismantled — is at the heart of a lot of recent activism and outreach work at Concordia.

This collective effort — from the university's Indigenous Directions Action Plan to the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism — is connected to a wider, global movement focused on economic and social justice for marginalized people.

Vicky Boldo is a member of Concordia's Indigenous Directions Leadership Council and a cultural support worker at the Otsenhákta Student Centre — an on-campus resource for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students (Otsenhákta means “near the fire” in Kanien'kéha, an Iroquoian language).

As a six-month-old, Boldo was subjected to Canada's Sixties Scoop, a government program that forcibly removed Indigenous children from their families and communities for adoption by non-Indigenous couples.

It's among the more painful and shameful chapters in the country's history.

“The fact that we have so many people who have lived violence-induced trauma and loss of land, culture and language

through genocide, assimilation and other negatively impacting legislation is extremely problematic,” says Boldo.

At the time of her placement, the social workers charged with Boldo's welfare had no qualms about including such statements in her file as, “Vicky is a very attractive child, although still somewhat Indian-looking.”

“We were interested in noting the change in Vicky but she still has very dark hair and dark eyes,” read one comment. “Her skin is changing to a pink-and-white complexion.”

When Boldo was granted access to her adoption records as an adult, she was shocked and enraged by what she saw.

She's convinced that radical change is needed to provide Indigenous people with restitution and justice. And while she's described her work as a cultural educator at Concordia as healing, she's highly cynical of and has little faith in politicians.

“Over the years I have met many individuals from the social-services, health-care, police, justice and education sectors who work or have worked with Indigenous communities,” says Boldo. “Very few are able to admit their own errors and ingrained racism.”



“Without question, there’s a system of exclusion and privilege in place in our institutions.”

– ANGÉLIQUE WILLKIE

‘WE NEED TO TACKLE THE VALUE SYSTEM’

Angélique Willkie, a Department of Contemporary Dance faculty member and co-chair of the President’s Task Force on Anti-Black Racism at Concordia, says that systemic racism is rooted in colonialism.

Formed in 2020, the task force’s mandate is to oversee efforts to combat anti-Black racism across Concordia in order to help the university become a more diverse and welcoming place with deeper community connections.

The mandate is wide-ranging and laborious, the challenges daunting. As Willkie notes, Eurocentric frameworks that were first used to justify the enslavement of Black people have not disappeared — they have simply evolved.

“We need to recognize that our current condition is the result of a historical process that is predicated on a certain value system,” she says.

“In order to produce any real change, we need to tackle the value system. We need to constantly question the ways in which we see each other and function with each other so that we create space for other stories to exist within our institutions.”

Similarly, the recent history of Indigenous people who inhabited Turtle Island — or North America — for millennia before colonial settlers arrived, is a familiar one of racist doctrines wielded to justify cultural genocide and the violent assertion of control.

Manon Tremblay, BA 03, senior director of Indigenous Directions and chair of Concordia’s Indigenous Directions Leadership Council, explains that systemic racism is insidious, likening it to a hierarchical caste system.

“It’s embedded in the very institutions that we uphold as the foundation of our society,” she says. “And it stems from an entrenched colonial belief of racial, religious and linguistic superiority that favours the ideals of the people in power and puts up intentional barriers in accessing the same rights and privileges for other people based on their race.”

Boldo agrees with Tremblay. “Systemic racism lives in legislation, policies, systems, processes, rules and regulations — spoken and unspoken — that are put in place by decision-makers to protect their own social and political status.”

‘GENERATIONS OF WEALTH STOLEN’

The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, to name only some of the recent victims of racist violence in the United States, and Jamal Francique, Nicholas Gibbs, Anthony Griffin, Andrew Loku and Sheffield Matthews in Canada — and the grim reality of overpolicing and incarceration in both countries — have illustrated the extent to which Black bodies are viewed as disposable, threatening and criminal.

The effects of this distorted reasoning are wide-ranging, and include Canada’s brutal treatment of Indigenous children in the residential school system and its traumatic aftermaths, the epidemic

of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and a lack of access to clean water, affordable food and adequate housing and health care on some reserves.

While the systemic racism and realities faced by Indigenous people should not be confounded with the experiences of Black people — the Canadian government enforced the displacement of Indigenous people from their traditional territories through forced relocation, starvation and tactics of genocide — there are some commonalities, including higher than average incarceration rates.

Jason Lewis, a professor in the Department of Design and Computation Arts and a member of Concordia’s Indigenous Directions Leadership Council, explains that across time, the marginalization and limited opportunities afforded to racialized people can lead to less-than-ideal life outcomes that are then used to justify further discriminatory practices at governmental, legal, judicial and educational institutions.

“Very few are able to admit their own errors and ingrained racism.”

– VICKY BOLDO



“The challenge is that systemic racism doesn’t tend to ‘look’ like anything,” notes Lewis. “It is very difficult to see, usually because it is cloaked in formal and informal policies, procedures and guidelines, as well as legislation and legal codes that hide their original intent, either by design or by function of being obscured by history.”

With time, systemic racism also creates, entrenches and expands existing disparities between groups, says Lewis.

“Systemic racism is often presented as ‘fact.’ People will say, ‘It’s a fact that Indigenous people have higher rates of criminality. One need only look at the data from the criminal justice system.’”

The reality is that “Indigenous people have historically had their most basic cultural and political activities criminalized in ways that the white settler population has not,” adds Lewis.

A 2020 report from the Correctional Investigator of Canada, Ivan Zinger, stated that while Indigenous people account for five per cent of the Canadian population, the Indigenous inmate population has increased by 43.4 per cent since April 2020.

Comparatively, the non-Indigenous incarcerated population has declined over the same period by 13.7 per cent.

Zinger noted that the numbers are even more troubling for Indigenous women, who now account for 42 per cent of the female inmate population in Canada.

“There’s absolutely no doubt in my mind that there is systemic racism in federal corrections,” Zinger remarked in a 2020 *Globe and Mail* interview.

“They are more likely to be surveilled, stopped, arrested and convicted than the white settler population,” says Lewis.

“Indigenous people have had thousands of generations of wealth stolen from them and were placed on territories that were too small, too remote or too barren for them to thrive on their own.

“What we now see is the result of a long line of historical decisions made specifically to disadvantage Indigenous

people slowly, over time, transmuted into outcomes that are blamed on Indigenous people.”

THE DANGERS OF DENIAL

Willkie invokes the Government of Quebec’s claim that systemic racism does not exist in the province, and the insistence that only a minority of Quebec’s population is racist.

“The historical implications of the structures that supported both slavery and its abolition suggest that there is, yes, perhaps a minority of racist people,” she says. “It’s without question that there’s a system of exclusion and privilege in place in our institutions that is a product of its origins and that has endemic consequences today for Black communities.”

Tremblay explains that when government authorities deny the existence of systemic racism it has two troubling consequences.

“The first is that it provides the government with a convenient excuse not to address deeply rooted systemic racism and therefore washes their hands of the entire matter,” she says.

“The second consequence is that it gives licence to individuals and organizations to continue to exhibit racist behaviours and endorse racist policies and systems because of the perception that the government backs their institutional practices.”

According to Lewis, by denying that systemic racism exists, “the Quebec government discourages critical deconstruction of its problematic history around race relations and frustrates strategies for ameliorating the racism faced by discriminated groups.

“Government denial also provides fuel to those who are personally racist to maintain their beliefs — as we’ve seen in Quebec, across Canada and in the U.S. — and to act violently on those beliefs.”

Tremblay explains that racism also exists in the very denial of its existence in order to protect colonial perspectives and structures. She believes organizations need to conduct in-depth analyses of institutional policies and systems to determine whether they represent barriers for racialized people.



“Government denial provides fuel to those who are personally racist to maintain their beliefs.”

— JASON EDWARD LEWIS

“They need to work in close collaboration with people who encounter these barriers to explore equitable solutions and bring about positive change. Individuals need to examine their beliefs, behaviours and reactions regarding other individuals who are not from the same racial background as they are. They need to educate themselves and embrace difference rather than reject it.”

Tremblay maintains that systemic racism fails to address the internal structures that favour discrimination, preferring to blame individual offenders and calling unambiguous acts of racism isolated incidents.

‘ONE SYMBOLIC GESTURE, NOT A SHIFT’

Another issue, says Jacqueline Peters, BA 08, a professor in the Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics and a member of the President’s Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, is that many institutions do not collect and share disaggregated race-based data to understand and address systemic racism in the first place.

“Individuals need to educate themselves and embrace difference rather than reject it.”

– MANON TREMBLAY



Peters says that many leaders ostensibly interested in anti-racism work have already determined what success should look and sound like, “and in their eyes, it doesn’t look or sound like us.” The hiring or promotion of one racialized person is often cited as evidence that institutional racism has been solved.

“When you can point to one person or two racialized people at your table, that isn’t inclusion — it’s a start,” she says. “But it’s more of a symbolic gesture, not a shift toward equity. The word for this is tokenism.

“True equity, diversity and inclusion is about providing what each person needs to achieve equality. It’s looking at new ways of being and thinking. It’s ensuring that you extend opportunities and listen to those who may not look or think like the people you have around your dinner table. Adding white women to a white male-dominated team is not true diversity.”

Vicky Boldo sees very little political will to address centuries of harm done to Indigenous people. Canada’s discriminatory Indian Act is still “alive and well,” she says.

Boldo points out that the last residential school closed in 1996 — which she says was no different than a children’s internment camp — and she has seen round after round of national and provincial commissions and reports.

These include the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and, more recently, the Viens Commission Report and the National Inquiry’s Final Report into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

“Then, this past May, we had the Laurent Commission’s 550-page report, which documented Quebec’s negligence, inequity and systemic racism in youth protection,” Boldo says.

In November 2020, she was appointed to the permanent board of directors of the National Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation.

In her experience, commissions and reports place the burden on those who are oppressed. They compel victims to provide testimonies and recount painful and traumatic life experiences instead of



“When you can point to one person or two racialized people at your table, that isn’t inclusion — it’s a start.”

– JACQUELINE PETERS

holding the people and systems responsible for the trauma to account.

“For those in power, the tendency, once these reports are released, is once again deficiency-focused. They centre their attention on the trauma rather than on the systemic violence that created it in the first place.”

Racialized people are expected to bear this emotional labour alone, says Peters. People in power typically offload the healing onto others instead of doing the work themselves.

“Not only are you traumatized, but the institutions that have traumatized you then task you with repairing the damage they have done. Often it’s as a way of occupying racialized people with these tasks in the hopes that they won’t publicly air their grievances and that the work will eventually wear them down or simply fail.

“Then we can all move on and the status quo can quietly resume.”

Moreover, says Peters, if anti-racism work is done well or a person is too vocal about systemic racism, that can put a target on the person’s back.

While Peters doesn't expect to see more than incremental improvements in her lifetime, she says that her work is largely focused on benefitting future generations of students, staff and faculty.

She hopes for widespread acceptance of the need for change, the institutional will to make it happen and recognition that change will benefit not just racialized people, but society as a whole.

'BIASES COME FROM COLONIAL UNDERPINNINGS'

For Boldo, Lewis and Tremblay, it's important that the university's Indigenous Directions Action Plan be explored, studied, understood and applied across disciplines and departments at Concordia.

Lewis maintains that it's vital that individuals take the time to understand the history of the organizations and institutions they're affiliated with. He encourages people to adopt a critical approach.

"Any human process presented as fact needs to be deconstructed. Who claims it as 'fact'? What do they stand to gain? Who is most invested in upholding that 'fact' today? And, most importantly, who is disadvantaged by it?"

Building strong relationships with the local Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation is also essential, affirm the members of the Indigenous Directions Action Plan. Indigenous ways of seeing and knowing need to be respected, upheld and taught.

For Willkie, Peters and their task force colleagues, which includes Annick Maugile Flavien, BSc 13, GrDip 15, MA 18, who co-chairs the task force, the work of addressing systemic anti-Black racism as it occurs across the university — whether in policies, teaching and learning practices, or in the experiences of faculty, staff and students — continues.

"Fundamentally it's about exposing, wherever possible, any biases that exist in the way the university functions towards its Black communities of faculty, staff and students," says Willkie, whose work on the task force includes helping to prepare a final report with recommendations by April 2022.

"Those biases aren't attributed to individuals in any way, but they come from colonial underpinnings and absolutely need to be questioned if the university is going to be able to function according to its aspirations of equality, diversity, equity, decolonization and social justice." ■



'WE NEED TO MOVE PAST QUESTIONING THE PRESENCE OF SYSTEMIC RACISM'

For Annick Maugile Flavien, BSc 13, GrDip 15, MA 18, a co-chair on the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, terms like systemic racism lend the impression that institutions have self-perpetuating structures and mechanisms.

In fact, notes the founding coordinator of Concordia's Black Perspectives Office, those structures and mechanisms are actively maintained and sustained by people who may claim that we live in a post-racial society.

Whether their actions in upholding systemic racism are conscious or unconscious, the outcome is the same for racialized people.

"We all need to remember that systemic racism is reinforced and sustained by people, principles and procedures. This is not a machine that functions on its own.

