

YOUR
GENEROSITY
IN ACTION



momentum

DONOR AND STUDENT
AWARDS NEWSLETTER

generous

DONATIONS WITH A PURPOSE

Contributions to Concordia play a vital role in helping advance its mission

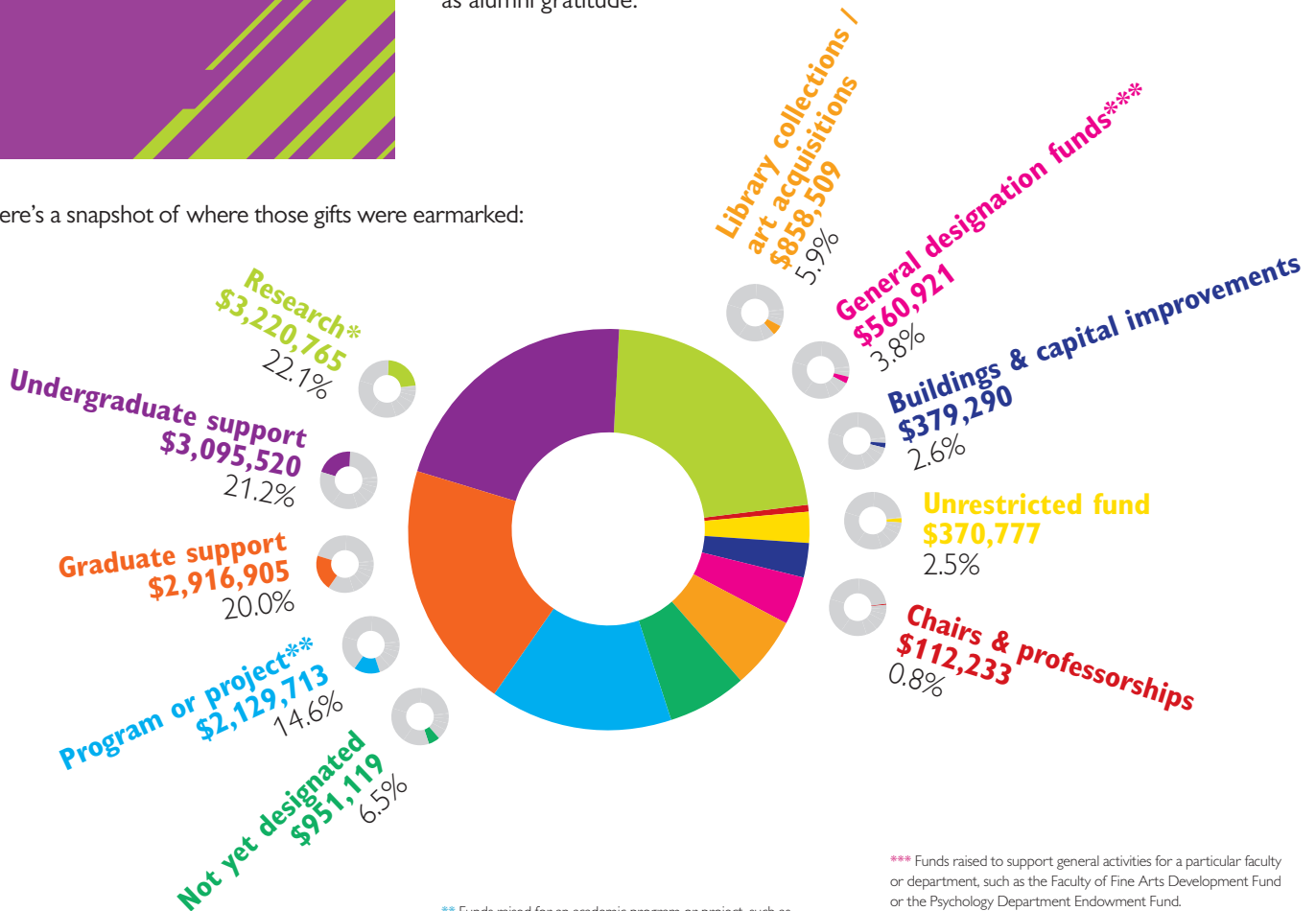
Donors to Concordia are generous. Your contributions allow the university to expand its mission and advance big thinking among students and researchers who tackle today's important questions.

Annually, Concordia benefits from more than 10,000 gifts — ranging in size and purpose — that propel achievements in labs, studios, libraries or on playing fields. This figure is a reflection of confidence in the university's mission, pride in Concordia and its contribution to society, as well as alumni gratitude.

Thanks to ongoing philanthropic commitments from alumni, corporate leaders, faculty, staff, parents, retirees, friends and even students themselves, Concordia continues to define the next-generation university.

In 2014-15, Concordia raised more than \$14.5 million for students, libraries, research, academic programs and other projects, and university activities.

Here's a snapshot of where those gifts were earmarked:



* Funds raised for research centres, such as the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies and Centre d'innovation en financement d'entreprises Desjardins, as well as to support overall research activities of the university.

** Funds raised for an academic program or project, such as the School of Canadian Irish Studies Program, the Sustainable Investment Professional Certification Program, or La Ruche d'Art Community Studio Project Fund.

*** Funds raised to support general activities for a particular faculty or department, such as the Faculty of Fine Arts Development Fund or the Psychology Department Endowment Fund.

grateful

HELPING STUDENTS RISE TO NEW CHALLENGES

Concordian Yao Xu left a job in Qatar to pursue an MBA/CFA at the John Molson School of Business, with help from the **Lord Shaughnessy Master of Business Administration Fellowship in Investment Management**



MBA student Yao Xu in Concordia's Molson Building

For second-year MBA/CFA student Yao Xu, Concordia is part of a welcome change of plans.

"I needed a new challenge," says the 27-year-old, originally from Dalia in northeastern China. "Concordia gives me that — and then some."

Before enrolling at the Goodman Institute of Investment Management at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), Xu worked in human resources in Doha, Qatar.

"It's a small city in a small country," says Xu, who was in human resources for a regional office of Chinese multinational construction company Sinohydro Group from 2011 to 2014.

