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**NEXT-GEN
ENGINEERING**

**Concordia's Department
of Chemical and Materials
Engineering breaks ground
toward a sustainable future**

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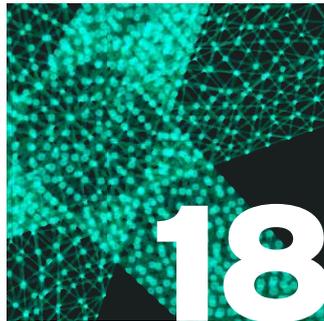


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“ I CONTACTED PLANNED GIVING TO ESTABLISH
A BURSARY TO HELP WOMEN

LIKE MY MOTHER WHO CHOOSE
TO RETURN TO SCHOOL IN LATER
YEARS. I HOPE THAT THE FUTURE
RECIPIENTS OF THIS BURSARY WILL
UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THEIR
EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED.



Tania Shamy's mother,
Yolande Tomiuk, BA '70

**EDUCATION WILL
BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS,
BETTER THEIR LIVES AND THE
LIVES OF THEIR FAMILIES.”**

– Tania Shamy, BFA 69, GrDip 72, MA 84



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CONCORDIA DELIVERS WEBSTER LIBRARY'S CUTTING-EDGE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Three years of renovation and expansion work have produced a forward-looking 21st-century library that stands as a landmark on Concordia's downtown Sir George Williams Campus.

The transformed Webster Library was inaugurated March 23, 2018. On hand were H el ene David, Quebec minister for Higher Education and minister for the Status of Women, and Fran ois Croteau, borough mayor of Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie and the member of Montreal's Executive Committee responsible for the smart city, information technologies, innovation and higher education.

"The newly transformed Webster Library is a shining example of the fundamental role of university libraries in support of world-class teaching, learning and research," said Concordia President Alan Shepard at the launch. "It provides students with the spaces, collections and services to take charge of their own education and engage in the big thinking that moves society forward."

The updated library's special features include a technology sandbox allowing digital exploration; a visualization studio featuring the interactive artwork *Proteus*; 3,300 study seats — a 113 per cent increase; 22 types of study space;



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

H EL ENE DAVID, QUEBEC MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN, SPOKE AT THE WEBSTER LIBRARY INAUGURATION ON MARCH 23, 2018. "WITH 2 MILLION VISITORS A YEAR, THE WEBSTER LIBRARY IS THE THIRD-MOST VISITED SITE IN MONTREAL, AFTER THE SAINT JOSEPH'S ORATORY AND THE CASINO. IT'S EXTRAORDINARY," SHE SAID.

green walls to improve air quality; 21 km of books; and dissertation writers' rooms.

STUNNING NEW SPACES AND TECHNOLOGY

Students entering the Webster Library are now greeted by curated audio clips as they ascend the new transitional staircase that ushers them into a space that shines with natural light, thousands of study seats, an exciting technology program and dedicated graduate student spaces.

"From large silent reading rooms, zero-noise rooms, presentation practice rooms, and a technology sandbox where the Concordia community can experiment with 3-D printing, virtual reality and other cutting-edge equipment, it's a next-generation library that's been

met with great enthusiasm by Concordia undergraduate and graduate students alike," said Graham Carr, provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs. "At every phase of decision making, university librarian Guylaine Beaudry and her team carefully consulted with Concordians and especially with our students to ensure that the Webster Library emerged as the environment most fitting to support their research, study and intellectual pursuits."

"The Webster Library now combines the fundamentals of a university library and a deep dive into rich and diverse digital environments that is at once inviting, warm and filled with beauty, where students can take charge of their own learning," said Beaudry, who is also Concordia's vice-provost of Digital Strategy.

The Webster Library Transformation was carried out in four phases and delivers a 27 per cent increase in study spaces, a longstanding need given the university's tremendous growth over the

last several decades. When the library first opened in 1992, Concordia had 25,000 students. The student population currently stands at more than 48,000 students.

The project also features living green walls in a vertical landscaping system on each floor of the library to provide users with better indoor air quality, promote a sense of well-being and increase noise absorption.

H el ene David applauded Concordia for prioritizing the \$37-million Webster Library Transformation in its administration of funds from the Government of Quebec's Plan quinquennal d'investissements universitaires. "Our government places a priority on investing time and financial resources in our students," said David. "This commitment is the reason for our investment in Concordia University's Webster Library. Students will be able to benefit from cutting-edge learning environments, which I am confident will help them succeed." ■

—James Roach, BA 95

"It's a next-generation library that's been met with great enthusiasm by Concordia undergraduate and graduate students alike."

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE
Concordia

Concordia University Magazine welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

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setting an example



Photo: Concordia University

Gary Vegh and Sarah Sajedi

Married alums support students in need

Gary Vegh, BSc 88, GrDip 92, and Sarah Sajedi, BSc 91, established the ERA Environmental Bursary to help students focus on their studies and benefit from the same experiences they enjoyed at Concordia.

“Sarah and I were students and we’ve gone through the process of trying to make ends meet while studying. We both know from experience how difficult it is for young people to balance work and studies.

We decided to give back to Concordia because we feel blessed that through education, we were given tremendous opportunities. We feel really indebted to the fact that we were able to start a business in our field of study.

Running an environmental consulting software firm has taught us that education plays a very important role in making our planet a better place. It’s hard to make reasonable decisions without education, which is why we decided to help students fund their tuition.”

— Gary Vegh, BSc, 88, GrDip, 92, co-founder and senior environmental toxicologist, ERA Environmental Management Solutions, Montreal

“One of the things we appreciated about Concordia as students was its dedication to hands-on teaching. The projects I did in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the work Gary carried out in ecotoxicology was very practical.

Now, the university has expanded its Co-op program substantially. As employers, when we hire a Co-op student from Concordia, the level of reliability is higher because these students have worked very hard to maintain their grades so they can stay in the program.

Gary and I had to travel many miles to go find a job that was suitable for us. We’re hoping students don’t have to do the same, so creating jobs is another way of giving back.”

— Sarah Sajedi, BSc 91, chief technology officer and co-chief executive officer, ERA Environmental Management Solutions, Montreal

Find out how you can join Gary Vegh and Sarah Sajedi in contributing to Concordia.

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UNESCO TAPS CONCORDIA'S EXPERTISE IN ANTI-TERRORISM EDUCATION

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has named Concordia researcher Vivek Venkatesh a co-chair on the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism. This chair is the first of its kind in the world, and its announcement, which took place in February 2018 at Université de Sherbrooke, underscores the role of education as a tool to counter the spread of terrorism.

Venkatesh's UNESCO co-chairs are David Morin from Université de Sherbrooke and Ghayda Hassan from Université du Québec à Montréal. Sébastien Goupil, secretary general of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, says UNESCO chairs have become vitally important components in the United Nations system.

"Their contribution to the implementation of sustainable development goals and to the discussion of UNESCO's priority issues is invaluable," he adds. "We are proud to host the network of this new chair, with its unique governance model uniting three major universities — a first in Canada and in the world. We look forward to working with the chair to counter the rise of radicalization and violent extremism."

INTERSECTORAL APPROACHES

Venkatesh, director of Concordia's Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance and professor in the Department of Education, says it's a great honour to be recognized on



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

VIVEK VENKATESH, DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE AND PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION, IS ONE OF THREE CO-CHAIRS FOR UNESCO'S PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM.

such an international scale. "This chair underlines the need for more intersectoral approaches, such as the one that David, Ghayda and I are undertaking in our work together," he says.

In his work with UNESCO, Venkatesh will collaborate with Morin, a political scientist, and Hassan, a clinical psychologist. Together, they will promote teaching that encourages reflexivity and critical thinking among key stakeholders in schools, communities and public policy contexts.

Their work will include developing, sharing and promoting research and action in the field of preventing terrorism, with a special focus on the development and evaluation of programs geared toward youth. "We will also create tools to engage the public in developing narratives to counter hate speech and radicalization," Venkatesh says.

He is already at the helm of other such efforts, including Project SOMEONE, an international initiative that aims to build awareness about hate speech and create spaces for pluralistic dialogues in social media.

Under Venkatesh's leadership, Project SOMEONE brings together partners from across North America and Europe. Its innovative web portal serves those involved in promoting resilience and the prevention of hate, discrimination and extremism. "SOMEONE is aimed at young people,

schools, communities and, more broadly, the general public," Venkatesh says. "It applies principles of social pedagogy that encourage the public to embrace inclusive digital media to combat the violent messages propagated by hate groups."

Next up for Venkatesh will be a trip to Norway's Bergen International Festival in May with his Landscape of Hate project, an initiative that frames pluralistic dialogues about how we counteract various forms of hate in our society. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

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**JONATHAN AND SUSAN WENER
DONATE \$10 MILLION TO CONCORDIA**

Jonathan and Susan Wener's relationship with Concordia and each other began nearly 50 years ago when they were both students at the university.

"Concordia was foundational for me in three ways," says Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, chairman and chief executive of the Montreal-based property development firm Canderel, and university chancellor since 2015. "It gave me my education, it's where I met my wife and it's where I made my first start-up capital and gain in 1975. No institution has had a greater pivotal role in my life."

Susan Wener, a natural health consultant and best-selling Canadian author, also has a deep connection with the university. "One of the greatest gifts of my life was meeting my husband there," she says. "Jon and I have always had a special place for Concordia in our hearts. It's where we eventually decided to build our lives together and it gave Jon his first start in real estate — it was the foundation of his future and of Canderel."

Their shared bond with the university, combined with their strong belief in philanthropy and higher education, led to their exceptional \$10 million gift, a portion of which will be used to establish a Centre for Real Estate in the John Molson School of Business (JMSB). Part of the funds will be earmarked for student bursaries and scholarships.

"For us, this is a very large and important gift," says Jonathan Wener. "It's something we feel very strongly about. JMSB is a top-ranking school, not only in Canada but in the world. My feeling has always been to invest in excellence and there are a great many areas where Concordia is a leader in the country."

Concordia President Alan Shepard says the donation responds to a growing need and he praises the Weners for their longstanding support and guidance. "Over the past three decades, few people have had a greater impact on Concordia than Jon and Susan Wener," Shepard says. "Jon is one of our most remarkable supporters and his leadership and guidance have helped transform our university into the next-generation institution it is today. Thanks to Jon and Susan's generous gift, the Centre for Real Estate will produce cutting-edge education and research that responds to an increasingly complex and fast-paced world."

**REAL ESTATE AT
CONCORDIA AND
IN MONTREAL**

The real estate rental and leasing market is the largest single contributor to Canada's gross domestic product and is a substantial value creator for the local and national economy. While Montreal has a booming real estate industry, Jonathan Wener believes the city is lagging behind urban centres such as Toronto when it comes to real estate education.



JONATHAN AND SUSAN WENER HAVE FELT A STRONG CONNECTION TO CONCORDIA SINCE THE EARLY 1970S AND HAVE BEEN LONG-TIME VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS.

"For several years, Alan Shepard and I have spoken about the importance of having a real estate centre in the JMSB," Jonathan Wener says. "I felt Montreal was lacking in this area and Alan agreed. There's a large real estate industry in Montreal and there are many employment opportunities for educated students. I believe it's very much our responsibility as a university to ensure our students graduate well informed and highly employable."

Jonathan Wener points out that almost every industry and sector is reliant on real estate, each with its own specific needs. With booming artificial intelligence (AI) and gaming industries in Montreal, he says the city is well positioned to address the needs of big technology companies.

"The Amazons of the world are looking to move to places where there are universities and strong technology sectors. This is where we

need to invest," Jonathan Wener says. "We see many manufacturing sectors suffering, but AI, analytics and innovation are critical and growing. Montreal has been very successful in that regard and we need to continue to invest in future generations."

The exact form the Centre for Real Estate will take is still in development, yet it will provide interdisciplinary and comprehensive real estate education that emphasizes innovation and sustainability. The centre will leverage existing programs in all of Concordia's faculties, including Urban Planning and Geography, Engineering, Design and many others, to promote cross-cutting research that expands theoretical knowledge and advances practical solutions in real estate.

"Concordia has many elements that are required

in real estate across our four faculties and in the fundamentals that are taught in the JMSB,” Jonathan Wener says. “What needs to happen is to apply the cross-fertilization of knowledge to real estate doctrines and vocabulary.”

The centre will expand on the current JMSB curriculum and introduce a Specialization in Real Estate. The centre will also organize live speaker events, conferences and case competitions. One idea under discussion is to give select students the opportunity to manage a Real Estate Investment Trust, similar to students in the existing Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program and Van Berkom Investment Management Program.

“A lot of students have shown tremendous interest in real estate,” Jonathan Wener says. “And we’ve met with the professors who are working to move this program forward and consulted with a number of industry professionals who are keen to see the program under way.”



JONATHAN WENER'S 1971 SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY YEARBOOK PICTURE.



IN SEPTEMBER 2017 JONATHAN AND SUSAN WENER DONATED AN EIGHT-METRE-HIGH KINETIC SCULPTURE TO THE CITY AND CONCORDIA FOR MONTREAL'S 375TH AND CANADA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARIES. *DI OCTO* WAS CREATED BY THE ACCLAIMED AMERICAN ARTIST ANTHONY HOWE.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Sharing and giving back are central to Susan and Jonathan Wener's lives. “We’ve been so fortunate and lucky,” Susan Wener says. “We both have a fundamental belief that we have not just a responsibility but an obligation to give back to others.”

It’s a responsibility they take seriously and it extends far beyond financial support. Jonathan and Susan Wener are actively involved in several causes and organizations, both in leadership roles and as advisors.

In 1989, Jonathan Wener launched *Défi Corporatif Canderel* to raise money for cancer research after his wife was diagnosed with the disease. The initiative has raised more than \$14 million to date. Susan Wener is a member of the Tumour Board at the Jewish General Hospital, a trustee of the Jewish General Hospital

Foundation and a board member of *Hope and Cope* — an organization that provides supportive and compassionate cancer care.

“The most valuable gift we can give is time,” Jonathan Wener says. “Somebody who can’t give money yet is prepared to provide their assistance, wisdom and guidance to the university — that should not be looked upon as anything less than a magnificent gift.”

Despite their numerous commitments, Susan and Jonathan Wener have never wavered in their support of higher education. Jonathan Wener has sat on the university’s Board of Governors since 1995 and he played a critical role as chair of the Real Estate Planning Committee from 1996 to 2012. He is also an honorary chair for the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, the university’s bold fundraising initiative with the

goal to raise \$250 million.

“A university education is so important,” Susan Wener says. “It’s an extraordinary opportunity to open your eyes, ears and your mind to a bigger world than you might have imagined. You learn to listen and ask questions. It’s just a beginning, yet it’s a critical point in learning how to think and experiment.”

Jonathan Wener agrees. “I think university is an opportunity to discover your passion,” he adds. “I always tell students, don’t worry about the money — the money will come. Work on discovering and igniting your passion. Figure out what will make every day a new and wonderful experience so that work isn’t drudgery — it’s exciting and something you look forward to every day.” ■

—Joseph Leger, BA 15

To join the Campaign for Concordia, visit

concordia.ca/campaign.

\$3 MILLION GIFT FROM MIRIAM ROLAND TO ATTRACT THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

“I have a personal attachment to Concordia,” says Miriam Roland, a long-time supporter, donor and former member of the university’s Board of Governors. “The first week I arrived in Montreal, I became a student here. It’s my neighbourhood university.”

Roland’s deep sense of pride and connection to Concordia moved her to make a generous \$3 million donation to establish the Miriam Aaron Roland Graduate Fellowships. “For my legacy gift I wanted to address what I saw as one of Concordia’s greatest needs,” Roland says. “I wanted to help enhance this university’s reputation because Concordia deserves it.”

The fellowships will be awarded to graduate students from Concordia’s four academic faculties: Arts and Science, Fine Arts, Engineering and Computer Science and the John Molson School of Business (JMSB). The gift will primarily support Concordia’s strategic direction of doubling its research by attracting and retaining the best and brightest students.



ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

MIRIAM ROLAND HAS BEEN A STRONG CONCORDIA SUPPORTER FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, FUNDING MANY FELLOWSHIPS AND PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT 3 INNOVATION CENTRE.

Roland points out that top universities around the world are known for their graduate programs, research and professors. “Top researchers choose schools that have good graduate students and graduate students elect to go where there are top professors in their field — that’s a good symbiotic relationship. By helping the students I’m also helping the faculty.”

Her endowment will pay a minimum of 5 per

cent annually, adjusted for inflation every four years.

The first awards will be given for the 2018-19 academic year. The fellowships will be granted through competition, based on academic merit, to students pursuing a doctoral degree in areas that will enhance Concordia’s research profile and reputation and encourage interdisciplinary cooperation.

“Miriam Roland is an incredible advocate and champion for our university,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “Her generosity will help propel our research and encourage our talented students to experiment boldly to answer some of the most urgent questions facing our society. We are deeply grateful for her gift and we take great pride having Miriam as a leader in our Concordia community.”

A HISTORY OF PHILANTHROPY

Roland’s parents, Laura and Barney Aaron, instilled in her a strong sense of generosity and giving has always been an important part of her life. “I think I grew up with it. The same way we eat three meals a day, we give to those in need. It was just the ethos of the family. It was never put into words, it was just always what was done,” Roland says.

“There are many different reasons why people give and many of them are different from my reasons, but it doesn’t matter. My father always said, ‘As long as people give, perhaps one day they’ll give for the right reasons.’”

She sees her role as a donor as one that allows promising students to fulfill their potential. “I’m giving opportunity. There’s no guarantee people who receive support through my graduate fellowships will have success,” Roland says. “Yet for most graduate students, they’ve proven that they have a passion for learning. They have the spark. I find that admirable and I’m happy to give them the chance.”

FROM CALIFORNIA TO CONCORDIA

Roland caught her first glimpse of Concordia from her condo window in 1978. She had just moved back to Montreal after spending 32 years in California and as she gazed south towards Ste. Catherine St., something caught her eye. “What’s that big, white building?” she





MIRIAM ROLAND REGULARLY ATTENDS CONCORDIA SPEAKING EVENTS AND LECTURES. SHE IS PICTURED ABOVE WITH JEREMY CLARK, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING, AFTER HIS SOLD-OUT BITCOIN AND CRYPTOCURRENCY EVENT AT CONCORDIA ON FEBRUARY 22, 2018.

asked a friend, pointing at the Henry F. Hall Building. "That's Concordia University," her friend replied.

Roland wasted no time and almost immediately made her way down the street and registered for two courses, all before her movers had arrived with her furniture. "I wanted to take a course on Canadian history and politics and a French course," Roland recalls. "I told them my diploma was in my luggage with my furniture and I didn't have it yet. They said that didn't matter, and I thought, 'Oh, well that's nice. I kind of like this university.' It was really friendly."

BUILDING THE NEXT-GEN UNIVERSITY

Over the span of 40 years, Roland's relationship with Concordia has grown and evolved. She began as a student, taking several

courses and attending many lectures and speaking events over the years. "I was grateful that I was so near Concordia, where I could have some mental stimulation," she says. "When other people play bridge, I go to lectures."

In 1992, she was invited to join Concordia's Board of Governors, where she spent 12 years helping guide the university through a period of great expansion. She sat on numerous committees, including the Real Estate Planning Committee that oversaw the development of Quartier Concordia, and, most notably, construction of the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex.

"I remember discussing classroom sizes," Roland says. "I told them they can't build them big — if we build them big we will fill them. You can't have 800 students

in a class, you have no rapport with the professor. You'll notice even the biggest rooms aren't very big."

Roland is a firm believer in ethical investing and business practices and she successfully lobbied to establish a mandatory course in business ethics for JMSB students. She describes her time on the board and different university committees as great learning experiences and a chance to develop a deeper understanding of the university.

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

Higher education and learning have always been priorities for Roland. A professional psychotherapist, with degrees from Stanford University in California and Adler University in Chicago, she is always seeking to expand her knowledge.

"I get really excited with a new idea. I remember when I was learning to become a therapist I would go to seminars and I was always so happy when they reinforced what I thought I knew," she says. "But after a while I decided, no, I don't need that reinforcement anymore. I've been doing this for a number

of years. Challenge me."

At 87 years old, Roland still challenges herself by regularly attending Concordia events. "Now I like going to lectures where I know I'm not going to like the orientation of the speaker, whereas a lot of people would stay away — I like to hear different perspectives."

She says one of the reasons she has always been drawn to Concordia is its willingness to embrace diversity and its openness to new ideas. "The internal spirit of Concordia has always been, 'How can we meet the changing needs of our students?' And that's a good question to ask," Roland says.

