

# CONCORDIA

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



## TOWARDS A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Concordia at the forefront of green tech

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCELLOR

The late Peter Drucker, the famed management consultant and educator, once remarked that the greatest danger in a time of turbulence is to deny reality.

In these turbulent — and exciting! — times, I'm more grateful than ever to be part of a forward-looking, clear-eyed institution like Concordia.

Every day, the business of learning and discovery in the university's labs, lecture rooms and research centres is accelerating progress for society.

That progress — whether in areas like cybersecurity, community health, entrepreneurship, the fine arts or renewable energy — is being fuelled by our major donors as we prepare to celebrate Concordia's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

With the support of our dedicated co-chairs Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Andrew Molson and Lino A. Saputo, BA 89, the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now received close to \$30 million in donations over the course of the last fiscal year. This includes an impressive 10 gifts of \$1 million or more — a historic number of first-time, seven-figure gifts — that have helped to propel the campaign to more than \$265 million.

The impact of Concordia's donor community has recently encouraged research-based startup founders at the university's District 3 Innovation Hub, launched groundbreaking sustainability pilot projects and empowered crucial genomics research at the Applied Science Hub's Bioprocessing Centre.

Perhaps most importantly, our donors have given cohorts of talented students the opportunity to reach their potential.

As chancellor, I have the honour of handing these students their well-deserved diplomas at convocation.

When we welcomed 6,485 newly minted Concordia alumni — and a new cohort of distinguished honorary doctorates — this past June, I couldn't help but feel optimistic about the future.

A proverb that I like to share with new grads sums up the spirit of our thriving institution as it turns 50.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

With that, I look forward to seeing you at our next Chancellor's Builders Circle and Friends dinner, which will take place in spring 2024, instead of this fall.

All the best and warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wener'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Jonathan Wener**, BComm 71  
Concordia Chancellor

### LEARN MORE ABOUT CONCORDIA

Our videos: [concordia.ca/alumni/videos](https://www.concordia.ca/alumni/videos)

Our events: [concordia.ca/alumni/events](https://www.concordia.ca/alumni/events)

Our publications: [concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications](https://www.concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications)

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via @ConcordiaAlumni



[concordia.ca/campaign](https://www.concordia.ca/campaign)

### Contributors

**Writers:** Sandra Evoughlian and Ian Harrison

**Graphic designer:** Trevor Browne **Editor:** Ian Harrison

**Proofreader:** Chris Korchin



# MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As our community embarks on plans to commemorate Concordia's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary — a celebration that will unfold from June 2024 to June 2025 — we have much to look forward to, and much we intend to achieve.

These are auspicious times for our university. Buoyed by the generosity of major donors to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now, our faculty, staff and students are accomplishing great things, contributing both to Concordia's transformation and to the betterment of society.

From social injustice and climate change to community health, new media, public art or the acceleration of artificial intelligence, Concordia is at the forefront of advances that are changing our world.

In April, the Government of Canada awarded \$123 million in funding to Concordia — the largest research grant in our history — to consolidate our global leadership in the electrification of next-gen cities and communities. In the words of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, innovation in electrification will “shape Canada's prosperity for years to come” and help Canada achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

In tandem last April, we also launched PLAN/NET ZERO, a massive project to decarbonize the 80 buildings and more than 25 hectares across our two campuses by 2040.

We announced last fall that Concordia would be the first Canadian university to offer all undergraduate students in all faculties access to experiential learning through work-integrated learning, study abroad or case competitions. In Co-op alone, this past year we placed more than 4,000 students in work settings across Quebec and Canada as well as internationally.

This past year was also momentous as we began to implement the recommendations of the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, and continued to deliver on our Indigenous Directions Action Plan, all with a view to ensuring Concordia's continued commitment to equity and diversity.

As you read the pages that follow, I hope you share my immense pride in the accomplishments of the Concordia community.

