

SUMMER 2010

# Concordia

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim  
School of Cinema and its  
professors still "reeling" in  
the accolades after 35 years

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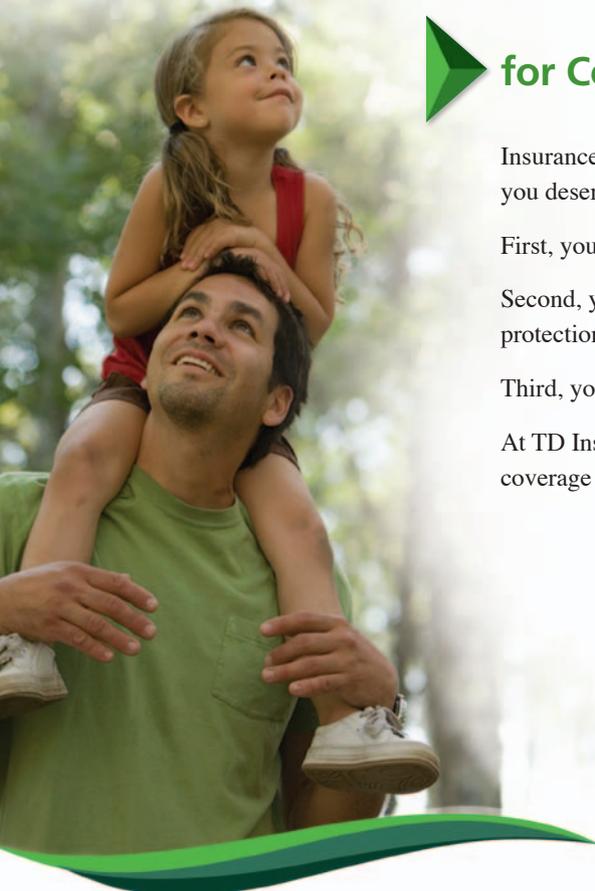
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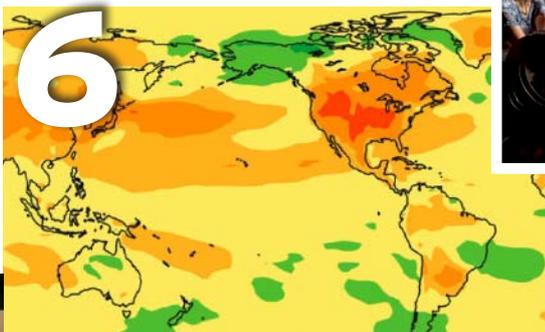
## Insurance

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## Sustaining momentum for environmental research

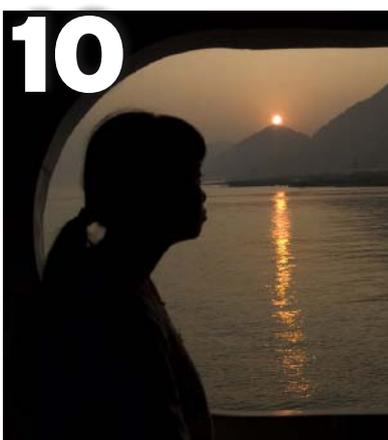
Predicting the future of greenhouse gases and climate change is no small feat, and Damon Matthews, assistant professor in Concordia's Geography, Planning and Environment Department, says the current prognosis is grim.

by Beverly Akerman



**Cover:** Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema professors view a screening in Concordia's J.A. De Sève Cinema (clockwise, from top): Thomas Waugh, head of the Film Studies, Cilia Sawadogo, head of Animation, Roy Cross, head of Film Production, and Marielle Nitoslawska, chair.

**Credit:** Spyros Bourboulis



## Sharpening the focus on the art and study of filmmaking

After 35 years, Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema sticks to the basics by teaching filmmaking the way it began: with 16 millimetre cameras in hand.

by Lucas Wisenthal



## Watching the watchers

Hillel Neuer, BA 93, executive director of UN Watch, keeps a close eye on the United Nations and its Human Rights Council.

By Howard Bokser

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## Faculty Spotlight: Arts and Science

Concordia's Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics gets a new wing on the Loyola Campus while students gain valuable tips at the inaugural Science Career Day.

## Plein cap vers l'avenir au centre-ville

Briser l'insolement d'un campus développé dans l'esprit des années 60; Concordia introduit le nouveau Quartier Concordia.

Par Patrice-Hans Perrier

# Looking ahead by giving back



While I was a student in Concordia's MBA program, I struck many friendships and seized opportunities that I treasure to this day. I fondly remember the outstanding and supportive faculty members, including Management Professor Bakr Ibrahim. With Professor Ibrahim's help, a group of us were able to found the Concordia Small Business Consulting Group. That experience paved the way for my successful consulting career in the United States.

One year after earning my MBA, I moved to Washington, D.C. I eventually became Vice President - IBM Business Consulting Services, responsible for the U.S. federal civilian industry. We recorded revenues of \$500 million annually.

While living in the United States, on a number of occasions, I was impressed by how American universities continued to have an impact on their alumni's lives—many years after graduation.

A few years ago, a Concordia representative contacted me

and asked if I'd be interested in reconnecting with my alma mater. That was a tipping point. I decided to form a D.C.-area alumni chapter that would benefit both Concordia graduates in the region and the university that had given me so much. With tremendous support from Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations Office, we launched the Concordia University Alumni Association Washington, D.C., Chapter in October 2008 with a get-together at the Canadian Embassy. Since then, my incredible Chapter executive team that includes Renato Sogueco, BA 94, Lisa Morgan, BA 89, Zoran Kahric, BEng 97, James Byrnes, BA 97, and Dinesh Mehta, BEng 80, has helped organize events and activities for local alumni to network online or in person.

Through the Washington, D.C., Chapter, I have strengthened my bond with Concordia and developed friendships that will last a lifetime. Giving back is truly priceless.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Therese Morin".

**Therese L. Morin, MBA 86**  
*President, Concordia University Alumni Association Washington, D.C., Chapter*

## How to make a difference

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# The talent to make a difference

When I met Hillel Neuer, BA 93, at a Montreal café in early spring, he apologized for being a few minutes late. Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, which is based in Geneva, Switzerland, explained that he had been on the phone with a writer from the *Wall Street Journal*.

I was truly humbled. After all, as Neuer soon related, he and UN Watch are quoted about 250 times per year by international news agencies and publications and major TV networks, making him one of the Concordia graduates who is most frequently cited by the media. I wondered how enthusiastic he'd be to meet with someone from a publication with a circulation in the tens of thousands rather than hundreds of thousands—or more.

It turns out my worries were unfounded. Hillel admitted that he was only too happy to be interviewed because our university is in his blood: both his parents and three of his six siblings are Concordia alumni!

Over the next hour, he described his work at UN Watch (see "Watching the watchers" on page 16). He was so eloquent and forthcoming that only a question-and-answer piece could do his story justice. The non-governmental organization for which he works advocates for human rights, fights anti-Semitism and keeps an eye on the UN and the UN Human Rights Council—a tall order to be sure. The inappropriately named council typically ignores or apologizes for the world's worst human rights offenders—some of which are ironically among its 47 members. Still, Hillel contends that the council wields international influence and must be held accountable for



sticking to its own mandate, which includes upholding the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Hillel said that politics captivated him at age 10, when he and a neighbour recreated historical political scenes, such as the John F. Kennedy assassination, "which we then forced our parents to watch!" he recalled. Hillel added that his time at Concordia's Liberal Arts College and Department of Political Science set him on a path toward human-rights advocacy. Today, he's not recreating but actually helping to shape history.

Our cover story, about the university's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (see "Honing the art and academic work of filmmaking" on

page 12), is a profile of a different sort. While a film school may not, on the surface, be as influential as a UN watchdog, the Hoppenheim School of Cinema teaches its students to make their mark in the world of cinema, animation and film studies. Some of its grads have tackled controversial international subjects in documentary films, such as *Up the Yangtze* by Yung Chang, BFA 99, which examines the negative impact of China's Three Gorges Dam, while film studies students learn about cinema's social and cultural effects.

The school's alumni have populated the national and international film scenes throughout its 35 years. In the 1980s, I worked on a few local movie productions, armed with a degree in film and communications from McGill University. My colleagues' reactions were always the same:

"You're in the minority; most of the crew are Concordia grads."

Mel Hoppenheim, president and CEO of Mel's Cité du Cinéma and benefactor of the School of Cinema, told our writer that Concordia plays a key role in the local film industry because it grooms outstanding graduates. "Without them, our industry is not going very far. We need a constant flow of talent, which Concordia produces," Hoppenheim said.

Ultimately, there is one trait that Hillel Neuer and Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema graduates share: they chose to study at an institution that both recognized and fostered their talents. ■

YOU'RE  
THE GENTLEMAN  
FROM UN WATCH,  
I PRESUME?



## Inspiring Leadership: Spring 2010 Honorary Doctorate recipients

**T**hroughout my career, I have benefited from the wise counsel and experience of mentors and role models. Leadership brings with it the responsibility of inspiring and developing others. That is why I've always tried to make the time to be a mentor myself.

I am reminded of the importance of strong role models this spring, as we

grant degrees to more than 4,800 students and award honorary doctorates to seven distinguished Canadians. In bestowing our highest honour on these individuals, we not only recognize their outstanding talents and achievements; we also reinforce the university's core values of excellence in education, research and creative activity, openness to the world and social engagement. Our

spring 2010 recipients inspire us all.

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien, former prime minister of Canada, is being recognized for his contributions to public life, including a deep commitment to post-secondary education. Robert Charlebois is a major presence in Quebec music and culture, adding originality, humour and vision to the province's unique identity. At the age of 28, Laurent Beaudoin took on the challenge of building Bombardier into a corporate giant and global leader. Canadian astronaut Julie Payette sets a shining example for all future engineers, particularly for young women who are interested in the sciences. R. Murray Shafer, one of Canada's preeminent composers, is also renowned as an educator, researcher, ecologist and visual artist. Eleanor Wachtel is, for many, the voice of the CBC, setting the standard for enlightening and intelligent exchanges about literature and the arts. Richard W. Pound embodies an unparalleled integrity in his dedication to promoting ethical standards in amateur and professional sports, as well as being an accomplished lawyer, Olympic athlete, author and university leader.

We have been truly honoured to have these individuals join the Concordia family.

Congratulations to our spring 2010 graduates and their families. ■

**Judith Woodsworth, PhD**  
*President and Vice-Chancellor*



Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth at Concordia's spring 2009 convocation.

**Concordia**  
university magazine

*Concordia University Magazine* welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation

for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

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## A busy spring for Concordia donations

Concordia announced important gifts this spring from the CIBC, Cisco Canada and the Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association.

CIBC announced on March 24 a contribution of \$500,000 to Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB) toward seven annual awards: two CIBC Doctoral Business Fellowships—worth \$20,000 each—for students entering the PhD program; and five CIBC Undergraduate Entrance Bursaries—worth \$10,000—to full-time students in financial need.

Sylvain Vinet, CIBC Senior Vice-President, Retail, Distribution, Eastern Canada, said this gift reflected CIBC's commitment to higher education and community-engagement initiatives. "Our goal is to provide access to opportunities in education so that our county's brightest students have the chance to succeed in their chosen field of studies," Vinet said in his address to the 55 guests gathered for the gift-announcement ceremony on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the JMSB Building.

On April 7, technology-solutions provider Cisco Canada announced a donation of a comprehensive network security solution—valued at more than \$400,000—to the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. The network-security solution is located in the new Cisco Network Security Laboratory at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Complex (EV Building).

## Stage is set for D.B. Clarke Theatre overhaul

The D.B. Clarke Theatre is set to undergo major renovations for the first time in its 40-year history. Costs for the renovation, which will be carried out between June 25 and December 15, will be covered by an \$11-million grant from the Canadian government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program. Plans call for reconfiguring the lobby and replacing the theatre's 380 seats and complex set of ropes, counterweights and pulleys used to move curtains, backdrops and lighting.

The theatre, located in the Henry F. Hall Building basement, houses Concordia's Department of Theatre and serves as the main stage for Geordie Theatre Productions and venue for other musical and theatre productions and events. The theatre opened February 7, 1970, and was named after Douglass Burns Clarke (1908-1980), a member of the first Sir George Williams graduating class of 1937 and long-time Sir George Williams professor and administrator. In 1981, it was closed for one year and underwent repairs due to a fire that caused \$200,000 in damages. ■



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

At the CIBC gift announcement March 24, pictured from left to right: Robert Lorange, VP, CIBC Commercial Banking, Quebec; Kathy Assayag, Concordia VP, Advancement and Alumni Relations; Sylvain Vinet, CIBC's Senior VP, Retail Distribution, Eastern Canada; Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth; Concordia's JMSB Dean Sanjay Sharma; and Michel Cantin, CIBC's VP, Retail Market, Quebec.

Cisco Canada President Nitin Kawale described Concordia as a "Canadian trailblazer" whose "distinguished reputation as an early adopter of leading-edge technology makes it an admired leader in higher education. Concordia was one of Cisco's first IP Telephony customers in Canada and the first university to deploy Wi-Fi across its campus," said Kawale, adding that students will gain valuable work experience through the research conducted in the lab.

And at a jam-packed cocktail reception April 20, the Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association (CUPFA) announced a donation of \$20,000 toward the departments of Theatre and Recreation and Athletics, as well as the Webster Library.

Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth expressed her thanks to CUPFA

president Maria Peluso, GrDip 81, MA 87, whom she said she's known for many years, and other part-time instructors for helping to advance the university's goal of providing an outstanding student experience. "They bring their work and academic knowledge to help make our students a great success as they go into the community. They add to the university in many ways, both inside and outside the classroom," Woodsworth told the 90 or so guests gathered for the reception on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the EV Building.

Peluso, who pointed out that the donation coincided with CUPFA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, said the association's members—many of whom are alumni—serve as the university's ambassadors and wear many hats, including teaching, volunteering for their association and working in industry, government or the community. ■



# Sustaining *momentum*

## FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

**DAMON MATTHEWS**, AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT, BRINGS ENERGY AND PASSION TO HIS CLIMATE-CHANGE RESEARCH AND TEACHING.

BY BEVERLY AKERMAN

**D**amon Matthews studies super models—not Tyra Banks or Gisele Bündchen but a different although no less potent form of *sexy*: climate change, carbon cycling and our planet's future.

Climatologists like Matthews, who is an assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment,

predict the long-term effects of greenhouse gas

(GHG) emissions based on computer "super" models. His expertise lies in the computer modelling of carbon cycles. Carbon, in the form of the GHG carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), is emitted into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels, thereby resulting in the planet's warming. Some of this CO<sub>2</sub> remains in the atmosphere, some is absorbed by the ocean and some is absorbed on land through natural processes by trees during photosynthesis, for example. "Understanding how these carbon sinks will persist in the future is a key part of predicting future warming," Matthews

says, adding that many companies and researchers are looking into these issues.

He also focuses on understanding how human land-use changes—such as agriculture and deforestation—impact how much carbon is absorbed by land-based carbon sinks (natural or artificial carbon-filled reservoirs). His work adds

**The arguments [climate-change deniers] engage in are like disputing whether gravity exists.**

to the knowledge base that governments and agencies rely on to help establish climate norms and policies.

But his current prognosis isn't rosy. Matthews points out that "350 parts per million [ppm] may be the upper safe limit of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> for the long-term." That's the conclusion of 350.org, an American-based organization dedicated to finding solutions to the climate crisis. Our current level, however, is an alarming 390 ppm!

As a result, Matthews says he disregards climate-change deniers. "The arguments these people engage in are

like disputing whether gravity exists. The tragedy is that there are uncertainties we should be thinking about, given the range of emission scenarios of warming between 1° and 6° C," he says. Global warming at the low end of this spectrum would be serious but, he warns, the consequences of temperature increases at the upper end would

be nothing short of catastrophic. "The debate we should be

having—the one that's really so important—is about the best ways of meeting these challenges. That's what we need to be focused on. To continue arguing about the fact of warming is almost criminal," he says.

### Concordia bound

Matthews earned his PhD in Earth and Ocean Sciences in 2004 from the University of Victoria in British Columbia, where he worked with Andrew Weaver, "Canada's leading climate modeller," according to David Greene, Concordia's chair of Geography,



Damon Matthews is an assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment. His accomplishments include earning a 2008-2009 New Scholar Award from Concordia's Office of the Dean of Arts and Science. The award recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement by a tenure-track faculty member. Matthews has published 19 peer-reviewed papers and has six more articles in the pipeline.

Planning and Environment. In January 2007, fresh from post-doctoral research stints at Stanford University in California, and the University of Calgary in Alberta, Matthews took up his post at Concordia.

