

W I N T E R 2 0 1 0 / 1 1

# Concordia

U N I V E R S I T Y M A G A Z I N E

The Tony Award-winning set  
of *American Idiot*, designed  
by Christine Jones, BFA 89

SEXY RATS > TRÉSORS DE L'ART DE CONCORDIA > HOMECOMING 2010

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## Alumna profile: Painting Broadway a new shade of punk

Christine Jones, BFA 89, looks and acts more like a punk rocker than a Broadway mainstay—and maybe that's the secret to her Tony Award-winning set designs.

By Adam Avrashi



**Cover:** The Broadway set of *American Idiot*, designed by Christine Jones, BFA 89.

**Credit:** Stephen Joseph

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## Sex on the Brain

Don't blanch! Concordia Psychology Professor James Pfau stimulates lab rats' sexuality—to learn more about what excites human libido.

By Patrick McDonagh

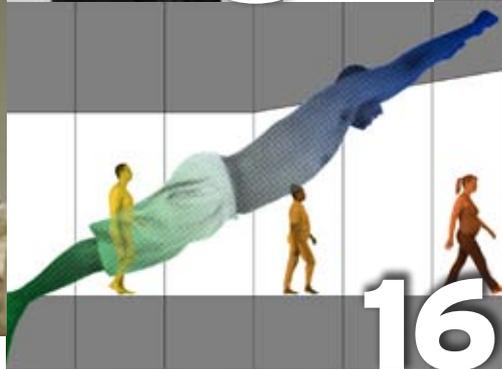


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## La chasse aux trésors à Concordia

La collection d'œuvres d'art public de l'Université s'enrichit grâce à la construction de nouveaux pavillons.

Par Patrice-Hans Perrier



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## Faculty spotlight: Engineering and Computer Science

Professor Christopher Trueman and former dean Jack Bordan are valued members of the Engineering and Computer Science family.

By Cléa Desjardins

## Adopting the right attitude



I left Canada for Hawaii more than 40 years ago, three years after I graduated from Loyola College. While I admit that at Loyola I spent as much time playing snooker as in the classroom, my college experience remains a big part of who I am. I reacquainted with old friends there, such as Richard McConomy, L BA 66, and Clark Cada, L BA 68. I also got to know Father John O'Brien, S.J., L BA 45, the founder of Loyola's Department of Communication Arts (now Communication Studies), who later would baptize two of our children.

My Hawaii connection began when I met my future wife, Sara, on a tour of Europe in 1965. We were married in Montreal and I worked in Canada for a few years before we moved to Honolulu in 1969. My career included work with Hawaiian Airlines, Princeville Airlines and a partnership selling building systems. In 1991, I started a food distribution company, Gourmet Foods Hawaii. I retired last year and our two daughters, Shawn and Shannon, now own and run the company. Our son, Andrew, is a captain with Hawaiian Airlines.

A few years back, Jim Donaldson, L BSc 52, the president of the Loyola Alumni Association, tracked me down. He and a few others made a simple pitch to me: they were fundraising in order to refurbish the Loyola Refectory and asked, "Would you like to be a part of it?" I said, "Yes."

My parents adopted me when I was an infant and instilled strong values and set incredible examples. I attended Loyola because my mother insisted I go to a Catholic college. During the Second World War, they took in two English children and later helped bring Hungarian refugees to Canada.

Therefore, when I was offered the opportunity, I chose to "adopt" a student and honour my parents by creating the James and Catherine Dudgeon Memorial Adopt-A-Student Bursary. This program and the Loyola Refectory Refurbishment Campaign have provided me great opportunities to meaningfully give back to my alma mater.

**Peter Dudgeon, L BA 66**

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# Looking back to look forward

In late October, I had an exceptional opportunity to see and hear Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor, human rights activist and 1986 Nobel Peace Prize recipient. The 82-year-old Wiesel addressed nearly 500 students and others at an event organized by the Concordia Student Union (CSU) for its speaker series and to kick off its Peace Week. Later that evening, Wiesel joined Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth and a smaller group of alumni and guests at a cocktail reception hosted by the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office. (See Concordia News, page 7.)

Appropriately, Wiesel was introduced to the speaker series audience by History Professor Frank Chalk, director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS), which is housed at Concordia. Chalk expressed his gratitude to Wiesel for his "dedication to memory" and for being "a messenger to humanity."

Wiesel didn't disappoint. His talk was eloquent, passionate and inspiring. This man rose from the ashes of genocide and has since dedicated his life to writing and talking about that horror to keep alive the memory of the victims and promote peace.

The role of *memory* looms large in Wiesel's writings and academic and public career. "I try to celebrate memory," he said. "Without it, civilization, history, even friendship, would be impossible. For the living and the dead, we must remember." He referred to his 1995 novel, *The Forgotten*, in which the protagonist, a Holocaust survivor, is in the early stages of dementia. Horrified at the possibility that all he has witnessed will be lost, he passes on his life's story to his son, a *New York Times* reporter.

The still-vigorous Wiesel struck a chord with his mostly much-younger audience because he was able to successfully convey that remembering and



examining past atrocities can prevent future ones—a philosophy he shares with MIGS. He pointed out that the world failed to stop the genocides in Rwanda and the Balkans because they seemed to forget the lessons of the past.

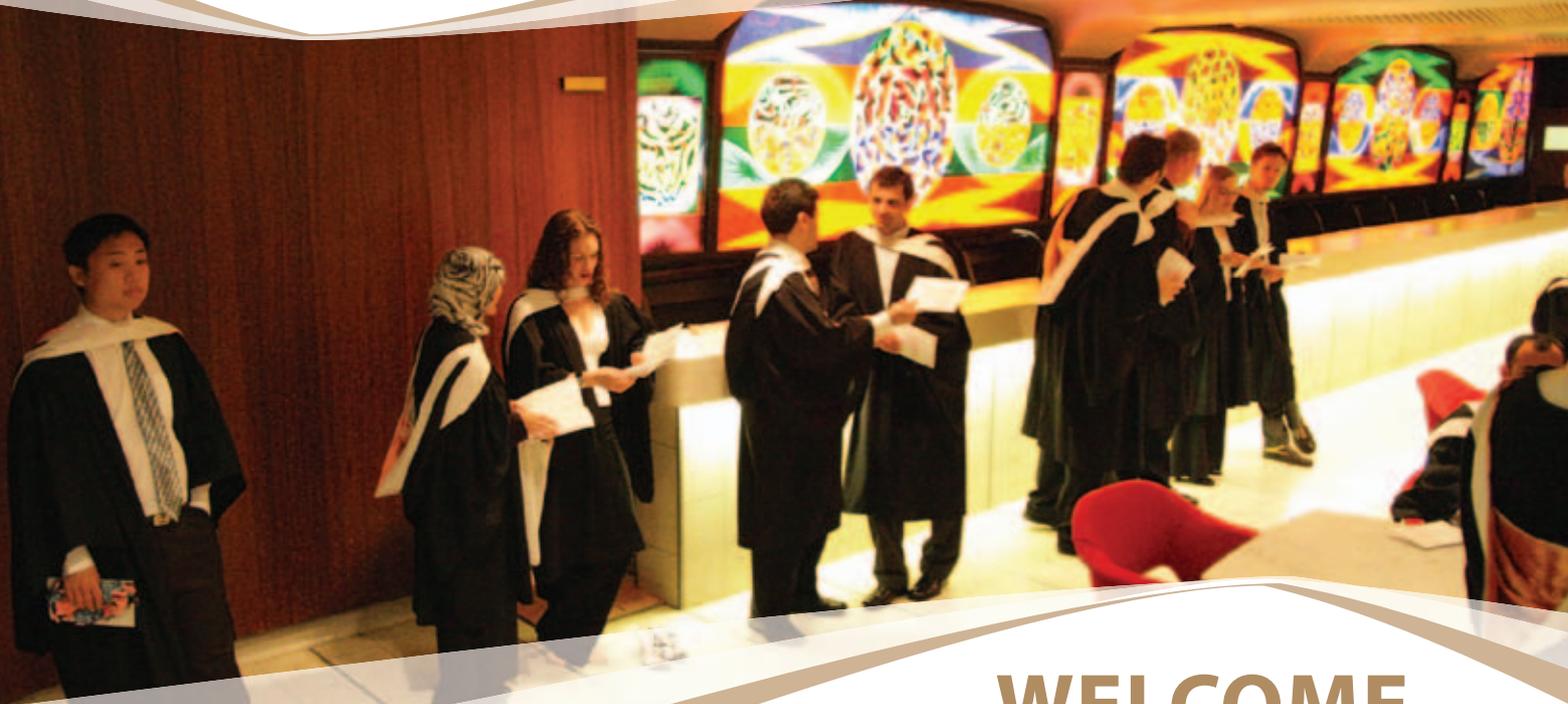
However, Wiesel cautioned against the dangers of misusing memory. He recounted a trip he made in the 1990s to the Balkans at the request of U.S. President Bill Clinton. Wiesel asked a resident why he hated his neighbour so much. "He told me, 'Well, 384 years ago, my ancestor was violated by his ancestor.'" Wiesel shook his head at the thought, and then added: "Therefore, like love and money, it all depends on what you do with memory."

That's the crux of education, of course: to use the knowledge culled from the past in order to constructively move forward, whether in the sciences, humanities, business or art.

The students at the talk clearly got it. They sat enthralled, then gave the Nobel Peace Prize recipient a standing ovation before lining up for signed copies of his acclaimed memoir, *Night*. It was heartening to see this young and diverse group respond so positively to someone old enough to be their grandparent. "Indifference is not an option," Wiesel said at the end of his talk. Those in attendance showed that they were willing to accept his appeal not be indifferent to past, present and future crimes against humanity.

The CSU representatives who spoke at the event were clearly proud to help bring this esteemed figure to Concordia to deliver a powerful message of peace. We can be equally proud of them for doing so. ■





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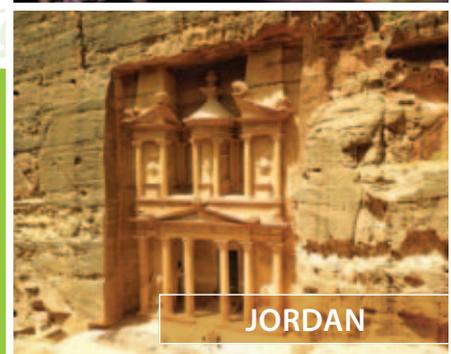
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## Concordia contributes to dialogue on leadership, universities and prosperity

Over the past three months, I have made a point of talking to the wider public as much as possible. My goal has been to draw attention to the issues and values that are important to us as a university, as well as to our partners and supporters.

In October, I participated in a panel hosted in Montreal by the *Globe and Mail* newspaper on the issue of women in power.

Or rather, we examined the troubling question of why women are "not in power."

The sad reality is that over the past 10 years, the participation rate of women in the upper echelons of business, government and academia has not kept pace with their representation in the overall workforce, which has now reached nearly 50 percent.

By failing to elevate women to positions of leadership, we are overlooking a key resource. With more women at the top, we would stand a better chance of dealing with the challenges of an aging domestic population and increasingly globalized economy. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report for 2009, reducing gender inequality enhances productivity and economic growth.

This is a global issue. Higher education for both women and men will play a pivotal role in ensuring economic, environmental and social sustainability worldwide.

In October, I participated in the *Rendez-vous du Savoir*,

a forum on higher learning hosted by the Palais des Congrès, the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal and its partners. I took part in a panel that discussed university-industry collaboration and

further cooperation are excellent at Concordia, in a range of areas such as aerospace, business and digital media.

The largely business audience at *Rendez-vous du Savoir* was reminded of

Higher education for both women and men will play a pivotal role in ensuring economic, environmental and social sustainability worldwide.

the immeasurable ways that universities contribute to the economic and social development of their communities.

There is already extensive collaboration between universities and industry in research, training and business development. Prospects for

the importance of bringing more small and medium-sized enterprises together with universities, and of increasing training or research opportunities for students.

On the subject of students and inspiring minds, we granted 1,500 degrees at our November convocation ceremonies. We also bestowed honorary doctorates on three Montrealers who have made significant contributions to communities locally and far afield: civic leader and Irishman *par excellence* Brian O'Neill Gallery; musician and humanitarian Victor (Vic) Vogel; and fashion industry pioneer and philanthropist Joëlle (Joey) Berdugo-Adler.

The values we share as a learning community dedicated to excellence and community service are reflected in the individuals we honour at our convocation ceremonies, and these three are wonderful examples. This is just one of the many good messages about Concordia that I am proud to convey far and wide. ■

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



Jacques Dignard, Senior Vice-President, People and Culture, Desjardins Group, presents a plaque to Judith Woodsworth in honour of Concordia's contribution to the intellectual, economic and social development of Quebec society, at the *Rendez-vous du Savoir* on October 21.

## Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel addresses students

Elie Wiesel, acclaimed writer, professor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, delivered an impassioned address for the Concordia Student Union (CSU) Lecture Series on October 19. The Henry F. Hall Building Alumni Auditorium was nearly filled to capacity for the lecture.

As a Jew born in Europe in 1928, Wiesel survived the Auschwitz and Buchenwald death camps. He went on to become an author of more than 50 books of fiction and non-fiction, university scholar and human rights advocate. Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

In his talk, called "An Evening with Elie Wiesel," he spoke of the importance of keeping alive memories about the Holocaust and other atrocities. "I try to celebrate memory. For the living and the dead, we must remember. Forgetting will be a crime as horrible as the event itself. If we forget those [atrocities], we make others possible," Wiesel said. He also railed against apathy: "Indifference enables evil. To be indifferent to others is to be indifferent to oneself."

In our hard times, he questioned, is there reason to hope? Wiesel recounted the Greek mythological story of Pandora's Box, which, when opened, unleashed all the curses of the world—but at the bottom of the box was hope. "Does that mean we must go through all the curses before we find hope, or is hope itself a curse?" Wiesel asked. He concluded that we must continue to hope. Nonetheless, he added, "we can't live with false hope. And I can't live in a world where my hope



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Elie Wiesel addressed Concordia students and then joined a cocktail reception in his honour at Montreal hotel Sofitel on October 19.**

is someone else's despair." Wiesel ended on a positive note: "Even in the midst of darkness, it is possible to create light and share it. In the final analysis, I believe in man in spite of himself."

The CSU Speaker Series was launched in 2004, and has featured a number of impressive lecturers, including Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki, American filmmaker Spike Lee and Iranian Nobel Peace Prize recipient Shirin Ebadi.

Later that evening, Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth welcomed Elie Wiesel and

about 80 guests at a cocktail reception organized by Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations Office at Montreal hotel Sofitel. Woodsworth spoke and praised the CSU for its efforts in enriching the student experience. "We are grateful to our students, who are committed to improving and changing the world, for hosting this distinguished lecture series," Woodsworth said. She added that it was a tremendous honour to welcome such an eminent figure as Wiesel, who has spent his life building awareness of crimes against humanity and of human rights. "Elie Wiesel has given a voice to the voiceless," she said.

Wiesel gave a brief address to guests. He reiterated the importance and responsibility of remembering, through writing, those who did not survive atrocities such as the Holocaust. "To write means to give testimony," he said.