On behalf of the university, let me say how deeply gratifying it is to know that your support is, and will be, pivotal to shaping our next 50 years for the good of Canada and the world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graham Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "C".

**Graham Carr**  
President and Vice-Chancellor, Concordia

## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, the **Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now** reached \$265 million in funds raised by the end of fiscal year 2022-23 (April 30, 2023).



A gift of **\$3 million** from **Power Corporation of Canada** established the Power Corporation Green Technology Fund in support of **Electrifying Society: Towards Decarbonized Resilient Communities**.

A donation of **\$2 million** from long-time major donor **Dominic D'Alessandro**, BSc 67, former president and CEO of Manulife Financial, supported a **fellowship fund to encourage academic excellence for graduate students** in research-oriented programs.





**Brendan Flynn**, BComm 86, MBA 88, made a planned gift estimated at **\$2 million towards a future endowment to support undergraduate students**, regardless of faculty, who have overcome hardship and exhibit financial need.

The **Altus Group** provided the John Molson School of Business with **software licences worth more than \$1 million**. The gift will provide real-estate finance students with access to ARGUS, the company's asset and portfolio management enterprise software.



A gift of **\$750,000 from TD Bank Financial Group** supported the development of Teen ACCELERATION, an **e-health platform and innovative solution for adolescent well-being** co-led by researchers at Concordia.

A gift of **\$500,000 from the Fondation Famille Mongeau** will enable the Department of Creative Arts Therapies to open **two Concordia Arts in Health Centre satellite offices** that will provide critical support to youth with specific needs.





**Hydro-Québec gave \$500,000 to the NSERC/Hydro-Québec Industrial Research Chair in Optimized Operation and Energy Efficiency: Towards High-Performance Buildings** — a position held by Andreas Athienitis at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The **John Dobson Foundation** gave **\$500,000** to **empower research-based startup entrepreneurs** through initiatives facilitated by Concordia's District 3 Innovation Hub and V1 Studio.



A donation of **\$500,000 from Barry Lorenzetti**, founder of BFL Canada, will strengthen the work of the **Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership** at the John Molson School of Business and support two separate scholarship funds for students.



Long-time major donor **Miriam Roland, LLD 18**, gave **\$482,500 to fund sustainability pilot projects** led jointly by Concordia's Next-Generation Cities Institute and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's Goldman Sonnenfeldt School for Sustainability and Climate Change.





Thanks to countless donors who gave generously for **Giving Tuesday** last November 29, **\$425,000** — a **record total** — was raised for more than **85 programs and initiatives**, most notably the Concordia Stingers, the Student Success Centre and the Student Emergency and Food Fund.

**Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, LLD 17, gave more than \$400,000 to further support the John Molson School's Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program.**



A number of Hollywood stars who worked with the late **Jean-Marc Vallée** united to support a **memorial fund in the Montreal filmmaker's name** that will encourage students at the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema. Vallée's sons, **Alex Vallée** and **Émile Vallée, BFA 20**, and long-time collaborator **Yves Bélanger, BFA 84**, were instrumental behind the scenes.

## \$1.4 MILLION FROM SCOTIABANK SUPPORTS INDIGENOUS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Representatives of Scotiabank and Concordia joined together to commemorate the new partnership between the two organizations.



A new community investment of \$1.4 million from Scotiabank in the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now was celebrated on campus on March 27.

The major support will help Indigenous and international students succeed through the Kaié:ri Nikawerà:ke Indigenous Bridging Program and the Career Roadmap for International Student Excellence (C-RISE).

Kaié:ri Nikawerà:ke — a Kanien'kéha term which translates to “the four winds” or “the four directions” — is open to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who do not meet the standard admissions requirements to enter post-secondary education.

C-RISE, which offers a suite of resources through Career Management Services at the John Molson School of Business, was established as a platform for international students to forge successful careers in Canada after graduation.

