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FOR CONCORDIA:
NEXT-GEN. NOW.

The university launches its
historic \$250-million campaign

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CAMPAIGN FOR
CONCORDIA:
NEXT-GEN. NOW.**

The university's leaders explain how the \$250-million campaign will transform Concordia.

By Howard Bokser



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THE SYNTHETIC IS REAL

Forward-looking synthetic biology research is being conducted today at Concordia's Genome Foundry.

By Simona Rabinovitch



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FAR-FLUNG ALUMNI

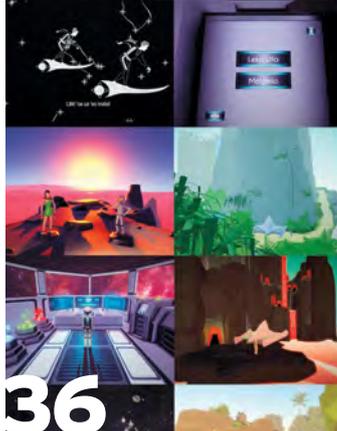
From the United Kingdom to Bahrain to China and beyond, successful Concordia grads stake their claims around the globe.

By Toula Drimonis, Patrick Lejtenyi and Lucas Napier-Macdonald

**WHAT DOES THE
FUTURE HOLD
FOR INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES?**

The team at Concordia's Indigenous Futures research cluster think two steps ahead.

By Daniel Bartlett



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**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
FACULTY OF
ENGINEERING AND
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Concordia's machine intelligence researchers tackle handwriting analysis and much more.

By Renée Dunk

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“THIS IS MY WAY OF
GIVING BACK TO A
COMMUNITY THAT GAVE ME
SO MUCH. I WANT TO LEAVE
A LEGACY.”

– Antonio Costanzo,
Professor, Classics, Modern
Languages and Linguistics



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HYDRO-QUÉBEC INVESTS \$3.9 MILLION IN CONCORDIA

Critical research into sustainable energy and smart-grid security has received major support at Concordia. Hydro-Québec is donating \$3.9 million to advance cutting-edge research and attract top students in engineering, business, arts and science.

“To thrive as a next-generation university, our nine strategic directions include doubling our research and experimenting boldly,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “This gift allows our scientists to deepen research and experiment in areas that are critical to industry, sustainability and ultimately to society. We are grateful that Hydro-Québec has invested in Concordia to propel student and research talent.”

About \$2.5 million of the gift will finance three industrial research chairs in Concordia’s Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, where researchers are driving innovative solutions to today’s biggest technological, industrial and environmental questions.

“At Hydro-Québec, research and technological innovation are at the heart of our business and growth strategy. We have proudly supported Concordia for



CONCORDIA AND HYDRO-QUÉBEC REPRESENTATIVES AT THE GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT ON OCTOBER 12, 2017: CONCORDIA FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSORS MOURAD DEBBABI, PRAGASEN PILLAY AND ANDREAS ATHIENITIS; CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD; RÉAL LAPORTE, PRESIDENT OF HYDRO-QUÉBEC INNOVATION, ÉQUIPEMENT ET SERVICES PARTAGÉS; GABRIEL VANASSE, HYDRO-QUÉBEC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT; AND BRAM FREEDMAN, CONCORDIA VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

over three decades. With this new gift, we deepen our commitment to advancing scientific discovery through the great work being conducted by experts in their field at Concordia,” says Réal Laporte, president of Hydro-Québec Innovation, équipement et services partagés; and president and CEO of Société d’énergie de la Baie James.

One of the chairs is the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)/Hydro-Québec/Thales Senior Industrial Research Chair in Smart Grid Security.

The chair will oversee Concordia researchers who

are pioneering the protection of Quebec’s power grid from cyberattacks — a growing threat as such technology becomes increasingly automated. It will lead to important contributions in methodologies, techniques, tools and best practices for the detection, prevention, mitigation and attribution of cyberattacks, together with the characterization of their physical impacts on the smart grid.

“This Hydro-Québec support allows us to have a tangible, strong and positive impact in this strategic area,” says Mourad Debbabi, holder of the NSERC/Hydro-Québec/Thales Senior Industrial Research Chair in Smart Grid Security, associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies in Concordia’s Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, and professor at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering.

Hydro-Québec’s gift also supports two other chairs, including the NSERC/

Hydro-Québec Senior Industrial Research Chair in Design and Performance of Special Electrical Machines. “My current research focuses on special machines for electric vehicles as well as renewable energy technologies, mainly targeting remote communities but also for use in urban environments during emergencies when powerful loads are required,” says chair holder Pragasen Pillay, a Concordia professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. His research is unique in Quebec in designing and prototyping variable flux machines for electric vehicles and distributed generation.

Andreas Athienitis, Concordia professor of Building Engineering, holds the NSERC/Hydro-Québec Senior Industrial Research Chair in Optimized Operation and Energy Efficiency: Towards High Performance Buildings. “We are developing cross-disciplinary research to optimize performance and the integration of solar systems into both new and existing buildings,” says Athienitis.

One third of the Hydro-Québec gift, \$1.395 million, will support 68 merit-based student awards at Concordia’s Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, John Molson School of Business and Faculty of Arts and Science. Hydro-Québec Scholarships will benefit students at the doctoral, master’s and undergraduate levels over the next five years. ■

—Louise Morgan, GrDip 99

setting an example



Photo: Concordia University

Christine Lengvari

An immigrant says thank you

“My parents — George and Trude — fled Hungary as refugees at the end of the Second World War. They brought my brother, George Jr., and me to Montreal. We left our belongings in a Russian-occupied territory. During that tumultuous period, 600,000 Hungarian civilians were killed.

When we arrived in 1951, we had nothing. My father sold vacuum cleaners despite having a PhD in economics and having worked as vice-president of a bank in Budapest. Through hard work, he established a business selling life insurance. He became one of the most successful agents in Canada. Today, I lead the family business.

I'm proud of what we've brought to our adoptive country. Our business, Lengvari Financial Inc., employs Canadians and offers a valuable service. Career success has enabled me to give back. I recently donated \$1 million to Concordia, my alma mater. I'm supporting women in business — an important cause to me — and preventative healthcare at the university's PERFORM Centre.

My alma mater alone has received a number of major gifts from immigrants in the past few years. Donors originate from countries that include India, the Netherlands, Poland and Germany.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, 'Diversity is our strength' and that for 'those fleeing persecution, terror and war, Canadians will welcome you.'

My family falls into that category of those fleeing from war. We've always been grateful. Stories of immigrants-turned-philanthropists are a testament of what starting anew means for us. It is one way of paying homage to an attitude that accepts the tired and poor. My gift to Concordia is my way of saying thanks to all Canadians."

Christine Lengvari, BSc 72, is president and CEO of Lengvari Financial Inc. in Montreal. She was awarded the Prix Distinction from the Chambre de la sécurité financière in November 2017.

Find out how you can join Christine Lengvari in contributing to Concordia.

Info: concordia.ca/giving | 514-848-2424, ext. 4856 | 1-888-777-3330, ext. 4856 | giving@concordia.ca

#CUGiving

\$4.5 MILLION TO ADVANCE CONCORDIA'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Concordia has received \$4.57 million in new infrastructure funding in the areas of net-zero energy building practices, electron microscopy and quantum technology. The funding comes to the university from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), and includes matching amounts by the Government of Quebec and the university, as well as in-kind contributions from industry partners and equipment suppliers.

CFI supports initiatives that allow institutions and their researchers to build on established capabilities in order to accelerate current research and technology development or to enhance emerging strategic priority areas.

"The Canada Foundation for Innovation encourages researchers to share infrastructure, support national and international collaboration, and tackle complex questions that contribute to our health, prosperity and quality of life," says Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies.

A group of researchers in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, led by Hua Ge, PhD '03, associate professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering and a member of Concordia's Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies, has received total funding of \$1.2 million.

Ge's current research focuses on the development of high-performance and durable building envelopes, and improving the availability and accessibility of intelligent and self-sustained buildings that meet the needs of occupants at a minimum cost to the environment. "This funding will help Concordia researchers continue to lead the industry toward the intelligent net-zero energy buildings of the future, and support the Canadian government's efforts to develop net-zero energy building codes and standards," Ge explains. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

\$4.5 MILLION FROM CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION AND OTHER SOURCES WILL SUPPORT CURRENT RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGING STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS.



CONCORDIA'S
HOMECOMING 2018 IS
COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

Interested in getting involved with organizing a class reunion or other 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
- 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*, CJLO, CUTV
- 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.



You're among our 200,000 #CUalumni



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We'll help you seize them.

The John Molson Executive Centre
concordia.ca/jmec

R. HOWARD WEBSTER FOUNDATION INVESTS \$1.5 MILLION IN CONCORDIA'S PERFORM CENTRE AND STINGERS STUDENT ATHLETES

A long-standing partner has generously renewed its support of Concordia. The R. Howard Webster Foundation has invested in the next generation of preventive health research and student athletes with a \$1.5-million gift to the university. "This important gift enables Concordia to experiment boldly with state-of-the-art programs, which ensure a higher quality of life for Canadians through our PERFORM Centre and help recruit top athletes to our Stingers teams," says Concordia President Alan Shepard.

The gift to Concordia continues the foundation's commitment to initiatives that foster a greater good for Canadian society. "We are deeply dedicated to higher education," says Howard Davidson, BComm 80, president of the R. Howard Webster Foundation and also chair of the Concordia University Foundation. "It is part of our responsibilities as citizens to support our institutions and ensure future leaders are equipped to move us forward."

A portion of the new gift will support a scientist in nutrition, lifestyle research and bio-imaging, as well as a healthy living program for seniors at Concordia's PERFORM Centre — an integrated and comprehensive environment that promotes healthier lives through research, education and preventive-based programs.

The R. Howard Webster Foundation Scientist in



AT THE R. HOWARD WEBSTER FOUNDATION GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT AT CONCORDIA'S PERFORM CENTRE ON NOVEMBER 28, 2017: D'ARCY RYAN, CONCORDIA'S DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND ATHLETICS; CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD; PETER W. WEBSTER, CHAIR OF THE R. HOWARD WEBSTER FOUNDATION; SHAWNA BRAYTON, STUDENT ATHLETE WHO REPRESENTED THE STINGERS' RUGBY TEAM; HABIB BENALI, INTERIM SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR AT THE PERFORM CENTRE; AND BRAM FREEDMAN, CONCORDIA'S VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

Nutrition, Lifestyle Research and Bio-Imaging will investigate the effects of daily routine on long-term health using innovative imaging techniques. The lead scientist will also collaborate with researchers to better understand the factors that promote a healthy lifestyle.

Community members who take part in the R. Howard Webster Foundation Healthy Living Program for Seniors will learn how to prevent disease and injury through healthy diet and exercise. Funding for PERFORM's cutting-edge research will help Concordia establish itself as a unique contributor to the field of health research in Montreal and beyond.

FULL POTENTIAL ON AND OFF THE FIELD

The second focus of the R. Howard Webster Foundation gift will support Concordia student athletes. R. Howard Webster Athletic Financial

Awards will permit Concordia to recruit and retain top talent in football and in men's and women's hockey and basketball.

The R. Howard Webster Foundation Healthy Athlete Program will help provide nutritional assessments for student athletes and educate them on healthy eating. Additional support for the R. Howard Webster Foundation Sports Medicine Athlete's Care Initiative will ensure Stingers athletes have access to holistic athletic care, including nutrition, assistance with physical injuries and mental health support.

The late R. Howard Webster was chairman of the Imperial Trust Company and at one point owned *The Globe and Mail*. He later became a founding partner of the Blue Jays Baseball Club.

Inspired by the philanthropic work of his late father, he founded the R. Howard Webster Foundation

in 1948 as a way to give to charitable organizations and novel projects and programs in Canada. To date, the foundation has contributed more than \$200 million to various causes across the country.

At Concordia, the foundation has invested in sports medicine, student scholarships and fellowships. In the 1990s, the foundation helped establish the R. Howard Webster Library at Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus, among other initiatives and campaigns.

"We're great believers in education, youth and research," says Peter W. Webster, chair of the R. Howard Webster Foundation and honorary vice-chair of the Campaign for Concordia. "The end goal is to make society better and Concordia is doing this very well." ■

—Marta Samuel, GrDip 10



ANNE-MARIE CROTEAU STEPPED IN AS DEAN OF JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IN JUNE 2017.

Meet Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of John Molson School of Business

LESLIE SCHACHTER

Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB) welcomed Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, as its first-ever female dean in June 2017. Croteau comes to the post with more than 20 years of experience as a Concordia professor, researcher and administrator. She is also a certified chartered director and serves on the board of directors of several high-profile organizations, including the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) and Hydro-Québec.

Croteau discussed what the appointment means to her as well as her vision for the future of JMSB.

Tell us about your background.

Anne-Marie Croteau: "I come from Victoriaville [Que.] and I decided to complete a bachelor's degree in actuarial math at Loyola College [one of Concordia's founding institutions], in part to learn English. I then earned a bachelor's degree and a master of science in Management Information Systems [MIS] from HEC Montréal. I went on to become the first woman at Université Laval to get a PhD with a specialization in MIS.

I've been at Concordia as a faculty member since 1997, when I was hired as an assistant professor in MIS. Since then I've been the director of the Executive MBA program as well as the Aviation MBA program. Most recently, I was appointed associate dean of Professional Graduate Programs and External Relations at JMSB."

What is your main area of research?

AMC: "I've focused my research around my interest in strategic management of Information Technology [IT] or the alignment between business and IT strategies. It's still the number one occupation when it comes to priorities for CIOs [chief information officers] — how can they get their technology to be well aligned with their organization's overall business strategy, even as it is constantly evolving?

I've also been researching corporate governance as applied to the use of technology within organizations, which led me to my involvement with organizations like the SAAQ and Hydro-Québec, where I chair their IT committees."

What is your vision for the future of JMSB?

AMC: "It's all about growing. We want to attract more students from outside Montreal as well as more students from outside Quebec by gaining more recognition through our accreditations. We are already accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International but we're aiming for the two other main accreditations, from the Association of MBAs and the European Quality Improvement System, so that we can be known as a triple-crown business school. There are merely 76 such institutions worldwide out of over 16,000 business schools.

We're also revising our curriculum at the undergrad level with the goal of preparing our students for jobs that might not even exist yet because of the fourth industrial revolution, which includes artificial intelligence, the internet of things, big data, fintech or other technologies that we may not have even conceived."

What are JMSB's main strengths?

AMC: "Our faculty includes a good mix of professors and practitioners, which gives our students great exposure to both the theory and practicality of what they are being taught. We also have excellent opportunities for hands-on learning, like the annual case competitions or our student-led small-cap and global asset portfolios, where students manage real-life investment portfolios."

What are some of the major challenges facing JMSB?

AMC: "One of our main challenges going forward is to find out who the next-generation learners are, something that all universities are struggling with. For example, students who depend on iPads in high school right now will be our students in a few years. We may find that we have to adjust how we teach, as their learning abilities might be different than what we have been used to up until now."

Currently, the market is very welcoming for our graduating students. I've been told many times by industry representatives that our students are better prepared to enter the workforce than from any other school. Yet we have to work hard to maintain that. It's one thing to teach them the right thing and get them exposed to the job market, but we have to continue to constantly develop our relationships within the business community.

And Montreal is a fantastic city when it comes to universities — we've been ranked number one in the world — but we're all competing for the same talent. Although education in Quebec is solid, we need more funding to attract more students and staff."

What does it mean to be the first female dean of JMSB?

AMC: "I'm very honoured. I take it very seriously. I'm really doing my best to be a great role model, especially for our female students. There's something happening right now — we have a new *mairesse* in town [Valérie Plante, who was elected as Montreal mayor in November 2017]. Quebec is very open to female leadership."

There is an openness now and it's not against men, it's with men. It's *us* now. JMSB's executive team is at parity — we have an equal number of men and women around the table.

Of the CEOs on the Fortune 500 list, only about five per cent are female. Only about 12 or 15 per cent of deans in Canada are female. There is still a lot of work to be done."

What are you most proud of?

AMC: "*Le courage*. The courage to say things, to be out there and try new things. To say 'yes' even if you're not absolutely sure it's going to work. And the rigour that comes with it. You have to work, you have to study, you have to be prepared. And you have to be fair."

That's been my signature. Courage, rigour and fairness. If I can inspire people to say, 'Let's give it a try, we'll make it happen,' then it's worth it!" ■

Follow JMSB on twitter: [@jmsbconcordia](https://twitter.com/jmsbconcordia).

—Leslie Schachter, BA o3, GrDip (journ.) 13, is a Montreal freelance writer.

THINKING OUT LOUD 2018 LIVE EVENTS & PODCAST

Concordia's Thinking Out Loud (TOL) is a live events series & podcast, bringing big ideas to alumni & the public.

LIVE EVENTS in Montreal

SOLD OUT: January 25: Former NHL player Sheldon Kennedy and Sandi Curtis, PhD 97, professor in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies, discuss child advocacy issues and research.

SOLD OUT: February 1: Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize winner

March 20: Ten Talks: Public Scholars, in collaboration with the *Montreal Gazette*

Watch for more on the new TOL miniseries *This is Concordia*. Now.

Listen to the Thinking Out Loud podcast for smart conversations and big ideas on the go.

Visit: concordia.ca/tol



**DI-OCTO: MESMERIZING,
KINETIC AND UNIQUE**

The towering new *Di-Octo* sculpture outside the southwest corner of Concordia’s Henry F. Hall Building is unique and enthralling.

Countless passersby are taking photos and videos of the kinetic artwork, generously donated to the city and the university on the occasion of Montreal’s 375th and Canada’s 150th anniversaries by Concordia Chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, founder, chairman and CEO of Montreal-based real estate firm Canderel, and his wife, Susan Wener.

Di-Octo, created by renowned American artist Anthony Howe, was unveiled on Mackay St. and De Maisonneuve Blvd. W. on September 28, 2017.

“I chose Concordia’s Sir George Williams Campus as the site for *Di-Octo* because it was here that I began my journey as a student — before becoming a businessman and real estate developer,” says Wener. “It is here, in 1971 at the Henry Hall F. Building, that I met my dear wife Susan on her very first day at freshman orientation.”

The eight-metre-high, 725-kilogram sculpture represents a significant contribution to Concordia’s collection of public art.

The piece comes alive as the wind blows, stretching out with open arms and reopening its stainless steel tentacles ad infinitum. Wener chose *Di-Octo* because of its energy and mesmerizing and dynamic nature. “It’s hypnotic,” he says.

It only takes two kilometres an hour of wind to activate its moving parts — and it works in near-complete silence. “*Di-Octo* is a beautiful, original sculpture whose graceful folding arms are a symbolic greeting for students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors,” Wener says. “What better way to welcome everyone to our great university, city, province and country!”

“Jonathan and Susan Wener have given our university, city and province an exceptional, next-generation artwork,” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “*Di-Octo* is a striking visual metaphor for Concordia’s strategic direction to embrace our city. This sculpture is a feat of engineering that



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

CONCORDIA CHANCELLOR JONATHAN WENER AND HIS WIFE SUSAN WENER DONATED TO CONCORDIA THE KINETIC ARTWORK *DI-OCTO*, WHICH SITS OUTSIDE THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE HENRY F. HALL BUILDING.

will allow Concordians and Montrealers to contemplate the role of art in our society. And I love it! I can watch it from my office and it’s mesmerizing.”

It was France Chrétien Desmarais, LLD 15, prominent Montreal lawyer, businesswoman and president of the Society for the Celebration of Montreal’s 375th Anniversary, who helped convince Wener to donate an artwork to honour the city’s 375th and Canada’s 150th anniversaries.

Wener chose to make Concordia its home. “I love my alma mater,” he says. “My most passionate, benevolent work is done at the university. I have always loved public art, going back to my very first

buildings in 1980. This opportunity seemed such a wonderful confluence of events to celebrate our history with another piece of magnificent sculpture by an internationally famous artist.”

He discovered Anthony Howe’s work through his daughter, Katherine (Kassy) Wener, who was given the family mandate to find a sculpture that would be truly inspirational. “She was as moved and excited as Susan and I were by Anthony Howe’s genius and creativity,” says Wener. “My hope is that *Di-Octo* will establish itself alongside other Concordia works as an essential piece of Concordia’s collection and a Montreal landmark.” ■

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RECORD RAISED AT 2017 CONCORDIA USED BOOK FAIR

Generous book lovers flocked in record numbers to the Concordia Used Book Fair from October 1 to 3, 2017. They took home thousands of great fiction and non-fiction reads while supporting student scholarships, the Student Emergency and Food Fund and athletic financial awards.