Lawrence Mysak, Canada Steamship Lines Chair for McGill University's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and director of his department's Earth System Modelling Group, says he's delighted to work alongside Matthews, referring to him as an "academic grandson." Matthews's PhD supervisor was Mysak's own PhD student, one of 75 graduate students Mysak has mentored during his career. "Matthews's contribution is substantial to the early anthropogenic hypothesis," Mysak says. "That's the notion that humanity's influence on climate change actually started 5,000 to 8,000 years ago, through agricultural activities, the burning of forests to clear the land and the creation of rice paddies, which are tremendous sources of methane, an-

change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change."

There are local applications to Matthews's research, too, such as predicting how climate change over the next 30 years could affect maple-syrup production or outdoor skating. He is also turning his attention to the negative effects of other GHGs, such as those introduced into the environment as side-effects of fertilizer use. Matthews explains that much natural vegetation has nitrogen as a limiting factor and when extra nitrogen becomes widely available in the air or water, these plants may take up more carbon. So he's now examining the effects of compounds like nitrogen

researching carbon storage in woodlots and whether forestry-management practices might affect the carbon uptake of trees. "Forests are a critical component in the climate-change equation," Paquin says, adding that as trees mature, their carbon stores increase dramatically, tapering off at about 100 years or so (depending on the species).

Drew Pinsonneault is another of Matthews's MSc students. When Pinsonneault was a part-time BSc student, Matthews invited him to do an honours thesis about rising ocean CO<sub>2</sub> levels and their effects on marine life and ocean chemistry. Pinsonneault's work focused on the impact of varying CO<sub>2</sub> levels on ocean life over the



## Matthews's contribution is substantial to the notion that humanity's influence on climate change actually started 5,000 to 8,000 years ago, through agricultural activities, the burning of forests to clear the land and the creation of rice paddies.

other GHG." Matthews participated in the Cutting Edge Lectures series Mysak organized in 2008 at McGill. "Matthews spoke on how much CO<sub>2</sub> we would have to cut back to stabilize our climate rather than continue the runaway greenhouse effect we're experiencing now," Mysak relates.

Matthews also participated in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former American Vice President Al Gore. The Nobel committee cited the recipients "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate

and phosphorus on how much carbon can be taken up by plant sources.

### Paying it forward

Greene reports that Matthews's research program includes six graduate students, much more than those that are typically assigned to a third-year assistant professor. "It's an embarrassment of riches; what you do if all your research grant applications are approved for funding," Greene explains.

Karen Paquin, one of those grad students, is on track to complete her MSc in 2010. Paquin studied paleoclimatology (ancient climate) at the University of California, Los Angeles, and now is

next 2,000 years. The project received an honourable mention at the 2009 Rising Stars of Research National Undergraduate Science and Engineering Research Poster Competition. "This kind of work enables us to make informed decisions about what to do right now, based on very long-term impacts," Pinsonneault says. "Damon takes chemistry to a global scale. It's been fascinating."

The students and Greene also give Matthews high marks for his teaching. "One of the things Damon tries to do is bring students into the debate," Greene says. "His teaching of climate science is not about tidy, packaged ideas that



Paul Shrivastava is director of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise in the John Molson School of Business.

Shrivastava says the Centre will offer courses and invite speakers with strong academic credentials coupled with industry experience.



are decades old. It's all still happening." He refers to a wine-and-cheese event called Debating Copenhagen that Matthews organized last December before the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. More than 100 students attended and addressed issues such as the magnitude of the global-temperature drop needed to prevent climate danger and whether a meaningful treaty required targets for developing nations and international negotiations were likely to be effective.

Department Chair Greene says he's hopeful that Matthews's positive and inclusive approach to teaching and scholarship will be infectious. "It's this extra effort and passion that sets him apart," he says. "He is that rare individual: a wonderful teacher who is an even better researcher." ■

*Beverly Akerman is a Montreal-based freelance writer.*

## The David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise takes flight *By Beverly Akerman*

As populations climb and resources are depleted, concerns mount about how best to manage the Earth's resources and change the business world's mindset. That's why the November 2009 inauguration of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise in the John Molson School of Business was timely. "A broad consensus has developed that the environment is under tremendous pressure and that governments and people need to do something about it," says O'Brien Centre Director Paul Shrivastava. "From our perspective, enterprise—companies and business—are among the biggest influencers and that provides us with a tremendous opportunity."

The Centre is named after benefactor David O'Brien, L BA 62, chairman of the Royal Bank of Canada and resource giant EnCana who is also Concordia's chancellor. "I hope the Centre can provide both research leadership on sustainable practices and be an agent of change, engaging leaders in both the business and not-for-profit sectors," O'Brien says. "The world situation means we must focus on being more careful stewards, creating sustainable enterprises is a critical part of the solution."

Shrivastava points out that sustainability typically wasn't top of mind for businesses. "But that's changing. And our Centre is developing programming—at the undergraduate, graduate and executive levels—to help," he points out. For its MBA program, business ethics courses will continue to focus on social responsibility and an online course on global climate

change and related business opportunities is being developed. Shrivastava says he looks forward to making sustainability integral to undergraduate management programs, as well as broadening elective courses to include solar engineering, geography, political science and ecodesign. "We aim to be truly interdisciplinary and inclusive. We're looking at not just finding economic solutions but incorporating the arts, reliability and sustainability sciences in the mix," he says.

Shrivastava's own story is telling. He had been researching, teaching and writing about sustainability science through a career that took him from India to New York University, where he spent 10 years, and to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Penn., where he spent 20 years. He then decided, as a practical exercise, to track his own carbon footprint—and discovered that, over the course of his career, his carbon consumption had shot up 10-fold. "Understanding a problem isn't enough. You have to use all the modalities available to bring the message home," Shrivastava says. "Meeting future challenges won't be achieved just by appeals through cognitive methods. You need to get people's emotions engaged and that's where the arts—music, theatre, writing, poetry and dance—excels," Shrivastava says, adding that Montreal, a place where arts and culture are accepted as "serious business," is an ideal venue in which to carry out his mandate at the O'Brien Centre. "While I had done a lot of academic work, I wanted to end my career making an impact in real life," he says.



Every April, Concordia's Cinema Students Association showcases films by Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema students. The selection process is competitive. This year, graduating students received priority while some projects from other Production and Animation classes were also shown. "Students really work hard on their films," says Marielle Nitoslawska, chair of the Hoppenheim School of Cinema. "For months and months, day and night, they work on 10 different shoots. It's just insane what they do!"

The pay-off for all those efforts, kudos aside? Six university credits.

Despite this—or perhaps because of it—the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, which will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this spring, draws more than 600 undergraduate applications and another 100 graduate applications per year. It accepts about 200 undergrad and 35 MA,

MFA and PhD students into its three streams: Film Production, Animation and Film Studies.

"We really look for students with potential," Nitoslawska says. "We look at what they've done and where they've been." Some hail from multimedia backgrounds while others have no experience in Film Studies. "We definitely look for the poetic eye"—students who demonstrate a strong sense of image and sound, she explains.

Yung Chang, BFA 99, is one of them. Before beginning in Film Production in 1996, Chang dabbled in video at his high school in Whitby, Ont. He's perhaps best known for *Up the Yangtze*, the 2007 documentary about the effect of the Three Gorges Dam project on China's Yangtze River and the people who live around it. The film captured a 2009 Genie Award for Best Feature-Length Documentary, among many other honours.

"I think the foundation and groundwork of filmmaking starts, nowadays, at a film school. And it's rigorous and it's hard work," Chang says. "It took years. I spent time trying to figure out what it was I wanted to say. I think what you do when you go to art school, in general, and film school, is that you're trying to hone your ideas and your craft."

The craft of filmmaking is taken seriously at the Hoppenheim School of

Cinema. Associate Professor Roy Cross, MFA 98, head of Film Production, says the minute first-year Production students set foot in class, their training begins. "We take the cell phones and the video cameras out of their hands and give them a Swiss-made, 16-millimetre camera, with a light metre, and say, 'OK, we're going to go make movies,'" Cross says. "It's really the beginning of their foundation and they build up from there."

That kind of technology is hardly anachronistic. Nitoslawska and others say that learning to make movies on older machines allows students to master newer media more easily. The same goes for the material on which they capture their work: film. "I would say 80 percent of our undergraduate projects are still shot on film," Cross reports. "But once the films are shot, everything in the second- and third-year production courses goes into a high-definition digital path and we're contemporary at that point."

Mel Hoppenheim, after whom the school is named, echoes Cross's sentiment. Hoppenheim's history in cinema dates back to the 1960s, when he founded Panavision (Canada), which provided cameras and other shooting equipment for film



We take the cell phones and the video cameras out of their hands and give them a 16-millimetre camera, with a light metre, and say, "OK, we're going to go make movies."

# Sharpening the focus on filmmaking

After 35 years, Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema remains one of Canada's top film schools by sticking to the basics  
By Lucas Wisenthal

Clockwise from top: from left to right, Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema Chair Marielle Nitoslawska and professors Thomas Waugh, Cilia Sawadogo and Roy Cross; stills from Félix Dufour-Laperrière's animated films *Strips*, *Rosa Rosa* and *M*. Left: Still from Kara Blake's *The Delian Mode*.



productions. In 1999, he opened La Cité du Cinéma, a state-of-the-art film production facility in Montreal. Hoppenheim says he fully supports the Cinema School's teaching approach. "You have to start learning film the way filmmaking began," Hoppenheim stresses. "Using a video camera is much simpler and the results are quicker to see. When you get behind a film camera, you're not sure what you're going to get so you've got to be that much better."

What's more, the cost of film compels students to shoot economically, imposing on them a rigour their work wouldn't otherwise demand. "To this day, as the film's rolling through the camera, I have a little tally in my mind of the cost, which can be good and bad," says Kara Blake, MFA 05. "But I think it really teaches you that it's not a disposable medium. I really enjoyed getting back to the physicality and the tactile nature of working with the actual medium in my hand."

Blake holds a film degree from Ryerson University in her native Toronto and worked in post-production for a commercial company. She returned to school to work on her own films. "At Concordia, you could really create your own path on what you wanted to focus on doing," Blake says. She now runs Philtre Films, a Montreal-based, music-video and film-production company.

Unlike undergraduates, Cross says MFA students come to the School already versed in the language and history of cinema. "They have some type of an individual artistic practice where they produce work on their own, outside of school, and they've exhibited at festivals

or at art galleries and they've raised money independently for their productions," he says. "They come here to immerse themselves in a collective of likeminded individuals, to pursue their own practice."

### Animated education

Professor Cilia Sawadogo, BA 89, head of the department's Animation unit, says the program aims to shape independent filmmakers. "We try to encourage our students to really explore different techniques and different styles," Sawadogo says. "You can animate anything. You can animate an object; you can animate drawings; you can use computer-generated animation."

Sawadogo reports that her students, who hail from diverse cultural backgrounds, project their own, wide-ranging experiences through their work. Their films cover themes such as the Middle East, sexism, racism and the green movement. "These topics are usually approached in a very original way," she adds.

Like Cross, Sawadogo admits that new technologies are revolutionizing the filmmaking process. She also knows that when students leave the classroom, they are likely to work on digital formats. But she maintains that digital technologies can complement their analogue predecessors and Animation students learn to use both. Analogue editing tools, she says, demand a more calculated approach to post-production, thereby limiting the filmmaker's creativity. Yet, with digital tools, students risk shunning content in favour of style and technique. "What is most

important to us is that people learn how to animate; learn how to make films. And then technology, whether it's analogue or digital, is just something that holds your ideas together," Sawadogo points out.

During his first semesters at Concordia, Animation alumnus Félix Dufour-Laperrière, BFA 06, spent many hours mastering those technologies. "From time to time, my girlfriend wouldn't see me for four days," Dufour-Laperrière recalls. "I was sleeping in school and shooting at night. As in any fine arts program, you have to apply yourself to projects if you wish to accomplish anything."

### Academic lens

Not everyone who applies to the Hoppenheim School of Cinema aspires to make movies. Some would rather give them the academic treatment. "We want to produce public intellectuals, as well as scholars, researchers, teachers, archivists, programmers and critics," says Professor Thomas Waugh, head of the school's Film Studies area. Still, Waugh says the theory-based program complements its technique-based counterparts. "We try to think about what our filmmaking students are making and the larger context in which they are producing their work and training as artists," Waugh says. "We have a distance from creative work, as humanities scholars."

Film Studies offers BFA, MA and PhD level programs. "It's a discipline that is very much caught up in a relationship with society," Waugh says, adding that the program emphasizes critical thought. In his three decades of teaching at Concordia, Waugh has seen the program's core interests evolve. "It used to be somewhat polarized between a more formal kind of analysis and more socially-oriented film

Left to right: Yung Chang and stills from his documentary *Up the Yangtze*, which went on to win a Genie in 2009; a still from Kara Blake's film *The Delian Mode*; and Kara Blake.



studies. And I think that polarization is no longer applicable." The program's professors now offer more of a theoretical mosaic, he says. "I think we're pretty eclectic and versatile. I would say we cover most of the current schools of cultural and film studies among us."

That translates into a diverse set of courses on the history of cinema. "We teach a whole spectrum of kinds of films, from avant-garde to cutting-edge documentaries and popular cinema. We have students reading scholarly theory as well as popular film criticism. I think we've done a good job of keeping on top of media transformation and technical transformations within cinema," Waugh says.

The school's theoretical diversity impressed André Habib, MFA 02. Before he began at the Hoppenheim School of Cinema, Habib studied literature and philosophy at the Université de Montréal and screenwriting at Université du Québec à Montréal. "Concordia opened up a whole new frame of interrogation for me, which was very fruitful," says Habib, who is now a professor of film studies at the Université de Montréal. "I encountered a lot of experimental films, as well, throughout my studies at Concordia," he says, adding that he's incorporated that experience into his own teaching. Habib also stresses to his students that "films are not neutral"—another idea Concordia instilled in him. "A film on DVD or VHS, or on 16-millimetre or 35-millimetre, is not necessarily the same film. You're getting a different type of experience," he says.

## The business of filmmaking

One of the debated issues at the Hoppenheim School of Cinema, especially in the Film Production and Animation programs, is how art and business co-exist. Students and

faculty members agree that the department should accentuate the artistic aspect of filmmaking. "We're in the Faculty of Fine Arts, so we keep that in mind," Roy Cross says. "But, also, we're very aware that there's an industry that's attached to film production outside of the school and so it's not completely isolated."

What sets Concordia apart is its focus on "film as art," Yung Chang says. "The business was secondary to that. The school allowed you to find a way to have a clear vision and to think about what cinema means."

And its graduates do land jobs. Dufour-Laperrière reports that many of his former Animation classmates now work in numerous areas, including the flourishing video-game industry. "There's a big demand—especially in Montreal," he says.

Marielle Nitoslawska adds that she's proud of that distinction. "Wherever I go in Montreal—whether it's to any of the festivals, the Cinémathèque Québécoise, a film set, the National Film Board—I meet Cinema alumni." ■

*Lucas Wisenthal, BA (journ.) 08, is a Montreal-based freelance writer.*

## Noteworthy alumni

**The success of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema can be measured, at least in part, by the accolades its alumni have earned. Here is a list of some of the recent, award-winning, film-school alumni and their works:**

- *Ce qu'il faut pour vivre*, directed by **Benôit Pilon**, BFA 87, won the 2009 Prix Jutra awards for Best Film, Best Screenplay and Best Actor and 2009 Genie Awards for Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Actor.
- **Pascale Bussi eres**, attendee 91, won the 2005 Prix Jutra and Genie Award for Best Actress for her portrayal in *Ma vie en cin emascope*.
- *Last Train Home*, produced by Film Production Professor **Daniel Cross**, BFA 91, MFA 98, won a 2010 Jutra Award for Best Documentary.
- *Tying Your Own Shoes*, directed by Animation Professor **Shira Avni**, BFA 98, won a Golden Dove award at the 2009 International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film in Leipzig, Germany.
- *Up the Yangtze*, directed by **Yung Chang**, BFA 99, won 12 awards, including the Don Haig Award at Toronto's Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in 2008 and the 2009 Genie Award for Best Feature-Length Documentary.
- **Andr e Turpin**, BFA 99, won the 2009 Prix Jutra for Best Cinematographer for his work on *C'est pas moi, je le jure*.
- **Andreas Mendritzki**, BFA 08, won the Poetry Foundation Prize at the 2009 Chicago International Children's Film Festival in Chicago, Ill., for his film titled *Fear of Snakes*.
- *Play*, by **Eva Cvijanovic**, BFA 09, won the Achievement in Animation award in 2008 at Air Canada's enRoute Film Festival in Toronto.

Hillel Neuer, BA 93, the executive director of UN Watch, works to ensure that the United Nations and its UN Human Rights Council follow their own ideals.