The reception was sponsored by Sofitel owner David Azrieli. His daughter, Naomi Azrieli, chair and

**Even in the midst of darkness, it is possible to create light and share it. In the final analysis, I believe in man in spite of himself.**

executive director of the Azrieli Foundation, thanked Wiesel and Concordia. "It's a pleasure for us to be here with Concordia because we have a long association with the university," Azrieli said. She pointed out that her family endowed one of Concordia's first scholarships, the David J. Azrieli Graduate Fellowship, in 1979. ■

**Concordia**  
university magazine

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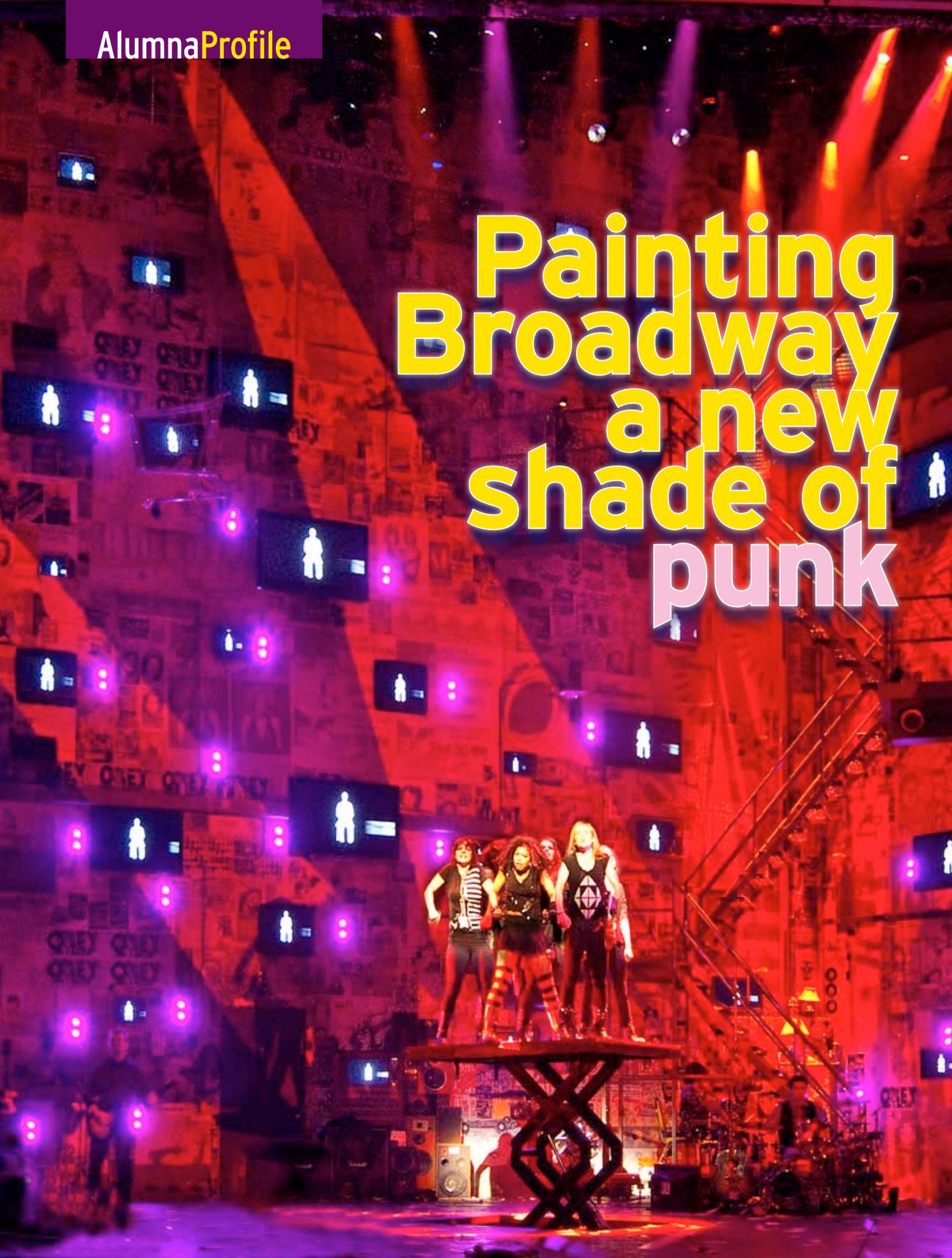
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# Painting Broadway a new shade of punk



**Tony Award-winning  
Christine Jones, BFA  
89, puts her distinctive  
aesthetic into her  
Broadway set designs**

*By Adam Avrashi*



ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA

Left: Christine Jones's Broadway set of *American Idiot*. Inset: Jones shows off her Tony Award on June 13 at New York's Radio City Music Hall.



STEPHEN JOSEPH

Christine Jones, BFA (design for the theatre) 89, admits that if she had her druthers, instead of a night at a Broadway musical she'd be at a punk rock show, dressed in dark army boots and a leather trench coat, jumping around a mosh-pit with her friends and rocking out to blaring guitar riffs. That attitude may be somewhat surprising coming from someone who makes her living designing musical sets on the Great White Way and who recently took home a Tony award at the American Theater Wing's annual presentation.

Jones's edgy sets exude a punk rock feel and are, as the *New York Times* recently gushed, "simple but spectacular." But for all the praise, she says she's still an outsider in an industry intent on mass-producing Disney stage adaptations held together by a toothpick-thin plot. "I don't really like musicals," Jones says without a second of hesitation. "Most musicals have terrible music. And the stories tend to be kind of dopey and it's just not my scene." Dressed in black, with metal screw earrings adorning her ears and dog-tag chains around her neck,

on an adaptation of a controversial 1891 German play, *Spring Awakening* depicted teenage suicide, masturbation, homosexuality and rape, all set to an alternative rock score. It moved to Broadway less than a year later and went on to win eight Tony awards, including Best Musical, with the *New York Times* proclaiming: "Broadway may never be the same again." Jones was nominated that year for scenic design but lost to a show diametrically opposed to her artistic aesthetic: Disney's *Mary Poppins*. Jones explains that traditional Broadway scenery, where the sets are painted, grandiose and whimsical in tone, are usually the most lauded. Conversely, her *Spring Awakening* set evoked a dark, sober tone with little more than a few wooden chairs, brick walls and neon lights. Jones reveals that her alternative style is not a cognisant choice: "When you sing, your voice is your voice. When I design, that's just the way it comes out of me, in that deconstructed style."

Jones says being nominated was a thrill—especially since she had given birth to her second child just five days

**When you sing, your voice is your voice.  
When I design, that's just the way it comes  
out of me, in that deconstructed style.**

Jones is certainly more hipster than theatre geek. But she is well aware of the irony, especially considering that her last two ventures have been veritable hits.

After a decade of working on a number of Off Broadway shows and one short-lived Broadway musical, Jones's breakthrough came when she designed the sets, props and furniture for *Spring Awakening*, a musical that was anything but mainstream when it premiered Off Broadway in 2006. Based

prior to the 2007 Tony Awards ceremony. "I hadn't been able to shop for a dress because I didn't know what size I would be or if I would be able to go at all," she recounts. "But a costume-designer friend lent me something to wear, and my mom came from Montreal and babysat so my partner [actor Dallas Roberts] and I could go. I had to hide a breast pump in my handbag because you literally can't go that long without nursing. It was a crazy evening."

## The love of her professional life

Although Jones is in a committed relationship, she is very open about her feelings for another man: *Spring Awakening* director Michael Mayer. "I usually fall in love with my directors in one way or another," Jones says.

Mayer reveals that the feeling is mutual. "We fell in love with each other as artists and collaborators," Mayer says. "I think this a metaphor for the way that we created these pieces together, in much the same way that parents conceive and raise children. The plays are our children." He adds, "I adore her rebel spirit and deep artistry." That's why when Mayer decided in 2008 to tackle a stage adaptation of punk rock group Green Day's album *American Idiot*, he immediately asked Jones to come onboard—and she did.

Jones admits she wasn't much of a Green Day fan before she began working on the musical, but then listened to the band's oeuvre repeatedly and "really fell in love with their music." Part of the creative journey for the designers was to see the band play live and grasp its vibe in concert to translate to stage. "It's the closest I've ever come to feeling like working in the rock 'n' roll world," Jones says.



Garaway told her, "I think you should be a scenographer."  
Jones, baffled, thought he had said "stenographer."  
"No, scenographer. You create the environments for the play."

The album *American Idiot* (2004) explores an America in which politicians and the media dictate to a nation of followers. The musical depicts rebellious youths who break out of suburbia and deal with angst, relationships, drugs and war.

The members of Green Day were involved in the process of staging the musical, giving Jones input on some of her sketches and on the model of the stage she designed. In order to get the signature distressed look of the band's guitars, Jones met Green Day's guitar stylist so she could imitate the techniques for the show's instruments. She worked for about a year on concept and

design (she was in charge of the set and all the props and furniture) before the show was mounted for its pre-Broadway tryout at California's Berkley Repertory Theater in 2009.

The result is pure Christine Jones. The set looks like a punk bar, plastered with rock-band posters and newspapers and adorned by 43 television sets that display rapid-fire images depicting everything from former president George W. Bush to Britney Spears to the Iraq war. "We wanted to give it as much energy and kineticism as a rock show. We wanted it to feel alive," Jones says. "It was less about what it looked like and

more about what you feel sitting in your seat. From the moment it starts, it never stops. Like you are on a ride."

## Natural talent

Another rollercoaster ride for Jones began May 4, 2010, after learning that she had been nominated for a Tony Award for *American Idiot*. While the show was also nominated—for Best Musical—director Michael Mayer was not, making the moment bittersweet for Jones. "A friend of the director said: 'You can't be the prom king and the punk rocker.' If you are going to do something bold and aggressive, then you may not also

get to be nominated for those kinds of awards," she says.

When Jones attended the American Theater Wing press conference to discuss her nomination just 24 hours after it was announced, she says she felt that one of the main creative forces was left out. When asked a question about her theatre mentor, however, she seemed to perk up. "I definitely had amazing teachers along the way," says Jones, who had once trained to be a ballerina. "One [teacher] in particular—Victor Garaway—got me off the stage and backstage."

Garaway is her former Marianopolis College professor. In the late 1980s, Jones was studying English Literature at Concordia but was immensely unhappy. During her spare time, she would help design and build sets with Garaway. While working on an adaptation of Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*, he told her, "I think you should be a scenographer." Jones, baffled, thought he had said "stenographer." "No, *scenographer*," Garaway replied. "You create the environments for the play."

Garaway says Jones possesses natural talent: "She intuits how to render the dramatic themes into visual expression and is prepared to spend the time necessary to meticulously realize the details of her designs into set pieces."

At that time, Concordia had a burgeoning Design for the Theatre program, led by a handful of dedicated professors that included Eric Mongerson. "Concordia's program has always emphasized the conception of individual artists, whereas other schools teach the proper way to do things—where you learn a traditional method or the particular style of the teacher, which may not fit the student's artistic sentiment," says Mongerson, who's still at Concordia.

Mongerson remembers Jones well. He recalls the time when a panel of Jones's professors evaluated her portfolio. "She got very favourable reviews but she broke into tears because she was very self-critical. She wasn't experienced enough to understand her own talent yet," Mongerson relates.

For her part, Jones remembers the

university as a place where she was able to branch out into many facets of the-atre design. "Concordia's program is wonderfully eclectic; you are more like a scenographer/production designer. You do costume, sets, lighting and study directing and acting while taking art classes. It's not quite as specialized as [theatre programs] in the United States, where you pick one discipline," she says.

After graduating from Concordia, Jones moved to New York City to earn a master's degree in theatre design from New York University, where she now teaches graduate-level set design at the Tisch School of the Arts.



### Crowning Broadway's punk princess

Jones won't quickly forget the night of June 13, 2010. At New York's Radio City Music Hall, in front of more than 5,900 spectators—including actors Denzel Washington and Catherine Zeta Jones in the front row—and millions watching from home, the presenter announced: "The Tony Award for Best Scenic Design of a Musical goes to . . . Christine Jones."

Jones had been instructed that she only had a minute and 55 seconds from the moment her name was called, so she darted onstage and nearly knocked the camera operator down. She then dedicated the award to "Dallas Roberts, the love of my life and the father of my children, and Michael Mayer, the love of my other life and father of my other children. Michael, you are the Jesus and the Judy of Broadway," she added, referring to the *American Idiot* character Jesus of Suburbia and a Judy Garland-inspired musical they had also worked on together.

Jones's Tony now sits on a shelf in the East Village apartment she shares with Roberts and their sons Pilot, five, and Ever, three. She's supposed to send the award to be engraved with her name but

hasn't gotten around to it yet. Although she has good reason.

Aside from being a full-time mother, part-time professor and set designer, Jones also has been working on a project she created on her own, called Theatre for One. The project brings one actor, musician or dancer to perform in front of one audience member in a theatre the size of a booth, nine feet high by four feet wide. "I'm always thinking about the relationship between the actor and the audience and I wondered what would happen if I distilled it to the most pure and intimate form," Jones says. She then took the booth to Times Square for

10 days this summer, staging dancing, music and acting shows for six hours each day.

There is one routine Jones says she'll never forget. "[Green Day front man] Billy Joe Armstrong did six performances, doing one or two songs per person," she says. "Some people didn't know who he was but one person just flipped out. When he sat down and Billy Joe walked in on the other side of the panel singing 'Know Your Enemy,' the whole booth started shaking because the audience member was pounding the walls. He was so excited; he came out crying and shaking everyone's hand. It was the best day of his life."

Jones, who's now preparing a touring version of *American Idiot* along with a Broadway-bound Tony Kushner play, clearly thrives on those connections that only theatre can bring. Whether she is satisfying one audience member in a booth in Times Square or the 1,700 viewers nightly at *American Idiot*'s St. James Theater, the punk rock set designer says, "I live for those unexpected moments." ■

*Adam Avrashi is a Concordia Journalism student and freelance writer.*



**WARNING: THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL—WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF CONCORDIA PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR JAMES PFAUS'S AWARD-WINNING, PERTINENT AND PROVOCATIVE RESEARCH**

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH  
PHOTOS BY LINDA RUTENBERG

There you are, dressing up your rat for his big date. You slip the little jacket over his forepaws and fasten it with Velcro; the jacket even has a ring so he can be tethered, if need be. He looks sharp! And as odd as this may seem, that's the point, in a way, of the research of Concordia Psychology Professor James Pfaus.

tell us plenty about how humans learn about sex. "Of course, rat sexual behaviour is nothing like human sexual behaviour. They do it their way and we do it our way," Pfaus says. "But if we strip away the differences and look at desire, arousal, pleasure, reward and inhibition, rats and humans are really the same."

rats were stripped of their attire and sent back into action for the second portion of the experiment, half didn't copulate despite being encouraged by the receptive female rats placed with them, and the remainder were slow to initiate affairs and ejaculated only once. Meanwhile, the other male rats—some still in jackets, some still naked

## It's like language learning: there is a critical period in sexual learning, for both excitation and inhibition.

Pfaus's research involves exploring the related neurological processes behind sexual behaviours, especially those processes related to sexual excitation and inhibition. What parts of the brain are most active during different sexual behaviours? Which endogenous opioids (peptides, including endorphins and dynorphins, produced by the body and used as neurotransmitters) are released under what conditions? How might these conditions be manipulated to affect excitation or inhibition, and what might that tell us about how people learn about sex?

Enter the well-dressed rats. Rats can

In typical lab work, animals often don jackets as a humane alternative to threading a cord through the skin in order to control their movements. But in Pfaus's lab at the Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurology (CSBN), something else is at play. A few years back, working on a research project with an honours undergraduate student, he dressed a group of male rats for their first nine sexual experiences; another group of rats learned to copulate with no sartorial accessories. "It's not leather or PVC or studded, but the jacket became fetish gear to the rats wearing it," says Pfaus.

When some of the jacket-wearing

and some wearing jackets for the first time since learning to have sex without jackets—all fornicated heartily with their partners, usually reaching three ejaculations.

The conclusion: even rats are not truly hardwired for their sexual strategies. "Their sympathetic nervous system wasn't being charged because something—the jacket—was missing. But when in their evolutionary history have rats ever worn jackets?" Pfaus says. "It's like language learning: there is a critical period in sexual learning, for both excitation and inhibition. Sexual strategies are plastic; they are very flexible,

# SAFE

ON THE

# BRAIN



especially during early experiences. Put the jacket on and these rats are fine; take it off and they feel a lot more inhibition.”

### Learning through rats

“I was always interested in sex,” Pfaus says. “I think my interest in this research was driven by my first orgasm: ‘What was that, and why did it feel so good?’” Pfaus’s early curiosity has served him well. His work makes for more than lively cocktail party conversation (although it certainly does that)—it has also drawn plenty of international attention. In

Université de Montréal—attached to the CSBN, which was founded in 1983 and is housed in Concordia’s Department of Psychology. Counting undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students, clinicians, technicians and research assistants, close to 150 people are involved with the CSBN, and they work in a cluster of new, state-of-the-art labs in the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex on the Loyola Campus. “The Centre is interested in motivated behaviours and associated brain mechanisms—things such as sexual behaviours, maternal behaviours and addiction, as well as

“You can see the clitoris—it’s not at all hard to find.”)

The female rats, while initially bewildered by the process, soon start to exhibit a physiological response that suggests they find the experience enjoyable. Further, they learned to associate that stimulation with other stimuli in their environment and to seek them out. As Pfaus recounts, “Mayte has one video in which she has just finished stimulating a rat. She is pulling her arm out of the cage and the rat runs over, grabs her lab coat with its teeth and starts trying to pull her arm back in. And then the rat

It’s as William Burroughs wrote in *Naked Lunch*:  
“heroin circumvents sex.” And it does so on every level,  
from the molecular to the behavioural.