“The diversity of our student population and our commitment to accessible, inclusive education are pivotal to making Concordia an innovative, next-gen university,” said President and Vice-Chancellor Graham Carr. “This generous gift from Scotiabank speaks to those values by allowing us to create two exciting new pathways to success for our students.”

Maria Mangiocavallo, a Concordia graduate and Scotiabank's Regional Vice-President, Commercial Banking, Quebec, was thrilled to return to campus to commemorate the bank's impactful gift.

“Aligned with our ScotiaRISE initiative, we are proud to partner with Concordia University to help overcome barriers to graduation and provide critical support for students to access career opportunities and plan for their futures,” said Mangiocavallo.

## **‘ONE OF THE NEEDS THAT WE IDENTIFIED AS MOST PRESSING’**

The Indigenous Bridging Program will, as of the 2023 fall term, admit students who wish to complete a Bachelor of Engineering degree. New bridges to other STEM programs will soon follow.

The creation of the program was one of the steps outlined in Concordia's Indigenous Directions Action Plan, which offers concrete guidelines on how to decolonize and indigenize the university.

Manon Tremblay, BA 03, senior director of Indigenous Directions at Concordia, said that a key objective of the plan was to remove barriers to post-secondary education.

“This is one of the needs that we identified as most pressing. Many potential students in our Indigenous communities just don't have access to the prerequisites they need to get into STEM. This is where we want the bridging program to change things.”

Director of John Molson's Career Management Services Louise Anne Côté says that C-RISE was also devised to meet a critical need.

“International students are such an important part of our community. They often require special supports to help them acclimate to a new city and country, and to lay the groundwork for life after graduation. That's where a program like C-RISE comes in. Through seminars, workshops and mentorships, we want to give international students the tools to thrive professionally here in Canada.”

Impressively, more than 500 Concordia alumni are employed by Scotiabank, noted Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of University Advancement.

“We are extremely grateful for this major investment in the Campaign for Concordia by Scotiabank to support two programs that promise to make a lasting difference in the lives of our Indigenous and international students.”

## CONCORDIA CELEBRATES



The **R. Howard Webster Library** marked 30 years in December 2022. The facility has experienced tremendous growth over the decades: Open for study 24/7 throughout the academic terms, the library now houses more than one million items and welcomes more than two million visitors on an annual basis. “The library is like home to me,” says Faye Corbin, BA 83, an interlibrary loans supervisor with more than 35 years of service at Concordia. “Any time I enter the library, I always feel very welcome and happy to see my colleagues and our students.”

The **Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability** commemorated 20 years of success and community engagement. Founded in 2002, the college was formed to provide a coherent program of interdisciplinary courses on Loyola Campus. William Bukowski, professor in the Department of Psychology and principal of the college, witnessed the college’s growth and the creation of its affiliated Loyola Sustainability Research Centre (LSRC). “It has become the university’s hub for sustainability research,” Bukowski asserted.



Concordia’s **Jurist-in-Residence program** observed its fifth anniversary. Spearheaded by Morton Minc, BA 67, former chief justice of the Municipal Court of Montreal, the program provides students with direct access to the court through events and mentorship — helping them gain an understanding of the justice system. “Allowing students to have access to this level of expertise is rare, and presents a wonderful opportunity to learn from and be inspired by the best,” said Minc.



Last fall saw the launch of the **Accessibility Hub**. The hub is a website that provides information on services, resources and policies for those looking to learn more about disability and accessibility at the university. “Accessibility is a collective responsibility, and the successful launch of the hub is the culmination of months of work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee chaired by Anna Barrafato, MA 98, the accessibility change lead at the Equity Office,” said Lisa White, BA 12, inaugural executive director of Concordia’s Equity Office.