# WATCHING THE WATCHERS

by Howard Bokser

**H**ILLEL NEUER, BA 93 (WEST. SOC. CULT. & POLI. SCI.), is a busy man. Neuer is executive director of UN Watch, a non-governmental organization [NGO] that keeps a close eye on the controversial United Nations Human Rights Council based in Geneva, Switzerland, the UN in New York City and human rights abuses around the world. "And human rights issues arise 24-hours a day," Neuer says.

UN Watch ([unwatch.org](http://unwatch.org)) was founded in 1993 by Morris Abram, an American lawyer who worked at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal after the Second World War, was a leading advocate in the civil rights movement, served under five American presidents and was the United States' ambassador to the UN in Geneva. UN Watch's stated mission is to monitor the performance of the United Nations by the yardstick of its own charter. It also is often called upon by international media organizations to provide analyses and commentaries on UN and human rights issues. "In a given year, we may be quoted in 250 separate articles, in Reuters, *The Economist*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The New York Times* or *The Wall Street Journal*. And I've debated on CNN, Fox News, BBC, Al Jazeera and other TV networks," Neuer points out.

Neuer graduated from the Liberal Arts College and also majored in Political Science at Concordia. He then earned civil and common-law degrees from McGill University, completing his final year at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He remained in Israel to clerk for an Israeli Supreme Court justice and completed a master's of law degree at Hebrew University. Neuer then took a position at a New York City law firm, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, and in 2004, became executive director of UN Watch.



Hillel Neuer at the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations, the UN's European headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

One of Neuer's former Concordia professors, Frederick Krantz, was the founding principal of the Liberal Arts College. "Hillel was an outstanding student. He was also an intern for CIJR and editor of *Dateline: Middle East*, our student magazine," recalls Krantz, who is also director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR), a Montreal-based think-tank. "As leader of UN Watch, Hillel brings judicial skills and writing and analytical ability, which, I'd like to think, he picked up, at least in part, at the Liberal Arts College and CIJR." Neuer delivered the keynote address and a seminar on human rights advocacy at the Liberal Arts College's 30th anniversary celebrations in 2009. "As a result, several of our students were motivated to pursue human rights law," Krantz says.

Irwin Cotler, a Canadian Member of Parliament and McGill University law professor who taught Neuer at McGill, says the two have remained close. "Hillel has shown exemplary leadership at UN Watch, which holds the UN accountable for its own founding ideals," Cotler says. "He also organized the first and second Geneva Summit for Human Rights, Tolerance and Democracy, which I attended and which brought together human-rights defenders to address important issues, such as genocide. It was a dramatic contrast to the work of the Human Rights Council, which is located right across the street."

*Concordia University Magazine* met with Hillel Neuer to discuss his time at Concordia, the UN and the Human Rights Council and the role of UN Watch.



**Concordia University Magazine: What are your memories of Concordia and the Liberal Arts College?**

**Hillel Neuer:** The Liberal Arts College offered a community dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, truth, philosophy, art, literature. It really developed a community and a culture of culture! I had a number of great teachers, such as professors Fred Krantz, the late Harvey Shulman and Virginia Nixon.

**Explain UN Watch's role.**

We're an NGO, a UN-accredited organization. We participate at all sessions of the Human Rights Council. We have the right to speak. NGOs do not have that opportunity in New York at the Security Council or the General Assembly. But in Geneva, we're part of the debate.

The mission of UN Watch is to uphold the principles of the UN Charter, a great, liberal document written by idealists working for U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, with the vision of an international organization that would protect principles of freedom and peace. We monitor the UN and speak out when it veers off those principles—which it too often does, unfortunately—and we promote human rights.

A large part of our work was looking at the Human Rights Commission, which had noble beginnings but, unfortunately, veered off track. It became so bad that, in 2005, UN secretary general Kofi Annan effectively killed it. He said it had become politicized and that countries were joining to shield their own records of abuse. He proposed to scrap it and created the Human Rights Council. Unfortunately, this new body hasn't been better. In fact, it's been worse. The government of Libyan dictator Muammar Khadhafi was just elected to sit on the Council for the next three years. Libya will join existing members like China, Cuba, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia—countries that are widely criticized for their systematic abuses of human rights and who dominate the agenda. It's an upside-down world.

Not surprisingly, this Council often adopts resolutions that undermine human rights. In May 2009, after Sri Lanka killed an estimated 20,000 civilians in their war with Tamil rebels, the European Union triggered a special session of the Human Rights Council to hold Sri Lanka accountable. But because the democratic faction is a minority in the Council, the repressive regimes were able to twist the text so that it ended up praising Sri Lanka. Those who initiated the session had to pull their sponsorship; their good intentions were inverted by the council majority.

**How does UN Watch fit into that equation?**

The UN needs watchdogs. Canada, for example, is a vibrant democracy because we have institutions of accountability: freedom of speech, blogs critiquing the government, an independent judiciary, free elections, a free press and so forth. But when the Human Rights Council adopts a resolution that is flawed or outright pernicious—like the resolution praising Sri Lanka—there's no recourse, no appeal to bodies like an independent court. So our role is to defend the UN principles just as the Supreme Court of Canada defends the Charter of Rights and Freedoms from any overreach by the government.

Another major issue for UN Watch, which is affiliated with the American Jewish Committee, is to fight anti-Semitism and the unequal treatment of Israel, which we believe hurts not only Israel but also Palestinians, Middle East peace and the UN as a whole.

Israel must be held accountable. The problem at the Council is that we don't see any balance. Israel is repeatedly condemned, yet there's never any attempt to demand the slightest accountability from Israel's neighbours, the Palestinians, Syria or even Iran. This one-sided approach deters Israelis from trusting the UN. While these resolutions appear to be pro-Palestinian, they're not. They've only encouraged the extremists, hindered compromise and harmed the UN's own credibility as an honest broker on the Middle East issue.

Opposite page: Hillel Neuer at the UN in New York City. At right: Neuer, far right, with former UN secretary general Kofi Anan in Washington D.C., in 2006. Neuer argues that the UN Human Rights Council's actions have become diametrically opposed to the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At the last session of the Human Rights Council in March 2010, there were five resolutions on Israel and only four on the rest of the world combined. That's ridiculous! It's harmful for millions of human rights victims around the world whose situations never see the light of day. There's a very limited amount of time and resources that diplomats will devote to a Council session. Every one-sided resolution on Israel is time, resources and resolutions not devoted to victims suffering in Tibet, Zimbabwe or Chechnya.

Those who introduce or support these resolutions are, themselves, the worst violators of human rights. It's a deliberate strategy to deflect attention from their own abuses.

**In March, Canada was criticized for its treatment of minorities by the UN's Independent Expert on Minority Issues, American Gay McDougall. What are your thoughts on that?**

The expert, who is appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, selects a few places each year to visit and report on minority rights issues. One place she chose this year was Canada. Canada should be held accountable but it's a question of priorities. Canada is one of the best countries for minorities. Sure, it's flawed. I grew up in Quebec and I'm aware of real issues and concerns. That said, from a global perspective, when the UN has scarce time and resources, the natural priority would be to address countries perpetrating genocide or ethnic cleansing and where there's no one—no free press, no judiciary, no human rights group—to speak out for the minorities. These are the victims who really need help from an international voice like the UN. To divert this attention to Canada, I think, shows a profoundly flawed sense of priorities.

**Is the UN still relevant?**

The UN is still indispensable. Our world today is globalized. We need a global institution to offer a permanent diplomatic forum for dialogue and to regulate global problems such as health, labour, trade, humanitarian disasters and relief. We need the UN. But we need the UN to work right.

**What power does the Human Rights Council have?**

The Human Rights Council doesn't have the power of the sword, which is held by the Security Council. It doesn't have



the power of the purse, held by the General Assembly. All they have is the power of shame, to spotlight country abuses that would otherwise go hidden. It's significant. We know that all countries, including major abusers like China, lobby hard to prevent any criticism. This proves that words matter.

**What power does UN Watch wield?**

The power of truth. We are able to educate a large population by broadcasting our message in the media and building pressure for reform. Our videos have been seen more than one million times on YouTube. If we critique a given issue, the UN will hear about it. It doesn't mean they'll always respond in the right way, but it's heard.

A few years ago, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and former Canadian judge Louise Arbour issued a statement praising the Arab Charter of Human Rights, after it had been ratified by several Arab states. Key provisions in that text said that Zionism had to be eliminated, along with racism. Equating Zionism with racism is something the UN had once done itself but had repealed in 1991. In his memoirs, Canadian legal scholar John Humphrey, who helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, described that kind of language as anti-Semitism. We spoke out immediately. It was picked up around the world, including in several Canadian newspapers. Within a day or two, Arbour issued a retraction saying she was opposed to those provisions. Because of our media protest, we got that retraction.

Words matter. Word is father to deed. Governments and civilizations are based on a perception of legitimacy. Governments do not rule by might alone; they must eventually rule by right and a sense of legitimacy. ■

# HOME COMING '10



Homecoming appeals to alumni, faculty and staff members, students and the greater community to join together on campus for an array of fun and educational activities. It's also an opportunity to remind ourselves why so many choose to attend, work at or support Concordia.

*Kathy Assayag, VP,  
Advancement and Alumni  
Relations*

## Thursday, September 23

- Mentor Program Speed-Networking and Cocktail Reception
- Boston-New England Chapter Smoked Meat Night

## Friday, September 24

- Shuffle 21

## Saturday, September 25

- Homecoming Football Game (Concordia Stingers vs. Bishop's Gaiters)



- Communication Studies 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion

## Sunday, September 26

- Family Fair Day



## Monday, September 27

- Words: A One-Woman show with A.L. Kennedy

*In collaboration with the Blue  
Metropolis International Literary  
Series.*

## Tuesday, September 28

- AbitibiBowater Lecture with Guest Speaker **Dr. Rick Hodes**



Dr. Hodes is Medical Director in Ethiopia for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

He has provided medical treatment to tens of thousands of Ethiopians, Rwandans and Kosovars since 1990. In 2007, CNN selected him as one of its "CNN Heroes" in the "Championing Children" category.

## Thursday, September 30

- Loyola Alumni Association Oyster Party

## Friday, October 1

- Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet

## Saturday, October 2

- Engineering and Computer Science Speaker Presentation
- Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Reunion

## Sunday, October 3

- President's Reunion Brunch and Campus Tours (Loyola and Sir George Williams): For classes of pre-1960 and 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005.
- Engineering and Computer Science Campus Tour

Thursday, September 23, to Sunday, October 3  
For updates and details: [homecoming.concordia.ca](http://homecoming.concordia.ca)  
514-848-2424, ext. 4856

## WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID:

### Family Fair Day

"I just wanted to congratulate you on Family Fair Day. It was amazing. We had a great time." —Lynn Roy



"Thank you to all of you who organized, worked or volunteered on Family Fair day. My daughter, grandchildren and I had a great time from face painting to the puppet show and all the other activities. Great job." —Linda Cater

### Reunions

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful welcome and homecoming at the President's Reunion Brunch. I and my colleagues from the Loyola Class of 59 were very pleased with your hospitality and impressed with the growth and stature of Concordia University. Thanks again and I look forward to our next Homecoming." —member of the Loyola Class of 1959



## Discounts for alumni:

### ACCOMMODATIONS:

#### HOTELS

Ask for the Concordia corporate rate when contacting the hotels listed below. All prices are per night, single or double occupancy. Taxes are not included. Subject to availability.

#### Marriott Residence Inn Montreal Westmount, [residencemontreal.com](http://residencemontreal.com)

2170 Lincoln Ave., Montreal  
514-935-9224 or 1-800-678-6323  
[reserve@residencemontreal.com](mailto:reserve@residencemontreal.com)  
\$129 per night, including full American breakfast buffet, internet and local calls.

#### Le Meridien Versailles, [lemeridienversailles.com](http://lemeridienversailles.com)

1808 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal  
514-933-8111 or 1-866-716-8101  
\$134 per night

#### Loews Hotel Vogue, [loewshotels.com](http://loewshotels.com)

1425 de la Montagne St., Montreal  
514-935-9224 or 1-800-465-6654  
\$185 per night

#### Hotel Maritime Plaza, [hotelmartime.com](http://hotelmartime.com)

1155 Guy St., Montreal  
514-932-1411 or 1-800-363-6255  
[reservations@hotelmartime.com](mailto:reservations@hotelmartime.com)  
\$122 per night, including high-speed internet and local calls. Concordia alumni travelers can upgrade to Executive Deluxe Room free of charge (subject to availability).

### TRANSPORTATION:

#### Air Canada

Concordia alumni receive a discount on travel from September 15 to October 6, 2010. Enter promotion code FXN3PPC1  
Visit [aircanada.ca](http://aircanada.ca) or phone 1-888-247-2262.

#### Via Rail Canada

Via Rail Canada offers Concordia alumni year-round discounts: 7 percent off full fare in business class (formerly Via 1) and 35 percent off full fare in economy class (formerly Comfort). Reserve at [viarail.ca](http://viarail.ca) and enter discount code 810217.

#### Budget Rent-a-Car

1-800-268-8900

Concordia alumni receive a rental discount on certain cars. Enter discount code A433700.

### RECREATION:

#### Le Gym

Concordia's recreation centre Le Gym is offering alumni complimentary use of their weight room facilities during Homecoming. To benefit from this promotion, present your Concordia alumni ID card upon arrival at Le Gym.

## THANK YOU

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## ARTS & SCIENCE

### NEW ACTIVITIES TACKLE ISSUES BEYOND CAMPUS WALLS



From left to right: Biology Professor Adrian Tsang, Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth, Associate Professor of Biology Vincent Martin and Louise Dandurand, VP, Research and Graduate Studies, gathered March 16 for the groundbreaking of the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics on the Loyola Campus. Among other genomic research, the Centre will house a \$17.5-million environmental genomic project funded by Genome Canada.

## GENOMICS CENTRE BREAKS GROUND

BY LYNN ROY

Like most people, Arts and Science faculty members Adrian Tsang and Vincent Martin are worried about the environment and hope that sustainable technologies will generate concrete solutions to boost our economy. Unlike most people, though, the two are well poised to take their concerns to the next level, through their respective research at Concordia. Martin is a Canada Research Chair and associate professor of Biology and Tsang is the Director of the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics and a professor of Biology.

In April 2009, Martin and Tsang were awarded more than \$22 million to advance innovative genome research at Concordia. The funding, which includes major contributions from Genome Canada and Génome Québec, will support the duo's respective projects.

In October of that same year, the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics received a \$29,345,000 grant from Industry Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program. This grant will fund the construction of a new wing that will house the Centre adjacent to the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex on the Loyola Campus. "In the past five years, seven new professors have joined the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics," Tsang reports. "During this same period, the number of the Centre's research staff, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students has tripled. The new wing will provide much-needed space to facilitate the work of these highly qualified researchers."

Tsang and his research team are working on a project titled Genozymes for Bioproducts and Bioprocesses Development. The team is examining how fungal enzymes can decrease the forest industry's impact on the environment while reducing pulping costs and improving paper quality. Tsang, who has

been at Concordia since 1981, studies the DNA structure of enzymes, such as those produced by fungi, which break down unwanted biomass that includes leaves, stems and branches. The goal is to turn the biomass into molecular components that can then be transformed into fuels such as ethanol and diesel or to replace the chemicals used in industrial processes. "Biomass is the only renewable resource that can potentially replace fossil fuels in the production of a wide range of fuels, chemicals and materials," Tsang says. "The project's research deliverables are expected to help Canada in the transition to an economy based on renewable resources in an environmentally sustainable manner."

Among the project's co-investigators are Justin Powlowski, associate professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; David Secko, assistant professor of Journalism; and Gregory Butler, professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering.

As for Martin, he co-leads a project called Synthetic Biosystems for the Production of High-Value Plant Metabolites. "Our focus is on engineering microbes to produce better, cheaper or even novel products," Martin explains. "Microbes such as yeast and *E. coli* are our machines of choice. We swap, mutate, add and eliminate genes at will to create biological factories that can be fed simple and inexpensive carbon sources and churn out copious amounts of a desired product, be it a commodity chemical like biofuels or a molecule with health value."

Professor of Biology Reginald Storms is a co-investigator on the project with Martin, who was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Microbial Genomics and Engineering in 2004. Their group will rely on metabolic engineering methods to develop strains of yeast that will produce high-value molecules, such as pharmaceutical, flavour and fragrance compounds. ■

## SCIENCE CAREER DAY UNITES EXPERTS AND FUTURE SCIENTISTS

BY M. CATHERINE BOLTON, ASSOCIATE DEAN, STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES,  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

More than 140 students filled the atrium of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex on the Loyola Campus March 26 for the reception that followed the inaugural Faculty of Arts and Science's Science Career Day. The event, dubbed Finding > Getting > Keeping a Career in the Sciences, began with a one-hour workshop hosted by Concordia's Counselling and Development department. Students got valuable tips and learned about resources available to help job seekers craft their résumés and brush up on interviewing techniques. The day's highlight was a panel presentation of Science alumni who volunteered to share their experiences and expertise with the students.