2002, his research into the drug PT-141, a synthetic version of a naturally produced hormone, showed that it raised the sex drive of female rats. Clinical trials revealed that it also increased sexual desire in women who experienced high levels of sexual inhibition (in lay terms, unusually low sex drives). These findings prompted enthusiasm in the scientific community and enjoyed international media coverage, some touting the drug as a female Viagra. (Alas, PT-141 is not currently on the market because of concerns that it might also increase blood pressure.) In 2009, Pfaus won his second Frank A. Beach Award in behavioural neuroscience and comparative psychology, given by the American Psychological Association. And a summer 2010 article in the academic journal *Hormones and Behavior* on the effects of stimulants such as cocaine and depressants like alcohol on sexual function in rats attracted notice in the popular media as well as scientific circles.

Pfaus is one of 15 lead investigators—10 from Concordia, four from McGill University and one from

learning and memory,” says CSBN director and Psychology Professor Shimon Amir, who studies the body’s circadian rhythms (daily rhythmic activity cycles). “We’re trying to understand basic phenomena: what in the brain helps determine why we behave the way we do?”

Much of this work addresses areas that have long been neglected. Mayte Parada, one of Pfaus’s doctoral students, is investigating the function of the clitoris in female sexual behaviour. “We have some anecdotal knowledge and there is a growing interest in female sexual functions, but there is very little literature to help us understand the neurobiology behind clitoral sensations,” Parada says. “For instance, what parts of the brain light up when the clitoris is stimulated and how does this affect sexual behaviour in general?” Her research with rats explores some of these questions. Using a very fine “Number 4” paintbrush lubricated with K-Y Jelly, she stimulated the clitoris of female rats. (“We just lift the rump of the tail,” Parada explains.

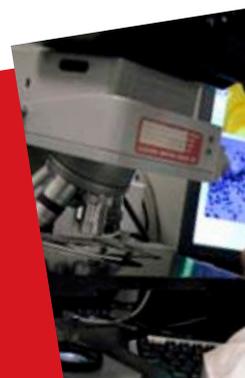
presents herself to Mayte! I don’t know how else to interpret that other than ‘Do this to me now.’”

One important conclusion of Parada’s research, of course, is that the rat clitoris does indeed perform an analogous sexual function to the human clitoris, and thus serves as an appropriate model. “We hope at some point to confirm through research with humans what commonalities exist between rats and humans, to see what we can really learn about human female sexuality from rat research,” she says.

### Sex and drugs and rock ‘n’ roll

Sexual inhibition is another relatively unexplored area of research, and Pfaus’s lab recently turned its attention in this direction. The study that led to the 2010 *Hormones and Behavior* paper investigates just what happens when you mix sex with drugs: do you really get to

Page 12: Psychology Professor James Pfaus in the Renaud Science Complex. Previous page and right: Pfaus and doctoral student Mayte Parada in their lab. Illustrations and right, centre: cross-sections of rats’ brains. One of Pfaus’s recent studies confirmed that stimulants inhibit sexual performance. “Drugs like heroin simply take over the neurological system that was laid down for sex,” Pfaus reports.



rock 'n' roll? "The impact of drugs depends on the endogenous [that is, internally driven] functioning of each individual," Pfaus explains. "If you normally experience an excess of inhibition, a drug that disinhibits you—like cocaine, for instance—and makes you more likely to experience sexual pleasure will be an aphrodisiac, and you will proclaim it as such to your friends. But a less inhibited friend may try it only to find he has trouble getting or maintaining an erection, so for him your aphrodisiac makes him dysfunctional—it is inhibitory."

For most people, taking stimulants or depressants inhibits sexual activity; the next goal is to more fully understand the neurological mechanisms at work behind this inhibition. "It's as William Burroughs wrote in *Naked Lunch*: 'heroin circumvents sex.' And it does so on every level, from the molecular to the behavioural. It binds quickly and for a longer period of time because it isn't your own endogenous opioid, but rather a substitute. And you only need money to get it," Pfaus says.

His findings show that both inhibition and excitation are learned rather than purely innate. In one rat study, Pfaus administered a drug to female rats to block the activation of the brain's endogenous opioid systems so that they cannot experience sexual pleasure; he also gave them steroidal hormones, which should in theory prompt sexual activity. However, after a few trials of unrewarding sex, instead of partnering with a male rat with which they have been previously conditioned to expect clitoral stimulation, female rats showed no partner preference or declined sex entirely. "This is astonishing. We tend to think the hormones trump

experience because they are more basic," Pfaus asserts. "But here experience trumps hormones. If their experience is that sex is terrible because they're not getting off on it, after six or seven trials, the females don't want to bother with it anymore."

### The next sexual revolution

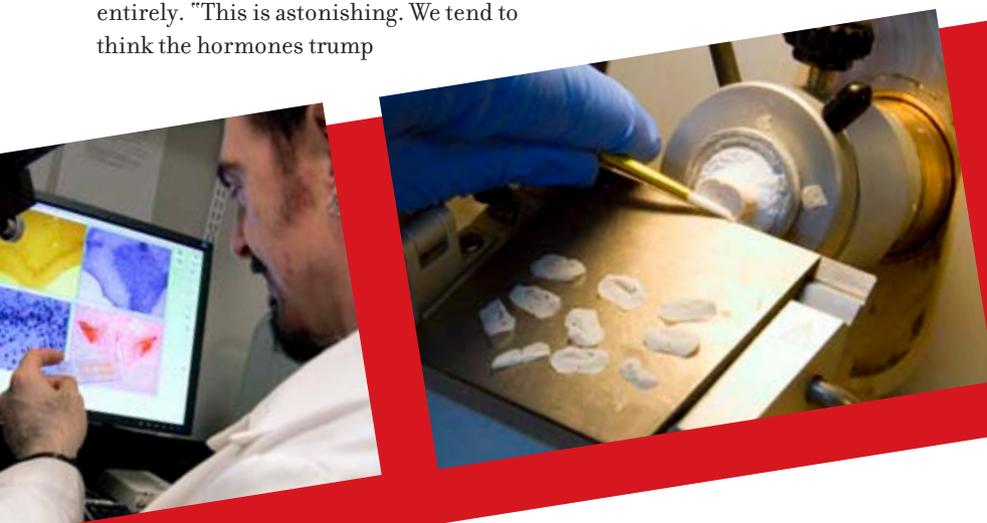
Not surprisingly, this kind of work could have significant implications for treating sexual dysfunctions. "Much of the CSBN's research can also be translated to more practical issues, and Jim Pfaus's offers a very good example of how we can move from the bench to the bedside," says Amir. "If we can identify systems or receptors for neurotransmitters in the brain that are important for sexual excitation or inhibition, we might be able to develop drugs that block or activate them, which could help treat different disorders of sexual desire."

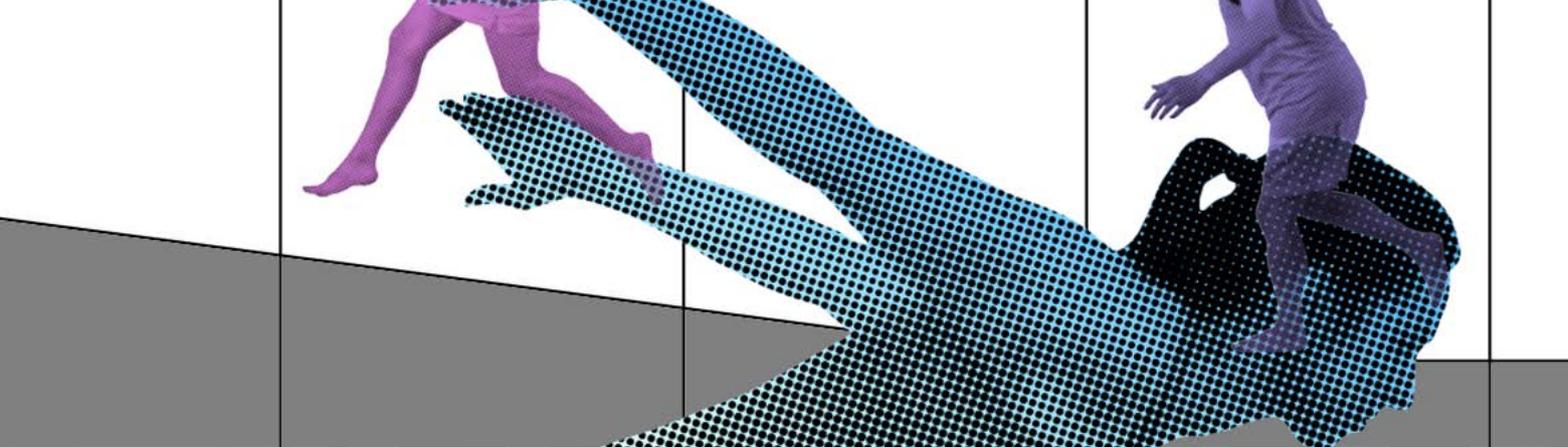
Rats and humans show similar responses to drugs, because the neurological systems that underlie these responses are similar in each species. "If we look at what gets activated in the brain of a man on Viagra and a rat on Viagra, it is exactly the same," Pfaus says. And, he continues, "all the drugs currently in clinical trials for the treatment of hypoactive sexual desire disorders in women have also come through our lab, where they have all produced a preclinical marker of desire in female rats"—that is, the drugs vault the rats from a very low desire to enthusiastically soliciting male rats. "Significantly, in clinical trials, these drugs also have that effect with women."

More fundamentally, Pfaus's findings overturn much of what we thought we knew about sexual behaviour. "Rats want the partner associated with sexual pleasure, which is making us rethink these stilted evolutionary hypotheses where the female only wants the big, powerful guy and the males want the pretty girl," he says. "We need new evolutionary theories about how the brain evolved for sex. The brain's flexibility in sexual learning suggests it may have developed for a kind of sexual opportunism, to take advantage of the circumstances existing at the time."

The first sexual research revolution arrived with investigators like Richard von Krafft-Ebing and Sigmund Freud at the turn of the last century and the second with people like Alfred Kinsey, William Masters and Virginia Johnson following the Second World War through the 1960s. "Today, thanks to advances in neural imaging and pharmacology, we are in the midst of a third sexual revolution," says Pfaus. Our understanding of sexual behaviour is shifting thanks to research such as that carried out by Pfaus and his students, research that makes clear just how much the brain has to do with sex: why we want it sometimes, why we don't want it other times, and why we like it the way we do. The brain truly is an erogenous zone—more than we had ever imagined. ■

*Patrick McDonagh, PhD '98, is a Montreal-based writer.*





L'université met en valeur son impressionnante collection d'œuvres d'art public

# L A C H A S S E A U X T R É S O R S À C O N C O R D I A

PAR PATRICE-HANS PERRIER

Profitant du boom des années 1960, les établissements fondateurs de l'Université Concordia ont très tôt pris le parti d'incorporer des œuvres d'art novatrices à même leurs édifices. C'est ainsi qu'un très beau vitrail de Jean McEwen invite la lumière matinale à pénétrer au cœur du pavillon Henry-F.-Hall, le premier immeuble moderne d'importance construit par l'université. Cette œuvre s'intègre à une collection qui fait l'envie des autres maisons d'enseignement.

An English version of the text is available at [magazine.concordia.ca](http://magazine.concordia.ca).

Ce n'est un secret pour personne : la Faculté des beaux-arts de Concordia est probablement l'une des plus prestigieuses au pays. L'art se réverbère à travers les différents pavillons des deux campus et on pourrait s'avancer jusqu'à dire que l'activité artistique est inséparable de la vie intellectuelle d'un établissement d'enseignement qui se démarque par son esprit d'innovation. C'est un peu ce que professe Clarence Epstein.

Le directeur des projets spéciaux et des affaires culturelles au cabinet de la rectrice revient de loin. En effet, M. Epstein travaille depuis le début des années 2000 à recenser la propriété culturelle de l'Université, qui semblait avoir été, dans certains cas, laissée à elle-même. Ainsi, il nous confiait avoir

débusqué près de 200 artefacts éparpillés dans des bureaux, des couloirs, voire des salles anonymes ou des sites d'entreposage !

Il faut rappeler que les années 1960 et 1970 correspondaient à une époque où les pouvoirs publics agissaient comme de véritables mécènes. Ainsi, au-delà des commandes dédiées à l'art public — intégré aux bâtiments —, les administrateurs poussaient l'audace jusqu'à encourager l'achat de pièces de mobilier et d'objets d'art appelés à bonifier certains secteurs de l'université. Pour reprendre les paroles de notre interlocuteur, on pourrait ajouter que « l'art n'était pas seulement réservé aux galeries, mais rayonnait dans l'espace public ».

## L'art public et son contexte d'ancrage

Clarence Epstein souligne que « les anciennes institutions [Sir George Williams University et Loyola College] — avant la création de l'Université Concordia en 1974 — n'avaient pas nécessairement mis en place un suivi en termes de conservation et de mise en valeur des œuvres d'art public déjà sur place. Lorsque les deux collèges ont fusionné, les collections d'art n'étaient pas perçues comme des éléments-clés », poursuit-il.

Outre les œuvres commandées par l'Université, certains promoteurs privés auront eux aussi fait leur part pour mettre en valeur les espaces publics du secteur. C'est ainsi qu'une très belle murale de Claude Théberge avait été laissée à son sort sur le flanc est de l'édifice de la station de métro Guy (pavillon GM). (L'artiste s'est distingué durant les années 1960 en organisant un atelier spécialisé dans le domaine des arts intégrés à l'architecture. Ses œuvres étaient conçues en fonction de leurs lieux d'insertion.) C'est en se portant acquéreur de l'édifice que l'Université a constaté qu'il n'existait pas d'archives à son sujet. M. Epstein s'est donc occupé de la documentation et de la mise en valeur de cette pièce unique.

Clarence Epstein et son équipe ont bien vu la richesse insoupçonnée d'une collection qui brille par la diversité des œuvres commandées depuis quatre décennies environ. « Mis à part quelques dons d'entreprises ou de mécènes,

l'Université ne disposait toujours pas d'une réelle politique d'acquisition. Ce n'est qu'au début des années 1990 que la donne va changer. La construction de la bibliothèque John-W.-McConnell, en 1992, va donner un coup d'envoi, alors que plusieurs nouvelles œuvres seront intégrées à l'édifice dans le cadre de la politique québécoise du 1 % [système de subventions gouvernementales consacrées aux œuvres d'art intégrées aux nouveaux bâtiments publics]. C'est une équipe dirigée par l'artiste Rose-Marie Goulet qui a remporté cet important concours », précise-t-il.

Une des œuvres commandées a été réalisée par une équipe de spécialistes en design urbain, qui ont utilisé une structure métallique en forme de spirale afin de montrer des textes qui parlent de la richesse linguistique en présence sur le campus. Œuvre contextuelle par excellence. *An Explosion of Letters*

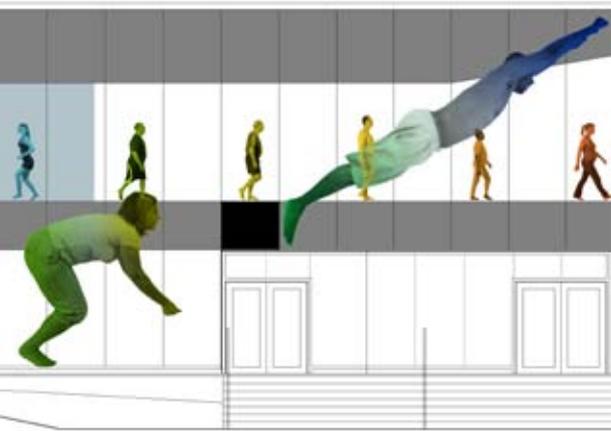


## Œuvres d'art public à l'université :

Ci-contre : *An Explosion of Letters* dans l'atrium du pavillon John-W.-McConnell

En chevauchement : *LEAP*, d'Adad Hannah, sur la façade du Centre PERFORM

Page précédente : *Lierre sur Pierre*, de Geneviève Cadieux, au pavillon de l'École de gestion John-Molson



apparaît sur la devanture de l'édifice et réapparaît dans le hall d'entrée, puis au-dessus d'une cage d'escalier et, finalement, à l'intérieur de la salle de lecture de la bibliothèque.

### L'épreuve du temps

Le responsable des affaires culturelles de Concordia ajoute que ce type d'œuvre se démarque par « sa visibilité permanente dans le domaine public et aussi en raison de la qualité des matériaux, qui l'aidera à passer à travers l'épreuve du temps. N'oublions pas les intempéries ou les actes de vandalisme qui risqueront de l'abîmer. L'aspect de la durabilité est incontournable dans ce cas ».

