

GEORGE
LENGVARI

**A MAN FOR
ALL SEASONS**







GEORGE LENGVARI: A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

“Concordia University’s founding institutions, Loyola College and Sir George Williams University, played an important part in the lives of their alumni and in the history of Montreal. Graduates such as George Lengvari, a renowned student-athlete who became a successful lawyer and businessman, have long conveyed pride for their alma mater. Our students benefit enormously from George’s ongoing generosity. It helps them to accomplish great things as student-athletes, and to become ambassadors for Concordia. We are deeply grateful for George’s support, commitment and vision.”

*— Graham Carr, President and Vice-Chancellor,
Concordia University*





George Lengvari and wife Inez Lengvari



INTRODUCTION

If the life of an athlete is measured not just in wins but in integrity, generosity and fair play, George Lengvari is an undisputed champion.

His infancy in Budapest was marked by the Second World War and, after the war, a three-year spell at a displaced persons camp in Austria. From Hungary and Austria, opportunity compelled the Lengvari family to move to Scotland and, ultimately, Canada.

In Montreal, Lengvari's fortunes blossomed after he enrolled at Loyola High School in 1955 and Loyola College in 1959 to study economics. He became a star basketball player, powering the Loyola Warriors to a league championship in 1963.

Three more triumphant basketball seasons unfolded after he enrolled in the Faculty of Law at McGill and wore the captain's jersey for the university.

After a year at the Faculté de Droit at the Université de Paris, Lengvari returned to Montreal and merged his professional skills with his love of sports to represent some of Canada's most beloved athletes.

Later, when brothers and famed entrepreneurs Joe and Ben Weider called, Lengvari relocated to London, England, to join a company whose purpose — to promote health and fitness — was close to his heart.

Today, Lengvari is recognised for his philanthropy. As a devoted supporter of Concordia University, he has helped countless students excel at academics and athletics.

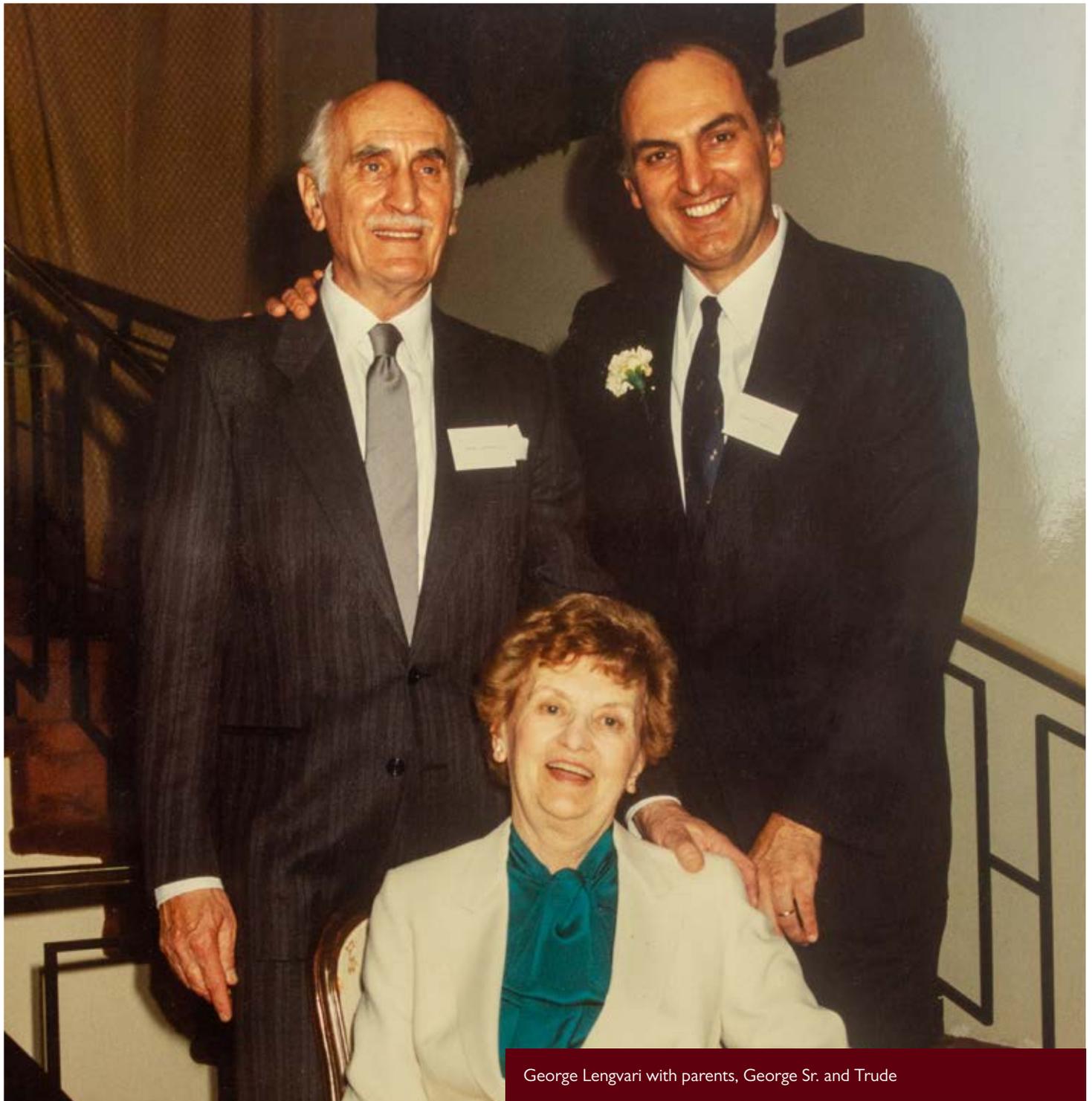
"I like to say, 'My passion is people.' I think I learned how to deal with people respectfully as a result of my experiences in sports, business and the legal profession," he said.

In many respects, Lengvari's success is a testament to the principled guidance of his parents and all those who helped him on his path, from aid workers he encountered as a child, to teammates, coaches, teachers and mentors.

"Without the sacrifices and struggles my parents lived through, I would not be the person I am today," he said. "You have to be strong to overcome the circumstances they faced. As a result of how they survived, I believe in integrity, dependability and always striving to go the extra mile."

An extraordinary family history, a passion for sports, a commitment to service and a holistic worldview shaped by international business experience — thanks to all of this and more, George Lengvari is a man for all seasons.





George Lengvari with parents, George Sr. and Trude



A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

“George Lengvari’s perseverance, generous spirit and appreciation for teamwork took root in his family history, his career as an athlete, his education in the Jesuit tradition and his business career. As a Concordia graduate, he has successfully combined these elements to become one of the university’s most stalwart supporters, helping students achieve their educational and athletic goals. As an alumnus, he serves as a role model for the next generation of students.”

*— Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97,
Vice-President, Advancement, Concordia University*





The Lengvari legacy of generosity was affected by extreme geopolitical circumstances. Born in Budapest as the Second World War raged, George Lengvari began life in a Hungary that had become nationalistic and disabled by the intractable whims of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Between the ages of three and six, he lived in Austria with his parents, George Sr. and Gertrude (Trude), as refugees. Inspired by his parents and the acts of kindness shown to his family as they navigated across Europe and on to Canada, Lengvari has devoted much of his adult life to hard work, philanthropy and service.

George Lengvari Sr., a noted insurance brokerage pioneer, was profoundly shaped by the wars of the 20th century and the consequent lessons he absorbed about resourcefulness, tenacity and generosity.

His motto — “You can get anything you want in life, if you help others get what they need” — was passed on to his children, to the ultimate benefit of Concordia as well as other institutions and organizations.

Lengvari Sr. was born in 1915, the youngest of three boys, just a few months after his father was killed in the First World War. After an uncle took in middle brother Ferenc to help the family, the three Lengvari brothers remained close and excelled as competitive swimmers in Hungary and throughout Europe.

All three boys proved to be excellent students and went on to earn advanced university degrees. The oldest, Akos, became a lawyer. Ferenc, who took the uncle’s last name,

Csik, went on to practice medicine. George Sr. completed a law degree and a doctorate in political economy by the time he was 22. His first job was with a private bank in Budapest, where he was promptly made vice-president.

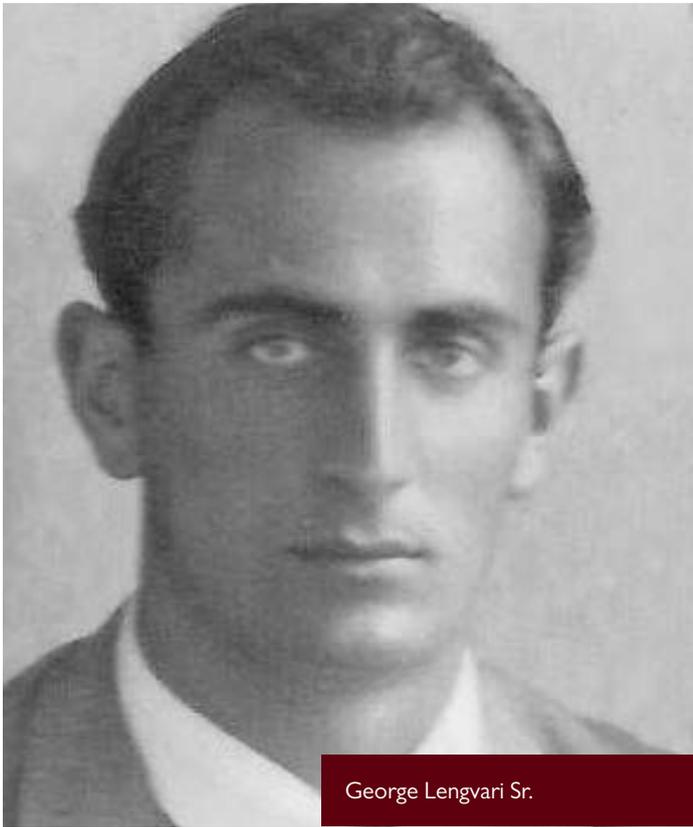
The Lengvari family’s promise was cut short by the Second World War. Akos was killed in Russia. Ferenc, who took gold and bronze medals as a freestyle swimmer at the controversial 1936 Olympics in Berlin and returned to Hungary a hero, was fatally wounded in an air raid in 1945.

While George Sr. was held as a prisoner for a time in troubled Hungary, Trude Lengvari escaped, with George Jr., to the American zone in Austria, where Trude worked as a translator for the British Army and Red Cross at a camp for displaced persons and refugees. Young George learned his first valuable business lesson there when he exchanged several cartons of cigarettes, that his mother had accumulated as currency for the family’s subsistence, for a leather coat. A bad mistake but the family recovered.

Trude’s translation work led to an opportunity to move to Cromarty, Scotland to work on the estate of Colonel Geordie Ross, the Laird of Ross and Cromarty. George Sr. assumed the role of gardener and beekeeper (his beemaster’s certificate would have pride of place on the walls of his Montreal and Vancouver offices), and Trude worked as the estate’s housekeeper.

In 1951, George Lengvari Sr. flew from London to Montreal with Trude, nine-year old George and three-month old Christine. For several years, the family lived in a





George Lengvari Sr.



Gertrude (Trude) Lengvari, née Koralewski

one-room basement apartment on Metcalfe Street. Trude found work at Royal Victoria College. The holder of a law degree and doctorate, Lengvari Sr. sought employment as a professor at McGill University. He was turned down and offered a janitor's post, which he accepted at 45 cents an hour. When he began to sell vacuum cleaners door to door to supplement his meagre income, he discovered that he had a knack for sales.

"My father had a genius-category intellect," said Lengvari.

Later, Lengvari would reflect on the trips he sometimes took with his father to peddle vacuums in areas like Benny Farm, in Montreal's West End. These experiences, while difficult, were lessons in patience and stoicism in the face of rejection.

"As a kid, my father was my hero," he said. "To see him get rejected and have doors slammed in his face 99 out of 100 times, it left a scar."

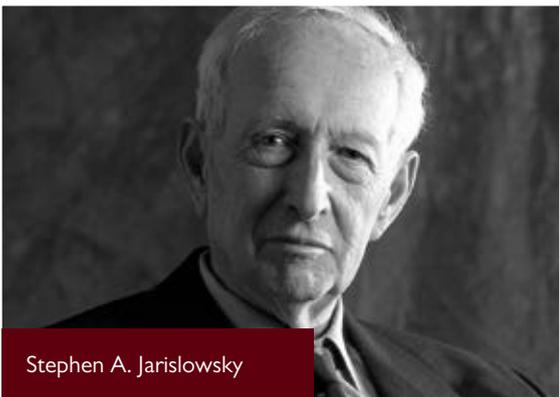
A chance remark would later change the course of Lengvari Sr.'s life. While at the downtown Montreal offices of Excelsior Life to purchase insurance, a manager encouraged Lengvari Sr. to enter the business himself. At 40, he made a crucial pivot and embarked on a new career — a career that would buoy the Lengvari family's fortunes.

