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# A Message

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

By Dr. Graham Carr

The Faculty of Arts and Science is home to nearly 20 research centres whose interests span topics from high-speed computing to human development. These centres play a key synergistic role in the life of the Faculty, the University and external communities. Their mission

is to foster collaborative research and facilitate the creation of strong networks that bring together scholars from different departments and disciplines around common themes and topics of inquiry that ultimately serve the interests of the public at large.

Many of these research centres house unique infrastructure platforms. Their space and equipment enable researchers to carry out highly specialized work and also provide singular opportunities for graduate and postdoctoral training. For example, the *Centre for Research on Molecular Modeling* is part of a national high-speed computing network funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The *Centre for Biological Applications of Mass Spectrometry* is the most comprehensive academic mass spectrometry centre in Canada and provides students with hands-on training in the applications of mass spectrometry to biological chemistry. Similarly, the *Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling* and the *Centre for Ethnographic Research on Exhibition after Genocide* draw on funding from CFI and the Canada Research Chairs program to host Canada's most advanced platforms for oral history and ethnographic research. For its part, the *Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics*, which was originally created with CFI funding, houses 19 laboratories specifically designed for microscopy, proteomics, robotics, liquid handling, cell culturing and bioinformatics.

Some centres in Arts and Science house unique research collections. The *Concordia Centre for Broadcasting Studies* holds an outstanding archive of CBC radio drama scripts, while the *Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy* houses the personal papers of one of the 20th century's most influential political economists. Our Faculty is also home to a number of high-profile centres that are strongly supported by endowment funding. The *Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies*, the *Centre for Canadian Irish Studies* and the *Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies* all play an important role in seeding new research activity and hosting high-profile research-related conferences and events. This is also true of the newly created *Concordia Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture*, which is sponsored jointly by Arts and Science and the Faculty of Fine Arts.

Arguably, the best-known research centres housed in Arts and Science are supported by external funding from Quebec's major granting agencies. The *Centre for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology* is the only research centre located in a non-medical faculty that is funded by the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec. The *Centre for Research in Human Development* and the *Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance* are centres of excellence funded by the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture. By definition, these provincially funded centres occupy unique research niches in Quebec and enhance Concordia's external visibility by connecting our researchers and students to colleagues elsewhere in the province and internationally.

The research centres that are located in the Faculty of Arts and Science play a pivotal role in advancing our Faculty's mission to support leading-edge research and graduate education. The research centres bring enormous recognition to our Faculty by forging strong partnerships between Concordia, other universities, institutions, community organizations and the public at large. Most importantly, our research centres play a crucial role in enhancing quality of life and maintaining the University's tradition of service to the community.

# The Centre for Research in Human Development



Life transitions are often filled with wonder and excitement. First steps, first words, the first day of school, moving to a new city, marriage and having children can be life-changing moments in one's lifetime. While these changes allow us to grow and flourish as individuals, they can also present challenges that can leave us feeling overwhelmed, anxious or even troubled.

Established in 1981, the Centre for Research in Human Development (CRDH) examines some of the most crucial and costly social and health challenges facing our society, namely the acquisition and maintenance of competencies that enable people to cope with stressful developmental transitions throughout the life course. Housed in the Department of Psychology, the Centre also includes faculty from Concordia's departments of Education, Exercise Science, Political Science and Decision Sciences. Renowned for their distinctive transdisciplinary approach and innovative methodologies, the research programs at CRDH focus on four major life-course axes: the acquisition in infancy and early childhood of basic skills for entering the social world; social, emotional and cognitive development during the school-age years and adolescence; parenting and the transition to family life; and healthy aging.

Funded by Le Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture (FQRSC), CRDH brings together researchers from five Quebec universities as well as the United States and Europe. The Centre has key partnerships with area hospitals and clinics. Over the

years, CRDH researchers have conducted major longitudinal studies on parent-child relationships, aggression in youth, goal adaptation in mid-life, and coping with regret during aging.