Held in the atrium of the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex, the annual tradition took in more than \$24,260. The new high was an increase of nearly 50 per cent from the previous year's total, which was itself 50 per cent higher than the 2015 edition.

"We're thrilled with the results," said Luke Quin, BA 07, lead volunteer of the event and fundraising writer in Advancement and Alumni

Relations. Quin attributes the growing success to a combination of factors. "We benefit from unbeatable volunteers, major logistical support from the university, a prime location and a generous community with a strong appetite for books," he says.

In its 21 years, the Concordia Used Book Fair has raised more than \$200,000 for students, while providing a new life for countless books.

With more than 7,000 books sold or given away at this year's fair, Quin and his team now face the task of collecting for next year's event. "Book donations can be made year round, Monday to Friday at both the Sir George Williams and Loyola campuses," says Quin.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

SHOPPERS AT THE 2017 CONCORDIA USED BOOK FAIR UNEARTHED TREASURES WHILE GIVING BACK TO STUDENTS.

"Whether you're a recent grad with textbooks you wish to pass on or an avid reader looking to downsize your collection, we will find a new home for your books." ■

The Concordia Used Book Fair accepts book donations year-round. Learn more at concordia.ca/bookfair.

CLARIFICATION

The story "Concordia mourns the passing of John Lemieux" in the fall 2017 *Concordia University Magazine* stated that Donal Ryan, BComm 67, was Lemieux's Loyola College football teammate. While they knew each other from their varsity days, Ryan's sport was downhill ski racing. ■

SWINGING INTO ACTION FOR STUDENTS



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

A BEAUTIFUL DAY ON THE GOLF COURSE TRANSLATED INTO IMPORTANT NEW FUNDING FOR STUDENTS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. THE 14TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC RAISED A RECORD \$351,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES. FOR THE FIRST TIME, QUEBEC'S NINE MAJOR BANKS CAME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE EVENT. PICTURED ARE CHARLES DOUVILLE, HSBC; RENÉ DOUVILLE, BMO; ISABELLE MÉNARD, TD BANK; MARIA MANGIOCAVALLO, SCOTIABANK; MARTIN THIBODEAU, RBC; CONCORDIA PRESIDENT ALAN SHEPARD; JOSEPH CAPANO, CONCORDIA; LOUIS TANGUAY, CORPORATE DIRECTOR; TYRAN MORRIS, CIBC; FRANÇOIS TOUCHETTE, NATIONAL BANK; NATHALIE SOUCY, DESJARDINS; AND SOPHIE BOUCHER, LAURENTIAN BANK. THE TOURNAMENT DREW 150 BUSINESS LEADERS AND FRIENDS OF CONCORDIA TO GOLF GRIFFON DES SOURCES IN MIRABEL, QUE.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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

Concordia University Magazine is published three times a year for alumni and friends of Concordia University. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the alumni association or of the university.

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Editorial assistant: Louise Morgan, Interns: Matthew Scribner, Lucas Napier Macdonald

For advertising information, call 514-848-2424, ext. 3876.

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BIRKS FAMILY FOUNDATION INVESTS \$287,500 IN CONCORDIA

The Birks family's relationship with Concordia spans more than eight decades, beginning in the 1930s at one of its founding institutions, Sir George Williams University. "My great-great-uncle, Gerald Walker Birks, was very involved with the Drummond St. YMCA and the Y as a whole," recalls Jonathan Birks, president of the Birks Family Foundation. "When Sir George Williams University began offering courses at the YMCA, a bond developed between the Birks family and the university."

The Birks Family Foundation continues its tradition as a Concordia supporter with a \$287,500 gift to the university, announced in October 2017.

The support will be split between Concordia University Press and the Centre for the Arts in Human Development (CAHD), with the projects receiving \$250,000 and \$37,500, respectively.

"We are grateful for the



"CONCORDIA MAKES THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE LIVE FAR BETTER," SAYS JONATHAN BIRKS.

Birks Family Foundation's contribution to these unique projects that will help our university promote important scholarly works and enhance the student experience," says Concordia President Alan Shepard.

When University Librarian Guylaine Beaudry initially shared plans to build the Concordia University Press with Birks, he was intrigued. Beaudry, who is also vice-provost of Digital Strategy, explained how the press would operate under an open-access model and release books online

that wouldn't normally be published.

"All of us at the foundation thought the idea of open access was exciting," says Birks. "The press underlines the idea that Concordia is a university that does things that are innovative and makes the communities in which we live far better."

The Birks Family Foundation previously donated \$150,000 to Concordia Library to support its open-access mandate. Concordia University Press is the first open-access press in Quebec and among only a handful around the world. "Without the Birks Family Foundation's support, Concordia University Press would not exist," says Beaudry.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

"The CAHD, which promotes growth and advancement for people with intellectual, developmental and mental health disabilities, is

one of 22 research units housed in the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies. "I remember at a luncheon I hosted at Loyola Campus, a young boy who was blind and mentally challenged sat at a piano," recalls Birks. "He played 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game' and all of his friends who were there cheered him on. It was emotionally very moving and brought tears to your eyes."

The Birks Family Foundation's most recent gift will be matched by Wilson McLean, a family cousin, which brings total funding for the CAHD to \$75,000. Lenore Vosberg, director of Clinical Services and Public Outreach at the CAHD, says much of the work the centre does is only possible thanks to the generosity of donors. "This gift enables our community — our family — to move forward in making a difference in the lives of those who depend on our programs." ■

—Daniel Bartlett, BA 08

THINKING OUT LOUD

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Christophe Guy, Concordia's vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, joined the university on August 1, 2017. A professor, engineer, researcher and administrator, he is well known and respected within the Quebec and Canadian academic communities.

Before coming to Concordia, Christophe Guy was chief executive officer of École Polytechnique de Montréal, one of Canada's largest engineering schools. Prior to that position, he was the chief research and innovation officer at the institution.

In October, Guy was named recipient of the Prix du Québec's Armand-Frappier Award. The Prix du Québec are the highest distinctions awarded by the Government of Quebec. The Armand-Frappier Award recognizes individuals whose work has contributed to the development of scientific research in the province.

Over the next five years, Guy hopes to leverage the responsiveness and flexibility of the university's faculty members and state-of-the-art facilities as well as encourage further collaborations with public and private partners.

How did you get here? Tell us more about what brought you to Concordia. Christophe Guy:

"My decision to join Concordia was based, in part, on this institution's rising reputation as an innovative and dynamic



CHRISTOPHE GUY FINDS CONCORDIA'S TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE INSPIRING.

research and knowledge-creation institution. So far, in my time here, my appreciation of the university's involvement and connectedness has grown even more.

I find the ability of our faculty members to look at challenges from a transdisciplinary perspective — where scholars are able to understand aspects of their colleagues' work in very different fields — to be unique and, quite frankly, inspiring.

I like that Concordia is a multi-faculty research institution, offering varied fields of academic study. This means we're not only making strong contributions in terms of investigations and discoveries; we're also successfully transferring knowledge that can positively impact and inform both government policy and society as a whole."

What is your background? Will you have a research portfolio at Concordia?

CG: "I trained as a chemical engineer in France and came to Canada to do my PhD at Polytechnique Montréal. My research started out in the area of chemical reactors, then moved into the realm of the environment when I began investigating the effects of atmospheric emissions and hazardous waste. For many years, I was involved in big questions about how cities should manage garbage and landfills. For example, in the late 1990s, I participated in the impact study of closing Montreal's Miron Quarry, one of the biggest dumps in North America.

At Concordia, I'll be associated with the new Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, mainly in a graduate student research supervision capacity."

What is your vision for the research and graduate studies sector at Concordia?

CG: "The agility of our researchers, paired with our vibrant two-campus urban location, allows us to use a transdisciplinary perspective to look at new ways to make a difference. Concordians can contribute a lot through our convergence of disciplines, strong administrative support and variety of academic programs.

For me, the key to doubling our research is not just leveraging the responsiveness and flexibility of Concordia's faculty members and state-of-the-art facilities. We must also encourage collaborations with both the public and private sectors and work with recognized international academic partners. All of this provides a solid framework for growth.

Finally, in terms of research revenues, we're going to have to investigate and make a play for alternate sources of funding, such as donations from foundations and other philanthropic organizations.

At the end of the day, though, our responsibility as a university is to train people, and we transfer knowledge and know-how to our students through research. A research-based education gives our students an invaluable foundation in methods and methodology, which will ultimately lead them to being better professionals and contributors to society." ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

\$9.3-MILLION INVESTMENT FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH

Kirsty Duncan, Canada's Minister of Science, visited Concordia in November 2017 to shine a spotlight on Canada's outstanding social sciences and humanities researchers. Duncan announced a \$265.4-million investment in university research across the country through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership, Insight and Talent grant programs.

Concordia's share of the national investment is an impressive \$9.3 million.

"I want to commend the grant and scholarship recipients whose tireless efforts help us better understand our world and our relationships with each other," the minister said. "Our government is proud to support these talented researchers and scholars who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge to the benefit of Canadians and our growing middle class."

Thirty-two Concordia faculty-led projects received funding through SSHRC's Insight and Insight Development grants for a total of \$3.5 million, while 65 graduate and postdoctoral students were awarded a total of \$3.3 million through the Insight program.

Additionally, a \$2.5-million Partnership grant was awarded earlier this year to Philip C. Abrami, education professor and director of Concordia's Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance, for an initiative designed to improve teaching and learning outcomes through educational technology in sub-Saharan Africa.

Grant recipients hail from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Faculty of Arts and Science and John Molson School of Business. Areas of expertise awarded include community economies, digital device practices, counter-radicalization



CANADA'S MINISTER OF SCIENCE KIRSTY DUNCAN ANNOUNCED A \$265.4-MILLION INVESTMENT IN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ACROSS THE COUNTRY AT CONCORDIA ON NOVEMBER 15, 2017.

education, social enterprises and mental health — among many others.

"At Concordia, we believe that investments in the social sciences and humanities lay the groundwork for a healthy and thriving society," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "Armed with vital project funding from the SSHRC, our researchers can continue to advance knowledge and build understanding about important social, cultural, economic, technological and environmental issues."

In his speech at the minister's event on November 15, Christophe Guy, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, congratulated all 97 of the newly funded researchers. "I'd like to acknowledge the hard work and perseverance of Concordia's researchers from not only the social sciences and humanities but also business and fine arts, at both the faculty and graduate student levels, who all benefit from SSHRC support," he said. ■

—Renée Dunk, GrCert 07

CONCORDIA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTES TO LARGEST OPEN-ACCESS CLIMATE RECORDS SOURCE

A team of 98 scientists from 22 countries has compiled the most comprehensive database of past global temperature records to date, spanning 1 CE to the present. "This is a shining example of large-scale, co-operative science," says Jeannine-Marie St-Jacques, assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, who contributed to the database. "Together we did what we couldn't do independently or

in small groups."

The culmination of three years of painstaking collaborative work, the PAGES 2k 2,000-Year Multiproxy Database contains 692 records from 648 locations across the globe, including new additions from all continents and ocean basins. The records include trees, corals, glacier ice, lake and marine sediments, as well as documentary evidence. Together, they form the largest body of climate records with the

highest temporal resolution available, ranging from the biweekly to the bicentennial.

The dataset is the result of an initiative of the Past Global Changes (PAGES) Project, an association of paleoscientists whose mandate is to promote and improve understanding of past global environmental and climatic changes in the Earth system. It is an updated version of the influential 2013 PAGES 2k database, which also sought

to reconstruct surface temperature across the globe over two millennia.

"Now that we have the broadest yet most stringent collection of temperature data, we can say yes, we're still seeing that hockey stick pattern that earlier researchers have found," St-Jacques says. In other words, she adds, "It confirms that we're warming, as we feared, and very fast." ■

—J. Coady



RESEARCH LED BY THANH DANG-VU (RIGHT) CLARIFIES WHO STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM INSOMNIA TREATMENT.

CAN'T SLEEP? YOUR BRAINWAVES COULD BE THE ANSWER

Insomniacs don't have it easy. While some psychologists offer a recognized and legitimate professional treatment — called cognitive behavioural therapy for chronic insomnia (CBT-I) — the cost can be prohibitive.

"It is difficult to access this treatment in the public health-care system, so patients often have to consult in the private system and pay over \$600 for a series of CBT-I sessions," says neurologist Thanh Dang-Vu, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Exercise Science. "More than half of patients will improve with this treatment, but that also means that it doesn't always work. This is why it's important to identify which patients are likely to respond to CBT-I."

Dang-Vu and Jean-Philippe Gouin, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology, designed a study to help identify candidates who will respond well to CBT-I. "We found that certain brain-waves produced during sleep

[called 'spindles'] may help identify a type of insomnia that is less responsive to standard psychological treatment," explains Dang-Vu, Concordia Research Chair in Sleep, Neuroimaging and Cognitive Health at Concordia's Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology and the PERFORM Centre.

The study followed 24 chronic insomniacs who underwent six weeks of CBT-I treatment. "We recorded their brainwave activity during sleep, and particularly their sleep spindles, using an electroencephalogram," says Dang-Vu. Results revealed that patients with lower spindle activity have poor responses to CBT-I. "This information could help us identify which patients to prioritize for this form of therapy," he says. "In addition, future treatments, such as certain medications or even brain stimulation techniques, could be useful for those not currently responding to CBT-I." ■

—J. Latimer, MFA 94



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JUDGE MORTON MINC BECOMES CONCORDIA'S FIRST JURIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Concordia has welcomed Morton Minc, BA 67, as its new jurist-in-residence, the first appointment of its kind for any English university in Quebec. "I think this is a wonderful opportunity to pique students' interest in the law and instill a love and interest for the legal profession," says Minc, who will serve his two-year tenure in Concordia's Department of History, within the Minor in Law and Society program.

The idea for the jurist-in-residence program came following meetings with Concordia President Alan Shepard, Graham Carr, provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs, and André Roy, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. "Our faculty is thrilled to welcome Maître Minc," says Roy. "Students will benefit from his many years of experience in law and social justice. I had the opportunity to speak with him about the numerous projects he intends on carrying out for the next two years, and I am confident that his residency will catalyze our vision for our program in Law and Society."

Minc acknowledges there are challenges involved in setting up a jurist-in-residence program in a university without a law faculty. Yet he sees many possibilities for Concordia



JUDGE MORTON MINC: "IF WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SOCIETY, IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION."

students who are curious about the legal profession. "I think it's exciting and innovative," Minc says.

The program includes mentoring students, bringing eminent jurists to the university, organizing field trips to tour different court-houses and attending trials. Minc also hopes to hold conferences at Concordia.

The judge's career has focused on social innovation in the court system. After earning an arts degree from Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions, in 1967, Minc went on to study law at Université de Montréal, graduating in 1973.

He then entered private practice, where his work took him across the country and included lecturing at

both Concordia and McGill University. In 1993, he was appointed judge at the Municipal Court of Montreal, where he eventually became chief justice in 2009.

PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT

In this role, Minc initiated and encouraged programs designed to improve justice for the disadvantaged — from the homeless to survivors of domestic abuse, to people with mental illness or addiction. "Social programs were one of our mainstays, and this small jewel of a court was a perfect setting," he explains. "Because the court was not too big or too small, it was great for promoting social justice programs." This approach results in what is known as

"problem-solving courts" or "cluster courts."

Minc believes there is a need and an obligation for courts to fulfill that responsibility to its citizens.

"Some people cannot succeed at the program the first time around. That's to be expected," he says. "But just because someone makes one mistake in their lifetime, if they are rehabilitated, they shouldn't be burdened with a criminal record. Are we going to save every person? Absolutely not. But if we can contribute to our society, it's a win-win situation."

The social justice programs at the Municipal Court of Montreal proved tremendously successful and reduced the rate of recidivism significantly. Judges from both national and international levels, including the Supreme Court of Canada, frequently visited Minc's court to experience the court's approach regarding social justice programs. The judge believes that Concordia and the Law and Society program have an important role to play in shaping future jurists.

His advice to would-be lawyers? "Be serious and sincere with your clients. Be involved in the community and whatever interests you, whether it's civil law, criminal law, specialties of law or social issues. Above all, you have to develop a strong and serious work ethic and have a love and passion for whatever you choose in the future. That will lead you to a successful career in law." ■

—Elisabeth Faure,
BA 07, GrDip 10

"Because the court was not too big or too small, it was great for promoting social justice programs."



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TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE IN THE RACE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The latest findings of a global team of climate researchers indicate the human influence on global warming in 2017 has exceeded pre-industrial levels by more than 1°C and is rising faster than ever, leaving little time to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Damon Matthews, director of the Concordia Climate Science, Impacts and Mitigation Studies Lab, was part of the research team led from Oxford University.

“This new index shows the effect of greenhouse emissions from fossil fuels, industry and land use change, isolated from temporary fluctuations in global temperature due to volcanic eruptions or natural events like El Niño,” explains Matthews, a professor in Concordia’s Department of Geography,



LATEST RESEARCH FROM CONCORDIA IN COLLABORATION WITH RESEARCHERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND DEMONSTRATES HUMAN ACTIVITY IS HAVING A GREATER IMPACT THAN EVER ON PUSHING UP THE EARTH’S TEMPERATURE.

Planning and Environment. “This new data is a key measure used in our updated Climate Clock, to provide a stark warning of the time we have left before we cross the threshold of 1.5 °C warming.

This is the point where we move into climate territory that becomes increasingly marked by dangerous and irreversible impacts.”

Matthews is co-creator of the multimedia Climate

Clock, projected most recently at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017. It also incorporates the latest projections of the Global Carbon Project that warn this year’s carbon dioxide emissions are likely to hit a record increase of 2 per cent above 2016 emissions, after remaining relatively stable for the previous three years.

“This should serve as a wake-up call that we are not making progress fast enough to decrease our use of fossil fuels and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions” Matthews adds. “The latest climate and emissions data have forced us to set the clock’s 1.5°C date about half a year closer, to just over 15 years from now.” ■

—Fiona Downey, BA 83



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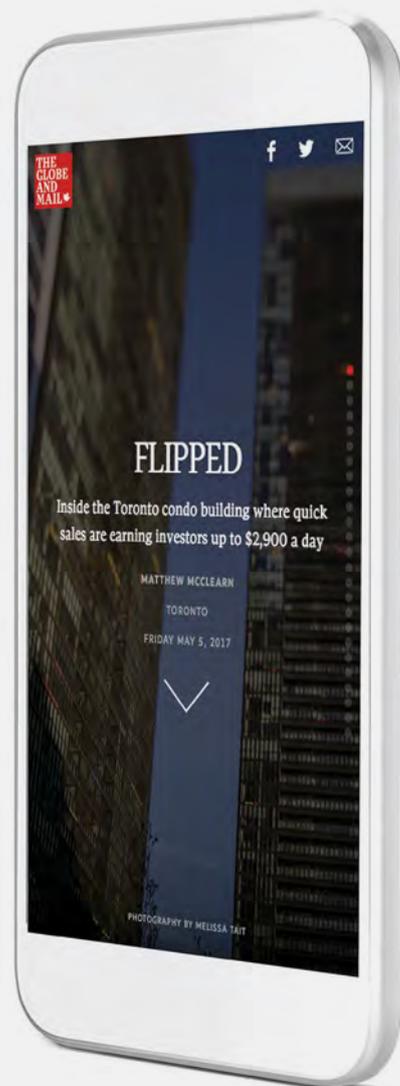


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CONCORDIA DEVELOPING DIGITAL STRATEGY THROUGH CONSULTATION AND FUTURE-FORWARD SPEAKER SERIES

Concordia has embarked upon an exciting project to develop a digital strategy.

Spearheaded by Guylaine Beaudry, vice-provost of Digital Strategy and University Librarian, it is one of five transformation projects being undertaken in 2017-18 as part of the Strategic Directions initiative to position Concordia as a next-generation university.

“Almost all jobs in the future are going to be embedded in the digital,” Beaudry says. “It’s a reality we — as a teaching, learning and research institution — must address if we are going to equip our students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in this new environment.”

The project’s goals are twofold:

- To create an institution-wide reflection on the digital environment needed to

support the experiences, needs and aspirations of students, faculty, staff, alumni, collaborators and partners.

- To develop a shared vision and implementation roadmap, based on this reflection and consultation.

As part of the process to engage Concordians in developing the strategy, the Concordia President’s Speaker Series on Digital Futures was launched on January 16, 2018.