"As the people who make up institutions and organizations, we have a right and responsibility to acknowledge, assess, address, adapt, replace and improve our systems according to our collective goals and values.

"It is important not to get stuck in the false polarization between a machine that enacts systemic racism and the communities that endure it, in order for us to remember that systemic racism is largely sustained by collective complacency and complicity whether it be conscious or unconscious.

"With this reframing, I am able to imagine endless openings and opportunities to address systemic racism across the scale and range of our work in institutions. In order for this work to begin, we need to move past questioning the presence of systemic racism so we can tackle the collective task of understanding the deeply rooted and intricate ways in which systemic discrimination shows up in all areas of our work."

John Molson's Executive MBA program at 35 and beyond

Looking forward after more than three decades of growth and transformation

KATIE MALAZDREWICZ, BA 06, GRDIP 09

Where can an EMBA take you?

DOUG SWEET

Corporate CEOs, government officials and business entrepreneurs are just some of the career paths an EMBA can lead to. Learn about the value of an EMBA degree from seven of the program's successful grads.



PHOTO CREDIT:
JIM LEGO

"This program will get you so much more than a degree. Looking at the world with an EMBA experience changed my mindset and helped me focus on the important aspects of each situation with a clear vision. It taught me to be proactive in all of life's aspects."

– Julie Vézina, EMBA 08, president and CEO, Consultation ScienTech



PHOTO CREDIT:
ALAIN GAGNON

"The EMBA is an excellent way to improve your business skills. You will learn pragmatic solutions and gain confidence to tackle challenges in a changing world. It can open up new opportunities and make all the difference in your career. And you'll develop a network of friends and connections that will last a lifetime."

– Thi Hien Nguyen-Khac, EMBA 87, member of inaugural graduating class, now retired



PHOTO CREDIT:
NENAD NIKOLOSKI

"The EMBA gave me the confidence to say that I was part of the business elite in Canada. For me, it was important to prove that young, non-Caucasian members of the community could have what it takes to be leaders in important business fields."

– Udaya Silva, EMBA 11, IPT director, Flight Control System, Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation

The past year marked a milestone for the John Molson School of Business: its Executive MBA (EMBA) program celebrated its 35th anniversary. Founded in 1985, "[it] was the first of its kind in Quebec and ushered in a new era of higher education tailored specifically to executives, entrepreneurs and professionals with considerable business experience," explains Rahul Ravi, director of the EMBA program. "Since its inception, the EMBA has transformed the landscape of executive education in Montreal and Quebec." The program's roots, however, date back even further, beginning with founder Steven Appelbaum.

Upon completing his PhD in Ottawa in 1972, Appelbaum accepted a teaching position at Pace University in New York. The role was unique: he was teaching Wall Street leaders in an Executive MBA program who, despite their senior positions, needed more education. The Pace EMBA was one of only two or three such programs in the United States at the time.

In 1979, Appelbaum moved to Montreal to join Concordia's Faculty of Commerce and Administration. Within a year, he was appointed chair of the Department of Management, and then dean of the faculty just over a year later, positioning him to make some important recommendations.

"Creating our own Executive MBA program was one of the first things I did as dean," he explains. There was pushback from the faculty's internal community, many of whom felt the program would never work, was too expensive and too specific.

"'Canadians are cheap,' they'd tell me. 'No way this can fly.' My perspective was that Canadians will invest in quality education, and this is what we can offer them," Appelbaum says.

Despite internal doubts, Appelbaum asked local corporations if they were willing to invest in the tuition required to offer employees the opportunity to earn their MBA. Hoping to sign on 10 to 15 businesses, Appelbaum drew interest from a total of 35. Knowing the market was there, he, along with colleagues Christopher Ross and Dale Doreen, the program's first director, established the foundation for Concordia's EMBA.

Unlike other academic programs, the EMBA's faculty consisted of industry professionals, rather than career academics.

"We needed real working experts from industry to teach working students who wanted to learn by example," says Appelbaum. This instructor profile remains a key aspect of the two-year EMBA program today. In addition, the courses take place on alternating Fridays and Saturdays, allowing students to better balance their academic, family, personal and professional priorities.

Appelbaum taught in the EMBA until 2016 and continues to be an integral part of the program.

GOING ABROAD

While changes to curriculum and content are constant, the EMBA remains relevant and reflective of the current world thanks to some vital additions. In 1992, it introduced its inaugural international study trip, which would become an annual student experience. During the first eight-day course abroad, students studied topics such as immigration, joint ventures, business practices, and import and export issues, all while analyzing real cases.

Since then, EMBA students have travelled to more than 20 countries, including Brazil, China, India, Australia, Thailand, Colombia and Poland. Today, the course is a flagship of the program.

THE FULL PACKAGE

Concordia's EMBA prides itself on developing leaders who are committed to continuous learning, personal and professional development and making a positive contribution to their communities.

It integrates coaching, health and wellness, as well as direct contact with high-level executives for closed-discussion sessions. With supporting modules like Healthy Executive, Leadership Effectiveness and Development, Executive Coaching and Executives Connect, the complete executive program offers support to help develop a comprehensive and successful executive.

"We recognize that it takes a motivated candidate with a healthy mind and body, receiving a high-quality education, to grow into a well-rounded, formidable business leader," says Ravi.

Thirty-five years on, one aspect of the EMBA program remains consistent: the calibre of its student cohorts. "We are constantly learning from our students," says Appelbaum. "It is a true exchange — a real-world experience where we're all in it together. Instructors become mentors and adapt their teaching style. Students don't simply show up and take notes; they share real work experiences as cases to review and work on in class. Everyone learns and grows," he adds. "It is a community." ■



"I didn't have a traditional background. I don't have an undergraduate degree, yet [Concordia] encouraged me to apply — and it was a great fit. When you're studying and working full-time and juggling course work, group work and a family, you learn to focus on what's important to get to the point and get it done."

— **Sherry Romanado, EMBA 11, Member of Parliament, Longueuil-Charles-LeMoyne**



"The EMBA taught me to be anticipatory, agile, innovative and always ready to pivot. These insights turned out to be instrumental this past year, living through a pandemic — not only in business, but in every aspect of our lives."

— **Charles Carranza, BSc 01, BEng 05, EMBA 18, vice-president, Strategy and Operations, Aloe Capital**



"The program expanded my brain muscle and my energy, helping me do a lot more. It changed my framework of what a true career entails."

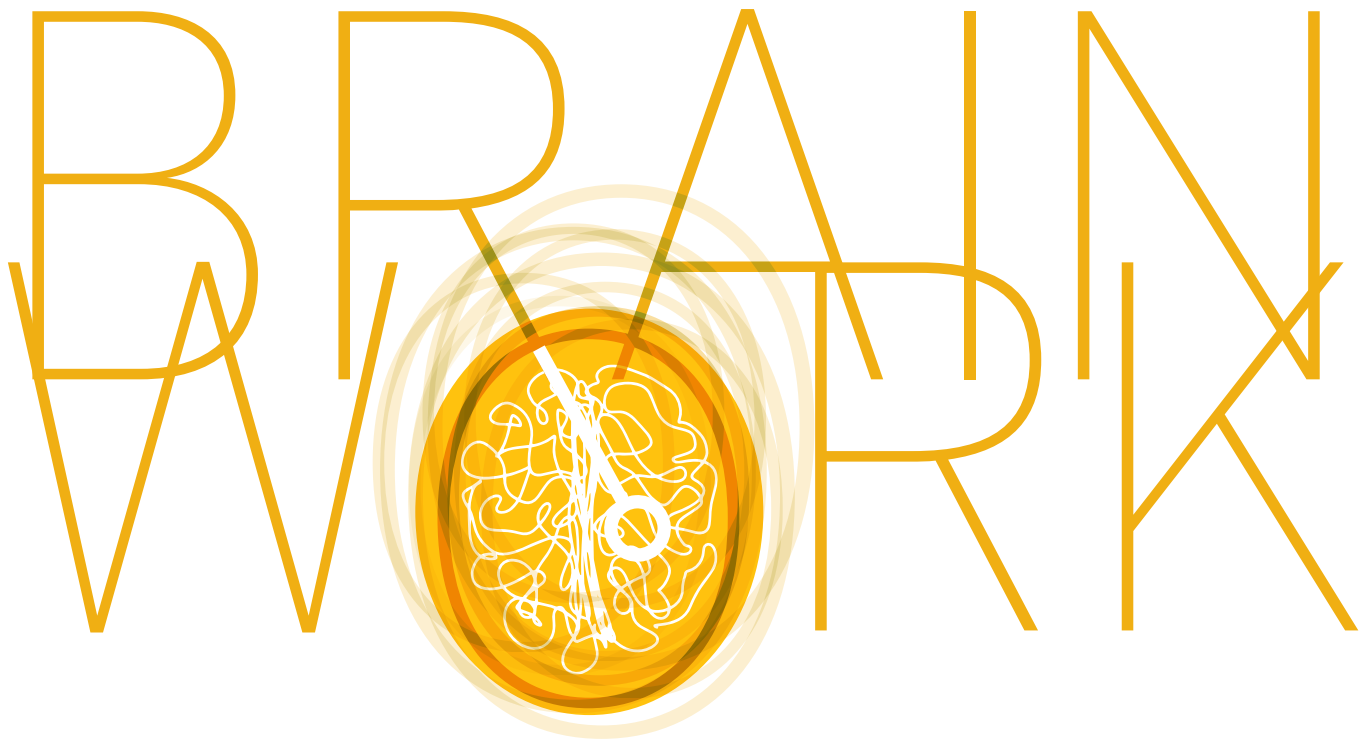
— **Richard Joly, EMBA 98, managing partner, Leaders International**



"I was able to hit the ground running. When you talk about the impact of an EMBA, it really speaks to that: I went in as a lawyer and it provided me with the skills to better understand business context and internal stakeholder objectives."

— **Julianna Fox, EMBA 14, chief ethics and compliance officer, WSP**

Read these and other EMBA alumni profiles at concordia.ca/alumni.



How Concordians
are impacting
the field of
sports-related
head injuries

RICHARD BURNETT, BA 88

Kyla Demers, BSc (athletic therapy) 04, MSc (osteopathy and post-concussion syndrome) 19, has been playing rugby since she was 14 and had her first concussion when she was 25.

The injury occurred in 2005, while she was playing for Town of Mount Royal R.F.C. in Montreal.

“It was the last game of the season,” recalls Demers. “I was hit illegally by someone who did a very dangerous move.

“I didn’t have the ball. I was fully stretched out playing scrum half and was hit from behind. I didn’t see it coming. But we were still in that old way of doing things where you just shake it off.”

There were no available substitute players, so Demers told a therapist who ran onto the field, “Ask me all the questions you want but I’m not coming off.”

Demers finished the game and only realized afterwards that she had suffered a bad concussion.

“I struggled for a couple of years,” she says. “So much so that I didn’t go anywhere near a field, nowhere near practice. I didn’t even go see any games.”

Demers has since fully recovered, but her initial reaction to her concussion is typical of many athletes who participate in a culture that celebrates toughness and encourages — and even rewards — them to play through pain.

At the same time, concussions have become commonplace, and not just in rough-and-tumble sports like hockey, rugby, football, soccer and boxing. Thankfully, Concordia-led research and advances by Concordia graduates are giving neuroscientists, neurologists and sports therapists new insight on how to treat sports-related head trauma.



KYLA DEMERS, BSC 04, MSC 19

‘STRONG CLINICAL PROGRAM IN ATHLETIC THERAPY’

The Lancet Neurology journal reported in 2013 that more than 50 million traumatic brain injuries (TBI) occur internationally each year. The concussion is a mild TBI — and the most common. According to estimates by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1.6 to 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related concussions occur each year in the U.S. The American Association of Neurological Surgeons reports that an athlete who has sustained a concussion is three to six times more likely to sustain another.

“Concordia has really made a push to increase research into concussions.”



In Canada, more than one in four people (27 per cent) aged 15 and older regularly participated in sports in 2016, with hockey at the top of the list. The Public Health Agency recently reported that for “sports and recreation-related activities among children and adolescents five to 19 years of age, hockey consistently showed the highest proportion of TBI relative to all injuries. Rugby also emerges as a sport with a high percentage of TBI for both males and females aged 10 to 19 years.”

Research into concussions has taken on increasing importance at Concordia’s Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology, where associate professor Geoff Dover serves as graduate program director.

“Concordia has a very strong clinical program in athletic therapy and there has been a push over the last 20 years to increase research into concussions,” says Dover, a certified athletic therapist and athletic trainer whose 2020 study — “Athlete Fear Avoidance, Depression,



GEOFF DOVER

and Anxiety are Associated with Acute Concussion Symptoms” — is currently under peer review for publication.

Dover was also a member of Kyla Demers’s thesis committee for her groundbreaking 2019 study “Prevalence of Cranial Bones and Upper Cervical Vertebrae Mobility Restrictions in Individuals Suffering from Post-Concussion Syndrome.”