"I have known Miriam for 25 years and she has been an integral part of our community for that entire period," says Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement and External Relations. "Her commitment to our university, faculty and students is genuine and heartfelt." ■

—Joseph Leger, BA 15

To join the Campaign for Concordia, visit

concordia.ca/campaign.



CONCORDIA COLLABORATION IMPROVES ONCOLOGY TREATMENT-CENTRE FLOW

An unexpected marriage of industrial engineering and patient processing at cancer treatment clinics has yielded some exciting results. “We created a scheduling algorithm and software that reduced patient wait times,” says Nadia Bhuiyan, professor in Concordia’s Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering. “And we reduced interruptions at the pharmacy, resulting in a theoretical 44 per cent total reduction in average waits.”

These results were achieved by improving the coordination between the different groups of professionals — oncologists, pharmacists, nurses and administrators — to facilitate a more complete hand-off of information about the patient’s condition and treatment requirements.

“Our goal was to reduce or eliminate the current need for frequent clarifications from the pharmacist before he or she can prepare the medication,” explains Bhuiyan, who is also Concordia’s vice-provost of Partnerships and Experiential Learning.

Working closely with the Segal Cancer Centre at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, Bhuiyan’s team mapped the patients’ course as they made their way through the treatment centre. They also used time studies and statistical analysis of each of the process steps. “With that data, we constructed a stochastic model of the operations of the clinic to account for the variability of patient trajectories and service times at each process step,” Bhuiyan adds.

The improvements to patient flow outlined in Bhuiyan’s ongoing study required no additional staffing resources and caused no disruption to existing facilities. Her research found that staff work could be reduced by eliminating the need to manage separate appointment schedules for patient visits to oncology and chemotherapy. Reduced wait times also mean that waiting areas can be smaller. ■

—J. Latimer, MFA 94



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

CONCORDIA PROFESSOR NADIA BHUIYAN’S RESEARCH COULD CUT CANCER-PATIENT WAIT TIMES BY 44 PER CENT.

CONCORDIA JOINS A CANADA-WIDE AI SUPERCLUSTER

Concordia’s data science and information systems security expertise will play a key role in a new nationwide effort to bolster Canada’s leadership in artificial intelligence (AI). SCALE.AI, the AI-Powered Supply Chain Supercluster, is one of only five projects that received funding in February 2018 from the Government of Canada as part of its new \$950 million Innovation Superclusters Initiative.

Led by IVADO (the Institute for Data Valorization) in Montreal and the University of Waterloo, the Quebec-based SCALE.AI will focus on defining a global supply chain platform that will boost AI and data science in Canada.

The results of this effort will be particularly evident in the retail, manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. “Supply chains are a key focus area of IVADO’s applied and collaborative research activities,” says Gilles Savard, IVADO’s CEO. “Our leading capabilities

in machine learning, operations research and data science will equip Canadian firms with next-generation technologies.”

Concordia is one of nearly 120 industrial partners, world-class research institutions and other organizations that have joined forces to create this Canadian industry-led innovation consortium.

“SCALE.AI will rely on Concordia’s research capacity in big data, information systems security and blockchains, as well as logistics, transportation and supply-chain management,” says Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies. “Additionally, we will be involved in developing research-based training opportunities for graduate students looking to apply their knowledge to related industries after graduation.”

He adds that members of the consortium will also evaluate the impact of the AI revolution in the workforce. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

CONCORDIA STUDY SHOWS STRIVING FOR PERFECTION CAN TRIGGER IMMORAL BEHAVIOUR

Pursuing the best things in life — the best job, partner, education, house, even the best stuff to fill that house — can be all-consuming. A new study co-authored by Caroline Roux, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Marketing, has found that individuals on a quest for the best are often inclined to fudge the truth or cut corners. "People are more willing to cheat, lie and commit small immoral behaviours when they're in pursuit of perfection," says Roux.

"A lot of research shows a maximizing mindset — or a need to find and have the finest things — tends to make people unhappier about themselves and their choices," she says, adding these negative effects on individuals are well-documented.

The effects for society more broadly haven't been studied, however. To better understand those consequences, Roux and her colleagues launched a series of experiments to determine whether people who wanted the best were more willing to cheat or lie to get it — which they were. In one experiment, participants were asked to solve a series of "word jumbles." If they solved the majority they would receive a reward, and if they solved all of them that reward would be better. But some of the puzzles couldn't be solved without external help, like going online.

When the results were analyzed, participants with an activated "maximizing mindset" were more likely to have



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

THE RESEARCH BY CAROLINE ROUX, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MARKETING, REVEALS HOW WANTING THE BEST CAN BRING OUT THE WORST IN PEOPLE.

cheated on the word jumbles than those without.

"The maximizing mindset conjures feelings about scarcity, because striving for the best takes resources — time, money, effort," says Roux. "Since having the best is so consuming and laborious, maximizers often feel they need additional resources to attain their goals. As such, they are more likely to act immorally if it's in their self-interest. The pressure to reach an unreachable standard creates a certain desperation that allows people to rationalize the ways in which they cheat, or the shortcuts they take."

The study's findings came with good news, though: it's fairly easy to neutralize the worst practices of trying to accumulate the best things. "As human beings, we like to maintain a positive image of ourselves, we don't like to think that we are cheap or dishonest," Roux says. "If you remind people that their behaviours are less than moral, you can kill the effect." ■

—Meagan Boisse, BA 17

2018 Black History Month Spokesperson and academic

Myrna Lashley BA 84

CTV Montreal Entertainment host

Mose Persico BA 85

Pop singer and songwriter

Stacey Jackson BA 91

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GUYLAINE BEAUDRY SAYS THE WEBSTER LIBRARY RENOVATION IS "ONLY THE BEGINNING FOR WHAT WE WANT TO DO FOR THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY."

Meet Guylaine Beaudry, vice-provost of Digital Strategy and university librarian

LESLIE SCHACHTER, BA 03, GRDIP 13

As Concordia's university librarian since 2014 and recently appointed vice-provost of Digital Strategy (concordia.ca/digitalstrategy), Guylaine Beaudry is propelling Concordia to the forefront of the digital frontier.

With a staff of 120 under her direction, Beaudry has overseen the transformation of the R. Howard Webster Library into a 21st-century space that provides the necessary environment and services for Concordia's 48,000-strong student body. The experience of managing the successful transformation serves her well as she works to forge an overall strategy for a next-generation institution.

Can you tell us a bit about your background?

Guylaine Beaudry: "After graduating with a Master of Library and Information Science, I started my career as a librarian at Université de Montréal in 1999. Shortly after, I — along with my colleagues — started the *Érudit* platform press, where scholarly journals are still being published today.

In 2009 I came to Concordia, where I was appointed director of the Webster Library under the leadership of Gerald Beasley. Five years later, I was privileged to be offered the position of university librarian. It's been absolutely wonderful!"

What are your various roles as university librarian?

GB: "We're always working to improve our services and create new ones. For instance, we're constantly listening to our students and faculty to understand their changing needs.

I'm also responsible for finding the resources we require to accomplish what we have set out to do. And a part of my job is to represent the library at different university bodies, including Senate, academic cabinet and various councils."

How has the role of libraries changed in recent years?

GB: "Aside from being a place to study, research and collaborate, the library provides a body of knowledge, so giving access to publications is central to its existence. With 85 per cent of our new-acquisitions budget going towards our digital collection, our role is constantly changing to find the best practices to serve the population.

We're involved in all kinds of interactions when it comes to the teaching, learning and research activities of our students, faculty and staff — that is something that is constantly shifting."

How was the library itself transformed to reflect these changes?

GB: "Libraries since the time of Alexandria [more than 2,200 years ago] have been collecting, preserving and disseminating knowledge. Now data is a new form of knowledge. We had to

build the infrastructure and train ourselves to accommodate this new transformation. It's a big game-changer for us.

We've also focused on technology in the library as a space. We have spent a lot of time, energy and money on our digital collection since the 1990s. That part is mostly done but we are still working on our spaces to usher in that digital culture, as you can see in our newly renovated Webster Library.

Where is Concordia heading in terms of digital plans in the near future?

GB: "Creating a digital infrastructure as part of our library renovation project is really only the beginning for what we want to do for the entire university. The new Digital Strategy project gives us the opportunity to discuss and plan how we want to shape the digital future of our university.

We've invited guest speakers to share their perspectives as part of the Concordia President's Speaker Series on Digital Futures. We are currently conducting different consultation activities like focus groups and one-on-one interviews, and we will organize creative workshops later in the spring. We're asking: What are the tools that you're using? What is working and not working for you? How do you see the future of the digital environment at Concordia?

The consultation results will help us determine the right direction for Concordia's future."

What is the most important thing you have learned so far in your capacity as university librarian and vice-provost of Digital Strategy?

GB: "In our work to redevelop the Webster Library, I've learned a lot about working with the community — which is easy to say yet can be hard to do. I've given so many presentations and held town halls to discuss our new proposals for the library.

One valuable lesson I've learned is to listen to anyone who you may disagree with, in order to really receive their message. It's easy to stay in your bubble and still do a good job, yet it is essential to get out there, observe, listen and ask questions — that's how I've learned the most since coming to Concordia. And I'm very proud of that, I must add."

How does your work fit within the university's nine strategic directions?

GB: "The first strategic initiative is to 'double our research' activities. We have to keep that in mind all the time because the number of graduate students and research activities are constantly increasing, and we have to adapt to that.

Another initiative is to 'experiment boldly.' I'm especially fond of this idea and I think it fits really well with our mandate. It inspires us to go beyond, to recreate — it's the idea behind repurposing the library as an institution. For example, we've built a visualization studio in the Webster Library, which is not something you would necessarily expect to find there. Yet I'm discovering ways to integrate it into my practice as a librarian." ■

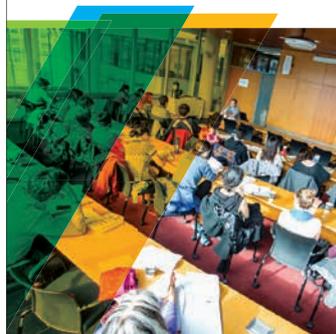
—Leslie Schachter BA 03, GrDip 13, is a Montreal freelance writer.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucinda Chodan".

Lucinda Chodan
Editor-in-Chief, Montreal Gazette

STINGERS HOCKEY TEAMS ENJOY STELLAR SEASONS

The 2017-18 season was the best in many years for the Concordia Stingers women's and men's hockey teams — with the women taking home a bronze medal at the U Sports national championship tournament in March.

Fourth-year goaltender Katherine Purchase recorded a 37-save shutout to lead the Stingers to a 4-0 victory over the Saskatchewan Huskies in the bronze medal game on March 18. The tournament was hosted by Western University in London, Ont., from March 15 to 18.

Less than 24 hours after a stellar performance against the Manitoba Bisons in the semifinals, Purchase had another strong showing in the bronze medal game, stopping everything sent her way. "We know we're one of the best teams here and we wanted to prove that today," said Purchase, a native of Halifax. "Our goal for today was just to play

60 minutes and show them what our kind of hockey is like."

Third-year forward Claudia Dubois of Saguenay, Que., opened and closed the scoring and earned player of the game honours for her efforts. "Honestly, it's all about the team," said Dubois. "We just all work together as a team, which brought us here."

It was the second straight year the Stingers, led by head coach Julie Chu, travelled to the national finals. In March 2017, the team returned to the national championship tournament after a 12-year absence. They finished in fourth place, losing 2-0 in the bronze medal game to the UBC Thunderbirds.

The last time Concordia secured a medal was in 2000, when the team defeated the Toronto Varsity Blues 6-0 to win a bronze medal. The Stingers were gold medallists in 1998 and 1999.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

MARC-ANDRÉ ÉLEMENT'S MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM ADVANCED TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 33 YEARS.

STRONG SEASON

On the men's side, captain Phil Hudon scored two goals to lead the Stingers to a 3-2 victory over the York Lions in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) bronze medal game. The do-or-die match was played in front of 500 fans at the Ed Meagher Arena on the Loyola Campus on March 9.

As the OUA bronze medalist, Concordia earned a berth at the U Sports championship. The tournament was hosted by the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, N.B., from March 15 to 18.

It was the Stingers' first finals appearance since 1984, when the team won the Quebec University Athletic Association title to qualify. They came home as silver medallists.

The Stingers, under head coach Marc-André Élement, BA 11, came close to capturing the OUA title. In a tight best-of-three series, the McGill Redmen won the third game to capture the title. It was the first time the two Montreal universities met in a divisional hockey final. ■

—Catherine Grace, BA 87



THE CONCORDIA STINGERS WOMEN'S TEAM EARNED A BRONZE MEDAL AT THE U SPORTS WOMEN'S HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN LONDON, ONT., ON MARCH 18.

High-impact alumni at a high-tech company

In Good Company is a series on inspiring grads who work for corporations and non-profits that hire a large number of Concordia alumni. To be featured, please contact us at alumni@concordia.ca or @ConcordiaAlumni on social media.

Concordia graduates who walk down the halls of the Genetec corporate headquarters in Montreal's Technoparc are likely to come across a familiar face. That's because more than 10 per cent of the software development company's 1,000 employees are alumni of the university.

Founded in 1997, Genetec Inc. develops physical security software that unifies video surveillance, access control and licence-plate recognition technology. With average year-over-year growth around 30 per cent, the private Montreal-based company delivers solutions to major governments, large global enterprises and high-value sites. Genetec counts New York City, Starbucks, the Statue of Liberty and Montreal's Bell Centre among its growing client base.

The company also hosts a highly successful internship program that hires 120 interns on average per year. One in five Genetec interns eventually become permanent employees.

A HIGH-TECH MARKETER

Tracey Ades, BComm 92, MSc 96, gained experience working for a number of public and privately held organizations before landing at Genetec in June 2012. In her current role as director of marketing communication, Ades oversees the Genetec corporate and regional marketing teams in



AMONG THE MANY CONCORDIA ALUMNI AT MONTREAL-BASED HIGH-TECH COMPANY GENETEC ARE DENNIS MASCIOTRA, SENIOR ACCOUNTANT, TAX AND COMPLIANCE, TRACEY ADES, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING COMMUNICATION, AND MILOS HARAVAN, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER.

Montreal, Paris, Dubai and Singapore. Her team focuses on activities including all materials related to graphic design, web and digital marketing, public and media relations, and content marketing.

She credits her master's degree in administration at Concordia for helping her better understand business strategy and analytics. "You have to figure out how you want to go to market. What's our strategy? What's the best

way to tackle this market? How are we going to crack open others?" Ades says. "Being able to think analytically and develop strategies has been extremely helpful in my career, both as a junior marketer and now in a more global role."

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL

As a senior accountant for tax and compliance, the role of Dennis Masciotra, BComm 01, GrDip 03, has grown exponentially as Genetec has expanded into 12 countries worldwide in recent years. The responsibilities for

the nine-year Genetec veteran include working on international audits and corporate tax situations. Masciotra also takes great pride in being a resource for newer employees when they need help with a question.

"There's something really satisfying about passing on knowledge and helping people grow," he says. "If I teach them how to be resourceful to find an answer, that's growth on their end and that's growth on my end as a mentor."

Thinking back to his days as a student at Concordia, Masciotra appreciates the connections he made with his peers, some of whom he still remains in contact with today. He fondly recalls the classes he took, the people he met, the hours he spent studying at the library and the local restaurants he frequented during his studies.

MULTIPLE ROLES, ONE VISION

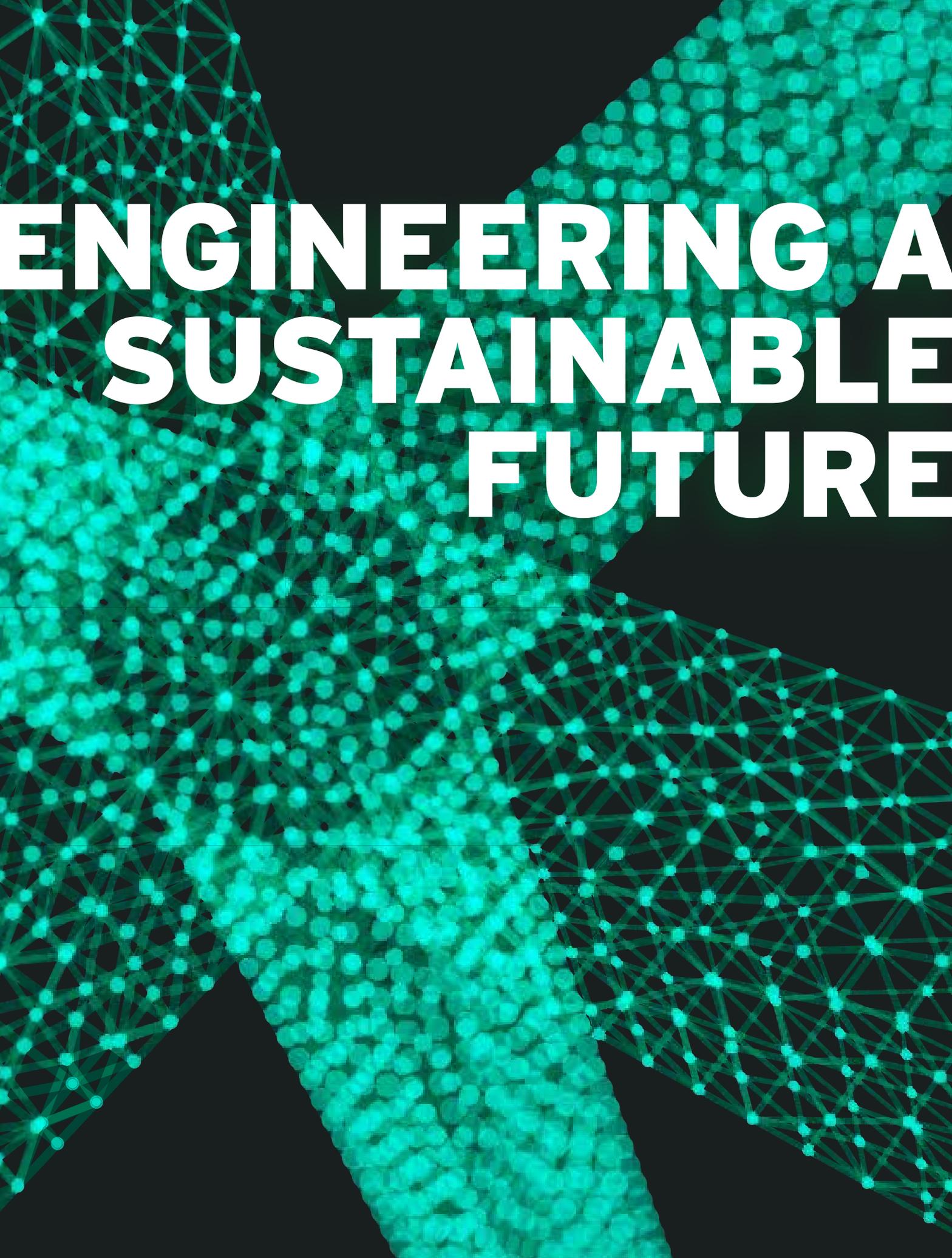
The path to Genetec for Milos Haravan, BEng 09, began while he was still completing his undergraduate degree in software engineering at Concordia. Working as part of a research group led by Maria Amer, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, he and his colleagues built a distributed video surveillance system. Amer was impressed with the results and asked the group to present their project to Pierre Racz, president of Genetec — which led to his hiring as a summer intern.

Genetec then offered Haravan a permanent position once he completed his studies in 2009. He now works on two teams that are responsible for the company's software development kit and the health monitoring of its solution.

"In software development, you have to rely on the people you work with," Haravan says. "It's about positively influencing people not just to do their work, but to be inspired to do their work and to see what you're trying to accomplish." ■

—Daniel Bartlett, BA 08

"Being able to think analytically and develop strategies has been extremely helpful in my career."



ENGINEERING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Members of Concordia's Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering look forward to developing solutions for energy, aerospace and other industry sectors

DANIEL BARTLETT

Take the weight of a bicycle, car, airplane or even cellular phone from 10 years ago and compare it with what is being manufactured today. New products have never felt lighter or more versatile than they do now. Yet just what is precipitating this transition? How are manufactured goods able to improve their capabilities with what seems like far less material?

Concordia experts are tackling these and related questions in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science's new Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering. "There are a lot of everyday goods where research in materials engineering makes a difference," says department chair Alex De Visscher. "For instance, airplanes are using composites, which would have been unthinkable 20 to 30 years ago. We're doing it and saving a lot of fuel as a result."

Launched in May 2017, Chemical and Materials Engineering is the first university department in Quebec and the second in Canada to offer students the opportunity to examine new chemicals and materials on a continuum.

