**Concordia University
Mathematics &
Statistics Department**

Newsletter June 2021 - May 2022

PROMOTION

♦ Congratulations to Giovanni Rosso who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor that will come into effect on June 1, 2022.

HIRES

♦ Welcome back to Carmen Buffone who will be replacing Debbie Arless effective June 14, 2021, as Interim Graduate Program Assistant during Debbie's temporary assignment in the Student Success Centre.

♦ Welcome to Sandra Romanini as the new Department Administrator effective October 20, 2021. Sandra comes from the Department of Finance in the John Molson School of Business and had previously worked in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in 2006.

♦ Welcome to Dimiter Dryanov, an exceptional LTA hire for 9 ½ months effective January 1, 2022.

♦ Welcome to Cristina Teut who joined the Department on April 7, 2022 as the Undergraduate Student Advisor. Cristina comes from the Financial Aid and Awards Office where she worked for 8 years.

♦ Welcome to Christopher Plenzich who joined the Department on April 22, 2022 as the Project Coordinator for the CANSSI Quebec Regional Centre. Part of his position is also to assist with research activities and initiatives in the Department.

♦ The Department welcomes Jason Bramburger as a tenure-track hire in Applied Mathematics effective July 1, 2022 and Carlo Pagano as a tenure-track hire in Arithmetic Geometry and Number Theory effective August 1, 2022.

♦ Welcome to Benjamin Hersey, Amey Kaloti, and Nataliya Laptyeva who have been hired in LTA positions effective August 1, 2022.

DEPARTURES

♦ Farewell to Jane Venettacci, Department Administrator, who retired after 35 years of service in the University, of which 25 years were in the Department. Her last day was September 17, 2021. Enjoy your retirement!

♦ Erin Meger left the Department on December 31, 2021.

♦ Farewell to Harald Proppe who retired on May 31, 2022. Hal started in the Department in 1970 when it was still known only as the Department of Mathematics. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Hal!

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

♦ Subsequent to a substantial overhaul by the Department of its Joint BA/BSc Major in Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science, and in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (CSSE), the program became a *Joint BA/BSc Major in Data Science.*

♦ The Department recognized the increasing importance and relevance of quantitative skills in insurance and financial sectors in current economies. As these sectors continue to become more complex, students need a wider breadth of technical and quantitative skills to succeed. As a result, a new *Minor in Quantitative Finance and Insurance* was created and will be available in the 2022-23 academic year.

♦ Colleagues mourn the passing of John McKay, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, on April 29, 2022 leaving behind a significant body of work and a large network of colleagues and friends. Prof. McKay was a well-known mathematician involved with the Monstrous Moonshine theory. In 2011, he was appointed Distinguish Professor Emeritus in the Department and in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, and was the only person to receive this title that year.

♦ The designation of *Distinguished Professor Emeriti* was conferred on José Garrido in May 2022.

♦ Congratulations go out to Yang Lu on the birth of Céline, his second daughter, on May 4, 2022.

♦ Congratulations to Chantal David who has been selected to receive the *2022 University Research Award* which carries the title of Concordia University Research Fellow for the Award in Category C – leadership, training of students, and overall influence of the scholarly work by a faculty member at Concordia who has a record of sustained excellence.

♦ Marco Bertola has been selected to serve on the *FAS's Faculty Tribunal Pool* from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.

♦ Simone Brugiapaglia received the *Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT) New Academic grant* from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.

♦ Xiaowen Zhou has been selected to serve on the *NSERC Doctoral University Selection Committee* from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.

♦ Galia Dafni has been appointed by the CRM Board of Directors as *Deputy Director of Publications and Communications* effective July 1, 2022.

♦ The *Montreal Math Circle* is a joint project of Concordia's Department of Mathematics and Statistics. A special virtual math enrichment camp was held from June 28 to July 2, 2021 for junior high school students (advanced rising 7th graders, grades 8 and 9) interested in contest-level mathematics.