Xu recalls that while considering new opportunities, one of his co-workers sparked his interest in studying abroad.

"He completed an MBA at JMSB, and recommended both the university and life in Montreal," says Xu. "I know that with an MBA, the future is bright."

LIGHTENING THE LOAD: THREE CHALLENGES OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Xu received a one-year entrance bursary in 2014, the Lord Shaughnessy Master of Business Administration Fellowship in Investment Management.

He says that financial support helped him manage these three challenges:

1. The steep learning curve

"When I arrived at Concordia, everything was new to me," says Xu of his coursework and his new city.

Xu's educational background is in Arabic, having completed a bachelor's degree at the Dalian University of Foreign Languages in 2011. He also speaks English and Mandarin and is learning French.

2. Intense coursework

"I'm working on 10 different topics at a time," says Xu, who is enrolled as a full-time student. "It takes a lot of effort."

Accountancy courses are among his favourites. "I like them because you're either right or wrong. There isn't a subjective element you can see in other areas."

3. Making it in Montreal as an international student.

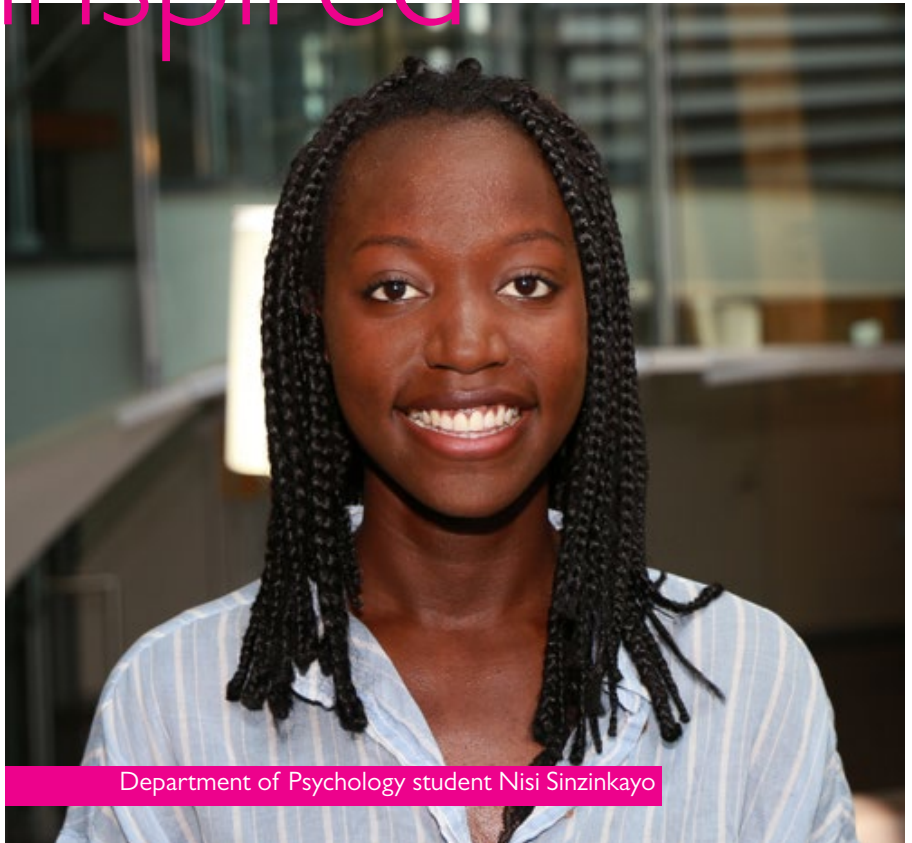
"Above my courses, I've taken French lessons at Concordia's School of Continuing Education," says Xu. To buffer that, he also took French through Concordia's GradProSkills program.

"I'd like to work in Montreal, so it's important to me," he says.

inspired

SUPPORTING INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY

The **Leonard and Bina Ellen Entrance Bursary** helped Nisi Sinzinkayo explore Concordia and Montreal



Department of Psychology student Nisi Sinzinkayo

“I’ve always been really social. I want to know what people are up to,” says Nisi Sinzinkayo, a Moncton, N.B., transplant who was attracted to Montreal’s French culture.

For her, Concordia’s Department of Psychology was a natural fit. As Sinzinkayo says: “I see this as a way to understand people even more.”

Before taking the plunge and moving to Montreal for her undergraduate studies, Sinzinkayo had developed a strong opinion of both Concordia and Montreal.

“I visited the city and have friends who attended Concordia,” says Sinzinkayo. “I like how open-minded people are here. People don’t judge you.”

One hurdle for Sinzinkayo is the costs that come with studying.

“Coming out of province, tuition is automatically more expensive,” says Sinzinkayo. Add to that, she notes that there are living expenses such as rent and public transit.

Sinzinkayo received the Leonard and Bina Ellen Entrance Bursary her first year of study in 2014.

“That was a great email to receive,” says Sinzinkayo, who entered the university as a teenager directly from high school.

“I have siblings, so I think of all the things my parents help pay for. The bursary was welcome news for all of us,” she says.

Sinzinkayo already has long-term career ambitions.

“If I could continue going with psychology, that would be great,” says Sinzinkayo. “I would like to complete a PhD.”

“Psychology is a good foundational education. As a ‘plan B’ I would want to go into marketing.”

Sinzinkayo expects to finish her bachelor’s degree by 2018.

proud

GIVING BACK TO SAVE LIVES

The **John F. Lemieux Fellowship in Genocide Studies** supports emerging human rights leaders at Concordia



John Lemieux, a Concordia governor emeritus, promotes the advancement of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia.

John F. Lemieux, BA 66, served for nine years on Concordia's Board of Governors and is a graduate of Loyola College — one of the university's two founding institutions.

"A convergence of factors has led me to donate specifically to MIGS," says Lemieux, referring to Concordia's Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

As many as 800,000 people were killed over a 100-day period during the Rwandan genocide in 1994 — an atrocity that was largely ignored by world leaders as it unfolded. Preventing mass atrocities is at the heart of MIGS's mission.

