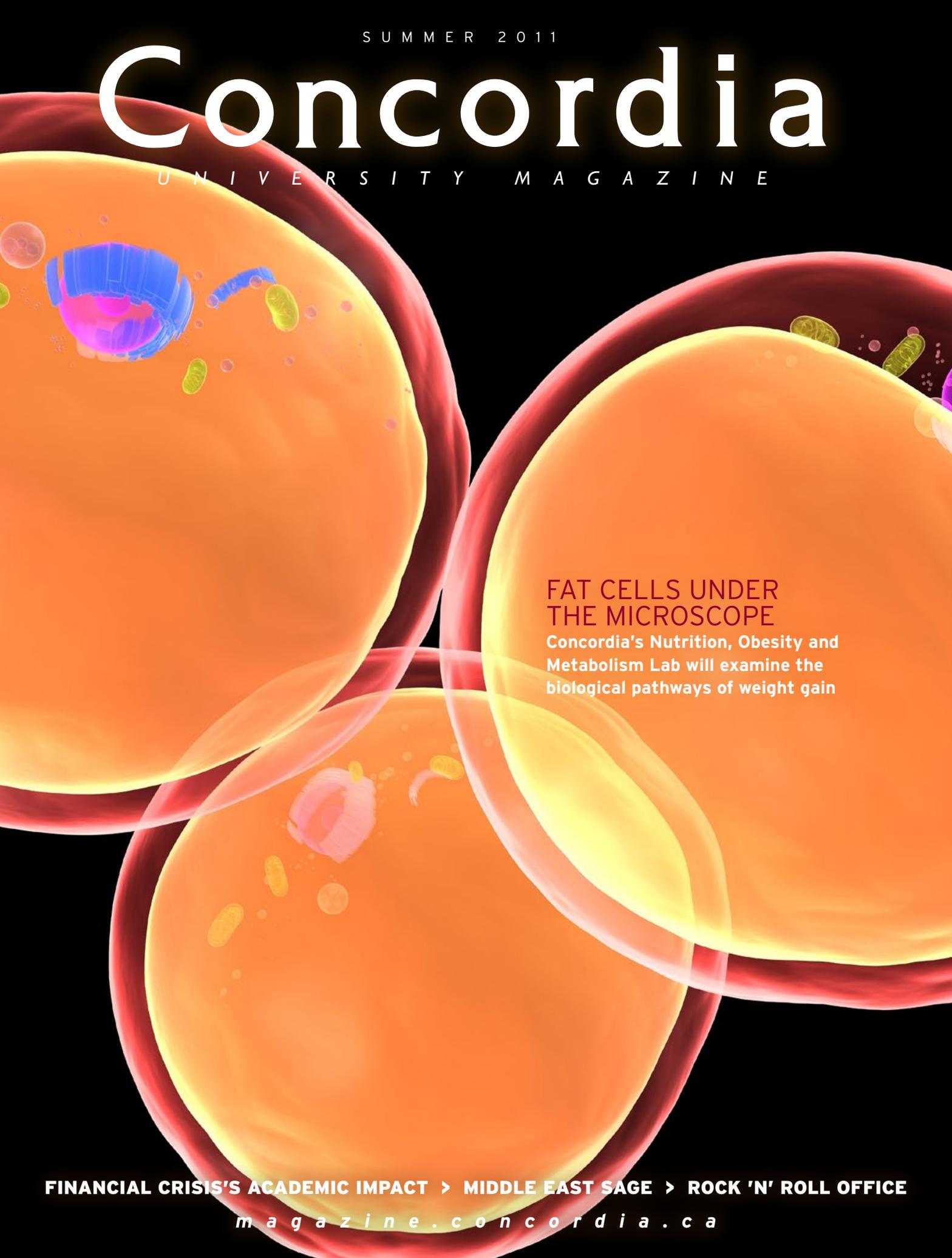


S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

Concordia

U N I V E R S I T Y M A G A Z I N E

A detailed 3D rendering of several large, spherical fat cells. The cells are colored in shades of orange and yellow, with a red outer membrane. Inside the cells, various organelles are visible, including a prominent blue nucleus, green mitochondria, and other smaller organelles. The cells are arranged in a cluster, with some overlapping.

FAT CELLS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

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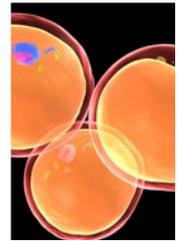
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Alumni Profile: London calling

Meet four alumni who have travelled across the pond to leave their mark.

By Steven Sparling



Cover: Fat cells

Credit: Shutterstock



Bracing for the next crash

The recent global economic crisis has led Concordia's John Molson School of Business professors to alter the way they think about and teach finance.

By Sylvain Comeau



The skinny on fat

Recently arrived Exercise Science professor Sylvia Santosa sets up shop in Concordia's new PERFORM Centre to study the biological pathways of obesity.