With Trude's help, the insurance business grew. Lengvari Sr. amassed a list of Hungarian émigré clients and eventually expanded beyond the community. He later established an insurance brokerage firm, Lengvari and Faust, with his partner Robert Faust. Lengvari Sr. went on to establish Lengvari Financial Inc. in Montreal and Lengvari and Associates in Vancouver. It became well-known that while George Sr. had charm, a strong work ethic and sales know-how, Trude had the keen business sense. Together, they made a formidable team.



Beyond business, Lengvari Sr. was active within Montreal's Hungarian émigré community. When the Soviet Union invaded Hungary in 1956, he was quick to rally his fellow expatriates, staging protests, speaking at rallies and sharing the stage with Mayor Jean Drapeau and assorted federal politicians. As president of the Quebec division of the Canadian-Hungarian Federation, he even exchanged telegrams with then-Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent.

Ever the academic, Lengvari Sr. enrolled at Purdue University in the United States to deepen his knowledge of the insurance industry. He went on to develop Canada's first university-level insurance course, at Université de Montréal, and eventually a second at the Banff School of Management.



Stephen A. Jarislowsky

Stephen A. Jarislowsky, LLD 10, the eminent Montreal investment manager, was a close friend of Lengvari Sr. In 2011, at the inaugural George Lengvari Sr. Lecture Series, sponsored by Lengvari Jr., at the Montreal Economic Institute, Jarislowsky said of his old fishing buddy:

"George Lengvari is the most personable of men. I have never met anyone who disliked him. Well, maybe some of his competitors didn't like him when he took business from them.

"You don't come to a new country unless you are a get-up-and-go kind of guy. George Sr. was that. And then when you get [to a new country], you don't have many friends, so you have nothing else to do but work hard."

Age did not impede Lengvari Sr.'s work ethic. When he was 80, he was the top life insurance producer for Manulife Financial, not just in Canada but the world.



Dominic D'Alessandro

Dominic D'Alessandro, BSc 67, LLD 98, former President and CEO of Manulife and a member of Concordia's Board of Governors (1990-95), said of Lengvari Sr.:



“You mention [his name] anywhere in the insurance space in Canada and people know who you’re speaking about. The percentage of people who can make a career in insurance is so low because the failure rate is very, very high. Everyone can survive the first year selling to their aunts and uncles but to sustain a livelihood takes a very special personality, a person who is immensely confident and positive.”

Lengvari Sr. worked until the last year of his life and remained physically active. He set a swimming record at the age of 82, played golf and practiced yoga. He died in Vancouver in 2012, a month shy of his 97th birthday. Trude, whose wit, exuberance and warm smile was the heart of her family, passed away in 2004. She was 88.



The Lengvari family — clockwise from left: George Sr., Inez, George Jr., Christine and Trude



George Lengvari with sister Christine



LENGVARI PHILANTHROPY: THE NEXT GENERATION

“My family truly had nothing in the way of material things for many years, but that never dampened my parents’ spirits and positive outlook on the world. They taught us by their actions and motivated us to pursue our dreams. They sacrificed tremendously to make sure that we got a great education.”

— George Lengvari



George Lengvari Jr. was raised in a family that emphasized education, hard work, community and physical activity. As a young man, he accepted the responsibility to uphold the ethics of the Lengvari-Csik clan. He would go on to shine as a student-athlete undergraduate and at law school.

As a graduate of Loyola College, Lengvari went on to make invaluable contributions to Concordia University,

enriching the lives of students, faculty, athletes and coaches. He has established scholarships to help students achieve their goals. He has participated in the governance of Concordia and supported its future success, serving as a board member of the Loyola Alumni Association.

Lengvari also served as a volunteer fundraiser for Concordia's Annual Giving Campaign, various corporate and leadership canvasses, and for Concordia's Campaign for a New Millennium. Those initiatives helped spur a renaissance for the university, paving the way for Concordia to welcome more than 50,000 students today.

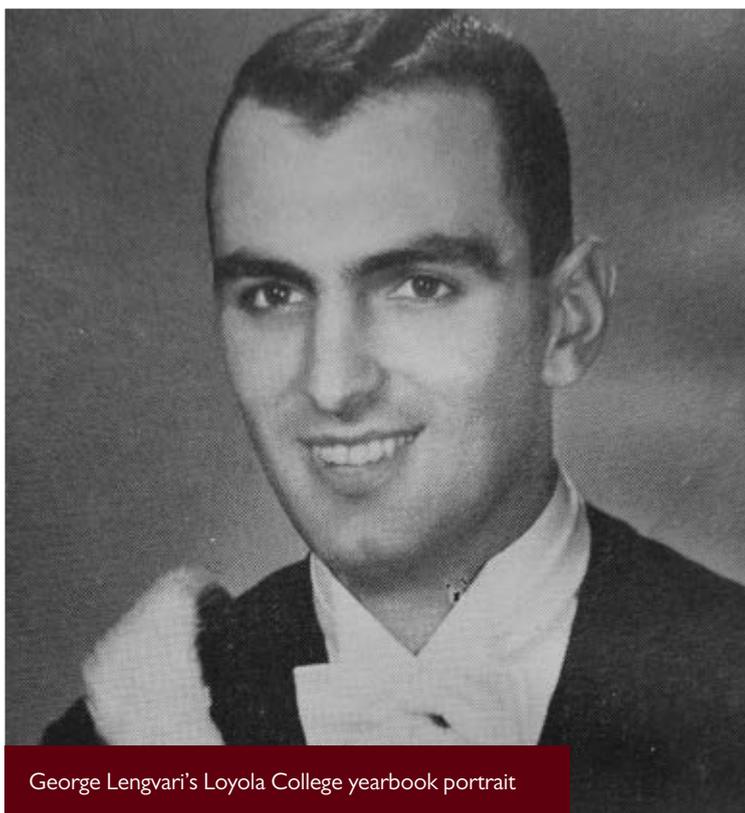
From 1993 to 2000, Lengvari served on Concordia's Board of Governors. It was an important time for the university. The acquisition of new real estate in downtown Montreal, together with major renovation and construction plans for Loyola Campus, changed Concordia's footprint and resulted in enhanced teaching, learning and research environments.

The Lengvari legacy at Concordia

Once her brother led the way to Loyola College, Christine Lengvari was destined to attend the forerunner to Concordia as well. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1972 and thereafter supported her alma mater.

"My mother was my mentor," said Christine Lengvari. "She lost everything after the war and always said that education was the one thing that could never be taken away from us."

The president and CEO of Lengvari Financial Inc., a Montreal firm involved in retirement and estate management, Christine Lengvari has been a long-time supporter of Concordia. In the 1980s, she was invited to join the Loyola Alumni Association.



