

Connections

The Voice of Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science



A Message from the Dean

by Dr. David Graham



As I begin my second year as dean of Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science, I find that many people both in the Faculty and outside it are asking me for my impressions of my first year. Certainly it does seem appropriate to take stock, now that I've had a chance to catch my breath after a whirlwind year.

What I've been saying to everyone with whom I've had this conversation is that I've been really thrilled to discover over and over again this year that our Faculty is even better than anything I had expected. I've now visited every one of our 26 academic units and almost all our major research centres; I've debated important issues with colleagues and heard them talk about their teaching and their scholarship. What I've found is that without exception, they share what I take to be Concordia's core values. These are the values that brought me to Concordia, and I'm delighted to learn that my new colleagues share my passion for an unwavering focus on maintaining the highest academic quality, an unshakeable belief that we gain strength as we gain diversity, and a commitment to an open and approachable university offering a full spectrum of innovative programs in the midst of one of the world's most exciting urban environments.

You'll find details of some of the wonderful recent achievements of our Faculty elsewhere in this newsletter, so I won't dwell on specifics here. One initiative of which I'm particularly proud, though, is the recent creation of the Faculty's first Dean's Awards for outstanding faculty and staff members. These awards – for exceptional teaching, scholarship and service – have not yet been announced, but I look forward to seeing profiles of the winners in our next newsletter.

People often ask me why Concordia is so focused on becoming a leading Canadian university with a strong national and international profile, rather than concentrating solely on service to our local community. The answer is really quite simple, in my view. If we are to continue that proud tradition that lies at the heart of our mission, we need to continue to attract brilliant new faculty and students from across the country and around the globe; if we don't, many of our own faculty and students may see less reason to remain at Concordia. The mobility of people is perhaps the factor that is having the most profound impact on higher education today, and we need to create strong reasons to draw the best people to us. We've appointed 25 wonderful new professors to tenure-track positions this year; they join a Faculty more than half of whose members have been appointed in less than a decade. As we prepare to make our next leap forward to a position of national and international prominence, the Faculty of Arts and Science will need to count on your full support. I look forward to telling you more about everything we're doing to deserve it!

INSIDE

2 >> A New Place to Call Home

4 >> Snapshots

Connections Express

Would you like to receive the **Connections Express**, the Faculty of Arts and Science e-newsletter? Send us an email at lynn.roy@concordia.ca and we'll add you to our mailing list.

A New

AN EXCITING REJUVENATION PROCESS HAS TRANSFORMED CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE IN RECENT YEARS, resulting in the introduction of more than 461 new programs and courses. The impact of these changes has been felt throughout the Faculty and has served to further elevate the high-quality learning environment we provide for our students. This is no mean feat when you consider that in raising the bar, the Faculty took on the task of building new facilities, renovating existing premises and hiring more than 200 new tenure-track professors. A welcome result of the renovations was the opportunity it afforded to move four of the Faculty's 26 departments into new premises on the 11th and 12th floors of the Hall Building.



Dr. William Sims provides an overview of articles featured in the display cases of the newly renovated Department of Economics.

ECONOMICS

By Dr. William Sims, Chair,
Department of Economics

It has been a truly exciting year for the Department of Economics. In fact, in the year since we took up residence at our new location on the 11th floor of the Hall Building, the department has hired four new professors, organized a workshop and hosted an annual meeting that saw some 1,000 delegates pass through our doors.

We were kept extremely busy during the month of May, as our new facilities provided much needed space, allowing us to host two very important events. On May 19 and 20 the department, along with the Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Économie Quantitative (CIREQ), a

collaborative effort undertaken by Université de Montréal, McGill University and Concordia University, hosted a workshop on coalitions and networks. Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi, a professor in the Department of Economics, organized the workshop, which brought together some 50 participants from around the world. The following week, as a result of the hard work of Professor Ian Irvine, the department hosted the 40th annual Canadian Economics Association meetings.

More than 1,000 delegates attended sessions where some 600 papers were presented.