“We’re bringing in people who have expertise in dealing with the current and emerging digital realities in sectors such as cinema, social media, gaming, industry and government, and in evolving fields such as artificial intelligence and deep learning,” says Beaudry.

While Beaudry is expecting more speakers, here is the lineup confirmed to date:

January 16: Marie Josée Lamothe, managing director of Branding and managing director of Quebec, Google Canada

February 5: Kevin Chan, head of Public Policy, Canada, Facebook and Instagram

February 12: Félix Lajeunesse, BFA 03, co-founder/creative director, Félix & Paul Studios, award-winning filmmaker

February 12: Dominique Anglade, Deputy Premier, Minister of Economy, Science and Innovation and Minister responsible for the Digital Strategy, Government of Quebec

February 20: Francis Baillet, BSc 92, VP of Corporate Affairs, Ubisoft

April 5: Michelle d’Auray, ambassador, permanent representative of Canada to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

April 19: Shannon Vallor, William J. Rewak, S.J., Professor of Philosophy, Santa Clara University

April 24: Yoshua Bengio, Canada Research Chair in Statistical Learning Algorithms, Université de Montréal, and expert on deep learning

All events are open to the public. For times, location and more information, visit concordia.ca/digitalstrategy. ■

—Karen McCarthy, BA 82

CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS’ SOLUTION TO OFFICE THERMOSTAT WARS

No matter the season, thermostat wars rage in offices worldwide. Workers bicker over the temperature, alternately complaining that it’s too hot or too cold. Thankfully, Concordia researchers may have developed a solution.

A new study published in the journal *Energy and Buildings* proposes a method that simultaneously optimizes individual office

workers’ productivity and energy consumption costs by automating the control of indoor environmental conditions, including air quality, temperature and lighting. “Improving the quality of the office-building environment impacts the comfort of employees, which in turn influences their productivity,” says Hashem Akbari, professor in the Department of Building, Civil and

Environmental Engineering.

He conducted the study with Farhad Mofidi, PhD (bldg. eng.) 17. The researchers simulated their method in an open-air Montreal office building with five zones and four occupants per zone. They tested different occupancy scenarios and outdoor weather conditions and took into consideration the employees’ thermal tolerance.

Using data analysis techniques, they modelled the preferences of each office worker. As a result, they could simulate worker-preferred indoor temperatures, ventilation rates, natural illumination and artificial lighting based on sensors placed throughout the office.

Their results? Reduced energy costs and an upsurge in occupants’ overall productivity. ■

—Laura Dutton, BFA 06

Throwback: Meet six of Concordia's honorary degree recipients



1



2



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4



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6

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Honorary degrees are the highest distinctions conferred by Concordia, a practice followed by most universities. Hon docs, as they're often referred to, are usually presented during spring and fall convocation ceremonies. While Concordia mostly bestows the LLD — Doctor of Law — it also presents doctorates of science, literature and fine arts.

Recipients of these prestigious degrees are prominent individuals in their chosen fields who've provided distinguished service to their community, or who've had a significant connection or made an important contribution to the university.

Nearly 600 photos from honorary degree presentations from Concordia and its founding institutions, Loyola College and Sir George Williams University, are now available online through the Flickr link at concordia.ca/alumni (search for "A history of Concordia honorary degree recipients") or via @ConcordiaAlumni. Here is a sample.

Beverley McLachlin, LLD 11, **1** a native Albertan, was the first female chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. She occupied the position from 2000 until her retirement in December 2017, making her Canada's longest-serving chief justice.

The successful and prolific French-Canadian singer, songwriter, composer and actor **Robert Charlebois**, LLD 10, **2** is an iconic figure not just in Quebec but in French-speaking countries around the world.

Laura Mulvey, LLD 08, **3** is an English scholar whose work sits at the intersection of film theory, psychoanalysis and feminism. Her seminal essay "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" defined the "male gaze" in classical Hollywood cinema.

One of few people to whom Concordia presented an honorary degree outside of convocation, **Al Gore**, LLD 07, **4** was honoured in March 2007. After an unsuccessful run for president of the United States in 2000, the former U.S. vice-president turned his attention to environmentalism. His films *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006) and *An Inconvenient Sequel* (2017) made climate change a household conversation.

After moving at a young age with her family to Canada from her native Hong Kong, **Adrienne Clarkson**, LLD 04, **5** rose to exceptional heights as a writer, broadcaster and activist. From 1999 to 2005 she served as the 26th Governor General of Canada and spent much of her time addressing Aboriginal and anti-racism issues.

Indian-born **Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar**, LLD 98, **6** was a world-renowned astrophysicist and mathematician. The 1983 Nobel laureate in physics made major contributions in the fields of stellar structure, stellar dynamics, radiative transfer and hydromagnetics.

— Lucas Napier-Macdonald, GrDip 17

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NEXT-GEN. NOW.



THE \$250-MILLION CAMPAIGN WILL EMBOLDEN
CANADA'S NEXT-GENERATION UNIVERSITY

HOWARD BOKSER

The next generation is here. With the November 2017 launch of the \$250-million Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, the university has set in motion the most ambitious fundraising effort in its history.

Thanks to a number of exceptional gifts, the campaign is off to a strong start. "We're already more than halfway to our goal," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "We're very grateful to our community of donors, who I'm sure will help us meet or surpass our record target."

The campaign will support Concordia's nine forward-thinking strategic directions, which were unveiled in 2015:

Double Our Research: pursue bold goals in research that reflect our talents and our ambition to tackle big challenges;

Teach For Tomorrow: deliver a next-generation education that's connected, transformative, and fit for the times;

Get Your Hands Dirty: use rich experiences outside the classroom to deepen learning and effect change;

Mix It Up: build agile structures that facilitate intellectual mixing and internal collaboration;

Experiment Boldly: be inventive and enterprising in creating tomorrow's university;

Grow Smartly: add capacity where our strengths and emerging enrolment demand intersect;

Embrace the City, Embrace the World: achieve public impact through research and learning;

Go Beyond: push past the status quo and go the extra mile for members of our community;

Take Pride: celebrate successes and be purposeful about building a legacy.

Funds raised will cement Concordia's position as Canada's next-generation university. They will focus on three major themes:

Next-Generation Ideas to fuel new institutes, research centres, think tanks and academic programs. These will allow Concordia research to tackle

big questions in diverse areas such as preventive health, cybersecurity, urban centres and arts, culture and technology.

Next-Generation Talent to multiply hands-on and work-integrated learning by creating accessible online options and building more pathways for international study and social engagement. The goal is to provide students with a range of opportunities through field schools, graduate and undergraduate student awards, real-world experience and online learning.

Next-Generation Impact from think tanks, living labs, entrepreneurship centres and innovation hubs; Concordia's community and industry engagement will grow through social innovation, public scholars, open access, knowledge sharing and more.

The campaign team is being led by Shepard and campaign co-chairs Andrew Molson and Lino Saputo Jr., BComm 89.

Over the following pages, members of the leadership team, as well as the university's senior administrators, share their vision of the campaign and how it will help propel Concordia's future.

For more information, visit concordia.ca/campaign.



ALAN SHEPARD
PRESIDENT, CONCORDIA

“For all universities, societal shifts are creating new challenges. The digital revolution is transforming how information is shared and, therefore, how people learn. And *what* people need to learn — the information, and especially the skills — is shifting as change accelerates in the 21st century.

In such an era of uncertainty, universities need to Teach for Tomorrow — one of our nine strategic directions. Our strategic directions are guiding our journey to stay ahead of the curve on all of this revolutionary change.

Teaching for Tomorrow means many things. We’ve listened to our students, and we’re providing more learning opportunities that are hands-on and integrated with the work world. More labs, more field trips, more internships, more co-op placements and more entrepreneurship opportunities at our District 3 Innovation Center.

Turning education towards the future means helping our students Embrace the City, Embrace the World. We are giving them more opportunities to get involved in communities here and around the world, and to attend classes abroad.

Teaching for Tomorrow means Mixing It Up. A good example is the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology, where our students and researchers from the fields of design, art, culture and technology meet.

Turning teaching towards the future also means to Go Beyond. We are investing in our students through scholarships and research funds and we support them after graduation.

And Teaching for Tomorrow means Doubling Our Research, Experimenting Boldly and Growing Smartly, where our expertise intersects with increasing demand. And demand for Concordia certainly *has* increased. We’ve had record funding for our groundbreaking research and record enrolment, while other universities are feeling a demographic dip.

Our campuses are bubbling with activity, and the excitement generated by Concordia radiates far beyond our facilities. Investing in our next generation together means we all have to continue our ninth strategic direction, and that’s to Take Pride. Take pride in what we’ve *already* achieved together, and take pride in what we *will* achieve.

We have so many worthy centres and institutes that are pulling together expertise from Montreal and around the world to solve local and global problems. And we really do have so many outstanding students. They constantly impress me.

Concordia is Canada’s next-generation university. And the next generation is now.”

ANDREW MOLSON
PARTNER AND
CHAIRMAN, RES
PUBLICA CONSULTING
GROUP; DIRECTOR,
MOLSON COORS
CO-CHAIR,
THE CAMPAIGN
FOR CONCORDIA



“My father, Eric Molson, became very involved in Concordia in the 1990s and 2000s [as chancellor]. I was very much inspired by his dedication to the university. Following his work, I learned on my own how great an institution Concordia is for a city like Montreal, and indeed for our country.

We have a wonderful public education system in Canada. But we also understand these schools can be even better with help from volunteers and philanthropy. It’s a way to deliver added value for our already great system.”

LINO SAPUTO JR.,
BA 89

CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD AND CEO,
SAPUTO INC.



CO-CHAIR,
THE CAMPAIGN
FOR CONCORDIA

“As businesses evolve, as human characteristics evolve, as technologies evolve, education needs to evolve as well. When you think about Concordia’s nine strategic directions, they’re actually very much in sync with where society is going. I really like the idea of this university going to the next generation — adapting its programs and its schedules to the next generation. I think that’s where Concordia is heading — I like being a part of that.”

GINA CODY,
MENG 81, PHD 89

EXECUTIVE CHAIR,
MCINTOSH PERRY LTD.

VICE-CHAIR, TORONTO,
THE CAMPAIGN
FOR CONCORDIA



“I realize I became who I am today because of what Concordia gave me three decades ago. I came from Iran during the revolution [1979]. Concordia accepted me with open arms. I was treated equally. Being a female or from another country didn’t matter. Concordia provided me with the equipment and tools to be ready for a male-dominated society. I believe that we all became whoever we are because of the possibilities and opportunities given to us during our education.”

“I saw a presentation by some Concordia students who were taking moisture out of the air in the desert to allow plants to grow. Now if that isn’t thinking way out there, I don’t know what is.”

MUTSUMI TAKAHASHI, BA 79,
MBA 95, LLD 13

CHIEF NEWS ANCHOR,
CTV MONTREAL NEWS

HONORARY CHAIR,
THE CAMPAIGN
FOR CONCORDIA



“Concordia showed me what options I had and gave me a grounding to allow me to choose what was best for my career. I think that’s an obligation and duty that all of us have, to show students now what their options are, to help them realize their potential.

When I was growing up, my father would teach me mathematical equations and then show how these could apply in everyday life. Concordia does that. It takes an education and helps you apply it to everyday life.”

PETER WEBSTER
CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD, R. HOWARD
WEBSTER FOUNDATION

HONORARY VICE-
CHAIR, WEST COAST,
THE CAMPAIGN
FOR CONCORDIA



“When we went as a board to visit the PERFORM Centre on the Loyola Campus, it was absolutely an eye-opener to see what was going on and to see the huge co-operation it has with the community. The end goal is to make society better. I saw a presentation by some Concordia students who were taking moisture out of the air in the desert to allow plants to grow. Now if that isn’t thinking way out there, I don’t know what is.”

JONATHAN WENER,
BCOMM 71

CHANCELLOR,
CONCORDIA

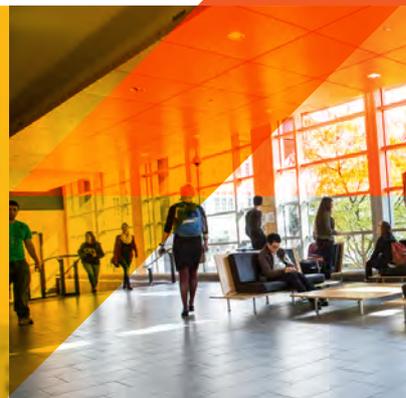
CHAIRMAN AND CEO,
CANDEREL

HONORARY CHAIR,
THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA



“I find our students excel in business, in the arts, in computer science, in engineering, because they’ve come out with a practical background. I excelled at Concordia because with the case-method system we were confronted with problems to solve. These business cases were an excellent way to prepare you for business. I thrived on that and loved every minute of it.

I had a production professor who said, ‘Machines depreciate, people appreciate — invest in people.’ That’s what we’re about to do with this campaign — it’s an investment in the future.”



SUPPORT FOR CONCORDIA IS SUPPORT FOR SOCIETY

MEMBERS OF CONCORDIA'S SENIOR ADMINISTRATION WHO OVERSEE AREAS THAT WILL EXPERIENCE THE DIRECT BENEFITS OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA DESCRIBE WHAT THE CAMPAIGN MEANS TO THEM AND HOW IT WILL DEFINE THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

BRAM FREEDMAN

VICE-PRESIDENT,
ADVANCEMENT
AND EXTERNAL
RELATIONS



"As our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, the Campaign for Concordia will support our nine bold strategic directions. To fuel its growth — especially in teaching and high-tech research — Concordia must continue to stand out.

The Campaign for Concordia is a call to our alumni, faculty, staff and friends to give to our university to support our growth.

It is through our diversity that we are able to innovate for the future. We live in a technological age where the pace of change is increasing. The Campaign for Concordia will support our students and researchers. We build think tanks, institutes and research centres to bring together experts in knowledge hubs that will improve society."

GRAHAM CARR

PROVOST AND
VICE-PRESIDENT,
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



"Above all, the Campaign for Concordia provides us with the opportunity to support exciting initiatives that we otherwise couldn't afford, but that will lift our academic enterprise to a new level. We're already doing many incredible things at the university in terms of our programs, support for students, connections to community and research.

We have truly gifted faculty, dedicated staff, exciting students from almost every country in the world, and formidable partners in the private, public and not-for-profit realms. Yet to truly unleash all that capacity, to enable Concordia to reach its full potential, we need generous gifts that match the passion of our donors with the knowledge, action and creativity of our community. It isn't just Concordia that will benefit. Nor is it just our students. It's Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world.

This campaign comes at a pivotal juncture in the university's history. We have just embarked on an ambitious pathway to realize a set of strategic directions that will define Concordia's future and set the tone and tempo for what a next-generation university can and should be. Never before has our community had so much to be enthusiastic about.

Students from all over Quebec and the world are aspiring to study here. We are committed to creating novel, flexible spaces where creativity, research and the development of new ideas can flourish. Our research output is growing at record levels and Concordia is known nationally and internationally as a true leader in many fields. The campaign is perfectly timed to tap into, feed and nourish that optimism, that belief in the possibility of positive change.

As a young university with proud roots, we're on the cusp of taking a giant step into the future. And the campaign will be a critical enabler of our vision and goals."

CHRISTOPHE GUY

VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH AND
GRADUATE STUDIES



"The Campaign for Concordia will support investigations and discoveries that are transdisciplinary, collaborative and impactful in the sense that the knowledge uncovered by our researchers will inform both government policy and society as a whole.

Investing in next-generation research will allow Concordia to continue strengthening the training that we offer students through a research-based education. The invaluable foundation that students gain through their work here in methods and methodology will ultimately lead them to becoming better professionals, transferring their knowledge to the workplace.

The Campaign for Concordia will contribute greatly to the university's Double Our Research strategic direction. That, for me, has much to do with leveraging the responsiveness and flexibility of both Concordia's faculty members and state-of-the-art facilities. I also hope that connections made during the campaign will pave the way for partnerships with both the public and private sectors, providing us with a solid framework for growth."

PAULA WOOD-ADAMS

DEAN, GRADUATE
STUDIES



"As a university with a growing graduate student population, our most important mandate is training the leaders of tomorrow by giving them the means to push the boundaries of their disciplines. The campaign is a way for us to get out there and let our communities know that big things are happening here, things that will make a change in their everyday lives, whether through new technologies or different ways of approaching pressing challenges.

I am confident that the campaign will translate into new opportunities for overall recruitment. We'll be able to reach even more top-tier students and faculty members to join our labs and classrooms. More awareness also means more collaboration and, consequently, more innovation."

AMIR ASIF
DEAN, FACULTY OF
ENGINEERING AND
COMPUTER SCIENCE



"Concordia is recognized for its commitment to accessibility and social responsibility. Many of our graduates were first-generation university students. The Campaign for Concordia will enable the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) to reaffirm the university's aspirations and make ENCS a reality for bright, hardworking young people.

It will help us train students with skills to design next-gen technologies in a socially responsible manner. It empowers us to retain faculty members who are leaders in their field, who are passionate about educating young minds and who are pursuing cutting-edge research. It will allow us to develop student spaces, hands-on teaching labs and state-of-the-art facilities on campus, infrastructure that facilitates learning and research of the highest quality.

The campaign will inspire the ENCS community to be the best that we can be."

"To enable Concordia to reach its full potential, we need generous gifts that match the passion of our donors with the knowledge, action and creativity of our community."

ANNE-MARIE CROTEAU, BSC 86



DEAN, JOHN
MOLSON SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS

"As a proud graduate and long-time faculty member, I have seen Concordia change in so many wonderful ways over the years.

In my new role as dean of the John Molson School of Business, I regularly meet alumni whose sons and daughters are now studying here. A second generation of students now calls Concordia home.

Our community's financial support, through the Campaign for Concordia, will equip the university with the means to provide this generation with an outstanding educational experience—one that will prepare them for a meaningful career and for having a positive impact on society."

REBECCA DUCLOS
DEAN, FACULTY
OF FINE ARTS



"I see a huge role in the future Concordia for experimental and experiential pedagogical practices that the Faculty of Fine Arts has long embraced.

For the faculty, this campaign is about building the infrastructure to share our material and methodological practices both inside and outside the university. We want more support for all students, more STEAM [science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics] collaborations across the whole

university, and more research-creation projects with major partners like the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

We're one of the largest comprehensive fine arts institutions in all of North America. We will always be a faculty where scholarly, visual, performing, cinematic, design and digital arts thrive. And we want to share what we do with an ever-larger community of people who can wrap their arms around real initiatives that benefit society.

The campaign is a rare opportunity for us collectively to reflect on the kind of university we want to build for the future. It's a significant move for Concordia to transform its ideas for new directions into real proposals that say to the larger community, "Yes! This is what we want. This is what we believe in. Follow us and support us!"

ANDRÉ ROY
DEAN, FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SCIENCE



"This campaign represents an immense opportunity to inspire people with the bold and creative initiatives our faculty is pursuing in various fields, such as preventive health, global environmental change, human rights and genomics.

The emphasis of the campaign on investing in top talent will help us advance our innovative and interdisciplinary academic project and realize our goals for the coming years, as outlined in our faculty's strategic plan, FAS 2025.

This campaign embodies our university's shared ambitions, including Indigenous advancement, inclusiveness, cutting-edge pedagogy, student success and community engagement.

We all have a role to play as champions for this cause, and it is my hope that our collective efforts throughout the campaign will see professors, students, staff and alumni finding new and unexpected ways to work together as a team, with a combined desire and determination to be *the* next-generation university."



1

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS DINNER LAUNCHES THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: NEXT-GEN. NOW.

Concordia's staunchest ambassadors learned how philanthropy is providing momentum to Canada's next-generation university to teach for tomorrow and double its research at the **Chancellor's Builders Circle and Friends Dinner** on November 1, 2017. **1**

Concordia Chancellor **Jonathan Wener**, **2** BComm 71, **Norman Hébert Jr.**, **3** BComm 77, chair of the Board of Governors, and Concordia President **Alan Shepard** **4** welcomed more than 150 members and friends of the Chancellor's Builders Circle at the elegant Cirque Éloize in Montreal.

The event also marked the launch of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement and External Relations, introduced the campaign's co-chairs, **Andrew Molson** (right), partner and chairman of RES PUBLICA Consulting Group, and **Lino Saputo Jr.** (left), **5** BA 89, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Saputo. Molson and Saputo explained how this will be most ambitious campaign in the university's history, with a \$250-million goal, and will support Concordia's nine strategic directions.