CROSS-FERTILIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

Chemical engineering is the application of the principles and processes of chemistry, biochemistry, biology and biotechnology to the design and operation of industrial units. This includes the production of bulk chemicals, fine chemicals and metals, as well as chemicals by microorganisms and the conversion of biomaterials into chemicals.

Materials engineering involves the discovery and design of new materials. Whereas the materials engineer is mainly focused on the product, the chemical engineer concentrates on the process. The department will use opportunities for cross-fertilization between both fields to develop sustainable solutions for the energy sector and beyond.

De Visscher believes that what makes the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering stand out is its ability to build off the faculty's six existing departments. "The Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering has several faculty members who are conducting research in materials engineering, and there are some other departments doing it as

well," he says. De Visscher adds that a lot of materials production actually takes place in Montreal, particularly in the aerospace industry.

De Visscher joined Concordia in January 2017 and, along with new chemical engineering professor Zhibin Ye, shaped the programs, curriculum and labs of this next-generation department. Chemical and Materials Engineering began offering four graduate courses in 2017-18 and will have graduate diploma and certificate programs in place by the fall 2018 semester.

For Ye, Quebec is an ideal place to study in the field because there is a great need for chemical and materials engineers in the province. He singles out the oil, mining, aerospace, pulp and paper, polymer and pharmaceutical industries as sectors that rely heavily on chemical and materials engineering. "There are a lot of experts available in Montreal, which means there are a lot more opportunities. I think that makes us unique," Ye says.

Along with assistant professor Xiaolei Wang, Chemical and Materials Engineering now has three regular faculty members. The department is also supported by a joint member,

Rolf Wüthrich, associate professor of mechanical, industrial and aerospace engineering. In addition, Paula-Wood Adams, dean of Graduate Studies, and Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, will offer expertise in a variety of engineering fields.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCES

“Currently our strengths are in energy and nanomaterials,” De Visscher says. “We’re planning on doing some research related to CO₂ — how can we utilize CO₂ rather than emit it into the atmosphere? There are different ways you can approach that.”

De Visscher has years of research experience investigating ways to convert CO₂ into fuel, which is an area he hopes to further develop at Concordia. He also wants to find new ways of manufacturing chemicals that do not rely on heat as a main energy source.

Ye and Wang, on the other hand, are interested in energy storage materials and technologies, such as lithium-sulfur batteries and supercapacitors. “My research mainly focusses on nanostructure materials for clean-energy technologies, especially for electrochemical energy storage, conversion and generation,” Wang explains. “I work on the design and development of smart materials that have more functionalities when using them in clean-energy technologies.”

Wang refers to lithium sulfur batteries as an example of a technology that is cheap and environmentally friendly. One of the challenges, however, is that during the electrochemical reaction, the intermediate product — lithium polysulfide — becomes soluble in the electrolyte. This could result in lost materials and lower efficiency.

“We’re trying to develop materials to trap the lithium polysulfide in order to avoid the loss in performance,” Wang explains.

The results of this research can significantly impact people’s daily lives, particularly with respect to climate change. Ye believes working with renewable energy sources is a much greener

way to envision our future. “One bigger issue with the existence of the petroleum-based industry is pollution,” he says. “These fossil fuel-based energy resources are going to deplete eventually. Solar energy will be available as long as the sun is here.”

De Visscher agrees and says the only way countries can uphold their end of the Paris Agreement is by switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy. He sees progress in the ways solar and wind energy are becoming economically competitive. He says Canada can play a significant role in this transition because of its oil and petrochemical industry.

“In the future, they’ll use very drastically different ways of producing oil,” De Visscher predicts. “Some of the current oil companies are going to become renewable energy giants — I have no doubt about that. If we’re smart in Canada, we’ll try to get ahead of the game and start developing the technology that is going to be needed for that.”

“There are a lot of everyday goods where research in materials engineering makes a difference. Airplanes are using composites, which would have been unthinkable 20 to 30 years ago.”

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

To develop materials for the future, Chemical and Materials Engineering researchers are looking at how products are currently being manufactured. They will address questions about how much energy and raw materials are required to produce materials, as well as problems related to toxicity and degradation.

These lines of inquiry will also require strong alliances with other Concordia departments and across faculties. “I talk to anybody who’s willing to talk to me about potential collaboration,” De Visscher says. “There are six other engineering

departments at Concordia and, ideally, we would like to work with all of them.”

Given their mutual research interests, Ye and Wang have already discussed working on projects together and taking on students who share their enthusiasm for energy storage materials. They too are going beyond the walls of the department to team up with other researchers.

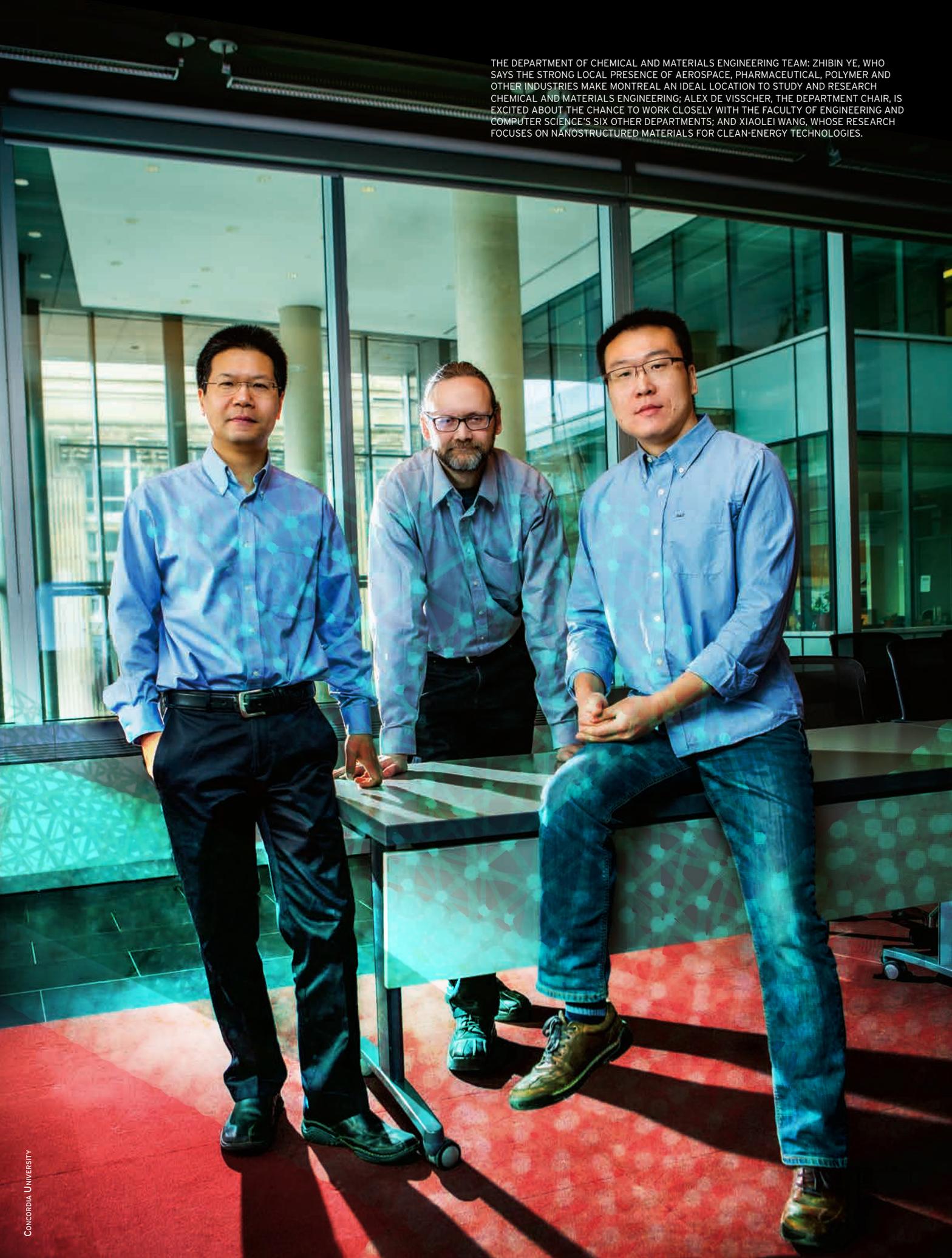
“Within the faculty, I already started collaborating with a colleague in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Saifur Rahaman,” Ye says. “He’s designing membranes for water treatment and these membranes are often polymer-based. He needed an expert in this area to collaborate with.”

The departments of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, and Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering are the more obvious examples of areas with associated research interests. De Visscher is also having conversations with experts in

the Faculty of Arts and Science, the John Molson School of Business and the Faculty of Fine Arts to develop research projects and share expertise. This includes promoting shared activities with the departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Physics.

“We can only do good work if we get the science right. That means talking to chemists about the properties of the chemicals,” De Visscher explains. “When we’re looking at nanomaterials, often physicists are the people who are best suited to study the properties of those materials.”

THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING TEAM: ZHIBIN YE, WHO SAYS THE STRONG LOCAL PRESENCE OF AEROSPACE, PHARMACEUTICAL, POLYMER AND OTHER INDUSTRIES MAKE MONTREAL AN IDEAL LOCATION TO STUDY AND RESEARCH CHEMICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING; ALEX DE VISSCHER, THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, IS EXCITED ABOUT THE CHANCE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE'S SIX OTHER DEPARTMENTS; AND XIAOLEI WANG, WHOSE RESEARCH FOCUSES ON NANOSTRUCTURED MATERIALS FOR CLEAN-ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.



“In the future, they’ll use very drastically different ways of producing oil. If we’re smart in Canada, we’ll start developing the technology that is going to be needed for that.”

VITAL WOMEN'S ROLES

One novel partner is the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, home of Concordia’s women’s studies program. Historically, chemical engineering programs draw a larger proportion of female students than other engineering departments. Studies show that about 33 per cent of chemical engineering students are female.

De Visscher wants to further examine this phenomenon in order to ensure that Chemical and Materials Engineering maintains gender balance. “Another way of looking at it is if you start a chemical engineering program, a lot of female students who would otherwise choose mechanical engineering are probably going to choose chemical engineering,” he explains. “You might actually make the gender balance worse in all the other departments. To avoid that from happening, we need to talk to experts in women’s studies.”

The aim of these conversations is not simply to maintain a balanced gender mix. More importantly, De Visscher wants to encourage a diversity of thought in the classroom and is drawing on his experiences as a student in Belgium to make that a reality.

“I did my undergrad in engineering and my grad studies in bioscience engineering and I noticed that the atmosphere is quite different. It’s a lot more open in bioscience engineering,” De Visscher says. “Having a better gender balance actually helps create a more diverse and welcoming atmosphere.”

HANDS-ON AND FORWARD THINKING

Since joining Concordia in 2017, Ye has noticed how serious the university takes its many research initiatives. The atmosphere is one he welcomes. “There are quite a lot of internal research funding opportunities. Concordia has a very strong flavour of research and researchers here are highly interested in collaborations.” Ye says.

Wang, who arrived at the department in August 2017, also enjoys the working environment. He describes his relationships with De Visscher and Ye as friendships where they “can talk to each other freely. We can think about how to divide up the department, how to develop the programs and how to disseminate our research findings,” he says. “We have very close relationships and feel the faculty’s support because we’re new here and everyone wants to help us.”

Wang was attracted to Concordia in part by the opportunity to build a department from the ground up. He now looks forward to equipping his students with knowledge they can use to solve real-world problems. “I don’t want them to be just sitting in the classroom and jotting down some of the points I give them,” he says. “I want them to think. I want them to generate some ideas. I want them to be capable of solving real problems with this knowledge.”

Once all the department’s programs are in place, De Visscher would like students “to be both strong on the fundamentals but also very hands-on.” This will include work related to data acquisition, as well as teaching students how to work with Raspberry Pis — tiny computers that help teach programming — so they can make their own tools and use them in research.

He also believes Wüthrich’s joint appointment in the department will challenge students to be more forward thinking. Wüthrich is a specialist in Industry 4.0 — the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies.

“He’ll be able to teach students about instrumentation for data acquisition and processing and how to build these tools,” De Visscher says. “If we’re manufacturing goods in a more distributed way, we should start thinking about producing chemicals in a smart way as well. Chemical engineers are going to have to use some of the techniques from Industry 4.0 to develop smart chemical plants.”

NEXT STEPS

After the graduate diploma and certificate programs begin in fall 2018, the department’s next objective is to launch its MASc and PhD programs in September 2019. In the meantime, faculty members will develop a course-based master’s program and an undergraduate program that they hope to start in 2020.

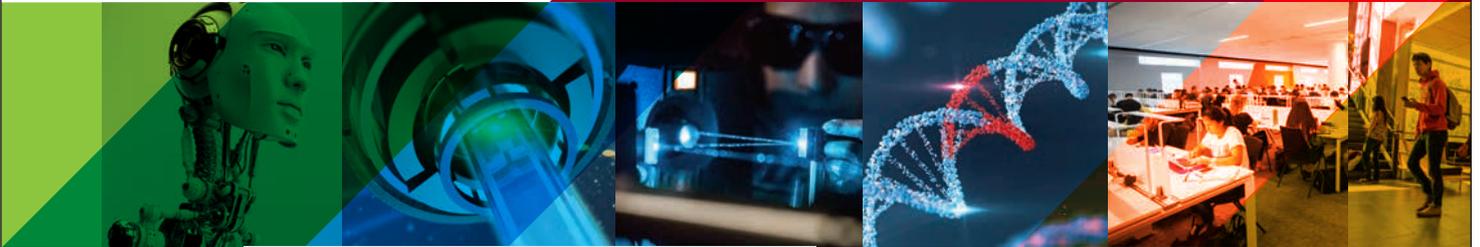
Program offerings are not the only thing keeping the department busy. In 2019, faculty members will move to the new \$52.75-million science centre that is currently under construction on the Loyola Campus.

“One floor of that building will be dedicated to chemical engineering, so we plan to spend a lot of time working with architects and designers to draw up what that space is going to look like,” De Visscher says.

Wang is excited for what lies ahead and can’t wait to bring a little humour into the classroom in order to engage his students with course materials. “The university established this department because they want to train students in this area,” he says. “We look forward to the start of the programs and believe students will contribute to our research and our teaching.” ■

— Daniel Bartlett, BA 08, is a Montreal freelance writer.

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CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD (LEFT) WITH
BUSINESS LEADERS, PHILANTHROPISTS AND CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS
ANDREW MOLSON (RIGHT) AND LINO SAPUTO JR. (CENTRE)

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THE FUTURE

DAMON VAN DER LINDE, BA 08

Many actors play a role in the evolution of cities — yet each brings a distinct view.

An artist can look at a public square through a different lens than an urban planner. A community activist might not view a neighbourhood from the same perspective as a property developer.

Given this reality, there are few platforms for interdisciplinary collaboration where individuals can bring a unique interpretation of space, purpose and vision to a shared future.

Concordia's Institute for Urban Futures (IUF, concordia.ca/urbanfutures) was created to do just that — explore the connections between often separated fields such as urban planning, theatre and health. The institute unites professors, students and researchers from the university's four faculties and also

brings into the conversation property developers, policymakers, activists and community members. It's also part of Concordia's Smart Cities hub (concordia.ca/cities, see the sidebar on page 29).

If this appears to be a complex endeavour, it is intentional. "That complexity is necessary to effectively engage the city," says Paul Holmquist, the institute's project manager. "The mandate of the IUF is broad enough that it could cover many areas, but at the same time it never exhausts itself."

This work takes place both in the classroom and in communities themselves — to support and promote adaptive techniques for urban living, artistic activist practice and approaches to social engagement.

Many of the institute's activities position cities not as isolated entities but as part of a global ecosystem. For the rest of 2018, for example, the institute

will host a political party in residence from Denmark. Led by Uffe Elbaek, the Alternative is focused on creating a new political culture focused on sustainability and participatory democracy. The year-long residency — entitled "Making Art. Making Politics." — will bring together members of the municipal government with students, faculty and the greater Concordia community.

"What is exciting about the IUF is the capacity it has as a research- and project-driven hub to host and connect a diverse range of urban actors and interests," said Shauna Janssen, BFA 94, MA 09, PhD 14, who was appointed the Institute for Urban Futures' director in January 2018. She is also an assistant professor in the departments of Theatre in the Faculty of Fine Arts and Geography, Planning and Environment in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

"What has been set in motion is

Concordia's Institute for Urban Futures connects education, research and community for better living in the cities of tomorrow





THIS IS URBAN

extraordinary and I am looking forward to building on the IUF's strengths and activities," she says.

In contrast to most university research institutes, the Institute for Urban Futures grew out of a consultative process. The Faculty of Fine Arts, in developing its direction for the coming years, looked for opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The faculty put forth a number of "strategic speculations" and consulted with

more than 50 people across departments at Concordia, as well as students and alumni.

"One very strong thread that connected many ideas was the urban," says Rebecca Duclos, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts and professor in the Department of Art History.

What emerged from these findings was an institute that could link research platforms and innovation at the university to communities and individuals who

will be using these new systems.

"The IUF is a seedbed for people to come together and grow research projects, courses, activist practices and embedded initiatives," says Duclos. She sees the institute — which launched in 2015 — as an arena for the meeting of research, teaching, storytelling, activism, collaboration and speculation. The institute highlights the university's growing research profile in the area of cities.

"The strength of the IUF rests in its capacity to enable interdisciplinary, multifaceted approaches to researching the city, blending art, politics, planning and the science behind renewable energy sources," says André Roy, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment.

The following is a sample of the various research projects, courses and initiatives that fall under the institute's umbrella.



SHAUNA JANSSEN WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR URBAN FUTURES IN JANUARY 2018.



SPEED DATING WITH HISTORY

To help students understand how a city's history is created by both the built environment and the people who live there, Steven High, professor in the Department of History, takes his classes into the heart of Montreal neighbourhoods.

Right to the City began in 2012 as a teaching initiative through the collaboration of Concordia professors from four disciplines: Cynthia Hammond, MA 96, PhD 03, in art history; Kathleen Vaughan, MFA 98, in art education; Ted Little in theatre; and Steven High in history. Using dozens of interviews recorded with residents



STEVEN HIGH, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, IS ONE OF FOUR FACULTY INVOLVED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD-BASED COURSE RIGHT TO THE CITY, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER ART HISTORY, ART EDUCATION, HISTORY AND THEATRE.

of Montreal's Pointe-Saint-Charles neighbourhood — one of the most economically disadvantaged in Montreal — High and his colleagues designed a class exercise called "speed dating with history." Students would be assigned to watch an interview with one of these people and internalize their story.

"Students were able to become experts in someone's life story in order to see the neighbourhood through another person's eyes, and that was really powerful," says High. Each student would then introduce him- or herself to the rest of the class, taking on the persona of the interviewee. High says this is a powerful tool in thinking about how to represent another person and engage with the neighbourhood where they live.

"When you actually have to perform as someone, you're so aware of all the issues of appropriation. Maybe this person is a different race, class, gender, and this is what we wanted the students to think about," says High. "We're making assumptions about people's lives all the time anyway, but we're not thinking enough about it."