In keeping with the University's tradition of community involvement, members of the Centre are active participants in the community, ensuring the dissemination of knowledge and information that can help to empower individuals to thrive throughout various life stages. On October 29, Dr. William Bukowski, Director of the CRDH, participated in a Café Scientifique-style open discussion. More than 50 individuals participated in this first "public conversation" co-organized by the University of the Streets Café and the Office of Research. Dr. Bukowski discussed his research on how peer relations contribute to the emotional and social development of adolescents. The CIHR Café Scientifique program, sponsored by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), is intended to "provide insight into health-related issues of popular interest to the general public, and in turn provoke questions and provide answers."

Widely recognized as one of Canada's leading centres of research excellence in the area of human development across the life course, CRDH is at the forefront of Concordia's impressive contribution to the advancement of health knowledge through effective partnerships and innovative research. The impact of research into human lifespan development that is being done at Concordia will ultimately improve the quality of life of all Canadians.

# 2008 Dean's Awards

## FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY FACULTY AND STAFF

On October 30, 2008, the Office of the Dean hosted a ceremony and reception to recognize and honour the recipients of the **2007-2008 Dean's Awards for Outstanding Achievement by Faculty and Staff**. The 11 outstanding individuals (listed below) were honoured for their contribution to the University, the Faculty, their colleagues and our students.



Back row left to right: Dr. Mebs Kanji, Political Science; Dr. Michael Sacher, Biology; Dr. Sean Gurd, Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics; Dr. Raymond Le Van Mao, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Dr. Ian Ferguson, Biology; Dr. Paul Joyce, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Dr. J. A. Miller, English; and Professor Joanne Locke, Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science. Front row: Dr. Anna-Beth Doyle, Psychology; Dr. June Chaikelson, Psychology; and Ms. Miriam Posner, Chemistry and Biochemistry.

### Distinguished Scholarship

Dr. Anna-Beth Doyle, *Psychology*  
Dr. Raymond Le Van Mao, *Chemistry and Biochemistry*

### Exceptional Service to the Faculty

Ms. Miriam Posner, *Chemistry and Biochemistry*

### New Scholar

Dr. Sean Gurd, *Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics*  
Dr. Steven High, *History*  
Dr. Mebs Kanji, *Political Science*  
Dr. Michael Sacher, *Biology*

### Outstanding Academic Service

Dr. June Chaikelson, *Psychology*

### Teaching Excellence

Dr. Ian Ferguson, *Biology*  
Dr. Paul Joyce, *Chemistry and Biochemistry*  
Dr. J. A. Miller, *English*



## Congratulations to the 2007/08 Arts and Science Scholars

Pictured above, left:

Provost Graham, Sheila Anderson, Elodie Friedrich, W. Bernadette Wanner, Professor Joanne Locke, Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science and Dr. Lisa Ostiguy, Chair, Department of Applied Human Sciences;  
right: Liliane Chamas, Lee Deckelbaum, Dan Xu, Professor Joanne Locke, Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science and Dr. James Grant, Chair, Department of Biology

More than 300 people filled the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall on November 22, 2008, to recognize and honour the 2007-08 Arts and Science Scholars.

Faculty of Arts and Science Scholars are those students who have earned the highest grade point averages in our programs during the 2007-08 academic year. These Scholars are the top 1% of a remarkable group of approximately 1,300 students who are on the 2007-08 Dean's List for having achieved a grade point average of 3.75 or higher.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

# Snapshots

Congratulations to Concordia University students **Sarah Quinn** (Liberal Arts College) and **Sébastien Rist** (Communication Studies), who were presented with the 2008 Norman McLaren Prize for best film at the 39th Canadian Student Film Festival for their fiction film *This Little Piggy*. "The Canadian Student Film Festival is part of the 2008 World Film Festival, and *This Little Piggy* was selected by a jury that included Ravida Din (NFB), Francine Brücher (Swiss Films) and Pierre Jutras (Cinémathèque québécoise)" (National Film Board of Canada press release, August 28, 2008).