CTV Montreal chief news anchor and campaign honorary chair **Mutsumi Takahashi** (right), BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, emceed the event. She's pictured with **Jennifer McGrath**, **6** chair of Childhood Preventive Health and Data Science at

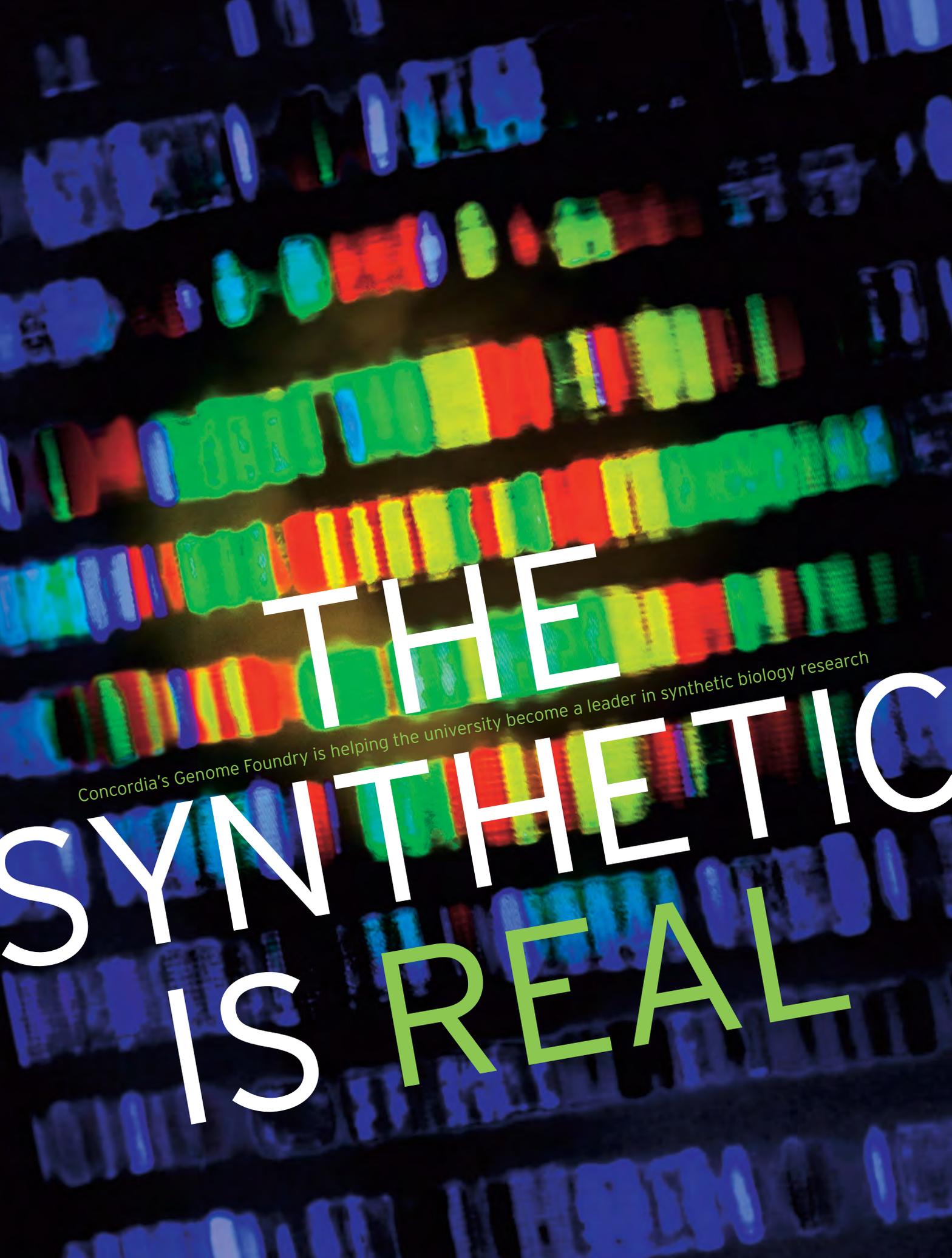


Concordia's PERFORM Centre.

The evening featured presentations by two Concordia researchers. **Ana Maria Medina Ramirez**, MSc (mech. eng.) 17, who placed second in the Canadian finals of the 2016 Three-Minute Thesis and Project Competition, demonstrated how she's improving car safety. Medina Ramirez is pictured with **Christine Lengvari**, BSc 72, **7** president and chief executive officer of Lengvari Financial.

Among the other guests were **Gina Cody**, **8** MEng 81, PhD 89, executive chair of McIntosh Perry, **Edith Molière**, **9** vice-president of the Naim S. Mahlab Foundation, and **Gail and Stephen Jarislawsky**, **10** LLD 03, founder, director and chairman of Jarislawsky Fraser & Co. ■





THE SYNTHETIC IS REAL

Concordia's Genome Foundry is helping the university become a leader in synthetic biology research

SIMONA
RABINOVITCH

At Concordia's new high-tech Genome Foundry, robotics, automation and interdisciplinary research are helping make the university a leader in the process of designing and building DNA and biological systems.

"My objective is to make this platform central to what we're doing at Concordia," says Vincent Martin, professor in Concordia's Department of Biology.

Inaugurated in 2017 with the support of a \$2.4-million grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the Genome Foundry is a shared facility housed at the Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology (CASB). The foundry, like the CASB, is the first of its kind in Canada. It brings together interdisciplinary teams from biology, biochemistry, journalism, communication studies and electrical, computer, mechanical, industrial and chemical engineering.



VINCENT MARTIN IS PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR APPLIED SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY.

In 2012, Martin co-founded the CASB with Nawwaf Kharma, MSc 16, associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Martin and Kharma serve as the centre's co-directors. "In years to come, we want the Genome Foundry to become a provincial or national platform for people from outside of Concordia to come and build their genomes," Martin says.

As described on the CASB's website (concordia.ca/casb), synthetic biology involves the genetic modification of micro-organisms in order

"to design and build biological systems that are beneficial to society." While its applications are many, synthetic biology allows scientists to "go outside the boundaries of what nature has handed you and create something that's new to nature," Martin says. "A vaccine is an example — fighting infections and pathogens — and producing antibiotics." Its many other applications include environmental protection, sustainable manufacturing, agriculture and food production.

"A genome is so complicated — it's made of tens of thousands of genes," says Martin, who is also Concordia University Research Chair in Microbial Engineering and Synthetic Biology. "It's a problem that's way too complex for individuals to figure out, so you need robotics, machines and a lot of computational power. That's one aspect of the foundry that we're building up."

Martin reports that new hire Michael Hallett, a professor in the Department of Biology, will be exploring machine learning and artificial intelligence. “If you generate enough information about how the different parts of the genome work together, you can start making predictions and extrapolating further about specific changes in the genome and what the outcome would be,” Martin adds. “We’re trying to create a system that you can tinker with and generate enough information to make the systems predictable. Right now in biology we can’t do that. It’s a lot of trial and error.”

RECREATING DNA

That trial and error is where automation, systems and engineering come in. “It’s time to industrialize building things out of DNA,” Martin says. “We industrialized building things of steel, cars, computers. That’s what engineers do. With techniques and methods, they make models, so every time they build a bridge they know it’s not going to fall, every time they build a car they know it’s going to drive properly. Let’s bring that discipline to biology and genomes.”

“In years to come, we want the Genome Foundry to become a provincial or national platform for people from outside of Concordia to come and build their genomes.”

From manipulating computer chips and gears and knobs for a car, we’re actually recreating DNA.”

At the Genome Foundry, research by Aashiq H. Kachroo, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, is doing just that. His work attempts to engineer human biological systems “in simple cells like baker’s yeast,” research that could be applied to “understanding basic biology such as evolution and applied sciences like fighting disease,” Kachroo explains.

He came to Concordia in 2017 and his research focuses on humanizing genetic systems in yeast. “Where I think we can excel is to use the Genome Foundry to build human biological systems, not just one gene but multiple genes,” he says. “What we’ve done so far is replace one human gene at a time. That is where the challenge is: can we build larger complexes? Some of these are 30 to 40 genes at a time and we can use the foundry to assemble and build those systems. The foundry will be immensely useful because it has robots, so we can do the process significantly faster and on a much larger scale.”

The scientists agree that such speed offers many advantages. David Kwan is assistant professor in the Department of Biology and affiliated with the CASB and Centre for Structural and

Functional Genomics. He says the foundry’s automation allows researchers to potentially conduct thousands of experiments at the same time. That’s much more quickly than the traditional method of “doing it by hand on the bench,” explains Kwan, who arrived at Concordia in 2016. “This takes a lot of the monotonous and repetitive labour away from the research, and frees up researchers and students to come up with new ideas and ways to apply these techniques and approaches.” That will in turn benefit the “broader aims” of the research experiments, he adds.

“Engineering strains is a considerable effort that involves much trial and error,” says Steve Shih, a CASB researcher and assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. “You build the circuit and then you test the circuit. With the cell, we have to go into the code, test the cell, see if it’s what we want and, if not, we’ve got to go back and rewrite the code. With all the equipment we have, the Genome Foundry helps us automate this process.”

BRIDGING THE GAP

The foundry also encourages collaboration. “I’m trained as an interdisciplinary scientist and having a genome foundry promotes that,” says Shih, who also joined Concordia in 2016. “We’re bridging the gap



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

AASHIQ H. KACHROO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, IS LOOKING TO ENGINEER HUMAN BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS IN SIMPLE CELLS LIKE BAKER’S YEAST.

between engineering, biology, chemistry and physics; all these science and engineering fields are coming together in this foundry. Beside me I can talk to a biologist or, if I had a question about chemistry, someone would be there. It's a nice little hub where all these scientists can come together, a really special place." He also says the foundry is great for collaborations, citing a new DNA writing project on which he, Kwan and Martin are beginning to work.

Kwan agrees. "Having a place to gather minds from different disciplines and sharing these kinds of resources, cool toys and high-tech instruments is really conducive to collaboration, getting people together and co-operating," he says.

One example is another joint effort between Kwan and Shih. Their infrastructure project combines engineering and biology to develop small, hand-held automation technology. "Specifically, we're looking at sugars that are related to cancer," says Shih.

Beyond their shared work, Shih's areas of interest include biofuel production, trying to understand the genetics behind cancer and expediting the synthetic biology cycle. Research at his microfluidics laboratory has applications for health and energy.

"Microfluidics are essentially a lab-on-chip technology," he explains. "The traditional scientific laboratory contains benches, beakers, with a bunch of scientists working away and doing all these experiments. Now, think of miniaturizing all that

onto a credit card-shaped device. By doing that, we can integrate all the biological or chemical processes that go on in those laboratories on a miniaturized scale. When I was in the lab, I used to try to do one, maybe two experiments at one time. But now, with this device, you're capable of doing thousands. And if you're really good, if you're really clever with your designs, you can do millions of experiments at once."

MANY ADVANTAGES

The miniature scale of microfluidics offers other advantages. "For example, by going to that scale we can track and analyze cancer cells and see what's going on genetically with them. We're currently writing up a publication where we could go into a cancer cell and knock out specific genes related to cancer and prevent the growth of those cancer cells," Shih says.

Using microfluidics to expedite the synthetic biology cycle is another application, one of which he's particularly proud. "We would engineer a cell, meaning we would go into the cell and write or modify specific DNA code so it could produce valuable products like biofuel, possibly biochemicals, or even novel therapeutics like specialized antibiotics," he says.

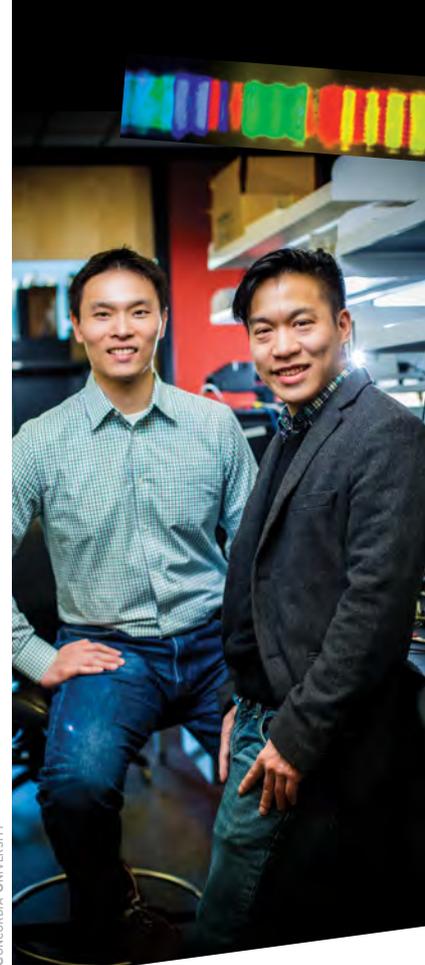
"If you want to create a specific drug from a bacterial cell, there are just so many variations in the genetic code, three billion or so. Imagine your boss telling you, 'Go in there and try to find the perfect combination.' That would be impossible!" he says. "We're using microfluidics to try and automate that process.

Ideally, to quickly go through all the different combinations such that it is easy and possibly could be done in less than a day or two."

As for Kwan, his synthetic biology interests include such questions as, "Can we engineer biological systems to produce medicines? Biofuels? Biorenewables? Or common products like plastics, which by conventional means are not produced sustainably?"

His focus is on fine-tuning proteins, to "hone them into precision tools." That involves protein engineering centred on enzymes that, he explains, are proteins catalyzing chemical reactions. "These are proteins encoded in genes that came from nature, and that evolved in nature to do something else, to help the organisms they come from survive," he says. "We can try to copy what nature does and try to do evolution in the lab to perfect these proteins as parts of our synthetic biology systems. This involves making changes to genes that encode these proteins, in order to evolve the proteins."

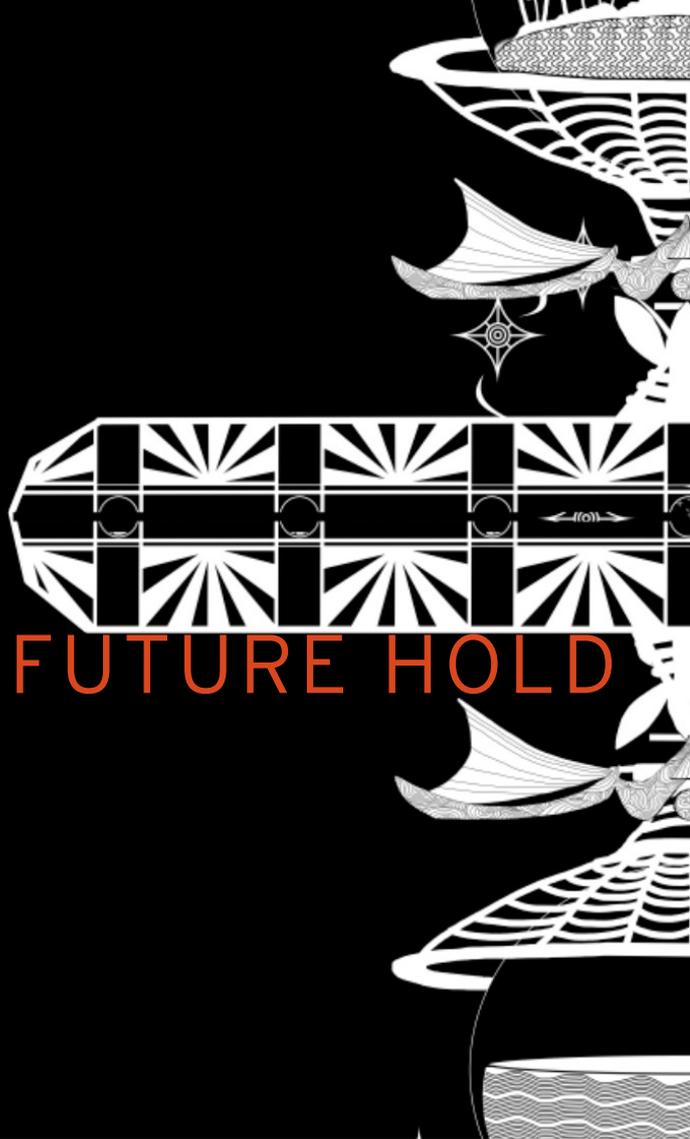
Martin anticipates that the next big step in the international field of synthetic biology might be to synthesize the human genome. He references a major research project out of the United States called the Genome Project-write, or GP-write. "They're trying to do 'the grand challenge' of the human genome sequence, to actually synthesize the genome from scratch," he says. "The 'grand challenge' is how to do this: the technology, the ethics — all of that." ■
—Simona Rabinovitch is a Montreal freelance writer.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DAVID KWAN (RIGHT) IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND A RESEARCHER AT THE CENTRE FOR APPLIED SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY AND CENTRE FOR STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS.

STEVE SHIH IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING. KWAN AND SHIH RECEIVED A \$100,000 INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FROM THE CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION'S JOHN R. EVANS LEADERS FUND AND \$150,000 IN OTHER FUNDING, INCLUDING \$100,000 FROM THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, IN 2017.



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD

DANIEL BARTLETT

When Jason Edward Lewis and Skawennati, BFA 92, GrDip 96, established Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (AbTeC) in 2005, the research network's aim was to encourage Indigenous individuals to create and engage with Aboriginally determined web pages, online games and virtual environments.

"We pulled together a group of people interested in thinking about how Indigenous communities were working with

digital media," says Lewis, who is Concordia University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary.

More than a decade later, AbTeC continues to create cultural works that introduce practices of mentorship, education and collaboration to Indigenous communities, particularly young people. A sample of the network's ongoing activities includes the Skins Workshops on Aboriginal Storytelling and Video Game Design, art production and artist residencies.

Then, three years ago, Lewis, Skawennati and a team of academics, artists and technologists got together to discuss the future of Aboriginal communities in Canada and the world. "We decided to develop a framework and structure to encourage Native individuals and communities to think concretely about the future," says Lewis, also professor in Concordia's Department of Design and Computation Arts. "When we say 'future,' we don't mean the next political mandate or even the next generation — we're thinking seven generations out."

The discussion would lead to the establishment of the Indigenous Futures research cluster at Concordia's Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology (milieux.concordia.ca/indigenous-futures), as well as the Initiative for Indigenous Futures, funded by a seven-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grant.

"AN INDIGENOUS WAY OF THINKING"

Founded in March 2016, the Indigenous Futures research cluster explores



FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES?

Milieux's Indigenous Futures research cluster brings together artists, scholars and community partners to develop visions of Indigenous peoples' tomorrows

how Indigenous people are imagining the future of their families and communities through various narratives, frameworks and technologies. Lewis and Heather Igloliorte, assistant professor in the Department of Art History, serve as co-directors, and Skawennati acts as the partnership coordinator.

Whereas AbTeC focuses mostly on artists and research-creation from a First Nations context, the Indigenous Futures research cluster takes a multidisciplinary approach to the time to come. "It's not just artists who have things to say about

the future. There are lots of other people who are thinking about these things and we want to be in conversation with them," Lewis explains.

The Indigenous Futures Research Cluster Presents is the latest initiative to try and spark those discussions. Described as a series of talks, performances, exhibitions and other public engagement activities, during the 2017-18 academic year it will include presentations by artists, performers, composers and academics.

Lewis believes it essential to examine forward-looking work from multidisciplinary

perspectives, especially when coming from an Indigenous context. "These clean divisions between science, engineering, art and the humanities are not clean at all," he says.

For Skawennati, an artist and activist, multidisciplinary approaches to Indigenous futurism are so important because "we need to see ourselves in every part of the future," she says. She adds that it is only by envisioning strong, thriving Indigenous individuals and societies that communities will be able to address the challenges of today. "We need to see ourselves in the

food sovereignty movement, we need to see ourselves in law making, we need to see ourselves in society more broadly — it's just imperative," she says.

Igloliorte agrees and draws parallels between the ways the research cluster and Indigenous communities operate in general. "Multidisciplinarity, or even non-disciplinarity, is an Indigenous way of thinking about the world," she says. "It's the way our research is going because it is a more holistic way of working. For me, it's really satisfying to see how everything fits together."



“When we say ‘future,’ we don’t mean the next political mandate or even the next generation – we’re thinking seven generations out.”

THE INITIATIVE FOR INDIGENOUS FUTURES

Most of the Concordia-based Indigenous Futures research cluster’s activities are currently focused on the broader Initiative for Indigenous Futures (IIF), a \$2.5-million collaboration between universities, arts institutions, community organizations and industry partners in five provinces and territories. Among the project’s aims are to provide Aboriginal youth with critical cultural and digital media tools that empower them to craft a destiny of their own choosing, and to develop multiple visions of Indigenous peoples’ tomorrows.