Two on-line sessions of 8 classes each of the 2021-2022 regular edition of *the Montreal Math Circle* were held on Sundays from October 3 to November 28, 2021 and from January 23 to March 27, 2022. Each class had four levels: grades 3-4, grades 5-6, grades 7-8, and grades 9+.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We are extremely proud of our student achievements. Congratulations to all!

Convocation Medal

- Leo Benac (BA – Honours Statistics, Minor Computer Science, Extended Credit Program) was presented the *Eric O'Connor Mathematics Medal* for Spring 2022 which is awarded to the most outstanding graduating student in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Undergraduate Awards

- The Faculty of Arts and Science salutes one of its top undergraduate students, Leo Benac: https://www.concordia.ca/cunews/artsci/2021/10/14/the-faculty-of-arts-and-science-salutes-its-top-undergraduate-st.html?rootnav=news/stories.   Other *Arts and Science Dean's Scholar Awardees* are Marco Mignacca (BSc – Honours Pure and Applied Mathematics), Frédéric Pelletier (BSc – Specialization Actuarial Mathematics/Finance), and Congshu Zou (BSc – Joint Major in Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science.

- Recipients of *la Bourse d'études Hydro-Québec de l'Université Concordia* are:
  - Andréa Costache (BSc – Major Mathematics and Statistics)
  - Andrew Foote (BSc – Specialization Mathematical and Computational Finance)
  - Steven Mandelos-Aziloglou (BA – Specialization Statistics)
  - Joshua McCart (BA –Major Mathematics and Statistics)

- Leo Benac (BA – Honours Statistics, Minor Computer Science, Extended Credit Program), Roxanne Galadreau (BSc – Specialization Actuarial Mathematics [Co-op]), Samir Karam (BA – Specialization Pure and Applied Mathematics), Declan Pipia (BSc – Honours Pure and Applied Mathematic), and Brendon Thomson (BA – Honours Pure and Applied Mathematics) were awarded an *FAS Campaign for the New Millennium Scholarship*.

- Amani-Myriam Maamar (BSc – Major Mathematics and Statistics) is a recipient of an *FAS Concordia University Entrance Scholarship*.

- A *Concordia University 25th Anniversary Scholarship* was awarded to Congshu Zou (BSc – Joint Major in Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science)

- Christopher Grenon (BSc – Specialization Mathematical and Computational Finance) won a C*oncordia University Memorial Endowment.*

- The *Economical Insurance Award* is the highest-value undergraduate scholarship for actuarial students. Mengdind Tian (BSc – Specialization Actuarial Mathematics/Finance [Co-op]) is this year's award recipient.

- A *Fred Weinstein Bursary* was awarded to Mouna Hadi (BA – Specialization Actuarial Mathematics).

- Tikshan Kumar Soobanah (BA – Honours Statistics) won a J*oseph Gilbert Joyce Memorial Bursary***.**

- A *Leslie and Kaye Jowett Scholarship* was awarded to Marco Mignacca (BSc – Honours Pure and Applied Mathematics).

- Jordana Marciano (BSc – Specialization Mathematical and Computational Finance) was awarded a *Michael Lifshitz In-Course Bursary for Students with Disabilities.*

- A *Morley and Rita Cohen Foundation Bursary* was awarded to Olivia Dhepaganon (BA – Specialization Statistics).

♦ The *Morneau-Shepell Scholarship* recognises and rewards excellence in Actuarial Mathematics students who are entering their second year of studies. Roxanne Galadreau (BSc –Specialization Actuarial Mathematics [Co-op]) was the recipient of this scholarship.

♦ Guanchen Chu (BSc – Major Mathematics and Statistics) was given a *Paccaya Award*.

♦ Kaylee Cohen (BSc - Specialization Actuarial Mathematics) received the *Outstanding Student Leader Award,* one of the Alumni recognition awards. Kaylee is also the President of the Mathematics, Actuarial & Statistics Student Association (MASSA).

