

Kevin Tierney

In September 2009, I won the Canadian Film and Television Production Association's Producer of the Year Award at the Toronto International Film Festival for producing the movie *The Trotsky*, written and directed by my son, Jacob.

I told my wife I wanted to use the \$10,000 prize money to accomplish three goals: honour my parents' memory, especially their singular belief in higher education as a tool to improve the quality of their children's lives; give something back to my chosen milieu that would reflect my gratitude for all my good fortune; and, finally, strengthen my belief in the importance of education and, in doing so, honour my son, whose film was responsible for the prize in the first place, and my daughter, Brigid, who had graduated from the University of British Columbia in spring 2009.

My wife enthusiastically endorsed the idea. That's why I created the Pat and Bill Tierney Scholarship, named after my parents.

There was never any question as to where I would offer the scholarship: Concordia University. And I very much wanted it to be to Communication Studies, the department I attended in 1977-78 as a graduate student. At that time in my life, I wanted to leave teaching and get into the film business and the graduate diploma program seemed like an oasis of stimulation. It was one of the best 12 months of my life, thanks to the quality of the other students and faculty members who challenged and inspired me.

One other point: The year I was a Comm Studies student, my wife became pregnant with our first child, Jacob.

Full circle, indeed.



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