Lewis is the principal investigator, while Skawennati and Igloliorte work as the IIF’s partnership coordinator and co-investigator, respectively. The project is funded by SSHRC until 2022 and made up of workshops, residencies, symposia and a media archive, including the Skins Workshops conducted by AbTeC.

“When we first started AbTeC, one of the

questions was how do we get more people using this technology,” Lewis recalls. “We brainstormed a bunch of different ideas but we kept coming back to video games, because it was just clear to us that that’d be a much more attractive way of pulling everybody in.”

Based on the responses he’s received, Lewis thinks the workshops have been a success, especially when he considers that neither he nor Skawennati had any experience in video game design when they first started.

The activity’s storytelling element also ensures that what is designed usually stands out from typical video game fare. “We have elders come in and tell stories, and then we talk about why stories are important and how they are structured,” says Lewis. “The participants devise a story that they are going to use the video game to tell. They almost always take ingredients from different stories they’ve been telling and talking about and remixing them into an interactive form.”

The IIF residence program offers Indigenous artists, writers, activists and thinkers an opportunity to explore Indigenous futures at AbTeC headquarters in Concordia’s Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex. Lewis jokes that the project offers residents so much leeway that they often do not believe what they are being asked. “They write a one-page proposal that includes a budget and if our committee feels confident that it’s a worthwhile venture, then they come and hopefully do some interesting work,” he says.

Scott Benesiinaabandan is the project’s long-term artist-in-residence. He produced a virtual reality (VR) work, *Blueberry Pie Under the Martian Sky*, that was shown at Concordia’s Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery in fall 2017. The exhibition, *Owerà:ke Non Aié:nahne / Combler les espaces vides / Filling in the Blank Spaces*, was a joint creative project by Lewis and Skawennati.

“The whole premise of the piece was looking

at our communities 150 years into the future,” says Benesiinaabandan. The narrative nature of language is what served as his inspiration. “Language encapsulates all things. It is the most important piece of culture and determines how culture gets propagated into the future. Language is a foundational element,” he says.

The VR commission also marked the first time Benesiinaabandan worked with the medium. While he admits that the work is a personal exploration of how he considers language, he hopes viewers take away a “visceral sense of being in a different world,” he says. “I use a lot of digital media, so this artwork was just another exploration into that. It was a great learning opportunity too, because now I have a background in VR.”

While Lewis is happy with the work the IIF and its partners are doing, he wants to expand the conversation to include members of the public. That is the idea behind the Symposium on the Future Imaginary, which



JASON EDWARD LEWIS (RIGHT), IS PROFESSOR IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND COMPUTATION ARTS, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CHAIR IN COMPUTATIONAL MEDIA AND THE INDIGENOUS FUTURE IMAGINARY, AND CO-DIRECTOR OF THE INDIGENOUS FUTURES RESEARCH CLUSTER. SKAWENNATI (LEFT), IS THE PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR FOR CONCORDIA'S INITIATIVE FOR INDIGENOUS FUTURES, HOUSED IN THE INDIGENOUS FUTURES RESEARCH CLUSTER. IN 2017 THE ARTIST COMPLETED THREE MAJOR PROJECTS, INCLUDING A PUBLIC ART PROJECT AND TWO MACHINIMAS – MOVIES MADE IN VIRTUAL WORLDS – *SHE FALLS FOR AGES* AND *THE PEACEMAKER RETURNS*.

wrapped up its third edition at the Winnipeg Art Gallery in December 2017.

"We've made a significant difference in growing that conversation through the symposium because each one is videotaped and posted online," he says. "One of the big commitments we made at the beginning of the grant that gets carried out through the cluster is to record as much as we can and get it online so people can see it."

Lewis is pleased the symposium has grown since it was first held in Toronto in 2015. Still, it is also clear that its success does not lie solely on the shoulders of the IIF team. "It's not just because of what we're doing," he says. "There are other people who are doing work in what they call Indigenous Futurisms that are really helping break open the conversation."

RESEARCH INSPIRED BY SCI-FI, ART, ELDERS

Both Lewis and Skawennati grew up with a love for science fiction. But after years and years of reading science fiction novels, they

began to notice how few Indigenous people actually populate the genre.

This realization is what propelled Skawennati to examine what lies ahead for First Nations people more closely. "I really felt I needed to do something useful and I couldn't just make art that was pretty," recalls Skawennati. "A lot of the Native art in the late '90s was about being a victim and I wasn't interested in being a victim."

The first artwork in which she decidedly envisioned Indigenous people in the future was an online paperdoll/time-travel journal called *Imagining Indians in the 25th Century*. The project's timeline takes place over a millennium and sees the main character visit 10 events over the course of that time. Skawennati created a different costume for the character to wear at each event, along with 10 separate journal entries.

The project is not only set in the future, though. "I don't want to pretend I'm a historian, but I'm an artist who does a good amount

of historical research.

Imagining Indians starts in 1490 — two years before the arrival of Christopher Columbus — and ends in 2490. It's one millennium but only half of it is in the future," Skawennati explains.

Igloliorte also likes science fiction literature and film, although her engagement with Indigenous futures came about after she realized that the Inuit were not taking on leadership roles in the art world. She is interested in both the distant *and* immediate futures for Inuit.

"Inuit art contributes \$87.5 million to the Canadian economy annually, and still there are very few Inuit curators; there are no permanent museum staff, and few Inuit are even working with our collections," Igloliorte says. "Here we have this vast artistic production by numerous artists — the highest percentage of artists per capita in the country — and yet there aren't nearly enough Inuit leading that movement or writing our art history."

Her involvement in the Indigenous Futures research cluster aligns with the group's seven-generation principle, yet she also wants to keep an eye on the next decade to ensure the Inuit take charge of their artistic futures. "This is a very strange phenomenon to have in Canada," she says. "What is the future of Inuit art if it's not led by Inuit?"

For Benesiinaabandan, his interest in Indigenous futures started with the elders' stories he heard as a child. "Even though I like science fiction, I'm not particularly driven by that," he says. "When we talk to our elders, there's always a consideration of the future. We are always talking about the future in one way or another." ■

The Indigenous Futures research cluster is currently looking for students interested in doing archival work as well as postdoctoral fellows. Students are asked to contact Jason Edward Lewis at jason.lewis@concordia.ca for more information.

—Daniel Bartlett, BA (comm. studies & journ.) 08, is a Montreal freelance writer.



FAR-FLUNG ALUMNI

Meet seven Concordians whose careers have taken them across the world

There's no denying Montreal's charms. The city was again ranked number one in 2017 by QS Best Student Cities, for instance. Close to three quarters of Concordia's 200,000-plus alumni call it home. Yet for a variety of reasons many alums move elsewhere after graduation — and some quite far away.

More than 5,000 Concordians are settled outside of Canada and the United States, scattered around the globe in 150 countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Of those international alumni, about one third reside in Europe, 20 per cent in the Middle East and 15 per cent in China. We introduce you to seven internationally based Concordia alumni.

Concordia champion in Hong Kong

In the half century since he graduated from Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions, William Yip, BA 67, LLD 98, has witnessed tectonic changes in the way the university goes about welcoming and educating foreign students. Now, following a successful decades-long career as a real estate developer based in his native Hong Kong, it's his goal to make sure those changes continue their positive momentum.

When Yip arrived in Montreal in the early 1960s, he knew very little about the institution he would call home for the next several years. "In those old days, we didn't have systems like the internet," he says. "We just had word of mouth from some senior people who went to the school or came from Hong Kong."

Faced with a lack of opportunity back home, Yip and thousands of other young, ambitious Hong Kong residents hoping to carve a future for themselves went abroad for their studies. All he knew about Sir George Williams was its reputation as a good business school.

Navigating life at a new school, in a new city and in a country half a world away from home was a challenge for bewildered foreign students. "There were very few of us at the time. I believe that we had about 200 students at Sir George from Hong Kong in my time," he says. "They had many other students from other countries, including local students. They were very busy. We had to overcome many difficulties."

Yip graduated in 1967 and soon returned home to Hong Kong. Yet he had

forged deep links with the community in Montreal, including as a founding member of the Corporation of the Montreal Chinese Hospital, which continues to serve the local Chinese community today.

He started up the real estate development company Canada Land Ltd. in 1972. While building it into a powerhouse in the nearby mainland Chinese city of Guangzhou, he found time to support and raise Canada's profile as an academic destination for young Hongkongers.

HONOURED

Yip — who was awarded an honorary degree by Concordia in 1998 — has been chairman of the board of governors of the Canadian University Association (Hong Kong) since 1984, having served the six previous years as its president. In 1998–2000, Yip served as the president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the largest chamber outside Canada.



WILLIAM YIP IS GENERATING BUZZ ABOUT CONCORDIA ACROSS GREATER CHINA AND BEYOND.

He became the founding president of the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation in 1999. "Since then, we have provided 110 scholarships to kids from mainland China and Hong Kong to study at Concordia, in all faculties, including in master's programs," he says. "And we'll continue to provide scholarships to needy students."

Now Yip is closely involved with the newly launched Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, as the Asia division's honorary vice-chair. His plans include raising the university's international profile among an already crowded field of Canadian and other Western universities hoping to attract mainland Chinese and Hong Kong students. He's confident Concordia's strengths will make it stand out. "As I see the John Molson School of Business giving a very strong background to Canadian as well as international students, many of our kids from mainland China or Hong Kong want to get into the school to prepare for their careers," Yip says.

—Patrick Lejtenyi, GrDip 99

"We have provided 110 scholarships to kids from mainland China and Hong Kong to study at Concordia, and we'll continue to provide scholarships to needy students."



JOHN STODDART

MUSICIAN AND FITNESS ENTHUSIAST STACEY JACKSON GOT THE SHOWBIZ BREAK MOST PEOPLE CAN ONLY DREAM OF WHILE IN HER 40S.

Boogying to the beat of her own music

Do you believe in fame after 40? Stacey Jackson, BA (communication studies) 91, sure does.

A number of Jackson's songs have hit the United Kingdom dance charts, the first of which, "Band of Gold," made it in 2010 — after her 40th birthday. That tune was the lead single from Jackson's album *Upside Down*, a collaboration with underprivileged children from the U.K.-based arts charity Music for Youth. They reprised some of the catchiest Motown hits of the 1960s and 1970s, with their version of "Gold" reaching number 17 on the U.K. Commercial Pop Club chart in 2010. Their take on The Supremes' 1966 "I Hear a Symphony" reached number nine.

"The album started getting some buzz, and then all of a sudden I'm sitting between Lady Gaga and the Scissor Sisters on the charts."

As Jackson puts it: "The album started getting some buzz, and then all of a sudden I'm sitting between Lady Gaga and the Scissor Sisters on the charts." Since then, her career has included a chart-topping single with gangsta rap legend Snoop Dogg, "Live It Up," and six subsequent top-10 chart hits.

Jackson says her Concordia

education helped her get the initial buzz going for *Upside Down*. Back in the 1990s, while pursuing her BA in communication studies, she interned at CBS News in New York City. "After that internship, I started building up my contacts in entertainment and public relations," Jackson says. "That opened up new avenues for my career when I entered the workforce."

Soon after her graduation, New York City's Lifetime Television sponsored her to come work as their publicist. Five years later, she left to start her own company, Stacey Jackson Publicity. She ran it successfully for three years until her former boss at CBS, Tom Goodman, reached out, asking her to be a founding partner at his nascent PR firm Goodman Media in 1998.

While climbing the New York public relations ladder, Jackson never stopped making music. "I was still performing around the city in my own Motown band called Fuzzy Dice," she says.

In 1999, Jackson followed her husband to London with their two kids and put her PR career on hold to focus on music.

STAYING FIT

Another of Jackson's long-time passions is fitness. She taught aerobics through the 1980s and 1990s and has now developed her own "StaePumped" music tapes she hopes will encourage people to move, as well as a line of fitness apparel, StaeFit.

"Everyone these days is wearing fitness clothes as a fashion item," Jackson says. "If you want your stuff to sell, not only do you have to solve a problem but you have to make people want to wear it to pick up their kids as well."

Jackson designs eye-catching clothes that also have major functional advantages: they're moisture-phobic and full-coverage. Her brassiere-built-in tops attach from the front — "no more wrestling matches with sweaty clothes," Jackson says. Having acquired the patent for her front-closing tops, she's focusing on diversifying her brand.

At first, Jackson says, her children were a little bit embarrassed about her new fame. Yet it's been nearly a decade since their mom's music started playing around the country and they're used to it. Jackson ventures they might even *like* it. "Now my sons are in college in the States," she reports. "When I went and visited them, one told me, 'Mom, all my girlfriends want to meet you. They think you're so inspirational.'"

—Lucas Napier-Macdonald, *GrDip 17*

Finding ways to support future grads

When deciding which Canadian university to attend, Hong Kong native Dennis Chan, BComm 77, says he was attracted by the strong reputation of the business school at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions. A particular strength of the faculty, now known as the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), was its accounting program.

Montreal's unique character as a city arguably in its heyday in the mid-1970s also played a role. "We were told that Montreal was a very cultural city, a very distinct community in North America with French cultural heritage," he says. "We all knew it would be a very different experience than other major Canadian cities."

He admits that his decision was also based on the most practical of considerations. "At that time there was no fee differential between foreign students and local students," he says. "We were all being charged at the same rate."

The decision was one he came to greatly appreciate.

After completing his major in business management with a minor in accounting, Chan went on to earn a graduate diploma in public accountancy and his chartered accountant designation at McGill University. In

1979, due to immigration rules at the time, Chan had to return to Hong Kong and reapply from there to be allowed back in Canada to work.

Instead of returning, he found a job at Hong Kong's Universal Furniture Ltd. He became involved in putting together the first initial public offering (IPO) of an Asia-based company on the NASDAQ exchange in 1982. Chan says he was almost uniquely equipped to guide the delicate process thanks to the education he received at Concordia.

"Not too many people knew about U.S. general accounting principles in Hong Kong at that time," he says. "The company went very well and I worked there for 12 years before I moved on. At the time of its first IPO, the company's revenue was [US]\$100 million. Revenue rose to [US]\$650 million in 12 years. Working there gave me very good professional business experience in handling different types of people in 13 different jurisdictions, and gave me a very good chance to advance my professional career."

"We were told that Montreal was a very cultural city. We all knew it would be a very different experience than other major Canadian cities."



DENNIS CHAN KEEPS CONCORDIA'S HONG KONG-BASED GRADS IN TOUCH AND WORKS TOWARDS ADDING TO THEIR NUMBERS.

HONG KONG PRESENCE

As his career evolved, work took Chan to the United States, Canada and Singapore from his base in Hong Kong. Although he remained busy working for listed and non-listed international companies until 2007, when he set

up his own consultancy firm specializing in financial advisory, accountancy and corporate secretarial services, he always kept Concordia close.

In 1979, soon after his return from Canada, Chan co-founded the Concordia University Alumni Association's Hong Kong chapter and in 1999 he co-founded the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation. He has created a \$5,000 annual scholarship in addition to making gifts to JMSB and the Concordia Library. "Since the start of the Hong Kong Foundation, I've regularly donated to help students from Hong Kong and mainland China study at Concordia," he says.

Having stayed in touch with the university over the decades through his philanthropic and other ventures, Chan is now vice-chair of the Asia division (Hong Kong) for the newly launched Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

—Patrick Lejtenyi, GrDip 99

How Geneviève Tremblay parlayed a journalism degree into an international career

When Geneviève Tremblay, BA '97, was contemplating career paths, she toyed with the idea of studying law. However, she eventually decided to enrol in Concordia's Department of Journalism because its writing component won her over.

Two decades later, Tremblay is now responsible for sustainable development and external communications at Madrid-based LafargeHolcim Spain, part of the global construction materials and solutions company.

She has nothing but good words about her time at Concordia. "Thanks to the program being quite small at the time, the directors [Lindsay Crysler and Enn Raudsepp] were very 'hands-on' and I felt like the professors and my fellow classmates were part of a small, informal family," Tremblay says. "The older students would get involved and often mentor the younger students, and I found the atmosphere at school very inspiring. It was an excellent program."

After graduating Tremblay travelled to Africa, which inspired her to immerse herself in project management and sustainable development for non-governmental organizations. She later travelled to Switzerland to work in communications, planning and implementing media strategies for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

"I felt like the professors and my fellow classmates were part of a small, informal family."



MADRID-BASED GENEVIÈVE TREMBLAY SAYS THE WRITING SKILLS SHE LEARNED WHILE IN CONCORDIA'S JOURNALISM PROGRAM HAVE SERVED HER WELL THROUGHOUT HER CAREER.

Feeling the need to broaden her education, she returned to Montreal and went back to school and in 2006 graduated with an MSc in Management from HEC Montréal. In 2007, Tremblay arrived in Madrid as head of Corporate Social Responsibility for LafargeHolcim, where she managed stakeholder relations, social projects and sustainability reporting.

LANGUAGES OFFER AN EDGE

Tremblay attributes much of her early success and access to opportunities to the fact that she was bilingual. The now-trilingual Montrealer — she's added Spanish to her arsenal — recognizes that not many francophones were in the journalism program at the time, giving her an edge when internships at French-language daily *La Presse* came along. "As a francophone studying in an English school, it really benefited me a lot," she says.

Having lived abroad on and off for about 15 years, Tremblay readily admits to craving Montreal's diversity. "I miss the variety of ethnic backgrounds in

the people around me, the different languages, how better integrated immigrants are in Canada," she says. "Living away from Montreal, homesickness will always be a factor, but it fluctuates depending on the time of year. It may sound surprising, but I do miss the snow!"

As the political and social climate in Spain has become more complicated, the current crisis has, in turn, somewhat affected her work environment. "Like many employees of companies around the world, when layoffs occur, we are expected to do more with less," Tremblay explains. "In a way, I've come full circle. Once again, I'm being asked to use my communications skills for the company's media relations and social media. I'm always ready to use those tools and that has always given me an edge."

Tremblay adds, "Throughout my career, I have always been able to draw on my ability to write, and I owe that to Concordia's journalism program."

—Toula Drimonis, BA '93

From marketing in Montreal to entrepreneurship in Israel

While studying marketing and economics at Concordia, Doron Cohen, attendee 94, naturally gravitated towards business and enjoyed the thrill and excitement of entrepreneurship. “My mother wanted me to become a dentist,” Cohen admits. “But once I became involved in the family business [clothing, manufacturing and, later, optical accessories], I was hooked. I really liked that path.”

Cohen was already working full time during his stint at what is now the John Molson School of Business, from 1992 to 1994. “In hindsight I wish I had completed my studies,” admits Cohen. That hasn’t seemed to have held him back too much, though. His career has been a steady mix of accomplishments and successes across a number of business sectors.

In 1997 Cohen moved to Israel in part to accommodate his wife, an Israeli who was having difficulty adjusting to the harsh Canadian winters. While the transition to Israel wasn’t that much

of a culture shock for Cohen due to his Jewish background and his knowledge of Hebrew, it was still in many ways like starting from scratch.

His first few years were exploratory ones, learning to understand how the corporate culture worked there. “In 2002, I had a unique opportunity to combine my education and my experience to work with an Israeli-based, London-traded company,” he says. “I was able to work in a variety of sectors like telecom, gaming, the mobile sector, health care and so on.”

Over the past 15 years based in Tel Aviv, Cohen has founded and managed several technology and service companies, two of which were acquired. Today he’s CEO and managing partner of investment bank A-Labs Ventures and BII Holdings, which provide banking and corporate advisory services, as well as consulting, business development and investment services for start-ups and high-tech companies.

INVESTOR AND MENTOR

Cohen has now reached the point in his career where he feels he can use his extensive experience to help other companies go public and support their entrepreneurial ventures.

“It’s really where my passion lies

— helping companies move forward and take risks and mentoring start-ups,” he says.

He believes his time at Concordia was extremely well spent. “The marketing portion really helped me with my business ventures. It taught me how to present myself and my vision to customers,” Cohen says. “Economics gave me very important tools that complemented the hands-on experience I was already getting every day at work. I appreciate it even more now that I see how valuable that education was. Concordia was a fantastic platform for me and I met many interesting people.”

The businessman continues to be just as excited by the next entrepreneurial venture around the corner. He admits to always looking for the next opportunity, travels a lot for work — “My Canadian passport comes in handy,” he points out — and would love the opportunity to mentor Concordia students.

What does he miss most about Montreal now that he’s been living abroad for 20 years? “You’ll laugh, but apart from my family, I miss the cold, the snow and easy access to skiing,” Cohen admits. “It’s nice having four seasons and a wardrobe that changes with it. You don’t get that in Israel.”