♦ Catherine Dagenais-Roberge (BSc – Specialization Actuarial Mathematics) is the recipient of the *Robert Tucker Memorial Award.*

♦ The *T. D. Dwivedi and S. N. Mishra Statistics Scholarship* was awarded to Qinfei Chen (BSc – Specialization Statistics).

♦ Zakaria El Yassini is the recipient of the *Tom Labelle Bursary in Mathematics.*

♦ Myriam Boucher-Pinard (BA - Specialization Pure and Applied Mathematics, Major Psychology), Anila Giang (BA - Specialization Actuarial Mathematics/ Finance [Co-op]), and Catherine Dagenais-Roberge (BSc – Specialization Actuarial Mathematics) are the recipients of the *Vincent, Olga, and Denis Nicolas-Diniacopoulos Scholarship.* Myriam has won this scholarship for the second consecutive year.

Graduate Awards

♦ Caleb Danquah (MSc – Actuarial Mathematics) and Sebastien Jessup (MSc – Actuarial Mathematics) are the winners of a *Brenda Carter and David Wheeler Memorial Award.*

♦ The *Concordia International Tuition Award of Excellence* was awarded to PhD students Zaniar Ahmadi (Mathematical Finance), Hanieh Amjadian (Actuarial Mathematics), Parissa Davar (Mathematical Finance), Maryam Jabbari Khasraghi (Probability), Samaneh Sami Kermani (Mathematical Finance), Carlos Perez Mendoza (Mathematical Finance), Shahaboddin Shaabani (Analysis), and Safoora Zarei (Actuarial Mathematics).

♦ A *Concordia International Tuition Award of Excellence* was awarded to Master's students Yiming Guo (Mathematical Finance) and Davide Accadia (Number Theory).

♦ Recipients of the *Concordia Merit Scholarship* are MSc students Benedict Amuchechukwu (Actuarial Mathematics), Gabriel Haeck (Actuarial Mathematics), Saeedeh (Nasrin) Jamali (Statistics), Giorgio Navone (ALGANT), Javad Roustaei (Mathematical Finance), and Seyed Mohammadhossein Shahabi (Number Theory).

♦ A *Concordia University Graduate Doctoral Fellowship* was awarded to Martin Čech (PhD – Number Theory), Chun Ho Lau (PhD – Analysis), Fabrice Nonez (PhD – Analysis), and Carlos Perez Mendoza (PhD – Mathematical Finance) and Olivier Russell (PhD – Probability).

♦ Jeremy Schlitt (MSc – Number Theory) received a *Concordia University Special Entrance Award*.

♦ A *Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) Graduate Fellowships for PhD Students in Mathematics and Statistics* was awarded to Aparna Rajput (Dynamical Systems) and Shahaboddin Shaabani (Analysis).

- An *FAS Graduate Fellowship for Master Students in Mathematics and Statistics* was awarded to Caleb Danquah (Actuarial Mathematics), Cameron Gallinger (Probability), Jesus Armando de Ita Solis (Actuarial Mathematics), Fadia Ounissi (Analysis), and Stephanie Saputra (Statistics).

- Magali-Chen Goulet (PhD - Mathematics) was awarded th*e Jacques Goulet Graduate Scholarship in Actuarial Mathematics*.

- *The Nick Herscovics Memorial Scholarship* was given to Marc-Olivier Ouellet (MSc – Mathematics Education) for the second consecutive year.

- An *Out-of-Province Fee Remission* was given to Master's students Cameron Gallinger (Probability), Luke Rostad (Mathematical Physics), and Emily Wright (Mathematics).

- Jordi Pillet (PhD – Mathematics) was awarded a *Power Corporation of Canada Graduate Fellowship*.

- A *Split Concordia Merit Scholarship* was awarded to JiJie Xu (MSc – Statistics) and Davide Accadia (MSc – Number Theory).

- Kylian Ajavon (MA – Dynamical Systems) was awarded a *Top Concordian Graduate Entrance Scholarship*.