“Our study showed that people who suffer from post-concussion syndrome have more cranial and upper cervical mobility restrictions compared to a control group — which is the first study of this kind to indicate this relationship,” says Demers. “More research will be needed to determine how our results can be used in better assessing and treating people with post-concussion syndromes.”

SURVIVOR TO ROLE MODEL

Other Concordia alumni conducting research on TBI include Enrico Quilico, BEd 12, who changed career paths after suffering a TBI in a 2006 motorcycle accident in Montreal.

Quilico was cut off on Highway 20 by a driver and collided with a car head-first after skidding 20 metres. He broke several ribs, fractured his pelvis and lay in a coma for two weeks. Quilico would eventually recover to do life-saving rehabilitation at the Montreal Gingras-Lindsay Rehabilitation Institute.

“That marked a big turning point,” Quilico says. “I felt the most positive influential factor in my long-term recovery was cardiorespiratory endurance exercise.”

In 2016, Quilico raised more than \$10,000 for Brain Injury Canada by participating in the Lake Placid Ironman and in 2018 received the Changemaker Award from the Neurological Health Charities of Canada.

As a public speaker, Quilico has been advocating for brain injury awareness since 2008, and as a PhD candidate in the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute at the University of Toronto, is currently researching an adapted exercise program for people living with TBI. His research is rooted in a community-based physical activity program with the YMCAs of Quebec that he developed for adults with moderate to severe TBI.

“The PhD is very important to me, conducting some very cutting-edge research about the benefits of physical activity for people with brain injuries,” says Quilico, who since January 2021 has also been teaching Quantitative Research Methods for Practitioners in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Concordia.

“I feel that by doing my work, and living my life to the fullest, I am offering hope to those suffering from TBI. There are a lot of stages that you go through in the long journey to recovery — some of them are very dark. Despite the odds, others can also have a positive outcome.”

“There are a lot of stages that you go through in the long journey to recovery — some of them are very dark.”



ENRICO QUILICO, BEd 12

“Athletes need to accept that the brain is an organ that has been damaged and must be fully repaired.”



PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

The work of TBI researchers like Quilico is helping to change the game, especially in the vulnerable world of youth sports. The Conversation, which publishes analyses by academics and researchers, reported in May 2020 that one in 10 Canadians aged 13 to 18 seek medical attention each year for a sports-related concussion: “Forty per cent of these youth have experienced a previous concussion, and 20 per cent will have a variety of persistent symptoms for longer than one month.”

Many believe professional contact sports should lead by example, but progress has been slow.

In 2013 the National Football League (NFL) paid \$765 million USD to settle a lawsuit brought by more than 4,500 players and their families who charged the league knew about the dangers of repeated play-related head blows that have been shown to likely cause chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the term used to describe brain degeneration, a condition associated with parkinsonism and dementia. This past June, the league announced that it would no longer settle concussion lawsuits on the basis of a pernicious

formula that assigned a lower level of cognitive function to Black players. Two former players have filed a civil-rights lawsuit over the racist practice.

One of the foremost authorities in the field of concussions, Majid Fotuhi, BSc 87, a Harvard- and Johns Hopkins-trained neurologist and neuroscientist, is medical director of the NeuroGrow Brain Fitness Center in Northern Virginia.

Fotuhi often gives speeches about concussions and CTE.

“I’m not very popular with football coaches,” he says. “Once, in Texas, I was giving a lecture to a group of physicians where I said I think encouraging nine-year-olds to bump and hit each other violently on the football field is child abuse.

“Youth should be playing tag or flag football. Kids should not be bumping their head intentionally at a time when their brain is still developing. Some physicians in attendance — who sat on the board of a football team in the area — were offended.”

Fotuhi — who says he “fell in love with the brain” when he took a physiological psychology course taught by Peter Shizgal in 1985 at Concordia — was saddened when he met Muhammad Ali in 2013. Ali developed severe Parkinson’s disease due to an estimated 29,000 blows to his head during his boxing career.

“I had watched Ali fight when I was a kid,” Fotuhi recalls. “So to see him in person was quite a memorable experience. But he had difficulty articulating a few words and had difficulty walking. He was confused and I felt so bad for him.

“We cherish the fact that he was such a good athlete, but I think we should have stopped him from fighting. As a neurologist whose job is to take care of people’s brains, if it were up to me, I would ban boxing and martial arts. They are barbaric.”

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

There is no definitive test that can say whether one has had a concussion or not, but experts in the field rely on two common tools to evaluate concussions: the Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing (ImPACT) and the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT).

The ImPACT test is a baseline concussion assessment developed by neuroscientists at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2002. There are two types of ImPACT tests: pediatric ImPACT for ages five to nine, and adult ImPACT for age 10 and older.

Hundreds of thousands of athletes across North America take the ImPACT test each year — especially when school sports begin in the fall — to create a cognitive baseline that helps provide

a guideline for how quickly concussed athletes can return to play. The test is used by the Canadian Football League, Major League Soccer, U.S. Lacrosse, the U.K.-based Football Association, NASCAR and Formula One. It is also offered to students at Concordia's PERFORM Centre.

SCAT — the current fifth edition is more commonly referred to as SCAT-5 — was developed by the Concussion in Sport Group (CISG) as a standardized sideline concussion-screening tool for medical professionals to assess athletes aged 13 and older (Child SCAT-5 is used for ages five to 12). SCAT-5 is supported by the International Ice Hockey Federation, FIFA and the International Olympic Committee.

Over at the NeuroGrow Brain Fitness Center, Fotuhi has treated more than 5,000 patients with various degrees of post-concussion syndrome. His 12-week Concussion Recovery Program consists of targeted brain training, treating migraine, sleep and anxiety issues with lifestyle modifications such as guided physical exercise, breathing exercises, meditation and different forms of biofeedback. According to his publication in the *Journal of Rehabilitation* in 2010, more than 80 per cent of his patients demonstrate improvement.

Fotuhi has two general recommendations for patients with TBI symptoms.

“First, athletes need to accept and respect that the brain is an organ that has been damaged and must be fully repaired,” he says. “Just like they would not rush back to playing a game with half-treated torn ligaments, they should not return to playing a game with half-recovered concussion symptoms. If they do, they are more likely to experience more concussions.



CENTRE RIGHT, WITH BALL: ISABEL GALIANA, BSC 98, CEO OF SACCADE ANALYTICS, WITH HER 1996 CONCORDIA STINGERS VOLLEYBALL TEAMMATES

“Just because you’re wearing a helmet doesn’t mean you’re safe.”

“Second, they need to find a neurologist with experience in treating concussions with a multidisciplinary team of experts, because different symptoms — such as headaches, dizziness, anxiety, anger management, sleep problems and balance issues — need different treatments.”

Kyla Demers — who suffered a second concussion in 2012 — manages a multidisciplinary team at Vertex Commotion, the clinic she founded in 2018.

Demers and her colleagues establish an individually tailored concussion rehabilitation program for each patient to treat different symptoms. Their six-part program includes the Vestibular / Ocular Motor Screening (VOMS) Assessment, a manual assessment, and NeuroTrackerX, a cognitive training

program that improves the efficiency of the brain developed by Concordia graduate Jocelyn Faubert, BA 84, MA 87, PhD 91, an experimental psychology expert and professor at Université de Montréal.

Another groundbreaking tool helping deliver better care for concussions is NeuroFlex, created by McGill University professor emerita Mimi Galiana. Galiana co-founded Montreal-based Saccade Analytics in 2016 with her daughter, Isabel Galiana, BSc 98, who serves as CEO of the company.

In March 2021, World Rugby announced that Saccade

Analytics’ eye-tracking technology will be trialled to assist with the detection of concussions in the sport. Other clients also include the Montreal Canadiens, whose superstar netminder Carey Price suffered a concussion in an April 2021 game against the Edmonton Oilers, following a bump by Oilers forward Alex Chiasson.

A former professional volleyball player who also played for the Concordia Stingers, Galiana says NeuroFlex enables clinicians and therapists to objectively assess and manage concussions and vestibular disorders by leveraging eye-tracking in virtual reality.

NeuroFlex is currently used commercially across Canada and Australia for both diagnostic support and rehabilitation, but Saccade Analytics remains committed to its research and development roots. “We are currently doing a clinical trial with the Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital that compares our results to functional MRI on concussed individuals,” Galiana says.

“Functional MRIs are kind of the gold standard for concussion diagnosis, and our goal is to see just how close we can get to be able to say that we can diagnose a concussion.”

As Concordians continue to advance treatment and research in the field of concussions and TBI, athletes can also protect themselves and help prevent concussions with proper training.

“The key is anticipation,” says Demers, who was part of the medical team at the Vancouver Olympic Games and at two Canada Games. “You have to make sure that your brain is always sharp. Because if your brain is slow before a game, then your reaction time will be slow.

“You also have to get a good night’s rest. Eat well. You have to have healthy life hygiene so that you’re always 100 per cent. And invest in your core: good posture, good stabilizers in your neck. You need to be fit and you need to be strong. And just because you’re wearing a helmet, it doesn’t mean you’re safe.” ■

NEW SCHOOL OF HEALTH TO BUILD ON CONCORDIA'S STRENGTHS

Concordia has a long history of health-related research and expertise. This will play a central role in the university's new School of Health, which Concordia's Board of Governors approved on June 16.

“The School of Health is an opportunity to make a profound and distinctive contribution in addressing important needs of society through our research, our teaching and training, and our ability to collaborate with external partners,” says Concordia President Graham Carr.

“Making a difference and having an impact is what motivates us all every day. This proposal lays the groundwork that will allow us to define and deliver an exciting new mission for health at Concordia.”

The interdisciplinary school will leverage and enhance current health-research strengths. It will also establish three hubs in community health, clinical research and prevention, and biomedical science and engineering research to promote collaborations across multiple fields and at other units such as the PERFORM Centre.

Of Concordia's 25 university-recognized research units, nine are in health or health-related fields. The school's goal is to be a leader in community health, core fundamental health sciences and medical technology development.

Learn more at concordia.ca/schoolofhealth.

ILLUSTRATION: ISTOCK – IRINA SHATLOVA

SPACE RACE 2.0

Concordians are contributing to a new golden age of cosmic exploration

BY ALEXANDER HULS

When NASA's Perseverance rover landed on Mars on February 18, 2021, the world was captivated. The event made international news, trended on Twitter and was watched by more than 21 million people on a YouTube livestream.

The popular interest reflected a resurgence in enthusiasm for the cosmos and its mysteries.

It's not just the general public that is animated, either.

"This is a tremendously exciting time for space exploration," says Tim Haltigin, BSc 02, a Canadian Space Agency (CSA) manager of planetary exploration and astronomy missions. "Now's really the beginning of a new golden age."

What will the near and distant future of space exploration look like? What will it require to realize? And what role can Concordia and its graduates play?

AN EASIER PATH TO THE STARS

An entrepreneur of Elon Musk's magnitude and wealth naturally draws attention to whatever it is he seeks to do. Founding SpaceX has been no exception. The company seemingly makes the news every week with the launch of a rocket — whether it's one delivering International Space Station (ISS) supplies, orbital satellites or astronauts.

SpaceX is, of course, not the only private company that has ventured into space. Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin and Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic are following suit.

"They've made a huge impact on the space industry," says Krzysztof

Skonieczny, the Canada Research Chair in Aerospace Robotics at Concordia, as well as an adjunct professor. "They're part of a larger commercial ecosystem that is developing around space exploration."

That hasn't always been the case.

"For many years, space programs were driven by government agencies," explains Virendra Jha, PhD 82, a Great Concordian and former CSA vice-president of science, technology and programs.

While numerous private companies are investing in space exploration to make space tourism possible, offering people the thrilling experience of seeing Earth from above, that's not the reason industry professionals like Skonieczny and Jha are excited.

It's rather the fact that companies with bottomless budgets, like SpaceX, have entered the field in order to lower the cost of launches and thereby increase their frequency. For the moment, that service has made it easier for parties to send technology into near space. But it will also be valuable when space exploration gains traction in the future, and ambitious missions set their sights on distant planets and moons.

In other words, these initiatives may be run by private enterprises, but they benefit everyone in space exploration.

"We're always rooting for [these companies] to succeed, because what's good for any company is good for the whole industry," says Carmit Tzoubari, BEng 14, a system engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY



"We're going to be answering some fundamental questions about the formation of the universe."

- Tim Haltigin, BSc 02

ANSWERING THE BIG QUESTIONS

While the private-sector rocketry boom will continue to fulfill an important practical need, other in-progress plans promise something much more profound in the near future: unlocking the universe's mysteries.

First, there's the James Webb Space Telescope, expected to launch in October 2021. A NASA, European and CSA collaboration, the space observatory will use advanced infrared technology to look up to 13.6 billion light years away.

What could be seen might yield answers about how the universe — and life on Earth — came to be.

"It's going to basically peer back almost to the beginning of time," says CSA's Haltigin. "We're going to be answering some fundamental questions about the formation of the universe itself."

The OSIRIS-REx, launched in 2016, may provide similar revelations. The spacecraft's objective is to study the asteroid Bennu, located around 321 million kilometres from Earth, which could offer clues about our existence.