—Toula Drimonis, BA 93



MONTREAL NATIVE DORON COHEN HAS BEEN AN ENTREPRENEUR IN ISRAEL FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.

“I appreciate it even more now that I see how valuable that education was. Concordia was a fantastic platform for me.”

Man on the move

By his own recognition, Winston Kan, BAdmin 81, could have spent more time paying attention in class. His impressive list of extra-curricular student activities while at Concordia between 1978 and 1981 includes the local chapter of AISEC — the International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce — and getting elected to the Student Senate and as the representative for the Commerce and Administration faculty council to the university's Senate. That didn't leave too much time for studying.

"I must say, I wasn't really a *good* student," Kan admits. "I managed to graduate, but I wasn't top of my class."

Certainly his career didn't suffer. Since he graduated, Kan has had a working life best described as nomadic. His first year post-Concordia was spent in Ireland and London. Upon his return to Canada he pursued his passion for politics by volunteering for a local Liberal Party of Canada riding association in the Ottawa area, where his parents lived, while taking extra university courses focusing on international business.

By 1984, Kan was working on the Liberal Party leadership campaign and eventually, though briefly, in the Prime Minister's Office under John Turner. He continued doing political work for some years afterwards, yet was eventually drawn back to the private sector — and to his native Hong Kong, where he worked long enough to meet his wife. He then moved back to Canada,

settling in Toronto to work for Hewlett-Packard Canada, yet remained restless: he'd never lost his ambition to work internationally.

Answering a blind ad in the *Toronto Star* in 1992, he took a chance on a company unknown to him based out of nearby Oshawa, Ont. It turned out to be EHC Global, one of the world's largest manufacturers of escalator rubber handrails — which today has a 40 per cent global market share and was looking to further expand in Asia. Despite the benefits offered by a Fortune 100 company like HP, Kan left, and his international business career took off.

That career would take him travelling to Asia, predominantly to China. He moved from one job to another, working for the Royal Canadian Mint and later Export Development Canada, where he was finally posted to China.

ALBERTA REP

After some four years in Hong Kong working in executive search, Kan is now based in Beijing, where he's the Government of Alberta's representative, based out of the Canadian embassy. His days are mostly spent promoting the province's agriculture, education, technology, tourism and, of course, energy sectors. Trade and investment are his main priority areas,

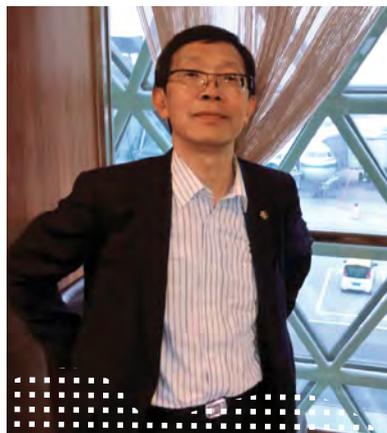
although he also works with his team on student recruitment and helping Alberta companies do business in China.

Kan's latest endeavour will involve fundraising for Concordia out of Beijing. One of the challenges, he says, is to help build the Concordia brand with his fellow alumni against many other Canadian and international universities active in China.

"I owe a lot to Concordia," he says. "It taught me how to be independent, to learn things no matter how hard it is. My career was in different industries. I never repeated the same position from one company to the other. I focused on business development, networking and interpersonal skills, which I learned at Concordia."

Kan adds, "My time in Montreal really helped me — I had no relatives there, not a lot of friends. It helped me to be independent and learn a lot."

—Patrick Lejtenyi, *GrDip 99*



WINSTON KAN HAS SEEN HIS CAREER BOUNCE FROM CANADA TO CHINA REPEATEDLY, YET ALWAYS WITH A WARM SPOT RESERVED FOR MONTREAL.

"Concordia taught me how to be independent, to learn things no matter how hard it is."

Former Bahraini minister Fatima Albaloooshi considers hers a “Concordia family”

Fatima Albaloooshi, BSc 84, was only 16 years old when she moved from Bahrain to Montreal to attend Concordia. The young woman was one of many taking advantage of her country’s initiative to send students abroad to receive an education since, at the time, Bahrain did not have a university. She chose Canada because she was intrigued by the possibility of living in a place so different from her home.

“It was only while I was making my way from the airport to the campus that I saw all the French street signs and realized this was a predominantly francophone city — and I didn’t speak the language,” she admits.

Things worked out well, though. “My time at Concordia was the best time of my life,” Albaloooshi says. “The friends I made there are still my friends today. I lived at Langley Hall and beautiful Loyola Campus was where I mostly took classes.”

Albaloooshi originally intended to study biology and eventually medicine. Instead, after graduating from Concordia, she headed to New York’s Columbia University, where she earned a PhD of Education in instructional technology and media in 1991.

She then returned home to Bahrain and entered academia. Albaloooshi later served as dean of the College of Education at the University of Bahrain.



FATIMA ALBALOOSHI IS PICTURED WITH KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA OF BAHRAIN IN 2012, WHEN SHE WAS MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH. *FORBES* MAGAZINE NAMED ALBALOOSHI THE FOURTH MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMAN IN GOVERNMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN 2014.

Albaloooshi was appointed Minister of Social Development by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain in 2005, and she served until 2014. During that time she developed and supported community centres that focused on family counselling services and shelters for abused women and for the homeless. Albaloooshi established Family Bank — the first Islamic microfinance bank in the world — as well as children’s and eldercare services and more. She also worked tirelessly to establish close ties between the government and various non-governmental organizations on the ground.

During that decade, she also served at one point as Minister of Health. “Although I was only Minister of Health for a year and during rough political times, I was able to implement major improvements in the ministry,” she says.

Albaloooshi now is CEO of onegcc.com, a private firm that creates innovative, effective, and sustainable solutions for Bahrain nationals. “Onegcc is the first digital platform for the nationalization of GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] jobs, and the first dedicated talent pool for GCC nationals that helps to empower them and realize their ambitions to pursue a successful career,” explains Albaloooshi. “It’s a job board that helps revolutionize the way GCC HR managers recruit.”

IMPRESSIVE CAREER TRAJECTORY

Albaloooshi was recently appointed chairman of the board of trustees for the Bahrain Trust Foundation, a non-profit organization that develops practical models to make education and health services accessible to people in refugee camps and disaster areas. Because of her long-standing humanitarian work and community involvement, as well as being the longest-serving female minister in the Bahraini government, *Forbes* magazine named her the fourth most influential woman in government in the Middle East in 2014.

Montreal was where she lay the groundwork for her impressive career. “It was in this city that I truly matured and grew up, became exposed to many cultures and learned to rely on myself,” Albaloooshi says. “Montreal will always have a special place in my heart, and Concordia holds the best memories for me. After all, we’re a Concordia family. My husband, Abdulrahman Alatawi [BSc 83] studied here, and that’s where we met. Our son Alharith also graduated in 2009 from the John Molson School of Business.” ■

—Toula Drimonis, BA 93

Building a community of AI researchers, one stroke at a time

RENÉE DUNK, GR CERT 07

With the news that several tech giants — namely Facebook, Google and Microsoft — have recently established artificial intelligence (AI) labs in Montreal, it may seem that the city is only recently a burgeoning hub for structured learning. Yet researchers at Concordia have been paving the way for this latest wave in machine intelligence — pattern recognition, visual computing, natural language processing and more — for decades.

EARLY BEGINNINGS

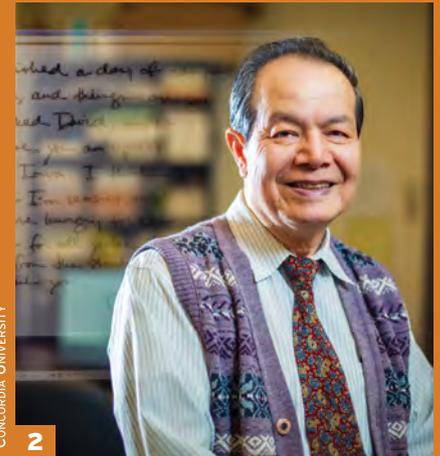
In 1972, an emerging researcher named Ching Yee Suen joined Concordia as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. Having recently completed his doctoral research project — building a platform to “teach” computers to read multi-font documents with a voice output for the blind — he was fascinated by letters and characters. “Our machine was one of the first of its kind to scan documents and read characters,” Suen says. “This invention stimulated subsequent research in the pattern-recognition field, and the industry grew from there.”

The Honorary Concordia University Research Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Pattern Recognition recalls that the contraption consisted predominantly of a photocell scanner, a computer with a



1 CHING YEE SUEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON A COMPUTERIZED READING AID FOR THE BLIND AS A PHD STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1968.

2 CHING YEE SUEN IS DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR PATTERN RECOGNITION AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE. HANDWRITING ANALYSIS AT CENPARMI CAN UNCOVER KEY PERSONALITY TRAITS OF THE WRITER.



PDP-9 processor and only 16 kilobytes of memory, and magnetic tapes. Suen notes that the machine was miniaturized using integrated circuits and then put to good use at organizations like the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

COLLABORATING FOR SUCCESS

Fast-forward six years to 1978 and the birth of Concordia's Centre for Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence (CENPARMI). The research unit, of which Suen is founding director, is dedicated to advancing investigations into artificial intelligence technologies.

Pattern-recognition and machine-intelligence techniques have many scientific, business, military and other applications, including character recognition, fingerprint identification and weather-pattern prediction, Suen explains. “After my initial work in print materials, I turned my attention to the research and development of handwriting-recognition platforms,” he says. “Much of my career has been spent in this area of computer science, and the culture at Concordia, in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, has allowed me to contribute so much.”

The science behind Suen's success may seem simple, yet it has taken him close to 40 years to perfect. In building and refining an extensive database, he has essentially shown computers how to analyze a single handwriting stroke, which leads to further identification of characters, then words and, finally, sentences. “It's been lifetime of work,” he says.

At this point in its development, Suen's pattern-recognition software can analyze key personality traits of a hand-writer, based on past results and correlations. From W.B. Yeats to Bill Gates, Suen and his team can make reasonable assessments about a person's emotional state, mood, self-confidence, coherence of thought and organization based on his or her handwriting.

Other applications of the Concordia-created technology include automatic mail-sorting services and financial industry security. With research associates from within the university and from other Montreal institutions, such as École de technologie supérieure and École Polytechnique de Montréal, Suen has been able to apply his innovation to the identification of counterfeit currency as well as facial-recognition software and symbol analysis for use in the transportation industry.

He notes that research partnerships, both within the university and outside Concordia's walls, have constituted principal components of the research centre. Suen says that the wide scope of CENPARMI's research, coupled with the talents and expertise of the centre's members and staff, have provided a stimulating environment in which to work on challenges in theoretical and experimental computer science and engineering.

AN AI HUB 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Now celebrating a milestone 30th anniversary, CENPARMI has become a local hub of innovation and collaboration over the decades — and boasts the membership of several prominent Concordia researchers and important industry partners.

CENPARMI's achievements along the way have been impressive. Suen himself has published 14 books and more than 500 papers, and many of these have been widely cited. Others' findings have been applied in practical environments involving handwriting recognition, thinning methodologies, font analysis and multiple classifiers. Suen has supervised well over 100 graduate students — alumni of note include **Nenghong Fu**, MSc 04, principal scientist of enterprise application at the software company SAP; **Chun Lei He**, MSc 05, PhD 10, a data scientist at Manulife Financial; **Yan Zhang**, BSc 03, MSc 06, quality assurance manager at Nuance Communications; **Muna Khayyat**, PhD 13, a technology associate at investment bank Morgan Stanley; and **Didier Guillevic**, PhD 95, a Government of Canada scientist.

Many other Concordia researchers with expertise in AI-related fields are also associated with CENPARMI, including **Sabine Bergler**, who investigates meaning and context behind words; **Adam Krzyzak**, who conducts research on handwriting analysis and facial recognition; **Tien Bui**, whose

major projects include building computers that mimic human vision; **Tristan Glatard** and **Marta Kersten-Oertel**, both of whom are involved in medical image analysis; **Nawwaf Kharma**, MSc 16, a specialist in nature-inspired computing; **Tiberiu Popa** and **Charalambos Poullis**, leaders in visual computing; and **Leila Kossem**, a natural language-processing expert who is the current vice-president of the Canadian Artificial Intelligence Association.

Suen points out that the centre's work has recently tapped into the global *Zeitgeist* of machine learning and performance. Yet as he tells it, this discipline of study has been around since long before this most recent tech boom. "At its core, artificial intelligence is transferring human knowledge to computers so that they can perform human functions," he says.

In addition to his work in this anniversary year, the director of CENPARMI says he's been completely swept up in organizing the inaugural International Conference on Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence, which will be held at Concordia in May 2018.

Suen reports that he's assembled a "dream team" of speakers on the subject of AI, including renowned forensic scientist **Henry Lee** — whom Suen calls the "Sherlock Holmes of the United States" — and **Patrick H. Winston**, Ford Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among many others.

He's also organized a special lecture on the subject of deep learning, to familiarize the public with how he goes about "teaching" a computer to learn to sift through knowledge databases to identify objects — the very basis of AI. *The International Conference on Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence's free public lecture will be held May 13, 2018, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Sir George Williams University Alumni Auditorium, H-110, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Visit icprai2018.com for more information.* ■

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Three new honorary degrees bestowed at Concordia's fall 2017 convocation ceremonies

LUCAS NAPIER-MACDONALD

Concordia awarded honorary degrees to three distinguished individuals at the Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and John Molson School of Business convocations on November 20, 2017. The honourees urged the 1,000 emerging Concordia graduates to become their best selves and, of course, to go out and change the world. The remarks are excerpted below, along with a short biography of each recipient. For the full speeches, visit concordia.ca/graduation-convocation/ceremonies/past.

A renowned explorer and mountaineer, **Bernard Voyer**, LLD 17, pictured with Concordia President **Alan Shepard**, has compiled an incredible catalogue of daring adventures. He's stood on the North Pole and South Pole, ascended Mount Everest and was the first North American to climb the highest peak on every continent in the world. In 2002, for his exploits, the Governor General of Canada named him one of the greatest Canadians of the past 50 years. He is devoted to a number of humanitarian causes, working closely with young people from Nunavik, for instance, as honorary lieutenant-colonel of the 2nd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group.

"Yes, you will have some storms. Headwinds. But you must always remember that it is only from peaks that you can see other peaks. Success allows you to see far and to find your own way in your life." **1**



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Kon Leong, BComm 79, LLD 17, founded ZL Technologies, Inc., based in the San Francisco Bay area, Calif., in 1999. The enterprise provides massive-scale data management services to large enterprises, supplying companies like Toyota, Wells Fargo, Allstate and Sony. Leong was born in China and raised in India. After graduating from Concordia in 1979, he moved on to Wall Street investment banking for a decade, becoming vice-president of mergers and acquisitions at Deutsche Bank. Leong, now highly sought-after for his business acumen, has guest-lectured at many institutions, including the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and Santa Clara University in California. He is a long-standing member of Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science's Advisory Council. Leong is pictured with **Amir Asif**, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

"One lesson I would recommend is to experiment. Experiment early. Experiment often. You have a grace period early on where you can find out where your place in the sun is. Now is a time of great change. But as the Chinese say, it's also a time of great opportunity. The education at Concordia gives you a very strong platform. The rest is up to you." **2**



Canada's first female ambassador to France, **Isabelle Hudon**, LLD 17, had already had an illustrious business career before she moved to diplomacy. She was executive chair of Sun Life Financial Quebec and, before that, senior vice-president of Client Solutions for Sun Life Financial Canada. Hudon has devoted much of her career to advancing women's causes. In 2016, she won the Medal of the National Assembly for her commitment to female ambition in business. She belonged to an advisory council to the federal government that promotes women's participation on corporate boards, and she founded L'Effet A, a foundation to empower women to pursue their professional goals.

"I'm a true believer that courage is much more about persistence than bravery. It isn't about doing what's difficult, but about doing what's right. It's about following one's principles and being faithful to one's commitments. In fact, I would say there is no courage without personal integrity." **3**



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

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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.



CONCORDIANS RETURN FOR HOMECOMING 2017

Concordia alumni, faculty, staff and friends returned to Concordia’s campuses for a full slate of emotional reunions and informative and entertaining events at Homecoming, held from September 12 to 17, 2017.

SEPTEMBER 12

At the Concordia University Alumni Association annual general meeting, the executive summarized the accomplishments of the association representing the university’s 200,000 alumni worldwide.

SEPTEMBER 13

The university’s first Queer Homecoming, emceed by **Richard Burnett**, BA 88, featured *Mambo Italiano*’s **Steve Galluccio**, BA 82, comedian **Tranna Wintour**, BA 10, **1** Anne Whitelaw, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, Concordia’s vice-provost of Planning and Positioning, Concordia President Alan Shepard and Kimberley Manning, principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

SEPTEMBER 14

Concordia Day at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts provided

alumni, students, faculty and staff complimentary access to the museum. Joanna Berzowska, BFA 95, the faculty’s associate dean of Research, and Janis Timm-Bottos, associate professor in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies and founder of the Art Hives Initiative, enlightened Faculty of Fine Arts alumni at CU@MBAM. Pictured are **Anna Timm-Bottos**, MA 17, **Arrien Weeks**, BFA 06, and **Rachel Chainey**. **2**

Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist **Barbara Davidson** (left), BFA 90, delivered the inspiring Homecoming Keynote Lecture, “Leap of faith: a photojournalist’s journey.” CTV Montreal News reporter **Aphrodite Salas**, MA 99, moderated the talk. **3**

SEPTEMBER 15

Talk Shop With Top Alumni: Alumni Roundtables at Homecoming brought some of the university’s most accomplished graduates to share their experiences and expertise at roundtable discussions and a networking breakfast.

The 28th Shuffle — Concordia’s annual walkathon from Sir George Williams Campus to Loyola Campus — raised a record \$104,000 for student scholarships and bursaries. **4**

Beatles fans enjoyed a dynamic presentation by **Craig Morrison**, PhD 00, **5** on the Fab Four’s presence in the city at The Beatles and the Montreal Connection.

CEED (Community, Empowerment, Education, Development) students and alumni showcased their most recent achievements in Gulu, Uganda, to the Montreal community.

SEPTEMBER 16

Loyola Campus — 100 Years in NDG included a Heritage Montreal-run tour, a celebratory mass at Loyola Chapel and a brunch at the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre.

Concordia Stingers fans gathered at the Alumni Zone before the Homecoming Football Game at Loyola Campus. The Stingers handily defeated the McGill Redmen 68-16. Among the exuberant crowd were football members of the **1967-1972 Georgian teams**, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of the football program with a series of reunion activities. **6**

At Innovating Change: 15 Years of Sustainability at Concordia, Sustainable Concordia celebrated its important environmental contributions with panellists Chantal Forgues, MBA 09, MEnv 13, Faisal Shennib, MEng 10, Jenn Davis, BA 12, and Geneva Guerin, BA 06.