Cette dernière considération aura sans doute guidé la conception de l'immense murale réalisée par Geneviève Cadieux pour la façade principale du pavillon de l'École de gestion John-Molson (MB). De gigantesques feuilles de lierre en acier anodisé ont été fixées à même un mur en pierre calcaire d'une surface de 150 mètres carrés. *Lierre sur Pierre* est une œuvre monumentale qui donne l'impression de pouvoir résister à l'épreuve du temps. Un détail retient notre attention : la surface réfléchive des feuilles de lierre fait en sorte que les piétons peuvent s'y mirer en passant. Ce clin d'œil de l'artiste souligne la volonté de l'Université de demeurer ouverte sur la communauté montréalaise.

### Une destinée commune

Notre interlocuteur aime à rappeler que Concordia et la métropole partagent cette même destinée, qui aura servi de trame de fond à d'innombrables échanges culturels au fil du temps. M. Epstein souligne, à cet effet, que l'Université tente de « faire passer le message selon lequel l'art jette un pont entre l'éducation et la culture, une approche que nous nous efforçons de mettre en valeur ».

Ce va-et-vient entre culture et société est au centre de la thématique d'une œuvre d'art public destinée au campus Loyola. L'œuvre d'Adad Hannah, MFA 2004, diplômé de Concordia (et étudiant au doctorat), orne les fenêtres de la façade principale du nouvel édifice du Centre PERFORM au campus de l'ouest de la ville. Il s'agit d'une immense murale façonnée à partir de clichés photographiques qui ont été transférés au moyen d'une encre frite sur la surface des vitres. Inspirée des études sur le mouvement du célèbre Eadweard Muybridge, elle évoque le corps humain en mouvement et ses multiples transformations à travers le temps.

Clarence Epstein souligne que « l'artiste a utilisé des modèles qui proviennent de toutes les couches de la société, de tous les âges et de tous les genres. Il s'agit d'une réflexion

sur la communauté des usagers de Concordia dans son essence même. Et cette œuvre clôture à point nommé l'événement thématique *Montréal Ville de verre*, qui prendra bientôt fin ».

### Montréal Ville de verre

L'année 2010 a été un grand cru pour Concordia. L'Université s'est distinguée en participant à *Montréal Ville de verre*.

L'événement, parrainé par la Société des directeurs des musées montréalais (SDMM), a mis en vedette le verre sous toutes ses déclinaisons dans le domaine de l'architecture et de l'art public. *Montréal Ville de verre* a fait appel à la participation d'une pléiade de musées, ainsi qu'au réseau de métro et à certaines institutions publiques qui contribuent à l'embellissement de la cité.

Manon Blanchette, directrice générale de la SDMM, souligne l'apport exceptionnel de Concordia dans le do-

d'origine méditerranéenne qui utilise la couleur à profusion dans ses tableaux et pour qui la lumière est une source d'inspiration continue. Il affirme : « C'est le rôle d'un artiste de s'adapter à la lumière ambiante puisque de notre inspiration jaillit ce que j'appelle une lumière spirituelle. Ce qui fait toute la différence en fin de compte. »

Chaki s'est vu confier la réalisation d'une murale qui a été installée au beau milieu d'un corridor sous-terrain qui relie le pavillon EV au pavillon MB. Une prouesse en soi dans un environnement qui baigne uniquement dans la lumière artificielle ! L'œuvre, intitulée *Les Quatre Saisons*, frappe le regard par l'énergie vitale qui émane de l'agencement des couleurs et des formes.

L'artiste souligne que « l'idée maîtresse derrière cette œuvre est née en quelques minutes, le temps de poser des gestes témoignant de la simplicité des éléments naturels, de



maine de l'intégration du verre à l'art public. Elle affirme que « l'immense verrière de Nicolas Baier — sur le flanc est du pavillon intégré Génie, informatique et arts visuels (pavillon EV) — a littéralement métamorphosé tout le secteur. Lorsque vous passez par là, vous pouvez lever la tête et voir le mouvement des feuilles qui semblent bouger sous l'action de la lumière ».

Le médium verre a certainement un rôle à jouer dans nos pays nordiques, alors que le soleil se fait moins généreux durant la saison froide. C'est ce qui fait que les verrières procurent une source de plaisirs renouvelés aux usagers des bâtiments du centre-ville. Yehouda Chaki est un artiste

la fraîcheur des saisons et du mouvement de la vie. La phase technique, par contre, fut laborieuse puisque nous voulions assembler les zones de couleurs de la verrière sans utiliser de plomb. Les quatre panneaux pèsent environ une tonne : imaginez l'ingéniosité qu'il a fallu déployer pour installer l'œuvre dans son ensemble ». En fait, c'est le mouvement des piétons qui provoque des changements de luminosité de sorte que *Les Quatre Saisons* semble animée d'une énergie renouvelée. L'énergie d'une communauté bien vivante. ■

*Patrice-Hans Perrier, BA 1990, est journaliste à Montréal.*



**Bien à la vue :**

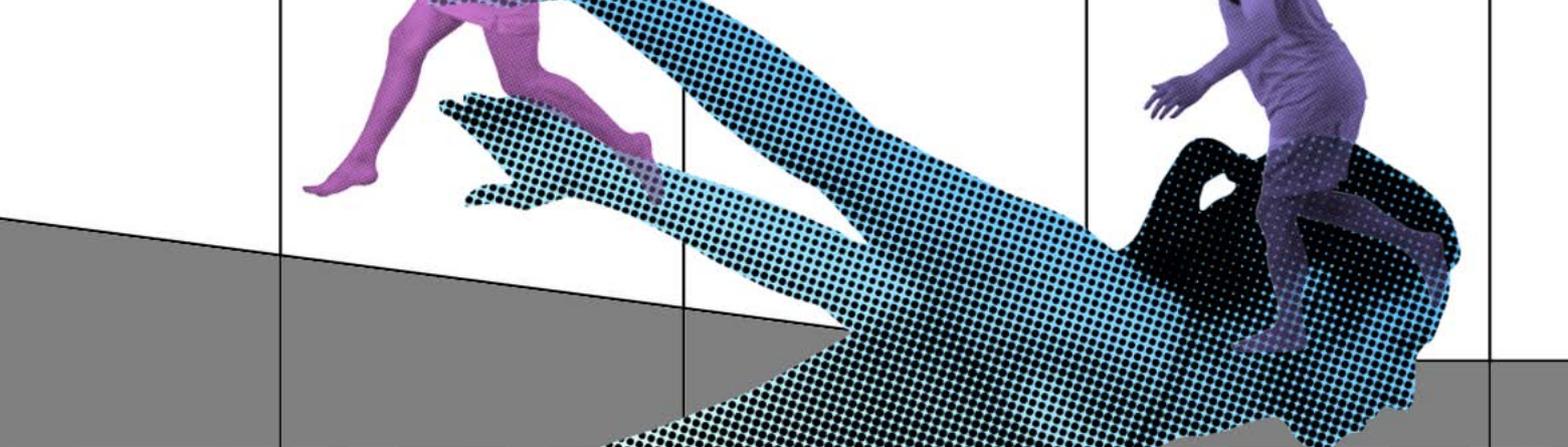
**Ci-contre :** Murale de Nicolas Baier au pavillon intégré Génie, informatique et arts visuels

**Ci-dessous :** *Les Quatre Saisons*, de Yehouda Chaki, dans le tunnel menant à l'École de gestion John-Molson

**Don de Diane et Salvatore Guerrera et leur famille**

**Page précédente :** Muraille contemporaine de Claude Théberge à l'une des sorties du pavillon du métro Guy





The university has enhanced its impressive collection of public art works.

# C O N C O R D I A T R E A S U R E H U N T

BY PATRICE-HANS PERRIER

Concordia University's founding institutions took advantage of the 1960s' boom years to incorporate innovative artwork in their buildings. As a result, Sir George Williams University installed a beautiful John McEwen stained glass window in the heart of the Henry F. Hall Building, its first modern construction. This work adds to an enviable art collection that adorns Concordia buildings today.

Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts is recognized as one of the most prestigious art schools in the country. Appropriately, art works are prominently displayed through many university buildings on both the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses. Clarence Epstein, Concordia's director of Special Projects and Cultural Affairs in the Office of the President, asserts that art is inseparable from the intellectual life at Concordia, an institution that stands out for its innovation.

Epstein has been working at the university since 2000 to identify its cultural property, which in some cases was left untended. That included nearly 200 artefacts scattered throughout offices, corridors, hallways and even nameless storage sites.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the government was the university's main patron. Beyond the public art integrated into the buildings, university administrators encouraged the purchase of furniture and *objets d'art* to improve certain public spaces. "Art was not just for galleries but radiated in the public arena," Epstein says.

### Public art and its contextual anchor

Epstein emphasizes that before the creation of Concordia University in 1974, Sir George Williams University and Loyola College had not put in place a monitoring system for the conservation and development of public art. "At the time of the merger, art collections were not seen as key," he says.

Besides the works commissioned by the university, some private real estate developers also did their part to enhance public spaces. One such example is Claude Théberge's distinctive mural on the east side of the Guy Metro (GM) Building. (The artist distinguished himself in the 1960s by organizing a workshop specializing in art integrated into architecture. Théberge designed his works according to where they would be installed.) After Concordia bought the GM Building, its administrators discovered no records about Théberge. Epstein had to search for the documentation and development of the unique piece.

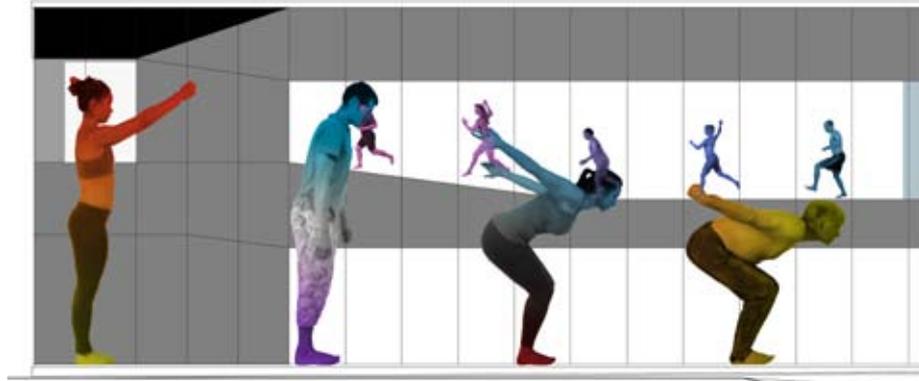
Throughout the university's properties, Epstein and his team have found an unexpected richness in the diverse collection of works commissioned over four decades. "Apart from a few gifts by corporate donors or benefactors, the university did not yet have a real policy of acquisition," he says of the earlier days. "Not until the early 1990s did that change." The construction of the John W. McConnell Library Building in 1992 kicked off the new era. Several new works were incorporated into the building through the Quebec 1% policy [the provincial government policy that states 1% of the budget for new public buildings must be spent on public art]. "That was done by a team led by artist Rose-Marie Goulet, who won the competition," Epstein explains.

Goulet and a team of urban design specialists incorporated a metal spiral to depict texts, matching the library's rich linguistic tradition. The resulting work, called *An Explosion of Letters*, appears on the front of the Library Building and again in the lobby, over a stairwell and inside a reading room.

### Test of time

Concordia's head of cultural affairs adds that this type of work is distinguished by its permanent visibility in the public domain. "It also stands out because of the quality of materials, which will help to put it through the test of time," Epstein says. "Because of the weather or acts of vandalism that may damage the work, its sustainability is essential."

This latter consideration undoubtedly guided Geneviève

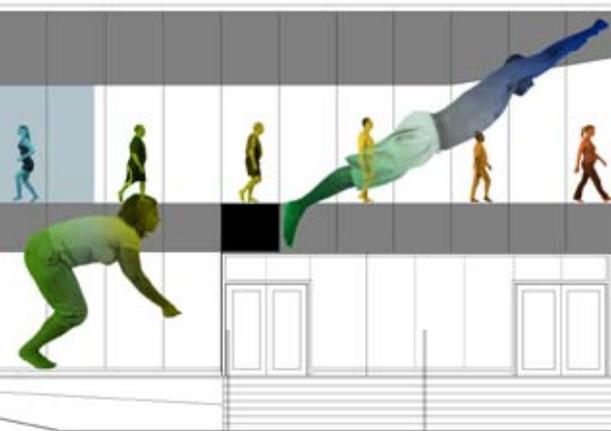


**Concordia art:**

At right: *An Explosion of Letters* in the J.W. McConnell Building atrium.

Below: Adad Hannah's work, called *LEAP*, adorns the facade of the PERFORM Centre.

Previous page, below: Geneviève Cadieux's *Lierre sur Pierre* on the John Molson School of Business Building.



Cadieux's design of the huge mural on the main facade of the John Molson School of Business Building. The monumental work, called *Lierre sur Pierre* (*Ivy on Stone*), includes massive sheets of ivy made of anodized steel attached to a 150-square-metre limestone wall. The reflective surface of ivy leaves catches the attention of passers-by and seems to mirror the university's willingness to engage the Montreal community.

### A common destiny

Epstein explains that Concordia and the City of Montreal share the goal of bringing art to the public, which has led to countless cultural exchanges over the years. "The university is trying to project the message and showcase that art provides a bridge between education and culture," he says.

This back-and-forth between culture and society is central to the theme of a new public art work to be displayed on the Loyola Campus. The work by Adad Hannah, MFA 04 (now a Concordia PhD student), called *LEAP*, will adorn the large front window of the PERFORM Centre, set to open at Loyola in 2011. The window is covered with photographs that were baked onto

a glass surface. Inspired by the motion studies of Eadweard Muybridge's famous works, *LEAP* evokes the human body in motion and its many transformations over time. "The artist used models who come from all walks of life, of all ages and all genres," Epstein states. "This is a reflection of the Concordia community in its very essence. And it is timely because it comes near the end of the Montreal City of Glass activities."

### Montreal City of Glass

In 2010, Concordia participated in Montreal City of Glass, a series of exhibitions and events sponsored by the Board of Montreal Museum Directors (BMMD). It showcased a variety of local glass works featured in architecture and public art. The works were displayed at several Montreal museums, Metro stations and public institutions.

Manon Blanchette, CEO of the BMMD, says Concordia has made an outstanding contribution in integrating glass in its public works of art. "The vast canopy by Nicolas Baier—on the east side of Concordia's Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex [EV Building]—has literally

transformed the entire area,” Blanchette says. “When you go there, you can look up and see the movement of the leaves that seem to shift under the changing light.”

Glass plays an important role for allowing in light in northern countries, where the sun is less present during the cold season. Yehouda Chaki, a Mediterranean-born local artist who liberally uses colour in his paintings, says that light provides a continuous source of inspiration for him. “An artist’s role is to adapt to ambient light because our inspiration springs from what I call a spiritual light. This makes all the difference in the end,” Chaki says.

Concordia entrusted Chaki with the creation of a mural installed in the underground corridor that connects the MB and EV buildings. The work, entitled *Les Quatre Saisons*

(*The Four Seasons*) is bathed in artificial light and hits the eye with an energy that emanates from the arrangement of colours and shapes. “The idea behind this work came to me in a few minutes while I was reflecting on the simplicity of natural elements, the cooler seasons and the bustle of life,” Chaki recalls. “The technical phase, on the other hand, was difficult because we wanted to assemble the colour zones of the canopy without using lead. The four panels weigh about a ton; you can imagine the ingenuity it took to install the work as a whole.” In fact, the movement of pedestrians causes changes in the work’s brightness, seemingly renewing the piece’s vigour. It also reflects the energy of a strong community. ■

*Patrice-Hans Perrier, BA 1990, is a Montreal-based journalist.*





**High visibility:**

**At left: Nicolas Baier's mural on the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex.**

**Below: The underground tunnel leading to the John Molson School of Business Building features Yehouda Chaki's *Les Quatre Saisons*. The work was a gift from Diane and Salvatore Guerrera and family.**

**Previous page: Claude Th  berge's modern mural outside the Guy Metro Building.**





# ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



## A TRUE APPRECIATION FOR TEACHING

Christopher Trueman has spent more than 30 years teaching the ropes to countless students. Now in his third year as the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science's associate dean of Academic Affairs, Trueman has a lot more than classes on his plate. He also carries out administrative duties that include chairing the Student Request Committee, overseeing the faculty's Academic Information Technology Service, managing the workloads of full-time and part-time faculty members, and overseeing the planning of the departments' course offerings. Regardless of his faculty duties, Trueman ensures that he always has one foot in the classroom. "I call teaching my fun," he says with a smile.