George Lengvari's Loyola College yearbook portrait



2005 GW Lengvari classroom at Loyola High School

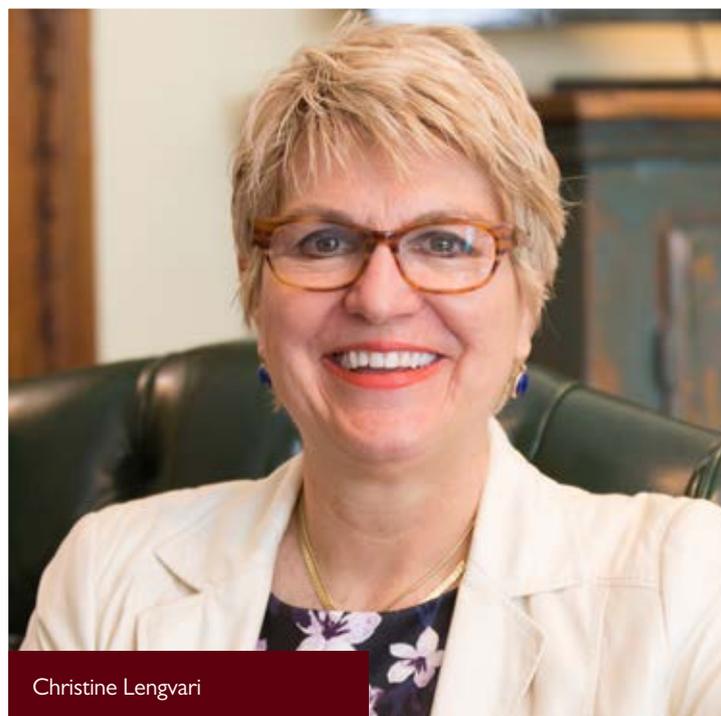
In 1997, after several years living overseas, Christine became the chair of the 25th Alumni Reunion as part of Homecoming and continued her involvement in various capacities. She was a member of the Alumni and Friends division of the Campaign for a New Millennium and later, at her brother's urging, joined Concordia's Board of Governors, where she served for nine years.

It was Christine Lengvari who helped found Concordia's planned giving program, which allows graduates and friends to make bequests and other major gifts to the university. "I'm a great believer in planned giving," she said. "I think that when we are part of a community, we have to be involved. It's an opportunity to allocate funds to the causes you care about."

In 2017, she announced her own substantial planned gift to support the university. The Christine Lengvari Endowment Fund will support scholarships for female students in the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program at the John Molson School of Business and promote research at Concordia's PERFORM Centre. "I've been very fortunate when it comes to the organizations I've been involved with during my lifetime," she said. "They've given me a lot. Concordia has become a foundational institution in Montreal and to be able to give back to the university is energizing."

As a strong advocate for the empowerment of women, Lengvari gives her time as advisory board chair of the Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership Program. She is a member of the executive committee for the Montreal chapter of the International Women's Forum and was previously a mentor for the John Molson Women in Business Club.

She has also been part of the client committee for JMSB's Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program, where she has directed part of her endowment. "I think it's necessary to promote women and to encourage women to be involved," she says.



Christine Lengvari



Loyola convocation:
Christine Lengvari, with parents George Sr. and Trude

Lengvari was named one of "50 Women of Influence in Canada's Life Insurance Industry" in 2014. She was also awarded the Prix de Distinction from the Chambre de Sécurité Financière in 2017, the same year she received a 20-year service medal from St. Mary's Hospital Foundation. In 2019, her years of volunteer work were recognized by the Concordia University Alumni Association with the Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award.

our belief that they will...
only foreseeable move would be to the...
present league, where the team would probably encounter...
stiffer opposition in Ottawa University, RMC and Carlton...
the three current members of that section.

the rest of the season...
ter spelling off Lengvari...



George Lengvari, back row and second from left, with his Loyola Warriors teammates and coach George Karatzopoulos

A SPORTING LIFE

“George was impactful during his college days and well beyond. He’s an exceptional role model for our student-athletes. In spite of his success, he’s never forgotten his roots and still takes an interest in the young men on our team who are following in his footsteps.”

*— Rastko Popovic, Head Coach,
Concordia Stingers Men’s Basketball*





George Lengvari has contributed enormously to the athletic accomplishments of his alma maters, Concordia University and McGill University.

He made history while enrolled at one of Concordia's founding institutions, Loyola College, in the early 1960s. As a player on the Warriors men's basketball squad, he participated in an historic league title win. This led, in 1963, to a spot in the inaugural Canadian Intercollegiate Athletics Union basketball championship tournament in Windsor, Ontario.

Lengvari was named most valuable player that year for his leadership on and off the court. Later, at McGill, where he pursued a degree in civil law, he played three seasons and wore the captain's jersey.

"Of all the things that I've been involved with, nothing helped me more than sports. Competition taught me the value of hard work, leadership, teamwork, negotiation, getting along with people and striving to be the best at all times," Lengvari said.

"There is, of course, the added benefit of leading an active and healthy lifestyle to help maintain a sound mind and productive life. One of the things I remember best is that most of my friends were athletes. None of us smoked and we were committed to being in good shape and helping each other not only in sports but in life."

Lengvari would go on to merge his love of competition and law to establish a career as a sports agent. His clients were among some of Canada's most accomplished athletes: fabled Montreal Canadiens all-stars Guy Lafleur and Jean Béliveau, manager Jim Fanning and beloved catcher Gary Carter, both of the Montreal Expos, and Montreal Alouettes football standout, Peter Dalla Riva.

After more than two decades with the law firm he founded in 1968, Lengvari moved to London, England to join Weider Health and Fitness in 1994. A perfect fit for the amateur athlete, Lengvari started off as a senior vice-president with the company but was soon named vice-chairman. He served as vice-chairman of the board until 2009. He also sat on Schiff International's Board of Directors and was vice-chairman, until the company was sold in 2012.



Former McGill captain Noah Daoust, McGill coach David DeAverio, George Lengvari, Rastko Popovic and former Stingers captain Ricardo Monge

If one moment captures Lengvari's lifelong dedication to the spirit of competition and fair play, it may well have taken place in January 2019, when the inaugural edition of his basketball contest between Concordia and McGill tipped off at McGill's Love Competition Hall.

The Stingers would go on to beat their cross-town rivals 69-61 in the first annual George Lengvari Basketball Cup — a special moment for the student-athlete who had graduated from and donated to both schools.

Current Concordia coach Rastko Popovic sees the Lengvari Cup as a wonderful tribute to a man who has done so much for collegiate basketball in Canada. He is especially grateful for the tangible results of George Lengvari's generosity.

"His support has allowed our program at Concordia to add an assistant coach on a full-time basis throughout the season, increase our scholarship fund for student-athletes and allow our program to travel internationally, which has provided our players with invaluable life experience" Popovic said. "We are very thankful for his continued support."

