



Studia Theologica

The newsletter of the Theological Studies Department
Concordia University

Volume 1

theology.concordia.ca/studia-theologica
Dr. Lucian Turcescu, Editor

November 2005

the Department.

From the Chair



It is a pleasure to greet students, faculty and alumni of the Department on the occasion of the launching of the Newsletter for Theological Studies.

This first edition marks a time of new beginnings for the Department.

By the Winter semester we will join the rest of the Humanities on the Sir George Williams Campus. **Our new location will be 2140 Bishop Street** between De Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke Streets. The move is set for mid February, as the sorting and packing of decades of material will begin in earnest this December. We look forward to settling in the renewed office space but there is more than a tinge of sadness as we prepare to leave the Loyola Campus. However, the Loyola tradition will still be very much alive in our new home. Rooms have been secured for the Lonergan Archives and the seminar room for the Lonergan Centre for Ethical Studies.

New beginnings depend upon the dedication to excellence of the faculty. This Newsletter will introduce three full time hires who have joined us since 2004 (**Dr. Lorenzo DiTommaso, Dr. Marie-France Dion, and Dr. Lucian Turcescu**). Their presence, their energy and their specialized talents in teaching and research are already being felt throughout

Finally new beginnings are ultimately about the student community. We hope that you will quickly find your way to Bishop Street-Majors, Minors in Theology, Pastoral Ministry of certificate programme together with all our MA students. We hope not only present students but also our alumni will drop in to the new location.

Best wishes to all for a successful end of term,

Dr. Pamela Bright
Chair, Department of Theological Studies



Dr. Bright presented Christopher Snook with an Egyptian icon of St. Antony of Egypt after his successful defense of an MA thesis entitled “‘Beloved, know yourselves’: Theology and Scripture in Antony’s *Life*, Letters, and *Sayings*” on 16 September 2005.

Students looking for grants...

Graduate and undergraduate students alike will want to know that Dr. Lorenzo DiTommaso has assumed responsibility for gathering, organizing, and disseminating information regarding funding and grants. He is a past winner of many research awards, and currently holds a 2005-2008 SSHRC Research Grant.

In his words: "I intend to establish a system whereby incoming and continuing students have immediate access to the full range of funding opportunities. On the most basic level, this means an easy familiarity with all the important information regarding the standard federal and provincial grants. Not only will such information be made available, but faculty members periodically will hold workshops for graduate students. I want our students not just to learn about grants and fellowships, but to apply and expect to be awarded them, year after year. This process does not come to fruition overnight, but it starts now."

Dr. DiTommaso expects that the system will be in place by the late summer 2006, and reminds all students that deadlines for most applications occur in the fall semester. He is always available through e-mail at: L.DiTommaso@concordia.ca



Students and faculty at an information session for Theology undergraduates organized by the Undergraduate Student Director, Dr. Paul Allen on 13 September 2005. The session was followed by a reception.

An Interview with Dr. Lorenzo DiTommaso

What would you like our students to know about your teaching and research?

My areas of specialty are the later books of Hebrew Bible and the literature of early Judaism and early Christianity. My specific areas of research and teaching are the ancient and mediaeval apocalyptic literature, the prophetic books, ancient and mediaeval biblical apocrypha (esp. the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha), the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the prognostic-scientific texts. I am particularly interested in theologies of history.

Do you plan to teach anything exciting soon?

My teaching schedule for 2006-2007 includes a new, 300-level course on the Dead Sea Scrolls. I am tremendously excited about this course. Beyond the fact that they are so interesting to read, the Dead Sea Scrolls inform our understanding of early Judaism and Christianity in so many ways. For example, they have shed new light on the nature of Second-Temple Jewish literature and on the formation of the Hebrew Bible. They also have contributed greatly to our appreciation of the eschatological expectations of the period (*i.e.*, what people thought would happen at the end of time) and the ways in which older traditions were received and reworked.

What have you published recently?