Since its establishment more than 40 years ago, the department has been extremely successful in attracting dedicated and enthusiastic professors. This trend continues today. Last year, we welcomed Dr. Szilvia Papai, a game theorist who develops mathematical models that deal with the stability of coalition formation, to our team as a tier II Canada Research Chair in Economic Theory. In addition, we are pleased to announce that three new faculty members joined the department this year. Dr. Paul Gomme, a former faculty member at Simon Fraser University who recently served as an economic advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, joined the department as a full professor. Dr. Gomme's primary area of research is macroeconomics. Dr. Tatyana Koreshkova, a macroeconomist from the University of Western Ontario, and Dr. Artem Prokhorov, an econometrician from Michigan State University, also joined our ranks this summer.

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

By Dr. Fran Shaver, Chair, Department
of Sociology and Anthropology

Moving to new premises on the 11th floor of the Hall Building has brought a wealth of opportunity to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The new teaching and research labs, seminar rooms, offices and reading rooms have enabled the department to host an international meeting and to provide our students with a venue in which to exhibit their work, generate discussion and provide opportunities for learning in an informal manner.

The department hosted participants from all over the world, in particular, Europe, Latin America, the United States and the Pacific, at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA 2006), May 9 – 13, 2006. By all accounts, the meeting was a great success, with some 550 participants attending more than 128 sessions/symposia

where papers on the theme Human Nature and Human Identity were presented. We were pleased to learn that approximately 40 per cent of those who attended the meeting were graduate students from anthropology departments around the country. This bodes extremely well for the future of one of our disciplines.

We also welcomed two new assistant professors, Dr. Sylvia Kairouz, an expert in advanced quantitative methods, and Dr. Laura Huey, an expert in the field of crime, deviance, justice and social control, to our ranks this summer. Dr. Kairouz comes to the University following a three-year post-doctoral appointment at Université de Montréal. Dr. Huey most recently held a limited-term appointment at Kwantlen University College in Criminology.

Two of our students, Jen Smith and George Paul Meiu, exhibited their work in the department this past year. Ms. Smith's

photo exhibit "Livelihoods in India: A Backpacker's Perspective" and Mr. Meiu's exhibit "On the Move: Routes Through Northern Kenya" are extremely thought-provoking and have inspired discussion and dialogue among students anxious to learn more about the experiences portrayed in the exhibits.

Dr. Fran Shaver observes Jen Smith's photo exhibit "Livelihoods in India: A Backpacker's Perspective," displayed in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.



Place to Call Home

POLITICAL SCIENCE

By Dr. Peter Stoett, Chair,
Department of Political Science

The Department of Political Science has undergone significant expansion in recent years, increasing its number of full-time faculty members from 10 to more than 30 in the period between 1998 and 2006. On that note, I am pleased to report that two new assistant professors, Dr. Amy Poteete and Dr. Elizabeth Bloodgood, joined the department this past July. Dr. Poteete, who recently held the position of assistant professor at the University of New Orleans, brings her knowledge of public policy, specifically African politics and natural resource management, to the University. Dr. Bloodgood was hired in the area of international relations with a specialization in transnational non-governmental organizations. Prior to joining the department, Dr. Bloodgood was a post-doctoral lecturer in the International Relations program at the University of Pennsylvania.

There are presently over 1,700 students

pursuing a major in political science at Concordia, and our Master's in Public Policy and Public Administration program continues to provide Canada with highly motivated and well-trained public servants. Reflecting this growth, we have also moved to new premises on the 12th floor of the Hall Building, where we enjoy majestic views of the city, Mount Royal and the St. Lawrence River. Most importantly, we are beginning a doctoral program, with our first admissions taking place in the spring of 2007. Doctoral candidates can specialize in Canadian politics, public policy and administration, political theory, comparative politics, or international relations. Our goal is to assist doctoral students in their quest for self-development and long-term career interests in teaching and advanced research. The program will enhance Concordia's reputation as a scholarly institution, and provide our own faculty with exceptionally skilled research assistance. We are also quite proud of the



Dr. Peter Stoett searches through a journal in the foyer of the Political Science department, located on the 12th floor of the Hall Building.

recent departmental assumption of the editorship of the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, and the fact that Concordia now houses the secretariat of the International Political Science Association.