Basketball coaches past and present have come to view Lengvari as more than just a supporter. "George has been kind enough to be a mentor to me over the years and I am proud to call him a friend," said former Stingers coach John Dore.

"First and foremost, George is a humanitarian who believes in helping young students grow and prosper. His contributions over the years to the men's basketball program have enabled many student-athletes to attend university, play a varsity sport, graduate and go on to become productive members of society."

McGill basketball coach David De Aveiro acknowledged that Lengvari's generosity as a friend and mentor has helped bolster the dreams of many young athletes: "These are experiences they'll remember for the rest of their lives."

LIFELONG TIES

Lengvari's relationship with his two alma maters and high school remain strong, especially when it comes to sports. Among the scholarships and bursaries he has established at Concordia is the Dr. Ben Weider Bursary for student-athletes. At Loyola High School, students have had access to a top-notch weight room since 2006, provided by Lengvari in honour of his father, George Sr., and uncle, Olympic swimmer Ferenc Csik. Lengvari has also supported the charity golf tournament at Loyola High for many years.

The business relationship Lengvari developed with Jean Béliveau blossomed into a friendship that lasted for the rest of the Hockey Hall of Famer's life. When the idea of a scholarship in Béliveau's name was first floated for McGill athletes, Lengvari stepped up to get the ball (or puck, rather) rolling.

"I find myself in the fortunate position that I can help young athletes at my alma maters get the same benefits that I did," he said. "Sports helped me first in life, then in my legal and business careers. I could never have achieved what I did without the help of many people and the lessons learned from participating in sports."

Lengvari remains active in business, as a conference speaker, a board and association member for various sports, legal and financial organizations, and a passionate alumnus. As a result, the scholar, athlete, lawyer, businessman, philanthropist and family man has truly measured up to his own words and the legacy of the Lengvari family: "The satisfaction of a life fulfilled comes from helping others."



From left to right: George Lengvari Sr., Keith and Jeannine Wood, Inez and George Lengvari, Jean Béliveau



George Lengvari, not featured in this photo, was an integral volunteer fundraiser for the Campaign for a New Millennium team.



A TRACK RECORD OF PHILANTHROPY

“George Lengvari has been a strong supporter of his two alma maters, Concordia and McGill. He has always been generous with his advice and his time. George the businessman has never lost the positive, competitive spirit that marked his athletic career at Loyola College. He has always been a winner.”

— Frederick H. Lowy, President Emeritus, Concordia University President and Vice-Chancellor, 1995-2005 and 2011 (interim)





George Lengvari in his office

George Lengvari's life has been profoundly influenced by his parents' example and the gratitude they felt toward those who helped them survive the Second World War and post-war Europe. He has also worked diligently to fulfill the tenets of his Jesuit education.

Lengvari spent eight years studying in the tradition at Loyola High School and Loyola College. Students were encouraged to be contemplative and active, and to develop keen minds and generous hearts to help foster a more just and humane world.

The notion of paying it forward was ingrained in Lengvari from a young age.

"My parents were so grateful for the good fortune of having been able to immigrate to this great country," he said. "They also realized that they could never have made it here and created the success they did without help from many, many people. That is the message that they passed on to me: to not only do good for ourselves but to do good for others."

Lengvari's good deeds have supported young athletes in reaching their academic and athletic goals.

His business instincts produced favourable results for his clients. The multimillion-dollar contract he negotiated for Montreal Expos catcher Gary Carter in the 1980s was the largest ever for a baseball player at the time. His efforts on behalf of Montreal Canadiens legend Jean Béliveau led to a lifelong friendship, capped by Lengvari's successful efforts to establish an athletic scholarship at McGill University in Béliveau's name.

Lengvari's support of education is also well-documented, with three major scholarships at Concordia University to his credit: the Henri P. Habib Undergraduate In-Course Bursary, the Jean Amiouny Bursary and the Dr. Ben Weider Bursary.

After he passed the Quebec bar exam in 1968, Lengvari made his mark as a partner in his own firm (Lengvari, Braman, Trudel) and as a lecturer in tax and estate planning. He has been a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Tax Foundation, the International Fiscal Association and International Tax Planning Association. He is also a member of the Canadian Association of Business Valuators and the Association de planification fiscale et financière.

In 1994, Lengvari and his wife, Inez, relocated to London, England after he accepted a job at a company founded by famed Montreal fitness gurus, Joe and Ben Weider. The affiliation continues to this day.

While with the Weiders, Lengvari helped conduct the sale of subsidiary businesses that resulted in several million dollars redistributed to employees.

“A fellow who worked as a janitor came up to me and hugged me after receiving his \$35,000 cheque. It was a life-changing amount for him,” he said.

“The Weiders were very generous to me over the years. One of the things I did respect about them, and I think is important in any business context, is to be able to disagree and remain friends.”

Throughout his career, Lengvari has also harboured a deep respect for members of the armed forces. Without a lot of fanfare, he supports organizations that help injured veterans in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Among other organizations that have benefited from Lengvari’s compassion and generosity are Dunham House, a mental health treatment centre in Quebec’s Eastern Townships, the Portage Foundation, which helps people with substance abuse-related problems, and the Sutton Trust, a London, England-based charity that works to improve social mobility for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Lengvari has also been a loyal sponsor of the Montreal Economic Institute, a respected think tank on fiscally responsible public policy that presents an annual lecture series, funded by Lengvari, in George Lengvari Sr.’s name.



George and Inez Lengvari

Lengvari has contributed to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and served on the boards of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, St. Mary’s Hospital, Athletes and Artists Against Drugs, les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, the Mackay Centre, and Street Kids International.

Through Migdal Ohr (Hebrew for “tower of light”), George and Inez were instrumental in the re-building of a high school in Israel to honour the life and work of Ben Weider.

On his overall philanthropic outlook, George said: “There are many people who helped me throughout my life and career. My commitment and joy in helping others, including young athletes at Concordia and McGill, is, more than anything, a way to try and say ‘thank you’ to all those many people, friends and others, who helped me.”



LOYOLA: A MODEL OF TRADITION AND INNOVATION

Life was simpler when George Lengvari's Jesuit education began first at Loyola High School in the late 1950s and then at Loyola College. News was what you saw in black and white on TV and on the pages of the daily newspaper. Fatherly figures, like Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, led nations.

Loyola College's environs in the west end of Montreal, replete with majestic trees, manicured lawns and stately architecture, was almost bucolic.

Steeped in the Jesuit tradition, Loyola High School and Loyola College were products of the religious order founded by Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Students were encouraged to be community-minded, to develop keen minds and to practice contemplation and generosity.