Several of my books and articles were published over the past year, including *The Book of Daniel and the Apocryphal Daniel Literature* (Leiden: Brill, 2005), *The Dead Sea New Jerusalem Text: Contents and Contexts* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005), "4Q Pseudo-Daniel a-b (4Q243-244) and the Book of Daniel," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 12 (2005), 101-133, and "Greek, Latin, and Hebrew Manuscripts of the *Somniale Danielis* and the

Lunationes Danielis in the Vatican Library,” *Manuscripta* 47/48 (2003-2004), 1-42. I have a handful of articles in press which should appear in print in 2006 [more on some of these books in the section on New Books by our Faculty]

Any projects for the future?

My writing schedule over the next eight months includes an invited review-essay for *Currents in Biblical Research* on “Apocalypses and Apocalyptic Literature in Antiquity,” plus contributions to *The Lost Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings outside Scripture* (ed. L. Feldman, J. Kugel, and L. Schiffman), the *Dictionary of Early Judaism* (ed. J.J. Collins and D. Harlow), *The History of the Jews in Russia* (ed. A. Kulik), and the *New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* (gen. ed. K. Doob Sakenfeld). I also expect to complete my new book, *The Composition of the Book of Daniel*, and, with C. Böttrich, finish editing a volume of essays, *The Old Testament Apocrypha in the Slavonic Tradition: Continuity and Diversity* (London: T&T Clark).

Where do you travel for your research?

I have conducted many research trips over the past few semesters. In addition to the weeks and week-ends prowling about the libraries at the University of Toronto, I spent a week with the Yale manuscripts in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, another week among the Ambrosian manuscripts of the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame, and last July and August as a Mellon Research Fellow at the Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University.

These trips ultimately serve my major research project, *The Early Mediaeval Apocalyptic Tradition*, for which I have been awarded a 2005-2008 SSHRC Research Grant. I intend to return to Toronto and to Yale, and then fly to Paris for most of the summer, where I will be working at the Bibliotheque nationale de France and other Parisian libraries. ■

From a recent graduate...

Domenic Ruso, graduated with an M.A in Theology in the Spring of 2005, after writing a thesis entitled “Themes in St. Augustine’s understanding of the Church developed within the context of the North African Schism.” He sent us the following note:

In conjunction with my academic pursuits, I have continued to move into significant leadership roles within diverse Christian communities. I have recently taken a post as the head pastor of a campus church (the-embassy.org) ministering to university students in the Kitchener-Waterloo region. On a weekly basis I and fellow ministers conduct services that engage the lives of students and young adults to take their spiritual lives seriously. We are presently seeing an average of 300-400 students come out to be challenged by the message of the Gospel with the responsibility to make a difference in the world, on their campus, and in their lives.

The dialogues that have ensued from my leadership role have challenged me to continue my studies and prepare myself for doctoral work. I have recently been accepted at the University of Waterloo where I am taking courses in the Classics Department, which will enhance my knowledge of the patristic period. I also sit on a chaplaincy committee at Wilfrid Laurier University where exciting dialogue is taking place with members of different faith communities.

With the help of exceptional supervision, my graduate work in Augustinian studies have fueled my passion to continue to be a person who, stretched by present realities, continues to challenge today’s generation to exemplify love, hope and peace within the complex struggles of our world.

Graduate Program Report



**Dr. Christine Jamieson,
Graduate Program
Director**

The Graduate Program in the Department of Theological Studies continues to flourish. Twelve students began the Master's program in September 2006 – Peter Cassidy, Larry Clarke, Barbara Cox, Judith Foster, Ivy Hershon, Dennis Lawrence, Stephen Mahn, Orit Shimoni, Renee Touma, Elie Touma, Richard Wiczorek, and Sabrina Tucci. We welcome these bright and motivated students to our department! We expect that at least two more students will begin the program in January 2006. The Department thus has a total of **44 Master's students** at various stages of their program. Two **doctoral students** are also working under the supervision of faculty in our department.

The Fall 2005 Convocation will be held on December 5 at the Place des Arts. Two Master's Students have completed their program, Francis Howard and Christopher Snook. Both students successfully defended their theses in early September. Francis Howard's thesis is titled *Evolving Worldviews: Theology and the Science of Space*. Christopher Snook's thesis is titled "*Beloved, know yourselves:*" *Theology and Scripture in Antony's Life, Letters and Sayings*. Congratulations to both students and best wishes in the next stage of your lives.