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Mario Ciaramicoli, BEng 02, moderated the Engineering and Computer Science Alumni: Artificial Intelligence discussion between Anne Martel, BFA 09, and Sabine Bergler, professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering. Pictured are **Carolyn Phan**, **Claire Kapusta** and **Corinne Charette**, BSc 75, LLD 11. **7**

The John Molson School of Business Alumni: Elite Networking Cocktail welcomed Montreal Networking Group's Billy Markoglou, BComm 05, and Ali Mohammadi, BComm 01, and JMSB's new dean Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86. Pictured are **Rajib Sadhukha**, BEng 08,

MBA 13, and a friend. **8**

At the President's Homecoming Dinner, Concordia President Alan Shepard honoured the university community, the 1957 and 1967 graduation classes — who were celebrating special anniversaries — and Loyola Campus's 100th anniversary in NDG. **Jamie Orchard**, BA 91 **9**, senior anchor for Global Montreal's Evening News, emceed the event. Pictured are **Honora Shaughnessy**, BA 71, and **Brian Marcil**, BComm 71. **10**

SEPTEMBER 17

The Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony recognized athletes and teams that made outstanding contributions to athletics at Concordia and Sir George Williams University. The inductees were: Tom Smith, BA 81, rugby (builder); Michel Blais, BSc 79, hockey (athlete); Sommer Christie, BSc 03, rugby (athlete); Greg Miller BA 86, football (athlete); the Sir George Williams 1961-62 men's basketball team; and **Concordia's 1998 women's rugby team.** **11**



LOYOLA MEDAL

Concordia bestowed the 2017 Loyola Medal to physician, humanitarian activist, author and leading scholar on global health James Orbinski. The former international president of Médecins Sans Frontières accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999 on behalf of the organization. The Loyola Medal is Concordia’s highest non-academic award, presented to an individual whose contribution has enriched the heritage of Canada and humanity. Pictured at the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre on September 28 are **Bram Freedman**, Concordia’s vice-president of Advancement and External Relations, **John Limeburner**, BComm 68, **James Orbinski** and Concordia President **Alan Shepard**. **1**

YOUNG ALUMNI

Nikolas Alejandro Romero Serra, BA 17, and **Roxana Reyes-Peralta**, MEng 17, were among guests at the Concordia

Young Alumni networking event at Montreal’s Hôtel Le Crystal on October 25, 2017. **2**

WALRUS TALKS DISRUPTION

Concordia participated in the 2017 Walrus Talks Disruption events, which gathered experts in three Canadian cities in October to discuss the changing landscape of cities and health care. Rilla Khaled, director of Concordia’s TAG Lab, and Karen Li, professor in Concordia’s Department of Psychology, were among the speakers at Toronto’s Victoria College Building on October 10. Alumni and friends, including **J. Roy Firth**, BComm 75, and **Elaine Casavant**, joined Alan Shepard and Bram Freedman at an alumni reception before the event. **3**

Jennifer McGrath, PERFORM chair of Childhood Preventive Health and Data Science, and Adam Radomsky,

Concordia University Research Chair in Anxiety and Related Disorders, were among the speakers at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Alan Shepard welcomed alumni, including **Anthony Skucas**, BEng 77, to a reception before the event. **4**

At Calgary’s Theatre Junction Grand, speakers included Concordians Steve Shih, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and pk langshaw, professor in the Department of Design and Computation Arts. Before the talk, Bram Freedman and **Graham Carr**, Concordia’s provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs, joined a cocktail reception for alumni. Carr is pictured with **Patrick Curti**, BA 89. **5**

MEN’S HOCKEY

Alumni of the Sir George Williams Georgians, Loyola Warriors and Concordia Stingers men’s hockey teams



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gathered for a reunion in Toronto on October 27, 2017. Pictured are **Marc-André Élement**, BA 11, current Stingers men's hockey head coach, and **Jean-François Boucher**, BA 09. **6**

WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP

The Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership program brings together female graduates to share professional experiences and expertise and learn from each other. In fall 2017 Concordia hosted two Women and Leadership events, called the Anatomy of Failure, which featured diverse groups of Concordians who shared lessons they had learned about risk, failure and business success.

At Toronto's Vantage Venues on October 26, the speakers were **Gaëtane Verna**, BComm 89, director of the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery; **Sharon Neiss**, BA 93, CEO and founder of Day Ja View; **Kimberley Manning**,

principal of Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute; moderator **Vanmala Subramaniam**, GrDip 10, money and economics editor at VICE Media; and **Andrea Bolger**, MBA 86, corporate director and former financial services executive. **7**

At a sold-out event at the Loews Hotel Vogue in Montreal on November 15, **Christine Lengvari**, BSc 72, chair of Concordia's Advisory Council on Women and Leadership, joined **Kimberley Manning**, principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, **Mackie Vadacchino**, BComm 82, MBA 84, CEO of Bioforce Canada Inc., moderator **Sudha Krishnan**, BA 99, producer/anchor/reporter for CBC Montreal News, **Madeleine Féquière**, BA 85, director of Corporate Credit Risk Management at Domtar Inc., and **Anna Martini**, BComm 85, GrDip 86, executive VP and chief financial officer of Club de Hockey Canadien, Inc. and Evenko. **8**

READER'S DIGEST ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES IN JOURNALISM

Baseball analyst and *New York Times* best-selling author **Jonah Keri** (seated right), BA 97, delivered the Reader's Digest Annual Public Lecture Series in Journalism at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre on November 16. In his talk, *Up, up, & away: A journey into sports journalism*, Keri touched on varied topics, including the Montreal Expos and the changing media landscape. He was joined on stage by moderator **Arpon Basu** (seated left), GrDip 00, editor-in-chief of *The Athletic Montreal*, **Dave Secko**, chair of Concordia's Department of Journalism, and Concordia professor emeritus **Enn Raudsepp**. **9**

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

51 Robert (Bob) Bédard, BA, was a member of the Canadian team that won silver at the 2017 International Tennis Federation Super-Seniors World Team Championships in Orlando, Fla., in the 85-and-older category. Bob, the top-ranked Canadian tennis player in singles from 1955 to 1965, was inducted into the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame and Quebec Sports Hall of

Fame in 1991, and Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

69 Barry Bultz, BA (psych.) 69, holds the Daniel Family Leadership Chair in Psychosocial Oncology and is professor and head of the Division of Psychosocial Oncology at the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. He is also director of the Department of Psychosocial and Rehabilitation

Oncology at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. Barry was inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2016 for his pioneering cancer work.

71 Leonard J. van der Heyden, BComm, MBA 75, earned a Doctor of Business Administration from the University of Bradford in England in 2017. His thesis was *The 2010 Winter Olympics: A mixed methods investigation*

of the hotel industry and tourism in the demographic clusters metro-Vancouver versus the alpine-resort Whistler.

75 Mohan Munasinghe, MA (econ.), was named an Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honour, the highest French national decoration for meritorious and exceptional contributions to humanity, in October 2017. Mohan was honoured for his outstanding work on sustainable development and climate change, for sharing in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize and for promoting friendship and co-operation between Sri Lanka and France.



40TH REUNION

78 Peter Kruyt, BComm, was named chairman of the board of directors of the McGill University Health Centre in September 2017. Peter was chair of Concordia's Board of Governors from 2006 to 2012.

Kevin Quinn, BA (econ. & poli. sci.), recently joined 3M Health Information Systems as a senior health economist, working on methods that bring value purchasing to health care in the United States and elsewhere. Kevin lives in Helena, Mont., with his wife, Candida.

Roger Yuen, BComm, MBA 84, received an honorary fellowship from Lingnan University in Hong Kong in October 2017. Roger is head of business development for Greater China for the Bank of East Asia, Ltd., in Hong Kong.

79 Pierre LeBlanc, BA (cinema & French), GrDip (comm. studies) 84, recently retired after working 28 years, mostly as a television

producer, at Radio-Canada in Moncton, N.B. "I am now living on a few acres of forested land in Cap de Cocagne, N.B., close to nature and not far from the water."

82 Nancy Prince, BA (urban studies) was recently appointed chief of landscape architecture at NYC Parks in Flushing, N.Y. "I am responsible for the work of 90 in-house landscape architects and a dozen multidisciplinary consultant firms working on the redesign of public parks and open spaces in the five boroughs of New York City. We have lots of exciting work focused on transforming parks in underserved neighborhoods. I think often of my friends and colleagues in urban studies and geography at Concordia and the great education I received."

35TH REUNION

83 Ian Clarke, BComm, GrDip 84, was appointed chief financial officer of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority in November 2017.

1 Claudine Ascher, BFA 83, MA (art ed.) 06, curated a group show to mark Canada's 150th and Montreal's 375th anniversaries, "Lattices and Interstices," at the Galerie de la Ville in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que., from October to November 2017. The show included works by 20 Concordia alumni. 1) *Street Musician* by Josette Wecsu, BA 03

2 Raymonde Jodoin, BFA 83, participated in "Underpinnings: NSCAD Alumni Exhibition," which celebrated the 130th anniversary of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, from November to December 2017. 2) *Efface # 1 [Eraser]*

3 Rochelle Mayer, BComm 83, BFA (studio art) 10, was awarded fourth prize in the painting category for her artwork *Jean de la Lune* at the "25th Expo-concours de La Prairie," held at Centre multifonctionnel Guy-Dupré in La Prairie, Que., in November 2017. Her artwork was also shown at the Centre's "Lauréate 2017 Exhibition" from November 2017 to January 2018. 3) *Jean de la lune*

4 Hoda Ackad Wenger, BComm 81, BFA (studio art) 01, won a Merit Award for her painting *Butterfly Etc...*, which was shown at the "26th Annual Experimental Art Exhibit" in Sanibel, Fla., from October to November 2017. hodaackad.com 4) *Butterfly Etc...*

5 Sylvie Adams, BFA 87, is holding a solo exhibit of her work, "The Time, the Mark, the Space," at Maison de la culture Marie-Uguay in Montreal until March 25, 2018. sylvieadams.com 5) *Close Call*

84 William (Bill) Chambers, BSc, was named president and CEO of Save the Children Canada in October 2017. Based in Toronto, Save the Children Canada is an international non-governmental organization that promotes children's rights, provides relief and helps support children in developing countries.

85 Madeleine Féquière, BA, was named president of the Montreal chapter of the International Women's Forum in August 2017. She has been director of Corporate Credit at Domtar since 2008.

Donald Kamenz, BEng, was named senior VP of sales at C&L Aerospace, based in Bangor, Maine, in October 2017.

Gregory Thompson, MBA, joined Focus Asset Management in Toronto as a senior member in September 2017. He was previously executive VP and managing director at National Bank Financial.

30TH REUNION

88 Jacques Goulet, BSc, was appointed president of Sun Life Financial Canada in December 2017. Jacques joined Sun Life Financial from Mercer, where he had been president of Health and Wealth. At Sun Life Financial Canada, Jacques will be responsible for the company's group benefits, group retirement services, individual wealth, insurance and investment management businesses in Canada.

Sophie Jodoin, BFA, a Montreal-based artist, won the Prix Louis-Comtois in December 2017. The prize recognizes the work of an artist in the contemporary art scene with more than 15 years of professional experience.

John Sicard, BSc, is president and CEO of Kinaxis Inc. in Ottawa. In October 2018 John was named EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 for Ontario. Kinaxis delivers cloud-based solutions for the world's largest manufacturing companies.

6 Joanne Kielo, GrDip (art therapy) 88, MA 88, participated in a group show, "Inspired by Leonard," at the Biblio Rigaud in Rigaud, Que., from December 2017 to January 2018. 6) *Close to the Bone*

7 Maria Jankovics, BFA (studio art) 89, exhibited two large collagraphy prints in a group show, organized by the Canadian-Hungarian Artists Collective, commemorating Canada's 150th anniversary, at the International Pavilion in Ottawa from September to October 2017. 7) *Egyptian Uprising*

8 Shelley Freeman, BFA (studio art) 99, will be having a solo exhibition at the Maison de la culture Villebon in Beloeil, Que., from February 7 to March 4, 2018. shelleyfreeman.ca 8) *Brink*

9 Constant Albertson, PhD (phil. of ed.) 01, is holding a solo exhibit, "Medicine and Magic," at the Clarion University Art Gallery in Pennsylvania until March 17, 2018. It is also an official exhibition concurrent with the March conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. constantalbertson.com 9) *Désolé*

10 Khadija Baker, BFA (painting & drawing) 07, MFA (studio art) 13, held a solo exhibit at the Karsh-Masson Gallery in Ottawa from November to December 2017 and participated in the Biennale of Contemporary Art in Lebanon from September to December 2017. khadijabaker.info 10) *Behind Walls/Maps*

90 Patricia Wenzel, BComm, and her husband, David Ades, are the new owners of the Willow Inn in Hudson, Que. Known for its spectacular waterfront views, the Willow Inn re-opened in October 2017 and offers a British-inspired menu using locally sourced products.

25TH REUNION

93 Naveed Irshad, BSc, became head of the North America Legacy Business of Manulife Financial in January 2018. Naveed was previously CEO of Manulife Singapore.

95 Natalie Zur Nedden, BEd (TESL), writes, "After graduating from Concordia, I left for Japan to teach English, and continued teaching when I returned to Canada. I pursued my graduate studies at U of T. I wrote my PhD thesis on a Canadian woman who challenged the status quo in education and work. After teaching at university and college, I returned to my roots of teaching ESL/EFL to newcomers who need to pass a language proficiency test to gain permanent residence in Canada. I love what I do. I can honestly say that my BEd in TESL gave me a solid foundation to do my work."

96 Steve Cohen, BSc, was appointed in October to the newly created role of senior vice-president and chief underwriting officer at RSA Canada, a Canadian general insurer based in Toronto. Steve will be responsible for head office underwriting, pricing and reinsurance across both personal and commercial insurance portfolios.

00 Chrissy Cheung, BFA (design art), will be curating an exhibition, "Sliver," for her painting group, PAINTER8, at the Charles Clark Gallery in Vancouver from April 5 to 29, 2018.

01 Josianne Mailloux, BFA (film studies), writes, "After working 15 years in the film industry, three years ago I started *zipOrange.com*, a Florida travel resource centre for Canadians, based out of Montreal. We recently launched *travelngear.com*, an online retail store that offers travel products for business and leisure."

10TH REUNION

08 Gabriel Bran Lopez, BA (comm. studies), won a 2017 Marcel Coté Award, given by the Public Policy Forum to young Quebecers for their extraordinary leadership. Gabriel is founding president of Youth Fusion, a Montreal-based charity that works to lower school dropout rates.

Celia Perrin-Sidarous, BFA (photo.), MFA (studio art) 15, won the Prix Pierre-Ayot, which promotes excellence among Montreal's new visual arts creators, in December 2017. Celia is a Montreal-based photographer.

16 Daniel Chammas, BSc (exer. sci.), is an assistant athletic therapist with the Montreal Alouettes.

Benjamin Goldman, BFA (music), was awarded a SOCAN Foundation Award for Emerging Audio-Visual Composers for Best Original Score — Non-Fiction, for his work on the Bell Media/Handel Productions film *Pearl Harbor: The Accused*. The documentary chronicles the attack on the United States naval base in Hawaii in 1941 through rare archival footage of the day. ■



MICHAEL WEES

The immersive installation *Scintillements | 1001 Lights* by filmmakers **Marlene Millar,** BFA (cinema) 90, and **Philip Szporer,** BA (Eng.) 79, GrDip (comm. studies) 82, of Mouvement Perpétuel, is being featured in the ongoing exhibition series "Rituals//Fragments" at the Museum of Jewish Montreal. The exhibit, which runs until March 22, focuses on the timelessness and intimacy of the Shabbat candle-lighting ritual. imjm.ca

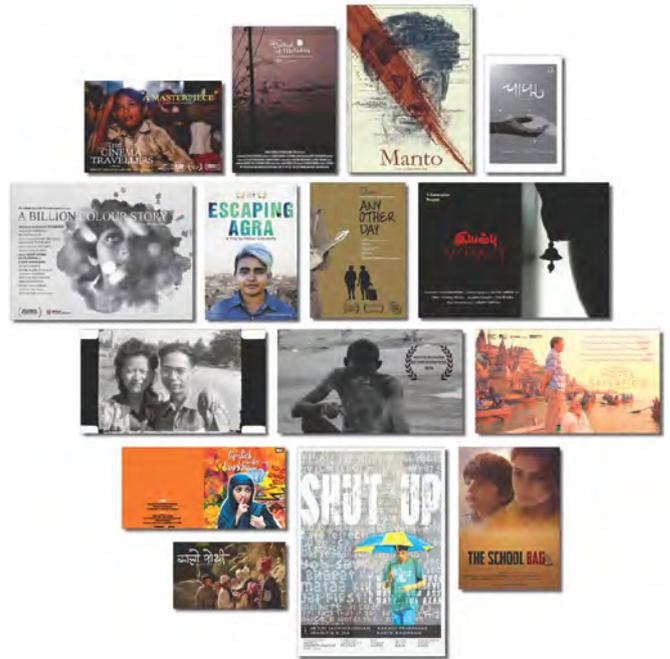


Nadine Champagne Gundry-White, BEd (TESL) 11, won the Toastmasters District 61 English Humorous Speech Contest, held at the Sheraton Laval Hotel in Laval, Que., in November 2017. Nadine's victorious speech was entitled "Not lost in translation." District 61 has more than 4,000 members from 195 Toastmasters clubs across eastern Ontario, Quebec and northern New York State.

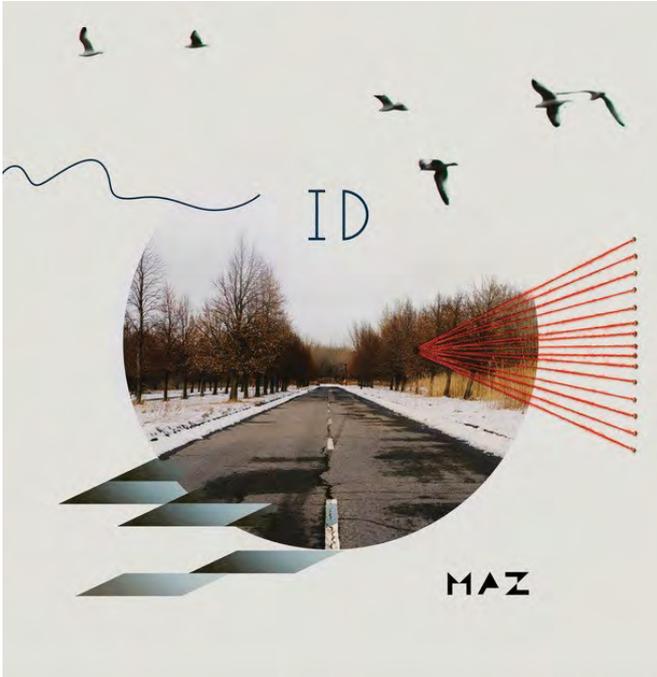


MATHIEU BOUCHARD-MALO

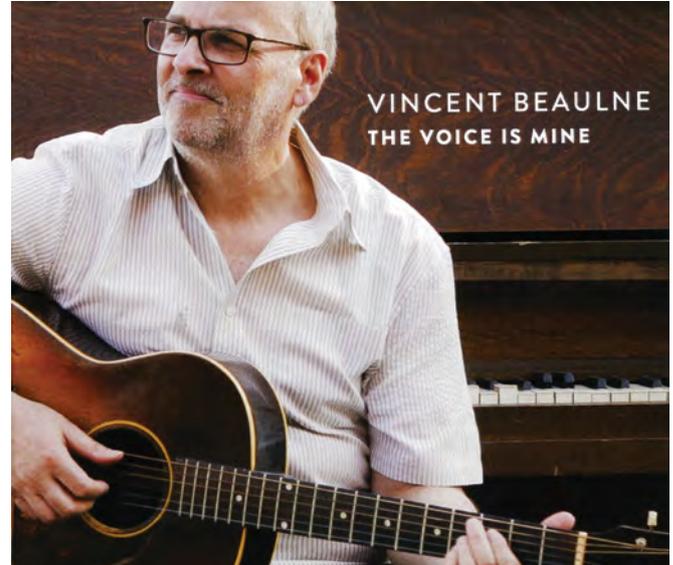
Maryse Goudreau, BFA (art ed.) 11, MFA (studio art) 17, received the first Prix Lynne-Cohen in December 2017. The new biennial award, worth \$10,000, supports up-and-coming Quebec visual artists/photographers. Maryse, based in Montreal, takes a post-documentary approach to her processes, which include photography, archives, video, installations and performance and participatory art.



Dipti Gupta, GrDip (comm. studies) 94, MA (media studies) 98, is a part-time instructor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies and director of the South Asian Film Festival in Montreal. The festival's seventh edition was held from October to November 2017, and featured an eclectic mix of award-winning films from the Indian subcontinent and its diaspora.



Marc Maziade, BFA (jazz studies) 06, is leader of the band MAZ. Their latest album, *ID*, was nominated in 2017 for Traditional Album of the Year by the Association québécoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la vidéo (ADISQ) and World Group of the Year by the Canadian Folk Music Awards. MAZ also played at the World Music Expo in Katowice, Poland, in October 2017. espacemaz.ca/en



Vincent Beaulne, BFA (music theory) 86, Montreal-based leader of the group Blues Delight and director of the Blues Camp at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, has released his first solo album, *The Voice is Mine* (available through iTunes, Apple Music and other outlets). The record includes an impassioned guitar-voice duet with Quebec blues veteran Nanette Workman on "The House of the Rising Sun."