Sudurika Mukhopadhyay, BA 96, BSc 93, a medical research technologist from Tulane University in New Orleans, La., delivered the keynote presentation. Mukhopadhyay discussed her road-tested methods on how to search for—and land—that all-important first job. Among the professionals who shared their experiences with Concordia science students were Angelo Filosa, BSc 96, PhD 01, senior principal scientist, Chemistry, at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in Montreal; Effy Koukoulas, BSc 94, drug safety manager for Pfizer Canada in Montreal; and Ann-Merie O'Halloran, BSc 88, PhD 95, manager, Clinical Capabilities and Compliance, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada in Montreal.

Following the discussion, the panellists held a lively

question-and-answer period, during which they elaborated on their personal experiences and offered suggestions about the use of Facebook in job searches, networking and how to leverage personal contacts. Science Career Day proved so successful that both students and presenters continued their one-on-one discussions well beyond the stipulated time—and this on a Friday afternoon at the end of term. ■



At the Science Career Day on March 26 (left to right): Sudurika Mukhopadhyay, BA 96, BSc 93, medical research technologist from Tulane University in New Orleans, La., M. Catherine Bolton, Concordia Associate Dean of Student Academic Services, and Sophie Dahan, section leader, Research and Development, at Montreal-based PerkinElmer, a Concordia Co-op employer.

## CONCORDIA AIMS TO OUT "PERFORM"

Health research and medical services are severely challenged by our rapidly aging population, alarming patterns of obesity and inactivity among children, youth and adults, and prevalent chronic disease and conditions across all layers of society. Concordia will address

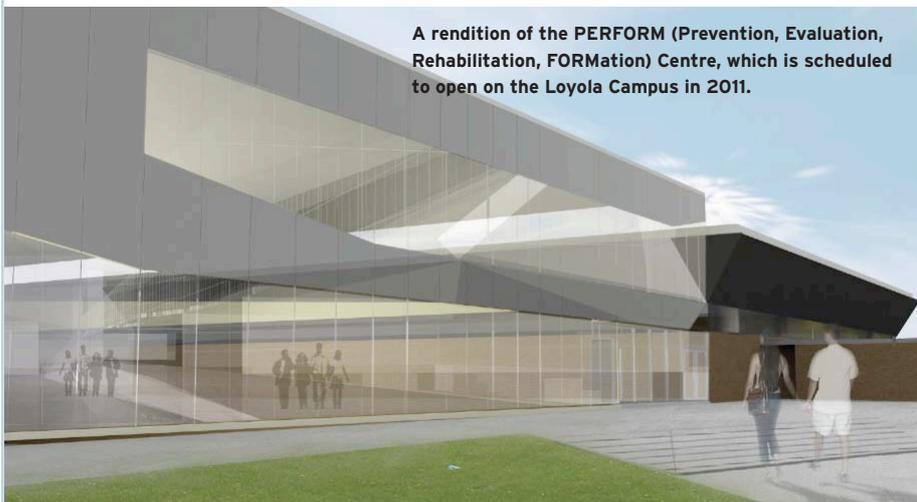
these concerns when it opens the PERFORM (Prevention, Evaluation, Rehabilitation, FORMation) Centre on the Loyola Campus in 2011.

PERFORM will offer a full range of research, training and community services in one state-of-the-art facility, includ-

ing a metabolic kitchen, sports medicine clinic with an aqua-therapy pool, rehabilitation centre with weight training and aerobic equipment, clinical biochemistry labs and cardiopulmonary evaluation suite.

Robert Kilgour, chair of the Department of Exercise Science, stresses the Centre's relevance and timeliness. "By integrating advanced research and training with unique health services and community outreach programs, PERFORM will equip today's population with next generation's tools to adopt healthier lifestyles which can ultimately serve to enhance quality of life," Kilgour says. ■

A rendition of the PERFORM (Prevention, Evaluation, Rehabilitation, FORMation) Centre, which is scheduled to open on the Loyola Campus in 2011.



Il n'y a pas si longtemps, le campus Sir-George-Williams (SGW) pouvait se comparer à une nébuleuse urbaine. Hormis l'imposant pavillon Henry-F.-Hall trônant en solitaire, les différents bâtiments du campus de l'Université Concordia étaient éparpillés aux quatre vents. En fait, il s'agissait presque d'un puzzle à compléter pour qu'une image nette finisse par émerger. C'est à cette tâche ardue que se sont attelés quelques chargés de projets visionnaires.

### UN GESTE FONDATEUR

Bon an, mal an, Concordia a poursuivi son expansion de telle sorte que les locaux ont fini par ne plus répondre aux besoins criants des facultés. Les étudiants de l'ancienne Faculté de commerce et d'administration étaient obligés de s'entasser dans des salles vétustes qui ne faisaient vraiment pas... l'affaire. Les problèmes étaient tout aussi aigus du côté de la Faculté des beaux-arts, les ateliers et studios se retrouvant pêle-mêle sur les deux campus.

M. Peter Bolla, vice-recteur associé responsable de la gestion immobilière, souligne qu'il fallait adopter une nouvelle vision. « C'est ce qui a poussé l'administration à mettre sur pied un comité de planification stratégique, histoire de traduire le plan pédagogique

directeur en plan de développement immobilier », explique-t-il. C'est donc vers la fin des années 1990 que les choses se mettront à bouger, Concordia jetant les bases d'une stratégie susceptible de résoudre ses problèmes de croissance, mais aussi de baliser les modalités d'une nouvelle insertion dans son quartier d'ancrage.

### CONVERGENCES DE VUES

Avec la tenue du Sommet de Montréal en 2002, l'idée d'une consolidation et d'une mise en valeur des différents secteurs du centre-ville a suscité un consensus parmi les intervenants. M. Jocelyn Jobidon, urbaniste rattaché au bureau des grands projets de la Ville de Montréal, était présent à ce sommet. Il nous rappelle que « les représentants des grands établissements d'enseignement du centre-ville ont fait des demandes auprès de la Ville pour que des investissements significatifs soient mis sur la table afin de revaloriser le domaine public avoisinant ». C'est à cette époque qu'est née l'idée de développer des quartiers thématiques afin de consolider les principaux pôles d'activités du centre-ville de la métropole.

On se rappellera le succès inespéré du Quartier international, aux abords du square Victoria, qui a permis de retisser une trame urbaine complètement

déstructurée et de mettre en relation plusieurs grands acteurs institutionnels à l'ouest du Palais des Congrès. C'est sans doute le siège social de la Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec qui aura servi de pierre angulaire à cet ambitieux projet.

On retrouve le même effet causal du côté de Concordia alors que la construction du pavillon intégré Génie, informatique et arts visuels (pavillon EV) a permis d'arrimer le campus à un nouveau point d'ancrage. Inaugurée en septembre 2005, l'imposante structure semble agir comme un compas qui repositionne le campus universitaire plus à l'ouest. Véritable place forte, l'édifice comprend deux tours jumelles posées sur un basilaire aéré qui fait office d'interface dynamique avec la voie publique.

Conscients de la complexité des enjeux en présence, les responsables des projets immobiliers décident de lancer un concours d'aménagement urbain destiné à baliser les contours du du campus SGW, rebaptisé « Quartier Concordia ». Ce dernier prend donc la relève en 2003 alors que la firme Cardinal Hardy remporte le concours. L'Université a procédé à un appel d'offre public afin d'obtenir la meilleure proposition d'intégration du campus à son environnement.

## Concordia recentre ses activités autour d'un nouveau pôle fédérateur



De gauche à droite :  
Isabelle Giasson, architecte  
paysagiste chez Cardinal  
Hardy, Peter Bolla, vice-  
recteur associé responsable  
de la gestion immobilière, et  
Martine Lehoux, directrice  
de la planification et de  
l'aménagement, à l'entrée du  
nouveau Quartier Concordia  
au coin de la rue Guy et du  
boulevard De Maisonneuve.

RYNA BLAU, PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

# PLEIN CAP VERS L'AVENIR AU CENTRE-VILLE

## DIALOGUER AVEC LE QUARTIER

M. Peter Bolla souligne l'importance de briser l'isolement d'un campus qui s'était développé « dans l'esprit des années 1960, à l'époque où l'on construisait des projets-satellites sans véritable relation avec la communauté environnante ». Il devenait donc impératif de regrouper les facultés, mais « sans pour autant se couper du domaine public », poursuit-il.

Profitant de l'effort de revitalisation du boulevard De Maisonneuve, la Ville de Montréal et le gouvernement du Québec ont attribué une enveloppe de 22,4 M\$ pour aménager les abords de cette artère — à l'angle de la rue Guy et du boulevard De Maisonneuve. M. Jobidon fait remarquer qu'entre 2000 et 2007, les entreprises privées ont réalisé des investissements majeurs — projets de condominiums — en bordure du boulevard qui deviendra en quelque sorte l'épine dorsale du nouveau campus. « Nous en avons profité pour revoir la géométrie de cette voie artérielle. On parle d'une

de nous permettre d'aménager les sous-sols de nos grands édifices en espaces d'enseignement ou de services aux étudiants », souligne-t-elle. D'ailleurs, ce prolongement souterrain de la vie des édifices s'inscrit dans la vision de ce nouveau campus, qui se veut mieux intégré à son milieu. Cette approche est manifeste lorsque l'on met les pieds pour la première fois dans le majestueux hall d'accueil du pavillon intégré Génie, informatique et arts visuels.

## UNE ARCHITECTURE OUVERTE SUR LA RUE

Le rituel d'entrée à l'intérieur de l'immense pavillon hybride nous rappelle le flux ininterrompu des passants qui traversent une gare aéroportuaire. Malgré sa taille impressionnante, le nouveau pavillon n'écrase pas la vue et il s'insère avec doigté dans le cadre urbain environnant. Faisant contrepoids à la froideur des matériaux utilisés — béton, acier, verre — la lumière et les revêtements colorés viennent judicieusement alléger les

gestion John-Molson, se remémore l'époque où les étudiants devaient aller et venir entre le pavillon Norris et leurs locaux situés dans les coquettes petites maisons victoriennes qui bordent les rues Bishop et Mackay : « C'est chose du passé, puisque tous nos 8 000 étudiants se retrouvent sous un même toit. C'est tout de même un tour de force de réunir autant de monde dans un espace qui représente à peine 3 000 mètres carrés », fait-il remarquer.

## INNOVATION ET NATURE SE DONNENT LA MAIN

De nos jours, on ne brasse plus des affaires sans tenir compte des impacts sur l'environnement d'activités commerciales ou financières qui fonctionnent de moins en moins en vase clos. Les concepteurs du nouveau pavillon John-Molson (MB) ont pris en considération ces éléments lorsqu'ils ont esquissé un immeuble qui visait l'obtention de la certification LEED argent. En effet, M. Boulos n'est pas peu fier de l'immense panneau solaire de 300 mètres carrés qui couvre une portion importante du flanc ouest du nouveau bâtiment. « Nous escomptons pouvoir combler une partie de nos besoins en énergie grâce à ce dispositif révolutionnaire. Par ailleurs, rien n'a été ménagé pour faire de notre bâtiment un modèle de réduction de l'empreinte écologique. Ainsi, il s'agit d'un édifice intelligent (immo) qui tient compte des mouvements humains afin de gérer les flux lumineux, la ventilation ou la consommation d'électricité », souligne-t-il.

## LE LIERRE ET LA PIERRE

Une immense murale orne l'entrée principale de l'École de gestion John-Molson. Cette œuvre de Geneviève Cadieux, une artiste photographe qui enseigne à la Faculté des beaux-arts, est constituée de branches de lierre façonnées en acier anodisé et posées sur un mur écran en pierre calcaire. La majestueuse entrée de l'École de gestion John-Molson clôture l'aménagement de la place Norman-Bethune avant que le boulevard De Maisonneuve ne se jette

C'est tout de même un tour de force de réunir autant de monde dans un espace qui représente à peine 3 000 mètres carrés.

révision des dimensions globales, de la largeur des voies de circulation et de la place dévolue au stationnement et à la nouvelle piste cyclable », poursuit celui qui a pris l'habitude de travailler en tandem avec l'équipe responsable de la planification et de l'aménagement pour Concordia.

M<sup>me</sup> Martine Lehoux, directrice de la planification et de l'aménagement, tient à souligner l'intense dialogue qui s'est établi entre l'Université et la Ville afin que se concrétisent certains « temps forts » de cette vaste opération d'aménagement urbain. « Normalement, les règlements municipaux imposent certains ratios pour les stationnements intérieurs, mais cette directive a été assouplie afin

espaces intérieurs et renforcer le lien avec le domaine public, le soir venant.

On retrouve la même idée au cœur du récent pavillon John-Molson. La nouvelle adresse de l'école dédiée au monde des affaires a été inaugurée en septembre 2009. Ce deuxième bâtiment-phare trône de l'autre côté de la rue Guy, de biais avec le pavillon intégré Génie, informatique et arts visuels. Les deux immenses complexes marquent le cœur du nouveau campus universitaire lorsque l'on prend la peine de contempler la perspective urbaine formée par la rue Guy dans son mouvement de descente vers le fleuve, plus au sud.

M. Karim Boulos, responsable des Affaires externes pour l'École de



**Projection de la Ville de Montréal pour le nouveau Quartier Concordia entre les rues Mackay et Guy. Cette révision a changé les dimensions globales, la largeur des voies de circulation et la place dévolue au stationnement en plus de créer une nouvelle piste cyclable.**

dans la coulée de la rue Guy.

Rien n'a été ménagé pour refaire les abords du monument dédié au célèbre chirurgien décédé dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, en Chine. C'est M<sup>me</sup> Isabelle Giasson, architecte paysagiste chez Cardinal Hardy, qui a pris en charge le dossier de la réalisation de cette place et de son prolongement, sous forme de parvis, sur le flanc nord de l'édicule de la station de métro Guy (pavillon GM).

C'est à partir de 2007 qu'elle s'engage dans ce projet qui marquera probablement la décennie à venir. Ce réaménagement de l'ancien site du monument Bethune devrait faire de la croisée de la rue Guy et du boulevard De Maisonneuve la porte d'entrée ouest du Quartier Concordia. Une magnifique haie d'ormes agira comme écran afin de séparer la place Norman-Bethune du stationnement sis sur son flanc nord. Les mêmes ormes, sans oublier les luminaires de facture contemporaine, se retrouveront tout le long de ce tronçon totalement rafraîchi.

M<sup>me</sup> Chiasson louange l'ingéniosité mise en œuvre pour la conception du mobilier urbain exclusif. « Nous avons travaillé sur un concept de bancs publics qui seront réalisés à partir de modules en béton pré-moulé, alors que les lattes

en bois d'ipé et les accoudoirs en acier inoxydable sont des composantes déjà vendues sur le marché. Il sera donc relativement facile de remplacer les éléments qui risquent d'être vandalisés avec le temps », précise-t-elle.

## VERS UNE PLUS GRANDE FLUIDITÉ

Puisque la circulation automobile contourne dorénavant cette place en effectuant une forme de S, une très belle promenade piétonnière rehausse désormais le flanc sud. En effet, « la nouvelle configuration de la chaussée aura permis de créer un véritable parvis aux abords de l'édicule de la station de métro Guy (pavillon GM). Nous avons toujours en tête cette idée de rendre poreux le flanc des édifices de Concordia », conclut Isabelle Giasson. La phase II de la place Norman-Bethune aidera à ouvrir les parois de l'édicule qui donnent sur le nouveau parvis. Des boutiques et des cafés sont prévus, avec tables et parasols en terrasse, conférant à ce nouvel espace public des airs de paseo espagnol.

Une approche qui fait dire à M. Clarence Epstein, directeur des projets spéciaux et des affaires culturelles au cabinet de la rectrice : « Nous voulions affirmer notre identité institutionnelle en accord avec notre milieu d'ancrage. C'est pourquoi le mobilier urbain bordant nos édifices se retrouvera plus à l'est aux abords du boulevard De Maisonneuve. Toutefois, le travail d'architecture du paysage, le plan lumière et le traitement aux abords de nos bâtiments feront en sorte que les passants prendront conscience du rythme, de la circulation et des diverses activités qui émaillent notre campus ».