The 2005-2006 P. André Gervais Scholarship in Theological Studies was awarded to John Mark Hammond. Mr. Hammond is currently writing his thesis and will most likely defend in the Winter 2006 and graduate in the Spring 2006 convocation. He plans to pursue doctoral studies in the field of ethics. Congratulations, Mark!

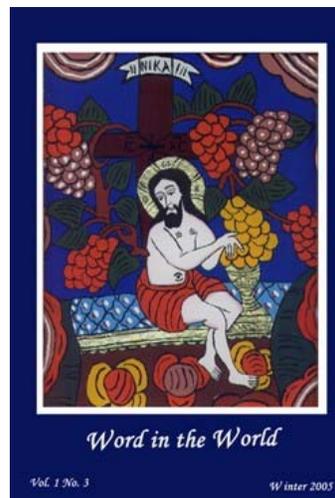
Graduate Courses for the Winter 2006 Semester

There are five graduate courses offered for the Winter semester 2006:

- Theo 604 Seminar in Ecclesiology,
- Theo 629 Apocalypses and Apocalyptic Literature
- Theo 637G Questions in New Testament Research: Biblical Greek
- Theo 651D Theology I: Medieval and Reformation Period
- Theo 655B Theology and Spirituality of the Cappadocians

Check the Department's website for more details. <http://theology.concordia.ca>

Word in the World – a student journal



Word in the World: Graduate Journal of Theological Studies published its third issue titled *Image in the World*. It is a beautifully presented issue featuring articles, poems, and images by very talented students and faculty. The issue

“wrestles with the questions, opportunities and challenges posed to theology and spirituality by the ambiguous nature of “image”, the risk of idolatry, and the irrepressible human impulse to accept the invitation for communion with the divine through art.”

Dr. Marie-France Dion: A Profile



Although I have recently been appointed as an Assistant Professor on a tenure-track position here at Concordia, I have been a lecturer for the Department for a number of years. Meeting students of

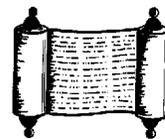
various religious and cultural backgrounds has been an exciting experience for me. I am now thrilled and looking forward to continue working with these students and my colleagues in Department.

My passion is the Hebrew Bible, more specifically the Pentateuch (Torah) and the Deuteronomistic History (the books from Deuteronomy to II Kings inclusively). I focus on the history of the texts and what they convey about ancient Israelite traditions. My Ph.D. dissertation was an investigation into the origins of the concept of divine election of the king within the Israelite traditions. This represents the first phase of a long ranging project whose overall purpose is a research in the origin and development of the “divine election” concept in Israelite faith from pre-monarchic times to the post-exilic period. The originality of this research resided in the use of a fairly new understanding of ancient Hebrew syntax that I employed as a tool to help in assessing what belongs to the oldest literary stratum of a text and what belongs to a later editorial process. I am also working with a team of specialist on a French critical edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

My publications include: «Du projet à la promesse. Critique de la forme de Gen 12 : 1-3», *Studies in Religion*, 34 (2005) 99-113 ; « Les visages de la trahison dans les traités du Proche-Orient ancien », in A. Da Silva and C. St-Germain (eds.), *L'éthique de la parole donnée* (Québec : MNH, 1998) 147-160 ; « Le second temple. Un nouveau départ », *Revue*

Scriptura. Nouvelle Série 1/1 (1998) : 70-81 ; « Esdras ouvrit le livre aux yeux de tout le peuple. Historique de l'identité juive », *Revue Scriptura* 26 (1997): 43-63.

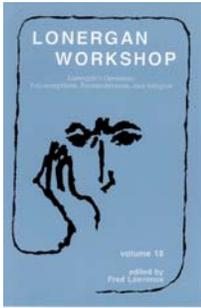
I have also had the opportunity of introducing some exciting new courses specific to Hebrew Bible studies. A course entitled Scriptural Exegesis (Theo 498E) provides students with a comprehensive methodology to analyze biblical texts and prepares them for graduate studies. This year, a graduate course entitled Advanced Biblical Hebrew: Text Linguistics was offered in the fall semester. Some new graduate courses to look forward include Covenants and Promises in the Hebrew Bible and The Controversial Relationship between Samuel and Saul. Finally, I would also like to share my enthusiasm for teaching undergraduate level courses in biblical studies. It is an immense pleasure to introduce students to this exciting field of research. My hope is to continue to share my passion for Scripture for many years to come.