Lengvari took these teachings to heart and, buttressed by his parents' values, embraced them into adulthood. He continues to share his good fortune and expertise with institutions and organizations that support others.



George Lengvari, back row, fourth from left, with fellow Loyola College varsity sport managers and captains

The Loyola campus, where Lengvari roamed as a student, was a throwback to another era. In 1913, architects Frank Peden, Thomas McLaren and Walter J. Murray designed the future college in a free adaptation of the Tudor and Early Renaissance-type of English Collegiate Gothic architecture. Skilled craftsmen hand-cut bricks and limestone for the Administration Building, the Junior (now Psychology) Building and the Refectory. Loyola Chapel was later built in 1933 and consecrated in 1935.

The traditional air of Loyola's campus belied a pioneering spirit that animated some of Canada's most progressive education reforms. In 1958, the college introduced night courses for students who could not attend classes full-time. Curricula had shifted between the World Wars, away from the collège classique model favoured in Quebec to a liberal arts-based education, although theology and philosophy courses remained part of every student's degree until 1971-72.

In the fall of 1965, Loyola College became the first post-secondary institution in Canada to offer a bachelor's in Communication Arts, a bold move proposed by Father John O'Brien, S.J., who also officiated at George and Inez's wedding in 1971.

It also launched an Exercise Science program, which was virtually unheard of at the time. Sociology, Economics, Science and Engineering had been offered for decades.

Women were finally admitted to Loyola College the year Lengvari began his studies in economics. His undergraduate years were a time full of promise that included working hard on and off the basketball court.

As a starter for the Loyola Warriors, Lengvari found the perfect outlet for his athletic ability and leadership skills. At 6 feet 5 inches tall, he stood out on a team that would go on to win a league championship. As top scorer, the forward was named the most valuable player of the 1962-63 squad.

Lengvari capably balanced his college basketball career with a heavy course load. His undergraduate record earned him entry into McGill University's Faculty of Law. It also gave him a solid foundation for his long and successful business career.

Lengvari was in good company at Loyola College, where a tradition of academic rigour produced an impressive roster of graduates.



Richard Renaud

Richard Renaud, BComm 69, one of Concordia's most ardent and generous supporters, has been a force in preserving the best of Loyola College's past while securing Concordia's future as a top-tier teaching, learning and research university.

After a stellar career at Concordia as a professor in Communication Studies, dean of Arts, dean of Engineering and Computer Science, and vice-president of the Capital Campaign for a New Millennium, Donat Taddeo, BA 67, went on to occupy prestigious posts at many vital Montreal institutions.



Donat Taddeo

The late Marc Gervais, BA 50, became an internationally recognized film scholar while teaching in Communication Studies for more than 35 years.



Marc Gervais

Other Loyola graduates who went on to distinguished careers include Governor General Georges Vanier; Supreme Court Justice John C. Major, BComm 53, LLD 03; journalists Hana Gartner, BA 70, and L. Ian MacDonald, BA 69; documentary filmmaker Brian McKenna, BA 67; CFL football players Keith English, BComm 51, and Louis Segatore, BA 34; Father Emmett Johns, BA 74, LLD 97, founder of Dans la rue; and actors Don Ferguson, BA 70, LLD 09, Roger Abbott, LLD 09 and Richard Monette, BA 67, LLD 03.



John Lemieux

After the addition, in 1967, of a much-anticipated student centre and athletics complex, Loyola Campus remained largely unchanged for several years.

By the late 1980s the landscape began to change. In 1989, an expanded Vanier Library opened, followed the next year by Oscar Peterson Concert Hall. Concordia graduate Lillian Vineberg, BFA 83, who served as Chair, Board of Governors, from 1999-2003, headed up a task force in 1997-98 to revitalize Loyola Campus.

Lengvari also served on Concordia's Board of Governors, from 1993 to 2000. With his support and expertise, the university was able to lay the groundwork for an impressive growth spurt on both campuses. It was an intense period of planning and acquisitions.

A strong contingent of Loyola College graduates were instrumental in the rejuvenation of Loyola Campus. Lengvari, Renaud and Taddeo were among the dedicated group of alumni who raised \$4-million among 600 graduates through the Loyola Refectory Restoration Campaign.

The refectory was renovated and converted into the elegant Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre. Inaugurated in 2011, the building was restored to fulfill its original purpose as a gathering place for community and social events.

"It's a building that's almost 100 years old, and it's satisfying to know that it will serve the university and the community for another 100 years," said the late John Lemieux, BA 66, a volunteer with the Loyola Refectory Restoration Campaign.





The Loyola Alumni Association Refectory Campaign Committee, at the mid-Campaign renaming announcement of the building as the 'Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre' (from left to right Jim Donaldson, Rod Rousseau (late), Father Marc Gervais, John Collyer and John Lemieux Campaign Co-Chairs, Rick McConomy and Brian Marcil).

The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex was unveiled in 2003 and recognized as a world-class facility for teaching, learning and research in the natural sciences. Built to the highest standards of green architecture, the complex wraps around and integrates the renovated Bryan Building, home to the Communication Studies and Journalism programs.

A major expansion of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex was recently completed to create a Science Hub, which will provide the Concordia community with top-level scientific facilities to support ongoing research, innovation and training.

It was every Concordia athlete's dream, past and present, to see improvements to the athletics complex on Loyola Campus, which remained unchanged for decades. The PERFORM Centre helped make that dream a reality in 2011.

A state-of-the-art facility for members of the university community and general public, the Centre provides an integrated and comprehensive environment to promote healthier lives through changes in behaviour and lifestyle by offering research opportunities, education and preventative-based programs.

Whether for study, research or recreation, Loyola Campus is a dynamic hub of activity. Loyola graduates are among the most committed alumni of Concordia. Their passion, respect and support help ensure that the university's outpost in Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood evolves well into the 21st century.



Loyola College portrait of George Lengvari

STEADFAST SERVICE TO CONCORDIA

“Once a Concordian, always a Concordian,” is a phrase many graduates repeat throughout their lives, no matter where their fortunes take them. The university has an uncanny ability to weave itself into the psyche of every individual who experiences it, whether as a student, an employee or a friend.

Graduates of Loyola College have an equally special affinity for their alma mater. George Lengvari credits Concordia’s predecessor as instrumental in his successful business and legal career. He cherishes the lessons he absorbed as a member of the Loyola Warriors basketball team.

Lengvari’s dedication to his alma mater has never wavered. He even founded the London chapter of the Concordia Alumni Association when he resided in the U.K. capital.