En somme, Concordia a brillamment su tirer profit de l'éclatement d'un secteur urbain discordant. Le nouveau Quartier Concordia trace ainsi les grandes lignes d'un retour à la « concordance ». ■

*Patrice-Hans Perrier est journaliste à Montréal.*

*Le numéro de la rentrée 2010 présentera une mise à jour de l'état des travaux au campus Loyola.*

Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus can now boast of a distinct core of buildings in the heart of downtown Montreal. But that's a recent phenomenon. Not too long ago, aside from the imposing Henry F. Hall Building, the university's downtown campus properties appeared to be scattered by the four winds. The Concordia planners assigned to solve a puzzle with many pieces needed long-range vision.

### Here, there and everywhere

The history of the Sir George Williams Campus's expansion dates back to its days as Sir George Williams University. As student enrolment rose from the 1960s right through the 1990s, classes spread into new buildings farther away from the needs of the faculties they served. As a result, John Molson School of Business (JMSB) students sometimes were required to sit in less-than-adequate classrooms. The problem was as pronounced for the Faculty of Fine Arts, with classrooms and workshops located helter-skelter on both campuses.

Peter Bolla, Concordia's associate VP of Facilities Management, says the university struck a strategic planning committee because it had to adopt a new approach to upgrading its

facilities. "What pushed the administration to come up with a strategic planning committee was the need to translate a pedagogical mandate into a major, real-estate development plan," Bolla explains. As a result, by the end of the 1990s, the university began to develop the basis of a strategy to solve the Sir George Williams Campus's growing pains and iron out the practical details of incorporating new, central buildings.

### Converging planning perspectives

An important step was taken at the 2002 Montreal Summit, a conference organized by the city to unite major players to establish a master urban plan. Stakeholders agreed to consolidate and enhance various downtown areas. The Summit also led to the idea to develop thematic areas that would reweave key centres of activity into the fabric of the downtown core. "Representatives from the larger, downtown-based educational institutions had requested that City Hall bring significant investments to the table to rezone surrounding public spaces," recalls City of Montreal urban planner Jocelyn Jobidon, who participated in the summit.

Montreal's International Quarter, located just south of downtown, is one successful example of that urban plan. Surrounding Victoria Square, the

project allowed for various, large corporate players located west of the Palais de Congrès to work together and reconstitute a previously unstructured urban framework. The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec's headquarters served as a cornerstone for this ambitious project.

The same causal effect took place with the construction of Concordia's Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex (EV Building). Inaugurated in 2005, the impressive structure was much like a compass, reorienting the campus more to the west. Situated on Ste. Catherine Street between Guy and Mackay streets, the EV Building comprises twin towers that sit on a spacious, podium structure visually blending into the public thoroughfares.

That effect was deliberate. Aware of the complexities at stake, the university's planners opened the redesign and development of the campus, coined Quartier Concordia, to a public tender. In 2003, Concordia awarded the contract to Montreal-based architecture firm Cardinal Hardy.

### Quartier dialogue

Cardinal Hardy was tasked with unifying the buildings that were strewn across the Sir George Williams Campus, Bolla

Concordia focuses its real-estate activities  
around a new, unifying centre



RYANA BLAU, PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right: Isabelle Giasson of Cardinal Hardy, Peter Bolla, associate VP, Facilities Management, and Martine Lehoux, director of Planning and Development, at the new Quartier Concordia on the corner of Guy Street and De Maisonneuve Boulevard.

# FULL TILT TOWARD DOWNTOWN

says. “The campus was developed in the spirit of the 1960s, when satellite projects were constructed without any real relevance to the surrounding community,” he points out. It became imperative for the new plan to regroup the faculties but “only as long as it didn’t cut them off from the public.”

The City of Montreal and Quebec government already had plans to revitalize De Maisonneuve Boulevard and earmarked \$22.4-million toward developing the artery at the corner of Guy Street. City of Montreal urban planner Jocelyn Jobidon says that between 2000 and 2007, private businesses made major investments—in condominiums and other projects—along the boulevard, which would become a backbone for the newly developed Quartier Concordia.

“We took this window of opportunity to revamp the shape of this thoroughfare. We’re talking about a comprehensive overhaul with expanded lanes, devoted parking space and new bike paths,” Jobidon says, adding that

apparent when visitors first set foot in the EV Building’s majestic concourse.

### Open architecture

The ritual of entering the immense, hybrid pavilion brings to mind the uninterrupted flux of passersby in an airport. In spite of its impressive height, the building doesn’t shut out the view of the street and incorporates itself into its urban surroundings. Despite its concrete, metal and glass structure, the lighting and outer cladding lighten the interior spaces and reinforce a connection with the public space.

The same core design idea is found across Guy Street in the JMSB Building, which houses business education students and was inaugurated in September 2009. The two, vast structures delineate the new heart of the campus as a result of their downtown location and the flow of Guy Street toward the St. Lawrence River to the south.

Karim Boulos, the JMSB’s executive director of External Affairs, recalls

It would be short-sighted to begin a project without taking into account the environmental impact caused by its financial or commercial activities. Therefore, the new JMSB Building design was drafted with the goal of fulfilling LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification requirements. Boulos raves about the giant, 300-square-metre solar panel that covers a large section of the building’s upper, western wall. “Thanks to this revolutionary system, we can count on fulfilling a part of our energy requirements. No effort was spared to make this building a model for reducing the environmental footprint,” Boulos says. “It’s an intelligent building that manages lighting, ventilation and energy consumption by taking human movement into consideration.”

### Ivy on stone

Another of the JMSB building’s impressive features is the enormous mural that adorns the building’s outer wall along De Maisonneuve Boulevard. This work by Geneviève Cadieux, a photographic artist and Faculty of Fine Arts associate professor, consists of ivy branches made from anodized steel mounted on a limestone wall.

The majestic entrance of the school bookends the development of Norman Bethune Place on De Maisonneuve Boulevard across the intersection at Guy Street. There were considerable efforts to refurbish the area surrounding the monument dedicated to Bethune, the Canadian-born surgeon who died in 1939 while working in China.

Isabelle Giasson, landscape architect at Cardinal Hardy, is responsible for the construction and expansion of the square just north of the Guy Metro (GM) Building entrance. In 2007, Giasson began working on the project that is estimated for completion in 10 years. The development of the statue’s old site at the intersection of Guy Street and De Maisonneuve Boulevard will become the gateway to Quartier Concordia. A magnificent row of elms will serve as

It is a staggering accomplishment to have so many people gather in a space that takes up only 3,000 square metres of land.

he’s become accustomed to working alongside the university’s team.

Martine Lehoux, Concordia’s director of Planning and Development, admits that university and city officials engaged in verbal sparring before they ultimately agreed on some “milestones.” “Normally, municipal regulations impose certain ratios for interior parking but this directive was loosened to allow us to develop our underground spaces for student services,” Lehoux says. The extension of these spaces was part of the overall vision for a new campus that would integrate more seamlessly into its surroundings. This approach becomes

that business students previously had to come and go between the Norris Building on Drummond Street and the quaint Victorian houses lining Bishop and Mackay streets. “It’s a thing of the past now that all of our 8,000 students are under the same roof,” Boulos says. “It is, nevertheless, a staggering accomplishment to have so many people gather in a space that takes up only 3,000 square metres of land.”

### Innovation and nature go hand in hand

The JMSB Building was designed with other considerations as well.



**A view of the City of Montreal construction plans for the Quartier Concordia, along De Maisonneuve Boulevard between Mackay and Guy streets. This reconfiguration changed the overall shape of the area, adding car lanes, dedicated parking and bicycle paths.**

a screen separating Norman Bethune Place from the parking located on its northern side. The same elm trees, as well as contemporary lighting fixtures, will line all of this refurbished area.

Giasson praises the ingenuity of the implementation of its exclusive urban furnishing. "We have worked on a concept of public benches that will be made of pre-cast concrete, slats made of South American IPE wood and commercially available, stainless-steel armrests. So it will be pretty easy to replace the parts that are likely to be vandalized over time," Giasson says.

### Greater flow

The newly designed, S-curved street along De Maisonneuve gives way to a beautiful pedestrian walkway on the south side. "The new configuration of the roadway will allow us to create a real public square around the Guy metro

entrance facing the GM Building. We always wanted to make Concordia's facades more flowing," Giasson says. Phase II of Norman Bethune Place will help open the structure to the space. Plans include adding boutiques and cafés, with tables and umbrellas on patios, giving the new public space the look and feel of a Spanish *paseo*.

Clarence Epstein, Concordia's director of Special Projects and Cultural Affairs for the Office of the President, explains this design concept. "We want to reaffirm our identity as an institution in harmony with our home environment. That's why the benches are placed along more of the east part of De Maisonneuve," Epstein says. "Furthermore, the landscaping, lighting

and treatment of the area surrounding the buildings will be such that passersby will be aware of the flow of traffic and rhythm of various activities that connect our campus."

All in all, Concordia has taken advantage of a boom in a once-discordant urban zone. The new Quartier Concordia is making significant strides restoring physical harmony with the rest of the city. ■

*Patrice-Hans Perrier is a Montreal-based journalist.*

*Look for an update of developments on the Loyola Campus in the fall 2010 issue.*



**1 Alumni Recognition Awards**

## 2010 ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS BANQUET

Even though more than 275 people packed the elegant Hyatt Regency Montreal ballroom May 17, the room had a family feel. The occasion was the 19<sup>th</sup> Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet hosted by the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA). Local TV and radio personality Sonia Benzra, BFA 82, handled the MC duties with warmth and humour. The banquet included a formal dinner, as well as the presentation of eight awards and a special tribute to Leonard and Bina Ellen, for whom Concordia's Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery is named.

Award recipients pictured in front row, left to right: **Aaron Fish**, Honorary Life Membership Award; **Donald Boisvert**, BA 75, MA 70, Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching; **Monique and Joanne Rousseau**, representing the late Rodolphe "Rod" Rousseau, L BComm 53, Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award; and **Brian Gallery**, L BA 57, Humberto Santos Award of Merit; and back row, left to right: **Christena Keon Sirsly**, S MBA 73, MBA Alumnus/a of the Year Award; **Amine Dabchy**, Outstanding Student Award;

**Lina Uberti**, Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award; and **Denis Kefallinos**, BEng 91, Alumnus/a of the Year. **1**

## DONOR AND STUDENT EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION COCKTAIL

Scholarship winners had an opportunity to meet and personally thank their benefactors March 26 during Concordia's Donor and Student Excellence Recognition Cocktail at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown



**2 Donor and Student Excellence Recognition**

Montreal. The annual event, which typically draws more than 400 guests, also includes an induction ceremony for undergraduate and graduate awards. Pictured left to right are **Richard Frazao**, Customer Relationship Manager for Mechtronix Systems; **Carissa Carman**, recipient of the Mechtronix Graduate Fellowship for Innovative Excellence in Visual Arts; and **Xavier-Henri Hervé**, President, Mechtronix World Corporation. **2**

## KENNETH WOODS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A beaming Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, said he was "overwhelmed" by the achievements of the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program (KWMPM) May 6 at a reunion celebration of the program's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. About 150 guests gathered at the Bonaventure Hilton in downtown Montreal to mark the occasion and pay tribute to its 2010 graduates who are named Calvin Potter Fellows after the former John Molson School of Business (JMSB) Finance professor who was also Woods's mentor.

The KWMPM provides a select group of undergraduate JMSB Finance students with hands-on training in investment management. Students handle a real portfolio of more than \$1 million, the amount initially donated



**3 Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program**

by Woods. Pictured left to right are **Abraham Brodt**, professor and director of the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program, **Meaghan Annett**, Calvin C. Potter Fellow, and **Kenneth Woods**. **3**

**CONCORDIA HERITAGE SOCIETY BRUNCH**

Concordia inducted 21 new members into the Concordia Heritage Society during the society's annual brunch May 16 at the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex (EV Building). Membership into the society is limited to alumni and friends who have made a bequest or planned gift to the university. Over the last 10 months, Concordia received \$5.7 million in planned gifts with the majority supporting scholarships and bursaries. Pictured left to right at the event are **Dolores Cheeks**, S BA 73, Society inductee; **Kathy Assayag**, Concordia VP, Advancement and Alumni Relations; and **David Graham**, Concordia Provost and VP, Academic Affairs. **4**

**ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE EVENTS**

Concordia's Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) alumni participated in several events over the past few months:

On February 17, Andreas Athienitis, senior director of the Concordia-based Solar Buildings Research Network, drew more than 50 alumni, students and industry professionals to his lecture that was followed by a tour of cutting-edge solar

technology in the EV and JMSB buildings.

On March 3, as part of the activities organized by the Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Chapter (ECAC) for Engineering Week, the ECAC joined forces with the Engineering and Computer Science Student Association to present David Shaffer, BEng 78, MEng 83, senior robotics instructor with the Canadian Space Agency in Saint-Hubert, Que. Shaffer led a riveting discussion about how International Space Station astronauts and flight controllers are trained to operate the Mobile Servicing System (including the Canadarm 2).

On March 4, Peter Grogono, MCSc 80, PhD 85, professor in Concordia's Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, spoke to the timely subject of software and society.

And on April 19, the ECAC held its Annual General Meeting in the EV Building. Afterwards, Carolyn-Fe Trinidad, president of Montreal-based CFT Inc., provided practical tips on and insights into job-hunting techniques.

**CONCORDIA GOES WEST CABANE À SUCRE FAMILY OUTING**

About 80 Concordia alumni and their friends and families braved inclement weather March 14 and showed up for the Concordia Goes West Cabane à Sucre Family Outing at the Cap-Saint-Jacques Nature Park Ecological Farm in Pierrefonds, Que. The outing began with a carriage ride to the sugar shack, where participants enjoyed taffy on the snow and a traditional meal that included maple syrup, crepes and pea soup.



**4 Concordia Heritage Society**



**5 Media 2.0**

**MEDIA 2.0: HOW JOURNALISM CONNECTS IN A CONNECTED WORLD**

Canadian social media guru and author **Mitch Joel** **5** delivered an enlightening, public presentation April 1 at the Montefiore Club in Montreal. In his talk on "Media 2.0: how journalism connects in a connected world," Joel explained why social media platforms such as blogging, Twitter and Facebook are changing the way people connect with information and what it's like to live in a world in which everyone can publish content to a wide readership.

**CULTURAL FIELD TRIP**

On March 20, about 35 alumni and friends took part in a cultural field trip to the Musée d'art de Joliette in Joliette, Que. Gisele Amantea, Concordia associate professor of Studio Arts, led a tour of her ongoing survey exhibition called "Sweet Dreams, Hard Truths" and



## 6 Graduating Stingers Luncheon

her site-specific installation entitled "Heaven's Gate (After Stockhausen)." Jake Moore, BFA 03, MFA 06, director of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts Gallery, was also on hand to provide a historical background.

### GRADUATING STINGERS LUNCHEON

Concordia's student-athletes (aka the Stingers) were the guests of honour April 13 during the Graduating Stingers Luncheon at Concordia's Communication Studies and Journalism Building. About 55 Concordia faculty and staff members, coaches and guests celebrated the students' academic and athletic achievements. The Class of 2009-10 includes 46 athletes who represent 10 different sports. Former women's rugby player Sommer Christie, BSc 03, delivered a heart-warming address about Stinger pride. "I imagine you will probably always say, 'I am a Stinger,' instead of just saying that you played a sport while studying at university," Sommer said. **Richard W. Pound**, S BA 63 (pictured, centre), cabinet chair for Concordia's Recreation and Athletics Campaign and a former Olympic athlete, urged students to stay connected with and support their alma mater. Pictured left to right with Pound are **Ghislain Arsenauff**, BComm 85, and **Michael Di Grappa**, BA 84, Concordia VP, Services. **6**

### ROCK TO THE OLDIES

Karina's Club Lounge in Montreal was swinging April 17, when nearly 40 alumni and their friends turned out for

the Rock to the Oldies event. Guests revelled in the nostalgia of revolving disco balls, beaded necklaces and neon glow sticks, while the DJ played their favourite hits from the 1950s to the 1980s. Several alumni proved that despite the time lapse, they still know how to cut a rug!

### CONCORDIA GOES WEST ALUMNI BOOK CLUB: SARAH'S KEY

On April 19, the Alumni Book Club took place in Montreal's West Island for the first time as part of the Concordia Goes West series of events. Vivianne Schinasi-Silver, S BA 64, reviewed Tatiana de Rosnay's book, *Sarah's Key*, with 30 attendees at Stewart Hall in Pointe Claire, Que.