"This is a mission that's going to allow us to understand the very beginnings of the solar system, how planets form and potentially where the building blocks of life come from," says Haltigin, who contributed to the project.

Since it arrived at Bennu in 2018, the OSIRIS-REx has been using a CSA-made laser scanner — named OLA — to conduct detailed geographical measurements of the asteroid's surface. It will also collect samples to be returned to Earth by 2023.



"There's strong evidence that there are ocean worlds on these moons."

- Krzysztof Skonieczny

MARS, THE MOON AND THE SEARCH FOR WATER

No accomplishment in the space industry is dreamed of more than putting humans on Mars. It's likely it may not be possible for another decade, but numerous efforts are underway to realize that dream.

Landing on Mars was certainly its own accomplishment for the Perseverance rover, but it's also there to scour the planet's topography (and gather samples to be returned in 2031) to better understand its viability for human survival. Similarly, there are colonization-friendly projects underway like the RASSOR, an excavator capable of extracting water from extraterrestrial soil, or the Orion Spacecraft with a paired launch system powerful enough to propel payloads or astronauts into deep space.

Our moon will play a pivotal role in future plans for Mars as well. NASA and other international agencies are working on the Lunar Gateway, an ISS-like space station that will orbit the moon and be completed by 2024. Functioning autonomously (aided by CSA-provided external robotics and a mechanical arm like the ISS has), part of its purpose will be to serve as a starting point for travel to the red planet.

However, the Gateway is also part of NASA's Artemis program, looking to put humankind back on the moon and eventually establish a permanent foothold there. Lunar landings will be launched from the station in order to continue studying its surface. That may involve Canada's Lunar Exploration Accelerator Program, a \$150-million initiative to put the first Canadian rover on the moon. But it will also include ventures to its southern pole to find water, both to determine if life exists on the moon and for possible settlement.

Water will be a driving factor for deeper ventures into our solar system as well.

"When we talk about human exploration, water is an essential ingredient," says Virendra Jha.

Adds NASA's Carmit Tzoubari: "Everywhere that we find liquid water, we find life. So NASA's been looking to where in our solar system there's liquid water to try to find signs of life there."

That has led to planned missions to two other moons — Saturn's Titan and Jupiter's Europa.

"There's strong evidence that there are ocean worlds on these moons underneath layers of ice. So these are destinations that are unique in the solar system that we haven't had a chance to sort of touch and explore up close yet," says Skonieczny.

That will change with NASA's Europa Clipper mission, which will send a spacecraft to orbit Jupiter to look for water and whether the moon could sustain life. A mission called Dragonfly will send a drone down to the surface of Titan to seek similar findings.



"What is universally valued is practical experience, which I did get a lot of at Concordia."

- Carmit Tzoubari, BEng 14

SECURING THE FUTURE OF SPACE EXPLORATION

Realizing such ambitious projects, naturally, requires financial support. Where that money goes can have a dramatic effect on making humankind's space dreams come true.

Jha believes academic research and programs could be an important target for further support. "University scientists, and scientists within government organizations, are the ones who generally push exploration," he says.

Skonieczny echoes that sentiment. "I feel like there's some untapped potential for shifting more of the emphasis in Canada's work in the space domain into the academic setting," he says.



"University scientists are the ones who generally push exploration."

- Virendra Jha, PhD 82

Skonieczny's belief is grounded, in part, in the promise he sees in Space Concordia. Founded a decade ago, Space Concordia is a society that allows undergraduate and graduate students to pursue their passion for space with hands-on projects.

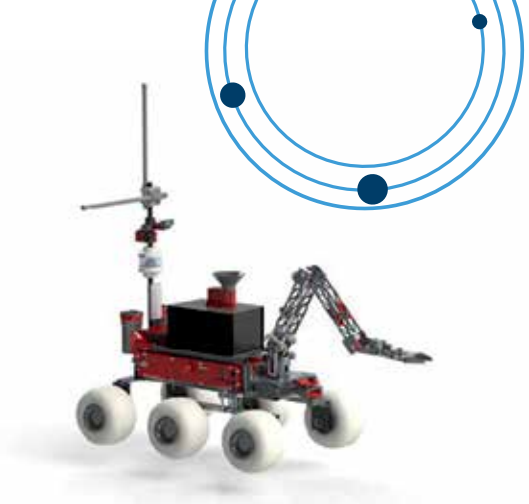
"It gives younger students the opportunity to get involved," says member Irina Stroica, a current mechanical engineering student and CSA intern.

Members of Space Concordia have a chance to contribute to four divisions: Robotics, Spacecraft, Rocketry and Health. Each division's current work reflects a glimpse of the future.

Robotics is working on a science- and astronaut-assisting rover for Mars. Spacecraft is working on the Canadian CubeSat project, a CSA-funded endeavour to launch toaster-size satellites from the ISS in 2021 to perform experiments and observation.

Rocketry is designing award-winning civilian rockets that can reach the edges of Earth's atmosphere — earlier this year a team from the Space Concordia division won a top design prize at the Base 11 Space Challenge. Lastly, Space Health is pursuing the exploration of health technology for deep-space missions.

Space Concordia's efforts aren't just worthy of support in their own right, but because they're giving hands-on experience to the future workforce of the industry. "What is universally valued is practical experience, which I did get a lot of at Concordia," says NASA's Tzoubari. "That's the kind of thing that employers love to see."



A ROVER DEVELOPED BY STUDENTS WITH SPACE CONCORDIA'S ROBOTICS DIVISION

Stroica has seen employers recognize fellow Space Concordians and grads. "They almost always find something related to space or space exploration, and it just makes me so hopeful," Stroica says.

It should make the industry hopeful too. The lifeblood of space exploration is collaboration — the exchanging of ideas from those new and seasoned in the field. Realizing our future — be it with the moon, Mars, Europa or the edges of the universe — can only happen with those willing to work together across disciplines.

"Because space is so difficult and it really takes people getting together, the challenges are often too great for [anyone] to do alone," says Haltigin.

But with a new golden age looming, he has no doubt that people will rise to the challenge. "Space is every day becoming more a part of our daily lives. That is only going to continue." ■



FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Sustaining strong connections to artistic communities

ANDY MURDOCH, WITH FILES FROM OLIVIER DU RUISSEAU AND KELSEY ROLFE

Faculty members and students in the Faculty of Fine Arts have had to think creatively to keep their connections to artistic communities strong this year. Despite great social distances, they found a way to meet, show their work and bond with artists and audiences in Montreal and across the country.

DEDICATED TO INUIT ART

Heather Igloliorte, associate professor of art history and Tier 1 Concordia University Research Chair in Circumpolar Indigenous Arts, was one of four Inuit co-curators of *INUA*, the inaugural exhibition at Qaumajuq, the new centre dedicated to Inuit art and culture at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

INUA features Inuit artists from across northern Canada as well as some from the urban south and circumpolar regions.

“The exhibition represents a wide range of media that challenges preconceptions of Inuit art,” Igloliorte says. “Together these artworks celebrate our past, survey the present and speak to an exciting future for Inuit art.”

Igloliorte was also on the 2012 Inuit Art Task Force that helped guide the planning of Qaumajuq, a name that means “it is bright, it is lit” in Inuktitut. With more than 14,000 pieces and another 7,400 on long-term loan, the cultural campus houses the largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art in the world.

Igloliorte says it was key to have Inuit curators lead the *INUA* exhibition.



HEATHER IGLOLIORTE



DETAIL FROM “YESTERDAY AND TODAY,” 2014, BY ELISAPEE ISHULUTAQ. INUIT (PANGNIRTUNG), 1925-2018.

COLLECTION OF THE WINNIPEG ART GALLERY

“In the last 70 or 80 years of Inuit art history, opportunities to curate exhibitions, to be leaders in institutions like this and to get to share our perspectives on art have been few and far between.”

In 2018, Igloliorte was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) grant, under which she’s developing the Inuit Futures in Arts Leadership: The Pilmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq Project. The hope is to radically increase Inuit participation in research and arts-based professional practice.

The project provides training and mentorship opportunities to Inuit and Inuvialuit post-secondary students, called Ilinnaqtuit (learners), at associated arts institutions and universities across Canada. The Winnipeg Art Gallery is a major partner.

All Ilinnaqtuit have been collaborating with the *INUA* curatorial team to create *Nagvaqtaavut: What We Found*, the audio guide for the exhibition.

“What’s really exciting about Qaumajuq is that we are going to get the opportunity for more Inuit to get to work there in the future, too — in curatorial processes, in management, in education and across all these different areas where Inuit are going to have the opportunity to lead,” says Igloliorte.

ART MATTERS

Despite the difficulties of running North America’s largest student-run arts festival during a pandemic, the small army of students who worked on Art Matters this year managed to showcase undergraduate artists with live and online events, podcasts, books and websites.

Along with her team, Joyce Joumaa, exhibitions coordinator for the festival’s 22nd edition, expanded the festival, which ran from February to April. Gallery exhibitions, while reduced in number, took place at a variety of spaces around Montreal.

“As soon as I started organizing last semester, I was committed to in-person activities. I couldn’t ignore the restrictions of the pandemic, but I was so tired of online-only events that we had to do something else,” says Joumaa.

They organized a podcast with Concordia’s VAV Gallery as part of Black History Month, featuring former FOFA gallery curator Eunice Belidor, BFA 12 — now curator of Quebec and Canadian Contemporary Art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts — and artist Eve Tagny.

Two student facilitators curated a book featuring essays, interviews and artworks, and Art Matters launched a website containing 22 years of festival archives.

“When you look at Art Matters’ archives, you come to understand how important it is to Montreal,” says Joumaa. ■

'We are at a very special moment in our history – and this is just the beginning'

JOSEPH LEGER, BA 15

The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science held its inaugural faculty-wide day of celebration on March 18. Gina Cody School Day featured a social-media campaign and two virtual events – a midday talk with Charlie Kawwas, BEng 93, MASC 99, PhD 07, chief operating officer at Broadcom, and a student research showcase in the evening.

More than 300 people attended the online events, and the promotional hashtag – #GinaCodySchool – trended nationally on Twitter.

“The Gina Cody School community is something special,” says Mourad Debbabi, the faculty’s newly appointed dean as of June 1. Debbabi served as interim dean since May 2020. “We are one of the fastest-growing and top-ranked faculties of engineering and computer science in Canada. We are at a very special moment in our history, and I believe this is just the beginning.”

NEW PROGRAMS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Quebec’s Minister of Higher Education approved two new graduate programs in chemical engineering during the winter semester. Only five years after being established, the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering (CME) now boasts a Master of Applied Science and a PhD program.

“We have ambitious research goals and are on an aggressive growth trajectory,” says Alex De Visscher, chair of CME. “The students we welcome into these programs will need to stand out.”

FEDERAL FUNDING

Several Gina Cody School researchers secured funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Chadi Assi, Tier I Concordia University Research Chair in Advanced Internet Technologies, and his multidisciplinary team, secured \$1.8 million to support their research on resilient smart cities.

“We will build a safe, secure and resilient network that will allow Internet of Things (IoT)-connected smart cities to thrive and grow,” says Assi. “I will lead a team of 10 faculty members to create prototypes of scalable infrastructures in three key areas of research.”

Other faculty researchers awarded CFI funding include Rolf Wuthrich, Wenfang Xie, Masoumeh Kazemi Zanjani and Tsz Ho Kwok, all professors in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering; Glenn Cowan, professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and Christian Moreau, director of research at the Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation.

TOP HONOURS

Tsz Ho Kwok won the 2021 SME Geoff Boothroyd Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award for his research on bridge design and manufacturing processes. The award recognizes manufacturing engineers, aged 35 and younger, who have made exceptional contributions to the manufacturing industry.

Mohamed Amine Arfaoui, MASC 18, a PhD student in information systems engineering, won the Prix Relève étoile Louis-Berlinguet from Quebec’s Fonds de recherche in February 2021. Arfaoui was recognized for his research developing 6G networks using visible light communication technology. ■



CHARLIE KAWWAS, BENG 93, MASC 99, PHD 07, WAS PRESENTED WITH THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION’S ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD ON MARCH 18.



TSZ HO KWOK WAS THE ONLY RESEARCHER FROM A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY HONORED BY SME THIS YEAR.

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

A business school for the next generation

KATIE MALAZDREWICZ
BA 06, GRDIP 09

Despite the uncertainty of the past year, Concordia’s John Molson School of Business community has much to be proud of and to look forward to in 2021 and beyond.

ADVANCING RESEARCH

Announced at a virtual event on March 30, BMO Financial Group has pledged major support of next-gen teaching and learning for students at the John Molson School and the Faculty of Fine Arts. The new L. Jacques Ménard–BMO Centre for Capital Markets at the John Molson School’s Department of Finance will provide students an education grounded in theory and practice, will develop future finance professionals and will drive scholarly research on challenges the industry faces (see p.10).