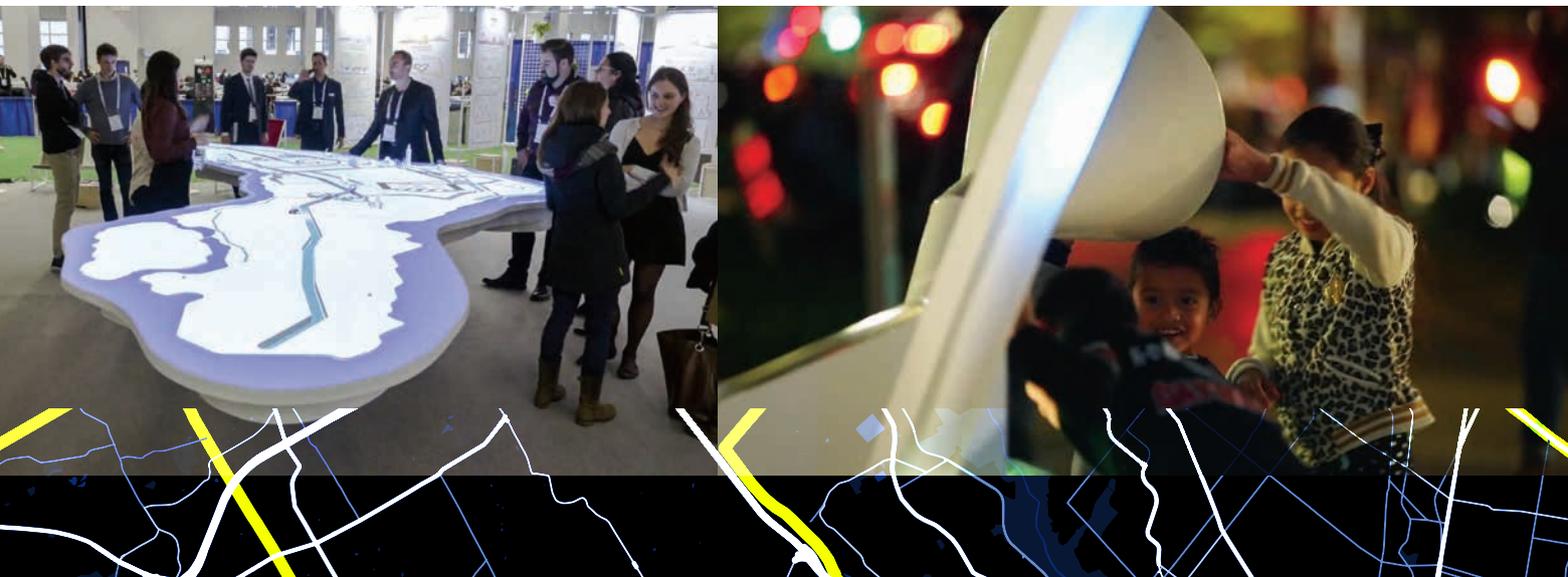
More recently, Right to the City held a course about the Little Burgundy neighbourhood, the historical centre of Montreal's English-speaking Black community. The Negro Community Centre was the hub of this neighbourhood for many years until it closed in 1992, and the building was abandoned soon after. A few years later, Concordia and members of the Negro Community

Centre salvaged more than 100 boxes of historical material from the site, placing them in storage at the university.

In 2016, these materials were given to Concordia Library Special Collections branch. With the assistance of archivist Alexandra Mills, BFA 08, MA 10, High's students spent a term delving into these boxes to create research-creation projects from the material, which returned these stories to the community. The course culminated in an event that brought out more than 200 people to the Universal Negro Improvement Association Hall in Little Burgundy. At the event, those who grew up with the Negro Community Centre shared treasured memories, while students shared what they had learned from the archives.

"Students learn not just how to engage with the community but are also becoming accountable because they're going public with their research. We're aware that the community is part of the audience," says High. "Right to the City is about engaging with our changing city from the bottom up and making students central to that by reducing the division between teaching and research."

High says Right to the City has been a natural fit with the Institute for Urban Futures and has received funding to continue this work. "The institute is in its early days. It's a sign of this larger commitment to think about the changing city not only in terms of a critique but also how it might influence its future development," he says.





NATALIE VOLAND, PRESIDENT OF THE QUO VADIS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY IN MONTREAL, HELPED SUPPORT THE URBAN FUTURES: DEVELOPING CONSCIENTIOUS COMPETITION PROPOSALS COURSE COMPETITION.

BUILDINGS FOR PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

On the surface, social work and real estate have little in common. Yet when social worker Natalie Voland stepped up to run the family real-estate development business after her father became ill, she found there was a deep and natural connection.

“If you start integrating humans into buildings, you realize that buildings should serve people as opposed to serving profit,” says Voland, president of the Quo Vadis property management company in Montreal. She discovered that building beautiful environments where people will live, work and play better doesn’t preclude turning a profit.

When it comes to creating mixed-use developments that combine residential and commercial space, Voland says the concept often won’t work without considering how people use the space. For example, someone living in the

building might use the development’s public space to spend time with family in the evenings and on weekends, while an office worker might only be there to eat lunch during the day. Voland admits designing an ideal space for everyone can be a challenge.

“Art can be the connector piece between people,” she says. “Art is a common language. It’s a language of how things make you feel.”

When Quo Vadis began planning a 27,000-square-metre, mixed-use redevelopment project in Montreal’s Griffintown neighbourhood, the company launched a public art competition in collaboration with the Institute for Urban Futures and the Faculty of Fine Arts. The building project, called Legado, is guided by sustainable socio-cultural, economic and environmental principles.

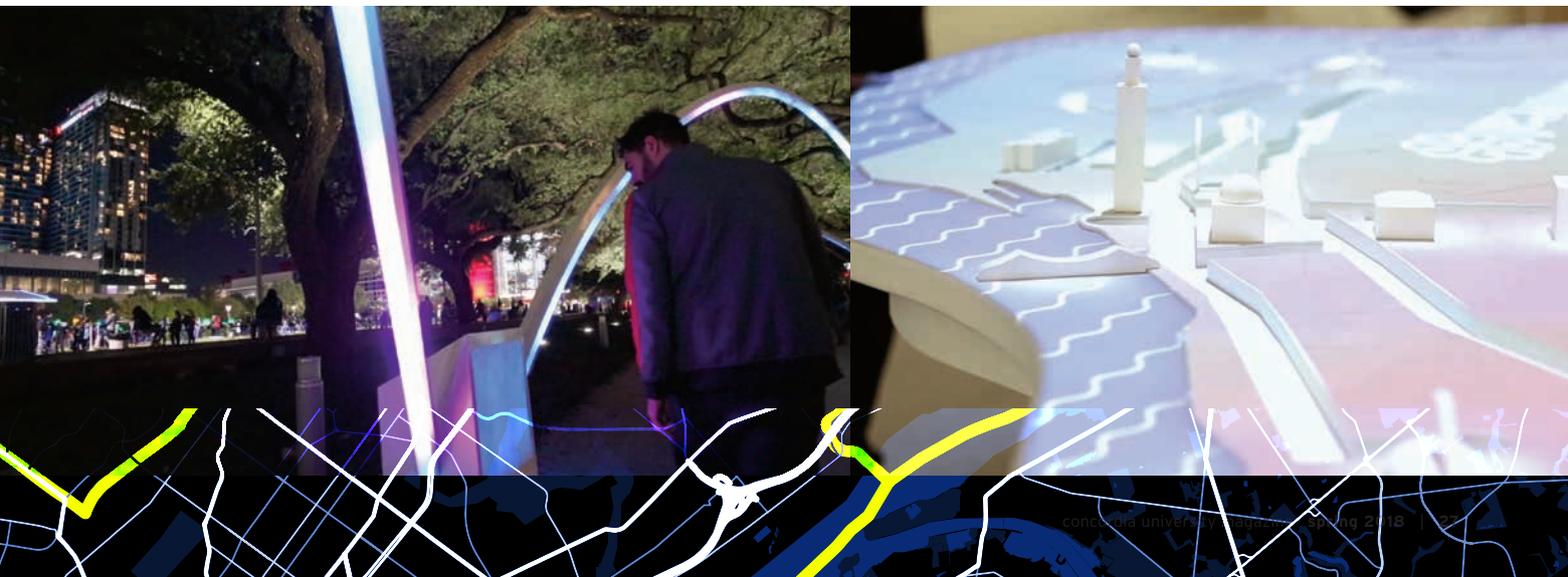
What makes the Legado art project stand out is that it flips the usual

development process on its head by creating the public art before the actual buildings have been designed.

“Usually art is something you would bring in at the end to decorate and make it prettier,” says Voland. “We’re using the context of public art to set the stage and create the dialogue between the buildings’ uses so it makes more sense.” The competition called for proposals to create public art that brings people together in a world that is often disconnected.

To further the collaboration between students and real urban development projects like this, Concordia held an intensive for-credit course called Urban Futures: Developing Conscientious Competition Proposals in summer 2017. The course was open to senior undergraduate and graduate students from all faculties looking to learn about the aspects involved in putting together a proposal to access funding.

The course was taught by Mouna Andraos, BA 00, part-time faculty member in the Department of Design and Computation Arts, and Melissa Mongiat, who, with Andraos, co-founded the Daily tous les jours design studio. The course brought in professors from different faculties to teach everything from conceptualization, project parameters, local material sourcing and strategies for partnering with technical experts, to the value and use of storytelling when entering design competitions.



“These fields are becoming increasingly multidisciplinary,” says Andraos. “Public art is becoming something that is no longer reserved to visual artists proposing sculptures for public spaces, but can become part of a conversation about how we live in cities together.”

In March 2018, students Annabelle Daoust and Fany Rodrigue won the competition, worth \$5,000, for their artwork *Misty Valley*. Although the summer course was not a requirement for entering the competition, Voland sees it as an example of Concordia’s dedication to preparing students for success beyond their studies.

“It’s great to learn the theory, but when you graduate from Concordia, you hit the ground running,” she says. “Concordia gives so many experiences to students that they can start to work right away. I find that very different than other schools and think it’s more valuable today than ever before.”

MOBILE PHONES AS LEARNING TOOLS

Nearly 73 per cent of teens have access to a smartphone — often seen by parents, teachers and principals as a distraction in high school classrooms. Concordia’s Juan Carlos Castro, associate professor in the Department of Art Education, is exploring how the devices can be applied to engage students in their education as well as used for tools to better understand themselves, their peers and their communities.

His research project MonCoin investigates how to teach and learn using smartphones, tablets and social media in the visual arts classroom. In 2012, Castro and other researchers began designing and testing a curriculum in collaboration with secondary school art educators and more than 300 high school students in four French- and English-language programs during or after school.

“The participants are able to learn through each other in ways that are not readily available in traditional classrooms,” says Castro.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

JUAN CARLOS CASTRO, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART EDUCATION, RESEARCHES HOW SMART DEVICES CAN HELP ENGAGE STUDENTS AND LET THEM UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES, THEIR PEERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES BETTER.

The MonCoin researchers are still analyzing the project’s full impact. Yet Castro already sees a growing trend of resources being dedicated to exploring how technology can be incorporated into the learning process, instead of asking students to turn off their phones in class. “It points to understanding the importance of the social nature of learning and how educators need to keep this in mind,” he says. “Learning involves classroom management, understanding complex topics and remembering that learning is not an individual endeavour, it’s a collective endeavour.”

URBAN FUTURISTS IN RESIDENCE

The Urban Futurist in Residence program, launched in 2016, provides professionals a space at Concordia to explore ideas about the city in depth and develop project collaborations, symposiums and partnerships that support those working for positive change in their communities and the natural environment.

The inaugural Futurists in Residence were members of Entremise, a non-profit startup dedicated to facilitating the temporary use of vacant buildings in Montreal

while fostering urban regeneration, social and economic responsibility, radical inclusivity and living heritage.

Dawn Danby and David McConville began their residency in October 2017. They are the co-founders of Spherical, an Oakland, Calif.-based studio that provides integrative research and design strategies for government and corporate clients. At the IUF, their research goal is to look at how technology can be used to look beyond individual environmental concerns such as carbon emissions, water quality and land use, to examine the entire urban ecosystem.

“The opportunity at Concordia is to think about cities and their relationships to the world,” says Danby, who began her career as an industrial designer focused on ecology and spent a decade leading sustainable design initiatives at Autodesk, a multinational software company.

Danby and McConville also explore how cities can be sustainable as well as designed to actually regenerate the health and integrity of Earth’s living systems. “We can’t only stop extracting, we need to play a role in exercising the extraordinary agency that we have to regenerate these ecosystems,” says McConville, who co-chairs the Buckminster Fuller Institute in San Francisco, which aims to solve global problems through design, and was the director of Integrative Arts at Montreal’s Société des Arts Technologiques.

“Regenerative process is about the co-evolutionary partnership that we have with the planet. It’s about designing and catalyzing mutually beneficial relationships and transformations.” ■
—Damon van der Linde, BA 08, is a Montreal freelance writer.

For more on Urban Futures, listen to *Thinking Out Loud — the podcast*, episode 3: “Urban Futures — the City Designed.” Why does design matter for cities? Author and urban designer Ken Greenberg talks with Carmela Cucuzzella, former director of Concordia’s Institute for Urban Futures.

concordia.ca/tol

SMART CITIES HUB



Researchers in the Smart Cities hub (concordia.ca/cities) at Concordia combine smart technology, integrated building design and community engagement to advance intelligent communities. One major focus is on the operation of clean energy systems across buildings, neighbourhoods and infrastructure.

The hub is made up of partners from across the university, including the Center for Zero Energy Building Studies, the Concordia Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems, the Institute for Urban Futures, the David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise and the Loyola Sustainability Research Centre.

In February 2018, Concordia launched its search for a Canada Excellence Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities. The position comes with \$10 million in funding spread over seven years and is among the most prestigious and generous academic awards available in the world. Concordia is one of only nine Canadian institutions to advance in the 2018 competition.

Propelled by state-of-the-art facilities that include two makerspaces, the hub has attracted more than 1,000 participants and helped to start up 30 business. Postdoctoral and graduate students are also actively engaged in the hub.

CONCORDIA'S SMART CITIES HUB BRINGS TOGETHER PARTNERS FROM A NUMBER OF CENTRES AND INSTITUTES ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING THE CENTER FOR ZERO ENERGY BUILDING STUDIES, THE INSTITUTE FOR URBAN FUTURES AND THE LOYOLA SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH CENTRE.

Research and community projects led by the Smart Cities hub include:

- A team of students and faculty members from Concordia and McGill University will compete with 21 other teams at the international Solar Decathlon China competition in Dezhou in summer 2018. Each team has spent close to two years designing and building energy-efficient houses powered by the sun. The winner will be announced in August.
- Several innovative studies used Itinerum to look at different aspects of the transportation system in 2017. Itinerum is an app and web platform that allows transportation researchers to develop smartphone travel surveys and analyze subsequent results. Developed as part of a research project by Zachary Patterson, associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Itinerum was used in studies by the University of Toronto, the Institut National de Recherche Scientifique and the City of Montreal.
- Andreas Athienitis, professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, led a team that provided the technological expertise to build Canada's first net-zero energy building. Opened in 2015, the Varennes Public Library in Varennes, Que., is now a living lab for Concordia researchers.

Roloff Beny Foundation Fellowship in Photography: Yoshimi Lee



YOSHIMI LEE LIKENS HER THESIS EXHIBITION TO BUILDING A PUZZLE. "MY ATTEMPT WAS TO EXPLORE A SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN MY FAMILY'S HISTORY," SHE SAYS.

DANIEL BARTLETT

Photography by Yoshimi Lee

Concordia MFA student Yoshimi Lee was born in France, moved to Canada in 2012 and identifies herself as Zainichi Korean — a term that refers to people of Korean descent living in Japan.

Her thesis exhibition, *Poétique de l'Être Passé*, explores themes related to her identity as an uprooted woman. "Through this project, I want to open a dialogue and testify to the turmoil and upheaval that history may have on individuals," she says.

Lee was the recipient of the Roloff Beny Foundation Fellowship in Photography in 2016. The \$10,000 fellowship is awarded yearly by the Concordia Department of Studio Arts' photography program to a graduate student for his or her outstanding artistic and academic achievement. The

fellowship allows a student to pursue a photography project shown at a later date, which Lee did in November 2017 at Concordia's MFA Gallery.

She says the funds allowed her to investigate her family's history more closely, particularly through interviews with her father and uncles living in Paris.

"With all the stories they told me — people and places they remembered — I organized a trip to Seoul with my father to search for footsteps of their past," Lee explains. "The fellowship helped me investigate and archive our family's history, as well as dig up some of our well-anchored roots."

Lee is now working on a community-based project that shares stories, memories and objects with other Zainichi Koreans living in Kyoto. Through this, she aims "to build a conversation on family history and heritage." ■

yoshimilee.wixsite.com/photo





POÉTIQUE DE L'ETRE PASSÉ.



LAURA MITCHELL HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE SINCE 2015. THE CENTRE PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO STUDENTS ACROSS BOTH CAMPUSES.

Concordia's Student Success Centre guides all levels of students, from orientation through graduation, facing a range of challenges

MAEVE HALDANE

"Students come into the office with their shoulders up around their ears,"

says Katherine Downey, BFA 14.

The master's in drama therapy student is recounting a typical experience at the couch-filled Welcome Crew office on Loyola Campus, where she works as mentor.

Downey assists students who may walk in with burning questions or just for a friendly chat — perhaps they need a little encouragement because they're starting their PhD and have eight papers to read this week. By the time they leave the office, students are usually a little more relaxed, she reports.

The Welcome Crew and its team are part of Concordia's Student Success Centre. With offices on both campuses, 24 staff and about 100 peer employees made up of fellow students, the Student Success Centre is exactly the sort of resource Downey wishes had been in place when she first started university.

CREATING A ONE-STOP-SHOP

Concordia has always offered students support services. However, they were scattered across different departments and tended towards the remedial. There was no easy-to-turn-to space for students of all levels. "If you were a B student and wanted to be an A student, there was very little," says Lisa Ostiguy, professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences and Concordia's deputy provost.

Under Ostiguy's leadership, in 2014 the university made multiple resources easier to access by creating a single website under Student Services' Counselling and Development. And in January 2015, the Services for New Students, Student Learning Services and Career and Planning Services were separated from Counselling and Psychological Services and placed under the newly created Student Success Centre. The goal was to create a one-stop shop to offer academic support for all students from first-year to graduation.

"We didn't want the Student Success Centre to be seen as a side service of the university," says Ostiguy. "We wanted to see it integrated with academic programs."

That's why when it came to hiring a director, it was important to recruit someone with a strong academic experience — which describes Laura Mitchell, who took the helm in 2015. The Edinburgh, Scotland, native had fallen in love with Montreal years ago while here to further her research in music and health. She joined Concordia from Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Que., where she was an associate professor of psychology. Although she relished teaching, she found great satisfaction in helping a broader range of students.

Mitchell understands the feeling of wanting to help students advance their skills for success in the classroom yet not having the time to devote to each one. "Laura has been instrumental in working together with the faculties to provide strong academic support to students," Ostiguy says.

RECIPE FOR



SUCCESS

“Someone could entirely grasp a concept, do well on written assignments and quizzes but have a hard time with mid-term exams. We all learn differently.”

HELPING STUDENTS FEEL AT HOME

The Student Success Centre offers three core services. It tends to new students with orientation events and workshops for navigating the first year, along with networking and social opportunities. It also provides learning support and career advising and planning.

An integral part of the integration is the Welcome Crew, who show first-year students around, act as mentors, offer referrals and answer straightforward questions that don't require an appointment with an academic advisor.

Downey loves her Welcome Crew job. She says there's something special about peer-to-peer support, being able to talk to someone "who's going through all the same stressors and balancing academic and personal life." She encourages struggling students and bonds with them over shared experiences. "There's nothing like meeting a student and laughing with them," she says.

Downey also provides a willing shoulder for students experiencing sadness. Some are profoundly homesick and can't afford to visit far-away families. Others come in and break down because they did poorly on an exam. "It's difficult. Someone could entirely grasp a concept, do well on written assignments and quizzes but have a hard time with mid-term exams," Downey says. "We all learn differently."

TAILORED LEARNING

The Student Success Centre's Learning Services cater to different styles of learning through academic skill-building support, time-management clinics, and writing and math tutoring. They also support professors teaching selected courses in core subjects like chemistry, geography, economics and biology by offering weekly peer-facilitated study groups for students in their classes.

The centre has tracked results: the more weekly sessions a student attends, the better they do. Of those who attend 10 or more sessions, 67 per cent achieve a B grade or higher, compared to just 28 per cent of students who never attend. Then there are students who are already doing well and want to do better.

"It's happened to all of us," Mitchell says. "You think you did something really well, you get a B and it's fine, but you think, 'What did I *not* do?'" Mitchell wants to debunk the myth that some people are just good at studying. "I don't think you're born knowing these things, they're things you learn, and everybody can improve. Students need to feel we're going to work with their strengths and challenges," says Mitchell. "That is far more encouraging than saying, 'Here are all the things that are wrong with you!'"

Léandre Larouche and Kelly Routly are both students who work as writing assistants at the Student Success Centre. Larouche is a francophone from

Quebec's Saguenay region who also speaks Spanish. He used the Writing Centre's services when he first arrived at Concordia for his honours English literature degree.

"Having done my CEGEP in French, I was used to another paper-writing style," he says. "The centre gave me a better grasp of how to structure my papers in English. Assistants helped me think about how to make stronger arguments and how to use structure and rhetoric to write in a more sophisticated fashion. But, more importantly, they helped me do it by myself."

Larouche signed up for the mentorship program and was assigned a master's student in his program whom he could email or ask questions. He tapped into his own experience with a learning specialist at Bishop's University. "She gave me tips on how to be more eloquent, how to manage stress," he says.

