



A Message From the Dean

By David Graham



In this issue of *Connections*, Associate Dean Graham Carr highlights some recent research accomplishments in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Our Faculty's record in this area is already impressive and is steadily growing more so as Concordia strives to strengthen its commitment to research and advanced study of the highest quality.

Our greatest strengths have traditionally been connected with excellence in teaching and with accessible and affordable programs oriented towards success in the "real world." As a university, we have undertaken not to weaken these commitments, which have been so much a part of making us what we are today, and which are so intimately associated with who we are.

At the same time, it is clear that in today's academic universe, no university that aspires to be highly regarded, let alone great, can realize that goal without a clear and unequivocal commitment to academic research and advanced study, which in practice means increasing the number of master's and doctoral students and post-doctoral research associates in our Faculty.

In the arts and sciences, a surprising amount of research is inherently connected to the public good in one way or another. Our Faculty does make a strong contribution to the life sciences, particularly through Psychology, Biology and Exercise Science, but other areas of immediate importance spring readily to mind as well: environmental impact assessment, public policy assess-

ment, AIDS-related research, studies of violence in the family, ethics in human society, genocide and human rights, the sociology of illness, educational technology improvement:

even from a ridiculously partial list the immediate potential relevance of our research is obvious.

In other cases, let's be frank: much of our work has no immediately obvious relevance. My own work concerns some rather quaint-looking 16th-century illustrated books. How, one wonders, could such dusty and forgotten curiosities have any connection to us who live in the 21st century? Well, it turns out that modern advertisers and propagandists use many of the same rhetorical techniques to persuade us of their point of view, and many of the issues about human relationships that interested those long-ago people still resonate with us today. Good research – funded or unfunded, immediately relevant or not, policy-driven or prompted by our insatiable human curiosity – is always worth doing, and will never fail to attract and excite the wonderful students and professors that Concordia needs as we strive to become a leading Canadian university. Please accept my very best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer!

Connections

Volume 1 | Issue 3 | Spring 2007

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

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.

Research & Creative Activity

By Graham Carr, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies



Of all the transformations that best reflect Concordia's fresh new identity, none is more striking than the reshaping of research culture and creative activity in the Faculty of Arts and Science. The past several months have produced a myriad of research achievements that are creating widespread recognition for our university. Above all, these achievements are a tribute to the outstanding talents of our researchers and creators; but the successes also demonstrate how our extraordinary investments in hiring new faculty, building state-of-the-art research facilities, and providing enhanced support for research and creative activity are paying big dividends.

There are many ways to measure research success, but arguably the most important is the impact that work by Concordia faculty is clearly having in both the academic community and the public domain. Last summer, for example, Peter Pawelek (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Emma Despland (Biology) scored a first for Concordia when they were each published in the same issue of the prestigious journal *Science*. A few months later, Jim Pfaus (Psychology and Centre for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology) appeared on ABC's *Nightline* to discuss his groundbreaking research on sexual function and desire. Meanwhile, faculty members from the humanities and social sciences were also making waves. Hugh Hazelton (Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics) won a coveted 2006 Governor-General's award for English translation, while Shannon McSheffrey (History) and Graham Dodds (Political Science) both won prizes for their work in British history and

American politics respectively. In addition, James Kelley (Political Science) was awarded the prestigious Seagram Chair in Canadian Studies at McGill for 2006-07, and Greg Nielsen (Sociology & Anthropology, Concordia Centre for Broadcasting Studies) was selected as the inaugural Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Journalism at New York University.

If publications, prizes and awards offer the most tangible evidence of the impact that Arts and Science scholars are having in multiple domains of expertise, it is impossible to ignore the stunning success that Concordia researchers have also achieved in recent national funding competitions. In fall 2006, Adrian Tsang and Vincent Martin (Biology), as well as Reginald Storms and Justin Powlowski (Chemistry and Biochemistry), combined to win three Strategic Research Grants from NSERC valued at more than \$1.3 million. This was followed by the extraordinary January announcement that Arts and Science researchers had won five major grants totaling more than \$2.1 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Led by Michael Sacher (Biology), as well as Michel Dugas, Andrew Ryder, Alex Schwartzman and Paul Hastings, and Carsten Wrosch (all from Psychology), Concordia researchers had the highest institutional success rate in the entire competition.

More recently, the University has been awarded more than \$1.3 million in infrastructure funding to purchase new scientific equipment. This comes as a result of successful applications to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Leaders Opportunity Fund by Valter Zazubovits (Physics), Michael Sacher (Biology),

Activity



and Chris Wilds and Louis Cuccia (Chemistry and Biochemistry). CFI funding is also central to the recently commenced construction of the new Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling on the top floor of the McConnell Library Building. This facility, which will be unique in North America, is the brainchild of Steve High, Canada Research Chair in Public History, and Elena Razlogova (History), who is one of only ten scholars in Canada to win a 2007 SSHRC Image, Text, Sound and Technology Grant.

While the Faculty has every reason to celebrate its glowing research achievements and to build on the intellectual strengths and synergies that they express, it is important to emphasize that these superb accomplishments have not come at the expense of our commitment to teaching. On the contrary, good research and good teaching go hand in hand. To underline this symbiosis the Faculty of Arts and Science sponsored its first ever Undergraduate Research Day this March to showcase the excellence and diversity of work done by our Cycle 1 students. In addition, we have taken a bold new approach to graduate student recruitment by creating 70 Faculty of Arts and Science Graduate Fellowships that will bring outstanding Master's and PhD students to Concordia in fall 2007.

There is every reason to be extremely proud and excited about the growing research accomplishments in Arts and Science. Yet the best part of this story is still to come, for there is extraordinary potential in every sector of our Faculty to develop further the culture of research and creative activity with which we are fast becoming identified.