The **Early Childhood and Elementary Education (ECEE)** program marked its 50-year anniversary. Launched in 1971 at Sir George Williams University — one of Concordia’s founding institutions — the program initially focused on pre-kindergarten education, expanding over the years to cover educational training for children aged two to 12. Ellen Jacobs, distinguished professor emerita and founder of the program, and retired professor Nina Howe, who was also involved with the program from early on, co-authored a chapter on the anniversary for an upcoming book on Concordia’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



The **Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering** celebrated five decades of innovation in 2022. In recognition of the occasion, the department hosted a distinguished lecture series for students, faculty and staff. “This series is our way of expressing our gratitude to all those who helped make our department what it is today,” said Lata Narayanan, professor and chair of the department.

**NGCOMM**, an international case competition held by the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and John Molson School of Business, reached its 10-year milestone. The competition offers business and engineering students from around the world an opportunity to develop industry solutions and share expertise across disciplines.



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Researchers at Concordia's four academic faculties continue to be highly productive, attracting support from every major federal and provincial funding agency. Discover more about their recent work and achievements.



The John Molson School of Business launched John Molson Perspectives, a knowledge hub that will curate research-focused news written by student and faculty researchers. "Our mission is to maximize our social impact," observed dean **Anne-Marie Croteau**. "We want John Molson Perspectives to be the business community's go-to source for the latest research."



A novel filtration approach to remove suspended solids from waterways, recently piloted by Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate student **Antônio Cavalcante Pereira** and faculty member **Catherine Mulligan**, could one day benefit the health of bays, lakes, ponds and rivers — and the communities who depend on them.



In a published article entitled "Covered, Not Bound: Young Dawoodi Bohra Women's Self-Representation and Agency through the Online Website Mighzal," **Arwa Hussain**, a PhD candidate and Public Scholar from the Department of Religions and Cultures, explored how an online platform allows some Muslim women to empower themselves, share wisdom and foster community.



Research on microplastics pollution in tidal zones by PhD candidate **Qi Feng**, under the co-supervision of Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering professors **Chunjiang An** and **Zhi Chen**, was honoured with the Prix Relève étoile Louis-Berlinguet from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT). The FRQNT confers the prize to promote and recognize exceptional research by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the province.



Researchers at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science have developed a more efficient electric motor that could pave the way for better, more cost-effective electric vehicles (EVs). Led by **Pragasen Pillay** from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the project focused on the design of a permanent magnet synchronous motor, a popular choice for EVs, with a specific emphasis on the stator and rotor components.



The Royal Society of Canada inducted three Concordia researchers, an accolade reserved for accomplished scientists, scholars and artists from across the country:

- **Tristan Glatard**, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering
- **Catherine Mulligan**, Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering
- **Emad Shihab**, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering



The expertise of **Vivek Venkatesh**, MA 03, PhD 08, chair of the Department of Art Education and UNESCO Co-Chair on the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism, was called upon at a G7 research summit on the future of human health as well as the Government of Canada's Public Order Emergency Commission, led by Justice Paul Rouleau.



The work of a nanoparticle lab on post-operative wounds was supported with a \$1-million NSERC Alliance grant. "We use low-powered lasers and excite nanomaterials, generating heat to close up wounds with minimal damage," says lab director **Rafik Naccache**, BSc 00, MSc 07, PhD 12, Concordia University Research Chair in Sustainable Multifunctional Nanomaterials (Tier 2).



## NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS



This spring, Concordia launched **PLAN/NET ZERO** — an initiative to demonstrate how large institutions can collaborate with diverse partners to achieve net-zero emissions. To do so, the university will transform its campuses into living laboratories that reduce overall energy consumption. “The need for a clean-energy transition to decarbonize our rapidly urbanizing planet is urgent,” said Concordia President Graham Carr. “With 80 buildings across 62 acres on two very different campuses, Concordia offers a unique space to develop and test innovative, integrated, scalable decarbonization solutions that can be blueprints for cities around the world.”

