



# A Message FROM THE DEAN

By Brian Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

When I visited Concordia University's two campuses last spring after being away for 15 years, I was immediately struck by the realization that the university in which I had spent many years teaching and conducting research was no more—at least physically.

The Loyola Campus had been completely revitalized. Gone was my parking space on the west side of the Central Building. In its place? The innovative Richard J. Renaud Science Complex. The Drummond Science Building had been completely transformed into the Communication Studies and Journalism Building and is now home to state-of-the-art sound and recording studios, computer labs and equipment. The Sir George Williams Campus is projecting an extraordinary, expanding footprint in central Montreal and is still undergoing a major transformation with the opening this September of the new John Molson School of Business building.

While the physical changes were immediately apparent to me, at the same time, I was pleased to find that the university's tradition of individual empowerment, discovery and leadership building, and its strong commitment and ties to scholarly and civic communities—both locally and abroad—held strong. These were the values that had originally drawn me to Concordia.

Our students continue to excel and win prestigious awards in the sciences, social sciences and humanities. For instance, Liliame Chamas, a recent Biology and Science College graduate, was selected as one of two Rhodes Scholars from Quebec in 2009. William Tayeebwa, a Communication Studies PhD student, recently received a Trudeau Foundation Scholarship to explore

the role radio broadcast programs play in conflict resolution in the African Great Lakes region. These are remarkable accomplishments.

The Faculty of Arts and Science continues to evolve to meet the needs of our students. As you will read in this issue, the Faculty recently unveiled the School of Canadian Irish Studies and welcomed 13 new faculty members. We also play leading roles in research and human rights. Professors in our Department of Biology, Adrian Tsang and Vincent Martin, also of the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, were awarded more than \$22 million through a competition launched by the Genome Canada Applied Genomics Research in Bioproducts or Crops. This year, Tsang and Martin will use the funds to advance innovative genome research at Concordia. Associate professor Viviane Namaste received the 2009 Canadian Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights for her research into communities invisible in HIV/AIDS prevention and services.

It is an exciting time for the University and the Faculty of Arts and Science. I am delighted and proud to be returning as dean to this fine institution. I look forward to getting to know many of you and working together in the best interest of our university, students and communities of knowledge and practice.



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



# Introducing

## OUR NEW TENURE-TRACK PROFESSORS

The Faculty of Arts and Science is pleased to introduce the 13 tenure-track professors who joined Concordia this summer. These scholars, who boast a wealth of expertise and passion for teaching, met their fellow colleagues at an orientation session in August.



**Andreas Bergdahl**  
**Exercise Science**

Andreas Bergdahl is an assistant professor in the Department of Exercise Science. Bergdahl holds a master's degree in Chemical Engineering with a specialization in Molecular Biology and Protein Chemistry and a PhD in Medical Physiology from Lund University in Lund, Sweden. He pursued a postdoctoral fellowship and taught in the Department of Cell Biology at the August Krogh Institute of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. He received major funding from the Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation and the Swedish Research Council to pursue a post-doctorate in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at McGill University. Bergdahl's research focuses on the involvement of the smooth muscle cell in atherosclerosis that is key in preventing the morbidity and mortality that are related to cardiovascular disease.

Development from Carleton University in Ottawa and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Before joining Concordia, Blanchet-Cohen served as research director at the International Institute for Child Rights and Development in Victoria, where she led national applied research initiatives on building resilient communities through youth engagement. She also taught Child and Youth Care and Education at the University of Victoria. Her research spans a wide range of Canadian and international community and social topics, including children's rights and sustainability, child agency, the creation of child- and youth-friendly cities, engagement of indigenous youth in health, opportunities for social inclusion, the practice and promotion of environmental education, bridge-building across cultures and practices, and developmental approaches to monitoring and evaluation.



**Natasha Blanchet-Cohen**  
**Applied Human Sciences**

Natasha Blanchet-Cohen is an assistant professor in Community Development for the Department of Applied Human Sciences. Blanchet-Cohen holds an MA in Public Policy and Public Administration from Concordia, an MA in International



**James Conklin**  
**Applied Human Sciences**

James Conklin is an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences. He received his PhD from Concordia University's Special Individualized Program in 2009. For the past two years, Conklin had a part-time professional

adjunct appointment in the Department of Applied Human Sciences' MA Program in Human Systems Intervention. His research focused on planned change and knowledge transfer in Canada's health services sector. Conklin is now examining the role of communities of practice and knowledge brokers in facilitating change in frontline settings. Conklin adopts qualitative approaches that allow research participants to confront divergent conceptions of the same social reality. Since 2004, he has been an evaluator for Ontario's Seniors Health Research Transfer Network. For several years, he has facilitated a collaborative, capacity-building process for a team of aphasia (a disorder that results from damage to portions of the brain that are responsible for language) researchers from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia. Conklin has published several peer-reviewed articles in social science journals and participated in symposia in Canada, the United States and Europe. He is a fellow of the Society for Technical Communication and an active member of the Canadian Evaluation Society and the Academy of Management.