Additionally, the Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership was announced on May 26. The \$500,000 gift from Barry F. Lorenzetti, founder of BFL CANADA, will create a sustainable hub of expertise and research on women in entrepreneurship and leadership, which aligns with the school’s efforts to better identify what organizations and individuals need to do to create a society that embodies the values of equity, diversity and inclusion (learn more on p. 13).

GENDER-PARITY CERTIFICATION

For the second time, the John Molson School of Business has earned the Parity Certification from Women in Governance. The Canadian non-profit organization supports women in leadership development, career advancement and access to board seats across the country.

“It is imperative that we work together to create and support opportunities for women to advance in the areas of leadership and governance, and to support true gender parity,” says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School of Business. “I am very proud and thankful for all the efforts our community has undertaken to make strides in this respect.”

In 2019, the John Molson School became the first business school in Canada to receive the certification.

UPDATED CURRICULUM FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMS

While all John Molson Master of Science programs are undergoing major curriculum changes, the MSc in Management is the first to run a new Seminar in Consulting course (MSCA 654) as a pilot project in September.

“There has always been this sense that by pursuing a research-based degree, the path ahead of you remained in academia,” explains Kathleen Boies, associate dean of Research and Research Programs at the school. “While this is a fruitful and important path, entering industry is actually very accessible and an important option to consider.”

The new course was designed to combine research and practice. Enhanced by the inclusion of notable guest speakers, students gain a greater understanding of fundamental consulting concepts and engage with important research conducted in that area.

Additionally — and for the first time — a number of MSc management students can now register for the John Molson MBA program’s Community Service Initiative (CSI) course. The MBA CSI course encourages and promotes community service and connects John



KATHLEEN BOIES

Molson resources and talent with the needs of communities, including non-profit organizations, social enterprises, small businesses, governmental agencies and institutions.

Finally, as of September 2021, all students in the MSc Management program will be required to participate in professional-development workshops, which will better position them to enter fields like consulting.

The remaining MSc programs in finance and marketing, and the Master of Supply Chain Management, will each see its own curriculum updated over the next two years. “We are excited about this evolution of the MSc programs,” says Boies, “and look forward to working with our students to better equip them for all available career paths.”

“All these important revisions made in our research-based programs will attract talented students who want to become experts in their field of interest by deepening their knowledge while developing important skills that will prepare them very well for their next professional move,” says Croteau. ■

Leveraging faculty expertise to make lasting community change

TAYLOR TOWER, WITH FILES FROM KELSEY ROLFE AND PATRICK LEJTENYI, GRDIP 99

The Faculty of Arts and Science has an edge when it comes to the area of health and well-being, says dean Pascale Sicotte.

“We have a unique advantage in that the scope of our expertise in health and well-being is so broad. And because of our flexible structure, researchers and students can move easily between disciplines and be exposed to different ways of doing, learning and thinking.”

This flexibility makes many faculty projects possible, Sicotte adds.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL INJUSTICE

The Anti-Racist Pedagogy Project, launched in April by Concordia PhD student Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, MA 19, features pre-recorded talks from Concordia students and faculty members, as well as grassroots social-justice organizers and activists in Montreal.

The goal, says Dei-Sharpe, is to have a sustainable space on the Concordia website with a consistent flow of new videos on the topics of decolonial pedagogy, addressing systemic racism and discrimination. It will also include a related resource list with each video to give students and faculty actionable ways to change their habits and modes of thinking.

REVIVING ROOTS

Elizabeth Fast, associate professor of applied human sciences, wanted to help Indigenous youth reconnect with their cultures in safe and accessible ways. Along with an advisory group composed of Indigenous youth — some of whom are also students — Fast has organized a series of land-based learning retreats revolving around Indigenous traditions and ceremonies.

The Restoring Our Roots project has since evolved into a five-year Land As Our Teacher participatory action research project exploring the ways land-based pedagogies benefit Indigenous youth.

“I think the sense of belonging is very important for Indigenous youth, especially for those who have felt disconnected for many reasons,” says Fast. “It increases their courage to reconnect and can lead to some healing of inter-generational trauma. It also can be a foundation for deeper and better relationships with the land.”

LEARNING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Concordia’s engAGE: Centre for Research on Aging presented COVID-19, Aging and Well-being: One Year Later. The April 12 event brought together researchers working in a variety of areas touching on health, including the effects of stress, behaviour and lifestyle, digital technology, food insecurity and arts-based interventions.

Shannon Hebblethwaite, engAGE director and associate professor of applied human sciences, says the event was an opportunity to share research to inform social policies and “create a new vision for how we care both for and with older people in our communities.”

Hebblethwaite adds that, unfortunately, most of us will experience ageism at some point, according to research. She says interdisciplinary collaboration is key to understanding and supporting the aging process.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Sylvia Kairouz is Concordia’s Research Chair on Gambling and a professor of sociology and anthropology. Her latest project explores the effects of the pandemic on online gambling. Funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC) in partnership with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)



JAMILAH DEI-SHARPE, MA 19

with the collaboration of Loto-Québec, the longitudinal study will take place over the next three years.

“Our goal is to expand the responsibility to institutions, not just individuals, to encourage healthy gambling behaviours,” she says. “This collective vision of responsibility is in line with our mandate to support decision-making and interventions.”

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO MENTAL-HEALTH SUPPORT

The Department of Psychology’s Applied Psychology Centre (APC) offers students in-house training and provides therapy, counselling and assessment services to the community.

Department chair Aaron Johnson says that when the pandemic hit, clinical faculty members and students didn’t just survive the move to online, but used it as an opportunity to restructure how they worked in order to better serve the community. Many of the adaptations they made — remote assessments, online sessions — will be permanent.

“Even before the pandemic, mental-health access was a problem,” says Johnson. “The pandemic has fundamentally changed how we have to view mental health in Canada and Quebec, and will require a rethink of how we deal with access to mental health and the barriers to that access.” ■

Staying connected and engaged

CASA Cares — the non-profit segment of **Concordia's Commerce and Administration Student Association** — partnered with Miracle Montreal for a city-wide food drive on March 13. The initiative encouraged Montrealers to contribute by placing non-perishable food items on their doorsteps for volunteers to collect. More than 1,000 residents donated to the campaign, with nearly 100 Concordia students volunteering for the cause. **1**

Concordia hosted an event on May 19 entitled **What Does It Mean to Decolonize a Gallery?** **2** Faculty of Fine Arts dean **Annie Gérin** moderated a discussion between **Heather Igloliorte**, associate professor in art history, and **Eunice Bélidor**, BFA 12, Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Curator of Quebec and Canadian Contemporary Art (1945 to today) at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The pair discussed the past and current state of the art world and what's needed to make it more inclusive.

The **Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program** (KWMPMP) celebrated its class of 2019 and 2020 on May 20. Speakers included **Sukyong Yang**, KWMPMP director, **Anne-Marie Croteau**, dean of the John Molson School of Business, and the program's namesake, **Ken Woods**, MBA 75, LLD 17, **3** as well as famed financial executive **Claude Lamoureux**, who delivered keynote remarks.

In its third edition of **CU Celebrate**, Concordia fêted close to 7,000 new alumni through its online hub to help grads celebrate their special day until formal convocations can take place in person. Events included the university's first Black Graduation Celebration, Indigenous Graduation and a virtual dance party to top off festivities. Members of the Concordia community also shared video messages for the class of 2021. Among them were musicians **Pansy Boys** (**Kyle Curry**, BFA 17, and **Joel Curry**, BFA 17), **4** TSN Calgary bureau chief **Salim Valji**, BA 17, **5** and Cree artist **Flora Weistche**, BA 19. **6**



1

CLOSE TO 100 CONCORDIA STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED FOR THE MARCH 13 MONTREAL FOOD DRIVE HOSTED BY CASA CARES STUDENT GROUP IN COLLABORATION WITH MIRACLE MONTREAL. PICTURED IS COMMERCE STUDENT **OLIVIA VALCOURT**, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL FOR CASA CARES.



2

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FACULTY OF FINE ARTS DEAN **ANNIE GÉRIN**, **EUNICE BÉLIDOR**, BFA 12, AND **HEATHER IGLOLIORTE** DISCUSSED REPRESENTATION AND DIVERSITY IN MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND ART SPACES AT A MAY 19 ONLINE EVENT.



3

THE KENNETH WOODS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 2000 WITH A VISIONARY GIFT OF \$1 MILLION FROM **KENNETH WOODS**, MBA 75, LLD 17. TODAY THE FUND STANDS AT \$3.4 MILLION AND HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN 140 FINANCE STUDENTS WITH HANDS-ON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE.



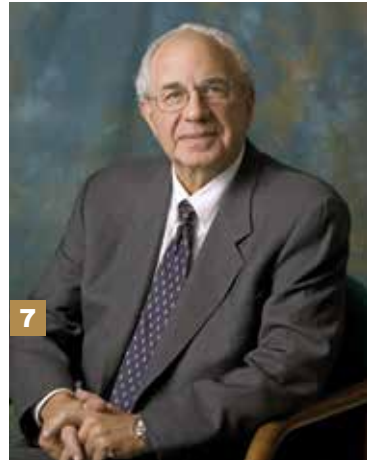
4 "CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021! YOU MADE IT, YOU'RE HERE AND WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU!" SAID TWIN BROTHERS **KYLE CURRY**, BFA 17, AND **JOEL CURRY**, BFA 17 – A MUSICAL DUO KNOWN AS PANSY BOYS – IN A VIDEO FOR CU CELEBRATE.



5 "WORK HARD, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, GO BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONE, ENJOY THE PROCESS AND GET CREATIVE," SAID **SALIM VALJI**, BA 17, BUREAU CHIEF OF TSN CALGARY, TO THE CLASS OF 2021.



6 "WHAT I LEARNED AT CONCORDIA WAS HOW TO MANAGE MY TIME BETTER – IT MADE ME A BETTER ORGANIZER AND PLANNER," **FLORA WEISTCHE**, BA 19, RECALLED ABOUT HER STUDENT DAYS.



7

THE GOODMAN INSTITUTE OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT CELEBRATED ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN HONOUR OF BENEFACTOR **NED GOODMAN**, LLD 97. LAUNCHED IN 2001 TO NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION OF INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS, THE PROGRAM WAS THE FIRST CFA-INTEGRATED MBA PROGRAM IN THE WORLD.

The John Molson School of Business celebrated the 20-year anniversary of the **Goodman Institute of Investment Management** on June 2. The event, which also served as a celebration of the program's latest cohort of graduates, featured video tributes to the program's visionary benefactor, **Ned Goodman**, LLD 97, **7** and included live remarks by his sons David and Daniel Goodman.

Concordia's **Institute for Co-operative Education** celebrated its **40th anniversary**

with a series of online events from February 16 to March 11, including insights on what to expect in recruitment, best practices to improve the success of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers, and how to better integrate equity, diversity and inclusion into work-integrated learning experiences. Each year, the Co-op program helps up to 3,000 students prepare to implement their expertise in the real world through on-site internships. ■

International Coaching Federation-accredited program

Become a Professional Certified Coach with the John Molson Executive Centre's Professional Goal-Centric Certified Coach program.

Registration is still open – visit concordia.ca/certifiedcoaching to enrol.

The Uberman Sleep Schedule

Robert K. More is the 2020-21 winner of the Department of English Creative Writing Award in Fiction

The following is excerpted from a longer work.



TIM SNOW

Sunday June 9th, 2019, 15:19^l

Remember, █████, when it gets tough, why you're here: to adapt your body and mind to the uberman sleep schedule.

I've more or less settled in my new apartment here in Rome. It's an old building with thin walls, but that shouldn't be a problem in the summer months. ██████████, the landlady, kept some of the original furniture and wallpaper. I love the antique feel of this place. The uneven and scraped wooden floors. The old-fashioned doorknobs that lock with a small key. My favorite piece is the decoration of the front entrance. Green wallpaper decorated with these little cherubim on golden wings surrounds the doorway. Walking through it makes me feel like a sixteenth century Italian noble.

The neighborhood is brimming with history, too. There's a church across the street. There's plenty of churches in the neighborhood, but ██████████ tells me this one is worth visiting. It's not San Giovanni's basilica, but it houses several holy artifacts. And because it's such a little-known church, there won't be crowds of tourists. Great! I'll check it out before the first nap at 16:00. Behind the church is an old wall from the days of the Roman empire which runs parallel to the whole street. Isn't that cool? You can almost feel the ghosts of antiquity calling from the other side. Men like Marcus Aurelius and Seneca sing here, dampened though they are by modern mediocrities.

^l The following is a transcription of the handwritten journal of ██████████. This is as faithful of a replica as we can reproduce for the records. Refer to the full incident report 10.07.19.1052 for more details.

I should find a Marcus Aurelius quote for today. I'll be relying on stoic philosophy to carry me through the upcoming endeavor I've undertaken.

Maybe I should wait until after the first nap to go to the church? It takes a while to adjust to the uberman sleep schedule. I need to have strict discipline throughout the next [few months.]² I can't afford to miss a single nap, which is why I've resolved not to go too far from the apartment until I've adapted.