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Janet Mrenica, BA 84, BComm 92, was named a Fellow of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario, the highest distinction that CPA Ontario confers upon its members, in November 2017. Janet is director of Program Compliance, Community Infrastructure Branch, Regional Operations Sector of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in Ottawa. **1**

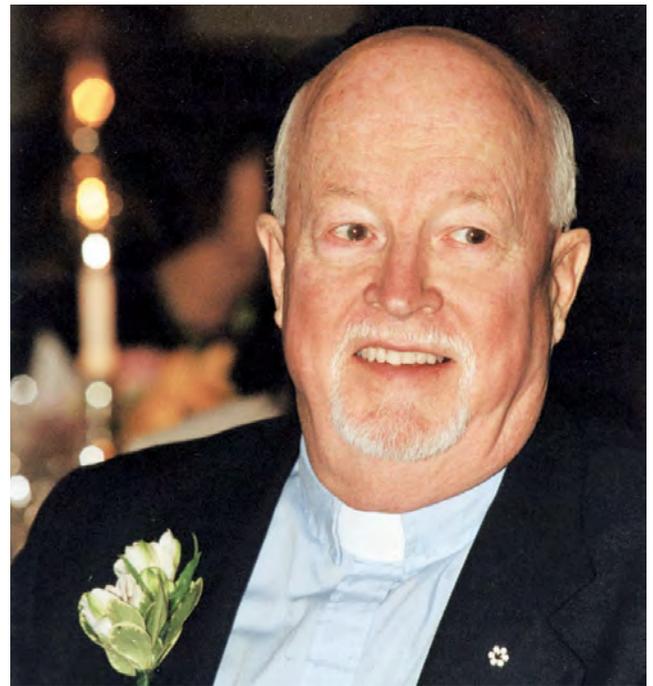
Order of Canada

Three Concordia alumni were among those appointed as Members of the Order of Canada by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, on December 29, 2017.

Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 77, is chair of the university's Board of Governors and is president and chief executive officer of Montreal's Groupe Park Avenue Inc., one of Canada's first multi-franchise automobile dealership operations. He was appointed "for his leadership as an entrepreneur in the automobile industry and for his support of various charitable causes." **2**

Sylvia Sweeney, attendee 77, is executive producer of Elitha Peterson Productions Inc. and president of ArtsGames in Toronto and a member of the Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission of the International Olympic Committee. The former Olympian was appointed "for her long-standing commitment to and creative leadership at the nexus of art and sport through her documentaries and world-stage productions." **3**

Nancy Neamtan, LLD 15, is strategic advisor at Montreal-based Territoires innovants en économie sociale et solidaire (TIESS). Neamtan was appointed "for her devotion to social and economic advocacy in Quebec, notably as founding president of the Chantier de l'économie social." **4**



Father Emmett "Pops" Johns, BA 74, LLD 97, died in Montreal on January 13, 2018. He was 89.

If all priests took the words of Jesus to feed the poor and house the homeless as literally as did Father Johns, the world would likely be a much better place.

At 60, after 40 years of serving as a priest in various Montreal parishes and at a time when most people are preparing for retirement, Father Johns borrowed \$10,000, bought a second-hand Winnebago and hit the streets to hand out food and comfort to those who needed it.

Today, close to 30 years after the Concordia graduate founded *Le bon dieu dans la rue* – known as *Dans la rue* – the ecumenical organization is thriving as an emergency shelter, youth centre, medical clinic, school and 17-unit apartment building. It provides counselling to young parents, psychological help, employment guidance and, perhaps most importantly, friendship. It has literally saved thousands of lives.

"Father Johns was certainly a Great Concordian – and also a great Montrealer and Canadian, a truly inspirational figure," says Concordia President Alan Shepard. "He selflessly committed himself to the less advantaged. Over nearly three decades, tens of thousands of young people have benefited from Father Johns's vision and commitment to the community."

"Father Johns took the Jesuit educational philosophy of 'a man for others' to a higher level. We all mourn his loss," says Bram Freedman, Concordia's vice-president of Advancement and External Relations. "Although he has sadly passed on, fortunately his outstanding legacy will continue."

He earned his BA in theological studies in 1974 from Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions. When Concordia granted him an honorary degree in 1997, he said he was "delighted from the tips of the little bit of hair that I have down to my toes."

—Sue Montgomery

Morris Sinuk, BA 51, July 22, 2017, Toronto.

Benjamin Tryansky, BSc 52, July 17, 2017, Montreal.

Bruce English, BA 54, July 6, 2017, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 82.

Patrick Baker, BComm 57, BA 58, July 15, 2017, Beaconsfield, Que.

Mortimer Constantine, BComm 57, July 24, 2017, Montreal. He was 80.

Karleen Middleton Quin Murphy, BA 58, July 23, 2017. She was 81.

Charles Cameron Ancrum, BComm 59, July 8, 2017, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 82.

Frederick Douglas Cooper, BA 62, July 9, 2017, Victoria. He was 84.

Paul Callaghan, BComm 65, July 1, 2017, Saint-Bruno, Que. He was 85.

Daphne Joan Townsend Dale-Bentley, BA 66, May 15, 2017, Montreal.

Elizabeth (Robson) Redwood, BA 67, July 6, 2017, Westmount, Que. She was 81.

Olaf Tomiuk, BA 70, July 30, 2017, Montreal. He was 73.

John Leonard McMullan, BA 72, MA 73, July 13, 2017, Halifax. He was 68.

Paul McMenamin, BSc 75, Hilton Head, S.C., May 6, 2017. He was 63.

Tilya Helfield, BFA 83, July 29, 2017, Toronto. She was 84.

Raven Spanier, BEng 84, July 17, 2017, Cocagne, N.B. He was 56.

Audrey Louise Crocker Cadieux, BFA 89, Cert 03, July 14, 2017, Montreal. She was 80.

D. Wayne Bichard, BSc 91, July 9, 2017, Vankleek Hill, Ont. He was 61.

Dionysia Moshonas, BA 93, Cert 95, July 16, 2017. She was 47.

Marge (Herscovici) Lazarovitz, BA 94, July 17, 2017. She was 99.

Rémi Longtin, BSc 03, June 19, 2017, Toronto. He was 37.

Jacques V. Marchessault, BA 47, March 8, 2017, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 90.

Dorothy M. (Sokolyk) Clark, BA 49, May 19, 2017, Montreal. She was 94.

Terence Murphy, BSc 49, BComm 57, June 3, 2017, Mississauga, Ont. He was 89.

Donald G.M. Ballantyne, BSc 51, March 10, 2017, Cobourg, Ont. He was 93.

Sydney (Chechick) Chesick, BComm 51, March 12, 2017, Vancouver. He was 89.

Ronald H. Boucher, BComm 53, April 19, 2017, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 87.

Roberta Cameron, BA 53, PhD 97, May 12, 2017, Cleveland, Que. She was 96.

Robert "Bob" E. Flynn, BSc 55, April 16, 2017, Evanston, Ill. He was 83.

Elize Meindersma, BSc 60, April 25, 2017, Rawdon, Que. He was 94.

Jeanette Echenberg, BSc 62, April 5, 2017, Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Que. She was 77.

Steve Czupalay, BSc 63, March 16, 2017, Springhill, N.S. He was 82.

Jonathan "Jon" M. Feldman, BA 64, March 21, 2017, Montreal.

Erma F.A. (Johnstone) Scrimgeour, BA 66, May 28, 2017, Montreal. She was 79.

Paul W. Rhodes, BSc 66, May 18, 2017, Montreal. He was 73.

Ashton J. Lewis, BA 67, May 18, 2017, Brossard, Que. He was 83.

Klara Elster, BA 69, April 6, 2017, Montreal.

Thaddeus Wyka, BA 69, April 15, 2017, Toronto.

David Saskin, BA 74, EMBA 92, May 10, 2017, Montreal. He was 66.

Allan A.E. Seddon, BSc 74, MTM 82, March 31, 2017, Long Sault, Ont. He was 78.

Gary Tierney, BA 74, June 16, 2017, High River, Alta. He was 69.

Gerard Jules Sullivan, BA 75, May 14, 2017, Montreal. He was 63.

Michael C. Whitcomb, BComm 75, June 6, 2017, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.

Gary Zwecker, BEng 76, March 18, 2017, Montreal.

George Christie Jr., BComm 78, April 15, 2017, Montreal. He was 62.

Ronald Flejszon, BComm 78, May 31, 2017, Montreal.

Karl Langton, BSc 79, April 2, 2017, Brantford, Ont. He was 64.

Karen Heather Blauer, BFA 80, GrDip 8, April 13, 2017, Montreal. She was 60.

Arjan 'John' Sakhrani, BComm 80, April 21, 2017, Montreal. He was 62.

Anne F. (Wayman) Reinhold, BA 81, May 6, 2017, Hudson, Que. She was 71.

Agnes (Judge) Simoneau, BEd 81, June 18, 2017, Montreal. She was 79.

Frank J. Meduri, attendee 83, March 29, 2017, Montreal. He was 72.

Calvin S. Hugman, BComm 86, May 23, 2017, Kirkland, Que. He was 61.

Stephen J. Sura, EMBA 88, June 4, 2017, Montreal. He was 82.

John A. Dabarno, BComm 89, April 28, 2017, Montreal. He was 55.

Adella (Alleyne) Drayton, BA 94, May 29, 2017, Montreal. She was 92.

Philip John Mrenica, BComm 94, April 8, 2017, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 47.

Catherine Bezpalko, BComm 95, June 9, 2017, Montreal. She was 54.

Marc Floréa, BA 12, April 23, 2017, Montreal. He was 30.

Kevin Butterfill, BA 13, April 20, 2017, Montreal. He was 29.

Secret deals, NHL memories and street art

MATTHEW SCRIBNER
AND HOWARD
BOKSER

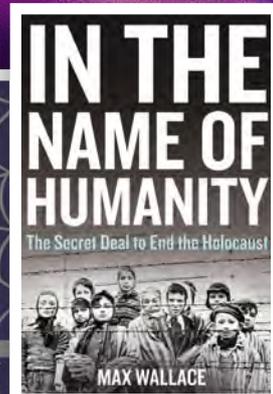
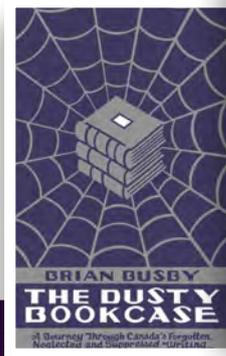
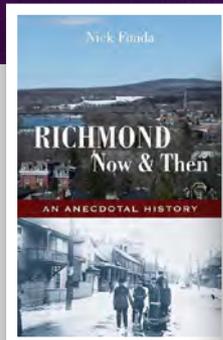
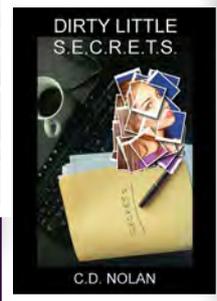
Graffiti may still carry an aura of subversion, yet with works by the British graffiti artist Banksy selling for six or even seven figures, perhaps the world is ready to embrace street art. If so, Montreal has much to

in corporate intrigue and forced to turn to Bank, her ex-boyfriend, to solve the problem. Parker, though, has secrets of her own. The novel is set in Mississauga, Ont., where Uspychuk lives.

Montrealer **Barbara Rudnicka**, BEd 82, has edited two recent releases. In ***Richmond, Now and Then:***

there are some just not known, period. ***The Dusty Bookcase*** (Biblioasis, \$22.95) is an exploration of these unknowns by **Brian Busby**, BA (Eng.) 87, developed from his column at *Canadian Notes & Queries* and his blog. Busby, who lives in St. Marys, Ont., tackles everything from political manifestos with wildly incorrect predictions

90, reveals how a Swiss Jewish rescue committee fooled Himmler into making the edict. The scheme by the committee, led by an Orthodox Jewish woman named Recha Sternbuch and her husband, Isaac, spared as many as 300,000 Jews. The book was named to the long-list for the 2018 RBC Taylor Prize for non-fiction.



contribute, according to **Archie Fineberg**, BComm 66, MBA 73, BA 16. His new book, ***Montreal's Street Art Gallery: The Best of the City's Graffiti and Wall-Art*** (Independent, \$30), contains dozens of high-quality photographs of street art. The book is available in select outlets around Montreal.

Dirty Little S.E.C.R.E.T.S. (Independent, \$18.50) is the second Stewart Bank mystery novel by **Cindy Uspychuk**, BA (comm. studies) 84, writing as C.D. Nolan. This novel tells the story of Sophie Parker, who is caught up

An Anecdotal History (Baraka Books, \$24.95), author Nick Fonda vividly captures the colourful history of the town of Richmond, Que., through a series of anecdotes. Mick Lowe's novel ***Wintersong*** (Baraka Books, \$19.95), co-edited by Robin Philpot, examines the dramatic repercussions of the 1978 labour strike at Inco in Sudbury, Ont. on the miners and smelter and refinery workers and their families.

There are some Canadian literature names known around the world and some known only at home. And

to unjustly forgotten gothic classics with a discerning eye that neither romanticizes nor chastises Canada's past literary tastes.

In November 1944, six months before VE Day, Nazi SS Chief Heinrich Himmler ordered the destruction of the Auschwitz gas chambers and crematoria, where more than 1.1 million, mostly Jewish, inmates had been murdered. In ***In the Name of Humanity: The Secret Deal to End the Holocaust*** (Allen Lane Canada, \$32), *New York Times* best-selling author **Max Wallace**, BA (journ.)

Two new graphic novels by **Cecil Castellucci**, BFA (film prod.) 93, are set to bolster her reputation as an insightful writer of coming-of-age stories. ***Shade, The Changing Girl, Vol. 1: Earth Girl Made Easy*** (DC Comics, 2017 \$22.95) sees Castellucci teaming up with inventive artists to create a modern and psychedelic tale that combines sci-fi adventure with teen drama. Castellucci and artist Jose Pimienta strike a gentler note with ***Soupy Leaves Home*** (Dark Horse, \$19.99), in which a girl runs away from home and travels

across 1930s United States disguised as a male hobo named Soupy.

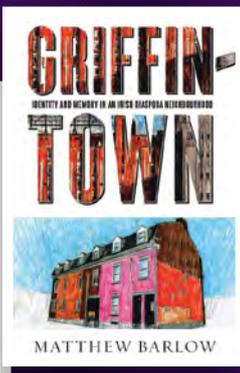
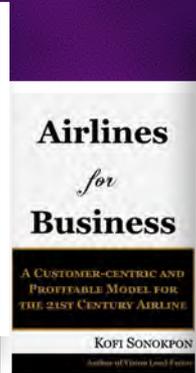
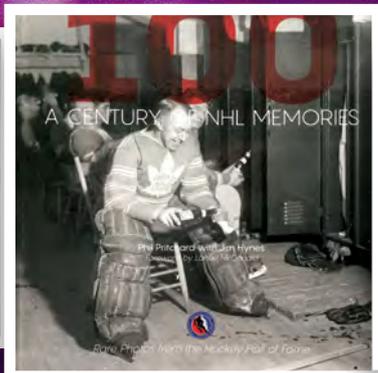
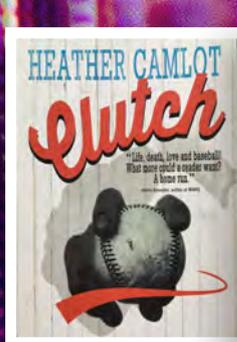
Young baseball fans — or fans of Montreal history, humour and tender writing — will find much to cherish in **Clutch** (Red Deer Press, \$12.95), the debut novel by **Heather Camlot**, BA (comm. studies) 94. The

the Hockey Hall of Fame (Griffintown Media, \$49.95), co-authors **Jim Hynes**, BA (journ.) 95, and Phil Pritchard provide the stories that accompany 130 classic black-and-white and colour photos from the Hockey Hall of Fame that help illustrate Canada's national game. Hynes is a freelance writer in Ithaca, N.Y.

Haddad Loves Joanasi Maqaittik (Baraka Books, \$24.95), follows a young Syrian-Canadian woman as she heads to a teaching post in the fictional northern Quebec village of Saqijuvik. Souaid doesn't shy from depicting the contradictions found in the north, a mix of igloos and pool halls, the Inuit goddess Sedna and

business practices and then advances a more innovative model. Sonokpon, who lives in Montreal, discusses the psychological principles needed to achieve positive customer experiences and, thus, healthy profit margins.

In **Griffintown: Identity and Memory in an Irish Diaspora Neighbourhood** (UBC Press,



youth fiction, set in 1946 Montreal, follows a 12-year-old Jewish boy from the Plateau neighbourhood, while on the other side of town Jackie Robinson is breaking baseball's colour barrier with the Montreal Royals. Camlot is an editor and translator who lives in Toronto.

The Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto is home to a trove of priceless artifacts and memorabilia — and more than three million images — from the sport's rich history. In **A Century of NHL Memories: Rare Photos from**

For French writers who believe they're funny — but have trouble convincing others — comes **Écrire l'humour, c'est pas des farces!** (Éditions Druide, \$19.95). Authors **Sylvie Ouellette**, BA 95, BSc 17, and Christiane Vien instruct readers how to channel their inner funny bone, offering advice on how to find the right tone of humour and words. Montrealese Ouellette has enjoyed a career in science communications and fiction writing.

The debut novel by poet **Carolyn Marie Souaid**, MA (Eng.) 95, **Yasmeen**

Jesus, raw caribou and alcohol. The Montreal-based author taught in Nunavik during the 1980s and now works as an academic counsellor to Inuit students who come south to attend college.

Airlines have the reputation as slow to evolve and not particularly friendly to customers. **Kofi Sonokpon**, AMBA 03, is working to change that with **Airlines for Business: A Customer-Centric and Profitable Model for the 21st Century Airline** (Temeris Aviation Publications, US\$29.95). The book traces traditional industry

\$29.95), **Matthew Barlow**, PhD (hist.) 09, presents a vibrant biography of the Montreal inner-city neighbourhood Griffintown. Barlow recounts the Irish Catholic quarter's heyday, economic decline and recent renewal. Barlow is a history instructor at John Abbott College in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. A series of 21 short films at **griffintowntour.com** by **G. Scott MacLeod**, BFA 03, MA 13, accompany the book. ■

Bitten

URSULA LEONOWICZ,
BA 97

Writing is my outlet. Whether I'm feeling heartbroken, deliriously happy or just simply bored, it's the one thing I do that makes me feel most like myself. It's the reason I decided to pursue a BA in journalism and political science at Concordia.

I was bitten by the creative bug at an early age. I always knew that I would use my love of writing not only to make a living but also try and make the world a better place. I figured I could combine my passions to try and right/write the wrongs of the world and help create a more just place.

Unknown to me, however, was that I was bitten by another kind of bug as well — a tick — when I was around 10 years old, at my grandfather's cottage in the Montpelier, Que., region.

I didn't realize it at the time — the bite mark was on my forehead and I thought it was a pimple, to be honest. Yet that bite would drastically alter my life and even threaten the thing I love most: writing.

I was diagnosed with Lyme disease in June 2017, more than 30 years after getting bitten by a tick infested with the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria. During that time I went from being a healthy kid to a sick young lady to a gravely ill woman.

I won't get into the lengthy list of symptoms I experienced on a near daily basis, but some of the most challenging



URSULA LEONOWICZ'S RECENT DIAGNOSIS OF LYME DISEASE HAS HELPED HER REFOCUS HER LIFE.

FRANK COLUCCINO

included chronic fatigue, recurring infections, pain and irritable bowel syndrome, as well as depression and anxiety. Over the years I often wondered how much longer I could go on living with whatever was making me so sick that I found it nearly impossible to get out of bed on most days.

When I was finally diagnosed after years of seeing doctors who told me absolutely nothing was wrong with me, everything became clear — including why I hadn't been able to hold down a job in the field that I loved so much.

I consider myself extremely lucky to have found a doctor who took the time to get to know me and my case, and who had me take the necessary immunology tests.

Thanks to that doctor I not only found out that I have Lyme but also discovered that I had experienced a stroke, which explained why I was having such a tough time remembering things and, most importantly, writing.

Knowledge, as I learned in journalism

school, is power, and finding out that I have Lyme was one of the best things — if not the best thing — that's ever happened to me. Since getting my official diagnosis I've used the tools I learned at Concordia, like conducting interviews and doing research, to try and get healthy again.

There are no doctors in Quebec considered "Lyme literate" by the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society. I've therefore had to rely on myself since getting my diagnosis. So far homeopathy and Reiki treatments have helped me the most, as well as trying to eliminate as much stress as possible from my life. Becoming a freelance writer allows me to pursue my passion without being bound by the daily grind of a regular job.

I still want to change the world, though, as well as make it a better place. I envision a book about my personal struggle with the disease in my future and, if I'm lucky enough to make it happen, I'll have writing and everything I learned at Concordia to thank.

They say that sometimes what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Since being diagnosed, I've faced the darkest parts of myself and confronted some of my biggest demons, so I know it has for me. ■

"I didn't realize it at the time — yet that bite would drastically alter my life and even threaten the thing I love most: writing."



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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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