**Tagny Duff**  
**Communication Studies**

Tagny Duff is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies. Duff holds a BFA in Intermedia Studies from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver, B.C., and an MFA in Studio Arts from Concordia University. She is now pursuing a

PhD in Humanities—with a specialization in Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture—at Concordia, and is supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council scholarship. Duff recently earned a doctoral field scholarship from Quebec's Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture for her research at SymbioticA, the Centre for Excellence in Biological Arts, at the University of Western Australia in Perth. Her recent project called "Cryobook Archives" was funded by the Canada Council for the Arts. Duff specializes in intermedia art production and research-creation practices with a focus on visual media and culture.



**Gavin Foster**  
**School of Canadian Irish Studies**

Gavin Foster is an Irish historian in Concordia's new School of Canadian Irish Studies. Foster holds a BA from San Francisco State University in California and an MA from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. In June, he defended his PhD thesis, entitled "The Social

Structures and Cultural Politics of the Irish Civil War," at Notre Dame. The thesis examines the overlooked, social and cultural dimensions of the bitter conflict waged by rival nationalists on the eve of Irish independence. Last spring, Foster taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago as part of a pre-doctoral fellowship from Notre Dame's Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning. He wrote articles that appeared in the journals *History Ireland* and *Field Day Review* and in the newest issue of *Saothar*, the annual journal of the Irish Labour History Society. Foster's other research interests include nationalism, the history of memory, labour history and migration studies.



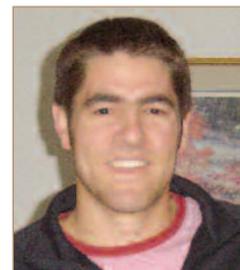
**Dylan Fraser**  
**Biology**

Dylan Fraser is an assistant professor of Conservation Biology in the Department of Biology. Fraser holds a BSc in Fisheries Biology from the University of Guelph

in Ontario and a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the Université Laval in Quebec City. He recently completed a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship in Quantitative Genetics and Conservation at Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S. His research focuses on integrating results from ecological, evolutionary and genetic studies into more effective biodiversity conservation, fish and wildlife management and more environmentally sustainable aquaculture. Fraser taught Ecology and Conservation courses at Dalhousie University. He is a member of the Freshwater Fishes Specialist Subcommittee of the Committee on the Status of



Endangered Wildlife in Canada, an independent advisory organization that evaluates the conservation status of species across Canada. Fraser says he's excited about the prospect of introducing Concordia students to vertebrate biology, a course that will be introduced in 2010.



**David Fuller  
Economics**

David Fuller is an assistant professor in the Department of Economics. Fuller holds a BS in Economics and a BS in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and a PhD in Economics from the University of Iowa in Ames. His research includes macro-economics, dynamic contract theory

and applications and labour economics. Before joining Concordia, Fuller was a visiting assistant professor of Economics at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Penn.



**Peter Gossage  
History**

Peter Gossage is a professor in the Department of History. Gossage, a native Montrealer, completed his graduate work in Quebec history at McGill University and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Since 1993, he was a faculty member of the Université de Sherbrooke. Gossage is

a Quebec social historian who examines family, gender and domestic life from the 1840s to the 1960s. His current projects include a monograph on remarriages and stepfamilies and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded exploration of Quebec fathers in the decades before Quebec's Quiet Revolution in the early 1960s. Gossage, a past editor of the *Canadian Historical Review*, held visiting fellowships at the University of Victoria in British Columbia and University of California, Berkeley. He also serves as co-director of the prize-winning, educational website called Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History ([canadianmysteries.ca](http://canadianmysteries.ca)). In 2007, he co-authored *La Fécondité des Québécoises*,



*1870-1970: D'une exception à l'autre (Boréal)* with Diane Gervais and Danielle Gauvreau, a Concordia Sociology and Anthropology professor.