### GARNET KEY SOCIETY ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

More than 110 former and current members of the Garnet Key Society, friends and university dignitaries attended the Society's Annual Alumni



## 7 Garnet Key Society

Banquet May 8 at Montreal's Omni Hotel. Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth presented each 52<sup>nd</sup> Key member with a commemorative plaque. Travis Chalmers, BSc 02, member of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Key and secretary of the Garnet Key Alumni Chapter, spoke about the chapter's initiatives. James Fraser, S BA 64, member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Key, shared memories from his days as a Sir George Williams University student and welcomed the incoming 53<sup>rd</sup> Key. "You have joined this family and you are members for life!" Fraser said. Pictured from left to right are 50<sup>th</sup> Key members **Anna Cantor**, BA 08, and **Sabrina Kabir**, BA 09. **7**

### ALUMNI BOOK CLUB: BROOKLYN

On April 22, Stephanie King, MA 03, reviewed *Brooklyn*, Colm Toibin's tender story of love and loss, with more than 30 alumni and friends in Concordia's Hall Building as part of the Alumni Book Club.

### BOOK TO BIG SCREEN: THE SWEET HEREAFTER

More than 80 Concordia and McGill university alumni and friends gathered May 12 in the York Amphitheatre of the EV Building for a screening of the 1997 award-winning film by Atom Egoyan, *The Sweet Hereafter*, based on the 1991 novel by American author Russell Banks. Participants partook in a stimulating discussion about the narrative strategies that bridge or distinguish the novel and film, facilitated by Peter Lester, PhD 08, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, and Ned Schantz, associate professor of English at McGill University.

### YOUNG ALUMNI PROGRAM

The newly launched Young Alumni Program held three, well-attended events this spring: an Introduction to Digital Photography course on March 1; a cooking workshop on March 2 at Ateliers & Saveurs cooking school in Montreal; and an eight-class salsa workshop at Concordia's Hall Building. The Young Alumni Program's goal is to



**8 Meet the President**

reach out to Montreal-area graduates of the past 10 years to strengthen their connection to each other and the Concordia community. More events are planned for fall 2010. Visit for [alumni.concordia.ca](http://alumni.concordia.ca) for updates.

### Chapters: MEET CONCORDIA'S PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

This spring, Concordia's two largest geographic chapters held meet-and-greet events in honour of President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth.

On March 31, Woodsworth joined Kathy Assayag, Concordia VP, Advancement and Alumni Relations, for a visit to Toronto, where they met 100 alumni and friends at an event that was graciously sponsored by J. Roy Firth, BComm 75, executive VP, Individual Wealth Management, at Manulife Financial.

And on May 19, **Woodsworth** (pictured, centre) met with more than 70 alumni and friends gathered at Ottawa's prestigious Minto Suite Hotel. She mingled with the guests and spoke about recent donations to the university and the physical development of both campuses. Pictured with her from left to right are **Johanne Ostiguy**, BA 83, and **Bernard Landreville**, BA 82. **8**

### TORONTO

Toronto's elegant Bymark Restaurant was the place to be on February 24 for a Mix, Mingle &

Network Pub Night. On March 20, the Toronto Chapter hosted its second annual Toronto Marlies hockey night at the Ricoh Coliseum. More than 30 alumni and friends enjoyed a match between the Hamilton Bulldogs and the Toronto Marlies. Special guest Brian Burke, the Toronto Maple Leafs' president and general manager, discussed the business of hockey.

### OTTAWA

The Ottawa Chapter hosted a Beer Tasting March 10 at the Arrow and Loon Pub. Jeff Moore from McAuslan Brewing led a fun-filled and delicious sampling of various McAuslan beers and gave each participant a pint-sized beer glass as a parting gift.

### VANCOUVER

Alumni and friends gathered May 13 at one of the Vancouver region's hippest spots, the Richmond Art Gallery in Richmond, B.C., for a Networking Museum event. John Richardson, S

BA 66, president of the Richmond Art Gallery Board of Directors and a former Sir George Williams University professor, and gallery director Lynn Beavis, BFA 84, MFA 03, talked about the gallery and its current exhibition.

### BOSTON/NEW ENGLAND

Vinu Srinivasan, MBA 03, and his wife, Valerie, played host March 26 to New England-area alumni at a wine-and-cheese networking event at their home in Boston. Stephan De Pénasse, BA 78, Jeffrey Davis, BA 78, Michael Thompson, S BComm 68, MBA 74, and Denis Kefallinos, BEng 91, shared their expertise and tips on effective business networking.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

Under clear skies on April 17, alumni in Washington, D.C., walked three miles together for the Chapter Walk to Fight MS. The fundraising walk fittingly began and ended at the Canadian Embassy.

### DUBAI

More than 40 alumni attended a Meet & Greet networking event March 31 at the Marina Yacht Club in Dubai. Volunteer Hamzah Abu-Zannad, BComm 06, reported the successful event included extravagant food and upbeat participants who looked forward to the next gathering.

### SHANGHAI

On May 11, Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth and Peter Kruyt, BA 78, Chairman of Concordia's Board of Governors, had dinner at Lynn Restaurant with 15 alumni from Shanghai, China. ■

## Call for chapter volunteers

We are seeking volunteers to join our chapters' executive teams in Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Boston, New York City, Washington, D.C., and London, United Kingdom. It's a meaningful way to network and reconnect with your alma mater.

For more information, please contact Lina Uberti, Alumni Officer, Geographic Chapters, at [lina.uberti@concordia.ca](mailto:lina.uberti@concordia.ca).

# Call for nominations for the Loyola Medal

The Loyola Medal Committee is seeking nominations for the **Loyola Medal**, the highest honour awarded by Concordia University other than convocation awards and honorary degrees.

In 1961, the Loyola Alumni Association and the administration of Loyola College agreed to create the Loyola Medal "as a permanent tribute to the outstanding leadership and achievement on the Canadian scene." The first medal was awarded in 1963 to General Georges P. Vanier, former governor general of Canada and a Loyola alumnus. In 1989, it was agreed that the Loyola Medal would be established as an award by Concordia and given every two years to an outstanding individual who meets the following criteria:

- Recipients shall be outstanding citizens as evidenced by their character and life philosophy and who have made a significant contribution to the Canadian community. They shall embody the ideals and spirit which characterized Loyola College.
- Recipients will be individuals whose receipt of the award will bring prestige to both the Concordia and Loyola names.

## Nomination and Selection

Submit your nominations by October 8, 2010, to Jennifer Cottin, Alumni Officer, Associations.

The selection process is private and discretionary. The committee will make its final recommendation to the Honorary Degree & Convocation Committee of the Concordia University Board of Governors. The Board, based on a recommendation by the Honorary Degree & Convocation Committee, will select the Loyola Medal recipient.

## Award Presentation

The Loyola Medal will be presented at a special ceremony in spring 2011.

For more information or to get a nomination form, go to [alumni.concordia.ca/LoyolaMedal](http://alumni.concordia.ca/LoyolaMedal), drop by the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office, 1250 Guy St., Suite 520, Montreal, or call Jennifer Cottin at 514-848-2424, ext. 3882.

## Call for Volunteers! Homecoming 2010, September 23 to October 3

Get in on the action at our yearly celebration for alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Meet new people, acquire new skills, gain leadership experience, add to your résumé and have fun!

Volunteers are needed at the Homecoming Football Game, AbitibiBowater Lecture and Family Fair Day to welcome and usher guests, staff games and contests, hand out promotional materials and field event-related questions. Volunteer training will be provided.

For more information, contact Erin Mullins at [erin.mullins@concordia.ca](mailto:erin.mullins@concordia.ca) or at 514-848-2424, ext. 3881.

## NOTICE

is hereby given that the Loyola Alumni Association Inc. will hold its

### 104<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Tuesday, September 21, 2010, at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting is held for the purpose of receiving reports and the election of the 2010-2011 board of directors and officers. All alumni of Loyola College, Concordia University and Sir George Williams University are invited to attend.

Loyola Campus, Administration Building, AD-308  
7141 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal

RSVP by September 10, 2010  
Online: [alumni.concordia.ca/register](http://alumni.concordia.ca/register)  
Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397  
Toll free: 1-888-777-3330

## NOTICE

is hereby given that the Concordia University Alumni Association will hold its

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 6 p.m.

The meeting is held for the purpose of receiving reports and the election of the 2010-2011 board of directors and executive.

Faculty Club Lounge, Sir George Williams Campus  
Henry F. Hall Building, H-763  
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal

RSVP by September 3, 2010  
Online: [alumni.concordia.ca/register](http://alumni.concordia.ca/register)  
Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397  
Toll free: 1-888-777-3330

**EGYPT**



# CONCORDIA ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM 2010

*An adventure of a lifetime*

Take part in our exciting alumni travel program to benefit from unique educational and cultural experiences. Join fellow alumni and explore the ancient wonders of the Nile Valley and Red Sea, a safari in Tanzania and Kenya and a historic Baltic Sea cruise.

## COSTA RICA



### **Antiquities of the Nile Valley and the Red Sea, Egypt and Jordan**

January 19-29, 2011

From \$4,830\*

### **Cruise Costa Rica**

February 23-March 5, 2011

From \$3,495 US\*

### **Amazon River Expedition, Peru**

February 25-March 6, 2011

From \$3,880\*

### **The Culture and Arts of Sicily, Italy**

April 1-10, 2011

From \$2,395 US\*

### **Provence and the Rhône River, France**

May 6-14, 2011

From \$2,395 US\*

### **Cruising the Baltic Sea and the Norwegian Fjords**

**Featuring President Mikhail Gorbachev and President Lech Walesa**

**Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Denmark and Norway**

June 9-20, 2011

From \$7,290\*

### **Village Life along the Dalmatian Coast, Italy, Croatia and Montenegro**

June 20-28, 2011

From \$3,120\*

## AMAZON RIVER



### **Cruising Alaska's Glaciers and the Inside Passage, Alaska**

July 21-28, 2011

From \$3,695 including airfare\*

### **Grand Danube Passage, Austria, Bulgaria and Greece**

September 10-24, 2011

From \$3,895\*

### **Cruise the Mexican Riviera, Mexico**

November 27-December 4, 2011

From \$2,595 US, including airfare from Montreal, Toronto or Vancouver and a \$500 per person shipboard credit.

## BULGARIA



Contact us for more information or to be added to the travel program mailing list at [alumnitravel@concordia.ca](mailto:alumnitravel@concordia.ca)

or

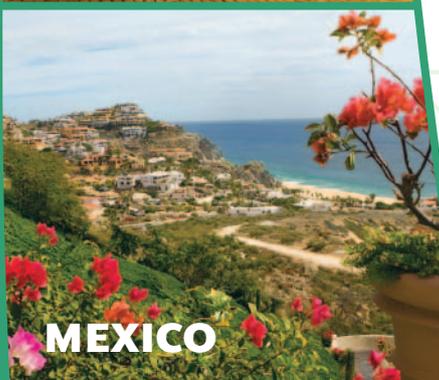
**514-848-2424, ext. 3819**

or visit

**[alumni.concordia.ca/travel](http://alumni.concordia.ca/travel)**

\* Prices are in Canadian funds and per person based on double occupancy and do not include airfare, unless otherwise specified.

## MEXICO



Some graduates in this listing have received more than one degree from Concordia, Sir George Williams and/or Loyola. These people are listed under their earliest year of graduation.

**79 Arshad Ahmad, BComm** (fin.) 79, was elected President of the Society for

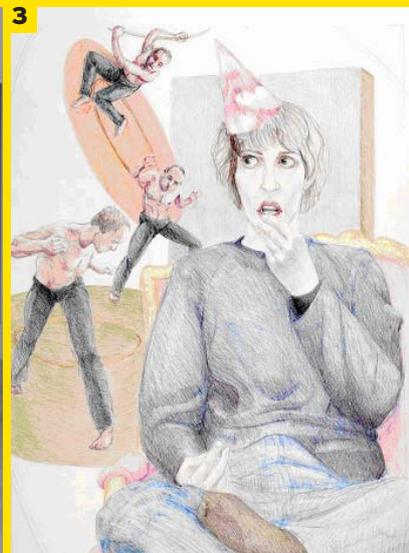
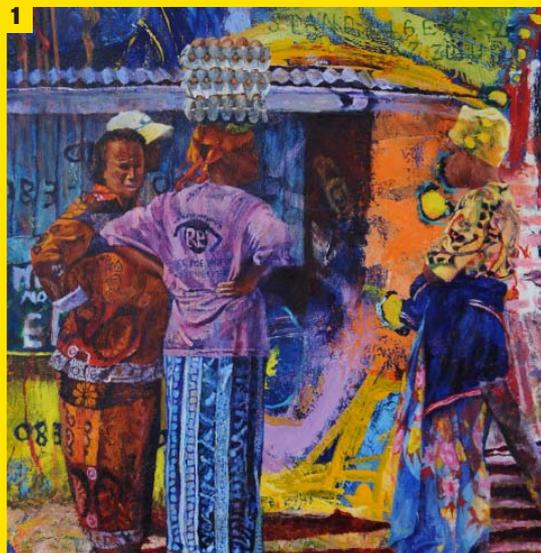
Teaching and Learning in Higher Education for a four-year term beginning in June. Ahmad is an Associate Professor of Finance at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

**87 Karen Shepherd, BA** (econ.), was appointed in 2009 by Canadian Prime

Minister Steven Harper as Canada's first Commissioner of Lobbying. Karen oversees Canada's 3,600 registered lobbyists and ensures that outgoing public-office holders wait five years before becoming registered lobbyists, according to the 2008 Lobbying Act. She has spent more than

20 years in federal public service. Karen also holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration degree from Carleton University in Ottawa.

**88 John B. Mitchell,** PhD (psych.), has been appointed Dean of Brescia University College of the



**1 > Sally Linder, BFA 75,** held a retrospective exhibit called "Pilgrimage" from April 2 to May 1 at the Firehouse Gallery in Burlington, Vt. Sally displayed many paintings inspired by her travels, which included a month of solitary meditation in a remote cave in Utah's canyon land. [sallylinder.com](http://sallylinder.com) 1) *Women talking*

**2 > Angela Grauerholz, MFA (photog.) 82,** is displaying 40 works from May 28 to September 6 as part of an exhibit called "Angela Grauerholz: The inexhaustible image ... éprouer l'image" at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. The selected works from Angela's nearly 30-year career explore the ideas behind her art: feminism, conceptual art and photography. [cmcp.gallery.ca/grauerholz](http://cmcp.gallery.ca/grauerholz) 2) This installation takes the shape of a traditional museum cabinet and houses 62 framed photographs, which can be pulled out like drawers for viewing.

**3-5 > Claudine Ascher, BFA 83, MA (art ed.) 05, Yvonne Callaway Smith, BA 84, MA 91, EMBA 92, and Diane Collet, MA (art ed.) 03,** participated in an exhibition May 5 to 28 that showcased how each artist uniquely processed, visualized and rendered the same

20 pictures. The exhibition entitled "Triple Point-of-View Exhibition, image3" ran from May 5 to 28 at Opticien Georges Laoun's gallery store located in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. 3) *Eating Bacon* by Claudine Ascher; 4) *Love Letter IV* by Yvonne Callaway Smith; 5) *Valentine* by Diane Collet

**6 > Raymonde Jodoin, BFA (art hist.) 83,** displayed her ink drawings on washi paper (a thin, handmade Japanese paper) from April 6 to 17 at Centre KAIKI in Blainville, Que. A percentage of the exhibit's sales were donated to Action Autisme, a non-profit organization that helps families with autistic children. 6) *Fleurs 2000*

**7 > Susan Pepler, BFA 84,** exhibited in April in a unique "Art at Home" group show in a private residence in Westmount, Que. Susan also recently held a solo exhibit at the Brome County Museum in Knowlton, Que. This year, Susan celebrates 10 years of painting full-time. [susanpepler.com](http://susanpepler.com) 7) *White Knight*

University of Western Ontario in London starting July 1.

**94 Aengus Finnan, BFA** (drama in ed.), became the Touring and Audience Development Officer in April at the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) in Toronto, Ont. Aengus is an acclaimed folk singer-songwriter and founder of the Shelter Valley Folk Festival. His mandate is to strengthen

the OAC's commitment to touring, presenting and audience development for the arts. Aengus is a founding board member of the Arts Council of Northumberland and a former Board president of the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals. He has earned the Commemorative Medal in Honour of the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

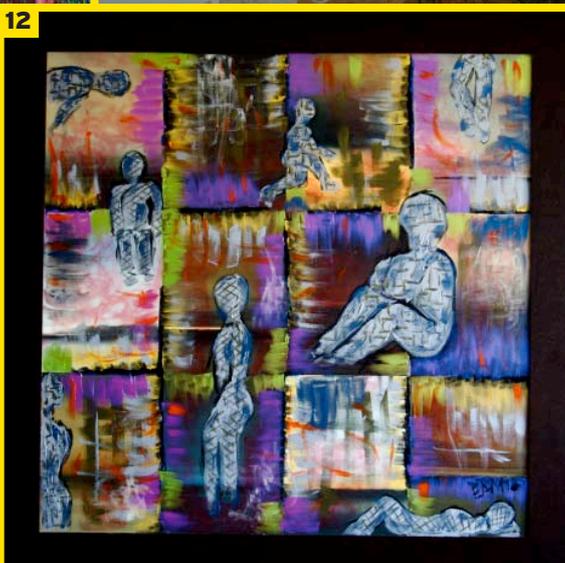
for his humanitarian and cultural work in Canada.