His commitment to Concordia has not gone unnoticed. In 2002, Lengvari was recognized by Concordia University Alumni Association with the Humberto Santos Award of Merit. It was presented in recognition for “a lifetime contribution of exceptional leadership and service to Concordia and to the community.”

In 2014, he was named one of 40 Great Concordians. Lengvari stood proudly among authors, athletes, thinkers, public servants and entrepreneurs who were singled out as role models for the next generation of students and graduates.

In 2019, he was further honoured with the inaugural George Lengvari Cup. The match tipped off between Concordia and McGill, Lengvari’s two alma maters, at the Love Competition Hall on the McGill campus. The annual contest will rotate between the two schools with 2020 edition played at Concordia.



From left: The 2002 Alumni Recognition Awards — John Ayles, MA 76; George Lengvari Sr.; George Lengvari, BA 63; Frederick H. Lowy, LLD 08



George Lengvari, second from left in back row, with friends and family at the 2011 Concordia Sports Hall of Fame. Photo by Ryan Blau/PBL Photography.

GRATITUDE

George Lengvari is a grateful man. Grateful for his good fortune, his family and the excellent education he received at Loyola High School, Loyola College and McGill University.

At Concordia, Lengvari showed appreciation for the opportunities he was afforded as a student by creating three awards. These are in addition to the aid Lengvari has given to Concordia basketball. To honour political science professor Henri Habib, who is still at the university part-time, Lengvari and fellow graduate Daniel Colson, BA 68, established the Dr. Henri P. Habib In-Course Bursary and the Henri P. Habib Undergraduate Bursary in Political Science.

The Jean Amiouny Bursary was created in 1998, through the generosity of Lengvari, for full-time students majoring in political science.

In appreciation for his longtime mentor and role model Ben Weider, Lengvari also established the Dr. Ben Weider Bursary to provide financial assistance to talented students enrolled in Concordia's history department.

These messages of gratitude were sent to Concordia by recipients of bursaries made possible through Lengvari's help and support:



HENRI P. HABIB UNDERGRADUATE IN-COURSE BURSARY

Ayanda Keith Dubé (2011-2012 recipient, BA) came



unaccompanied to Canada from Zimbabwe at the age of 18 and sought political asylum. He eventually volunteered for the Canadian Council for Refugees, the YMCA and Tyndale St. George's, which led him to Concordia.

"Having focused my social work on refugees and youth, I see an urgent need to work on policy in our country, as well as to foster change globally so that we can stem refugee issues. After graduation, I would like to pursue graduate studies in public policy or economics. Thanks to such a generous donation, I will invest in my future, the future of our community and the future of our country."

Kathia A. Narcisse (2011-2012 recipient, BA)

expressed a wish to pursue graduate studies after the completion of her undergraduate degree in political science.

"As you have been generous with me, I would like to be of great help to others one day. I would like to become a lawyer devoting all my time to helping those in need. Your gift will help me reach that goal."

Chelsea Matheson (2012-2013 recipient, BA) completed a double major in anthropology and political science.

"I learn all about culture and society and then am able to apply this knowledge practically. Aboriginal issues are of great interest to me. My ultimate goal is to work in the formulation of public policy in Canada. I plan on applying to the graduate studies program at Concordia. This bursary means the world to me in furthering my educational goals."

Anthony Allo (2014-2015 recipient, BA)

"It's been a lifelong dream to pursue a career in law and politics. Thanks to your kindness, you have made it that much more achievable."

Charlotte Baigent (2014-2015 recipient, BA)



considered herself fortunate to have studied international law with Dr. Habib, the distinguished professor for whom the award was named.

"I aspire to obtain a Juris Doctor degree after graduation and am highly interested in pursuing a career in public international law, although I am open to a variety of legal areas pertaining to human rights advocacy."

Anna C. Calderon (2015-2016 recipient, BA) studied



political science with a view to continuing her studies at the master's level. She became passionate about politics, particularly immigration policies, based on her own life experience and a desire to help others.

"I want to learn more about different cultures, Canada and how it all comes together in politics. I aspire one day to be able to work within the federal government and to make a real impact to help Canada grow as the wonderful mosaic so admired in the world."

Sahana Vijayabaskaran (also Jean Amiouny Bursary, 2017-2018, BA) was grateful to have some financial pressure eased as a bursary recipient.

"I want to spend my life fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves. After completing my studies, including at the graduate level, I would like to work in human rights. The summer my parents introduced me to my home country of Sri Lanka, I became more aware of the lack of opportunity in the developing world. My parents could have stayed but instead chose to come to Canada so their children could dream as big as their imaginations let them."



JEAN AMIOUNY BURSARY

Anastasia Plakhova (2011-2012 recipient, BA)

“The spheres of international law, international relations, human rights, and peace studies are of special interest to me. After graduation, I am planning to seek a job or internship with an international organization or NGO and to move on afterwards to graduate studies at the United Nations-mandated University for Peace. This bursary will help me a great deal in achieving my goals. Thank you.”

Guillermo Boccagni (2014-2015 recipient, BA) was



so inspired by his undergraduate years at Concordia that he wanted to pursue a master’s degree in public policy and public administration at the university.

“My experience at Concordia University has been astonishing. Now, I am a Student Success Mentor and can help 200 of my fellow students solve problems and find the right path. I share with them my personal experience and it is very satisfying for me to see that I can be helpful to others.”

Victor Lakoff (2015-2016 recipient, BA) had a difficult youth but flourished after he enrolled as a student at Concordia.



“My political science courses helped me understand how government and society function and have nurtured a strong interest in how our legal system regulates our communities. This bursary comes at a critical time as I sharpen the focus of my studies and begin to consider a career. It has inspired me to pursue a graduate degree in law and has reinforced my belief that hard work is the path to success. This award has given me the confidence to follow my dreams.”

Miles O’Donnell (2017-2018 recipient, BA)



“After graduation in political science, I would like to pursue a master’s degree. I would like to work for the United Nations and serve in the military.”

Sahana Vijayabaskaran (double recipient, see Dr. Henri Habib Undergraduate In-Course Bursary, 2017-2018, BA)



DR. BEN WEIDER BURSARY

Matthew Manouli (2011-2012 recipient, BA)

“This bursary has allowed me to focus on my history studies and inspired me to pursue graduate studies, or an MBA, with the goal of teaching history at the CEGEP level or opening a personal training business.”

Keleigh Goodfellow (2012-2013 recipient, BA)



“I am in my fourth year studying English and history at Concordia, with a minor in Canadian Irish studies. Because of your generous donation, I will be able to focus on learning. The way in which you have chosen to help students is greatly appreciated and admired. I hope to one day help others as you have helped me.”

Ashley Zarbatany (2014-2015 recipient, BA)



“I am extremely grateful that I have had the opportunity to pursue a post-secondary education. I am the first woman in my family to go to university and I know they are very proud of my accomplishments.”