**Nadia Hardy  
Mathematics and  
Statistics**

Nadia Hardy is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Hardy earned a BSc in 2003 from the University

of Buenos Aires in Argentina, an MSc in 2005 from McGill University and a PhD in 2009 from Concordia. Since 1998, she has taught Mathematics at the college level in Argentina and later in Quebec. While at Concordia, she will teach Mathematics and Mathematics Education courses in the Master in Teaching Mathematics program. Hardy's research deals with identifying the mechanisms—and their origins—that regulate teaching and learning practices within institutions and understanding how they influence the development of students' mathematical thought processes. She also works to characterize the norms, rules and strategies that govern instructors' and students' mathematical activities in classrooms, examinations, tutorial centres and other educational settings.



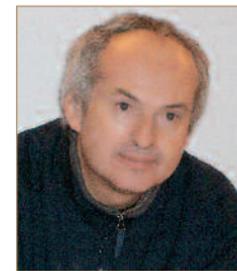
**Sara Kennedy  
Education**

Sara Kennedy is an assistant professor in the Department of Education's Applied Linguistics program. Kennedy holds a PhD in Second Language Education from McGill University. Her research focuses on the intelligibility of second-language speaking abilities,

especially on how to teach and evaluate intelligibility. Kennedy also conducts research into the role of language experience in the development of second-language speaking abilities. She has taught several undergraduate and graduate



courses in Applied Linguistics at McGill University and Concordia and has extensive experience in teaching English as a second and foreign language in Quebec, Ontario, South Korea and Azerbaijan.



**Josip Novakovich  
English**

Josip Novakovich is a professor in the Department of English. When Novakovich was 20, he moved to the United States from his native Croatia. He holds a BA from Vassar College in Boston, Mass., a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University in New Haven, Conn., and an MA in English

and Creative Writing from the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y., and, most recently, Penn State University in Philadelphia. Novakovich's areas of expertise include fiction and nonfiction writing, writing in English as a second language and the recent history of the former Yugoslavia. His novel, *April Fool's Day* (HarperCollins Canada), was published in 10 languages. Novakovich has also published three story collections (*Infidelities: Stories of War and Lust, Yolk and Salvation* and *Other Disasters*), two collections of narrative essays and two books of practical criticism. His book entitled *Fiction Writer's Workshop* is a resource in several writing programs. Novakovich's work was anthologized in *Best American Poetry*, the Pushcart Prize collection and *O. Henry Prize Stories*. He has earned the Whiting Writer's Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the Ingram Merrill Award and an American Book Award. Novakovich has also served as a writing fellow at the New York Public Library, as well as at the Black Mountain Institute in Las Vegas, Nev.

**Roisin O'Connor  
Psychology**

Roisin O'Connor is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. O'Connor holds a BSc from the University of Toronto, an MA in Experimental Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at



Buffalo. Having been awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, O'Connor was able to pursue her research both at the University of Washington in Seattle and Dalhousie

University in Halifax, N.S. She has taught undergraduate Statistics courses at SUNY at Buffalo and a graduate-level course in addictions at Dalhousie. O'Connor's overarching research in substance-use etiology (the study of causation) examines the paths to alcohol abuse from adolescence to early adulthood. O'Connor's work, which focuses on mechanisms, is rooted in cognitive and personality theories.



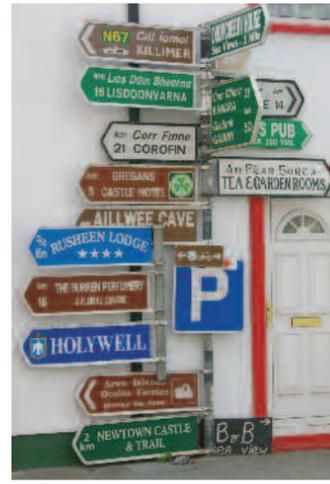
**Geneviève Rail  
Simone de Beauvoir Institute**

Geneviève Rail is principal of and a professor at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Rail trained as a sociologist. She earned her PhD in 1990 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she was supervised by critical and qualitative research specialist Norman Denzin.

From 1991 to 2009, Rail taught courses in Women's Health and the Sociology of Physical Activity and Health at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Health Sciences, where she also served as vice-dean of research for three years. At Concordia, she will carry out her administrative duties in addition to teaching and conducting research into women's health issues. Rail is well known as a feminist critic of body-related institutions, such as health industries and systems, media and sports. She has adopted feminist poststructuralist, postcolonial and queer approaches. Rail has authored more than 70 articles and book chapters and has been a keynote speaker at more than 40 national and international conferences. She recently received major grants for projects on women from various socio-cultural backgrounds and their health practices.



Above: Michael Kenneally (right) with recent graduate Kristin Tedd, MA (English lit.) 09. Right: Various images depicting Ireland and its cultural landscape.



## CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES thriving AT CONCORDIA

BY MICHAEL KENNEALLY, INTERIM PRINCIPAL, SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES, RESEARCH CHAIR IN CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES

Why might someone be interested in Irish Studies other than the obvious motive of having a general curiosity about Ireland?