Trueman first joined the university in 1974, shortly after the merger of Sir George Williams University and Loyola College. "I think I was one of the first people officially hired by Concordia," he says. He started as a sessional lecturer before he had even completed his master's degree, which he was pursuing at the time at McGill University. "I was shocked to see that there were students in my class who were older than me!" He recalls his early days on the Loyola Campus with fondness. He loved teaching right from the start and quickly formed a bond with his students, who could easily relate to the young professor. Trueman went on to earn his PhD at McGill while still teaching a full course load at Concordia. "It was hectic but it was worth it," he says, as those four years of working and studying gave him a better appreciation of what his students were going through.

BY CLÉA DESJARDINS

**Christopher Trueman is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and associate dean of Academic Affairs for Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. Trueman arrived at Concordia in 1974.**

Trueman spent his first five years solely at Loyola and remembers his move to the downtown Sir George Williams Campus in 1979 as being quite a culture shock. "I went from tiny classrooms to big lecture halls," he says. "But I gradually realized that the students at Sir George were not fundamentally different from those at Loyola. They all had the same backgrounds, the same ideas, the same problems."

He also has good memories of the high-tech equipment that was made available to faculty members back in the day: "We were given round-the-clock access to a PDP 11-20 mini-computer—it was terrific for the work I was doing in computational electromagnetics. It had an impressive 16 kilobytes of memory, which we later expanded to an almost unthinkable 64 kilobytes before eventually getting a hard drive that could store a whopping one megabyte of data! Times have changed a bit since then," Trueman says, laughing. "But Concordia has always had facilities that are truly top-notch."

Although he has worn many hats over the years—including as associate chair, co-op director and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and chair of the General Studies Unit it's his role as teacher, he says, that's his true passion. Asked what he likes so much about his job, Trueman gives a simple answer: it's the students. "Students are wonderful. They are enthusiastic, they're interested, they listen to what you have to say, they ask questions." He especially likes to teach the core undergraduate courses, like electromagnetics, because "you can really reach those students and have a positive influence on what they do and how they process information, right at a crucial stage, the beginning of their career."

Trueman's passion has not gone unnoticed: he was awarded the Engineering and Computer Science award for excellence in full-time teaching in 2005-06. And he shows no sign of slowing down.

## ENGINEERING ALUMNI BAND TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF THE JACK BORDAN SCHOLARSHIP

Many of us may have an “Uncle Jack” but for a select group of Concordia alumni, the nickname brings to mind their beloved former professor and dean, Jack Bordan, LLD 82. As the founding dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (a position he held from 1963 to 1968, before becoming Concordia’s Vice-Principal, Academic, through 1980), Jack Bordan’s passion for teaching ensured his legacy would last far beyond his decades here. Today, Bordan’s presence can be felt on campus thanks to the Jack Bordan Entrance Scholarship for first-year Engineering and Computer Science students.

Bordan, who still resides in Montreal, was “delighted to hear that the scholarship had been established—I was genuinely moved,” he says. “To have it in my name is a particularly lovely thing for me.”

In 2009, the Sir George Williams Engineering Class of 1968 launched the scholarship, which has now blossomed thanks in part to the generosity of donors such as James (J.D.) Hole, S BEng 65, past chairman of the board of directors at Lockerbie & Hole, a major Canadian mechanical contractor. Hole’s leadership gift has helped the fund grow into a \$30,000 endowment that will help undergraduates annually. Individuals like Yves Harel, of Montreal-based building automation company Régulvar, have also made generous donations that have helped the fund grow.

For Hole, being part of the Class of 1965 meant being part of a diverse but tight-knit group. “We all knew we were only there for a short time, so we were sure to make the most of

it. We bonded extremely well as a class and we became very close to our professors and to the dean,” he says. He has fond memories of Bordan, who was “always outgoing and optimistic. He was inspiring.”

This spirit of closeness was still very much in evidence 45 years later at the Engineering and Computer Science Reunion Cocktail Reception on October 2 at the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex, during Homecoming 2010. Jack Bordan’s praises were sung by many in attendance, including Harald Debor, S BEng 65, S BEng 68, another Jack Bordan Scholarship donor. Debor took the microphone and spoke eloquently of what Uncle Jack meant to him and his peers—both then and now—and played a short video greeting from Bordan.

The first Jack Bordan Scholarship was awarded to Ron Gamliel, who entered the Engineering and Computer Science undergraduate program this fall. Hole is proud that many such students will benefit from Bordan’s legacy. “Jack looked beyond a student’s academic skills and really saw them for who they were,” he says. “He inspired a lot of the students; he helped many through tough times and really got results—as you can see from where some of those graduates have wound up today.”

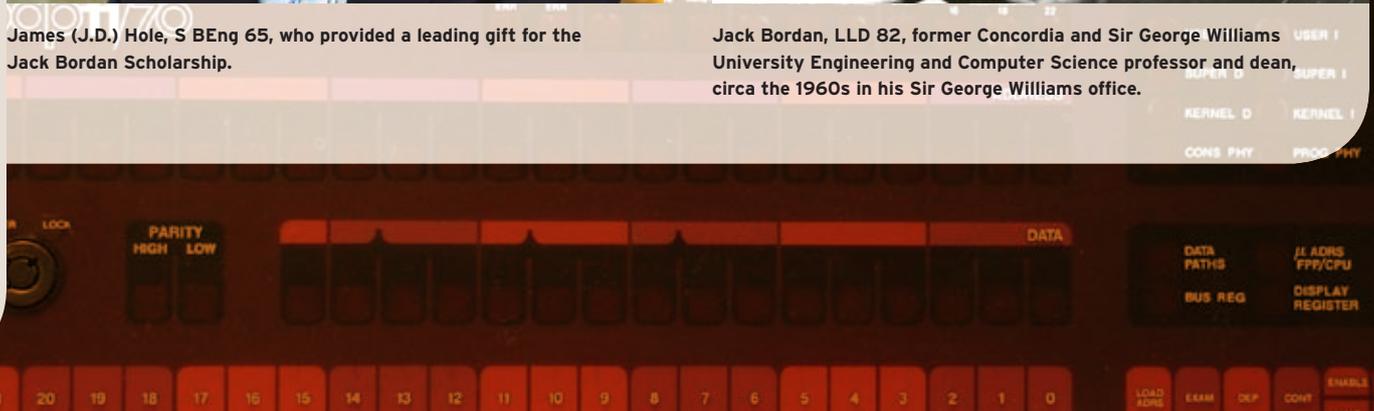
*For more information about the Jack Bordan Undergraduate Entrance Scholarship, please contact Sarah Kenny, Development Officer, Engineering and Computer Science, at 514-848-2424, ext. 7026, or [sarah@encs.concordia.ca](mailto:sarah@encs.concordia.ca). ■*



James (J.D.) Hole, S BEng 65, who provided a leading gift for the Jack Bordan Scholarship.



Jack Bordan, LLD 82, former Concordia and Sir George Williams University Engineering and Computer Science professor and dean, circa the 1960s in his Sir George Williams office.





**1 Homecoming Football Game**

PHOTOS: PBL PHOTOGRAPHY/RYAN BLAU

THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES, HELD FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 3, ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT THOUSANDS TO CONCORDIA'S TWO CAMPUSES TO RECONNECT WITH FORMER CLASSMATES AND FRIENDS. FOR FULL DETAILS AND MORE PHOTOS, VISIT [HOMECOMING.CONCORDIA.CA](http://HOMECOMING.CONCORDIA.CA)

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**Career Speed Networking**

Networking plays a key role in job hunting, which is why Concordia's third Career Speed-Networking event once again proved a hit. Nineteen volunteer mentors from various professional backgrounds offered career advice to 39 students in the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex (EV Building). Pictured are **Sabrina Riaz**, GrDip 07, and **José Ernesto Pelaez**, MBA 09, a sales executive with Concur Technologies. **2**

**SEPTEMBER 24**

**Shuffle 21**

Hundreds of enthusiastic Concordians walked, ran or pushed strollers at the 21st edition of the Concordia Shuffle, the annual 6.5-km walk from the Sir George Williams to Loyola Campus. The shufflers raised more than \$40,000 for scholarships and bursaries for Concordia students.

Prior to the Shuffle launch, Virgin Radio 96 on-air personalities Cousin Vinny (Barrucco) and Tony Stark pumped up the shufflers at the EV Building. Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth told the crowd that, in its 21

years, the Shuffle has raised more than \$900,000 and helped more than 375 students through scholarships and bursaries.

At the Shuffle's wind-up at Loyola Campus, the shufflers enjoyed the President's BBQ under a tent. Mahesh Sharma, Associate Professor of Decision Sciences and Management Information Systems at the John Molson School of Business, was named Shuffler of the Year. Pictured along the Shuffle route are Computer Science and Software Engineering Professor **Clement Lam**, the Shuffle committee chair, and his wife, **Lily**. **3**

**SEPTEMBER 25**

**Homecoming Football Game**

A field goal with 24 seconds left to play gave the Bishop's University Gaiters an 18-17 victory over the Concordia Stingers at the Homecoming Football Game at Concordia Stadium. Pictured are Stingers cornerback **Kyle Smith**, President and Vice-Chancellor **Judith Woodsworth** and Stingers assistant coach and former Montreal Alouette player **Bryan Chiu**. **1**

**Communication Studies 45th Anniversary Reunion**

More than 200 Communication Studies alumni packed into the Homecoming Tent at the Loyola Campus to celebrate the



2 Speed Networking



4 Communication Studies

# COMING 2010 RECAP



3 Shuffle 21



5 Family Fair Day

department's 45th anniversary over cocktails and with old friends. They also bade farewell to longstanding Professor Dennis Murphy, L BA 67, who'd been with the department for 40 of its 45 years. "I was very moved by seeing all those familiar faces. I felt such warmth in speaking with as many of the alumni as I could," said **Murphy**, pictured (at left) saying goodbye to old friends. **4**

As the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Brian Lewis, pointed out to the crowd, many Communication Studies alumni have gone on to enjoy great career success, including Barry Julien, BA 94, who recently picked up his second Emmy Award as a member of *The Colbert Report* writing team, and filmmaker Kevin Tierney, S BA 71, GrDip 78, whose *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* won a Genie Award for Best Motion Picture in 2007.

Alumni also toured the department's new digs and were treated to the grand opening of the Montreal Signs Project, an initiative of Associate Professor Matt Soar and retired archivist Nancy Marrelli, BA 84. The project features a public display of culturally significant signs from around the city, including Warsaw, Bens and Monsieur Hotdog.

## SEPTEMBER 26

### Family Fair Day

Family Fair Day, one of Concordia's most enduringly popular Homecoming events, did not fail to impress again this year, with 1,500 people descending upon the Loyola Campus to sing, dance, play, munch and explore what proved to be a rollicking good time for everyone. Cloudy skies and

occasional drizzle failed to dampen the spirits of participants, no doubt aided by the enthusiasm of Virgin Radio personality Kelly Alexander.

Children (of all ages) enjoyed animals, unicyclists, clowns, a magician, cupcake-making, science experiments, soccer matches, puppet shows, face-painting and "tattooing," among the many activities. Meanwhile, the clattering strikes of Zuruba, an Afro-Brazilian percussion ensemble, had fair-goers dancing to their beat. Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth told the crowd that the event had "great activities" and "good food." Judging by the contented faces enjoying hotdogs and burgers at the Deans' BBQ, the food was indeed appreciated. **5**

## SEPTEMBER 27

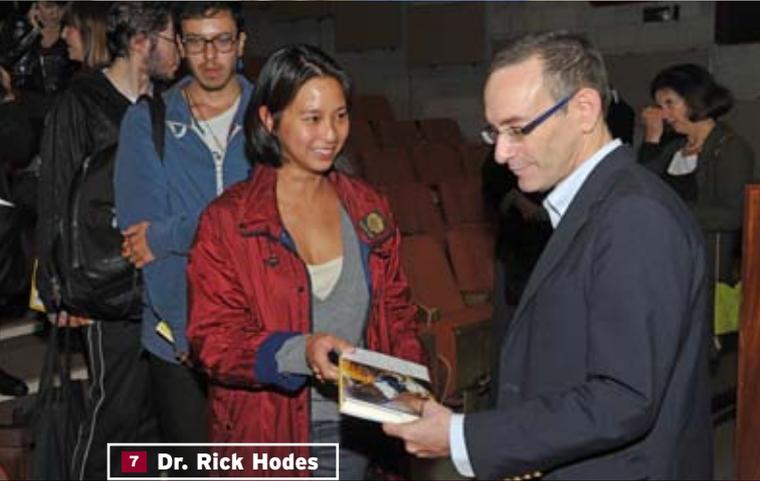
### A.L. Kennedy

A sell-out crowd of 120 people came to the Henry F. Hall Building to listen to Scottish author A.L. Kennedy's one-woman show, *Words*. The event was a collaboration between the Concordia University Alumni Association and the Blue Metropolis International Literary Series.

The audience wasn't disappointed: **Kennedy** (pictured, next page **6**) delivered on her promise to celebrate words—their sound, meanings and usage—as she used them to weave her autobiography as a writer. The award-winner is obviously as masterful at speaking words as writing them, telling her story with such pacing, timing and vocal variety that she had her listeners alternately laughing out loud and silent as can be, hanging on her every ... word.



6 A.L. Kennedy



7 Dr. Rick Hodes



8 Sports Hall of Fame

SEPTEMBER 28

**AbitibiBowater Lecture: Dr. Rick Hodes**

When Dr. Rick Hodes arrived in Ethiopia in the late 1980s on a Fulbright Fellowship to teach internal medicine, he expected to stay for a year. But, as Hodes told a crowd of about 250 Concordia students, alumni and others in the Hall Building’s room H-110 at the 2010 AbitibiBowater Lecture, he’s still there. “I didn’t intend to stay for 22 years,” he admitted. During that time, Dr. Rick, as he’s known, has saved the lives of hundreds of Ethiopian children suffering from various forms of spinal and heart diseases and cancer.

Hodes is the Medical Director in Ethiopia for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and is the senior consultant at Mother Theresa’s Catholic mission in Addis Ababa. In 2007, Hodes was selected as a CNN Hero, which recognizes ordinary people for their extraordinary achievements. His work is the subject of the HBO documentary *Making the Crooked Straight* and a book, *This is a Soul: The Mission of Rick Hodes*, by Marilyn Berger. **Hodes** (right) is pictured signing copies of his book for appreciative students. **7**

OCTOBER 1

**Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet**

The Concordia University Department of Recreation and Athletics inducted a new cohort into the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame at a gala dinner held at the John Molson reception room at Molson Brewery in Montreal.

The individual 2010 inductees were (pictured, from left to right **8**) Concordia Stinger basketball player **Gary McKeigan**, BFA 86, Stingers rugby player **Josée Lacasse**, BSc 93, Loyola-Concordia basketball and football coach **Doug Daigneault**, Sir George Williams hockey stars **Brian Chapman**, S BA 67, and **Alex Matthew**, S BA 67. The 1991 Concordia women’s rugby team was also inducted.

OCTOBER 2

**Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Reunion**

Close to 100 alumni from Concordia’s Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science returned to campus for their reunion, which proved to be a wonderful time.

In the afternoon, alumni “Hit the Books” with back-to-back presentations from two Engineering and Computer Science faculty members: Daniel Sinnig, who talked about some of the faculty’s software engineering research projects, and Luis Rodrigues, who spoke about aeronautics and gave alumni a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pilot the on-campus flight simulator.

The guests then came back down to earth for a cocktail reception in the EV Building. The fine autumn day allowed them to explore the 11th-floor terrace and admire its bird’s-eye view of downtown Montreal. Pictured are **Louise Paradis**, BEng 90, and **Antonio Scandella**, BEng 80. **9**



9 Engineering Reunion



10 President's Reunion Brunch

OCTOBER 3

### President's Reunion Brunch

Graduating from university could well take its pride of place on a list of life-changing events if Concordia alumni are anything to go by. Just ask John Millons, S BA 59, whose classmates included immigrants and Second World War survivors. Millons was one of scores of graduates attending the President's Reunion Brunch at the EV Building. He left the U.K. in 1953 to settle in Montreal and found work with Canadian Pacific Railways before considering higher education. "I was referred by my employer to Sir George Williams University which, at the time, was the only university in Canada to offer degree programs in both day and evening divisions," Millons recalled at the brunch.

Giusseppe Di Sano, BA 90 (Fr. & Ital.), told a different tale, but with a similar ending. Di Sano said she once found herself at odds with her father's views on higher education, yet his declaration that "university was for the rich" only strengthened her resolve to study. "I always wanted to have a university degree, so at 21, as a mature student, I saved my money and entered Concordia University, as a part-time student in the evenings," she said. Di Sano now divides her time working at a language school in Italy and for McGill University.