Research and publication news...

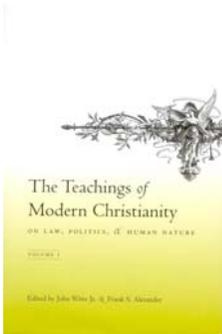
Dr. Paul Allen, *Via Media: Ernan McMullin and Critical Realism in the Science-Theology Dialogue* (Ashgate Pub. Co., In press).

Dr. Marie-France Dion is part of a French Canadian team who is working in collaboration with a European team on a **critical translation of the Dead Sea Scrolls**. The Canadian team focuses on the *Peshers*. Neil Yapp, a graduate student from Concordia, has been hired as one of the research assistants. The project has received funding from SSHRC. She has also submitted in view of publication a manuscript on the emergence of the concept of Divine election of the king in Ancient Israel.



Dr. Christine Jamieson, “To Begin Anew: Reflections on Freedom, Destiny and Ethics in the Work of Bernard Lonergan and Julia Kristeva” in Fred Lawrence, ed., *Lonergan’s Openness: Polymorphism, Postmodernism, and Religion*, in the

Lonergan Workshop Series, vol. 18 (2005): 121-137.



Dr. Lucian Turcescu, “Dumitru Staniloae,” one analytic chapter and one chapter of translations in *The Teachings of Modern Christianity on Law, Politics, and Human Nature*, 2 vols., eds. John Witte, Jr. and Frank Alexander (New

York: Columbia University Press, 2005) 685-711, 537-558.

Dr Lucian Turcescu, A Profile



I came to Concordia as an Associate Professor in the summer of 2005 after having taught at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia for six years and

having been the Chair of the Religious Studies Department there. The possibility to teach in the area of my primary specialization, Historical Theology/Patristics, and the opportunity to work with graduate students has been a major factor in my decision to move here, although I love to teach undergraduates, too. Also, living in Montreal, this beautiful, cosmopolitan and cultural city, was another deciding factor for me and my family.

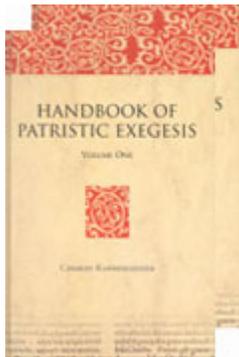
My Ph.D. from the University of Toronto (1999) was in Greek Patristics, with a special attention to the thought of Gregory of Nyssa, a fourth-century theologian. My book on *Gregory of Nyssa and the Concept of Divine Persons* was published by Oxford University Press in 2005 [you can read more on it in the New Books by our Faculty section of this newsletter]. I have also been on the Executive of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies, more recently as its President since 2004. I worked with colleagues on the Executive Board of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion for the promotion of our field of study in Canada.

Another area of my research has been “Religion and Post-communist Democratization in Eastern Europe.” In 2002, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) awarded me and political scientist, Dr. Lavinia Stan, a large research grant (\$110,000) to study the subject. Our project is almost complete and we have signed a contract with Oxford University Press for a book entitled *Religion and Politics in Post-communist Romania* (to be published in 2007).

Since September, I have taught in the area of early Christianity and Patristics. In the Winter 2006 semester, I will offer an undergraduate course on the Origins of Christianity and a graduate course on the Theology and Spirituality of the Cappadocians (a group of fourth theologians, including Gregory of Nyssa, who played a major role in the shaping of early Christian doctrines and spirituality). In 2005-6, I will offer two new courses on Christology, both ancient and modern.

I am very excited about working with Concordia students and colleagues in the Department. I look forward to getting to know as many of our students as possible. Feel free to drop by my office or e-mail me if you want to talk to me. Also, don’t forget to send me items for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.