One reason might be that Ireland's unique past makes it a rich, interdisciplinary area of study for numerous, overlapping academic subjects. These include colonialism, cultural nationalism and linguistic preservation, women's studies, dual religious and linguistic traditions, famine and emigration, violent rebellion and the struggle for national independence, and sectarian violence and reconciliation.

Another reason might be Ireland's lively culture. The country has vibrant, creative traditions in music, dance, song, folklore, literature, film, art and popular culture. It's hardly surprising that names that include Bono, Enya, Michael Flatley, Maev Binchy, Colin Farrell, Seamus Heaney, Sinéad O'Connor, James Joyce, Edna O'Brien, Samuel Beckett, Frank McCourt and Eavan Boland, among many others, are recognized around the world.

And Canadians would certainly be interested in learning that Irish immigrants and people of Irish heritage have played—and continue to play—a central role in Canada's political, business and cultural life. A list of notable Irish Canadians includes D'Arcy McGee, Timothy Eaton, Émile Nelligan, Louis St. Laurent, Georges Vanier, Paul Martin, Brian Mulroney, Jane Urquhart, Bob Gainey, Jean Charest and Brendan Shanahan.

That's why I'm proud to be interim principal of Concordia's new School of Canadian Irish Studies. The School is the only academic department at a Canadian university that focuses exclusively on the study of Ireland and the Irish experience in Canada. During the academic year, the School of Canadian Irish Studies offers 18 courses in subjects such as Literature, History, Music, Film, Theatre, Language, Popular Culture, Women's Studies, Religion, Anthropology, Economics and Political Science.

Students can take Canadian Irish Studies as a minor or

stand-alone certificate and there are more than 20 scholarships available annually. Among last year's scholarship recipients were undergraduate students Cameron Fenton and Natasha Forgues. Cameron is in Anthropology and Canadian Irish Studies and hopes to pursue postgraduate studies in Environmental and Social Justice Law. Natasha is studying Linguistics with a Minor in Canadian Irish Studies. Last summer, she worked in Ireland and developed an interest in learning more about its history and culture. She would now like to return to Ireland for field study.

In keeping with its interdisciplinary focus and international outreach, the School of Canadian Irish Studies organizes literary readings by well-known Irish writers and lectures by distinguished academics from Ireland and elsewhere. This year, the school will welcome two permanent faculty members: Gavin Foster, who will teach Irish History; and Gearoid Ó hAllmhuráin, the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies, who will teach courses on Irish and Quebec ethnomusicology. This fall, the school will also welcome three visiting scholars who will teach special courses in their areas of expertise: Maurice Bric will offer a course on 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish History; Feargal Ó Béarra, an Irish language specialist, will teach a course on Ireland's differing linguistic identities; and a course by Clíona De Brí, a specialist in Irish language theatre, will focus on Ireland's Gaelic language and traditions of poetry, song, theatre, folklore and music.

Becoming involved in Canadian Irish Studies might change your understanding of yourself; it certainly will transform your view of the world. ■

For more information about the School of Canadian Irish Studies or the wider, dynamic cultural events organized by Montreal's vibrant Irish community, contact Kester Dyer at 514-848-2424, ext. 8711, or [cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca).

The Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics' **Adrian Tsang**, professor of Biology, and **Vincent Martin**, Canada Research Chair and associate professor of Biology, have been awarded more than \$22 million to advance innovative genome research at Concordia. This investment stems from the Genome Canada Applied Genomics Research in Bioproducts or Crops competition that was launched in 2008. The funding will include major contributions from Genome Canada and Génome Québec. Tsang leads the project called "Genozymes for Bioproducts and Bioprocesses Development." Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry **Justin Powlowski**, Assistant Professor of Journalism **David Secko** and Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering **Gregory Butler** are the project's co-investigators. Martin co-leads the project called "Synthetic Biosystems for the Production of High-Value Plant Metabolites." Professor of Biology **Reginald Storms** is a co-investigator on the project.

**Paloma Friedman**, GrDip (journalism) 09, recently captured the 2009 EU-Canada Young Journalist Award. Friedman won as a result of her article "The New Righteous," which is about Austrian youth who serve in a Holocaust remembrance program. She and two other winners were invited to take part in a one-week, European study tour that includes a visit to the European Union institutions in Brussels, Belgium.

**Erin Despard**, a PhD in Communication Studies candidate, recently won the prestigious Van Horne Prize for her paper called "Crime Prevention and the Urban Landscape: Questions for Environmental Communication" from the Canadian Communication Association. Despard received the award in May at the Association's national conference at Carleton University in Ottawa. She is supervised by Peter Van Wyck, an associate professor of Communication Studies.