Eight hours of sleep replaced with six twenty-minute naps. Who would have thought it possible? Looking forward to having five extra hours in a day. Then I can keep up with the ridiculous demands of university. [I outlined in my] journal at home how the last semester went. If I had one extra hour each day, I wouldn't be on academic probation now. Well, as Marcus Aurelius once said, what is thrown on the fire becomes fuel for the fire.

We're resetting everything this summer. [G]oing back to basics. No school. No job. I'm in a different country, for Christ's sake! All to focus on adjusting to the new sleep pattern. And to write, of course. And read. Reading is a habit that has always fallen by the wayside when I get busy. Can't wait to finally read real books that sell copies instead of the dead or artsy-fartsy things university made me read. But for now, I'm reading this novel, *The Dancer*, by Veronica Natalie. It's a white girl book. Sure to be a lesson in how not to write. Still, it was a bestseller last year, so there's got to be *some* take away, right?

² We've used square brackets to mark interpretations in places where the original text is damaged. Refer to the full incident report for further notes. Interpretations done by ██████████

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

80 Carmine D'Argenio, BComm, was appointed chairman of the board and president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada.

81 Richard Wait, BComm, GrDip 85, was promoted to executive vice-president and chief financial officer at Reitmans (Canada) Ltd.

84 Shekhar Chandrashekar, PhD, was appointed CEO of International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative (iNEMI) in Irvine, Calif.

85 John Tourlas, BComm, was named president of the North American Business Unit at AMD Medicom Inc. in Montreal.

88 Howard Johnson, BComm, was appointed Canada Market Leader at Duff & Phelps in Toronto, Ont.

Nicholas Katalifos, BA, MA 95, was named director general of the English Montreal School Board.

Richard Roy, BSc, was appointed vice-president of exploration by Nighthawk Gold Corporation in Toronto, Ont.

89 Danny Di Perna, BEng, was appointed executive vice-president and chief operating officer at Alstom.

90 Mark Baldry, MBA, was appointed chief commercial officer at Freeline Therapeutics Holdings PLC.

André Bousette, BComm, was named president of Rittal Systems Ltd. in Saint-Laurent, Que.

Fabien Jeudy, BSc, was named president and CEO of Equitable Life Insurance Company of Canada.

91 Diana Colella, BComm, was promoted to senior vice-president of Autodesk's Media & Entertainment Vertical Solutions Group in Montreal.

92 Mark Daly, BComm, was appointed assistant vice-dean, Faculty Development, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at McGill University.

Thomas Dowd, BComm, was named Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Sheila Frame, EMBA, was named President Americas at Amryt Pharma, a global, commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company.

94 Stéphane Archambault, BComm, GrCert 02, was named chief financial officer at Xebec Adsorption Inc. in Montreal.

Carole Brazeau, BA, was named program manager, Indigenous Initiatives at McGill.

Kathy McGuire, BA, was appointed director of the Val-d'Or campus of Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue in Val d'Or, Que.

95 Pierre Despars, EMBA, was appointed vice-president, Corporate Strategy and Business Development at Hydro-Québec.

96 Jennifer Ditchburn, BA, was named president and CEO of the Institute for Research on Public Policy.

Jakov "Jake" Shapiro, BCompSc, was named managing director, Digital Banking, at Bank OZK in Little Rock, Ark.

Mark Weightman, BComm, was appointed president and CEO of Club de Hockey ECHL de Trois-Rivières in Trois-Rivières, Que.

97 Sunil Gandhi, BComm, GrDip 98, was named chief financial officer at The Valens Company Inc., a leading manufacturer of cannabis products.

Peter Polatos, EMBA, was named interim president and chief executive officer at Terranueva Corporation in Montreal.

98 Rachael Wilson, BFA, was named CEO of the Ottawa Food Bank, and is the first woman to assume the role.

99 Sudha Krishnan, BA, was named late-night anchor of CBC Montreal News.

00 Monique Hutchins, BComm, was appointed corporate secretary at Southern Sky Resources Corp. in Toronto, Ont.

Ève Laurier, BComm, was named vice-president, Communications, Public Affairs and Marketing at Bombardier.

Benjamin Mattes, BCompSc, was appointed SVP Future of Gaming & Angry Birds Brand Strategy at Rovio Entertainment Corporation.

Celena Scheede-Bergdahl, BSc, was promoted to senior faculty lecturer within McGill's Faculty of Education's Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

01 Sean Henry, BA, was named host of *Daybreak*, CBC Montreal's morning radio show.

02 Fahad Kazim, BComm, was made a partner in Deal Advisory at the Dubai office of KPMG Lower Gulf.

03 Howard Fried, BA, was appointed vice-president of sales at Carebook Technologies Inc. in Montreal.

04 Marc Garneau, LLD, was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Government of Canada, after previously serving as Minister of Transport.

Julia Noulin-Merat, BFA, was named general director and CEO of Opera Columbus, in Columbus, Ohio.

Adam Spiro, BComm, joined KRB as a partner and head of the firm's new Insolvency and Restructuring Group.

05 Sarah Beaumier, BComm, was elected president of the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) political party in Québec.

06 Maya Johnson, BA, was named new anchor at CTV Montreal News. She becomes the first full-time Black news anchor at the station.

Mo Yang, BComm, GrDip 09, was named corporate secretary and chief operating officer at Silo Wellness Inc., formerly Yukoterre Resources Inc.

07 Al Daoud-Brixi, BComm, MBA 13, joined the Montreal office of Fasken as a lawyer on its commercial and corporate litigation team.

Michael Payette, BFA, was appointed incoming artistic director of Toronto's Tarragon Theatre, a position which begins September 2021.

08 Christopher Wares, BFA, was named assistant chair of the Music Business/Management Department at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass.

10 Emily Di Paolo, BA, was appointed as notary and legal advisor at the law firm FODAGO, formerly known as Fortier, D'Amours, Goyette.

11 Vincent Gendron, BA, joined the Montreal office of Spiegel Sohmer as a tax lawyer.

Karen Paquin (Jamiel), MSc, was named finance director and donor relations manager at the Intervale Center in Burlington, Vt.

Elara Verret, MBA, was named vice-president of digital and brand at FYidoctors.

12 Tara Asfour, BA, was named investor relations manager at Red Pine Exploration Inc.

Eunice Béliidor, BFA, was named the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislawsky Curator of Quebec and Canadian Contemporary Art (1945 to today) at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Béliidor is the first Black curator in the museum's history.

Rene Paredes, BA, was re-signed as kicker for his 10th season with the Calgary Stampeders football team.

Lisa White, BA, was appointed as the first executive director of Concordia's Equity Office.

13 Anas Ashi, BEng, was named structural forensic engineer for the Edmonton, Alta. office of Pario Engineering and Environmental Sciences.

Erika Ashley Couto, BFA, MA 15, was promoted from head of product to chief operating officer at The Listings Lab.

Alexandra "Lex" Gill, BA, GrDip 15, joined the Montreal office of Trudel Johnston & Lespérance as a lawyer.

Ashley Peluso, BComm, was appointed to the sales team of Rittal Canada as technical representative for the Quebec region.

14 Eva Fog, BSc, joined the Montreal office of Lavery as a lawyer.

Michael Sabia, LLD, was named Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance, Canada.

15 Jessica Lelièvre, BA, joined the Montreal office of Trudel Johnston & Lespérance as a lawyer.

16 Jonathan Cadet, BComm, joined Tonus Capital as investment analyst.

Karlle Marquis, BComm, was named executive director of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake in Kahnawake, Que.

Calin Rovinescu, LLD, was appointed as senior advisor at Teneo.

17 Isabelle Hudon, LLD, was named president and CEO of the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC). Hudon is the first woman to hold the title at BDC.

Daniella Sucapane, BA, MSc 20, joined the analyst team at Ad hoc recherche.

19 Tiziri-Hadia "Nina" Bouteldja, BA, was named issues advisor at the Office of the Minister of National Defence in Ottawa, Ont.

Félix Buisson, BComm, was promoted to vice-president of sales at Société Laurentide Inc. in Shawinigan, Que.

Daniel Herrera, EMBA, joined Mind Cure Health Inc. as vice-president, Growth and Strategic Partnerships. ■

HATS OFF TO OUR 2020 ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS!

The Concordia University Alumni Association honours the valuable contributions made by alumni, students, friends, faculty and staff with its annual Alumni Recognition Awards.



CHARLIE KAWWAS, BEng 93, MSc 99, PhD 07
Alumnus of the Year



HARRIET DE WIT, MA 76, GrDip 81, PhD 81
John F. Lemieux Medal



CAROLINE ROUX
Alumni Award for Innovative Teaching



GEORGES PAULEZ, BComm 77
Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award



RICHARD F. SCHMID
Honorary Life Membership



ANA MARINESCU, BComm 06, MBA 09
MBA Alumna of the Year



KATHERINE ROSSY, MA 13
Young Alumna of the Year



HOWARD DAVIDSON, BComm 80
Humberto Santos Award of Merit



JOANNE BEAUDOIN, BA 83
Outstanding Staff Award



MACKENZIE MURRAY, BComm 20
Outstanding Student Leader Award

Learn more about our recipients by visiting concordia.ca/alumni/recognitionawards.



Emmett Francoeur, BA 70, received the 2020 Prix Letondal, the highest honour given by the Association des Pédiatres du Québec.

Sunil Gupta, BComm 77, was named co-winner of the 2021 Kraszna-Krausz Photography Book Award.

Edeet Ravel, MA 85, was shortlisted for a 2020 Vine Award for Canadian Jewish Literature in the Young Adult/Children's Literature category for *A Boy Is Not a Bird*.

Darren Entwistle, BA 86, LLD 12, CEO of Telus, was the Gold Winner of the CEO Achiever – Champion of the Year Award at the CEO World Awards.

John Sicard, BCompSc 88, president and CEO at Kinaxis, was named Ottawa's 2020 CEO of the Year.

Angela D'Angelo, BA 89, vice-president, Development and Customer Experience at Financière Banque Nationale, won le prix Inspiration-Andrée-Corriveau, awarded by L'Association des femmes en finance du Québec.

Elizabeth Thompson, BA 91, was honoured with two 2021 RTDNA Canada Awards for stories she worked on as senior news reporter at CBC.

Dimitris Ilias, BFA 92, GrDip 99, music director, was presented with the Medal of the National Assembly of Quebec for his contributions to children's musical education.

Alanis Obomsawin, LLD 93, was named the 13th Glenn Gould Prize Laureate for her 53-year filmmaking career chronicling the lives of First Nations people. The prize includes a cash award of \$100,000.

Fay Arjomandi, BEng 98, was named Edge Woman of the Year 2020, and runner-up for *BC Business's* 2021 Business of Good Awards: Diversity and Inclusion.

Sonia Bonspille Boileau, BFA 06, was nominated for a Directors Guild of Canada annual award in the category of Exceptional Direction in a Long Film for *Rustic Oracle/Vivaces*.

Aaron Derfel, BA 06, was named Grand Prize winner at the Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec awards gala.

Moksha Sommer, BFA 06, and her band HuDost won an Independent Music Award in the category #SocialActionSong for their single "Rise Together."

Ange Loft, BFA 07, became the first Indigenous Artist-in-Residence at Montreal's Centaur Theatre.

Farheen Akbar, BEng 07, was named as a Rising Star of 2020 by Daily Oil Bulletin. Akbar is a project and electrical control engineer with Gas Liquids Engineering.

Julien BriseBois, EMBA 07, general manager of the Tampa Bay Lightning, was a finalist for the NHL's Jim Gregory General Manager of the Year Award.

Syrine Tlili, PhD 09, was named one of the Top 50 Women in Cybersecurity Africa by the Women in Security & Resilience Alliance in Africa.

Naya Ali, BA 11, won the inaugural SOCAN Foundation's SiriusXM Black Canadian Music Award 2021.

Irene Rozsa, MA 11, PhD 20, won the Governor General's Academic Gold Medal.

Jorge Thielen Armand, BA 12, was one of three Canadians to be awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for 2021.

Olivia Wyllie, BA 12, received the Rising Star Award from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAÉ).

Kathleen Kennedy-Turner, BA 14, GrCert 19, PhD 20, received a Prix Relève étoile Paul-Gérin-Lajoie by the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et Culture for exceptional research.

Madiha Ahmad, BA 17, MA 20, received the Virginia Carter Smith Scholarship from the CCAÉ.

Brittney Canda, BFA 17, won the 2020 U.K. Video Award for Best Choreography for “Wrap Me Up” and a Canadian Juno nomination for 2021 Music Video of the Year.

Josie Fomé, BA 17, GrDip 18, was one of three to be named to the Canadian Journalism Foundation’s new Black Journalism Fellowship Program, established in partnership with CBC/Radio-Canada and CTV News.

Lucas Lawton, BA 17, joined the international cast of Michael Flatley’s *Feet of Flames*.

Nicholas Ryan, BFA 18, co-won the 2020 Orchestre Métropolitain Composition Competition.

Douglas Dumais, MA 19, won one of two Michel de la Chenelière Art and Culture Awards of \$3,500 from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Simon Roberge, BFA 19, was one of three recipients of a scholarship from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television in Quebec.