By Patrick McDonagh

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Exile on Guy St.

Rolling Stones' guitarist Keith Richards has influenced Concordia's coolest office space.

22

A man of Fortuna

After more than a half century at Concordia, legendary Political Science professor Henri Habib chats about his early days at Loyola College, the Middle East—and his future.

By Adam Avrashi



The ties that bind

When I was growing up in Montreal in a family whose parents barely had a grade-school education between them, I wasn't sure if I was university material. Yet my parents always emphasized the importance of education and encouraged me to continue my studies. So with scholarship in hand, I opted for Social Sciences and majored in Political Science at Loyola College. I also actually enjoyed the obligatory courses in Philosophy, Theology, Classics, English and French. Not only did I earn a BA cum laude but subsequently completed a Bachelor of Civil Law and became a lawyer.

My four years at Loyola filled me with countless fond memories—even from when I was a T.K.E. Fraternity pledge! What a great learning experience it was to find out just how little I really knew.

Concordia is the result of the merger (or, as I like to call it, the child of the marriage) of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University in 1974. That same year, I also enjoyed a sort of merger—I married my darling wife, Helen. That's just one of the ties that bind us to Concordia. Although I was the first in my family to earn a university degree, many since have followed,

including siblings, children, nieces, nephews and cousins—and perhaps, in the near future, grandchildren, a few of whom have already visited the campus thanks to Family Fair Day.

I always maintained an emotional attachment to Loyola but it was only about 12 years ago that I showed my appreciation by joining the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) Board of Directors to volunteer my time and expertise in support of the university and its students and alumni.

I feel I have a moral obligation to give back to this fine institution. When I joined the CUAA executive in 1999, I didn't expect to remain for so many terms. Yet the experience has been extremely rewarding. I've met many wonderful alumni who care enough about the university to get involved and whose actions and enthusiasm inspire me to be a better person. I've learned to ask not what Concordia can do for me but what I can do for Concordia.

Frank Ciampini, L BA 72

Corporate Secretary and

*Representative to the Board of Governors
Concordia University Alumni Association*



How to make a difference

As a volunteer or donor to Concordia, you, too, can make a difference. Every year, thousands of Concordia alumni, parents and friends provide support to Concordia students. Whichever area of Concordia you choose to support, your assistance will help ensure our students enjoy the best possible university experience and graduate as leaders in their fields.

Contact Advancement and Alumni Relations at 1-888-777-3330 or 514-848-2424, ext. 4856, or visit giving.concordia.ca.

Excellent issue

Overused words ultimately lose their potency—think of *pretty*, *interesting*, *literally*, *unique*.

In the academic world, atop that list of banalities sits *excellence*. Concordia houses centres of excellence; it offers student and teaching awards for excellence; its stated mission includes being “committed to innovation and excellence.”

Thank goodness! After all, excellence is what higher education should be about.

As much as the term is overworked or abused, occasionally no other word will do. The Canadian Oxford Dictionary defines *excellence* as “the quality of being [extremely good or pre-eminent]”; my *Oxford Thesaurus of Current English* classifies *distinction*, *quality*, *superiority*, *brilliance*, *greatness*, *calibre* and *eminence* as synonyms. Somehow I doubt Tom Peters and Robert H. Waterman, Jr. would have sold countless-million copies of their 1980s business management book if it had been titled *In Search of Eminence*.

My teenage son recently received valuable guidance about the concept. He’s studying science and math at Montreal’s Dawson College. At this past semester’s conclusion, Dawson’s dean of Science, Medical Studies and Engineering addressed a handful of students who had voluntarily completed extra math proofs throughout the year—not for marks but simply for the challenge. The dean spoke of how proud he and the professors were of the students’ additional effort and their quest to advance their knowledge to the next level, past being merely good. My son told me that the dean’s inspiring message hit home and will encourage him onward. The dean should be commended for motivating these young adults to pursue—yup—excellence.

One goal of the Canadian public university system must be to expose as many people as possible to higher education, which in turn transmits positive waves through our society. In our last issue,



Concordia’s new chancellor, L. Jacques Ménard, pointed out that, for nations, “the correlation between university graduation rates and economic success is tight” (see “Striving to achieve,” spring 2011). When more students attend university, we all win. Accordingly, one longstanding and oft-mentioned aspect of Concordia’s mandate is to provide accessible education.

But that’s just part of the story. At the Concordia University Alumni Association’s 20th Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet on May 16, long-time university governor Rita Le de Santis received the association’s Honorary Life Membership Award. (See Association News on page 26.) In her acceptance speech, M^e de Santis articulated Concordia’s implicit pact with its students: “Education can provide equal-opportunity accessibility on the condition that you agree to ascribe to excellence.”

From the evidence found in this issue alone, Concordia’s students, alumni, faculty members, staff, volunteers and donors are fulfilling that contract.