The project aligns with Concordia’s pledge to reach carbon neutrality by 2040. It will harness the strengths of the university’s **Next-Generation Cities Institute** and expertise in energy-efficient buildings, smart cities, electrification and renewables, sustainable mobility solutions, energy storage, applied AI, cybersecurity and smart-grid security. The university will work with community, civic, academic and industrial partners as it advances its commitment to the objectives of the Partenariat Climat Montréal. **PLAN/NET ZERO** is another big step in the university’s history of environmental leadership, which includes delivery of its Sustainability Action Plan, launched in 2020, and will help Concordia lead the clean-energy transition.

The Government of Canada awarded Concordia a landmark Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) research grant of more than \$123 million. The grant will support the activities and initiatives of **Electrifying Society: Towards Decarbonized Resilient Communities**. As the largest single research award in the university's history, the grant will boost Concordia's expertise in areas related to electrification, smart buildings and net-zero communities.

Electrifying Society will involve the efforts of researchers from the university, and colleagues from partner institutions across the country and around the world. In collaboration with Indigenous, private, public and not-for-profit sector experts, they will establish integrated, affordable decarbonization solutions that are focused on electrification. This includes energy systems and storage, transportation and smart buildings, deployment of digital twin technology, cybersecurity and the Internet of Things.

By working with its partners, the university will create a world-class research program that will apply novel technologies to the development of innovative energy sources, the security of critical infrastructure, and the delivery of affordable, green energy to communities and municipalities across Canada.



## BEST IN CLASS

- **Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings:** Concordia placed number one in Canada for the sixth consecutive year, and soared to second place among North American universities under 50 years old, up from fifth last year.
- **QS World University Rankings:** Concordia moved up at least 164 spots to 387th worldwide, its highest placement since the ranking began in 2004. The university is now in the world's top 26 per cent out of 1,497 institutions. Last year, Concordia was in the 551–560 range out of 1,422 institutions.
- **THE World University Rankings:** Concordia placed in the 601–800 slot among institutions worldwide for the fifth straight year. In 2023, THE ranked 137 more institutions from across the globe than last year — a total of 1,799.
- **THE Impact Rankings:** Concordia placed in the 101–200 category, now among a deeper pool of 1,591 institutions worldwide.
- **Center for World University Rankings (CWUR):** Concordia placed among the top 3.1 per cent of universities worldwide.
- **QS World University Rankings by Subject (WURS):** Concordia ranked as one of the world's top universities in 14 out of 54 narrow subjects and in three of five broad subjects.
- **CEO Magazine's 2023 Global MBA Rankings:** Concordia's John Molson School of Business Executive MBA program placed 25th globally out of 62 EMBA programs, up two spots from last year, and ranked third in Canada. Also, the John Molson MBA program maintained its position as a Tier 1 program internationally.
- **Maclean's 2023 University Rankings:** Concordia placed in the top 10 among Canadian comprehensive universities.

## HATS OFF TO OUR COMMUNITY



Nine honorary doctorates were recognized at Concordia's spring 2023 convocation: **Kathy Baig**<sup>1</sup>, DSc 23; **Sandra Chartrand**<sup>2</sup>, BA 85, LLD 23; **Alain Bouchard**<sup>3</sup>, LLD 23; **Clarissa Desjardins**<sup>4</sup>, DSc 23; **Elisapie Isaac**<sup>5</sup>, DFA 23; **Deborah Estrin**<sup>6</sup>, DSc 23; **James McCully**<sup>7</sup>, BA 75, BSc 78, DSc 23; **Rodolphe Saadé**<sup>8</sup>, BComm 94, LLD 23; and **Vikas Swarup**<sup>9</sup>, LLD 23.

Ten PhD students were selected as **Concordia's 2023-24 Public Scholars**: **Azfar Adib**, Electrical and Computer Engineering; **Paula Bath**, Sociology and Anthropology; **Dalia Elsayed**, Education; **Maxine Iannuccilli**, Psychology; **Vanessa Mardirossian**, Individualized (INDI) Program; **Amy Mazowita**, Communication Studies; **Laura Domínguez Mercado**, Chemistry and Biochemistry; **Jacob Pitre**, Film Studies; **Brogan Stewart**, Geography, Planning and Environment; and **Stéphanie Tremblay**, Physics.