New books by our faculty

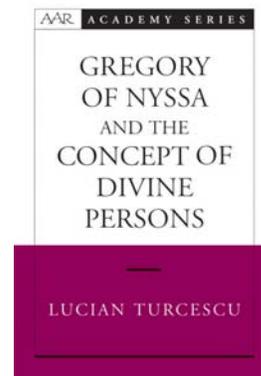


Charles Kannengiesser,
Handbook of Patristic Exegesis: The Bible in Ancient Christianity
(Leiden: Brill, 2004)

Through this *Handbook of Patristic Exegesis*, the reader will obtain a balanced and cohesive picture of the Early Church. It gives an overall view of the reception, transmission, and interpretation of the Bible in the life and thought of the Church during the first five centuries of Christianity, the so-called patristic era. The handbook offers the context and presuppositions necessary for understanding the development of the interpretative traditions of the Early Church, in its catechesis, its liturgy and as a foundation of its systems of theology. The handbook presents a comprehensive overview of the history of patristic exegesis. Apart from a general introduction to the major topics in this field, it contains essays by leading patristic scholars on the most important Church Fathers, such as Augustine, Irenaeus, Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, and others. The essays are supplemented by bibliographies of editions and studies on patristic exegesis published from 1945 until 1995. Together, these bibliographies form the only comprehensive bibliography presently available on this topic.

Dr. Charles Kannengiesser was successor of the late Cardinal Jean Daniélou at the Institut Catholique, Paris, Catherine Huisling Professor of Historical Theology at Notre Dame University, US (1982-92) and Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Since 1992 he has been a Professor at Concordia University. He has published several books and many articles on Athanasius of Alexandria and the Alexandrian tradition. Recently Dr. Kannengiesser went on a **European tour** to the Netherlands and Germany where he was invited to speak about

his book at the universities of Utrecht, Humboldt (Berlin), Halle-Wittenberg, Erlangen, and Bonn. **The *Handbook* has been extremely well received everywhere and will be discussed at the 2006 annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies in Toronto.**



Lucian Turcescu,
Gregory of Nyssa and the Concept of Divine Persons (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)

The concept of personhood is central to a wide range of contemporary issues, ranging from reproductive rights to the death penalty and euthanasia. We may think that the concept of person is a modern development. In fact, however, this idea does not originate with our discovery of human rights, consciousness, and individuality.

In this study Dr. Turcescu shows that the fourth-century theologian Gregory of Nyssa developed a very sophisticated concept of the person in the context of his attempts to clarify the paradox of the Trinity—a single God comprising three distinct persons. Turcescu offers the first in-depth analysis of Gregory's writings about the divine persons. He shows that Gregory understood personhood as characterized by uniqueness, relationality, and freedom. He reasoned that the three persons of the Trinity have distinctive properties that make them individuals, that is, capable of being enumerated and circumscribed. But this idea of individuation, inherited from the neo-Platonists, falls short of expressing a clear notion of personal uniqueness. By itself it would suggest that a person is merely a collection of properties. Gregory's great contribution was to perceive the importance of relationality to personhood. The three divine persons know and love each other, are in

communion with each other, and freely act together in their common will. This understanding, argues Turcescu, adds up to a concept of personal uniqueness much like our modern one. **Dr. Turcescu's book will be discussed at the 2006 annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies in Toronto.** Dr. Turcescu was also very pleased with the **reception** of his book at the recent **annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in Philadelphia.**



Lorenzo DiTommaso, *The Book of Daniel and the Apocryphal Daniel Literature* (Leiden: Brill, 2005)

This volume illuminates the full extent of the corpus of ancient and mediaeval apocryphal

Daniel literature. It is the first study to examine the Daniel legenda, the apocryphal apocalypses, and the prognostica as discrete categories of texts and to evaluate their generic relationship to the biblical Book of Daniel. Special emphases include the identification of the texts and their manuscript evidence as well as the study of late antique and early mediaeval apocalyptic literature attributed to Daniel. This volume will be of particular interest to biblical scholars and to those who specialise in biblical apocrypha and pseudepigrapha.