Arts & Science



A New Development Team **JUST FOR YOU!**

By Jasmine Fortin, Principal Director, Development

A new Faculty-based advancement and alumni team has been created to serve you, the Faculty of Arts and Science alumni and friends, as well as to continue to work with our many long-time loyal supporters. We will also be actively looking to develop new partnerships for our projects, including scholarships, research, conferences and lectures, fellowships and many more exciting opportunities. Your team consists of the following individuals and all can be reached at 514-848-2424 and corresponding extensions:

-Lori Abramowitz, Development Officer	(back Sept. 2007)
-Harry Antecol, Prospect Researcher	Ext. 7309
-Linda Bell, Development Officer	Ext. 2093
-Jasmine Fortin, Principal Director, Development	Ext. 4384
-Derek Linetsky, Alumni Officer	Ext. 5629
-Bolivar Nakhasenh, Development Officer	Ext. 4160
-Lynn Roy, Communications Advisor	Ext. 5002

Over the last few months, you have no doubt noticed a concerted effort to better our communications with you through several new promotional tools, including this new version of *Connections* created especially for the Faculty of Arts and Science alumni and friends. You may also have noticed several ads and public relations articles highlighting new and exciting initiatives at the University.

Over the next several months, this new team will build on this process, by developing new alumni relations strategies that will enable us to better communicate and keep in touch with you. Through *Connections* and occasional special mailings, we will provide you with more information on our exciting programs and projects, as well as events and activities of interest to you. A new website will also be created to facilitate your access to this information on a regular and timely basis.

So keep your eyes and ears open, and do not hesitate to contact us at the above numbers should you require any information or have questions.

We're here for you!

Snapshots

Shannon McSheffrey, professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of History, was awarded the Walter D. Love Prize by the North American Conference on British Studies, for best article in British Studies by a North American scholar. The award is in recognition of her article “Heresy, Orthodoxy, and English Vernacular Religion, 1480-1525,” *Past & Present*, 186 (February 2005): 47-80.

Hugh Hazelton, assistant professor, Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics, won the Governor-General’s Award for English Translation for his translation of *Vetiver*, by Joel Des Rosiers.

Graham Dodds, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, was awarded the Best Paper Award for the 2005 Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Conference for his paper “The Early Judicial Acceptance of Executive Orders.”

Professor **Sherry Simon**, Département d’Études françaises, won the QWF Mavis Gallant Award for Non-Fiction for her book *Translating Montreal: Episodes in the Life of a Divided City* (Quebec Writers’ Federation Book Awards, 2006).

Karen Rooney, a student in the English Department’s Creative Writing Program, published her first book, *Me and My Two Sons* (Price-Patterson).

Hazel Lapalme, an undergraduate student in translation, was awarded the prize for best student of the year from the Bureau de la traduction in Ottawa. The prize is awarded in recognition of the student who has been outstanding during a COOP, Partnership or FSWEF assignment (Federal Student Work Experience Program).

Laszlo Kalman, assistant professor, Department of Physics, won the Petro-Canada Young Innovator Award.

Dr. Peter Shizgal, psychology professor, Centre for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology, was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Vladimir Titorenko, assistant professor, Department of Biology, was a co-applicant on a successful CFI Leading Edge Fund grant for the Facility for Electron Cryo-microscopy and Cryo-electron Tomography, based at McGill University.

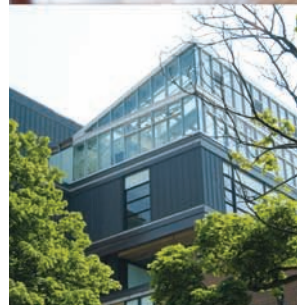
Dr. Marie-France Dion, assistant professor, Department of Theological Studies, published a book, *À l’origine du concept d’élection Divine*, with the publisher Mediaspaul (Paris/Montreal).

Clairneige Motzoi, a graduate student in Psychology supported by the Centre for Research in Human Development, was awarded a prestigious ATHGO (Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities) “ambassador” award and scholarship, which is offered under the auspices of the UN and which includes an all-expenses-paid trip to be part of a delegation at ATHGO *International’s* summit, which will be held at UN European Headquarters in Geneva.

Former PhD student **Brad Kent**, Centre for Canadian Irish Studies, has received an SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship. Brad will be funded for two years to work on a project that examines George Bernard Shaw and his historical experience with censorship. The project will be based at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, where Brad will take up his position in the Department of English in the fall semester.

John Steffler, Scholar in Residence teaching poetry workshops in the English Department’s Creative Writing Program, was appointed Parliamentary Poet Laureate on December 4, 2006.

Angela Vavassis, a master’s student in the Department of Psychology, was awarded a \$1,000 (US) Grant-In-Aid-Of-Research from Sigma Xi, an international honour society of science and engineering. The funds, designated from the National Academy of Sciences, will be used to purchase non-standard lab equipment for her collaborative PhD research on the visual systems of humans (in Dr. Michael von Grünau’s lab - CSLP) and rats (in Dr. David Mumby’s lab - CSBN).



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.

Dean: David Graham
Communications Advisor: Lynn Roy
Layout & Design: Caroline Grainger,
Concordia Marketing Communications
Photographers: Ryan Blau,
PBL Photography
Proofreader: Jane Jackel

Please send comments or story ideas to:
Lynn Roy, Communications Advisor,
lynn.roy@concordia.ca
c/o Faculty of Arts and Science
7141 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite AD 328
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4B 1R6

Thanks to
Heather Adams-Robinette,
Harry Antecol, Linda Bell,
Howard Bokser, Graham Carr,
Derek Linetsky, Jasmine Fortin,
Barbara Harris and Bolivar Nakhasenh.