## 15<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

**95 Sina Queyras, MA (Eng.)**, was nominated for a 2010 Pat Lowther Award by the League of Canadian Poets for her novel, *Expressway* (Coach House Books). The award recognizes the best book of

poetry by a Canadian woman published in the preceding year. Sina is an Assistant Professor in Concordia's creative writing program.

**98 Kate Busch, BFA (art ed.), MFA (art ed.) 98**, was appointed cultural mediator coordinator of Montreal's Centre international d'art contemporain, where she organizes cultural events,



**8 > Mathieu Lacas, BFA** (painting & drawing) 05, held a solo exhibition from May 4 to 16 of his paintings titled "Songe d'une nuit d'été" at L'espace contemporain gallery in Quebec City. Mathieu's work presents the male nude as a complex theatre of enchantment. [mathieulaca.com](http://mathieulaca.com) 8) *Songe d'une nuit d'été*

**9 > Alyson Champ, BA** (phil.) 93, held a solo exhibition from March 14 to April 4 of her recent painted paper collages entitled "Paper, Paint, Scissors and Glue" at Salle Alfred-Langevin in Huntingdon, Que. The exhibition set an attendance record for the hall. Alyson is a painter, collage artist, small-scale farmer and art educator based in Saint-Chrysostome, Que. [alysonchamp.com](http://alysonchamp.com) 9) *Celeste*

**10 > Khosro Berahmandi, BFA** 92, held an exhibit called "Nebulous Rings" from May 7 to June 27 at the MEKIC Gallery in Montreal. The exhibit was part of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Montreal's Accès Asie festival that coincided with the city's Asian heritage month in May. Khosro also released his new book, *Oblivion and Silence*, which features his paintings

accompanied by poems written by his friend, Bahman Sadighi. 10) *Telluric Kiss*

**11 > Trevor Kiernander, BFA** (painting & drawing) 06, recently returned to Montreal from England, where he studied at the University of London's Goldsmiths College. From May 1 to June 19, Trevor exhibited a new set of oil and acrylic paintings called "To Build a Home" at Montreal's Art Mûr. He splits his time between Montreal and London, where he recently opened ShopAt34, an artist-run space for performances and exhibitions. 11) *Disciple I*

**12 > Erin McCarthy, BFA** (art hist. & studio art) 07, took part in a group exhibition on May 21 and 22 called "A Collaboration of Quebec Artists" at Montreal's Studio Off Interarts. The exhibition featured 15 Quebec artists who specialize in areas that include painting, photography, sculpture, wood-working, jewellery making, and even gourmet cupcake baking. 12) *Emoticons*

Concordia conferred honorary doctorates on seven outstanding individuals June 21 to 23 as part of its convocation ceremonies at Place des Arts in Montreal:

## Arts and Science • June 21

**Robert Charlebois**, LLD 10, has enjoyed a successful, 40-year career as a singer, songwriter, actor, performer and multimedia creator. Charlebois has been an iconic figure in the Quebec music scene and throughout the French-speaking world. In recognition of numerous achievements, he is featured on a Canada Post stamp for recording artists. In 1999, Charlebois was named an Officer of the Order of Canada and, in 2008, to the National Order of Quebec.



**Eleanor Wachtel**, LLD 10, a long-time CBC Radio broadcaster, hosts CBC Radio's award-winning *Writers & Company*. Wachtel has become Canada's preeminent voice in literary conversation, championing writing, culture and the arts. She has interviewed some of the world's renowned novelists, poets, essayists, biographers, critics, filmmakers and playwrights and redefined journalism about literature. In 2002, Wachtel captured the Jack Award for the promotion of Canadian books and authors and three years later, was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada.



**Richard W. Pound**, S BA 63, LLD 10, a lawyer, Olympic athlete, author and university leader, is internationally renowned as a staunch defender of ethical standards in amateur and professional sports. A member of the International Olympic Committee since 1978 and founding Chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency, Pound has embodied the spirit of voluntary public service in a distinguished career in public and sports administration. Among his accolades, *Time* magazine selected him as one of the 100 most influential people of 2005. Pound is a senior partner with the Montreal law firm Stikeman Elliott LLP and Chancellor Emeritus of McGill University. He is also cabinet Chair for Concordia's Recreation and Athletics fundraising campaign.

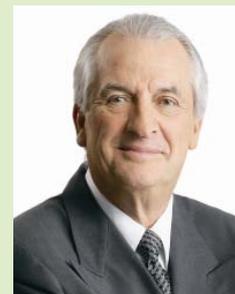
CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



## John Molson School of Business • June 22

**Laurent Beaudoin**, LLD 10, is the former CEO and current Chair of Montreal-based Bombardier Inc., which boasts more than 62,000 employees worldwide. Throughout his 45-year career at Bombardier, Beaudoin was highly influential in shaping the transportation industry on five continents. After he took over as president and CEO at age 28, Beaudoin guided the company through

growth and diversification, first into rail transportation and later into aerospace. Today, Bombardier is one of Canada's largest manufacturing companies and a global leader in rail-equipment manufacturing and servicing, as well as aerospace. Among his honours, Beaudoin was named CEO of the Year in 1991 by the *Financial Post* and Caldwell Partners, selected Personality of the Year in 1997 at the Gala Excellence *La Presse* and was inducted in 1999 into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame.



**Jean Chrétien**, LLD 10, served as Canada's 20<sup>th</sup> prime minister from 1993 to 2003. Among Chrétien's many accomplishments was the advancement of post-secondary education initiatives. His government launched important educational programs, including the Canada Research Chairs, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Trudeau Foundation Fellowships and Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. For his tremendous contributions, he received the Order of Merit from Queen Elizabeth II in 2009.

JEAN-MARC CARISSE



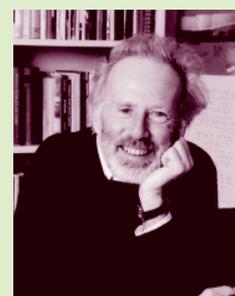
## Engineering and Computer Science • June 23

**Julie Payette**, LLD 10, an accomplished astronaut, engineer and representative of Canada, has spent a total of 25 days in orbit. At the age of 29, Payette beat out 5,000 applicants to become one of four astronauts at the Canadian Space Agency. She is the first Canadian to work aboard the International Space Station and served as chief astronaut of Canada from 2000 to 2007. Payette has also sung with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and is a Knight of the National Order of Quebec.



## Fine Arts • June 23

**R. Murray Schafer**, LLD 10, is an internationally acclaimed educator, researcher, writer, ecologist and visual artist. As one of Canada's foremost composers, Schafer has produced works in every musical genre. His 10-string quartets serve as reference points for the evolution of music and musical thought in the last century. Schafer has received the Canada Council Molson Prize for the Arts and the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, among other honours.



To read the full biographies of all recipients, visit [news.concordia.ca](http://news.concordia.ca)

making contemporary art accessible to the public. Kate lectures on musicology and mediation in Montreal, Toronto, Ont., and New York City, N.Y.

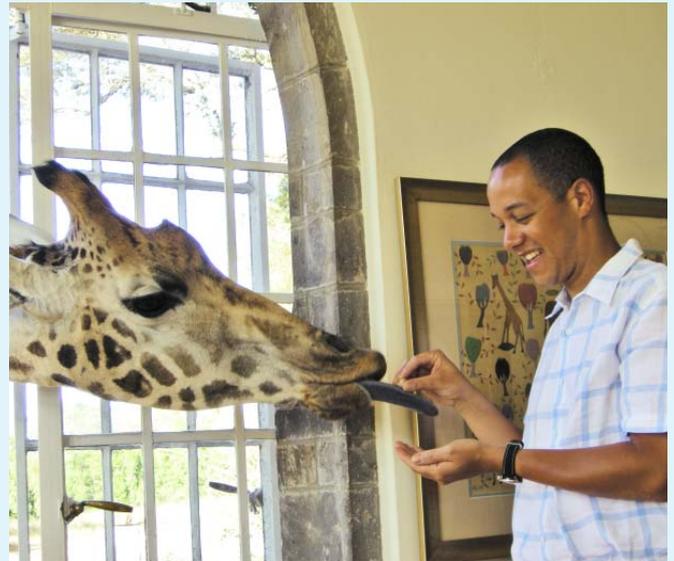
## 10<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

**00 Althea Thauberger**, BFA (photog.), travelled in 2009 with the Canadian Forces Artist Program to Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a documentarian of conflict. Althea was profiled this spring in *Canadian Art Magazine*, in which she is interviewed about the controversial placement—in the University of British Columbia’s humanities library—of her full-scale photograph of Canadian soldiers re-enacting a military exercise. Althea lives in Vancouver, B.C.

**01 Nicolas Basque**, BFA, **Matthew Woodley**, BFA 01, and **Warren C. Spicer**,

BFA 02, are members of the indie rock band called Plants and Animals. In April, the band released its latest album, *La La Land*, to rave reviews. Plants and Animals plans to tour across the United States, Canada and Europe, with a pit stop at Montreal’s Jazz Fest on June 25. [plantsandanimals.ca](http://plantsandanimals.ca)

**Kim Tien Huynh**, BComm (mktg.), was appointed director of Public Relations for Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China. As part of her work at the Canada China Business Council in Shanghai, Kim Tien also started Coucou Quebecois, where Quebecers in China meet for social and cultural events and activities, such as watching Quebec films and eating poutine. She moved to China five years ago. Her advice for those who travel to China for the first time: “Plan your budget beforehand. And if you do not speak Mandarin, smile!”



**Gregory Edwards**, BComm (fin.) 94, is co-founder and chairman of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation in London, United Kingdom. The charity is dedicated to securing a future for all giraffe populations and (sub-) species in the wild. The foundation was the cover story in the March issue of *Africa Geographic* magazine. Gregory is also head of FX eCommerce sales for the Emerging Europe, Middle East and Africa region at the Deutsche Bank. He lives in London.



**Caroline Blair**, BA (soc.) 82, is a program and management consultant for reproductive health, HIV/AIDS-prevention, treatment and mitigation/integrated health programs in Nairobi, Kenya. In May, Caroline conducted research into instructions for a new malaria medicine in Senegal. She says she is focusing on the right side of her brain. “I’m in the process of writing a romance novel (nothing that would be worthy of a Governor General’s award—just a little fun: think Harlequin romance). The story will involve a woman on safari who falls in love.”

**Philip McMaster**, BA (leisure studies), is the principal researcher at the McMaster Institute for Sustainable Development in Commerce in Beijing, China. The February issue of *Sino-Foreign Management*, one of China’s leading business magazines, featured Philip’s work on the 3 Finger “Peace Plus One” Sustainability Symbol and the World Sustainability Project.

**03 Menachem (Mendy) Fellig**, BA (poli. sci.), earned BCL and LLB degrees from McGill University in 2005 and an LLM from the Université de Montreal in 2008. Mendy, his wife, Yael, and newborn daughter, Chaya, live in Waterloo, Ont., where he practices law and lectures on international law at Wilfrid Laurier University.

**Kate Hall**, (Eng. & cr. writing), MA 06 (Eng.), was nominated for a 2010 Gerald Lampert Award by the League

of Canadian Poets for her novel, *The Certainty Dream* (Coach House Books). The award recognizes the best first book of poetry published by a Canadian in the preceding year.

**05 Eva Nassif**, BA (transl.) 05, and MA (transl.) 09, was recently chosen as the Liberal Party of Canada candidate for the federal riding of Laval, Que. Nassif, a translator, lives in Laval with her husband, Georges Abi-Saad, and their children, Charbel, Maroun and Josée.

**07 Javad Lavaei**, MAsc (elec. & comp. eng.), won the 2009-2010 Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools Master’s Thesis Award, which is given to one candidate every three years in the categories of Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering. Javad’s thesis—on controlling multi-component systems that don’t rely on a central control point—beat out candidates from



**David Cyr**, BSc (chem. & biochem.) 09, completed his first marathon on May 30 in Ottawa, Ont. David tackled the 42-km run and raised more than \$5,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada in honour of his best friend, who suffers from a rare form of leukemia. "I ran for my friend and for all those people—the real heroes—suffering and struggling to beat these terrible illnesses. Please support and join me in the fight to help stop blood cancers from taking more lives." Donations can be made at [tinyurl.com/davecyrnt](http://tinyurl.com/davecyrnt).



**Alexandre Franchi**, GrDip (comm. studies) 95, recently made his major motion-picture debut as director of *The Wild Hunt*, which Alexandre co-wrote with the film's star, **Mark Krupa**, BA (psych. & theatre) 92. *The Wild Hunt* won the Best Canadian First Feature at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival. The film examines the serious side of Live-Action Role Play gamers, or those who dress like goblins and wizards and engage in foam-sword combats in the woods. The film will be released on DVD this fall.

120 institutions, including Harvard and Yale universities. His research was supervised by Amir Aghdam, Associate Professor in Concordia's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Javad is now a PhD candidate in the Department of Control and Dynamical Systems at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

**Chantria Tram**, BFA (theatre), spoke April 30 at the United Nations in New York City, N.Y., as a member of the Ken Katas Youth Foundation. Chantria urged Vietnam to reaffirm its commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of its own peoples by opening a constructive dialogue with the Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation and Montagnard Foundation.

**08 Maggie Owen**, MA (cr. arts therapies), **Caitlyn Milot**, BFA (theatre) 08, and

Concordia student **Emily Skahan** were among the 10 performers who competed in May at Le Spotlight in Montreal. Performers compete on stage by demonstrating acting, singing and movement skills. Maggie won the audience choice award for her rendition of "Nelson" from the musical titled *A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine*. Le Spotlight is sponsored by the Centre for Education and Theatre in Montreal.

**08 Gabriel Bran Lopez**, BA (comm. studies), was awarded the 2010 Emerging Leaders Award in April by the Public Policy Forum for his work as executive director of Montreal-based Youth Fusion. Gabriel works with at-risk youth at home and abroad by urging them to stay in high school through partnerships with universities and the private sector. ■

## Keep in Touch

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Or mail or email us any information about yourself—don't be shy—you'd like to appear in Class Acts.

Please include: your name (including name at graduation); year(s) of graduation and degree(s) from Concordia, Loyola or Sir George, and other universities; street address, phone number(s) and email address; and any other relevant personal or business info and messages that you'd like to appear.

By email: [alumni@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@alcor.concordia.ca) Subject: Class Acts

By mail: Class Acts, Advancement & Alumni Relations, Concordia University, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., FB-520, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

Join the the Concordia University Alumni association LinkedIn group group at [alumni.concordia.ca/benefits/olc](http://alumni.concordia.ca/benefits/olc).

**Vincent De Lourdes Leonard**, S BA 38, died on March 6 in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. Vincent is survived by wife, Mary-Gordon Johnson, and children, Peter, Gordon, Ruby-Alice, Philip and Scott.

**Frederick Warren Bedford**, L BA 45, S BSc 57, died on March 21 in Cornwall, Ont. Fred is survived by his wife, Rene Bedford, and his children, Judith and David. He was 85.

**Jack Goldner**, S BA 49, died on February 27 in Montreal. Jack is survived by his wife, Leona (Lazarus), and his children, Emily, Lois, Audrey and Eric.

**E. Alfredo Zambon**, L BSc 51, died on April 3 in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que. Alfredo is survived by his children, Fred, Carla, Karyn, Tony and Marc. He was 81.

**Sydney Flower**, S BSc 53, died on April 10 in Montreal. Sydney is survived by his children, Cheryl and Marvin.

**Harold (Harvey) Gossack**, S BA 53, died on March 22. Harold is survived by his wife, Marlene Beit.

**Randy West**, S BA 55, died on March 17 in Montreal. Randy is survived by his wife, Irene Cunningham, and his children, Edward and Sandra. He was 90.

**Mervin Butovsky**, S BA 59, died on April 6 in Montreal. Mervin is survived by his wife, Rebecca (Rivka) Caplan. Mervin was a Concordia Professor Emeritus.

**John G. Mizgala**, S BComm 59, died May 10 in Montreal. John is survived by his wife Claire (Bourassa), and his children, Suzanne and Louise. He was 75.

**Robert Francis Orr**, L BA 61, died on February 24 in Montreal. Robert is survived by wife, Dolores (Harper), and children, Cynthia, Steven, Martin, John, Kevin, Theresa and Pauline. He was 80.

**Dr. Miriam (Mossy) Packer**, S BA 63, died on March 22 in Montreal. Miriam is survived by her siblings, Paul, Beatrice and Ruth.