Mitchell remembers Larouche approaching her and offering to work for the centre as soon as he could. Because his schooling had been in French, he did a "marathon of grammar" to prepare for English university, so the rules were fresh in his mind. He grasps why students make the errors they do, and can explain to them clearly and simply. Larouche particularly loves working with really engaged students — those who start noticing their own errors and improve the most.



AMONG HER DUTIES AS CONCORDIA'S DEPUTY PROVOST, LISA OSTIGUY OVERSEES THE FULL RANGE OF STUDENT SERVICES.

Routly, an honours history student, enjoys working with “students from a variety of programs, who bring in papers with interesting points of view and ideas on subjects you may not have thought of before.”

She appreciates working one-on-one with a person — not simply looking at their paper. She sees the centre as a low-stress microcosm of the university and lauds the supervisors for “ensuring the writing centre continues to be a positive and safe environment.” In turn, the permanent staff benefit from the perspective of peer employees who, being students themselves, can keep the centre up to date on students’ needs.

Mitchell says common barriers to success include poor time management and fear. Students fear failure or being embarrassed by not being good at something. They worry about giving presentations.

“All of us get anxious about particular things, but we all have to learn and develop,” she says. The centre strives to give students opportunities to overcome their fears. Mitchell wants students to “learn to associate joy and excitement with learning and self-development, rather than anxiety.”

SUPPORT ON THE PATH TO A CAREER

Career and Planning Services, also under the Student Success Centre, assist students in finding the right career path and navigating the job search.

A student may tell Mitchell she wants to be an engineer who’s a great writer; another may want to be a philosopher who codes. “Our careers have become multifaceted and our students are aware of that,” she says. Forecasts suggest today’s students will have six-to-nine completely different jobs throughout their working life. Adaptability and resilience are key. Mitchell believes students can embrace this unpredictability by being empowered and curious learners.

The centre’s strength is that it can help all kinds. Students in failed standing can rebuild their skills and get re-motivated. They’re required to take a course on self-management strategies, designed in-house, and a course that Mitchell teaches on study skills. “Some students freely admit they don’t want to be there,” she says. “But by the end, they feel better equipped for their studies.”

Another satisfying task for Mitchell is to identify potential Rhodes Scholarship recipients — academic superstars who also give back to their community. The

prestigious post-graduation scholarship funds a two-year master’s degree at the University of Oxford in England.

“These students’ portfolios blow my mind,” says Mitchell. “They’re extremely organized, motivated, caring individuals. It’s such an intense competition because they’re the brightest and best of this province and there’s just a hair’s breadth between them. Every year I think every one of them should win.” Even if they don’t, the process can help the applicants recognize how exceptionally they’re doing and that they’ll go on to do great graduate work.

LOOKING AHEAD

In late 2018, the Student Success Centre will move into bright, new offices with multifunctional space on the seventh floor of the Henry F. Hall Building. There are plans for creative marketing that will alert students to the services and encourage greater use, and also to launch a Next-Gen Skills program, that will help students transition into the ever-changing workplace.

“I have a brilliant job!” says Mitchell. “The only bad thing that can happen to me in my daily work is if I meet a third- or fourth-year student who says, ‘If only I’d known about this earlier.’ I’d like to eliminate that.” ■

—Maeve Haldane, BFA 91, is a Montreal freelance writer.

“Assistants helped me write in a more sophisticated fashion. But, more importantly, they helped me do it by myself.”



PUBLIC FACE

Concordia's Public Scholars program showcases the value that the university's doctoral students bring to the greater world

How can PhD students promote their research to audiences outside of academia in new and compelling ways?

For the past year, Concordia's first cohort of Public Scholars have taken this question to heart through a series of op-eds and blog entries designed to promote their cutting-edge work. Their writings have appeared in multiple publications, including the *Montreal Gazette*, *La Presse* and *The Torontoist*, and they have also remained active on social media sites such as Twitter.

They also presented their research at the Public Scholars Thinking Out Loud (TOL) event at Concordia in March 2018. (See concordia.ca/tol.)

Fuelled by the same passion to share their knowledge, 10 PhD candidates were recently selected as the 2018 Public Scholars. They too will aim to bridge the gap between academic research and the general public.

We introduce you to the work of five of the 10 Public Scholars from 2017.

“My research shows that in films where [girls] are depicted as at-risk, they are not shown just as victims but increasingly as taking charge of their own stories.”

THE REVOLUTIONARY AND TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF FILM

Concordia researcher **Desirée de Jesus**, PhD 17, had many women heroes growing up.

“The first person who comes to mind is my grandmother,” says de Jesus. “She didn’t have the opportunity to continue her education past the elementary school level. But she loved learning and reading and introduced me to the library when I was very young.”

Today, de Jesus is the recipient of various scholarships — notably the Bourse d’études Hydro-Québec de l’Université Concordia and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship. She is one of the 10 PhD candidates in Concordia’s first cohort of Public Scholars.

In March, she discussed her doctoral research at a Concordia’s TOL event featuring the 10 Public Scholars. “I talked about why it is essential we have more diverse and inclusive representation on screen and behind-the-scenes in film,” de Jesus explains. “It’s important for people to see themselves reflected in cinema and for us to see the possibilities of what we can become.”

De Jesus’s research focuses on films about girls who are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, or who have experienced poverty. One of things she noticed since the start of the 21st century is that there are an exceptional number of films about girls in crisis — for example, *Thirteen* (2003), *Hounddog* (2007) and *Winter’s Bone* (2010). “My research shows that in films where they are depicted as at-risk, they are not shown just as victims but increasingly as taking charge of their own stories,” De Jesus says.

In January 2017, De Jesus designed and taught an undergraduate film course in the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema called *Girlhood in Contemporary Cinema*. She also started a series of video essays about the films she has been researching. “One of the more interesting classes dealt with sexuality and expressions of girls’ sexuality — conversations about how girls must be experienced but also virgins,” she says. “Students said the course changed the way they view film and themselves.”

De Jesus credits Concordia for not only giving her an opportunity to teach a course, but also for selecting her as the only Faculty of Fine Arts PhD candidate in the Public Scholars program. “The grants and awards have eased the



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

FOR HER GRADUATE RESEARCH, DESIRÉE DE JESUS EXAMINES FILMS ABOUT GIRLS WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION, OR WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED POVERTY.

burden and allowed me to fully focus on my research. To have Concordia stand behind my research and invest in me has been wonderful.”

Ultimately, de Jesus hopes her research will have a wider societal impact, much like the work of her inspiration — celebrated American filmmaker Ava Marie DuVernay.

At the 2015 Oscars, DuVernay became the first Black female director to have her film, *Selma*, nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture. Two years later, she was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature for her film *13th*.

“DuVernay makes diversity and inclusion a conversation that involves everybody, and I find that really inspiring,” says de Jesus. “My work takes an inclusive approach too.” As her Public Scholars year winds down, she adds, “This is a very exciting time for me. All these avenues have opened up and I will have to make some very important decisions in the coming days and weeks ahead.”

—Richard Burnett, BA 88

THE BATTLE OVER HIV CRIMINALIZATION NOW THAT A DIAGNOSIS IS NO LONGER A DEATH SENTENCE

In the 1980s, when thousands of gay men were dying from AIDS-related illnesses, homophobia and hysteria were flamed by newspaper headlines around the world that dubbed AIDS the “gay plague.”

Over the decades, activists battled the myth that HIV is a disease that only affects gay men, and the numbers would bear them out. More than 35 million people — gay and straight — have died of AIDS worldwide since the 1980s.

However, many people today still believe contracting HIV/AIDS is a death sentence, despite medical advances that have made it a manageable chronic disease that cannot be transmitted if someone has an undetectable viral load. In Canada, failure to disclose one’s HIV status to a sexual partner is prosecuted as aggravated sexual assault. Since 1989, about 180 Canadians have been prosecuted for exposure and nondisclosure.

Concordia researcher **Alexander McClelland**, PhD 17, one of the high-achieving students in the Public Scholars program, aims to change that. “For the last few years I have been interviewing people living with HIV who have been charged with aggravated sexual assault, registered as sex offenders and incarcerated for long periods of time,”

McClelland says. “Many Canadians think these people deserve the negative punishment they get, and I want us to challenge and reconsider that.”

According to McClelland, Canada is a “hotspot” for criminalizing people living with HIV. “We are a world leader, up there with the United States and Russia,” he says. “Many global experts around the world — including at the United Nations — are calling on countries to change this approach.”

McClelland adds that in the majority of cases in Canada, HIV is not transmitted. Still, just the act of non-disclosure constitutes a sexual offense. “People think others are trying to maliciously spread HIV when none of that is actually happening,” McClelland explains. “These people are not perpetrators — they are being victimized by the law.”

In his doctoral research, McClelland discovered that some of the 16 people he interviewed were violently assaulted by prison guards and inmates while they were in jail. After they were

released from prison, many were unable to secure jobs or housing because their names were in the media, even when charges were dropped.

McClelland points out that HIV criminalization can also have adverse and unforeseen consequences. “It’s preventing people from getting tested for HIV and talking with their doctors,” he says. “In other words, Canada’s criminal justice system is impeding public health and also damaging people’s lives. I want to publish my research as a book to further effect change and continue talking about this issue at conferences.”

McClelland salutes Concordia for supporting research that other institutions might not take on. He notes that the university has been very supportive of his research, especially since it is important to protect his interviewees and not get his work subpoenaed by the courts.

As a member of the LGBTQ community, McClelland has long been attuned to the issue of HIV criminalization. However, just as HIV/AIDS was never a “gay plague,” HIV criminalization also affects heterosexual people.

“Most of the cases in Canada involve straight sex — it disproportionately impacts Black straight men and the majority of the people I interviewed were straight men and women,” he says. “But I come to my work through the radical slant that is rooted in my queerness.”

—Richard Burnett, BA 88



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ALEXANDER MCCLELLAND'S GRADUATE RESEARCH INCLUDES INTERVIEWING PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT.

“People think others are trying to maliciously spread HIV when none of that is actually happening.”



PUBLIC SCHOLAR LEANNE KEDDIE IS A PHD CANDIDATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS. SHE HOLDS AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN BUSINESS FROM MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND AN MBA FROM MCMASTER UNIVERSITY IN ONTARIO.

A PASSION FOR SUSTAINABLE ACCOUNTING

As a chartered professional accountant and PhD candidate in business administration at the John Molson School of Business, **Leanne Keddie** would like investors of all kinds to know it's OK to expect to come out ahead on their investments — and yet to remind companies to be socially responsible.

"We're all shareholders, and that's one thing that people forget," explains Keddie, one of Concordia's Public Scholars. "If you have a mutual fund, a pension plan, savings or investments of some sort, you're invested in what these companies are doing — and you have a voice."

Her PhD research follows that route. "I investigate why companies use sustainability goals in executive compensation packages and what impact these incentives have on a firm's sustainability performance," she says.

Keddie focuses on sustainability incentives; that is, whether companies' leaders are implementing the sustainability policies because they truly want to make a difference or if it's just another way for them to keep earning their bonuses.

"Well, sure I want to make money. I need to save for retirement. But I don't want to do that at the expense of the air that I breathe. I want companies to be responsible."

"Executives are at the top of the food chain," she says. "They drive the rest of the company and set the tone, and I think it's potentially a good thing if these goals affect a company's behaviour and make it more environmentally responsible. That's what I'm hoping to find out with my research."

The mother of four young children seems to have boundless energy when she talks about a field that traditionally has a more subdued public image. "I really love my work," she says. "I feel that what we're doing can have a positive impact."

PUBLIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM RAVES

Keddie has nothing but glowing reviews about the Public Scholars program. "The experience has been phenomenal," she says. "We received training on writing op-eds and blogs, we're holding public talks, and all through the process we're being given the opportunity and training to communicate our message more clearly and explain it in a way that hopefully makes other people excited about what we're doing. The program and the training itself have been invaluable, not only for my PhD, but going forward in my career."

Her enthusiasm extends past the program. "My experience at Concordia has been incredible," Keddie says. "The amount of support I've received from my supervisors, my committee members, colleagues and other faculty, it really, truly has been mind-blowing. They want you to succeed, and they're so giving of their time and their energy."

This past March, Keddie joined nine other Public Scholars at the program's Truth & Consequences talk. In five minutes, she elaborated on her thesis, explaining what truth she was seeking and what consequences her research could have.

"I tried to put into fairly straightforward terms what I'm examining and what that means for all of us," Keddie says. "The misconception people often have is that shareholders only want to make money. Well, sure I want to make money. I need to save for retirement. But I don't want to do that at the expense of the air that I breathe or the water I'm drinking. I want companies to be responsible. They need to be profitable, but we need to also make sure companies are taking society and the environment into account when they're making their business decisions. It's in their own self-interest to do so."

—Toula Drimonis, BA 03

“[The Public Scholars are] able to see what else is going on in the university, and that makes you value fields that you wouldn’t have thought of appreciating in the past.”

THIS WON'T HURT A BIT

Growing up in Montreal’s east end, **Rocco Portaro**, BEng 11, MASc 13, says he was always drawn to the sciences. Yet he didn’t realize how close his relationship with Concordia would become when he first enrolled at the university in 2007.

Unlike most scholars, who tend to change schools when pursuing one of their postgraduate degrees, Portaro stayed at Concordia after completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees in mechanical engineering. He is now looking to complete his PhD by the end of the summer.

“If it wasn’t broken, why fix it?” Portaro says of his academic path. He notes that the facilities he was using, the research he was pursuing and the supervisor he was studying under — Hoi Dick Ng, professor of mechanical, industrial and aerospace engineering — were all first-rate, so he didn’t feel the need to look elsewhere to complete his studies.

Portaro’s research centres on fluid dynamics and manufacturing, with a focus on biomedical engineering. In particular, he is developing a needle-free injection system of drug delivery — think of Dr. Leonard “Bones” McCoy’s tools in *Star Trek*, with the “pssst” sound and pain-free expressions on patients’ faces.

Needle-free injection basically involves compressing liquid into a tiny jet and expelling it through a minuscule orifice at extremely high speed. Typically, the orifice is 50 to 150 microns in diameter — a micron is a millionth of a metre — and the liquid is travelling at 200 metres per second. Portaro says injecting one millilitre of fluid takes about five milliseconds.

The upside of needle-free injections are safety, savings — no more paying for one-use needles or their disposal — and allaying patients’ fear of needles. He hopes to eventually work with larger volumes and inject livestock like cattle or poultry.

As if his research wasn’t keeping him busy enough, Portaro also founded an engineering firm that specializes in industrial automation and taught a class on numerical methods for engineers at Concordia in 2017. He hopes to one day join the faculty, with one foot in academia and the other in industry.

THE WORLD BEYOND THE LAB

As a member of the first cohort of Concordia’s Public Scholars, Portaro says he’s been exposed to life and research far removed from his own. “We’re able to see what else is going on in the university, and that makes you value fields that you wouldn’t have thought of appreciating in the past,” he says. “It’s always nice to meet new, hard-working people. They’re all extremely dynamic individuals.”

At the Public Scholars event in March, Portaro discussed his research in needle-free technology and the benefits it offers, while touching on the ways engineers can benefit medicine.

He describes his experience as a Public Scholar as educational, demanding and exhilarating. “There’s been no one to base this off of,” he says. “But I feel pretty special in that I get to be part of the first group, so we get to set the trend for everyone else to come.”

—Patrick Lejtenyi, *GrDip 99*



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ROCCO PORTARO'S RESEARCH FOCUSES ON DEVELOPING A NEEDLE-FREE INJECTION SYSTEM OF DRUG DELIVERY.

STORIES MATTER

“Everybody has a story,” says **Lisa Ndejuru**. “Sharing our personal narratives with others, and learning to ‘play’ with them can be a powerful way to move forward in the aftermath of trauma, loss and displacement.”

Ndejuru’s own story has been fertile ground for exploration. Born in Rwanda to a family who then spent 10 years in Germany to escape anti-Tutsi organized violence, she has called Montreal home ever since arriving in Canada in the early 1980s. Her life changed in 1990 when she visited relatives living under grim refugee-camp conditions in neighbouring Uganda. That was just a few months before the outbreak of the three-and-a-half-year-long Rwandan civil war, followed by the 100-day genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis in 1994.

Soon after, Ndejuru realized she had to find a way to address the heartache and confusion familiar to generations of Rwandans in Africa and abroad. She abandoned a career in advertising, retrained as a licensed psychotherapist and then was drawn to community activism and dialogue, particularly via arts-based storytelling, creative play and improvisational theatre.

In 2005 she was invited to become a volunteer community researcher with Montreal Life Stories, a landmark community-university oral history research project based at Concordia’s Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling.

That project ran until 2012, recording the memories of hundreds of Montrealers who survived war, genocide, other human rights abuses and displacement.

“I discovered the incredible power of personal narratives, especially when those stories are amplified and focused through simple arts-based techniques drawn from theatre, creative writing and relational art,” she says, “Generative ‘play’ with stories of colonization, violence and loss can often do what can’t be done through conventional psychotherapy and other medicalized or professionalized approaches.”

In 2011, Ndejuru enrolled in Concordia’s individualized PhD program and immersed herself in advanced studies, building on her Montreal Life Stories activities.

Ndejuru has observed a widespread reluctance to discuss traumatic histories of organized violence for fear of re-traumatizing survivors and transmitting pain to successive generations. “I grew up with silences,” she says. “There were many things we simply didn’t talk about in my family and community. But my research among several post-genocide communities, together with my personal trajectory as a young adult, show the value of doing the opposite — of *not* remaining silent about past horrors.”

THE WORLD BEFORE BIRTH

Today her preoccupation is with combatting the very real legacy of unintentional intergenerational transmission of trauma. “My work

is about creating safe spaces and appropriate techniques for families and communities to explore the ways in which we’ve already been shaped by our own difficult stories,” she explains.

Ndejuru hopes to join the growing number of Rwandan-Canadian exiles participating in Rwanda’s development, and is helping to build Concordia-Rwanda links.

“Echoing the German philosopher Martin Heidegger, Canadian scholar Karen Meyer writes that ‘as human beings we belong to the world before birth,’” she says. “My elders called it *kuba*, *kubaho*, *kubana*—and this is the very foundation of ancient Rwandan philosophy. The lovely, rich image of ‘*kuba*’ passed on to me by my father is that of a fire, a vitality, something we must feed and care for.”

And, as she discussed at the March 2018 Public Scholars event, Ndejuru expects her future to be about keeping that fire alive. ■

—Patrick Lejtenyi, *GrDip 99*



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

LISA NDEJURU'S RESEARCH WEAVES TOGETHER ORAL HISTORY, COMMUNITY-ENGAGED THEATRE AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES.

“We can reconcile with our own stories and strengthen our capacity to reimagine a better future.”

A silhouette of a man in a long coat and hat walking hand-in-hand with a smaller child on a path. The path is a simple line that curves downwards towards the bottom right. The background is a light, textured gradient.

*ON THE
FRONT LINES
OF IMMIGRATION*

Concordia alumni have an impact in government and agencies dealing with immigration and refugees issues

The global refugee crisis has affected countries around the world. According to the latest numbers from the United Nations Refugee agency, there are nearly 22.5 million forcibly displaced people on the planet. In 2016, Canada responded by accepting 46,700 refugees, surpassing its previous record set in 1980.

Many of Canada's newest residents come from Syria, a country that has been engulfed in a violent civil war since 2011. And Canada is definitely an attractive destination for others from around the globe, especially given the recent public threats and statements out of United States – such as a possible travel ban and U.S.-Mexico border wall and questions about immigrants coming from certain countries who don't share American values.

Their resettlement of all immigrants is being aided thanks to the dedicated work of the Canadian public service, many of whom are proud Concordia alumni.



LEAH BORSA IS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF REFUGEE PROTECTION POLICY FOR IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA IN OTTAWA.

GLOBAL CITIZEN

As the assistant director of refugee protection policy for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada in Ottawa, **Leah Borsa**, MA (PPPA) 98, manages a policy team that handles refugee-related issues.

Working for the government has provided the challenging and intellectually stimulating career Borsa always wanted. "I'm driven by learning, not money," she explains. "And for me, my work feels like doing a PhD in real time. That's what I love most."

Currently, her team is working on a United Nations initiative that will seek to address the global refugee crisis. The international agreement — known as the Global Compact on Refugees — will set out guidelines for how to handle refugee related-issues like asylum, resettlement and integration. "It is one of the most exciting things I have worked on over my career," she says.

Prior to joining Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Borsa spent six years with Canada's Human Rights Commission, where she helped develop international human rights policy.

COLLABORATIVE WORK

Borsa's career has taken her to New York City, Geneva, Switzerland and "maybe 10 other countries." Nonetheless, when speaking about her achievements she's careful to underline that importance of coordination with a team. "Any good bureaucrat will tell you they don't do anything alone," she explains. "It's all about collaboration."