Dr. Alan Nash explains globalization by using the collection of Coca-Cola cans and bottles collected through his travels around the world.

GEOGRAPHY, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

By Dr. Alan Nash, Chair, Department of
Geography, Planning and Environment

The Department of Geography, Planning and Environment has had a busy and productive year since it moved into its new

premises on the 12th floor of the Hall Building.

Most importantly, the department is delighted to announce the start of its new MSc in Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies this September. This degree is designed to offer students the theoretical and methodological tools necessary to contribute to the under-

standing of human interventions in the environment.

Our students continue to excel, and a number have gone on to pursue both master's and PhD studies at universities elsewhere in this country, Britain and the USA. One notable student-led initiative

has been the re-invigoration of the University's greenhouse, and through the involvement of Sustainable Concordia, the department now helps oversee the operation of that facility on top of the Hall Building.

In terms of new faculty appointments, the department is delighted to welcome Dr. Damon Matthews to our ranks. Dr. Matthews is a climatologist with expertise in the computer modelling of climate change, and is certainly someone who will be in great demand in the future.

All of our faculty continue to be busy with teaching, research and administrative duties, but we would be remiss if we did not highlight the fact that Dr. Norma Rantisi was recently awarded a three-year SSHRC grant (2006-2009), and was one of only four professors in the Faculty to receive a research time stipend award from that agency, for her project "Can Industrial Clusters Learn from Without? The Global and Local Sources of Innovation in the Montreal Fur Industry."

Snapshots



Donald Watanabe at the Canadian Psychological Association's annual meeting

- **Don Watanabe**, a master's student in the Department of Psychology, was awarded the Frances Aboud Prize for Best Poster: International & Cross-Cultural Section by the Canadian Psychological Association. Watanabe won the award for his poster "Acculturation and social adjustment: Are there unique benefits to integration?" which he and his co-authors (Dr. Andrew Ryder and Angela Ring, MA) presented at the Association's 67th annual convention in Calgary.
- **Dr. Greg Nielsen**, professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Director of Concordia's Centre for Broadcasting Studies, has won the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Journalism at NYU. While at NYU, Dr. Nielsen will analyze ways in which journalists, citizens and non-citizens engage in disputes through the press by voicing differences over poverty, immigration and multiculturalism. An analysis of newspapers in New York and Montreal will allow a sharper comparative picture of the way each city talks about retaining or rejecting cultural and social diversity.
- The Canadian Association of Physicists has awarded **Dr. John Harnad**, professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the 2006 CAP/CRM prize in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics for his deep and lasting contributions to the theory of integrable systems with connections to gauge theory, inverse scattering and random matrices.
- **Dr. Peter D. Pawelek**, a newly hired assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and **Dr. Emma Despland**, associate professor in the Department of Biology, both had articles published in the June 2, 2006, issue of *Science*. Dr. Pawelek's article focused on the *Structure of TonB in Complex with FhuA, E. coli Outer Membrane Receptor*, while Dr. Despland's article was titled *From Disorder to Order in Marching Locusts*.
- Congratulations to **Marissa Larouche-Smart, Kate Lunau, Kristin Morency and Jennifer Squires**, all graduates of the Department of Journalism, who spent the summer acquiring first-hand knowledge of the newspaper business as part of the Montreal *Gazette's* annual summer internship program.
- The Tremblant Film Festival featured two short films and one documentary submitted by students from the Department of Communication Studies. The two short films, *Early Bird Special* by **Ajay Hoffer-Holobow** and *Josh and Elias* by **Emilie Wapnick**, and the documentary *Cinéma L'Amour*, by **Aaron Hancox**, were chosen from among more than 75 submissions received by the selection committee.



- 1) Picture of main character, Brian, as depicted in *Early Bird Special*, a short film by Ajay Hoffer-Holobow that was presented at the Tremblant Film Festival
- 2) Scene from short film *Josh and Elias*, by Emilie Wapnick
- 3) Scene from *Cinéma L'Amour*, a short, character-driven documentary about one of the last and largest porn theatres in North America

Connections is published four times a year by Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science. Its mandate is to provide current information on the many activities of the Faculty. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Faculty or the University.

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