For some graduates, nostalgia for the one-time smaller, cozier university settings—Sir George Williams and Loyola College of yore—is still evident today. Yet many agree Concordia has come a long way from its founding institutions. Don Hathaway, S BEng 65, S BSc 68, said he's astonished by Concordia's transformation but recalled nostalgically how, once upon a time, "the deans taught first-year courses."

No longer. Concordia, bustling with 44,000 students, is emerging as never before. It's on a mission to become one of Canada's top comprehensive universities, President and Vice-Chancellor Judith Woodsworth told the reunion attendees. "We want to offer high-quality academic programs, an outstanding student experience and strengthen our community outreach," she said with a flourish. "While our infrastructure has dramatically changed, rest assured that our core values remain the same."

The Homecoming reunion weekend wrapped up with extensive tours of the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses. Pictured are **Linda Gannon**, L BA 70, MA 88, and **Wayne Clifford**, S BA 60. 10

## Call for Class Reunion Champions for Homecoming 2011

Graduates from the classes of pre-1961, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 will reunite to celebrate their anniversary years at Homecoming 2011. If you would like to volunteer as a Class Champion for your reunion class, please contact Erin Mullins, Associate Alumni Officer, Homecoming and Reunions, at [erin.mullins@concordia.ca](mailto:erin.mullins@concordia.ca) or 514-848-2424, ext. 3881. Help us bring together your former classmates to celebrate this momentous event.

RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY



**1 JMSB Awards**

## JMSB AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

**R**andall Kelly, BComm 78, is president of Montreal-based investment company Formula Growth Ltd. and a long-time volunteer and supporter of Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB). Kelly told the 230 guests packed into the BMO Amphitheatre at the state-of-the-art JMSB Building on November 9 that he recalls his days at Concordia spent in more modest settings. "So to think that we're now in a building like this is quite an accomplishment for the JMSB," said Kelly, one of the honourees at the 21st JMSB Awards of Distinction ceremony. He started his career at the accounting firm Touche Ross (now Deloitte), joined Formula Growth in 1984 and became its president in 1993.

The other Award of Distinction recipient, Anna Martini, BComm 85, GrDip 86, began her career at the same accounting firm and remained there until 2004, when she became president of Montreal-based apparel retailer Groupe Dynamite Inc. Martini quickly helped expand the number and success of its retail stores, Garage, Dynamite and Chado. She told the audience she remembers her days at Concordia well. "This is where it all began," Martini said.

Pictured (from left to right): JMSB Dean **Sanjay Sharma**, **Peter Kruyt**, Chair of Concordia's Board of Governors, **Randall Kelly**, **Anna Martini** and **Joseph Capano**, Principal Director of Development, JMSB. **1**

## LOYOLA PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES ON ETHICS IN SOCIETY

**Chris Lowney** (at left) **2** believes that had Wall Street business leaders undertaken St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises—a month-long series of meditations, prayers, considerations and contemplative practices—we might have been spared the financial catastrophe that unwound so many banks in 2008. That's what Lowney told guests at Concordia's second Loyola Public Lecture Series event on October 20 in the Communication Studies and Journalism Building. Had their decisions shown love for colleagues and been made with "a sense of purpose greater than themselves," fewer people would have been in harm's way. He calls it "having the courage to do what is needed." "Those same dynamics help parents, university professors, students and nurses to do their jobs better, too," Lowney said.



**2 Loyola Public Lecture Series**

RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

## CONCORDIA GOES WEST: PUMPKIN PICKING AT QUINN FARM

An enthusiastic crowd of about 100 Concordia alumni and their friends and families gathered October 16 for a fun morning of pumpkin picking and decorating at Quinn Farm in Notre-Dame-de-L'Île-Perrot, Que. Participants took a carriage ride to the pumpkin patch, where they picked their own pumpkins.

## FACULTY SHOWCASE

As part of Concordia's 2010 Open House, the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office and the Concordia University Alumni Association presented a series of presentations by professors from the universities' four academic faculties on exciting and relevant research topics on October 23 in the J.W. McConnell Building.

**Paul Shrivastava** **3**, the David O'Brien Distinguished Professor



**3 Faculty Showcase**



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

**4 Chair in Hindu Studies**



**5 Ottawa Chapter**



**6 Toronto Chapter**

and director of the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise, talked about connecting the science of sustainability to the arts. Hashem Akbari, Professor of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, discussed his efforts to urge major urban cities to install reflective roofs and pavements instead of the traditional dark surfaces that absorb light and heat. Rhona Richman Kenneally, Chair of the Department of Design and Computation Arts, talked about how designers and architects should think of the kitchen as an interactive environment and "not just a decorated box." And Norma Bamuel Joseph, PhD 95, Director of the Women and Religion specialization and Associate Professor of Religion, described how food is not just about taste but about cultural tradition and community.

### CHAIR IN HINDU STUDIES

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Endowed Chair in Hindu Studies, a number of events were held over the past year by the Department of Religion and Chair in Hindu Studies' steering

committee. Those culminated on October 18, when about 100 Concordia faculty members, students, alumni, donors and others gathered in the Hall Building to celebrate the 20th anniversary. Pictured (from left to right): **Catherine Bolton**, Associate Dean, Arts and Science; **M.N.S. Swamy**, Electrical and Computer Engineering research professor and 20th anniversary steering committee member; **Lynda Clarke**, Chair, Department of Religion; **T.S. Rukmani**; **David Graham**, Concordia Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs; **Munit Merid**, BA 95, assistant to the Chair of Religion; **Umanath Tiwari**, anniversary steering committee member; and **Ashwini Gupta**. **4**

### JMSB

Despite the rainy weather, more than 55 alumni gathered to network, socialize, catch up with old friends and make new ones at the JMSB Alumni Chapter Pub Night, held October 6 at Rosalie's Supper Club in Montreal. Another pub night was held on November 30 at Decca 77 Supper Club in Montreal, and the

next ones will be held on January 25 and March 28, 2011.

### GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTERS

#### Ottawa

Concordia alumni enjoyed tasty appetizers and great conversation in an informal environment at the Fox and Feather Pub and Grill on October 5. Chapter President Richard Duranceau, BA 96, MA 99, who organized the event, gave a short overview of Concordia's accomplishments and current activities, the role of the Ottawa Chapter and a brief outline of past and future alumni chapter activities. Immediate Past-President Murray Kronick, BSc 78, MSc 83, spoke about how the Chapter Bursary supports needy students. Pictured (from left to right): **Richard Duranceau**, **Kayla Aratski**, BA 07, a friend and **Chris Wilcox**, BA 04. **5**

#### Toronto

**Cass Simons**, S BComm 71 (left), an executive member of the Toronto Chapter, and **Agnes Csordas**, BA 06, an advisor for Concordia's Faculty of



**7 Victoria Mix and Mingle**



**8 Boston/New England Chapter**



**9 New York Chapter**



**10 Washington Chapter**

Engineering and Computer Science, met prospective graduate students on September 18 at the QS World Grad School Tour at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Simons graciously volunteered his time for the event. **6**

The next day, nearly 40 alumni made the coach trip to the Peller Estates Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the Second Annual CUAU Wine Tasting event. Thank you to chapter executive member Anil Chitnis, BA 91, for organizing the day.

And despite extreme weather, 35 hardy Concordia alumni congregated October 26 at Grace O'Malley's Pub, in the heart of Toronto's entertainment district, for a lively Mix, Mingle and Network Pub Night. Special thanks to Eustace Harewood, BComm 79, a newcomer to the executive team, for organizing the event.

## Calgary

Thirty Concordia alumni, along with those from HEC Montréal and McGill University, gathered on October 1 for the Third Annual CFL Football and Tailgate Alumni party. CFL Hall of Fame member Rocco Romano, BA 88, joined the tailgate party before the Stampeders trounced the Alouettes 46-21. A

thank you goes to Bill Lebherz, BA 92, for making the event happen.

## Victoria

Sir George Williams University, Loyola College and Concordia graduates from 1956 through 1996 ventured to the Union Club of Victoria on November 3 for the first alumni association Mix and Mingle event in Victoria. Ted Roberts, S BComm 72, MBA 75, spoke briefly about the association and recounted his expedition to Antarctica two years ago, arranged through the Concordia Alumni Travel Program. Thanks to Roberts, Lucille Proulx-Jodoin and Laurie Colebrook for the event's success. Pictured: **Gloria and Christopher Sheldon**, S BA 68. **7**

## Boston/New England

An approaching storm didn't deter alumni from coming October 14 to the Boston/New England Chapter's Third Annual Networking and Deli Night. The success was no doubt due in part to the overpowering lure of smoked meat flown in from Lester's in Montreal, Cott's soda, May West snack cakes and poutine, served up at the popular Boston deli Zaftigs. Pictured are **Jeffrey Davis**, BA 78, who helped find and co-organize

the event, **Lina Uberti**, alumni officer, incoming chapter president **Vinu Srinivasan**, MBA 03, **Laura Archibald**, BComm 03, and **Denis Kefallinos**, BA 91, founding and outgoing chapter president, who co-organized the event. **8**

## New York City

Concordia alumni and friends played Softball in the Big Apple on August 21 in Central Park. Pictured are **Daniel Makofsky**, Chapter Co-President **Russell Makofsky**, BComm 07, the game's organizer, and executive member **Tiziana Sullivan**, BComm 95, and her husband, **John Sullivan**. **9**

New York City alumni gathered again at the 18th Annual Canadian Universities Alumni Reception at the landmark Roosevelt Hotel on September 23. Concordia graduates enjoyed catching up with each other and meeting hundreds of alumni from other Canadian universities. Thank you to chapter co-presidents Russell Makofsky and Alexandra Wong, MBA 04, for organizing the event.

## Washington, D.C.

About a dozen alumni, family and friends savoured a delicious breakfast while listening to live jazz guitar at the Carlyle Suites Hotel Dupont Twist

## NOTICE

### Concordia Sports Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

The deadline for nominations to be considered for the 2011 induction ceremony is **January 31, 2011.**

Nominations should be accompanied by as much supporting documentation as possible, because it is the documentation—not the number of times a name is put forward or endorsed—that is considered at the time of selection. Nominations do not expire if they are not selected in the year that they are put forward.

Visit [athletics.concordia.ca/nomination.html](http://athletics.concordia.ca/nomination.html) for a nomination form or call 514-848-2424, ext. 3852, for more information.

**GO STINGERS!**



## SAVE THE DATE

Attention all Stingers rugby alumni:

### Annual Rugby Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 29, 2011

Molson Brewery, Montreal

By invitation only

For more information:

[valerie.roseman@concordia.ca](mailto:valerie.roseman@concordia.ca)

### Boston

#### Pub Night

January 13

#### Brunch and Tour at the Peabody Essex Museum

May 1

### New York

#### Networking in the Big Apple

April 7

Visit [alumni.concordia.ca](http://alumni.concordia.ca) for upcoming events in North Carolina, London (U.K.), Dubai, Jordan, Shanghai, Beijing and Japan.

Register for events online at

[alumni.concordia.ca/register](http://alumni.concordia.ca/register), or call 514-848-2424, ext. 4397, toll free: 1-888-777-3330. ■



### 11 Beijing Chapter

Restaurant on August 8. Thanks to Chapter President Renato Sogueco, BA 94, for organizing the event.

Pictured are **Zoran Kahric**, BEng 97, and **Reena Vohra**, BComm 03. 10

Alumni also got an opportunity to enjoy the chapter's second annual wine tasting at the Marrakesh Palace restaurant on October 16. Guests sampled North African food, vied for giveaways, caught up with friends, made new acquaintances and swapped stories. Kudos to new executive team member Soufiane Mebtoul, BSc 05, for arranging the event.

### Washington State/Oregon

On November 6, Concordia alumni gathered for a Meet-and-Greet at the Wilde Rover Irish Pub in Kirkland, Wash., the first event for alumni in the region. Guests included graduates from the classes of 1974 through 2009. Thank you to organizer Joel Tovel, BComm 96.

## Call for chapter volunteers

We're seeking volunteers to join our executive team in San Jose, Calif., and for volunteers in Edmonton, India and Japan. It's a meaningful way to network and give back to your alma mater.

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

### California

A small but spirited group of Concordia alumni living in the San Jose area enjoyed a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on October 9. Guest speaker David Stewart, academic relations officer at the Consulate General of Canada in San Francisco, Joanne Mollot, BA 79, ably organized the event.

### Beijing

Alumni from the Beijing Chapter met for a reunion lunch at Donghai Seafood Restaurant to celebrate National Day on October 2. Pictured (from left to right): Chapter President **Chen Zhang**, BComm 98, MA 03, who organized the gathering; **Peng Gong**, AMBA 05; **Todd Bi Chongtao**; **Jirui Chen**, MEng 90, EMBA 00; **Sophie Jin**, BComm 06; and **Geng Wang**, MBA 05. 11

### UPCOMING GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTER EVENTS

Watch for your invitation to upcoming 2011 events or visit [alumni.concordia.ca](http://alumni.concordia.ca)

### Ottawa

#### Annual Networking Luncheon

January 27

### Toronto

#### Mix, Mingle and Network Night

February 22

### Calgary

#### Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra presents "The Best of Fleetwood Mac"

March 24

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.

## 50TH REUNION

**61 Carol Schmidt, BA** (psych.), and fellow grandmother Mary Ann Gilhuly were featured in the August 26 issue of the Kitchener-Waterloo *Record*. The story covered their 750-kilometre fundraising pilgrimage across

Spain. The women are part of Omas Siskona (meaning Grandmothers Together), a Kitchener-Waterloo charity that's part of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, a branch of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The campaign is dedicated to raising awareness and money for Africa's grandmothers.

**65 Anthony D'Addese, L BA** (phil.), is a retired Montreal high school teacher. Anthony also holds a Baccalauréat en Pédagogie

from Université de Montréal and completed graduate studies in the U.S. In 2005, he published *Proverbs, Sayings, Clichés... A Multilingual Anthology* (Legas). The book provides English, French, Italian, Spanish and Latin translations of commonly used proverbs, sayings and clichés.

**75 Sonia Gabriel, BSc**, is a real estate broker with RE/MAX Du Cartier in Montreal. Sonia specializes in marketing and selling residential, revenue properties and

condos, mostly in downtown and western Montreal, and commercial buildings.

[soniagabriel@videotron.ca](mailto:soniagabriel@videotron.ca)

**79 Angela Bridgeman, BSc** (biochem.), graduated from the Howard University School of Dentistry in 1994 and recently relocated to the Caribbean.

**Frank Kelton, BComm**, was appointed in October as Vice President/Risk Management Consultant for FCStone Canada ULC, a wholly owned subsidiary



**1 > Diane Collet, BFA 76, MA** (art ed.) 03, participated in five recent group exhibitions: at La galerie ADN in Côteau-du-Lac, Que., from August 28 to September 12; as part of the "10 X 10 Challenge 2010" at the Galerie de la Ville in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., from September 8 to October 10; at the Casa da cultura do auditorio municipal de Cangas in Spain from September 3 to the 13; to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the McIntyre Gallery in Regina, Sask., on October 22; and at the 27e Exposition Concours-Gala at the Centre culturel Brancusi in Montreal from October 28 to October 31. 1) *Hanging*

**2 > Rochelle Mayer, BComm 83, BFA** (studio arts) 10, is holding a solo exhibition entitled "Dans le métro, prise 2" at Maison de la Culture Mercier in Montreal until January 16, 2011. The exhibition includes more than 40 of Rochelle's paintings, drawings and prints, as well as a selection of her sketchbooks and small studies. 2) *Correspondance à Lionel Groulx*

**3 > Patricia Morris, MFA 84**, recently held two solo exhibitions: "The Trans-Canada Drive-By Landscape Series" at the Galerie de la Ville in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., from June 10 to 28, and "Trans-Canada Drive II" at the Avenue Art Gallery in Montreal from October 21 to November 5. The exhibitions featured paintings of scenes viewed from a moving car on the open road. [patricia-morris.net](http://patricia-morris.net) 3) *Ontario Black Truck*

**4 > Joanne Kielo, GrDip** (art therapy) 88, MA 88, **Claude Aimée Villeneuve, BFA 91, Maureen Cunningham, BFA 05**, and Betty Ryan Marok are part of the Paperdreamers Collective, founded in 2005. Their common passion is handmade paper. In September, they participated in the Hudson (Que.) and Region Studio Tour. 4) *Handmade denim paper and handmade banana skin paper*

of International Assets Holding Corporation. Frank has more than 25 years of experience in energy commodities in Canada and the U.S. and has held several senior marketing and trading positions. He will be located in the company's new Calgary office.