WILLIAM AND MEREDITH SAUNDERSON PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

Awarded by the Hnatyshyn Foundation, the William and Meredith Saunderson Prize for Emerging Artists provides \$5,000 to nurture new talent. Two of the three winners were Concordians: **Samuelle Bourgault**, BFA 19, and **Marlon Kroll**, BFA 18.

META (THEATRE AWARDS)

At the META award ceremony held November 29, **Stephen Booth**, BFA 13, was named Best Emerging Artist (Performance) for his work in *Fear of Missing Out/The Water Chronicles*; **Sophie El Assaad**, BFA 15, won Costume Design for *Chattermarks* **I**; **Bruno-Pierre Houle**, BFA 10, BFA 14, won Set Design for *Small Mouth Sounds*; and **Patrick Lloyd Brennan**, BFA 10, won Unsung Hero of the Theatre Award as managing director of the Quebec Drama Federation.

CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS

10 Concordians are among the winners of the 2021 Canadian Screen Awards, presented by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, in honour of Canada’s top talent in film, television and digital media:

- Paul Bisson**, GrDip 90
- Laura Clunie**, BA 97
- Anne-Marie Gélinas**, BA 90
- Blake Gregory**, GrDip 11
- Bruce Hills** (Attd) 90
- Peter Kneqt**, MA 08
- Deepa Mehta**, D.Litt 13
- Betty Orr**, BA 84
- Noémi Poulin**, BFA 06
- Louisa Schabas**, BFA 01

NATIONAL ORDER OF QUEBEC

Three Concordians were appointed to the National Order of Quebec:

Anne-Marie Hubert, LLD 15, EY Canada East leader

Andrew Molson, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia; chairman, Avenir Global

Suzanne Sauvage, member of Concordia’s Board of Governors; president and CEO, McCord Stewart Museum

SOBEY ART AWARD

Presented by the Sobey Art Foundation and the National Gallery of Canada, the Sobey Art Award recognizes emerging Canadian artists of all ages. Six Concordians were among 25 artists longlisted for Canada’s most prestigious contemporary art prize, with one grad among the five finalists:

Lorna Bauer, BFA 05 (finalist)

Dayna Danger, MFA 17

Glenn Gear, MFA 98

Sheena Hoszko, BFA 06, MFA 14

Walter Scott, BFA 09

Lou Sheppard (Attd)

Are you a parent of a new Concordian who needs help navigating university life?

Concordia’s call campaign to new students is in full swing and our Welcome Crew student mentors are reaching out to new undergrads. The goal? To put them in touch with key university resources or to simply listen and answer any questions they may have.



Learn more at concordia.ca/mentors.

CONCORDIA

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LITERARY AWARDS

The Canada Council for the Arts celebrates the best in Canadian literature with its Governor General's Literary Awards. Two Concordia grads are shortlisted for the award:

- Oana Avasilichioaei**, MA 02, GrDip 16 (nominated for poetry and translation)
- Sachiko Murakami**, MA 06 (nominated for poetry)

COP26 CANADIAN CLIMATE CHAMPION AWARD

The British High Commission and the Canada Climate Law Initiative recognized 26 Canadian climate champions for their outstanding work in helping Canada move toward net-zero emissions.

- Inder Bedi**, BComm 96,
- Bruce Lourie**, BSc 84,
- and **Eric St-Pierre**, BA 06,

are among the recipients.

SCOTIABANK PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

The Scotiabank Photography Award is Canada's largest and most prestigious award in recognition of outstanding contributions made to contemporary art and photography. The award comes with a \$50,000 cash prize.

- Deanna Bowen**, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Studio Arts, was named winner of the 2021 Scotiabank Photography Award on June 15.
- Dawit Petros**, BFA 03, was among nominees shortlisted for the award in March. ■



1 "Piquant," a large-scale painting by Chryssy Cheung, BFA 00, is on view at Signature Mazda in Vancouver's Richmond Auto Mall until 2022. The painting speaks to Cheung's experience with spicy food and "expresses the explosive nature inside one's mouth." 1) "Piquant," acrylic on canvas (2017).

2 Two artworks by Raymonde Jodoin, BFA 83, were available for viewing at *HeART of HealthCARE*, a virtual art exhibition that aims to provide therapeutic healing. The exhibition ran from March 30, 2020, until March 2021. 2) "Efface #3 (Eraser)," archival inkjet and graphite on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Paper 308 gsm (2017).

3 Joani Tremblay, MFA 17, presented her debut solo show of paintings at Harper's Chelsea in New York City. Entitled *The Whole Time, the Sun*, the exhibition featured a selection of Tremblay's new paintings created throughout winter in Montreal. The show ran from April 1 to May 1. 3) "You are no longer in March," oil on linen (2021).

4 Erik Slutsky, BFA 86, recently took part in a group show called *Poissons d'avril* at Montreal's Galerie du Viaduc. From April 1 to 11, Slutsky was among 28 artists who took part in the 10th edition of the exhibition. 4) "The Last Goodbye," oil on canvas (2021).



Anita Murray (1940-2021)

'She was on a constant path of self-enrichment'

IAN HARRISON,
B COMM 01

Anita Murray (Sysavane), GrCert 82, BA 84, a beloved social worker whose career spanned more than three decades, passed away on February 5, 2021. She was 80.

Murray was a member of the Windrush generation — Caribbean emigrants who settled in the United Kingdom after the Second World War. Her family left Jamaica for London when she was a teen and later moved to Montreal.

Murray's career at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres — the agency that serves Montreal's anglophone community — began at the reception desk.

By the mid-1970s, however, Murray decided that she wanted to play a more active role in the lives of disadvantaged children. She went back to school to become a social worker herself.

Murray did so as a single mother who also had to balance her job at Batshaw with a part-time job at a YWCA. She enrolled in night classes to not only earn her secondary-school diploma, but a Graduate Certificate and Bachelor of Arts from Concordia in 1982 and 1984, respectively.

After she completed a Master of Social Work at McGill University, Murray assumed her place at Batshaw as a social worker with a caseload of her own.

While the job had a number of challenges — Black social workers were frequently overworked, under-resourced and undercompensated — it had significant rewards.

"My mom always had people approaching her and thanking her for helping them and their families, perhaps even more so after she retired in 2007," said daughter Khoba Sysavane, BFA 00, a staff member at Concordia's Office of Facilities Management.

A throughline of Murray's life was her commitment to self-discovery, noted Sysavane. An avid reader, Murray closely followed politics, attended lectures at Concordia, kept physically active and nurtured her



ANITA MURRAY, GRCERT 82, BA 84

spiritual side with yoga, qigong and meditation.

"She took tai chi with Roger Ashton [BA 82, Cert 86] at Concordia for years," said Sysavane. "She even encouraged Batshaw to hire him to offer classes to the staff."

"She was on a constant path of self-enrichment. I honestly don't know where she got her energy from."

Murray is survived by her daughter, a brother and three sisters. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Howard (Howie) Gilmour,
S BComm 46, November 21, 2020.

Robert A. Bertrand,
L BA 52, November 23, 2020. He was 89.

Wilbur (Bill) Martin Leslie,
S BA 52, November 18, 2020. He was 93.

Victor Korcz, L BSc 54,
December 24, 2020.
He was 89.

Irving A. Aaron,
S BComm 55,
December 30, 2020.

Joseph P. Cameron,
S BComm 56, December 11,
2020. He was 88.

Dorothy (Playfair) Logan,
S BA 57, January 15, 2021.
She was 86.

Irwin J. Altman, S BComm
58, January 18, 2021.

Gerhard E. Hasse,
S BA 59, February 17, 2021.
He was 90.

Norman Liebergott,
S BSc 59, February 24, 2021.
He was 88.

Ferry Hunnius,
S BA 60, October 23, 2020.
He was 94.

William M. Sharp,
S BComm 60, February 8,
2021. He was 83.

Jane S. Hufton Rose,
S BSc 62, February 14, 2021,
Victoria, BC. She was 79.

Jim Bay, L BA 63, February
4, 2021. He was 79.

Maurice Colson, L BA 63,
March 26, 2021, Toronto,
Ont. He was 78.

Brian Harkness,
S BSc 63, December 2,
2020. He was 84.

Paul J. Watt, L BA
63, January 14, 2021.
He was 80.

Hugh Stanley Welbourn,
S BSc 63, December 10,
2020. He was 79.

Arturs Kesteris,
S BComm 64, February 27,
2019. He was 93.

Gerald H. Ryan, L BA 64,
March 9, 2018.

Mark Schleifer, S BA 64,
March 10, 2021. He was 87.

Robert N. Doke,
S BComm 65, Cert
82, February 2, 2021.
He was 85.

George C. Pope,
S BComm 65, December 18,
2020. He was 91.

Bruce Mallen (1937 - 2021)

Three-time graduate was a pillar of the John Molson School of Business

LISA FITTERMAN

Bruce Mallen, BComm 58, BA 64, LLD 04, whose more than 50-year history with Concordia began at Sir George Williams University — one of Concordia’s founding institutions — passed away on March 12 in Beverly Hills, California. He was 83.

As a faculty member with the Faculty of Commerce at Sir George, Mallen developed the university’s Department of Marketing and MBA program. Concordia bestowed on him an honorary doctorate in 2004 as well as the Humberto Santos Award of Merit in 2009, in honour of his exceptional service to the university and to the community at large.

Outside of Concordia, Mallen enjoyed a wide-ranging academic and business career. He held an MSc from Columbia University and an MBA from the University

of Michigan. As a Ford Foundation fellow, he secured a PhD from New York University.

In Montreal, Mallen was a director at the firm later known as Deloitte. He also worked in Los Angeles as a real-estate developer, film producer and film industry consultant, and helped revive the historic studio district of Culver City in the 1980s. In Florida, Mallen served as dean of Florida Atlantic University’s College of Business.

“Bruce had it all,” said Lillian Vineberg, BFA 83, former chair of Concordia’s Board of Governors. “He was intellectual, bright, handsome and charismatic, a down-to-earth, creative, charming academic who loved driving his Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost around town. He took work seriously, but he made it fun.”

Concordia President Graham Carr noted that

Mallen helped pave the way for what became the John Molson School of Business.

“Somehow, Bruce Mallen was able to see what others could not — a gap, a need, something that would improve lives, or be more efficient, or both,” Carr said. “He helped build the foundation for the next generation of leaders to succeed.”

Added Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School of Business: “Bruce’s vision is a major reason why the school plays such a big role in the business world today.”

Born in Montreal on September 4, 1937, Bruce Mallen was expected to join the family business: retail women’s wear. He had other plans, however, and a decision to enrol at Sir George proved decisive.

“He was such a fantastic role model,” said son Howard Mallen. “He was honest, ethical and had integrity.”



BRUCE MALLEN, BCOMM 58, BA 64, LLD 04, PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE AT CONCORDIA’S BUSINESS SCHOOL.

Whether as a confidante, business advisor or proud grandfather, Mallen always knew what to do and say, Howard Mallen added.

“I’ve known a number of warriors in my life. He was the best. For him, words and actions always went together.”

Mallen is survived by his wife, Carol, his sister, Doreen Taras, his children, Howard, Reesa and Jay, his stepchildren, Randy Klein and Laura Lipson, and four grandchildren. ■

Read the full obituary at concordia.ca/alumninews.

Fraser M. Blakely, S BComm 66, December 2, 2020. He was 77.

Ian W. Butler, S BComm 66, December 3, 2020. He was 78.

Frank A. Mizgala, L BComm 66, December 15, 2020. He was 76.

Pierre St-Jacques, L BSc 66, January 6, 2021. He was 76.

Eric Cowdrey, S BSc 67, S MSc 70, October 24, 2020.

Douglas V. Noble, S BComm 67, S MBA 72, January 2, 2021. He was 74.

Brian W. Powell, S BSc 67, January 10, 2021. He was 75.

Doug Cageorge, S BComm 68, December 22, 2020. He was 75.

Gunars R. Vereniaks, S BA 68, December 4, 2020. He was 94.

Peter Collins, L BSc 69, November 27, 2020. He was 73.

Wesley G. McEwen, S BSc 70, January 29, 2021. He was 91.

Valerie E. Stephenson, BA 70, BEd 75, MA 99, December 27, 2020, Calgary, Alb. She was 74.

Harriet R. Laub Levine, S BA 71, February 13, 2021. She was 91.

Steven M. Baylin, S BSc 72, January 7, 2021, Calgary, Alb. He was 69.

Sadie Kaplan, S BA 72, July 21, 2020. She was 95.

Sean D’Arcy O’Donnell, L BSc 72, February 4, 2021.

Sorel Young, S BA 72, November 14, 2020.

Estelle R. Smith,
S BA 73, December 9, 2020.
She was 87.

James Gordon Conway,
L BA 74, November 21,
2020. He was 75.

Gary Fabian, S BA 74,
February 11, 2021.
He was 68.

Bryan E. MacDevitt,
L BA 74, February 11, 2021,
Victoria, BC. He was 83.