Five members of the Concordia community were recognized with the **Order of Canada** — one of the country's highest civilian honours — in the past year for their outstanding achievements, dedication to community and service to the nation:

- **Pierre Lassonde**, LLD 16, co-founder, Franco-Nevada Corporation; chair, Polytechnique Montréal's board of directors; former chair of the board, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.
- **Gerald J. Lozinski**, BComm 66, and wife Joan Mary Lozinski, benefactors to the National Ballet School, National Ballet of Canada, National Arts Centre, Art Gallery of Ontario, University of Toronto and Concordia, among many other organizations.
- **Donald A. MacPherson**, BA 82, adjunct professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University; founding executive director, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition.
- **Peter R. O'Brien**, founding chair, School of Irish Studies; former director, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation; former board chair, John Molson MBA International Case Competition.
- **Donat J. Taddeo**, BA 67, assistant to the president, Planning and Development, Loyola High School; former associate professor, Department of Communication Studies; former dean, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science; former dean, Humanities, Faculty of Arts and Science.





**Roshi Chadha**, BFA 10, MA 14, was named to the **Ordre de Montréal** in recognition of her 25 years of support for the city’s cultural life. An art expert and collector, Chadha was appointed vice-chair of the board for the National Gallery of Canada in 2021.

CBC Quebec honoured its **2023 Black Changemakers** in February — its third edition celebrating Black Quebecers who are leaders in their communities. This year, seven out of 31 inspiring changemakers are Concordians:

- **Nicole Antoine**, BA 10
- **Moses Gashirabake**, BA 13
- **Tenicha Gittens**, head coach, Concordia Stingers women’s basketball program
- **Lillian Jackson**, BComm 77, BA 82, MA 88
- **Vanessa Manroop**, BComm 23
- **Lisa Ndejuru**, PhD 21
- **Kathy Roach**, BA 88, GrCert 90, MA 03



The Pasteur Foundation U.S. and the Institut Pasteur announced the 2023 cohort of **Lady Mireille and Sir Dennis Gillings Global Public Health Fellowships**. The vision of **Lady Mireille Gillings**, BA 91, DSc 22 (pictured), the fellowships are curated by an unprecedented group of international partners made up of the University of Cambridge, the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, and Concordia. This collaboration, anchored by the France-based Institut Pasteur, provides those who excel in science with a rare opportunity to acquire business and financial acumen and emerge with the necessary skills to become successful entrepreneurs in the public health environment.



Hosted by the Concordia University Alumni Association, the 31st annual **Alumni Recognition Awards** were held on May 30. The 2023 winners are:

- **Jennison Asuncion**, BA 97, MA 01: Benoît Pelland Alumnus of the Year Award
- **Christian Bilodeau**, IITS: Outstanding Staff and Faculty Award
- **Robert Frances**, BComm 87, MBA 91: MBA Alumnus of the Year
- **Autumn Godwin**, BA 21: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award
- **Paul Karwatsky**, BA 04: Benoît Pelland Alumnus of the Year Award
- **Christine C. Lengvari**, BSc 72: Humberto Santos Award of Merit and Service
- **Jason Edward Lewis**, professor, Design and Computation Arts: Outstanding Staff and Faculty Award
- **Selena Mezher**, student, Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering: Outstanding Student Leader Award
- **Katrina Monton**, BA 17: John F. Lemieux Young Alumni Medal
- **Duraichelvan Raju**, doctoral candidate, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering: Outstanding Student Leader Award
- **Rawane Soboh**, student, Department of Biology: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award
- **M.N.Srikanta Swamy**, Honorary Life Membership Award



**Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, was honoured by the Women’s Y Foundation of Montreal with a **2023 Women of Distinction Award** – Achievement category.