Lorenzo DiTommaso, *The Dead Sea New Jerusalem Text: Contents and Contexts* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005)

This volume is the first study of the Aramaic Dead Sea New Jerusalem text conducted in light of the complete extent of the preserved manuscript copies and with full reference to previous reconstructions. In addition to presenting an edition of the Cave Four copies (4Q554, 4Q554a, 4Q555), Lorenzo DiTom-

maso discusses the genre of the NJ, the order of its material, and its antecedents and parallels in ancient urban design. He suggests that its New Jerusalem is not a heavenly city and that categories of earthly and heavenly Jerusalems perhaps impose an inappropriate taxonomy on the various ancient Jewish and Christian expressions of the New Jerusalem. The author demonstrates that the NJ shares virtually no points of contact with the Temple Scroll, and that neither text is likely dependent on the other. He also argues that the New Jerusalem of the NJ is neither an eschatological focus of pilgrimage nor a mustering point for the final battle, that the text's eschatological horizon is established by a review of history and anticipates a time when once-hostile nations are humbled, and that it was conceivably composed in the first third of the second century BCE, shortly before the Maccabean revolt.

Upcoming events...

The Reception and Interpretation of Scripture in Late Antiquity: A Workshop

Dr. Lucian Turcescu and Dr. Lorenzo DiTommaso (with help from Dr. Pamela Bright) are organizing a **Workshop entitled "The Reception and Interpretation of Scripture in Late Antiquity"** to be held at Concordia University, Montreal, 11-13 October 2006. They have just applied for funding from SSHRC and will learn about the outcome of their application around 1 March 2006.

A Century with Levinas...

As part of the 2006 international celebration "A Century with Levinas", Prof. Christine Jamieson's students are planning a colloquium "A Day with Levinas". This special event will be held Thursday evening, March 2, and Friday morning and afternoon, March 3, 2006 at the Samuel Bronfman Building, 1590 Dr. Penfield (corner

Cotes-des-Neiges). The event will include student presentations and discussion, presentations by Prof. Jamieson and special guest Bettina Bergo, of University of Montreal, as well as a wine & cheese reception on Thursday evening. The very special event will be a screening of an interview with Emmanuel Levinas on a European television station. Please mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to attend for stimulating discussions and presentations of this most interesting French/Jewish philosopher. For further information, please feel free to contact Dennis Lawrence at: dennis.lawrence@videotron.ca

Interfaith Dialogue Initiatives and Contributions from the Academy: Building Bridges Together...

Symposium 2 of 3 – Education and Religion: Responding to the Conflict

Speaker: Solange Lefebvre (Univ de Montreal)

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Hall Building, room H-110
Sir George Williams Campus

Note: The symposium includes an Interfaith Fair from 12:30 – 3 p.m. on the mezzanine level, Hall Building, organized by the Multi-faith Chaplaincy in cooperation with Concordia student associations.

Symposium 3 of 3 – Interfaith Encounters: Challenging Assumptions about Diversity and Community

Speaker: Gregory Baum

Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Hall Building, room H-110
Sir George Williams Campus

For more info: paulalle@alcor.concordia.ca

“In truth, the heavens have opened up, and we see God’s splendor”



Dr. Pamela Bright and icon painter and MA student in Theology, Adriana Bara, have offered a course entitled **Painting icons: theory and practice (Theo 498 I)**. The course taught students how to paint an

icon, but also addressed theoretical questions such as: How can one understand an icon? How can one discover the elements of theology, aesthetics and technique of painting icons? Just as there are layers of colors in the icon, so there are layers of meanings to be discovered. Below please find some images from the class:



Students preparing the boards



Students painting icons

Picture of the year...



Dr. Christine Jamieson, Dr. Paul Allen, and Dr. Marie-France Dion discuss important issues under the protective gaze of the late theologian Bernard Lonergan.

Studia Theologica is the newsletter of the Theological Studies Department at Concordia University.

Contributions, new information on research and other scholarly activities in theological studies, are always welcome. Please address all correspondence to the Editor:

Dr. Lucian Turcescu
Editor, *Studia Theologica*
Theological Studies Department
Concordia University
7141 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, QC H4B 1R6 Canada
Tel: +1 (514) 848-2424 ext. 2341
Fax: +1 (514) 848-4549
lturcesc@alcor.concordia.ca



*Best wishes for
the upcoming
Holiday Season!*