Borsa can trace her interest in global affairs to a young age. "I've always had a broader perspective and have been curious about the world," she says. "I like the idea of being a global citizen and contributing to the global good in a positive way."

As an undergraduate student in economics at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, she thought that a career in international law would be her ticket. However, a professor suggested Concordia's Master in Public Policy and Public Administration degree as a "more pragmatic" option. The program blends an academic focus and work experience. It is designed for people who want to make a difference in the world. The program is also an excellent bridge to government — many of its alumni head into public service.

During her studies, Borsa took a class on alternative dispute resolution. The methods, she explains, were rooted in Indigenous philosophies and helped shape her future work with the Human Rights Commission. Other aspects of the program — like international relations theory and how to evaluate programs — help her in her current role.

Working on refugee-related issues feels particularly important now to Borsa, at a time when the rhetoric around refugees is charged and some countries are opposing the entrance of any asylum seekers. "Canada has had a longstanding human rights tradition of responding to the needs of the most vulnerable," she says. "It's one of our values."

—Joel Bard

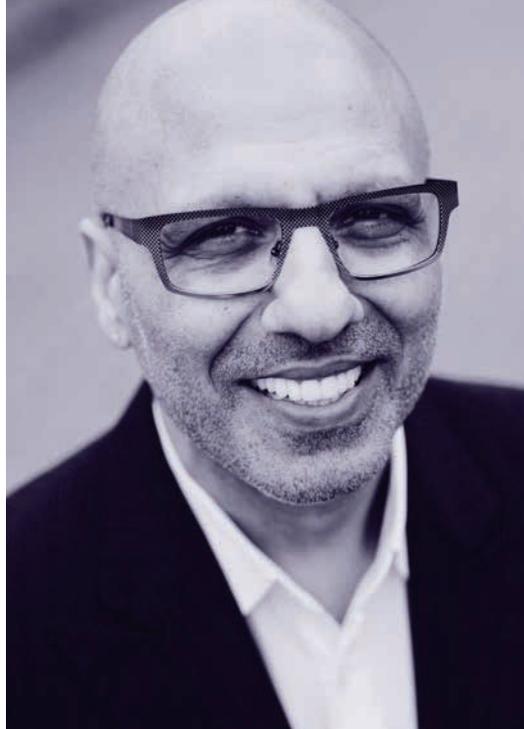
IMPARTING CANADA'S VALUES

When **Himmat Shinhat**, BComm '80, moved to Canada from England in the late 1970s, he felt a sense of disappointment. Montreal, in his experience as a member of a visible minority, was years behind England regarding multiculturalism and integration.

Eventually Shinhat found his way to a place where things seemed different — Concordia. There, Shinhat found a “network of South Asian friends” and a “very progressive” student body and faculty that gave him the sense of belonging he longed for. “There was a lot more attention paid to being inclusive with respect to racial and class diversity,” he says. The university was also a hotbed of progressive politics, which resonated with him.

Shinhat soon fell in love with studying marketing, and developed a special appreciation for his former professor Donald R. Emery. Shinhat says the long-time Concordia faculty member in what is now the John Molson School of Business was “way ahead of the curve” when it came to understanding cultural shifts that were taking place. “I felt he was a role model for me. He was constantly reinforcing you, telling you your identity is legitimate and to be who you are.”

“[Professor Emery] was a role model for me. He was constantly reinforcing you, telling you your identity is legitimate and to be who you are.”



AFTER A LONG CAREER WITH IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA, IN 2016 HIMMAT SHINHAT BEGAN WORKING WITH SYRIAN REFUGEES AS DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH FOR THE SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT INITIATIVE IN OTTAWA, HIS LAST STOP BEFORE RETIRING IN 2017.

POLICY ADVISOR

After graduating, Shinhat began working with a South Asian advocacy organization. Quickly rising through the ranks, within four years he was named the organization’s executive director. In the 1980s, he was recruited by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (now Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada).

As an immigration officer, Shinhat used his communication and interpersonal skills to deal with a wide range of people. He developed a framework for the assessment of business immigrants, based on the knowledge he had acquired through his studies at Concordia. The model was subsequently shared across the department.

Over the years, Shinhat advanced through the department, eventually becoming a senior policy advisor and later holding a series of senior executive positions as a policy director in areas such as refugee protection, citizenship and multiculturalism. As a policy advisor, he worked on initiatives aimed at protecting the human rights of immigrants. One example was the development of a system for immigration officers to assess the relative safety of a given country. The system, known as the Pre-Removal Risk Assessment, is used to ensure that asylum people without legal status in Canada, including those whose

refugee claims have not been accepted, are not sent into harm’s way.

Shinhat has also worked passionately to make the public service more tolerant and understanding of LGBTQ issues and people. He was the chair of the Positive Space Network at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. This initiative seeks to build understanding and support the inclusion of LGBTQ staff. He estimates he has trained more than 50 positive-space ambassadors. “The ultimate goal is to make sure the workplace is safe, inclusive and respectful,” says Shinhat.

In 2016, Shinhat switched gears and began working with Syrian refugees. As director of Outreach for the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Initiative in Ottawa, he played a key role in coordinating goodwill donations and offers of assistance to refugees — which aligned with his values and his experience in the area of refugee protection.

“I wanted to do something exciting for my transition towards retirement,” explains Shinhat, who retired in 2017. Witnessing Canadians’ openness and generosity towards Syrian refugees, Shinhat says, has been “incredibly inspiring. Refugee issues are related to fundamental human rights and social-justice issues. I felt that it was important to get involved.”

—Joel Bard

VITAL LIAISON

iving in Montreal was always a dream for **Ryan Johnson**, BA (poli. sci.) 03. The city's dynamism and multiculturalism seemed a world away from the prairie town of Brandon, Man., he grew up in.

In 1999 he made the move, and enrolled at Concordia as a mature student. The experience changed his life. "Going to Concordia opened up my eyes to so many things with respect to different cultures and different types of people," Johnson says. "Being exposed to so many cultures really enriches your sense of self. It truly opens up your mind and broadens your perspective."

Johnson credits his time at the university with something that is rarely talked about in conversations about higher education. Concordia, he explains, helped him develop "cultural sensitivity" — a skill that he feels has played a vital role in his success in the public service.

After earning a degree in political science in 2003, Johnson wrote a set of government entrance exams aimed at recent university graduates. Thanks to

his strong performance, he was eventually offered a job as an immigration officer in Kelowna, B.C. The job, he soon found, matched his interests and education. "I like and understand operations, and that is why I was well suited to the position," Johnson says.

He soon moved up the professional ladder, landing a managerial position overseeing other officers. Since 2015, he has worked as a learning advisor for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada in Vancouver. He serves as a liaison between immigration officers and course developers to ensure that the officers are up to date in their training and that their training reflects current laws. "Legislation is changing all the time," explains Johnson. "We have to make sure we're updating courses and content to reflect it."

STRONG TRAINING

The job brings him a tremendous sense of pride. "I think I'm an integral component of the division," Johnson says. "Without learning and training projects, staff wouldn't be able to do their job, which is to ensure the safety and security of Canadians."

Johnson's work requires first-rate communication skills and an ability to work well with multiple stakeholders. He credits that ability to write clearly and efficiently — developed at Concordia — with helping him thrive. "We had a million papers to write!" he recalls of his courses. "I used to really hate writing essays — but in hindsight, I'm happy we had the opportunity to, because I think my written communication skills are what got me to where I'm at."

Public service has given Johnson plenty of opportunities to learn and improve. Over the years, he has participated in numerous training programs. The most memorable was a two-week introduction to Kaizen, a Japanese method for improving operational systems.

After finishing the course, he was able to cut out inefficiencies in his division, streamlining processes that had been in place for years. His efforts had a significant impact on improving operations, and he is proud to have been a part of implementing them. "What came out of it was absolutely amazing," says Johnson.

—Joel Bard



"Going to Concordia opened up my eyes to so many things. Being exposed to so many cultures really enriches your sense of self and broadens your perspective."

AS A LEARNING ADVISOR FOR IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA IN VANCOUVER, RYAN JOHNSON SERVES AS A LIAISON BETWEEN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND COURSE DEVELOPERS.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Helene Panagakos, BA (trans.) 92, attributes in part her career success with the Government of Canada’s Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Department to her aptitude in mastering both official languages. She, in turn, owes that to Concordia.

“I think that coming out of university proficient in each official language — both in my written and my oral skills — allowed me to compete for management and senior management positions in the past 20 years, as this is a prerequisite in the federal public service,” she says. “I can honestly say that was because of the program I did at Concordia.”

Panagakos, who has been with the department since 1998, first worked with the Immigration and Refugee Board as a decision-maker. She is now director for the Citizenship and Passport Cases Division of the Case Management Branch.

“The core of my responsibilities involves dealing with highly contentious, sensitive and high-profile cases that pertain to citizenship and passports,” Panagakos explains. She adds that most of her division’s work revolves around revoking citizenship from people who have acquired it through fraud or misrepresentation, as well as rendering decisions on discretionary grants of citizenship.

“In my day-to-day routine, I prepare documentation and reports for either senior-level or ministerial briefings and reviews. I develop strategic analysis and provide guidance and advice to support the minister [Ahmed Hussen, minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship] in very specific and often contentious files,” she says.

“The [translation] program allowed me to excel in my writing and communication skills, key skill sets for a lot of the positions I’ve held throughout my career.”



HELENE PANAGAKOS, WHO HAS BEEN WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA SINCE 1998, FIRST WORKED WITH THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD AND IS NOW DIRECTOR FOR THE CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORT CASES DIVISION OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT BRANCH.

A HAPPY AND PRODUCTIVE TIME AT CONCORDIA

Panagakos has fond memories of her alma mater, where she studied translation in Concordia’s Département d’études françaises. “Translation was a very demanding program” she says. “What I found amazing about the program is that it allowed me to excel in my writing and communication skills, while also developing excellent analytical skills. All those were key skill sets for a lot of the positions I’ve held throughout my career.”

Those competencies have also helped as her role changed over the years. Panagakos notes that her work has been influenced by legislative changes as well as amendments to the Citizenship Act.

“With respect to the humanitarian component of the department, that doesn’t necessarily affect our work on the citizenship front, but there are bills that pass that impact our work,” she says. “The Syrian refugee situation, for example, didn’t necessarily affect me and my division directly, although everybody in the department was asked to help out by giving up resources during that initiative.”

Panagakos says the best part of her job is making a difference in the lives of Canadians. “The government machinery is big and sometimes moves slowly. Yet at the end of the day, I feel tremendous gratification knowing that I make a difference in somebody’s life,” she says.

As the child of immigrant parents, she adds, “I feel blessed to be born here. From the outset of my career, my objective was always to make a difference and to be able to give back to this amazing country.” ■

—Toula Drimonis, BA 93

CONCORDIA'S SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, UNDER PRINCIPAL CHEDLY BELKHODJA, WILL OFFER A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AND MINOR IN IMMIGRATION STUDIES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2018.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



IMMIGRATION STUDIES MAKES ITS WAY TO CONCORDIA

Whether it's the Syrian refugee crisis or United States President Donald Trump's stances on immigration, such world-changing topics beg to be explored in the classroom as a means to better understand and improve societies near and far.

For Concordia students, it will be possible to tackle these types of subjects as of September 2018, as the School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA) will offer two new programs – a minor and a certificate in immigration studies.

The programs will introduce students to fundamental concepts, research and analysis in the politics, history, sociology, geography and anthropology of migration. Students will also gain knowledge about national and international immigration policies and how they shape public policies and practices in Quebec and Canada.

"Today, we are witnessing many global transformations in the world and migration is one of them," says Chedly Belkhodja, principal of the school. "Immigration, migration and diversity are major contemporary issues in Canada and Quebec. With growing mobility and debates around identities and cultural differences, we need to have a better understanding of these dynamics in order to build more welcoming and inclusive societies."

The certificate program can be beneficial for practitioners who would like to reinforce their practical experience with academic training, says Belkhodja. With this option, individuals interested in the field of immigration will have the opportunity to receive recognition in this domain without having to complete a full degree.

The minor, in comparison, is the ideal complement for students entering or enrolled in social science-focused programs such as anthropology, philosophy, political science, journalism, psychology or sociology.

'Concordia is truly a laboratory for diversity'

"Students will be exposed to an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to the field of immigration, which will enable them to better understand its complexity and many facets," says Belkhodja. "The SCPA offers a great setting because of its philosophy of teaching and learning through community engagement." He adds, "Concordia is truly a laboratory for diversity, situated in a dynamic city.

Diversity is something of a focal point in Belkhodja's day-to-day research activities. "My research focuses on questions of immigration in medium-sized cities, and in regions with low levels of immigration" he explains. "I'm also interested in discourses and representations of cultural diversity, religious diversity and ethnic diversity." He ultimately wants to understand the migratory process from the point of view of those immigrating, as well as understanding what immigration and diversity brings to the economic social and cultural vitality of official language minority communities.

Belkhodja says being at Concordia allows him to be part of larger networks of research. "For example, I am now a co-investigator in a SSHRC [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council] partnership grant called Migration in Resilience in Urban Center," he says. Belkhodja is working on two other SSHRC grants. The first has to do with an analysis of how Syrian refugees were welcomed and settled into Canada's smaller cities and towns. The second research topic has to do with the debate surrounding Muslim cemeteries in Quebec.

"Ultimately, I hope my research will be useful in bridging the cultural, religious and ethnic gaps that exist in communities," he says.

—Cristina Sanza, BA 17, and Tiffany Lafleur, BA 17

FINE ARTS-LED EFFORT ENABLES DISPLACED SYRIAN TO PURSUE HER ACADEMIC DREAMS

The start of a fall term signals the arrival of a large number of new Concordia students – excited by the experiences and challenges ahead. Lana is no exception. Her journey to Concordia, however, was.

Lana is a Syrian refugee who until mid-2016 had been living in Jordan for three years. The events that led to her arrival at Concordia that September started with a chance phone call the previous year by Rebecca Duclos, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts. “Within a month of starting in my role here at Concordia, I happened upon an email newsletter from the World University Service of Canada [WUSC],” says Duclos. “I had known about WUSC and their good work for some years. I decided to just cold call and see how Concordia could get involved.”

WUSC is an international development non-profit organization. Its student refugee program pairs young adults with Canadian post-secondary institutions that can sponsor their studies.

Duclos informed WUSC about her faculty’s wide range of programs in the visual, performing, cinematic, design and digital arts. “Within six weeks, they called back. They had identified a highly driven student with an ambition to pursue art therapy. Since Concordia is the premiere Canadian university to offer graduate degrees in creative arts therapies, we were the perfect place for Lana,” says Duclos.

A yen for creativity and helping others

WUSC picked out Lana. She, her mother and her brothers left Syria in 2013 when the escalation of conflict made life there too dangerous. They settled in neighbouring Jordan.

Lana’s determination allowed her to finish her bachelor’s degree in design for theatre at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Damascus despite many obstacles.

In Jordan, she shared her passion for art with children at the Zaatari refugee camp. There, she volunteered with nongovernmental organizations such as Mercy Corps and Save the Children, designing interactive theatre activities for girls and boys. In her application to WUSC, Lana wrote: “I dream of living in a country that celebrates art and embraces the creativity of the artist.”



SYRIAN REFUGEE LANA, CENTRE, ARRIVED IN MONTREAL FROM JORDAN IN SUMMER 2016 READY TO START AT CONCORDIA IN SEPTEMBER. GREETING HER WERE (FROM LEFT) MARINA POLOSA, FARIDA ABLA, SIMONE BERTRAND AND ANDREW WOODALL, CONCORDIA’S DEAN OF STUDENTS.

Once Lana and Concordia were paired by WUSC, significant work had to be undertaken in terms of logistics and funding. Perla Muyal, academic and retention counsellor for Student Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Fine Arts, worked extensively to facilitate Lana’s admission to Concordia.

To allow Lana to reach her dream of pursuing a master’s degree in Art Therapy at Concordia, she took intensive English courses through the university’s Centre for Continuing Education, in preparation for the Test of English as a Foreign Language, required for admission to a degree program. At the same time Lana took some prerequisite courses for art therapy, as an independent student.

While the Faculty of Fine Arts has taken the lead in sponsoring Lana’s arrival, several other important players stepped up to contribute in-kind support, including the Centre for Continuing Education, Residence Life and Hospitality Concordia.

To cover Lana’s remaining expenses – tuition, art supplies, books, living expenses and travel costs – the Faculty of Fine Arts received help from all Concordians and the wider community through the Faculty of Fine Arts Student Refugee Fund. “While we established this fund to address the immediate needs of Lana, we hope to raise additional funds that can go towards sponsoring a future refugee,” says Muyal. “In order for the university to continue a relationship with WUSC, we need to have available funds.”

“It’s important for us to model the responsiveness and generosity that we hope our students will embrace for the rest of their lives,” Duclos says. “President Alan Shepard and our chancellor, Jonathan Wener, have each made important commitments to the cause of Syrians. It’s a way of acknowledging that the world is facing a major refugee crisis and that universities must engage with the issue.”

–Luke Quin, BA 07

Remembering *The Paper* on its 50th anniversary

DANIEL BARTLETT, BA 08

Before *The Link* and *The Concordian* hit newsstands at Concordia, students at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions, turned to *The Georgian* for their campus news. In 1968, another option emerged for students when the Evening Students' Association began publishing a second student newspaper, *The Paper*.

With a staff of four listed on its first masthead, *The Paper* aimed to reflect the collectives interests of the Evening Students' Association and keep its members informed on university and association affairs. The inaugural editorial was highly critical of the university's cafeteria. "Do something about the

quality of the food that is served to us. It stinks," the editorial reads.

In 1969 *The Paper* featured extensive coverage of the Computer Centre Incident and its aftermath, as well as an interview with John Lennon and Yoko Ono during their stay at Montreal's Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

By 1973, the newspaper had grown, regularly publishing weekly issues eight to 20 pages long, including a sports section. *The Paper* was renamed *The Concordian* in May 1973, following the announcement that Sir George Williams University and Loyola College would merge to form Concordia. The publishers of *The Concordian* wrote a letter for its first issue that struck a hopeful chord for the new institution's future: "While it might be termed

premature to theorize in any form of unification, it does seem reasonable ot [sic] expect mature students with common goals and interests to come together for their mutual benefit."

The Concordian continued to print issues until 1975, when it dissolved due to financial concerns.

In 1983, *The Concordian* was revived when five journalism students — including long-time *Concordia University Magazine* editorial cartoonist Frederic Serre, BA 86 — decided to start a student publication that differed from the editorial policy and direction of *The Link*.

To read back issues of *The Paper*, visit concordia.ca/offices/archives/paper.

To learn more about the 50th anniversary reunion of *The Paper*, email melanie.gudgeon@concordia.ca.



Moving toward triple-crown accreditation

When Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc '86, was appointed as the first female dean of the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) in 2017, she had already been thinking about her vision for the faculty for a long time. Her priorities include increasing JMSB's visibility and enhancing its reputation internationally. One way in which she intends to do that is through additional accreditations.

Concordia's business school, the third largest in Canada, is currently accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. The goal of accreditation is to guarantee that programs have the curriculum, staff, resources and mechanisms for the continuous improvement necessary to provide an excellent business education. Last year, AACSB announced that JMSB's status will be maintained for another five years.

After beginning the process of applying for accreditation by the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) and the Association of MBAs, JMSB received word in December 2017 that its application for Affiliated Membership to the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) was approved.

"This is important news, as joining this global management development network marks the first required step towards our application for EQUIS accreditation, which is operated by EFMD," says Croteau. "We are now part of a worldwide network of 894 members in 88 countries, with whom we share many common values and goals: a respect for diversity, a commitment to promoting responsible management, a recognition of the value of strong ties to the business community and the sense that quality business education requires an international dimension."

Schools who hold all three accreditations are said to be "triple crown-accredited." Only 86 institutions in the world hold the distinction, and Croteau believes there's no reason why JMSB shouldn't be among them. "We have excellent programs, a wealth of talent and the drive to continuously improve," she says.



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1 WHILE PURSUING HIS MBA, TRENTON MILLER WAS THE STINGERS FOOTBALL TEAM'S QUARTERBACK AND WAS INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

2 THE CONCORDIA UNDERGRADUATE FINANCE STUDENT TEAM HEADED TO THE AMERICAS REGIONAL CHALLENGE OF THE CFA INSTITUTE RESEARCH CHALLENGE IN BOSTON IN MARCH: RICHARD YUAN, ALINA ISRAILIAN, MADELEINE SEDGEWICK AND MARCO TREMBLAY, WITH REENA ATANASIADIS, SENIOR LECTURER AND DIRECTOR OF JMSB'S KENNETH WOODS PROGRAM.