Andrew Plamondon (2015-2016 recipient, BA)

“I would like to thank you for the recognition and validation of my hard work. I was not having an easy time, but now that I am getting the grades I know I am capable of, this acknowledgement is gratifying.”

Jordan-Sabrina Cienfuegos (2017-2018 recipient, BA)

majored in history, with an interest in early childhood and elementary education.

“My experience working with children facing challenges has ignited a passion within me to pursue higher education and become an elementary-school teacher supporting students emotionally as well as academically.”



From left: Dominique McCaughey, BA 96 and MA 02, George Lengvari, and Mardy Weigensberg, BComm 74

CONCORDIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

George Lengvari is not only a generous supporter of athletes from his alma maters, he has himself been recognized for his athletic pursuits, notably by the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was established at Loyola College in 1967 to honour student-athletes and builders. In 1995 it was renamed the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame to recognize outstanding athletic contributions at Loyola College, Sir George Williams University and Concordia University post-merger.

Nominations to the Hall are made in three categories: athlete, team and builder. Lengvari has been inducted twice: in 2001, as a member of the 1962-63 Loyola Warriors league championship basketball team, and in 2011, as an individual athlete.

His citation singles out his accomplishment in galvanizing Loyola's sports scene in the early 1960s. Lengvari powered the 1962-63 Warriors to a first league title and a berth in Canada's inaugural college basketball championship tournament. He also captained, in 1962, the Loyola varsity golf team to a best-ever result at the OSL golf tournament.



Katie Sheahan, retired director of Recreation and Athletics at Concordia



Frank Csik Jr. and George Lengvari



From left to right: Inez Lengvari, Bill and Marianne Goodson



Gordon LeRiche, BA 63, and George Lengvari



2011 Concordia Sports Hall of Fame individual inductees (left to right): George Lengvari, men's basketball; Richard Freitag, BSc 59 (Sir George Williams), men's basketball; Alexandra Jones, BA 92, women's soccer; George Springate, BA 65 (Sir George Williams), builder; Stingers men's hockey coach Kevin Figsby, representing the Heritage recipients; Harry Trihey, Jack Brannen and Arthur Farrell (Montreal Shamrocks); and Paul Palma, Attendee 83, football. Photo by Ryan Blau/PBL Photography.



2011 Concordia Sports Hall of Fame women's 1988 soccer team inductees (left to right): Alexandra Jones, Suzanne Dufresne, Jennifer Beauregard, Debby Doyle, Connie Pilch, Valérie Gaston, Sheryl Moore, Leslie Clement, Lionel Joseph



From left: Frank Csik, George Lengvari and Gill Dunn



HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION SCORE

“As a former Loyola Warrior, George Lengvari knows firsthand how dedicated student athletes can thrive when they are supported in classrooms, labs and basketball courts. We are grateful that George invests in the next generation of Stingers so they can realize their ambitions and score.”

*— Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, Vice-President
Advancement, Concordia University*



in



STUDENT ATHLETES OFFER THANKS

From his days with the Loyola Warriors to his steadfast support of the Concordia Stingers, George Lengvari has had a huge impact on athletics at the university and in the lives of young athletes.

Three athletes — Adrian Armstrong, Sami Ghandour and Ricardo Monge — pay tribute to the man whose generosity has given the Stingers men's basketball team the capacity to reach new heights.



Adrian Armstrong: 'Brotherhood, camaraderie and pride'

"During my four years at Concordia, one thing that has never changed is brotherhood, camaraderie and the pride shared by both current players and alumni. I appreciate the passion that our coaching staff shows and the tradition that they pass along, in being integrally involved in the past and present success of the program.

George Lengvari's generosity has helped our coaching staff expand from three to five coaches. They are the key to pushing us to be our best every day, each in their own way!

In my first year, the best memories I have were of the road trips with the team. During the winter holidays, we made our biennial trip to Florida and had our annual mid-season training camp. I know that Mr. Lengvari is the primary supporter who makes many of these trips possible.

At first, I was just happy to get away from the cold. After the training camp and tournament, our team was better off for two reasons. First, we bonded and got to live with each other, cook for each other and became more like family. Second, we got a chance to play against competition at a level of athleticism that only about 10 teams in Canada can offer. These two facts set us up for a strong second half of the season and for me, this trip set the tone for the type of culture that we would need to excel as a team.

For me, personally, this trip was the first time I got to play and completely focus on basketball while at Concordia. It was on this trip that I realized that I could play basketball at a high level, so long as I took the game seriously and focused all my energy while I was on the court.

Last season with the inauguration of the George Lengvari Cup, I learned about how active and influential of an alumnus he is, and I am grateful for all the support that he has given us over the years."



Sami Ghandour: ‘Better men and basketball players’

“George Lengvari’s support has helped this organization tremendously. He allows our team to add so much value by giving us the opportunity to expand our coaching staff, which in return helps our players become both better men and basketball players.

We learn from our coaches’ experiences, who have been through it all. They have so much to offer us in terms of experience on the court and in the real world, which becomes a valuable asset to us as players.

George Lengvari’s support has allowed us to travel to play various university teams in both Canada and the United States. Not only are these trips good for us to play new and stronger competition, they also allow us to increase our team chemistry.

From personal experience going on multiple trips with Concordia, our bonds with each other become stronger. Without the support of George Lengvari, our team would not be what it is today and we cannot thank him enough for the continuous support.”



Ricardo Monge: ‘Concordia Stingers are a family’

“I was part of the Concordia basketball program for five years. Throughout those five seasons, I spent a tremendous amount of time on the basketball court, but being a Stinger was more than just about basketball for me.

It was the relationships built, the trips, the pre-game meals and long bus rides, and that sense of accomplishment that comes with every game won as well as the bitter taste after every loss.

Throughout the years, through all the ups and downs, I came to realize that Concordia was more than just an organization that allowed me to compete in the sport that I love — it was a family.

All of this wouldn’t have been possible if it weren’t for the amazing support we get from our alumni who so generously allow us to live the same amazing experience they did with the Stingers family.

My experience with the Stingers made me the man I am today and for that, I will forever be grateful.”





FINAL THANKS

George Lengvari has never forgotten the institutions and people who helped him throughout his life. On behalf of the many students, faculty and staff who have been touched by his generosity, the Concordia community offers thanks for his vision and support. His considerate philanthropy has built upon the Lengvari family's singular legacy. Thank you!



- Learn how Concordia's most ambitious campaign to date will empower tomorrow's leaders: concordia.ca/campaign.
- Discover what Concordia achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world at concordia.ca/concordiafirsts.