**Marlene Manion**, BA (social welfare), recently retired after 18 years in real estate. "I'm now enjoying the good life of fishing, motorecycling and 'snowbirding' in the winter with my husband, Mark Hatten, and dog, Teddy. Life is good!"

**80 Louis Hugo Francescutti**, BSc (bio.), became the 41st president of the Royal College of Physicians

and Surgeons of Canada in October. Louis is an emergency room/preventive medicine physician and crusader for injury prevention and is a researcher, clinician and educator in Edmonton. Louis earned his MD and PhD at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He earned a Master of Public Health degree and a did a preventive-medicine residency while pursuing studies in injury control and public health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

**82 Moyra Davey**, BFA, is a photographer and faculty member at the International Center of Photography in New York City. In September, Moyra was nominated for a

2010 Grange Prize. The work of the four nominees is being exhibited at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto until January 2, 2011, and the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College in Chicago until December 23. Moyra's series "Copperheads" explores the textures and surfaces of damaged U.S. pennies.

**André La Forge**, BComm, recently joined Roynat Capital as Managing Director, National Equity Group. "This is a newly created position where I will be actively involved in sourcing and developing new investment opportunities (control buyout, MBO, LBO, growth capital, etc.) in both Ontario and Quebec."

**84 Bronia Zaks**, BA (app. soc. sci.), GrDip (DIS) 96, and her husband, **Asher Waldman**, MEng 82, have opened JamRockCafé, a full-service restaurant in Montreal specializing in pies. Bronia also studied Fine Arts at Concordia and has painted and sculpted for the last 11 years. JamRockCafé features an art gallery for new local artists. Bronia is offering special group rates for Concordia alumni. **Bronia@videotron.ca, jamrockcafe.ca**

**88 David Patterson**, BA (econ.), BA (hist.) 98, is a colonel in the Canadian Forces Army Reserve. In October, David was deployed for a year to Afghanistan, serving with



**5 > Nathalie Bandulet**, BFA (studio arts) 97, held a solo exhibit titled "La Forêt" at the Galerie des artistes du Canton in Magog, Que., in May. She also took part in a group exhibition from July 24 to August 1, held during the Festival des arts in Georgeville, Que. Nathalie is a multidisciplinary and environmental artist and co-owner and designer of Organic Design, an eco-smart lighting design studio. [nathaliebandulet.com](http://nathaliebandulet.com) 5) *Cicatrices 1*

**6 > Ilga Leimanis**, BFA (art hist.) 99, MA (SIP) 04, held a solo exhibition of her paintings, called "Profiles: friendship in the digital age," at Gallery Istaba in Riga, Latvia, from July 20 to September 5, 2009. Ilga is a London, U.K.-based artist and art teacher and a visiting lecturer at Central Saint Martins College of the University of the Arts London. [ilgaleimanis.com](http://ilgaleimanis.com) 6) *Profiles*

**7 > Amir Baradaran**, MA (media studies) 08, presented a series of 40-second video installations taken in New York City taxis called "Transient." The series ran on TaxiTV from

September 9 to 15. Amir is a New York City-based visual artist who was born in Tehran, Iran, and raised in Montreal. [AmirBaradaran.com](http://AmirBaradaran.com) 7) *A still image from "Transient"*

**8 > Chrissy K. Cheung**, BFA (design art) 00, is holding a solo exhibition of recent paintings and drawings called "Every Method: No Method," at Artfirm Gallery in Calgary from November 25 to December 23. Chrissy is a Montreal-based artist. [observeroftime.com](http://observeroftime.com) 8) *Urban*

**9 > Nada H. Kyriakos**, MA (art ed.) 01, participated in the group exhibition called "10 X 10 Challenge 2010" at the Galerie de la Ville in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., from September 8 to October 10. 9) *Shaded by Herself - A Day*

**10 > Erin McCarthy**, BA (art hist. & studio art) 07, exhibited acrylic-on-canvas paintings in a group show at the Gallery Centre St-Ambroise in Montreal from October 4 to 17. 10) *Nikita*

**David Collins**, BComm 79, was appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda; Ambassador to Burundi, Eritrea and Somalia; and Permanent Representative to the UN Organisations based in Nairobi, in August. This is David's fourth tour as a head of mission, having served in Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova, Pakistan and Malaysia. He holds a BA from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., and an MSc from Durham University in the U.K. He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Development Program at the Banff (Alta.) School of Advanced Management and qualified as a Chartered Secretary (ACIS).



**Johanna Skibsrud**, MA 06, won the prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize 2010 on November 9 for her first novel, *The Sentimentalists* (Gaspereau Press). Johanna's novel is based in part on her late father's experiences in the Vietnam War. The prize is Canada's most celebrated award for fiction and its most lucrative, worth \$50,000. An earlier incarnation of the novel was Johanna's creative writing thesis at Concordia. She has also published two books of poetry and participated in Concordia's Alumni Writers Read and Reflect event in 2008. Jack Rabinovitch established the Giller Prize in 1994 to honour his late wife, literary journalist Doris Giller.



MARK BLINCH/REUTERS

Concordia University bestowed three honorary doctorates during fall convocation ceremonies on November 1 at Place des Arts.

## Faculty of Arts and Science

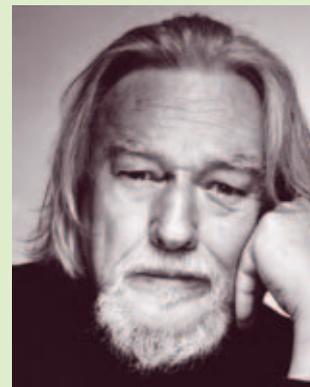
**Brian O'Neill Gallery**, L BA 57, LLD 10, is a successful publisher, corporate director, civic leader and stalwart supporter of Irish history and culture in Canada. Brian has been appointed to more than a dozen corporate and community service boards, including director and Acting Chair of Canadian National Railways between 1986 and 1990 and director of the Export



Development Corporation between 1993 and 1997. His civic duties have included serving as alderman and commissioner of public services for the City of Westmount between 1975 and 1983 and as mayor from 1983 to 1987. For the past 15 years, Brian has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation and has been its chair since 1999. The Foundation has raised about \$7 million in endowment funds and provided an additional \$1 million to Concordia to support the development of its School of Canadian Irish Studies.

## Faculties of Fine Arts and Engineering and Computer Science

**Victor (Vic) Stefan Vogel**, LLD 10, has been a pivotal force in establishing Montreal as one of the world's jazz capitals and continues to be a musical ambassador for the city. Vic has also helped musicians in Cuba and other developing countries to obtain the music and instruments to play their best. He began playing the piano by ear at the age of five. By 14, he soloed on CBC programs that aired nationwide. After playing with several big-name bands, he led his first ensemble around 1960 at Montreal's Chez Parée. Vic has been the music director for many CBC/Radio-Canada variety shows and composed the scores for CBC and CTV news programs, National Film Board documentaries and films. He has performed at every Montreal International Jazz Festival since it began 31 years ago.



## John Molson School of Business

**Joelle (Joey) Berdugo-Adler**, LLD 10, is a powerhouse in the fashion industry as President and CEO of Diesel Canada Inc. and the driving force behind the ONEXONE (One by One) charitable foundation. Joey studied commerce full-time at Concordia at night while working in marketing and promotion by day. Her education helped her, alongside her husband and partner, Louis Adler, build Diesel Canada into an enormously successful denim brand. Following Louis's death in 2003, Joey established the Lou Adler Foundation in 2004 to raise funds for cancer-related charities. The Foundation evolved into the ONEXONE Foundation, whose mission is to improve the lives of children. Joey and her family are also the main benefactors for the Hope & Cope Wellness Centre that is now part of the Jewish General Hospital's adjunct services.



the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army in Kandahar.

## 20TH REUNION

**91 Maureen Marovitch**, BA (comm. studies), is creative director and **David Finch**, BA (sci., hist. and ethics) '93, is senior producer and director with award-winning, Montreal-based Picture This Productions. Maureen and David recently were in China to film a one-hour television documentary called *The Invisible Red Thread*, in association with OMNI TV. The filmmakers followed adoptive parents accompanying a teenage daughter to her birthplace. *The Invisible Red Thread* is scheduled to air on OMNI TV in early 2011. [picturethis.ca](http://picturethis.ca)

**92 Kai Li**, MA (econ.), recently published a paper in *Management Science* on the role of hormones in mergers and acquisitions. The paper reports that, due to high testosterone levels, young male CEOs appear to be more combative than other CEOs. In business negotiations, "high-testosterone responders tend to reject low offers even though this is against their interest." The paper received much media coverage, including in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times* and *Time*. Kai is an assistant professor of Finance at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

**94 Rob Unger**, BA (comm. studies), was recently promoted to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer and appointed Regimental Sergeant-Major of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. Rob has been a member of the Canadian Forces for more than 22 years. He has lived in Montreal and Vancouver, and trained and travelled across Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Germany and Norway.



**Prita Chhabra**, BA (psych.) '07, is a singer and songwriter based in Orlando, Fla., and Toronto. In November, Prita was appointed an official ambassador for the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research. Over the past year, she toured Canada as part of RBC desiFest (the national South Asian music festival). She also sang the national anthems at Toronto Raptors, Toronto Blue Jays and Orlando Magic games. Prita was nominated as Best Female Act at the 2010 Toronto Independent Music Awards and her single *Dance* has been playlisted on several top-40 stations in Quebec. Later in December, she will return to Orlando to sing the national anthems at the Magic's new Amway Center.

He has been on two overseas deployments, first as a United Nations peacekeeper in Cyprus and more recently with NATO in Afghanistan. Rob is married to Sophie and they have two young children, Julianne and Lukas.

**98 Brent "Dil" Hildebrand**, BFA (painting & drawing), MA (studio arts) '08, held a solo exhibition of paintings and drawings called "Peepshow" from September 9 to October 16 at the Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain gallery in Montreal. In October, the Winnipeg native exhibited new work at the 4th Beijing International Art Biennale 2010 in China. Dil won the RBC Canadian Painting Competition in 2006 and has since participated in many exhibitions throughout Canada, the U.S. and abroad.

**00 Samer Najari**, BFA (film production), was one of seven winners of the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award, worth \$15,000, announced by the Canada Council for the

Arts in September. Samer is a media artist who directed *Before the Wind Blows* (2006) and *Snow Hides the Shade of Fig Trees* (2009).

## 10TH REUNION

**01 Alain Abitan**, BComm (fin.), recently graduated with honours from the Real Estate Program at John Abbott College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que. For the last 12 years, Alain worked as an IT industry sales manager. He is now affiliated with Cencore Realty and Mortgage Services in Pierrefonds, Que. [alain@cencore.ca](mailto:alain@cencore.ca)

**Sameer Premji**, BComm (MIS), lives in Chevy Chase, Md. "After graduating, I worked in various industries. As a systems engineer with a business background, I was invited to work for Microsoft in Washington, D.C., in the healthcare IT arena. Our main focus is to improve healthcare using technology to decrease wasteful spending,

increase productivity and decrease medical errors to deliver high-quality healthcare for everyone."

**Rafael Rivera-Mundaca**, BA (Spanish), is the CEO of Group MLT Mundaka Language Training in Montreal.

**02 Natalie Fitzpatrick**, BFA (cont. dance), GrDip '05, lives in Montreal. "I am a Pilates teacher and a body-rolling and body-logic practitioner (the only one in Quebec)." [nfbody.com](http://nfbody.com)

**04 Mark McKnight**, BEng, played for the Concordia Stingers men's rugby team that won the Quebec championships in 1999, 2000 and 2001. Mark is now studying welding at Nova Career Centre in Chateauguay, Que. "This has been one of my best decisions and a complement to what I learned in Concordia's Engineering program. I have been especially fortunate to have had great teachers along the way."

**05 Yarith Chhiv**, BEng, is a portfolio manager for Palos Capital in Montreal. Yarith is responsible for managing the risk of the Palos Income Fund. He is a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, holds a Financial Risk Manager designation and is a member of the Montreal CFA Society and of the Global Association of Risk Professionals. Yarith is now enrolled in the MBA program at École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal.

**Patrick Coutu**, MFA (studio art), was chosen to create the public art for the new Benny Sports and Community Centre in Montreal. Patrick's work, entitled *Source*, is scheduled to be installed before the end of 2010.

**Tricia Middleton**, MFA '05 (studio art), was one of seven winners of a Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award,

worth \$15,000, announced by the Canada Council for the Arts in September. Tricia is a Vancouver-born installation artist and sculptor based in Montreal.

## 07 **Andréanne Abbondanza-Bergeron,**

BFA (studio art), MA (art ed.) 10, exhibited her sculpture *Over the Bridge* in Concordia's Webster Library atrium from June to November. The work was commissioned by Concordia Libraries to celebrate the theme of the 2010 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences held in June. [abbondanzabergeron.com](http://abbondanzabergeron.com)

## 08 **Eve De Garie-Lamanque,**

MA (art hist.), curated her first show, entitled "Hantise," at Art Mur gallery in Montreal from September 2 to October 23. The project brought together Montreal- and Toronto-based

artists, who reflected on the various strategies contemporary artists rely on to either simulate or highlight the palpable yet often invisible and unnameable presence embodied by certain objects and locations.

## 09 **Kalil Diaz,** BComm, and **David Betances,**

attendee 09, are the founders of Explore Dominican Republic, a registered charity that focuses on improving the living conditions and access to education of impoverished children in the Dominican Republic. It provides funding to programs that keep children off the streets and supplies teachers, food and medicine in the slums of Villa Juana and Villa Bendicion. [exploredr.org](http://exploredr.org)

**Tarundeep Dhot,** MASC (elec. and comp. eng.), is a business analyst at CIBC's headquarters in Toronto. ■

**Saul Chait,** S BComm 45, died on August 11 in Montreal. Saul is survived by his children, Barry and Sharnee. He was 89.

## **Kathryn "Kay" (Curl) Staniforth,**

S BSc 45, died on August 6 in Ottawa. Kay is survived by her children, Susan, Jan and Charles.

## **John Canao Tani,**

S BA 45, S BSc 48, died on August 17 in Alexandria, Ont. John is survived by his daughter, Lois. He was 99.

## **Helen (Schoel) Novack,**

S BA 47, died on September 25 in Montreal. Helen is survived by her children, Philip, Brian, Deborah and Martin.

## **Raymond Cartwright,**

QC, L BA 50, died on August 5 in Sidney, B.C. Raymond is survived by his wife, Patricia, and his sons, Timothy and Brian.

## **Irving L. Adessky,**

QC, S BA 52, died on September 19 in Montreal. Irving is survived by his companion, Hanka Hornstein, and his children, Jeffrey, Liz, Andrew, Mark and Joy. He was 82.

## **Arthur Candib,**

S BA 52, died on October 22 in Montreal. Arthur is survived by his wife, Raizel Fishman, and his children, Dorothy, Stephen and Katherine Eve.

## **Sam Kula,**

S BA 53, died on September 8 in Ottawa. Sam is survived by his wife, Eleanor (Bunty), and his daughters, Helen and Jocelyn. He was 77.

## **Kevin Madigan,**

S BA 53, died on August 11 in Oakville, Ont. Kevin is survived by his

wife, Patricia, and his children, Patrick, Kelley, Lenny and Tracey.

## **Mira Godard-Bennett,**

S BSc 54, died on September 20 in Toronto. Mira is survived by her sister, Nadia Devinoy. She was 82.

## **John W.M. Killingbeck,**

S BA 55, died on October 1 in Montreal. John is survived by his wife, Olia, and his children, Marina, Natasha, Alexandra, Victoria and Gregory. He was 77.

## **Kenneth F. Cassidy,**

L BComm 56, died on September 22 in Montreal. Ken is survived by his wife, Patricia (Gain), and his children, Christopher and Janet. He was 78.

## **Ron Christie,**

L BA 56, died on October 21 in Montreal. Ron is survived by his children, Tom and Carol.

## **Kenneth Brian Cockhill,**

S BA 56, died on October 3 in Lachute, Que. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Joan Beverley (Dickinson), and his children, Leslie Ann, Michael Bruce and Steven Wayne. He was 79.

## **Jean H. Lafleur,**

QC, L BA 56, died on October 30 in Montreal. Jean is survived by his wife, Louise (Limoges), and his children, Jean and Diane.

## **Kurt Helmut Koerbel,**

S BA 56, died October 28 in Montreal. Kurt is survived by his wife, Hilda, and his son, Robert. He was 82.