"I was appointed by the government of Rwanda to serve as honorary consul in Montreal in 2012 and I have since worked closely at MIGS with Roméo Dallaire, distinguished senior fellow at MIGS and retired Canadian lieutenant-general and senator," says Lemieux.

Dallaire sounded an international alarm over the Rwandan genocide and condemned the inaction of developed countries.

Established in 2015, the John F. Lemieux Fellowship in Genocide Studies will enable emerging leaders to meet the goal of helping to prevent mass atrocities.

"I'm convinced that this form of giving back will have an immediate impact and a long-term multiplier effect," Lemieux says.

Lemieux's support of MIGS is the second major way he has given back to his alma mater. He was co-chair of the Loyola Refectory Restoration Campaign, which raised \$4 million to revitalize a historic part of the university's Loyola Campus.

The refurbished and repurposed refectory, now the Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre, is recognized as one of the jewels of the Loyola Campus.

"I've been practising law for 45 years," says Lemieux, who is currently senior counsel at Dentons Canada LLP's Montreal office. "I've always gravitated toward challenging projects."

The refectory restoration project posed a particular challenge. "It was no small feat, but we had a dedicated team, which was relentless in pursuing what became the Loyola Alumni Association's centennial project."

The refurbished Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre opened on the refectory site in 2011. Loyola Campus's central buildings celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2016.

"My goal is to leverage my commitment to MIGS by finding like-minded donors who will support this important cause at a time when, unfortunately, genocides are a recurrent global threat."

focused

GIFTS THAT ACCELERATE INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

Nelson Dueñas interned at the United Nations to fulfill his graduate research, with help from the **Mireille and Murray Steinberg Scholarship** and the **Graduate Student Mobility Award**



Nelson Dueñas, MBA 15, at the UN's office in Geneva, Switzerland

Headquartered in New York City, N.Y., the United Nations (UN) is the go-between for governments around the world.

Nelson Dueñas, MBA 15, got his hands dirty with an internship at the UN — thanks to financial support from the Graduate Student Mobility Award.

The financial assistance helps Concordia students pursue international research and academic opportunities.

"It was essential support for my trip," says Dueñas, who interned at the UN's office in Geneva, Switzerland, for five months beginning in August 2015.

"I was part of a team that examined and assessed the UN's internal audit function," he says. Dueñas also received the Mireille and Murray Steinberg Scholarship when he began his studies at Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB) in 2014.

The Joint Inspection Unit for which Dueñas interned monitors both governance and finance. It is the only external oversight body mandated with evaluations, inspections and investigations of the UN's internal audit function system-wide.

"We held interviews, corporate questionnaires and surveys with managers, top-level decision makers and internal audit staff," says Dueñas, noting that the UN overseas has an operational budget of US\$40 billion.

Dueñas' time with the UN informed his MBA research. His final project was a 60-page paper on accountability and transparency in non-governmental organizations.

ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL TALENT

From Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, Dueñas boasted an impressive resumé before coming to pursue his studies at Concordia in Montreal.

He was an adjunct professor of accountancy at the Pontifical Xavierian University in his homeland from 2010 to 2013. Dueñas has worked for such multinational companies as Halliburton and PricewaterhouseCoopers in Colombia.

"I wanted to study abroad, and Canada is renowned for the quality of its universities," says Dueñas of the decision. "The support I received improved my quality of life, and it's an outstanding academic recognition."

Among the Concordia professors who made an impact on him, Dueñas mentions Michel Magnan at JMSB's Department of Accountancy.

"I translated an article by Professor Magnan about the financial crisis into Spanish," says Dueñas, who is fluent in two additional languages: English and French.

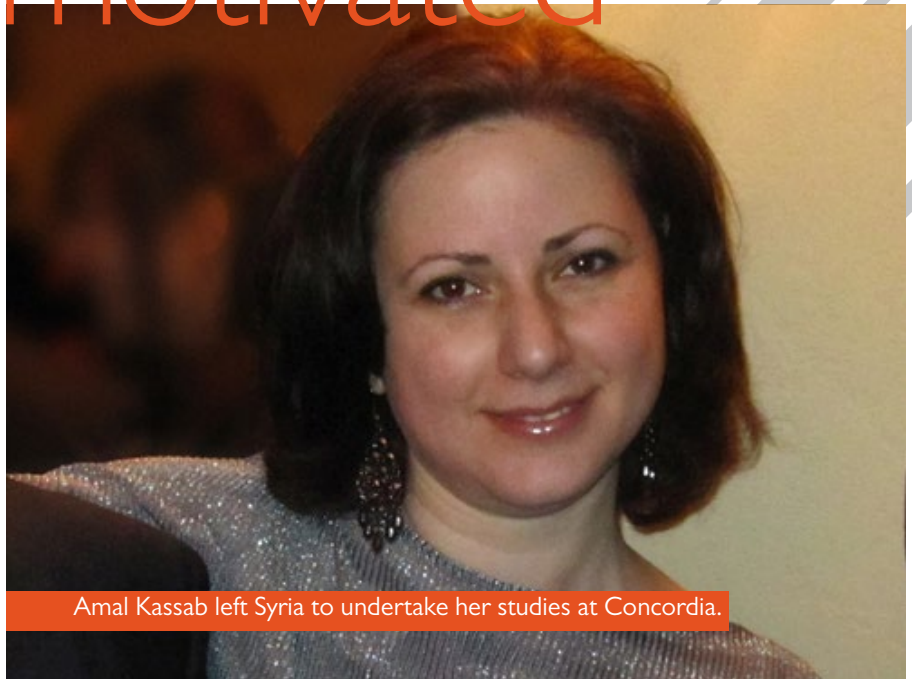
The translation appeared in a Spanish-language accounting journal distributed throughout Latin America.

"It's a great way to spread the knowledge produced by Concordia professors," says Dueñas.

motivated

STUDENT EMPOWERS THOSE IN NEED

From war-torn Syria, Amal Kassab's wind turbine research aims to help the needy with support from the **Dominic D'Alessandro Fellowship**



Amal Kassab left Syria to undertake her studies at Concordia.