## SPOTLIGHT ON PHILANTHROPY

\$2M from Behaviour Interactive to spur game-design innovation



A \$2-million gift to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now from Behaviour Interactive — the largest Canadian video game developer and publisher — has enhanced Concordia’s ability to develop new talent and innovation for a critical economic sector.

Behaviour Interactive is known the world over for its bestselling games as well as its work with the likes of Microsoft, Sony, EA, Warner, Netflix and Take-Two, among others. The studio and its co-founder and CEO, Rémi Racine, are pioneers of the Canadian video game industry and play a leadership role in its promotion to future generations of talent.

The major support from Behaviour to the university — ranked among the world’s best for art and design — has funded a new research chair at the Department of Design and Computation Arts and provided financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students who aspire to embark on careers in the video game industry.

Racine says that more targeted investment is needed to help ensure the future growth of Montreal’s vibrant community of developers and creators.

“We have a healthy video game development ecosystem here in Montreal and Quebec, and across the country,” observes Racine (pictured third from right), whose company has been named one of the best managed in Canada. “Whether the pipeline that nourishes that ecosystem can thrive and compete globally in the decades to come depends largely on the steps we take today to foster new talent and keep pace with new technology.

“This is what this gift to Concordia is all about. As a post-secondary research institution with strengths in concept art, design and experiential education, the university plays an important role in a sector with tremendous socioeconomic benefits and promise. We take pride in our ability to help nurture more of this success.”

# ‘A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH AND STUDENT TRAINING’



**GRAHAM CARR**

Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor

*“This is a significant investment in leading-edge research and student training for our top-ranked Faculty of Fine Arts. We thank Behaviour Interactive for such a generous gift. It will help prepare our students for careers in the fast-paced world of game development and enable our researchers to deliver new design ideas to an industry that annually contributes more than \$5 billion to Canada’s economy.”*



**ANNIE GÉRIN**

Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

*“Through support for a new research chair and a range of resources for students, Behaviour Interactive’s gift will help us explore the possibilities of the next generation of game design. We are particularly excited to see how our new Behaviour Interactive Chair in Game Design will provide opportunities for students, faculty and professionals to collaborate and experiment boldly.”*



**RILLA KHALED**

Associate Professor, Department of Design and Computation Arts

*“We want to support makers and thinkers that industry will want to hire. Behaviour, of course, they’re homegrown, they’re local, and I know that they’re very committed to supporting the growth of the scene locally. What was always very heartening for me was how open they were to exploration and experimentation and also inclusion.”*



**JONATHAN LESSARD**

Associate Professor, Department of Design and Computation Arts

*“It’s really great that now there will be an ecosystem or a mechanism to allow for this free exploration of ideas. So there will be support for this experimentation, which is also recognition of the value of this experimentation.”*



**PAUL CHESSE**, BA 94, GrDip 97

Vice-President, Advancement

*“This major gift from Behaviour Interactive is an endorsement of our Faculty of Fine Arts and a momentous opportunity to build on the industry’s future needs. We are especially thankful that an industry leader located in our own backyard has made this generous investment. It will help to elevate Montreal as a nexus for video game design and development, supporting talent, inspiring creativity and generating cutting-edge advances.”*

## MOMENT IN TIME



On September 24, 2018, Concordia celebrated a landmark gift of \$15 million from **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, to the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

The donation to advance STEM education for all, from the first woman to earn a doctorate in building engineering from the university, remains the largest in support of the Campaign for Concordia.

In recognition of her generosity, professional accomplishments and STEM advocacy, the faculty was renamed the Gina Cody School — the first engineering faculty in Canada to be named after a woman.

Enjoy more Concordia moments in time at [flickr.com/photos/concordiaalumnipics](https://www.flickr.com/photos/concordiaalumnipics).