**Adam Mark,** S BSc 56, died on August 5 in Montreal. Adam

## Keep in Touch

New job? Just moved? Just married? Or just want to let your former classmates know what you've been up to? Visit

[alumni.concordia.ca/keepintouch](http://alumni.concordia.ca/keepintouch)

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 and 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).

is survived by his wife, Dorothy (Goddard), and his children, Dale, Sharon, Carole and Heather. He was 78.

**Bernard Poirier**, L BComm 56, died on August 19 in Montreal. Bernard is survived by his wife, Claudette, and his children, Chantal, Bertrand and Martin. He was 75.

**Blanche Mary (Shurge) Rollit**, S BComm 56, died on September 24 in Toronto. Blanche is survived by her sons, Cordell and Lyndon. She was 85.

**Jacques J. Giasson**, L BSc 57, died on September 16. Jacques is survived by his companion, Loubov Nemkiina, and his children, Dominique, Brigitte, Philippe, Patrice and Antoine.

**Hyman Brinker**, S BComm 60, died on August 12 in Montreal. Hyman is survived by his wife, Marilyn Wagner.

**Alex Konigsberg**, S BA 60, died August 9 in Montreal. Alex is survived by his wife, Vivian (Tissenbaum), and his children, Lori and Jon.

**Paul Sebastian Cugno**, L BA 61, died on September 24 in Halifax, N.S. Paul is survived by his wife, Carole, and his children, Paul, Michael, Peter and Maria Thérèse. He was 71.

**Peter Gray-Donald**, S BComm 64, died on September 14 in Toronto. Peter is survived by his wife, Joy (Legge), and his children, Trent, Jamie and David.

**Lillian (Efros) Millman**, S BA 64, died on September 26

in Montreal. Lillian is survived by her daughters, Doreen and Lois.

**John Blachford Smiley**, BA 64, died on September 1 in Ottawa. John is survived by his wife, Margaret Chalin, and his children, Gillian, Hilary and Lloyd.

**Roy Flaherty**, S BComm 65, died on October 26 in Kingston, Ont. Roy is survived by his wife, Lorna, and his children, Gail, Michael, Christopher, Donna, Patrick and Lora. He was 77.

**Laszlo (Les) Steven Detre**, L BA 67, died on September 20 in Ottawa. Les is survived by his wife, Sasha (von Hausen), and his children, Alexander, Nicholas and Sarah. He was 65.

**Zygmund "Zyg" Schipper**, S BA 68, died on September 12 in Montreal. Zyg is survived by his wife, Florence Moscovitch, and his sons, David and Eric.

**Farouk R. Khan**, S BA 69, died on April 21 in Montreal. Farouk is survived by his children, Sharon and Anton. He was 67.

**Jack Vandersluis**, S BA 69, died July 31 in Chicago, Ill. Jack is survived by his wife, Deetje, and his children, Belinda, Carolyn and Chris. He was 81.

**Allan Zeesman**, L BComm 69, died on September 2 in Montreal. Allan is survived by his wife, Joy Goldwax, and his children, Bernie and Shulamit. He was 63.

**Maureen Anne Legros McKnight**, L BA 70, died on September 14 in London,

Ont. Maureen is survived by her husband, Paul, and her children, David and Sheila. She was 61.

**John Rattee**, L BComm 70, died on August 6 in Mississauga, Ont. John is survived by his wife and his children, John, Lee and Chandy. He was 63.

**Brenda Hurst**, BA 76, died on September 27 in Toronto. Brenda is survived by her husband, Douglas Worling, and her children, Chris, Derek, Jennifer and James.

**Andreas (Andy) Kampitsis**, BComm 76, died on August 8 in Montreal. Andy is survived by his parents, Muriel and Dimitrios, and his siblings, Louis, Jerry, David and Caroline. He was 57.

**Douglas Milford**, BA 76, died on September 27 in Montreal. Douglas is survived by his wife, Diane (Frier), and his children, Scott and Susan. He was 71.

**Joyce Elaine (Klinefelter) Finney**, BA 77, died October 18 in Ottawa. Joyce is survived by her husband, Raymond, and her children, Barbara, Richard and Bruce. She was 80.

**Ellen (Reicher) Frankel**, GrDip 80, died on September 6 in Montreal. Ellen is survived by her husband, Ruby, and her children, Marcy, Mitch, Andy and Corrie. She was 79.

**Clotilda Gibson-Oldfield**, BA 80, died on September 23 in Montreal. Clotilda is survived by her sister, Lyn. She was 77.

**Irmgard Lochmann**, BA 80, died on September 1 in

Montreal. Irmgard is survived by her long-time companion, Richard Nagel. She was 71.

**Rose Svarc**, BA 81, died on October 26 in Montreal. Rose is survived by her children, Joyce and Sonny. She was 90.

**Carol (Leavitt) Schnaiberg**, BA 84, died on August 3 in Montreal. Carol is survived by her husband, H. Laddie, and her children, Romy and Lee. She was 72.

**Margaret Elise Chodat**, BFA 87, died on September 11 in Ottawa. Elise is survived by her siblings, David, Jonathan and Martha. She was 52.

**Dawn Wiltsie**, BA 87, died on October 12 in Kingston, Ont. Dawn is survived by her husband, Grant Fletcher. She was 70.

**Frances (Diestel) Dergel**, Cert 88, died on October 28 in Montreal. Frances is survived by her children, Miriam, Samuel and Reisha. She was 71.

**Elise Le Blanc**, BA 88, died on August 21 in Montreal. Elise is survived by her siblings, Phil and Janice. She was 51.

**Jean-François Lebrun**, EMBA 92, died on September 13 in Montreal. Jean-François was 58.

**Otto Joachim**, LLD 94, died on July 30 in Montreal. Otto is survived by his son, Davis. He was 99.

**Dr. Shirley Lavinia Thomson**, LLD 01, died on August 10 in Ottawa. Shirley is survived by siblings, Pat Hitchcock and John A. Cull. She was 80. ■

## Pirate Radio, Idiots and Other Ears

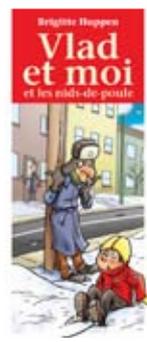
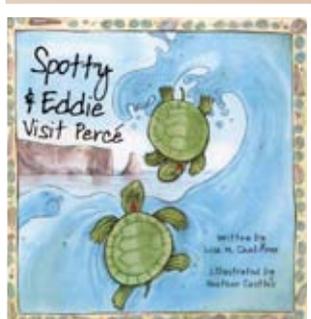
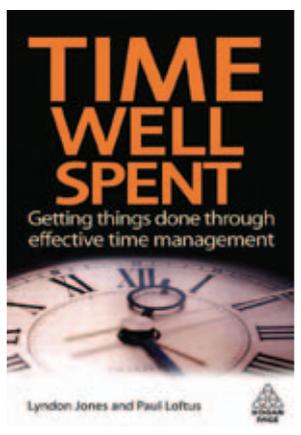
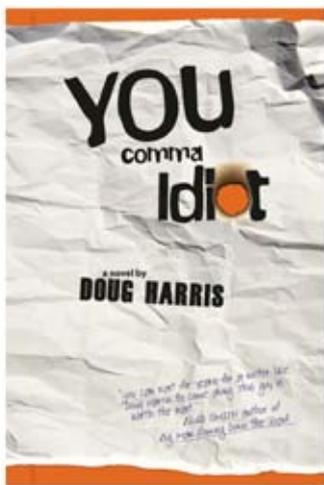
In ***YOU Comma Idiot*** (Goose Lane Editions, \$29.95), **Doug Harris**, BA (comm. studies) 84, delivers a comedic—and somewhat demented—novel about youthful alienation and ennui. Low-rent hash-dealer Lee Goodstone's staid existence gets shaken when his friend Henry is accused

practical lessons and case studies, the authors teach how to organize, prioritize and make adjustments to our work habits so we can take control of our lives and avoid feeling overwhelmed. Loftus is a Montreal-based international management development consultant, industrial/organizational

jeunesse destiné aux 9 à 12 ans. Vlad et son petit-fils, Lucas, partent en cavale afin de n'avoir jamais à se séparer. Le récit, touchant, est raconté avec humour à travers les yeux d'un enfant de 10 ans. Après avoir mené une carrière d'assistante à la caméra film, **Brigitte Huppen**, BFA (film production) 88,

the country. All profits from *Upside Down* are being donated to Music for Youth, a U.K.-based children's music charity.

In ***Rose Sees Red*** (Scholastic Press, \$22.99), **Cecil Castellucci**, BFA (cinema) 93, has crafted a story in which two teenaged girls, each trapped in a prison of



of kidnapping. Harris previously co-wrote and directed the quirky feature film *Remembering Mel*, which screened in Canada, Great Britain and Germany. He runs an award-winning video production company, Hot Spot Productions, in Montreal.

Procrastination, constant interruptions and too heavy a workload can frustrate many of us. That's why ***Time Well Spent: Getting things done through effective time management*** (Kogan Page, \$22.50) by Lyndon Jones and **Paul Loftus**, BA 77, arrives just in time. Through

psychologist and freelance journalist.

In ***Spotty & Eddie Visit Percé*** (Trafford Publishing, \$14.95), two turtles travel to the famous rock in Quebec's Gaspé region. It's the second Spotty and Eddie children's book written by **Lisa M. Chalifoux**, BA (psych.) 86, and illustrated by Heather Castles. The tiny turtle brothers learn about train travel and low tide as their owner takes them to Percé. Chalifoux is a Montreal-based teacher and writer.

***Vlad et moi et les nids-de-poule*** (Soulières Éditeur, \$9.95) est un roman

échange la caméra contre la plume et scénarise des épisodes pour différentes émissions télé jeunesse avant de publier son premier roman.

***Upside Down*** (£7.99, available through iTunes), the debut album by **Stacey Jackson**, BA (comm. studies) 91, is a tribute to the Motown tunes she grew up loving. Jackson, who now lives in Chelsea, England, gives the classics a contemporary sound—several tracks from the album have hit the top-20 in British clubs—and is joined by some of the most talented young musicians in

her own, meet one evening in their apartment complex and spend a night in New York City neither will forget. Set during the Cold War, it's about cold hearts warmed by human connection and being young and free in the early hours of a new day. Castellucci, who was born in New York City and moved to Montreal in her teens, is already a star author on the young adult book scene. She has penned novels and plays, directed films and created the award-winning graphic novel series, *The Plain Janes* (Minx).

From **John Leroux**, MA

(art history) 02, comes ***Building a University: The Architecture of UNB*** (Goose Lane, \$29.95). The fourth book on New Brunswick architecture by this Fredericton native traces the history of the University of New Brunswick, Canada's oldest English-language university (1787), through its built environment. Filled with blueprints, drawings,

the treacherous waters of licensing and the doldrums of institutionalization, we have eschewed the fixed maps of entrenched power in favour of a cartography of autonomy," the editors write in the first chapter. Langlois has been involved in autonomous radio for a decade and works in communications in Vancouver, while van der Zon, who teaches in the

**Sonia Cancian**, PhD (humanities) 08. Cancian analyzes 400 private letters to examine the impact of separation, both temporary and permanent, on families and lovers. "[Cancian] introduces us to voices that have never been heard before," writes Donna R. Gabaccia, author of *Italy's Many Diasporas*. Cancian is a postdoctoral fellow affiliated with Concordia and with

*Margaret's Mountain*, and a DVD of new animations that have been screened at various indie film festivals.

The small, soft-cover reversible book, ***Auricle/Icebreaker*** (Conundrum Press, \$15) by **Alisha Piercy**, MFA 10, brings new meaning to the term "on the flip side." *Auricle* is based on a true account and tells the story of Marie, who was born



paintings, stained-glass representations, and archival and current photographs, it's a visual treat that also captures the personalities of the architects and builders and the various challenges they faced. Leroux is an architect and art historian.

***Islands of Resistance: Pirate Radio in Canada*** (New Star Books, \$21), edited by **Andrea Langlois**, MA (media studies) 04, **Marian van der Zon**, MA (media studies) 04, and Ron Sakolsky, invites readers to journey with them to the "islands of resistance" that still exist in the sea of regulated radio. "Bypassing

Media Studies and Women's Studies departments at Vancouver Island University, founded a pirate radio station in 2003. **Kristen Roos**, BFA 03, contributes an essay about creating radio art and how audio technology is repurposed.

The relationships of Italian immigrants to Canada in the middle of the 20th century and the loved ones they left behind are revealed through their letters in ***Families, Lovers, and their Letters: Italian Postwar Migration to Canada*** (University of Manitoba Press, \$34.95 paperback), by

the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

For both the indie film buff and the art-book lover comes ***Don't Get Lonely Don't Get Lost*** (Conundrum Press, \$25), the latest creation by **Elisabeth Belliveau**, MFA 09. Belliveau follows up her collection of zines (mini-magazines), called *the great hopeful someday*, with a book of full-colour artwork interspersed with a series of texts, a blend of poetry and prose revolving around finding and losing love. The book includes the narration of Belliveau's animated work,

with growths on her neck, or "other ears." They may or may not provide her with extrasensory perception but her mother and doctor believe they should be cut off. Flip the book over to read *Icebreaker*, in which Alice spends a summer as a hostess and chambermaid aboard an icebreaker that has been converted into an island unto itself, so too seems Alice's world. The only conundrum is which story to read first. Piercy is a Montreal-based writer, artist and paintings conservator. ■

# Susan Russell, sociologist

BY ROBERTA HAMILTON,  
MA 75, PHD 84

My sister, Susan Russell, died August 4, 2010, 18 years after disability forced her retirement. Through a veil of tears, my brother, Jim, and I wrote Susan's obituary: scholarship winner, folk-singer and actress, adventurous traveller, a girl who could raise one eyebrow, fun-loving aunt, fiction writer, pioneer in feminist scholarship, independent woman with friends and lovers. Our sadness at her death and, more so, the way in which multiple sclerosis so mangled her life, claimed centre stage.

But when I was asked to write about Susan for this article, I began re-engaging with her work and, in so doing, rediscovered my sister, the sociologist: Professor Susan Russell.

In September 1978, with a newly minted PhD from the University of Toronto, Susan joined Concordia's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Her doctoral thesis illuminated how schools reproduced gender and class inequalities through the behaviour and expectations of teachers, guidance counsellors and students themselves. Susan embraced the challenge of teaching in this new and controversial area. Not all students cared for feminist perspectives—or feminist teachers—but she proved quiet, determined, funny and persuasive. She knew the nefarious manner in which sexual inequality worked and took pleasure in finding ways to explain and share her insights.

In 1988, the DisAbled Women's Network invited her to give a presentation and provide "*quelques paroles d'encouragement*." During her presentation, Susan was blunt: "I wondered:



Susan Russell, circa the mid-1980s.

could I really do that? I cry a lot."

She spoke about her own experience: "Because I wasn't too disabled at first, it never occurred to me to drop out of my graduate program. Once on the job market, I never mentioned MS. I *knew* then, without really knowing, that I would never have gotten a job if I'd been open about it." When Susan came up for tenure, she discovered the "depth of the problems. By then, I walked with a cane and it was common knowledge why. I was denied tenure even though my department voted for me. [But a] wonderful colleague appealed with me and we won," she said.

The wonderful colleague was the late Sociology and Anthropology Professor Hubert Guindon. As Susan recalled, Hubert later "suggested that I try to bring some aspects of my life closer together—sociological research and MS. At first, I said *never*... But then I got curious." Susan received a Health and Welfare Canada grant, conducted research and published her findings

in "From Disability to Handicap: An Inevitable Response to Social Constraints?" in the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* in 1989. "I had not expected to find so many sex differences. After studying that issue for so long, one would think that I would have *known*." Overall, she concluded that "chronic illness may ruin life but it gets a lot of help from mundane social practices."

In 1992, with a heavy heart, Susan left her position at Concordia. She had tried everything: sitting on her desk so students could see and hear her, a comfy chair in her office, hand gears on her car, a parking space at the garbage entrance to the old Drummond Building, agitating for an accessible washroom, having students to her apartment, teaching part-time, having our mother accompany her to class, paying a student to help her. The last winter had been devastating. "My legs were so badly crippled and spastic, they had to be strapped to the wheelchair. I never taught again," she wrote. (In 1997, Susan was implanted with a pump that delivered medication directly to the spinal fluid, which improved her quality of life.)

A friend once told Susan she was courageous, and she accused him of sentimentality. Words like "courage" obscured her reality; she came to see through a glass darkly. In particular, her research on those living with MS removed any shades, revealed her courage and demonstrated that the field of sociology in Canada had lost a fine scholar. ■

*Donations to the Susan Russell Memorial Graduate Award may be made at [giving.concordia.ca](http://giving.concordia.ca).*

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