Wind turbines cut a pronounced figure on a landscape — standing up to 100 metres tall. Just one of these fan-like mechanisms can power over 3,000 households per year.

Syrian-born Concordia PhD candidate Amal Kassab, BEng 11, hopes her research on this renewable energy source will increase its adoption in her war-torn homeland — and beyond.

"The humanitarian crisis in my country drove me to question my ability to do something," says Kassab, who's enrolled at Concordia's Institute for Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

Civil war erupted in Syria in 2011 and is ongoing. The conflict has displaced over 10 million residents — roughly half the Middle Eastern country's population.

"The software I'm developing can be used by any engineer to build and fine-tune custom wind turbines in urban areas. It aims not only to optimize the turbine design but its location, given a certain urban setting," says Kassab. Her work would boost availability in resource-strapped places — including developing countries and crisis zones.

SUPPORT CHANGE

"Financial support makes my research possible," says Kassab, who received the Dominic D'Alessandro Fellowship in 2015.

The one-year scholarship covered most of Kassab's student expenses over that period. Kassab also benefits from funding provided by CREATE.

"I'm grateful for the scholarship and to its benefactors," says Kassab. "It's admirable that donors support students who seek answers to issues that affect daily life."

FROM CANCER RESEARCH TO BRAIN-IMAGING TECHNOLOGY

Kassab is so passionate about her research on wind turbines that she veered away from biomedical engineering to devote herself to it.

While an undergraduate at Concordia from 2009 to 2011, Kassab was interested in nanotechnology — mechanical devices so small they can be injected into a person's bloodstream. The emerging medical uses of nanotechnology — including in battling cancer — led Kassab to biomedical engineering as a master's student at École Polytechnique de Montréal. She completed her master's degree in 2014.

"Because of this crisis, I found myself researching topics like water filtration, energy generation and storage on the side," says Kassab — whose main project as a master's student was the design of a portable brain activity imaging cap.

Why wind turbines? "Mechanically, they're simple," she says. "There are no specialized parts — you can find components for it anywhere."

Kassab's ambition is to make her software available online as an open source, where it could be downloaded and used freely.

Before coming to Montreal, Kassab worked as an architect in Syria. She earned a bachelor's degree in her homeland in that discipline in 1997 from the University of Aleppo.

gratified

THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU'LL EVER MAKE

Alumnus supports the **Carolyn and Brian Neysmith Graduate Fellowships** and Concordia Libraries



Brian Neysmith believes that making a gift to support students today will pay dividends to our society tomorrow.

This year marks an important milestone for Brian Neysmith: the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1966.

Neysmith looks back on his time at Sir George Williams with fondness, crediting much of his success as an investment expert and entrepreneur to the formative experiences of his university days.

"Sir George was a unique, up-and-coming institution," he says. "It felt homey and tight-knit, and the student population was really diverse."

The first in his family to go to university, Neysmith was grateful to receive an entrance scholarship to help support him in his studies. Decades later, he and his wife Carolyn decided to return the favour to the next generation of students.

Over the years, the Neysmiths' generous donations have helped establish the Carolyn and Brian Neysmith Graduate Fellowships and launch the Concordia University Press — a groundbreaking Concordia Libraries initiative to promote the free exchange of scholarly knowledge through the creation of an open-access scholarly publisher.

With the help of Brian's brother John Neysmith, BComm 68, BA 72, they also established the Neysmith Family Undergraduate Bursaries. "Sometimes you want to perpetuate the thing that helped you," says Neysmith of his philanthropic motivation. "If someone wants to go to university, finances shouldn't stop them."

Neysmith is a former member of Concordia's Board of Governors, a former Concordia University Foundation director and long-time university volunteer.

While president of the Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University, he was always encouraging others to give back and felt like he should step up to the plate as well.

Neysmith, who began his career managing pension funds before going on to start his own business, believes donating to a university is one of the best investments you can ever make.

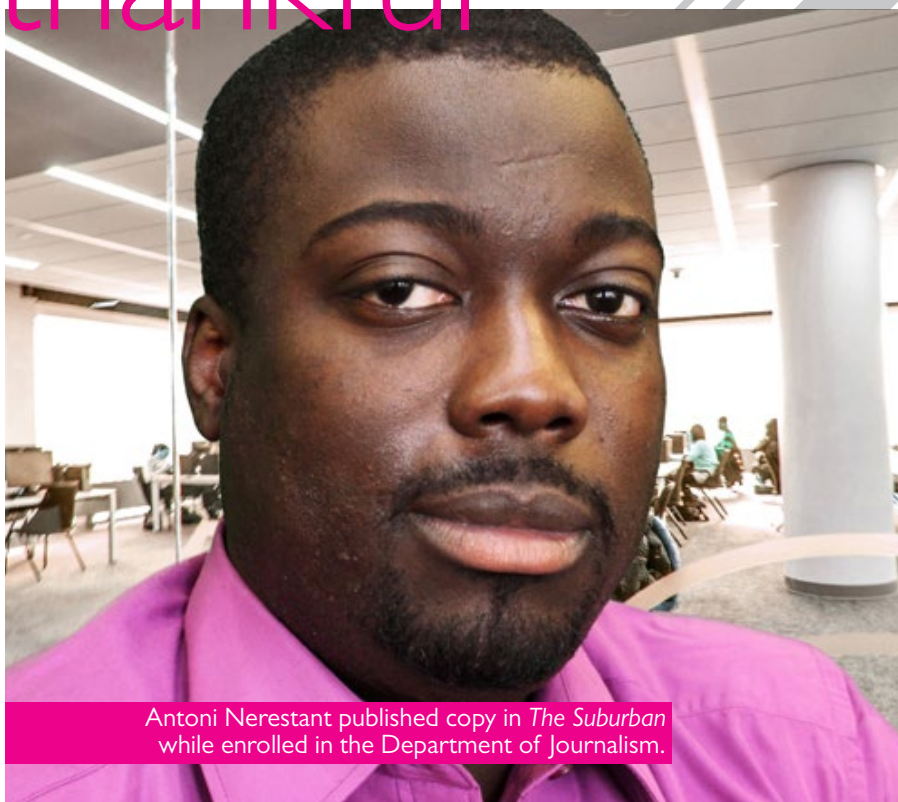
"The older generation has an obligation to foster growth and invest in the future," he says.