**Damon Matthews**, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, has found a direct relationship between carbon dioxide emissions and global warming. Matthews, together with colleagues from Victoria, B.C., and the United Kingdom, applied a combination of global climate models and historical climate data to show that there is a simple, linear relationship between total cumulative emissions and global temperature change. These findings were published in *Nature* magazine's June edition.

Simone de Beauvoir Institute associate professor **Viviane Namaste** received the 2009 Canadian Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. The annual awards, which have been handed out since 2002 by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and Human Rights Watch, recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that protect the rights and dignity of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Andrea Gondos**, a PhD in Religion candidate, was accepted into the prestigious Harvard Early Modern Workshop in August. Gondos received a graduate-student fellowship from Harvard to attend the workshop called "Reading across Cultures: The Jewish Book and Its Readers in the Early Modern Period," which was held at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies in Boston, Mass.

**Sima Aprahamian**, a part-time instructor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, was honoured in April at International Women's Day celebrations organized by the Montreal and Laval chapters of the Armenian Relief Society. Aprahamian was recognized for her academic achievements, which include more than 20 years of teaching and service at Concordia, gender-related and innovative research and publications, and tireless efforts on behalf of Montreal's Armenian community.

# Snapshots

CONTINUED

**Simon Bacon**, assistant professor of Exercise Science and **Jennifer McGrath** and **Andrew Ryder**, assistant professors of Psychology, recently earned Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Awards. Bacon received his award for his research into the effects of aerobic exercise on asthma morbidity. McGrath won for her project called “Sleep and Obesity in Children and Adolescents: Identifying Pathogenic Pathways,” and Ryder for his project titled “Somatic and Psychological Symptom Focus in Asian-Canadians: The Role of Cultural and Individual Differences in the Psychopathology, Assessment, and Treatment of Depression.”

Three graduates from the MA in Creative Writing program were nominated for this year’s Gerald Lampert Memorial Award for the best, first book of poetry published in the previous year: **Katia Grubisic**, MA 06, for *What if red ran out* (Goose Lane Editions); **Sachiko Murakami**, MA 06, for *The Invisibility Exhibit* (Talonbooks); and **Johanna Skibsrud**, MA 05, for *Late Night With Wild Cowboys* (Gaspereau Press).

**Leslie Regan Shade**, associate professor of Communication Studies, edited the third edition of *Mediascapes: New Patterns in Canadian Communication* (Nelson Canada), which was designed as an undergraduate textbook. It includes contributions by associate professors **Yasmin Jiwani**, **Lorna Roth** and **Kim Sawchuk**, all with the Department of Communications Studies, as well as **Amin Alhassan**, PhD (comm. studies) 03, **Sheryl Hamilton**, PhD (comm. studies) 00, **Judith Nicholson**, BA (comm. studies & journ.) 94, MA (media studies) 00, PhD (comm. studies) 08, **Michael Lithgow**, MA (media studies) 07, and **Ezra Winton**, BA (comm. studies & poli. sci.) 05, MA (media

studies) 07. Communication Studies PhD candidate **Mél Hogan**, GrDip 05, MA (media studies) 07, designed the book’s cover.

**Shaman Hatley**, assistant professor of Religion, earned a 2009-2010 research grant for his project called “Goddesses, Women, and Ritual: the Cult of Yoginis in Early Medieval India” from the Québec Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs program.

**Ross Perigoe**, associate professor of Journalism, won the 2009 Michael Monty Memorial Award from the Radio Television News Directors Foundation (Canada), which is presented to a broadcast educator nominated by students for special recognition. Journalism lecturer Peter Downie won the award in 2007.

**Norma Joseph**, associate professor of Religion, presented “From Baghdad to Montreal: Food, Gender and Ethnic Identity” in June at the Bet Debora Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria. Joseph will also present at the American Academy of Religion Conference in November in Montreal.

**Panagiotis Vasilopoulos**, professor of Physics, recently published two articles in the *Physical Review* journal. The articles are entitled “Tunneling, conductance, and wavevector filtering through magnetic barriers in bilayer graphene,” which was co-authored by M. Ramezani Masir and F. M. Peeters; and “Landau levels in graphene bilayer quantum dots,” which was co-authored by J. M. Pereira Jr., F. M. Peeters, R. N. Costa Filho and G. A. Farias. Vasilopoulos also served as a program committee member for the prestigious international conference on Electronic Properties of Two-dimensional Systems that was held in July in Kobe, Japan.



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