Congratulations to **Dr. Jason Camlot**, Chair of the Department of English, who published two books this year, a collection of poems entitled *The Debaucher* (Insomniac Press) and a scholarly monograph, *Style and the Nineteenth-Century British Critic* (Ashgate).

**Wael Chanab** and **Daniel Grozdanov**, both students with the Department of Physics, participated in the "Rising Stars of Research" conference, which was held in Vancouver, B.C., in August. Mr. Grozdanov presented a poster titled "Spectral hole burning and low-temperature protein dynamics: photoproduct shape and comparison with single molecule spectroscopy." Mr. Chanab's poster presentation was titled "Study of membrane leakage in unilamellar liposomes by fluorescence spectroscopy."

Congratulations to **Dr. Adrian Iovita**, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who was awarded the 2008 Ribenboim Prize in Number Theory by the Canadian Number Theory Association (CNTA). The prize is given every two to four years for distinguished research in number theory by a mathematician who is Canadian or has connections to Canadian mathematics.

**Alexander Goldberg**, a student in Dr. Vladimir Titorenko's (Biology) lab, received a Special Recognition Award from the Institute of Aging of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The award recognizes the highest ranking candidate in the field of aging in the CIHR Research Personnel Awards competitions. As an award winner, Alexander was invited to be on the Adjudication Committee of the Student Poster Competition at the Canadian Association on Gerontology Annual Meeting that took place in London, Ontario, on October 23-26.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Richard DeMont, CAT(C) thesis supervisor, Dr. Richard Courtemanche, Graduate Program Director, Gabriela Abbud, MSc, and Dr. Robert Kilgour, Chair, Department of Exercise Science.

**Louis Patrick Leroux** (English and Études françaises) staged a laboratory production of a multimedia theatre piece, *Dialogues fantastiques pour causeurs éperdus*, as part of his artist residency at Matralab, the research-creation centre affiliated with the CRC in Inter-X Arts. The production, a collaboration including professional actors and faculty and students from Music, Film, Theatre, English and Études françaises, was staged in various Matralab and Hexagram spaces in Concordia's EV building in May.

Congratulations to **Dr. Richard DeMont**, Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science, who was recently named "Most Outstanding Alumni" by the Indiana State Athletic Training/Therapy program at the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) conference in St. Louis in June 2008.

**Dr. Damon Matthews**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, was awarded research funding from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS) to support groundbreaking research that will advance Canada's science and technology objectives while helping prepare for the impacts of climate change. Dr. Matthews studies the role of Canada's forests today and into the future, when their capacity to absorb carbon, a greenhouse gas, will need to be better understood. His research will improve the way Canada plans for and adapts to the impacts of climate change.

Two faculty members from Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). Études françaises professor **Sherry Simon** has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada, Academy of Humanities. Psychology professor and Concordia University Research Chair **Shimon Amir** has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada, Academy of Science.

On September 27, 2008, a conference was held in the History Department to celebrate the Concordia career of recent retiree **John Hill**, who inspired many students over several decades with his teaching of the history of India, Pakistan, Vietnam and China.

Congratulations to **Gabriela Abbud**, MSc, for being the first student to obtain an MSc from the Department of Exercise Science.

Congratulations to **Dr. Ivana Djordjevic**, Liberal Arts College, who co-edited *Sir Bevis of Hampton*, which was recently published by Boydell & Brewer (August 21, 2008).

**Dr. Vladimir Titorenko's** (Biology) research on aging has been chosen by the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Public Information Committee for inclusion in "Cell Biology 2008," a press book for science journalists covering the 48th ASCB Annual Meeting, which will take place in San Francisco in December 2008. The abstract describing the research, "A Mechanism Linking Lipid Dynamics and Longevity," was chosen from more than 1,200 submitted for the 48th ASCB Annual Meeting abstracts as one of this year's "Novel & Newsworthy Top Picks."



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