"These are the people who are going to advance the country, who are the future engines of our society. Investing in them is an investment in the future of Canada. You have to sow the seeds to one day harvest the wheat."

thankful

GRADUATES THAT MAKE HEADLINES

Two-time Concordia
alumnus and recipient of the
Enn Raudsepp Scholarship
Antoni Nerestant is breaking
news at the CBC



Antoni Nerestant published copy in *The Suburban* while enrolled in the Department of Journalism.

The born-and-raised Montrealer also wears his reporter's cap for the CBC on occasion. Nerestant covers the journalistic spectrum of print, web, radio — even video, with stories such as Canadiens hockey legend Dickie Moore's funeral.

Which medium of reporting does he prefer? "All of them!" says Nerestant, who joined the CBC as a student intern after beginning Concordia's Graduate Diploma in Journalism program in 2013.

Nerestant says the Department of Journalism keeps students in the loop when it comes to real-world opportunities in the field — crucial experience in a competitive industry. While a student, Nerestant filed copy with *The Suburban* — the largest English-language weekly newspaper in Quebec.

Among Nerestant's stories are "Buying and selling used textbooks on the go," which features the business venture of fellow Concordia graduate Matthew Bruna, BComm 10.

"I see myself with the CBC for a while to come," says Nerestant, who signed a researcher contract with *Homerun* in 2015.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT ADDS BALANCE

For Nerestant, the Enn Raudsepp Scholarship he received upon entering the Department of Journalism was a vote of confidence.

"It affirmed that I was doing great work and showed promise," he says. "There's something motivating about that. It gave me an edge." The scholarship also helped Nerestant balance the scales financially.

"Any type of support helps as a student. Between work and classes, it's easy to be spread too thin," he says.

The Enn Raudsepp Scholarship bears the name of a Concordia distinguished professor emeritus and former director of the Department of Journalism. Raudsepp was a mainstay from the department's founding in 1975 up until his retirement in 2008.

Behind the scenes of a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) staple of afternoon talk radio, *Homerun*, is a two-time Concordia graduate.

Antoni Nerestant, BA 13, GrDip 15, is a researcher for the current affairs program that populates the airwaves every weekday in Montreal.

"I try to find compelling guests and experts, and screen them through pre-show interviews," says Nerestant, who studied both political science and journalism while pursuing his BA.

encouraged

SCHOLARSHIPS THAT SUPPORT THOUGHTFUL RESEARCH

David J. Azrieli Graduate Fellowship recipient and Concordia PhD candidate Daniel Sparks explores the neuroscience of dementia



Daniel Sparks is tackling disorders like Alzheimer's disease at Concordia's Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology.

More than one in 10 Canadians over age 65 suffer from Alzheimer's and other degenerative brain diseases known collectively as dementias.

Concordia PhD candidate Daniel Sparks hopes research improves those odds for Canada's aging population. The Department of Psychology student works out of the university's Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology (CSBN), studying parts of the brain affected by the disorder.

The native of Peterborough, Ont., started at Concordia in 2010 as a master's student and was fast-tracked into PhD studies. Sparks received the **David J. Azrieli Graduate Fellowship** for the 2014-15 academic year.

IS STUDENT SUPPORT IMPORTANT?

Daniel Sparks: "The main benefit for me is that it reduces the need to find paid work. That means I can spend more time on my research at the CSBN, where I work with Professor Andrew Chapman."

HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARIZE YOUR RESEARCH?

DS: "I work in a subsection of psychology that studies brain function. At the CSBN, we stimulate and record neurons — which are microscopic cells that transmit information in the brain."

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR RESEARCH TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

DS: "The neurons I'm focusing on are in areas of the brain that are involved with learning and memory. These areas can be corrupted by disorders like Alzheimer's. Understanding how they work will hopefully lead to treatments."

IS YOUR WORK BEING PROMOTED?

DS: "With Professor Chapman, I've published two articles in the journal *Neuroscience* — the first in January 2013 and the second in October 2014. Our third will be published this year."

Neuroscience is published by the International Brain Research Organization, which is based in Washington, D.C., and comprises over 80 scientific organizations.

"Every year, I attend the Society for Neuroscience conference in the United States. It's the biggest of its kind in the world."

The **David J. Azrieli Graduate Fellowship** is funded by the Azrieli Foundation. David J. Azrieli, LLD 75, was one of Concordia's transformative donors. His legacy includes the university's Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies.

pleased

CARRYING THE TORCH — THREE GENERATIONS ON

Annie Hébert-Lalonde follows in her grandfather's footsteps and stays involved with the **Norman D. Hébert Engineering Scholarship**



"As many of my family members have ties with Concordia, we have this natural inclination toward the university," says Annie Hébert-Lalonde.

Shortly before Norman Hébert, Sr., LLD 05, passed away on March 16, 2015, he took his three grandchildren aside to make a request.

"I want you to follow in my footsteps and be involved with Concordia," said Hébert.

His generosity funds the Norman D. Hébert Engineering Scholarship at Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and the Norman D. Hébert Business Scholarship at the university's John Molson School of Business.

"He always wanted to meet students receiving his awards," says his granddaughter, Annie Hébert-Lalonde, BComm 97. Hébert-Lalonde's mother is the daughter of Hébert, Sr.

"My grandfather was adamant about giving back to the community. He further liked to take an active role in his philanthropy," says Hébert-Lalonde.

Hébert didn't provide any guidelines, he just encouraged his three grandchildren — Norman John Hébert and Kathleen Hébert being the others — to put their own stamp on being involved. "As many of my family members have ties with Concordia, we have this natural inclination toward the university," says Hébert-Lalonde.