JMSB GRAD AND FORMER MVP QUARTERBACK TRENTON MILLER IS READY TO TAKE ON THE BUSINESS WORLD

Trenton Miller, MBA '17, knows a thing or two about hard work and success. In 2016, the quarterback led the Concordia Stingers football team to the playoffs. In 2015, he won the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec Most Valuable Player Award.

Last year, Miller graduated with an MBA from JMSB. He's now working in pharmaceutical sales in Tampa, Fla., and is about to open his second football academy.

'SPORTS TAUGHT ME TO GO BEYOND WHAT'S EXPECTED'

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Miller turned down a number of offers from other universities in the United States and Canada to come to Concordia. "I came up for a visit and instantly fell in love with the building and the program — everyone here was so welcoming," he says. "Studying in such a multicultural environment and meeting people from all over the world was a really great experience."

In addition to being a varsity athlete, Miller was involved in several extracurricular activities and experiential learning opportunities while at JMSB. "I participated in the MBA Community Service Initiative," he says. "It was an incredible experience where I got to work with Toe2Toe, a local organization whose goal is to provide adequate footwear to the homeless of Montreal."

An aspiring entrepreneur, Miller participated in JMSB's Dobson Practicum, which provides students with hands-on learning opportunities. He also helped launch a crowdfunding campaign for a local startup through the District 3 Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Concordia's innovation hub.

Last year, Miller started the Next Gen Quarterback Academy, which provides personalized training to young quarterbacks. "Sport has taught me the importance of discipline, being on time, working hard and going beyond what's expected of you," he says. "I think all of these things apply equally to being successful in business."

Likewise, Miller says the skills he developed in JMSB's classrooms are transferrable to the gridiron and to becoming a game-winning quarterback. "Everything I learned in my organizational behaviour classes translates directly to the football field," he says.

"You have to understand people's motivations and figure out how to talk to people in order to get them to do things they might not necessarily want to do. There are so many parallels between sports and entrepreneurship. In both cases, your work ethic determines your success. Everything you get, you have to earn."

JMSB STUDENTS AMONG 54 TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE AMERICAS IN REGIONAL CFA INSTITUTE RESEARCH CHALLENGE

A team of Concordia undergraduate finance students headed to Boston in March to show off their investment management know-how. They were competing in the Americas Regional Challenge, where they went up against students from 54 universities across the western hemisphere in a two-day test of skills, from equity research and valuation to investment report writing and presenting with poise.

Alina Israilian, Madeleine Sedgewick, Marco Tremblay and Richard Yuan already beat teams from Montreal in February to advance to the regional CFA Institute Research Challenge. "This event was a rigorous competition that really put our students' knowledge and ability to apply investment management principles to the test," says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the JMSB. "It pit them against some of the brightest young minds in finance, and to be among the 54 teams moving on to the regional challenge is an incredible accomplishment."

The annual global competition also provides university students with hands-on mentoring and intensive training in financial analysis.

Three of the four Concordia team members are students in the elite Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program. Established through a donation by alumnus Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, LLD 17, the program provides a select group of high-achieving JMSB students with hands-on training in investment management. In the program-within-a-program, students gain experience working with a real-life portfolio of over \$2 million.

Reena Atanasiadis is a senior lecturer and director of the Kenneth Woods program. She oversaw the team's planning and delivery. "I could not be prouder of these students and what they've accomplished," she says. ■

—Yuri Mytko



Interested in getting involved with organizing a class reunion or another Homecoming event?

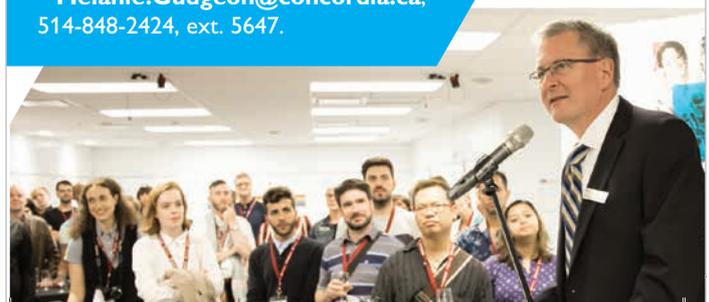
We're looking for class champions to help organize reunions for graduating classes from the following years:

- Loyola College: 1958 and earlier, 1968, 1973
- Sir George Williams University: all class years
- Concordia: 1993
- Masters of Business Administration (MBA) graduates: all class years
- Engineering alumni: all class years
- Computer Science alumni: all class years ending in "8" or "3"

We're also searching for volunteers for alumni gatherings for the following groups:

- *The Concordian*
- 1998 Concordia Stingers football team
- 1997-98 Concordia Stingers women's hockey team
- 1968 Loyola Warriors football team
- 1973 Loyola Warriors men's soccer team
- Celebration for long-time football coach Pete Regimbald
- Queer Homecoming

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Melanie Gudgeon, alumni officer for Homecoming, Reunions and Athletics:
Melanie.Gudgeon@concordia.ca,
 514-848-2424, ext. 5647.



For news on the full slate of recent and future Concordia Advancement and Alumni Relations events in Montreal, across Canada and the world over, visit concordia.ca/alumni.

To listen to podcasts or watch videos of Advancement and Alumni Relations events, please visit concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts and concordia.ca/alumni/videos.



DONOR AND STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATION

Montreal's Centre Mont-Royal was the site of the 2018 Donor and Student Awards Celebration, held March 22. Concordia President Alan Shepard welcomed donors and student award recipients to the special evening. The event included an engaging panel discussion on the impact of giving, featuring **Graham Carr**, Concordia's provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs; **Alan Shepard**; moderator **Mutsumi Takahashi**, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, chief news anchor at CTV Montreal News; award recipient **Keroles Riad**, BEng 13, PhD 16; **Christine Lengvari**, BSc 72, president and CEO of Lengvari Financial Inc.; and award recipient **Valerie Charles**. ¹

Others donors and student award winners at the event included: donors **Jean and Alexandra Amoiuny**, Jean Amoiuny Bursary, with recipient **Miles**

O'Donnell (centre); ² donors **Ellen Taylor and Joe Ricci**, BSc 77, Ricci Family Adopt-a-Student Bursary, with **Allison Moore** (centre), BFA 05, Hitting the High Notes fellowship; ³ recipients **Thuy Lien Diep**, CIBC Undergraduate Entrance Bursary, **Renissa Gholston-McDonald**, Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University Bursary, and **Jasmine Ramcharitar-Brown**, David Crevier Adopt-A-Student Entrance Bursary; ⁴ donor **Aaron Fish**, Aaron and Wally Fish Bursary in Mechanical Engineering; ⁵ recipients **Shawna Brayton** and **Kerri Delaney**, R. Howard Webster Foundation Doctoral Fellowship; ⁶ recipient **Marie-Pierre Labbe** and donor **Philippe Caignon**, la bourse d'excellence Marthe Catry-Verron; ⁷ donor **Mahesh Sharma**, Sandhya and Swati Sharma Memorial Scholarship/Uma and Mahesh Sharma Graduate Award; ⁸ recipients **Rachel Rubbo** and **Roby Simard**

with donor **Joan Berriman** (centre), GrDip 77, Normand Berriman Memorial Scholarship; ⁹ **Calvin Kalman** (centre), Concordia professor of physics, representing the Science College Provost Scholarship & Viktoria Von Grunau Memorial Scholarship; with donor **Suman Mukerji**, BComm 77, and recipient **Arielle Dascal**, Dr. Nishith Mukerji and Dr. Gyan Upreti Memorial Scholarship; ¹⁰ donor **Ava Shaikh** (second from right), BComm 88, with recipients **Pasia Kane** (left) and **Gilma Walfall** (right), Ava Shaikh Afro-Caribbean Award; ¹¹ donors **Karen Landrigan** and **Mark Jacobson**, BA 71, with recipient **Stephanie Côté** (centre), Samuel Jacobson and Goldie Schacter-Jacobson Award; ¹² recipients **Timur Abdiyev**, **Chesline Pierre-Paul** and **Graziella Frattolillo**, Professor Carmine Di Michele Scholarships. ¹³

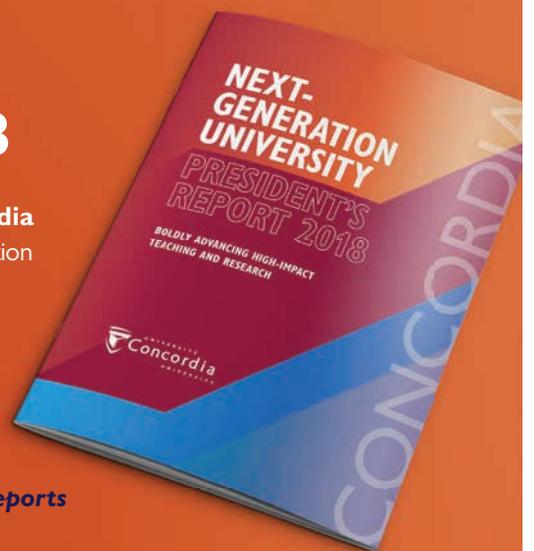


PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018

Learn about how Concordia is boldly advancing next-generation education through research breakthroughs, innovative programs, record fundraising and more.

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concordia.ca/publications-reports





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THINKING OUT LOUD

Concordia's Thinking Out Loud (TOL, concordia.ca/tol) live series of events continued in 2018. TOL connects big ideas and emerging research through lively talks featuring noted experts and Concordia researchers.

Former National Hockey League player **Sheldon Kennedy** presented the film *Swift Current*, which tells the story of his sexual abuse by his junior hockey coach. Kennedy was joined by **Sandi Curtis**, PhD 97 (right), professor of Music Therapy in Concordia's Department of Creative Arts Therapies. The event was moderated by **Elysia Bryan-Baynes**, anchor/reporter at Global Montreal, and held at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre on January 25, 2018. **1**

TOL/THIS IS CONCORDIA. NOW: MONTREAL

TOL partnered with the This is Concordia. Now series in Montreal.

Jeremy Clark, assistant professor at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering, talked Bitcoin and cryptocurrency at Concordia's York Theatre on February 22, 2018. CBC journalist **Sudha Krishnan**, BA 99, moderated a Q&A afterwards. **2**

Adam Radomsky, professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology and Research Chair in Anxiety and Related Disorders, shed light on misconceptions about anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder at the York Theatre on March 21, 2018. CTV reporter **Aphrodite Salas**, MA 99, moderated the lively discussion and Q&A. **3**

THIS IS CONCORDIA. NOW

Concordia President Alan Shepard visited select cities with the regional lecture series: This is Concordia. Now. He was joined by researchers who presented their innovative work and shared Concordia's vision as Canada's next-generation university.

At the American Bookbinders Museum in San Francisco on January 30, **Alan Shepard** (right) was accompanied by **Bram Freedman**, vice-president of Advancement and External Relations, and **Natalie Phillips**, **4** professor in Department of Psychology, who discussed her brain research to better understand age-related diseases.

Stephen Campanelli, BFA 83, and **Nastaran Dibai**, BA 83, **5** were among the guests who heard Natalie Phillips at the This is Concordia. Now event at the Official Residence of Canada in Los Angeles on January 31.



Steve Shih, ⁶ assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was the featured researcher as This is Concordia. Now visited the InterDigital Townhouse in Washington, D.C., on March 12, and the Quebec Government Office in New York City on March 13. Shih described how research into microfluids is leading a revolution in medical diagnostics. Among those in attendance in New York City were **Paul Hunter**, MA 79, and **Nairn Friemann**, BA 77, MBA 85. ⁷

Dylan Fraser, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Biology, spoke at the This is Concordia. Now event at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on March 21, 2018. Fraser talked about his research, which focuses on how ecology, evolution and genetics interact to sustain biodiversity. At the event were **Sam Xie**, BComm 16, **Vanessa Peters**, MA 17, **Lyn Fong**, BA

03, and **Kim Fuller**, BFA 96, president of the Concordia University Alumni Association. ⁸

COMMUNICATION STUDIES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERIES

Don Carmody, BA 72 (right), spoke at the Communication Studies Distinguished Alumni Series at Concordia on April 5, 2018. Carmody discussed his role in producing more than 100 feature films, including Academy Award winners *Chicago* (2002) and *Good Will Hunting* (1997). Joining him were **Charles R. Acland**, Gr Dip 86, chair of the Department of Communication Studies, and *Montreal Gazette* reporter **Brendan Kelly**, MA 92. ⁹

MAX AND IRIS STERN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Adrienne Clarkson, LLD 04, ¹⁰ former Governor General of Canada, delivered the opening keynote lecture for the Leonard Cohen: Max and Iris Stern International Symposium at Concordia on April 6, 2018. The symposium brought together cultural historians and museum professionals to discuss the life and work of Cohen, as addressed in the recent exhibition "A Crack in Everything" at Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.



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STINGERS

Before the 2018 edition of the Corey Cup hockey tournament between the Stingers and the McGill Redmen, **D'Arcy Ryan**, BA 98, MA 03, EMBA 09, director of Concordia's Recreation and Athletics, and Stingers coaches joined alumni for a meet-and-greet reception at the Ed Meagher Arena on February 9, 2018. Ryan is pictured with Stingers head coach **Marc-André Élement**, BA 11, and women's rugby head coach **Graeme McGravie**. 11

At the second annual Soccer Awards Gala, held at Montreal's La Plaza on

March 3, alumni and guests celebrated the success of the women and men's soccer teams. Among those present were women's head coach **Jorge Sanchez**, BA 90, and player **Imane Chebel** 12, and men's head coach **Greg Sutton** with **Kris Freud**, BFA 80, and **Jim Corsi**, BEng 76. 13

Past Stingers and other guests celebrated the success of the 2017-18 Stingers men's and women's basketball teams at La Plaza in Montreal on March 23. Pictured are former Stingers all-stars **Gaetan Prosper**, BA 96, and **Guyline Blanchette**, BA 91. 14

ALL-CANADIAN ALUMNI NETWORKING

Concordia was among 12 universities represented by alumni at the All-Canadian Alumni Networking event held December 2, 2017, in Paris. Isabelle Hudon, LLD 17, the Canadian Ambassador to France, was the special guest. Hudon spoke about her recent honorary doctorate from Concordia and how the university holds a special place in her heart. Pictured are **Frédérique Bouchard**, BComm 16, **Lambert Leduc**, BA 14, **Florence Le**, BComm 15. 15. Stephanie Coutu, MBA 06, and Alexandre Myard, BA 11, also attended.



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- Enjoy exciting programs and activities
- Take advantage of special benefits and savings

Find out more: concordia.ca/alumni



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

momentum 2018

DONOR AND STUDENT AWARDS NEWSLETTER

Learn about outstanding student scholarship recipients and those who fund their transformative awards.

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concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications



Alumni with more than one degree from Concordia, Sir George Williams and/or Loyola are listed under their earliest graduation year.

71 Natalie Chapman, BA, MA (ed. studies) 98, received the Solidaires Award from Centraide of Greater Montreal in February 2018. Natalie is the retired executive director of WIAIH: for people with an intellectual disability or autism.

79 Agnès Gruda, a reporter at *La Presse*, BA, was nominated for a 2018 National Newspaper Award in the Investigations category. Agnès and a team of reporters were selected for "Le Montréal sans-papiers," an in-depth look at the lives of refugees and their families who try to survive in Montreal without legal status. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Toronto on May 4.

80 Ali Arlani, BEng, PhD 86, was recently named CEO and registrar of the

Condominium Management Regulatory Authority of Ontario in Toronto.

81 Marie-Geneviève Mounier, BFA, was appointed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as associate secretary to the Governor General in February 2018.

82 Ingrid Peritz, BA, a journalist at the *Globe and Mail*, was nominated for a 2018 National Newspaper Award in the Short Feature category. Ingrid's feature

recounted the devastating experience of a man who survived the mosque shootings in Quebec City in January 2017.

35TH REUNION

83 Stephen Campanelli, BFA, directed the recently released film *Indian Horse*, based on the 2012 novel by the late Ojibway writer Richard Wagamese. The film, which helps dramatize Canada's First Nations history, follows the life of Canadian Indigenous



boy Saul Indian Horse as he survives residential school and racism in the 1970s. Stephen has worked as camera operator for nearly 25 years for Clint Eastwood, who was an executive producer on *Indian Horse*.

86 Carmelina Borsellino, BEng (building eng.), was appointed vice president, chief engineer, for commercial and industrial property insurer FM in Montreal in February 2018. Carmelina has worked for FM Global since 1986.

87 Stéphane Achard, BComm, MBA 94, was recently appointed as executive vice-president for Montreal-based National Bank. Stéphane was previously senior vice president – commercial banking, Canada and international for National Bank.

90 Tania Clarke, BComm, GrDip 91, became senior vice president and chief financial officer for Montreal-based Look Vision Group Inc. in February 2018. Tania has 20 years of experience working in the private and public sectors.

Antoine Fournier, BSc (geology), was appointed as vice president of exploration for Enforcer Gold Corporation in January 2018. Enforcer Gold's exploration is based in the region of Abitibi, Que. Antoine has more than 25 years' exploration experience.

Max Wallace, BA (journ.), was one of five finalists for the 17th RBC Taylor Prize in January 2018. Max's book *In the Name of Humanity* reveals how a Swiss Jewish rescue committee fooled Nazi SS Chief Heinrich Himmler into ordering the destruction of the Auschwitz gas chambers in late 1944, which saved as many as 300,000 Jews.

92 Marco Lopez, BEng, began as CEO of ChyronHego in January 2018. Lopez's experience with video production, technology and the broadcasting industry makes him well suited for the role at the Melville, N.Y.-based graphics producer.

25TH REUNION

93 Valerie Lamontagne, BFA, MFA 01, PhD (fine arts) 17, was recently appointed as professor of the Fashion Research and Technology research group at the Amsterdam Fashion Institute in the Netherlands. Valerie will be responsible for researching "fashiontech technologies that can be applied to the current material and social landscapes of fashion use, fabrication and aesthetic." Her professorship is affiliated to the institute's Faculty of Digital Media and Creative Industries.

94 Alan Simoneau, BA (anthro.), was nominated as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals of 2018. Alan is principal of Lake of Two Mountains High School in Deux-Montagnes, Que.

Leigh Ann Taylor, BA, holds a Special Bachelor of Social Work from McGill University. "I'm a part-time social worker at Info-Social and also an actress – stage, film, TV and voice. I'm

currently cast in a Canadian play that had its Montreal premiere at the MainLine Theatre in April 2018. *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble* deals with Alzheimer's disease and assisted suicide. In November 2017 I was also in a play called *Late Company*, which dealt with teen bullying and homophobia."

95 Angélique Bernard, BA (traduction), was appointed Commissioner of Yukon by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in March 2018. Angélique has been a long-time advocate for women's rights and francophone rights in the Yukon.

99 Stacey Tenenbaum, BA, is a Montreal filmmaker. Her new documentary, *Shiners*, offers insight into those who pursue a career largely taken for granted or ignored: shoe shiners. The film touches upon social and cultural issues. *Shiners* aired on the Documentary Channel in February 2018.