**Reynold (Rey) Lee Stanley Clark**, S BSc 66, S MTM 70, died on February 25 in Bowmanville, Ont. Rey is survived by his wife, Muriel, and his son, Ian. He was 75.

**John H. Jackson**, S BA 66, died on March 25 in Montreal. John is survived by his wife, Patricia (Zbinden) and his children, Patrick, Christopher, Michelle and Matthew. He was 72.

**Edward K. (Ted) Pennefather**, S BComm 66, died on March 9. Ted is survived by his siblings, Charles, Robert, Michael and Judy. He was 73.

**Thomas G. Ezzy**, S attendee 67, died on February 20 in Montreal. Thomas is survived by his step-children, Jessica and Stephane Ouvrard. He was 67.

**Stephen Hannon**, S BA 67, died on February 24 in Kingston, Ont. Stephen is survived by his sister, Evelyn.

**Kenneth Michael Mines**, L BComm 67, died on February 18 in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and his children, Jennifer, Steven and Cheryl. He was 64.

**Gabrielle (Levert) Barry**, L BA 68, died on February 15 in Montreal. Gabrielle is survived by her children, Lorraine, Robert and Martin. She was 94.

**Gordon Riles**, S BComm 68, GrDip 93, died on March 11 in Montreal. Gordon is survived by his wife, Christine O'Connell. He was 63.

**Veronica Sheeran Rochon**, L BA (Eng. & phil.) 69, died on May 1 in Montreal. Veronica is survived by her children, Penny and Peter.

**Brian Hayes**, S BSc 70, died on February 16 in Montreal. Brian is survived by his wife, Marguerite, and his children, Stephanie and Richard. He was 63.

**Tim Kealty**, L BSc 70, died in October 2009 in Vancouver, B.C. Tim is survived by his wife, Judy, and his daughters, Allison and Meredith. He was 59.

**Sam Litman**, S BA 70, died on March 19 in Montreal. Sam is survived by his wife, Angie, and his children, Sari and Pam.

**Howard Alan Berlin**, S BA 71, died on April 3 in Calgary, Alta. Howard is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and his children, Adele and Michael. He was 62.

**Dr. Marian Olnyk**, S BA 71, died on March 21 in Montreal. Marian is survived by her husband, Michael Zaitsoff, and her daughter, Mary. She was 69.

**Harris MacFayden**, L BA 72, died on March 13 in Montreal. Harris is survived by his brothers, Douglas and Neil. He was 60.

**David R. Hayes**, BComm 76, died on March 27 in Reston, Va. David is survived by his siblings, Gloria, Yocius and Ronald. He was 56.

**Ann Pearl (Yakimec) Semeniuk**, BA 78, died on February 25 in Victoria, B.C.

**Margaret (Richer) Abracen**, BA 79, died on April 13 in Montreal. Margaret is survived by her son, Jeffrey.

**Helen Joyce Townsend**, BA (community nursing) 79, died May 17 in Newport, Ore. Helen is survived by her children, Mark, Dan, Mary-Ellen, Dawna-Marie and Kelly. She was 82.

**Beverly (Lecker) Levitt**, BComm 81, died on March 28 in Montreal. Beverly is survived by her husband, Mark Levitt, and her children, Chad and Shira.

**John K. English**, BComm 85, died on March 27 in Montreal. John is survived by his wife, Veronica Piacek, and his children, Alexandra and Serena. He was 49.

**Stephen Kraml**, BComm 85, died on February 25 in Montreal. Stephen is survived by his parents, Ludwig and Marianne Kraml, his wife, Laurie Rouse, and his children, Samantha, Alexander and Andrew. He was 47.

**Janet (Hartzheim) Perdue**, MA (ed.) 85, died on March 28 in Montreal. Janet is survived by her children, Dianne, Mark and Gregg. She was 75.

**Yvonne (Rabie) Ades**, BA 87, died on February 28 in Montreal. Yvonne is survived by her husband, Victor, and her children, Arlene and Steven.

**Peter MacFarlane**, BA 92, MA 99, died on April 3 in Montreal. Peter is survived by his sons, Andrew and Bruce. He was 82.

**Mary A. Robertson**, BA 94, died on February 27 in Montreal. Mary is survived by her children, Debbie-Anne, Roseanne, Michael and Johanne. She was 70. ■

## Ghost writers, assassins and strange bedfellows

**Strange Bedfellows:** *The Private Lives of Words* (Ronsdale Press, \$19.95), by **Howard Richler**, BA (poli. sci.) 69, is an etymological delight. The English language has never been much concerned with purity, Richler explains, and that has allowed it to absorb an extensive bastard vocabulary, incorporating words from several foreign

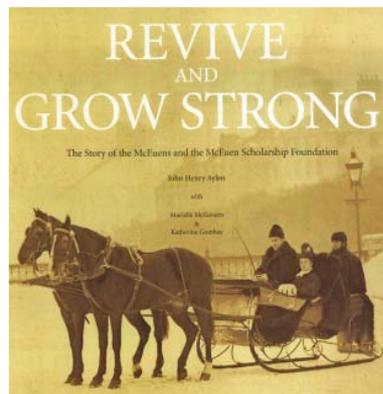
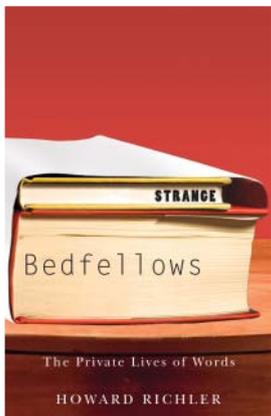
of poems illustrates his diversity by exploring a wide variety of subjects, including the Taliban, multinational agricultural biotechnology company Monsanto, aging, John Lennon and children. Now retired from most of his careers, Raymond continues to work actively as a human rights activist and member of the Quebec Gay Archives.

**John H. Aylen, MA**

archival photos and reproduced documents.

**Back off, Assassin!** *New and Selected Poems* (Mansfield Press, \$16.95), the latest collection from **Jim Smith**, MA (Eng.) 81, brings together a personal selection of poetic works written between 1979 and 1998. Smith's humorous and absurd style conjures a dreamscape of incongruous

Smiley has written for many popular, live-action and animated TV shows while Brousseau has directed a number of projects, one of which was nominated for an Emmy Award. Their first independent project, *Race* (Phase4Films), is a computer-animated, sci-fi feature film, directed by Brousseau and written by Smiley. In the film, the fate of the universe



influences that, in turn, through use and abuse, have come into their own. A devoted logophile, Montreal-based Richler has published several books, newspaper and magazine articles and is working on three new books about language.

**Le retour: Poésie 2000-2010** (L'arc-en-ciel littéraire, \$14.95), is a collection of French poetry by **Marcel F. Raymond**, S BA (Fr. lit. & poli. sci.) 73. Raymond has worn many hats throughout his life: bodybuilder, model, lawyer, biographer and painter. This assembly

(Eng.) 76, has gathered an important collection of archival history in *Revive and Grow Strong: The Story of the McEuens and the McEuen Scholarship Foundation* (The McEuen Scholarship Foundation). Aylen, a former president of the Concordia University Alumni Association, tells the fascinating tale of how Dolly and Mhairi McEuen found ways to overcome their status in a male-dominated society and become catalysts for progress and important philanthropists. The book reads like a novel and provides an abundance of supporting

juxtapositions and unrelated, tangential themes. He may be one of the only published English Canadian poets who is also a successful litigation lawyer, along with F.R. Scott, who mentored him briefly in the 1980s while serving as writer-in-residence at Concordia. Smith was recently named *Lawyers Weekly's* Lawyer of the week. ([mansfieldpress.com](http://mansfieldpress.com))

In 1995, **Robert Brousseau**, BFA (film prod.) 88, and **Rhonda Smiley**, BFA (film prod.) 88, formed Hyper Image, a post-production animation studio in Southern California.

hangs in the balance as Team Earth embarks on a deadly showdown between the forces that have overthrown the peacekeeping Alliance leadership. ([racethemovie.net](http://racethemovie.net))

**Sir John Daniel**, MA (ed. Tech.) 96, is president of the Commonwealth of Learning, an organization that promotes the expansion of education and learning through technology and distance learning in developing countries. *Mega-Schools, Technology and Teachers: Achieving Education for All* (Routledge Press, \$42.95), advocates new approaches to provide access to secondary

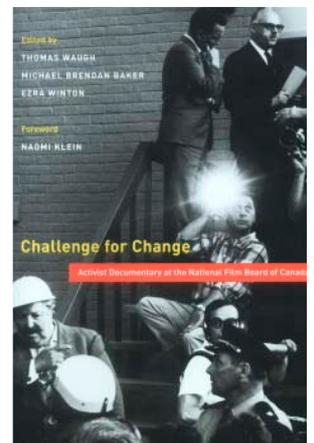
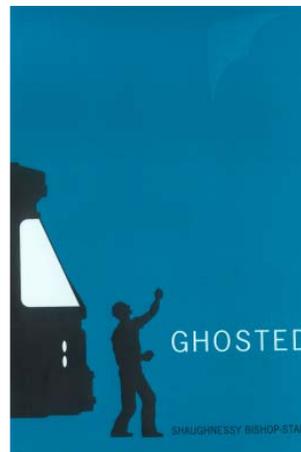
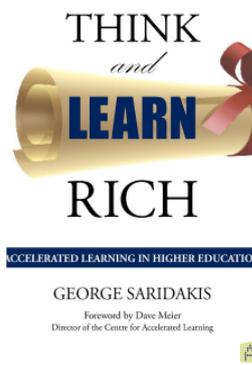
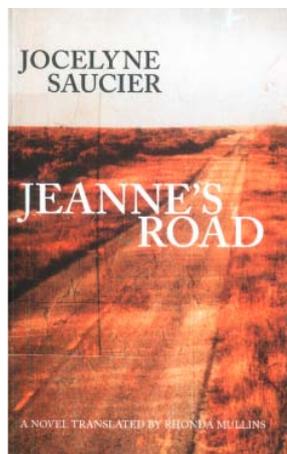
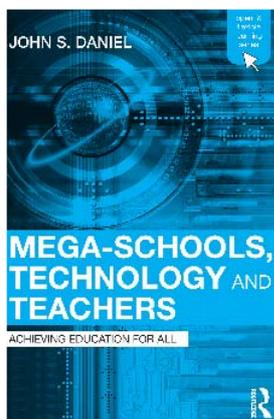
education for today's rapidly growing population of children and young adults. With the ambitious goal of training 10 million new teachers by 2015, the mission aims to espouse quality, open-source and cost-effective education for all. Sir John's book comprehensively tackles the challenges, failures, successes and tools available for creating strategies

that became a refuge for Russians, Finns, Ukrainians, Chinese and Jews—the story brings to life a journalist's devotion to communist militant and famed Marxist Jeanne Corbin and the cause of the local workers, as told through the eyes and memories of Corbin's youngest daughter and heroine's namesake, Jeanne. ([cormorantbooks.com](http://cormorantbooks.com))

experiences as a teaching assistant.

**Shaughnessy Bishop-Stall**, BA (Eng. & cr. writing) 00, published his first work of non-fiction, *Down to This*, to wide critical acclaim in 2005. Bishop-Stall returns with ***Ghosted*** (Random House, \$32), a bold and harrowing novel that looks at life in downtown Toronto through the desperation of a wannabe

influential, original and outstanding bodies of work for the National Film Board of Canada. Filmmakers confronted sexism, poverty and marginalization in the hopes of developing community empowerment and political awareness. In ***Challenge for Change: Activist Documentary at the National Film Board of Canada*** (MQUP, \$34.95),



toward accessible e-learning and replenishing the vital role of education for the development of society at large. Sir John was vice-chancellor of the UK Open University and knighted in 1994 by Queen Elizabeth for services to higher education.

**Rhonda Mullins**, MA (media studies) 96, is a Montreal freelance writer and translator. Mullins's translation of Jocelyne Saucier's *Jeanne sur les routes* was recently published under its English title, ***Jeanne's Road*** (Cormorant Books, \$21). Set in 1933 in Rouyn, Que.—a community

***Think and Learn Rich: Accelerated Learning in Higher Education*** (Accorda Press, \$49), by **George Saridakis**, BEng 97, MA (ed. tech.) 09, is a research study examining the gap that separates the workplace and academia. Saridakis is a Montreal-based training and development professional. He explores what happens when a popular, organizational learning methodology, Accelerated Learning, is co-opted to design a graduate course in educational technology. Saridakis's research brings him compelling insights through his

writer, Mason, living on the brink of debt and alcoholism. Things take an odd turn when Mason inadvertently lands his first vocational gig as a suicide-note writer. His overbearing urge to come to the aid of those who hire him immerses Mason in their tragedies while he wrestles with his own demons. Bishop-Stall teaches writing at University of Toronto's School of Continuing Education.

The activist documentary program called Challenge for Change/Société nouvelle ran from 1967 to 1980 and produced one of the most

co-edited by **Thomas Waugh**, a professor at Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema; **Ezra Winton**, BA (comm. studies & poli. sci.) 05, MA (media studies) 07, founder and programmer of the Cinema Politica network; and **Michael Brendan Baker**, MA (film studies) 04, the formative program's history is seamlessly integrated into present-day initiatives and highlights a consciousness on both national and international levels about the role documentaries play in improving the world. ■

—Saro Nova

# Heady days at Oxford

BY LILIANE CHAMAS, BSc O9

*In 2008, Concordia Cellular and Molecular Biology student Liliane Chamas won a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. Chamas is now pursuing a PhD at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism. She reports on her first year abroad.*

**F**oggy: my five-letter description of my Oxford experience thus far. And I'm not referring to the weather.

While I've been here more than six months, in some ways, it still feels like a dream; a haze. Holding my student card puts everything in perspective: solid plastic with my picture next to the Oxford University logo. This time last year, I would have been holding my coffee mug while studying for finals in Concordia's library building. My conclusion? Academic support and hard work pay off—and coffee provides a much-needed boost along the way!

The weekend before heading off to the United Kingdom, I went to Ottawa and met the other Canadian Rhodes Scholars: an amazingly diverse crew that's truly representative of the Canadian multicultural and intellectual mosaic. We soon became friends because we're all bibliophiles who share similar values and a zest for life. We still get together quite often to watch hockey, talk about Canadian politics and, well, procrastinate when our schedules permit it.

When I arrived, I quickly got acquainted with the city. I bought a plant and set my sights on a coffee shop nearby. I felt a surge of excitement, much like when I was a first-year undergrad. I attended every student event, registered with every association and forgot everyone's name five minutes after meeting



**Rhodes Scholar Liliane Chamas at Saint Mary's Church overlooking All Souls' College at Oxford University. Chamas plans to complete a four-year PhD program at Oxford and then return to Montreal and attend medical school.**

them. Then came the stress. I realized how accomplished everyone is and how I had to keep up with the fast and demanding pace. The stress slowly evolved into determination, as I switched to autopilot to focus on a four-year PhD. At the end of each day, we all rushed to formal hall—the Hogwarts-like dining room—and confided to each other about how intimidated we actually felt and how food tasted better back home.

Oxford, as a city that thrives on conventional university life, is subject to more than a few stereotypes—many of which hold true. The world shuts down at 4 p.m. for afternoon tea. Students ride along on their bicycles wearing formal gowns to a weekday dinner, at which choirboys will sing a nightly grace. Tourists sporting Oxford sweatshirts and holding unnecessarily large maps—the city is quite small—will trip over one another looking for “the castle where they filmed *Harry Potter*.” Pubs open early in the morning and close at

11 p.m., when all customers rush across the street to one of the (in)famous kebab vans to inhale some “cheesy chips”—an English version of our beloved *poutine*.

But Oxford is also a contradiction. Despite being steeped in centuries-old tradition, it's a dynamic centre of progress. The university springs to life with its endless, high-profile speakers, over stimulates with a dazzling array of conferences and meetings, and challenges with world-class researchers in every field. My work surrounds me with international leaders in the area of diabetes and metabolic diseases: the clinicians and scientists at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, where I have both the freedom and guidance to turn my ideas into experiments. My goal is to decipher genetic clues from clinical experiments for insights into the development of type 2 diabetes and metabolic diseases.

When I shed my lab coat, life doesn't slow down. Oxford's diverse intellectual culture stretches my curiosity across disciplines. Nightly debates over a pint with peers whose reading materials cover politics to neuroscience and international development to astrophysics, constantly remind me that I've been afforded an opportunity to reach new heights, both personally and professionally. With rowing practice in the wee hours of the morning, brief excursions to explore greater England and visitors to show around every couple of weeks, these past two terms have flown by. I can only look forward to the next three years.

As for the weather? Well, it's been rainy, sunny, foggy and ash-cloudy while I've written this piece, so I suppose you could describe it as moody. ■

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