Hébert's wife — Johanne Capra — attended Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's two founding institutions, in the 1940s. Hébert-Lalonde met her husband, Antoine Soszynski, BComm 98, EMBA 09, at Concordia. Her uncle is Norman Hébert, Jr., BComm 77, chair of Concordia's Board of Governors.

Hébert-Lalonde is senior manager at Accenture, an international information technology and services company. Among the ways she has shown her support is by judging at Concordia's John Molson MBA International Case Competition, the largest of its kind in the world.

"It's amazing," she says. "What these students can do in such a short period of time is extraordinary."

Hébert-Lalonde took the opportunity to interact with recipients of her family's scholarships at Concordia's Donor and Student Awards celebration on March 23, 2016. The event brings philanthropists and their beneficiaries under one roof.

"We spent the entire evening together," says Hébert-Lalonde. "It's very gratifying to see them all doing so well. When I left with my husband that evening, we said to each other: 'Grandpa would have been so happy.'"

CREATIVITY THAT PUSHES BOUNDARIES

Concordia fine arts student Iqrar Rizvi brings the human body and art together in his works — with help from the **Turki Alsakhip and Ashwag Alabdumonem Graduate Entrance Scholarship**

honoured



Incorporating everyday objects is a staple of Iqrar Rizvi's work.

Iqrar Rizvi's goal, as an artist, is to get a reaction.

"People might be shocked by my work. Or maybe they'll find it funny," says the second-year Concordia master of fine arts student. "Either way it's a kind of release."

The Turki Alsakhip and Ashwag Alabdumonem Graduate Entrance Scholarship helped support Rizvi over the 2014-15 academic year — enabling him to hone his craft.

Enrolled in the university's Intermedia program, Rizvi's portfolio includes "wearable artwork." Examples of his creations include computer speakers that are held in a person's mouth, or modified umbrella parts used as sound conductors.

"I alter objects, attach them to my body and perform with them," says Rizvi — referring to the process as "hacking" everyday items. Rizvi probes this connection to satisfy the research and thesis components of his program.

"My first semester at Concordia was a financial struggle," says Rizvi, who is Pakistani born and Toronto raised. "With that entrance scholarship, I didn't have to worry about paying my tuition."

As Rizvi says, there are costs that are easy to overlook: "Artists have to buy lots of different supplies. A lot of my work includes electrical and mechanical components."

Rizvi offsets some of his expenses as a teaching assistant at Concordia, for professors like François Morelli, graduate program director for Studio Arts, and Cynthia Hammond, chair of the Department of Art History. He also earns revenue with a part-time job outside of the university.

Thanks to support Rizvi can focus on producing artwork. His efforts have been featured at such venues as the Gnar! Fest at the Lincoln Performing Arts Centre at the University of Lincoln in the United Kingdom in 2014.

Rizvi's artistic explorations also enjoy attention closer to home.

"There are gallery spaces at Concordia, and we're also encouraged to find opportunities outside of the university," says Rizvi. Among locations where his works were showcased is the Eastern Bloc art gallery in Montreal, where he had a duo exhibition in 2015.

CONCORDIAN WITH LIFE- SAVING CAREER AMBITIONS

Biology student and recipient of the **12th Floor Entrance Bursary in Biology** has her sights set on med school



Melanie Fontaine in the biology section of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex

“I was crying with joy when I received the letter,” says Fontaine on opening an envelope with Concordia’s shield emblem, which contained the great news.

Fontaine entered the pharmacology field as a technician in 2010, completing a training internship at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute in Verdun, Que., in 2011. She migrated to the Montreal Children’s Hospital that same year.

“I felt pretty cut off — I was in the basement all day,” says Fontaine of her day-to-day routine at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. Her job was to prepare injections and medications for patients.

Without a college diploma, Fontaine entered Concordia as an independent student, working on prerequisites to get into the Department of Biology.

“Concordia admits independent science students who are under 25 years old,” she says. “Other schools I looked at didn’t have that option.”

Fontaine says the school welcomed her with open arms: “Everyone was so attentive and informative.”

A TOUGH TRANSITION

Since the age of 15, Fontaine has maintained a 35-hour work week. Scaling back on that was a challenge.

“When you’re in university, you’re earning less — and there are more expenses,” says Fontaine, who pays her own way.

With the increased course load that comes with being a full-time student, Fontaine sliced her hours at the Familiprix in Chambly, Que., where she’s been employed since 2014.

Compounding an already busy schedule is Fontaine’s volunteer work.

“When you apply to med school, community involvement is important,” she says.

Fontaine completed an eight-week volunteer program at the Donald Berman Maimonides Geriatric Centre — a long-term care facility in Côte Saint-Luc, Que. — over and above full-time work. She also volunteers with Médecins du Monde, which advocates for equal access to healthcare around the world.

At Concordia, Fontaine was a note taker at the Centre for Students with Disabilities in 2014.

Melanie Fontaine wants a career that is hands-on.

As a pharmacy technician, Fontaine is no stranger to medical environments. It was that exposure that sparked her drive to become a doctor.

“I want to be more involved with patients and their treatment,” says Fontaine, a student in Concordia’s Department of Biology who started at the university in 2013. “That desire prompted me to make a change.”

The Faculty of Arts and Science’s 12th Floor Entrance Bursary in Biology supported that change. The funding covered Fontaine’s tuition for both fall and winter semesters in her first year of study.

rewarded

MIXING ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS

The **Patricia Dudar Athletic Award** helps student athletes reach new heights



Patricia Dudar established the Patricia Dudar Athletic Award in 2008 to help student athletes lessen their financial load and focus on their abilities.

Three-time Concordia graduate Patricia Dudar, BSc 68, BEd 69, MSc 77, firmly believes that the key to success lies in combining sports with studies.

It's a convincing argument, especially coming from someone who in April 2016 alone completed two events — the iconic Boston Marathon and a four-mile run through New York's Central Park to raise money to fight lung cancer — while simultaneously wrapping up an online course.

A science teacher by training, Dudar taught a wide range of subjects during her extensive career as an educator at various high schools in the Montreal area.