1 Heather Dubreuil, BFA 74, is participating in the group exhibit, "De Musei Fabrica: Cloth and Stitch Inspired by the Maude Abbott Medical Museum," at the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University from May 17 to June 15, 2018. heatherdubreuil.com
1) *Under the Knife: What Lies Beneath*

2 Diane Collet, BFA 76, MA 03, exhibited at the International Paper Art Biennial 2018 at the Den Breughel Centre in Haacht, Belgium, from February 24 to March 4, 2018. dianecollet.com 2) *Napoleon Come Apart*

3 Reine Goodrow, BA 76, exhibited at the 4th International Biennial of the Pastel Society of Spain from February 23 to March 11, 2018. reine-goodrow.ca 3) *Gnarly Nature*

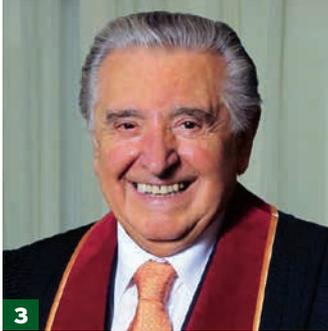
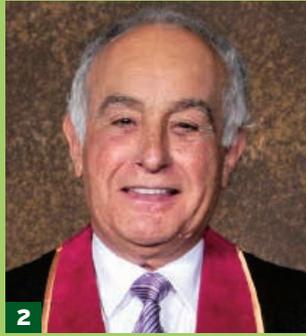
4 Ann McCall, BFA 78, participated in a trio exhibition, "De la société des animaux," at Espace Lafontaine in Montreal from February 28 to March 26, 2018. 4) *Hurlleur*

5 Loren Williams, BFA 96, held an exhibit of her art, "Materia Medica," at the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University from December 13, 2017, to May 4, 2018. The art followed the theme of Montreal's medical history. lorenwilliams.com
7) *Whites Physiological Manikin*

6 Nicoletta Pasquino, BFA 98, is exhibiting her work at "Shatter... reclaiming the representation of women in fashion," at the Trestler House in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Que., until June 3, 2018. "Nicoletta Pasquino demythologizes fashion by situating feminine beauty within the context of everyday women," says Norman Cornett, professor in the School of Art at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. 8) *Valentine Red*

7 Patricia Morris, MFA 84, exhibited at the Artist Project / Contemporary Art Fair at the Better Living Centre in Toronto from February 22 to 25, 2018. patricia-morris.net
5) *New Brunswick Autumn Drive*

8 Susan Shulman-Garfield, BFA 96, contributed to two group benefit art exhibitions at Atelier d'Art Métèque in Montreal, "Câline de blues," from January 15 to February 4, and "For the Birds," from March 22 to April 15, 2018. susanshulman.com
6) *Birds on a Wire Leonard Cohen*



Gaëtane Verna, BComm 89, **1** is director of the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto. Gaëtane was awarded the prestigious Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Canada in January. She has been director of the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Canada's leading non-collecting public art gallery dedicated to contemporary visual art and the world, since 2012. L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres recognizes eminent artists and writers, as well as people who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world.

Aldo Bensadoun, LLD 12, **2** founder and executive chairman of the ALDO Group. **Lino Saputo**, LLD 15, **3** founder and chairman of Saputo, Inc., and **Lise Watier**, LLD 17, **4** founder of Lise Watier Cosmetics, were recently recognized as the first honourees of Cercle des grands entrepreneurs du Quebec. The distinction is awarded to outstanding entrepreneurs whose achievements, ideals and commitment have contributed to the dynamism and influence of entrepreneurship and economic development in Quebec.

Lise Watier is also the recipient of the 2018 Beta Gamma Sigma Entrepreneurial achievement award. The Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Business Honor Society, established the award to recognize individuals and firms who contribute significantly to the vitality and strength of the economy, combining innovative business achievement with service to humanity.

00 Christopher Benk, BComm (acct.), recently became VP finance and chief financial officer for Leonovus Inc. Christopher has more than 17 years of finance experience. Leonovus is a software solutions provider based in Ottawa.

02 Barry Steinman, BComm, was promoted to partner at law firm Duane Morris LLP in Philadelphia, Penn. Duane Morris has 800 attorneys in offices across the United States and internationally. Barry is in the Corporate Practice Group. He is a 2007 graduate of Cornell Law School in Ithaca, N.Y.

04 Mathieu Lendick, BComm (acct.), was recently named a partner at the accounting firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thompson in Montreal.

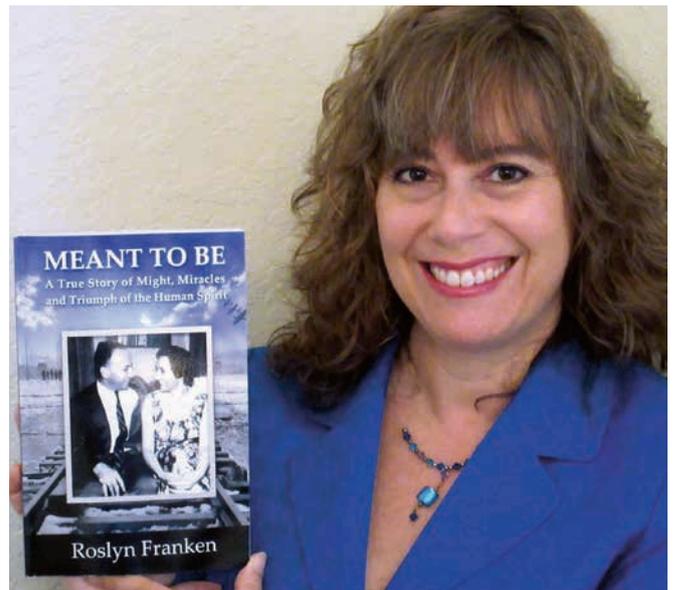
05 Noah Boudreau, BA (journ. & poli. sci.), became a partner at international law firm Fasken in January 2018. Noah's area is

litigation and dispute resolution at Fasken's Montreal office.

Sudhir Jha, MEng (civil), received an Engineers Canada Fellowship in March 2018. Sudhir is a manager for Municipal and Community Affairs for the Government of Northwest Territories in Yellowknife. The fellowship honours noteworthy service to the engineering profession.

06 Michael "Mickey" Donovan, BA (leisure studies), was named special teams coordinator for the Montreal Alouettes football team in January 2018. Mikey coached the Stingers football team from 2014 to 2017 and is also a former standout player.

Patrick Donovan, BA (leisure studies), was named interim head coach of the Concordia Stingers football team for the 2018 season, stepping in for his older brother Mickey Donovan. Patrick played five years for the Stingers.



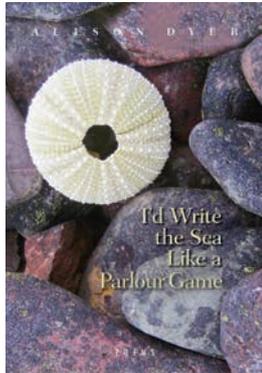
Roslyn Franken, BAdmin 90, MA 03, is the daughter of Holocaust and atomic bomb survivors. Roslyn delivered a presentation about her parents' remarkable life story at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in April 2018. She spoke to the class that was brutally attacked by the shooter on February 14, 2018. Roslyn recounts her parents' story in her book *Meant to Be: A True Story of Might, Miracles and Triumph of the Human Spirit*.

10TH REUNION

08 Lawrence Baer, MA (psych.), PhD (psych.) 14, is a clinical psychologist who specializes in cognitive-behavioural-therapy-for-psychosis service in the Complex Care and Recovery Program at Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto.

5TH REUNION

13 François-Olivier Thibault, BA (comm. studies), was recently appointed creative director at Republik, a Montreal-based digital brand editorial agency. François-Olivier is also completing his master's degree in communications from Université du Québec à Montréal.



I'd Write the Sea Like a Parlour Game (Breakwater Books), a book of poetry by **Alison Dyer**, BA 81, was shortlisted for the 2018 J.M. Abraham Poetry Award. The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia presents the annual award to the best book of poetry by an Atlantic Canadian. Alison is a writer and lives in St. John's, Nfld.



Justice Allan Hilton, BA 70, hosted a group of students from Concordia's Law and Society program at the Quebec Court of Appeal in Montreal on March 5. Allan also answered questions about his career path and the judicial system in Canada. After practicing law, he was appointed to the Quebec Superior Court in 1998 and was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 2003.



Thi Be Nguyen (left), BComm 98, was recently promoted to manager for the Office of the President and Philanthropy, at the Montreal-based National Bank. Thi Be is also the executive producer of *A Moonless Night: Boat people, 40 years later*, coproduced and directed by Marie-Hélène Panisset, BA 95. The film, which looks at the arrival of more than 60,000 Indochinese refugees to Canada in 1976, won the Impact Docs Award for best Documentary Feature film in 2017. The sequel, *Coming Home*, is scheduled to be released in November 2019. amoonlessnight.com




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Peter Munk, LLD 99, died in Toronto on March 28, 2018. He was 90. The Canadian entrepreneur and philanthropist founded Barrick Gold Corp. and built it into the world's largest gold-mining company.

Peter was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1927. He and his family, who were Jewish, fled the country when the Nazis invaded in 1944. He ultimately arrived in 1948 in Toronto, where he lived for most of the rest of his life. Peter earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Toronto in 1957. After launching other ventures, he founded Barrick Gold in 1983.

As one of Canada's most significant philanthropists, Peter donated nearly \$300 million to causes and institutions throughout his life. With his wife, Melanie, he established the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre at the Toronto General Hospital in 1997.

For his innovative leadership in philanthropy, Peter received many awards and honours, including an honorary degree from Concordia in 1999. In 2008, he was named a Companion of the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honour.



Fernand G. Peron, BSc 46, November 8, 2017, Cowansville, Que. He was 92.

Hugh F. Kerrin, BA 47, February 22, 2018, Victoria. He was 91.

David V. Dunbar, BA 49, December 28, 2017, Oakville, Ont. He was 93.

Jacques Tétrault, BA 51, November 11, 2017, Montreal. He was 89.

Michael Joseph Kraml, BSc 52, May 13, 2017, Princeton, N.J. He was 86.

John L. Liberman, BA 52, MBA 75, February 21, 2018, Ottawa. He was 90.

Eugene F. Hogan, BComm 53, BA 57, December 24, 2017, Mississauga, Ont. He was 84.

Stanley G. Muir, BSc 53, December 22, 2017, Georgetown, Ont.

Hugh J. Tolan, BA 53, December 10, 2017, Ottawa. He was 90.

John A. McKindsey, BA 55, January 31, 2018.

George Janus, BSc 56, February 15, 2018, Westmount, Que. He was 89.

N. Bruce Robson, BComm 56, August 13, 2017.

Bruce G. Hulley, BSc 57, November 12, 2017, Montreal. He was 90.

Alexander W. Bartlet, BComm 58, February 2, 2018, Montreal. He was 91.

Menashe Broder, BA 59, January 12, 2018, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Peter Gill, BSc 59, November 30, 2017, Ottawa. He was 85.

Myer Rosenbloom, BEng 60, November 6, 2017, Montreal.

Joseph Vien, BSc 62, January 3, 2018, Montreal. He was 88.

George Giannopoulos, BSc 63, 2017. He was 79.

David William Macdonald, BA 64, January 27, 2018, Calgary. He was 77.

Helena Rojek, BSc 64, October 27, 2017, Calgary. She was 93.

Ann H. Weinstein, BA 64, December 15, 2017, Westmount, Que. She was 94.

Penny Ann Trenholm-McCammon, BA 66, March 23, 2018, Nashville, Tenn. She was 74.

Wendy Martin, BA 67, July 21, 2017, Ottawa. She was 76.

Phillip David Aronoff, BA 68, December 18, 2017, Montreal.

Shirley L. Edwards, BA 68, GrDip 78, December 27, 2017, Montreal. She was 85.

Felix Samuel Gordon Henry, BSc 68, February 14, 2018, Fla. He was 81.

Albert Saragossi, BComm 68, March 29, 2018, Montreal. He was 71.

Udo Schonberg, BComm 68, November 5, 2016, Maple, Ont.

Helmut G. Schroeter, BComm 68, January 9, 2018, Orleans, Ont. He was 86.

Florence E. Stevens, BA 68, MA 76, Montreal. She was 89.

Douglas Grant Bridge, BA 69, July 9, 2016, Toronto.

Brendan James Charlebois, BA 69, October 19, 2017, Syracuse, N.Y. He was 70.

Margaret B. Fleming, BA 69, March 2, 2018, Cambridge, Ont.

Irmela Schmidt, BA 69, December 17, 2017, Westmount, Que. She was 91.

Douglas James Crozier, BComm 70, March 15, 2018, Saint-Lazare, Que. He was 70.

Evelyn Hamovitch, BA 70, January 23, 2018.

Carl B. Jeffrey, BSc 70, February 28, 2018, Montreal. He was 69.

Barbara Joseph Blauer, BA 70, November 13, 2017, Montreal. She was 85.

Irene M. Long, BA 70, January 5, 2018, Brockville, Ont. She was 69.

Susan A. Mayka, BA 70, July 31, 2017, Kingston, Ont.

Alan Mirabelli, BA 70, December 20, 2017, Ottawa. He was 68.

Robert Turnbull, BSc 70, December 2, 2017, Kirkland, Que. He was 78.

Christopher J. Turner, BA 71, February 5, 2018, Sherbrooke, Que. He was 69.

Carl Orton Whittaker, BA 71, MA 75, November 10, 2017, Montreal. He was 79.

David Shaanan, BComm 72, January 5, 2018, Montreal, Que.

Johannes A. M. Van Schijndel, BEng 73, November 20, 2017, Montreal. He was 94.

Robert Burrs, BA 74,
July 30, 2017, Laval, Que.
He was 93.

Lillias Deevy, BA 74,
November 8, 2017, Bourget,
Ont. She was 91.

John Jezek, BComm
74, September 22, 2017,
Kirkland, Que. He was 65.

Khurram Zahir Syed, BEng
74, November 13, 2017,
Brossard, Que.

Catherine F. Craib, BA 75,
March 2018, Montreal.

Olivier A. Lajambe, BA 75,
January 24, 2018, Paris.
He was 93.

Henia Rosenzweig, BSc 75,
March 17, 2018, Montreal.
She was 92.

John A. G. Bloxham, BSc 76,
January 13, 2018, Edmonton.
He was 76.

Mishriky S. Guindi, MSc 76,
February 23, 2018, Montreal.
He was 80.

Robin C. Hanson, BA
76, November 6, 2017,
Mississauga, Ont.

Clara (Schwartz) Kaufman,
BA 76, March 30, 2018, Côte-
Saint-Luc, Que. She was 92.

Clifford W. McLay, BComm
76, November 26, 2017, Ajax,
Ont. He was 71.

Timothy Paul Walsh,
BComm 76, December 22,
2017, Pointe-Claire, Que.

Rosamond A. Gross, BA 77,
November 7, 2017, Ottawa.
She was 86.

Vilma Rirta Periera, BA 77,
November 16, 2017, Pointe-
Claire, Que. She was 84.

Marie Yee Ping, BA 77,
BComm 81, February 29,
2016, Montreal. She was 61.

Phyllis P. Valère, MSc 77,
January 2, 2018, Dollard-des-
Ormeaux, Que. She was 94.

Roger Martineau, GrDip 78,
December 17, 2017,
Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.
He was 85.

Barbara Permell, BFA 78,
March 2018, Montreal.

Freda Manus, BFA 79,
March 2, 2018, New York City.
She was 88.

Lorina Masciangelo-Cooney,
BA 80, December 1, 2017,
Montreal. She was 89.

Ruth Glenen, BA 80,
MBA 85, January 16, 2018,
Tsawwassen, B.C.
She was 60.

Giovanni Millin, BComm 80,
October 2, 2011, Laval, Que.
He was 65.

Charles Baranowski,
GrDip 82, January 19, 2018,
Châteauguay, Que. He was 71.

Rhoda E. Taylor, BA
83, December 23, 2017,
Montreal. She was 78.

Leslie McLaughlin, BSc 84,
Edmonton. He was 68.

Eric Stern, MBA 84,
February 26, 2018, Montreal.
He was 77.

Diane Gleason, BA 85,
January 13, 2018, Montreal.
She was 67.

Henry S. Turner, BA
85, December 23, 2017,
Montreal. He was 91.

Theresa Doroshenko, BA 86,
January 28, 2018, Montreal.
She was 86.

Nora Schwarz, BA 86,
October 27, 2017, Montreal.
She was 74.

Halyna Koszarycz, BFA 87,
March 10, 2018, Calgary. She
was 88.

George W. Nash, BComm
87, August 17, 2017, Pointe-
Claire, Que. He was 58.

Amanda Masterman,
BSc 88, BSc 99, February 12,
2018, Vancouver, B.C.
She was 52.

Metaxia Tserentzoulis, BA
88, Cert 93, November 4,
2017. She was 51.

Christine Merlo, BComm 90,
December 28, 2017.
She was 51.

Maria E. S. Ponte, BA 90,
MA 05, Cert 16, November 14,
2017, Montreal. She was 60.

Boyd Balogh, BA 91, July 21,
2017, Toronto. He was 51.

Anna Kaczowski, BFA 91, May
8, 2017, Montreal. She was 67.

Robert Ottereyes, attendee
91, November 17, 2017,
Montreal. He was 56.

Patrick J. Masterson,
BFA 93, October 29, 2017,
Montreal. He was 70.

Carolyn Pompura, BA 93,
December 14, 2017, Tunis,
Tunisia. She was 48.

Edith Bellot, MA 94, October
31, 2017, St. Kitts. She was 76.

Joanna F. Bottenberg,
PhD 94, February 8, 2018,
Cornwall, Ont. She was 73.

Bevan F. Skerratt, BA 94,
October 8, 2017, Montreal.
He was 72.

Jenifer L. Johnstone,
BFA 96, March 13, 2018,
Montreal. She was 46.

Albert Wollmann, BA 96,
January 10, 2018, Montreal.
He was 94.

Mary F. Rolland, BA 97,
March 7, 2018, Magog, Que.
She was 68.

Claudia Natasha Crisalli,
BComm 00, GrDip 02,
January 13, 2018, Vienna, Va.
She was 39.

Gregory Baum, LLD 02,
October 18, 2017, Montreal.
He was 94.

Jerry Etienne, BA 06,
March 16, 2018, Oka, Que.
He was 64.

Basab Roy Choudhury,
BSc 07, 2017, Montreal.
He was 33.

Reuel Dechene, BFA 11,
October 24, 2017, Montreal.
He was 52.

Iris Merle Heather Church,
BA 13, December 16, 2017,
Montreal. She was 88.

Thomas Makinde, BA 14,
October 7, 2017. He was 29.

Steven Bider, BA 16,
December 4, 2017, Kirkland,
Que. He was 57. ■

On the largest UN mission you never heard of

MAJOR DANIEL A. DORAN,
MBA 16

On September 17, 2017, I boarded a plane at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport in Montreal bound for the Democratic Republic of Congo. In what seemed like an instant, I went from my comfortable office to a six-month operational tour, seconded to the United Nations by the Canadian Forces. My purpose was to support the largest current peacekeeping mission, Mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo, better known by its acronym, MONUSCO.

This was my third operational deployment as a Royal Canadian Engineer officer. Yet it was my first in the seven years since I left the Regular Force for a quieter civilian life in Montreal. My stay at home was broken up occasionally with part-time military service as a Reserve officer with the 34th Combat Engineer Regiment.

I joined the Canadian Forces in 1998. My wife, Lindsay, and I decided it was time for me to leave the Regular Force in 2010. Yet I still had the desire to go overseas with the Canadian Forces at least once more. My dream took a back seat over the next few years with the blessing of two children, a new job with McGill University's Facilities Management and Ancillary Services, part-time service with the Army Reserves and starting my MBA at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB).

I can best describe those years as beautifully chaotic. There was a constant flurry of taking children to sports, studying, working and trying to keep up with an equally ambitious wife also pursuing a graduate degree.



MAJOR DANIEL A. DORAN IS PICTURED EN ROUTE TO RWINDI AND SAKE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

Last year the moment finally came. Our schooling was complete, we were both comfortable with our jobs and the children were no longer rambunctious toddlers. After some discussion with both Lindsay and my employer — in that order — we agreed I would serve for six months with the Canadian Forces while retaining my job — and marriage.

My role in the mission evolved after my arrival. I began as an operational planner in the Divisional Headquarters and then transitioned to a special

5 million people. These mass casualties have been followed by continued sporadic violence to this day. This has not generally been covered by Western media, except when 14 Tanzanian peacekeepers were tragically killed on December 8, 2017.

The challenge for the approximately 16,500 UN peacekeepers is to untangle decades-long ethnic, international and regional conflicts. Peacekeepers face daily crises, with weak central institutions and significant corruption.

While these challenges are tempered by a people whose endurance remains indefatigable and desire for social justice insatiable — these qualities remain the Congolese equivalent to the Dutch boy with

his finger in the dam. Except in this version, there are more holes than the boy has fingers.

The conflict's root causes are common to most others: poverty, disease, hunger, corruption, greed and disenfranchisement. While the UN mission has made progress alleviating some of the pain, there is a long way to go and many obstacles to overcome.

The challenges faced by the Democratic Republic of Congo are not unique within the African continent, yet their people deserve better. They need the global community's support to achieve the same peace and security so many enjoy every day. ■

The challenge for the 20,000 UN peacekeepers is to try to untangle decades-long ethnic, international and regional conflicts.

projects role. That required a broad skillset and a capacity to research, synthesize and resolve problems spanning organizational structure, operational process and strategic planning. The high-quality training and education I received during my MBA studies at JMSB prepared me well for these professional opportunities.

THEY DESERVE BETTER

The mission was nothing short of fascinating. The Democratic Republic of Congo is both terrifying and inspiring in its complexity. It sustained two major wars between 1996 and 2003, which collectively took the lives of more than



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in more ways than one.”

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