Susan M. O'Farrell,
S BA 74, February 22, 2021.
She was 71.

Avtar Pall, MEng 76,
PhD 79, February 6, 2021.
He was 81.

Marilyn Anita Berger,
GrDip 76, March 11, 2021.
She was 89.

Lillian Kaplin, BA 76,
March 14, 2021. She was 97.

Julian J. Leroux, BSc 76,
February 28, 2021, Ottawa,
Ont. He was 71.

Halina Gail Struser,
BA 76, January 9, 2021.
She was 73.

Angela Di Ninno,
BA 77, January 21, 2021.
He was 65.

Gabriel Giangi,
MTM 77, December 14,
2020. He was 89.

**Norma Catherine (McRae)
Farnell,** BA 78, November
18, 2020. She was 93.

Audrey Eileen Little,
BA 78, January 12, 2021.
She was 90.

Jean M. Snow,
BFA 78, January 25, 2021.
She was 99.

**Christine (Joseph)
Blackette,** BComm 79,
February 22, 2021.
She was 74.

Susan (Susie) Wagg,
MFA 79, November 28,
2020. She was 82.

Kathrine A. Walton, BA 79,
January 4, 2021, Ottawa,
Ont. She was 77.

Peter D. Grogono,
MCompSc 80, PhD 85,
February 16, 2021.
He was 76.

Elaine (Coen) Kaufman,
GrDip 80, December
30, 2020.

Susan E. Kendall, BComm
80, February 14, 2020.

Tamara Lynch-Dalgleish,
BA 80, MA 00, December
21, 2020. She was 77.

Marla (Grodinsky) Klein,
BComm 81, February 5,
2021. She was 62.

Brian Millward, BA 81,
January 17, 2021. He was 68.

Anastasia Onyszchuk,
MA 82, December 21, 2020.
She was 84.

Raouf Manoli, BComm 83,
February 17, 2021, Toronto,
Ont. He was 64.

Peter Smolen, BSc 83,
GrDip 04, April 3, 2020.
He was 64.

Rose Alper (Marcus),
Cert 84, December 13,
2020. She was 100.

Patricia Vokey, BA 84,
November 29, 2020,
Cowansville, Que.
She was 82.

Claudia Weijers, BA 85,
MA 06, March 15, 2021.
She was 67.

Nada Barsoum, BComm
86, February 16, 2021.
She was 57.

Mark Robert Bouchard,
BA 86, MA 96, November 8,
2020. He was 63.

Annette M. Bouwman,
GrCert 86, December 20,
2020. She was 81.

Stephen Kamichik,
BEng 86, MEng 89, June 29,
2019. He was 70.

Pierre-Paul Savoie,
BFA 86, January 31, 2021.
He was 66.

Blake W. Beamer,
BFA 87, Cert 02, January
8, 2021, Hawkesbury, Ont.
He was 84.

Marnie Dickson, BA 87,
March 12, 2021. She was 59.

Colette Gauthier,
BComm 88, February 7,
2021. She was 75.

Mary Healey Ellis, BA 88,
October 3, 2020.
She was 87.

Claude Castonguay,
LLD 89, December 12, 2020.
He was 91.

Pietro Costa, BA 89,
February 26, 2021.
He was 55.

Andrew Shore, BA 90,
December 15, 2020, Ottawa,
Ont. He was 54.

Sandra E. Vereniaks,
BA 90, October 21, 2019.
She was 83.

Dennis R. Christianson,
BFA 97, February 10, 2021.
He was 78.

Jeffrey K. Cleveland,
BA 02, December 23, 2020.
He was 48.

Justin Bytautas,
BComm 05, MBA 09,
February 2, 2021.
He was 38.

Raymond (Ray) Massa,
EMBA 05, January 8, 2021,
Tampa, Fla. He was 62.

Russell Baker, MA 06,
March 10, 2021. He was 75.

Zhengyan Lin,
BComm 11, January 31, 2021.
She was 50.

George Economides,
January 3, 2021.
He was 89. ■

Learning from the past and present



DELANIE
KHAN-DOBSON

Cathy Keays, BFA 15, documents the time-honoured history of a women's art association in ***The Women's Art Society of Montreal and Its Place in History 1894-2019*** (self-published, \$25). Beginning with the society's inception in 1894 as a vehicle to promote the literary, musical and visual arts among women, Keays traces the local, national and international events that coincided with each year of its existence.

Louis Hugo Francescutti, BSc 80, and **Robert S. Barrett** co-authored ***Hardwired: How Our Instincts to Be Healthy Are Making Us Sick*** (Copernicus, \$29.99), in which they examine modern health — or the

lack of it. The authors argue that deteriorating wellness is quickly becoming a national health emergency in the United States, which is rooted in the way our brains and bodies have evolved to deal with modern social change.

Working in the Bathtub: Conversations with the Immortal Dany Laferrière (Linda Leith Publishing, \$18.95) is a collection of interviews between **Adam Leith Gollner**, BA 04, and Haitian-Canadian writer **Dany Laferrière** — the first Quebecer and only Black writer to be inducted into the Académie française. Laferrière talks to Gollner about his life as a writer, his breakout debut, *How to Make Love to a Negro Without Getting Tired*, and the success of his more recent novels.

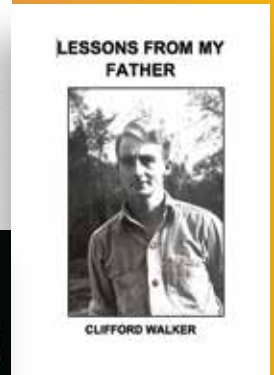
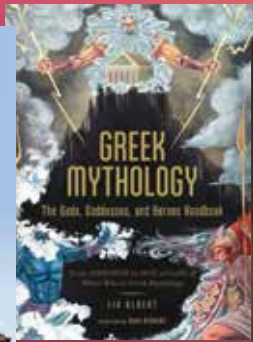
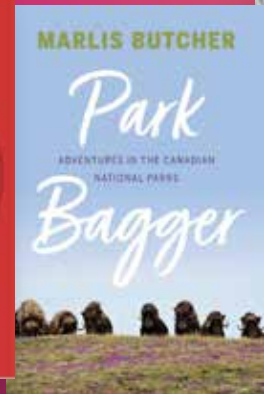
In the visually engaging ***Railway Nation: Tales of Canadian Pacific, the World's Greatest Travel System*** (Heritage House Publishing, \$34.95), author **David Laurence Jones**, BA 82, offers a portrait of the Canadian Pacific Railway and its role in the development of Canada's ocean, rail and air travel. The collection of vignettes contributes to our understanding of the company's impact on Canadians across the country.

Les Assises de Nunaliq (Les Éditions debout, \$29.95), the first volume in a trilogy by **Édouard Trépanier**, BA 77, highlights the need for a new democracy for 21st-century society that corresponds with human needs. His essay is based on the reflections of internationally recognized philosophers, economists, political scientists and

sociologists who have influenced contemporary thinking over time, with the hopes of allowing readers to envisage ways to move toward a more just society.

Eric Martel, BSc 86, delves into his personal real-estate journey in his new book ***Stop Trading Your Time for Money*** (Martel Publishers, \$14.99). Recalling the purchase of his first multi-family property when he was just 18 years old, Martel dissects, analyzes and reframes his own experience into a relatable how-to guide on achieving financial freedom, saving for retirement and leading a stress-free life.

Fifth Generation, or 5G, is a wireless mobile technology network anticipated to revolutionize people's lives and change the telecommunications world entirely. In his bestselling



new book, **Hundred Page 5G Book: In-Depth Coverage of 5G System Engineering and Architecture** (self-published, \$76.42), **Bassem Abi-Farah**, MBA 13, seeks to equip readers with the knowledge to understand 5G and its network architecture, and how to identify its potential business opportunities.

Marlis Butcher, MBA 86, found herself canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, backpacking, hiking, snowshoeing, snorkelling and trekking in a quest to discover Canada’s national parks. In her new book, **Park Bagger: Adventures in the Canadian National Parks** (Rocky Mountain Books, \$32), Butcher unveils a collection of her personal adventures and nature photography while “bagging” all of Canada’s national parks.

In **Greek Mythology: The Gods, Goddesses, and Heroes Handbook** (Simon & Schuster, \$22.99), **Liv Albert**, BA 12, uncovers the origins of some of the most popular characters from ancient Greek mythology. Albert outlines each of the names, roles, related symbols and foundational myths associated with the mythological heroes, villains, gods and goddesses who have become widely recognized in film, television and pop culture.

Greg Santos, BA 06, explores what it means, as a born-Cambodian, to be adopted at birth by a Canadian family in **Ghost Face** (DC Books, \$19.95). The poetry collection is both playful and self-reflective as he pays homage to his adoptive parents and ponders the life he

might have led in Cambodia. Santos leads the reader through his visceral process of unlearning and relearning who he is — and who he might become.

French-language teacher and translator **Sarah Brunel**, BA 08, has published her second children’s book, **ÊTRE travailleur essentiel** (self-published, \$9). As part of her *Mon tout premier conjugueur* series, Brunel walks readers through the conjugation of the verb *être* (to be), while introducing them to various essential workers. The characters are based on real people working through the pandemic, to whom Brunel dedicates the book as a thank-you for their patience and sacrifices.

Contemporary jazz guitarist **Les Sabler**, BFA 78, brings a dynamic new guitar sound

to **Tranquility** (New Vista Records, \$9.99), his first album in four years. Now in his fourth decade as a recording artist, the Montreal-born Sabler plays a vintage Gibson Johnny Smith guitar on this latest album — the electric and unique acoustic qualities give *Tranquility* an entirely new sound.

In his first book, **Lessons from My Father** (self-published, \$15), **Clifford Walker**, BA 68, shares an autobiographical account of growing up in the 1950s in a small town on Montreal’s South Shore. Painting a portrait of a father through the lens of a son, Walker shares a series of personal stories and anecdotes that highlight their relationship and lessons learned that have provided the foundation upon which the writer has built his life. ■

Access and opportunity for all in education

CHRISTOPHER SKEETE, BA 10

Who fails elementary school? I did. With my below-average grades, no one was surprised — least of all me — when my second-grade teacher took me and two other classmates aside and said, “You did not pass and you’ll be held back.”

Needless to say, decades later, I paid close attention to my daughter’s second-grade results. When she passed, I proudly told her she was already ahead of her old man. I did the same with my son this June.

I look back at my youth and remember it vividly. Grade four, long division. That’s where they lost me in mathematics and, after failing grade-six math, it was off to summer school. For a kid who loved science and math, I learned early on that they didn’t love me back.

In the summer before ninth grade, my mother had contracted AIDS — a death sentence in the early 1990s. She lost her job and my family was forced onto welfare once again. To help out, I went to work before I even turned 15.

I was surprised when I managed to graduate from high school. I realized I was the only one among my friends without a plan, so I figured I would continue my studies as well. After four years, including a stint in night school, I graduated from CEGEP. There, I had taken a class with the inspiring Ishwar Prashad, BA 70, who introduced me to and got me hooked on politics.

Having a knack for political science, I decided to apply to Concordia’s School of Community and Public Affairs. I did not meet the criteria, yet after an interview and a short essay, I was



nonetheless admitted into the double-major program. I owe everything to whatever it was that allowed me to squeeze through and graduate. I was working full-time and had to balance that with my studies and raising my children. It took 10 years, but I’m proud I finally got my bachelor’s degree.

EMBRACING DIFFERENCE

In a desire to improve my French writing skills, I recently completed my MBA at l’École de la science de la gestion at Université du Québec à Montréal. While I spent a small fortune on tutors, it’s thanks to my teachers and my colleagues that I completed my studies — even if a few years late, as has become my custom.

There’s a quote by Friedrich Nietzsche that says, “The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.”

If I have taken pains to describe my often arduous academic path, it is only to emphasize Nietzsche’s words.

While I never thought of myself as incompetent, I realized that I learn differently than others — and that, at times, has made me feel incompetent. I am grateful to the many people along the way who have recognized what makes me different, embraced it and pushed me to pursue my goals. It would have been much easier to cast me aside. Instead, I was given access and opportunity — and that is a true testament of an inclusive society.

Throughout my journey I’ve come to realize that the only difference between me and a high-school dropout is that I was never satisfied with my situation. I just kept on going. That perseverance serves as my advice to my children and students today: keep on going. ■

Christopher Skeete is a Member of the National Assembly of Quebec representing the Sainte-Rose district; Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers; and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism.

**“ I BELIEVE IT IS
IMPORTANT TO
SUPPORT EDUCATION
BECAUSE IT’S THE
ONE MEANS OF
HELPING PEOPLE
EVOLVE AND DEVELOP ”**

– Eileen Curran, BA 70



YOUR GIFT YOUR LEGACY YOUR PLAN

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

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

#CUpride

concordia.ca/plannedgiving



FUNDONE

**Want to support the next generation?
Have an inspiring university project
that needs funding?**

Help drive research, creativity and innovation through **FundOne**, Concordia's community crowdfunding platform for alumni, students and researchers.

Learn more at concordia.ca/fundone.