Now retired, she credits taking athletic and recreational courses with helping her avoid the burnout that plagues the

notoriously stressful teaching profession. "It was a great way to relieve tension," she says. Those brief moments of physical activity helped re-energize her body and centre her mind to take on the day's challenges.

Dudar first discovered this winning combination of academics and athletics when she was a student herself.

After studying pre-med at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, she went on to earn a Master's of Science degree at Concordia. "I enjoyed the topics enormously," she says.

While completing her MSc at the university, Dudar signed on for fitness classes — ranging from karate to ballet to fencing — in the pockets of free time between the end of her full-time workday and the start of her evening classes downtown.

"I loved taking those fitness courses," she says. "It was how I relieved stress before class, how I made the mental transition from work to school. Athletics are a fabulous way to relax and refocus on a new subject."

With those fond memories in mind, Dudar decided to give back to her alma mater in 2008, establishing the Patricia Dudar Athletic Award. The award gives Concordia students the opportunity and freedom to pursue their own athletic and academic dreams by lessening their financial stresses.

Dudar felt it important to shape her donation with her own Concordia experience in mind.

"You have to look back and think: What helped me succeed as a student?" she says. "You have to fund the things that helped you to flourish."

enthused

MAKING THE CUT: STUDENT ATHLETE SPURRED ON BY BURSARY

Meet Sam Clemente — actuarial mathematics student by day, athlete by night and recipient of the **Irshad Family Entrance Bursary in Actuarial Mathematics**



Former Concordia Stingers football player Sam Clemente

Maroon and gold — the familiar colours that adorn the uniforms of Concordia's Stingers teams.

As Concordia student Sam Clemente says, there's more than meets the eye when it comes to playing for a university-level team.

Majoring in actuarial mathematics at Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science, Clemente discusses his time pulling double duty: student by day and previously a running back for the Stingers football team by night.

HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE IRSHAD FAMILY ENTRANCE BURSARY IN ACTUARIAL MATHEMATICS FOR YOU?

Sam Clemente: "Finding time after I started at Concordia in 2014 was a real struggle. I was in classes or studying most of the day, and then off to a two- or three-hour practice after that."

Added to the heavy weekday schedule, Clemente says that Stingers games against rival football teams often took place on weekends.

"Without a bursary, I would've needed a part-time job. With my schedule being packed, that wasn't possible."

WHY CONCORDIA FOOTBALL?

SC: "While looking for an academic program, I was considering options with compelling football teams. Concordia offers that."

Clemente says that football motivated him academically: "It gave me a time at the end of each day to step away from the classroom and from studying — it added balance."

Before entering Concordia, Clemente's passion for football showed itself when he was a volunteer coach for l'Équipe Métropolitaine Scolaire and at Collège Notre-Dame, both in Montreal, in 2013.

After a two-year run with the Stingers, Clemente hung up his cleats in 2015. He suffered an injury to his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in 2013 and never fully recovered.

Now, Clemente takes advantage of a different opportunity offered by Concordia: the university's Institute for Co-operative Education — which combines study with real-world work terms.

WHAT DOES THE CO-OP PROGRAM MEAN TO YOU?

SC: "It's about experience and getting a foot in the door. I think that once I graduate, opportunities will open up for me because of this program."

Clemente is an intern at Morneau Shepell, a human resources solutions company with a Montreal office.

"It aligns perfectly with what I'm studying," says Clemente of his placement.

Clemente hopes to wrap up his studies at Concordia in 2017 and begin full-time work as an actuary.

motivated

FROM RABBINICAL STUDIES TO ENGINEERING

Sholom Shuchat taught himself high-school math before entering Concordia and is a recipient of the **Jaan Saber, Phoivos Ziogas Scholarship**



Sholom Shuchat hopes to pursue a PhD in biomedical engineering.

Maintaining a grade point average of 4.27 is no easy feat. Especially with a two-month-old daughter at home.

“My wife, Malkah, is on maternity leave. There isn’t much income coming in,” says Sholom Shuchat, a second-year Concordia mechanical engineering student.

Fortunately, Shuchat gets student support at the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (ENCS) — including from the **Jaan Saber, Phoivos Ziogas Scholarship**, which he received in 2014.

“Being a teaching assistant helps,” says Shuchat, who tutors students on material failure, a first-year ENCS course that deals with mistakes within the profession. “I can either have really good grades or work more.”

Additional teaching assistantships aren’t an option for Shuchat, whose ambition is to pursue biomedical engineering at a PhD level.

BREAKING THE MOULD

Attending university in engineering was a real departure for Shuchat.

“My father and two older brothers are rabbis,” says Shuchat, a Montreal-born Hasidic Jew who completed four years of post-high school rabbinical studies in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2011.

After graduating, Shuchat entered the family business — Never Wash A Dish — which sells party supplies. “Business just wasn’t my thing,” he says. “I wanted to study.”

Shuchat enrolled in prerequisite courses at Concordia in 2012 — with his eye on ENCS — though he was aware his rabbinical studies didn’t align with engineering.

“My previous studies, even in high school, were more religious or of a religious nature. They prepared me for intense hours of study and deep analytical thinking,” he says.

To make up for the discrepancy, Shuchat taught himself secondary- and CEGEP-level math in the summer months leading up to his first semester.

“First I used Khan Academy,” he says, referring to a non-profit online learning resource. “I needed to pick it up, so I started reading books on pre-calculus.”

After a year of prerequisite courses, Shuchat entered ENCS in September 2013.

“I like engineering because it’s applied. It’s not theoretical mathematics — we solve real problems,” he says.

Shuchat expects to complete his studies in 2017.

driven



Sédiments by Katia Gosselin



REFOCUSING ON CAREER GOALS

At Concordia, Katia Gosselin seeks new opportunities as a photographer and benefits from the **Peter and Amy Howick Entrance Bursary**

With a 10-year-old son and several years spent out of school, Concordia seemed like a bold decision for Katia Gosselin — at first.

“When I had Émile, my output as a photographer decreased,” she says. “Now it’s different. We’re both going to school!”

Gosselin started in the Faculty of Fine Arts with a major in photography in 2014. She benefitted from the Peter and Amy Howick Entrance Bursary during that first year.

“The bursary took a lot of weight off my shoulders,” she says. “It’s encouraging to have someone give a push to help you.”

Gosselin, who shoots using analogue equipment, says that photography is a costly medium.

“There’s the camera, lenses, film — and also costs associated with developing the photos in a darkroom,” she says.

Though serious about photography since 2002, Gosselin knew a university degree would open doors for her.

“I want to teach. My ambition is to complete a master’s degree and pursue that,” says Gosselin, who has experience giving private photography courses.

ONE OF A KIND

Gosselin relates that a degree from Concordia would make her the first university graduate in her family. “I think it sets a great example for my son, Émile,” she says.

Inspired by the calculated movements of performance art, Gosselin’s photography has appeared in exhibitions at Art Matters at Concordia in 2015; the Centre culturel franco-manitobain in Winnipeg, Man., in 2012; Maison de la culture Maisonneuve in Montreal in 2011 and the Shanghai World Expo in 2010.

“A theme I revisit often involves human behaviour. I’m trying to create a story,” says Gosselin.

Her work *Sédiments* (2009) serves as an example of her caught-in-the-moment photography work.

In addition to being a shutterbug, Gosselin has an entrepreneurial streak. She provides audio-to-text transcriptions through her independent business venture, Verbatim.

“That was my living for a while. I liked it because you often learn something as you’re listening,” says Gosselin, who counted medical doctors among her clientele.

How has she liked Concordia so far? “It’s a great school for photography. I’ve gained experience and met interesting people who are also devoted to this medium.”

appreciative

KNOWLEDGE FOR HER COMMUNITY

The **First Nations, Métis and Inuit bursaries** help Shiann Wahéhshon Whitebean balance First Peoples Studies and raising three children



“Without scholarships and community sponsorship, it would be very difficult for me to attend university,” says Shiann Wahéhshon Whitebean.

“I didn’t know what to expect coming for a bachelor’s degree,” says Whitebean, a mother of three — with two boys aged 15 and 9, and a 7-year-old daughter. “I really fell in love with it. I’d like to complete a PhD eventually.”

Whitebean entered Concordia as a mature student, as she had to leave CEGEP to raise her first child. The **Dorothy May Perrett Memorial Scholarship** and the **First Nations, Métis and Inuit bursaries** that Whitebean receives are vital support.

“Without scholarships and community sponsorship, it would be very difficult for me to attend university.”

Her hope is to one day pay it forward. “I’d like to be in a position in the future where I could offer scholarships to Indigenous people,” she says.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

“My day starts with getting my three children ready for school,” says Whitebean. From there, she faces a 90-minute commute across the Mercier Bridge from Kahnawà:ke — which is south of Montreal — to Concordia.

“I just think of my kids,” she says on what gets her through a full day of school and the round trip. “They’re already talking about going to CEGEP and university themselves.”

Whitebean has after-school commitments — adding to the length of her day. She is the founder and was the first president of Concordia’s First Peoples Studies Member Association. She is also trying to bring back the Native student association at Concordia.

“I hope to promote exchanges between Indigenous and Non-indigenous people,” she says on her motivation.

Even with a demanding schedule, Whitebean managed to make the Faculty of Arts and Science dean’s list. She is also a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, which is reserved for students at participating universities with grades in the top 15 percentile.


For Shiann Wahéhshon Whitebean, a university education is about bringing it all back home.

“I want to get at the heart of First Peoples issues and share that knowledge with my community,” says Whitebean, who resides in Kahnawà:ke, a Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) territory.

That’s why Whitebean enrolled in Concordia’s First Peoples Studies major — which focuses on First Nations, Inuit and Métis within Canada — in 2013. It’s the first program of its kind in Quebec.

SUPPORTING NEXT-GENERATION EDUCATION WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Wayne Deans funds the **Deans Knight Capital Management Scholarship** and the **Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema Award**



Wayne Deans supports the program named after his friend Kenneth Woods financially and by providing its students expert advice.

The 10 years Wayne Deans, BComm 68, spent at the Bank of Canada was like “earning a super-PhD,” he says.

“At the time — in the 1970s — I think they had the best economic research group in the country,” says Deans, who is now the president and CEO of Vancouver-based boutique investment firm Deans Knight Capital Management Ltd.

“I was rubbing shoulders with them, watching them practise their craft,” he recalls.

That same practical learning characterizes the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program in Concordia’s John Molson School of Business (JMSB). The program provides a select group of undergraduate JMSB students with hands-on training in investment management by working with a real-life portfolio of over \$2 million.

“It bridges the gap between academia and the business world — teaching students about investing” says Deans.

Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, launched the program with a \$1-million gift to Concordia in 2000. Deans contributes to the program financially and also offers students his expertise. “I present to students in the program once a year,” he says.

Deans is further supportive of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, where Deans Knight funds an annual scholarship. “An education is always valuable,” he explains of the night-and-day difference between investment management and filmmaking. “Plus I know Mel, and he’s such a great guy.”

A MODEL FOR UP-AND-COMING INVESTORS


From the Bank of Canada, Deans went on to work for Wood Gundy in Toronto as a partner. Then he received an offer he couldn’t refuse.

“A friend and well-known businessman — Milton Wong — started an investment company in Vancouver. He asked me to help him build it up,” says Deans, who moved to the West Coast in 1985 to join MK Wong and Associates.

With the help of Deans, the company would become one of the largest pension fund managers in Canada. Deans and another partner at MK Wong — Doug Knight — left in 1992 to start their own firm.

“We’re in our 24th year — and in the investment world that’s a long time,” says Deans, whose firm oversees \$1 billion in investments for its 400 private clients.

He says that success comes from investing in companies that have quality people behind them. “Family businesses often perform exceptionally. You want a company that is run well rather than geared toward pleasing analysts.”

- 
- Learn how you can support the next-generation of Concordia students. Contact our development staff at **514-848-2424, ext. 4856**.
 - Share your **#CUgiving** and **#CUalumni** stories via **@ConcordiaAlumni** on  Facebook,  Twitter and  LinkedIn.