In each *Concordia University Magazine* instalment we promote high achievers—and there’s never a shortage to choose from. Still, this issue is particularly weighted with Concordia folks who have scored A+ in their life pursuits. In addition to focusing on the work and careers of a number of exceptional Concordia professors, we showcase a couple of London-based VPs of instantly recognizable companies, Sony and Rolls-Royce (see “London Calling” on page 8); a remarkable list of Alumni Recognition Awards honourees; a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner (see Kudos on page 33); a noteworthy group of honorary degree recipients, including Corinne Benedetti Charrette, BSc 75, LLD 11, the Canadian government’s Chief Information Officer (also see Kudos); and a guest columnist, Johanna Skibsrud, MA 05, whose Giller Prize-winning novel, *The Sentimentalists*, began life as a thesis for her Concordia MA in Creative Writing (see Enough Said on page 40). Not too shabby.

Or to put it another way: it’s pretty interesting that we’re literally unique—in our excellence! ■



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



Through the Concordia University Alumni Association, you can keep in touch with fellow alumni and enjoy exciting programs and activities that include:

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The world has big expectations of today's graduates

As our spring graduates begin the next phase of their lives, they will have likely spent some time celebrating their achievements with family and friends, and reflecting on what they want to accomplish next in their development as global citizens.

They can be forgiven if, in this fast-changing world, it seems as though someone keeps moving the goalposts. I know that one of their immediate concerns centres on the perceived value of their university education.

Has it been worth the cost and effort for the student and their families? Will there be an adequate return on the investment made by government and taxpayers in our institutions of higher education? Is a diploma the best asset for a student seeking economic well-being and upward social mobility? Do young people even need a university education?

These are all valid questions, and I think the answer to all of them is an unequivocal—yes. I would suggest, however, that there is more to the issue than these simple considerations about pecuniary returns or social status. Rather, it is important to assess the value of a university education in terms of our individual contributions to society as a whole.

A university education amounts to more than merely gaining knowledge and technical skills, more than preparing for the job market, and even more than nurturing a life-long love of learning, important as all these are.

Concordia graduates exemplify the knowledge, creativity and social commitment of our next generation of



RYAN BLAU/PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

President and Vice-Chancellor Frederick Lowy believes a Concordia education paves the way for graduates to become our next generation of leaders.

leaders. The diversity of our university and our graduating classes is highly representative of the cultural mix of modern Canada and the global village we share. The future of Canada and of the home countries of many of our new international graduates will be greatly affected by how they contribute to the betterment of those societies.

Like more and more of our graduates, they will be increasingly mobile, bringing their knowledge, creativity and dedication to the world. Whatever path they choose, it is clear to me that the solid values they were exposed to at Concordia will be a key part of the equation.

It was a privilege for me to return to Concordia in February to help our university surmount certain internal challenges and maintain its momentum toward excellence and achievement. We

have already accomplished much together to reaffirm our reputation as a well-managed university and as a catalyst for positive social development. We have made solid progress on the issue of governance, with a process in place that will provide specific recommendations on how we can best reach our goals. We have presented a responsible balanced budget as we adapt to a new Quebec government funding structure and prepare for the next phase of our comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Concordians have contributed to a resurgence of spirit at the university through their achievements inside and outside the classroom, including creative volunteer work in the local and international communities.

The six distinguished individuals who will receive honorary doctorates at our spring convocation are inspiring examples of what can be accomplished in just part of a lifetime. Their positive and lasting influence can be seen in their contributions to law, medicine, information management, financial services and management, personal computing and the arts. (*For more on our honourends, please see page 33*).

The world has big expectations of Concordia graduates, for all the right reasons. I, for one, look forward to meeting them again in the years ahead, as they go about putting our shared values into action. ■

Frederick H. Lowy
President and Vice-Chancellor

Concordia
university magazine

Concordia University Magazine welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation

for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

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

alumni associations or of the University.

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For advertising information, call 514-848-2424, ext. 3819.

Editorial Board: Howard Bokser, editor and chair. Members: Sami Antaki, John Ayles, Aaron Derfel, Susan Elias, Scott McCulloch, Johanne Pelletier and Donna Varrica.

Design: University Communications Services T11-4863

HOMECOMING '11



Thursday, September 15

- AbitibiBowater Lecture with Ken Dryden

Friday, September 16

- Shuffle 22
- Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet

Saturday, September 17



- Homecoming Football Game (Concordia Stingers vs. St. Francis Xavier X-Men)
- Engineering and Computer Science flight simulator trial, tour and reunion cocktail
- Sir George Williams Campus and Loyola Campus tours
- President's Reunion Cocktail and Dinner, for classes of pre-1961 and 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001.
- Celebratory Service at Loyola Chapel

Sunday, September 18



- Family Fair Day

Tuesday, September 20

- Career Speed Networking and Cocktail Reception

Wednesday, September 21

- 28th Annual General Meeting of the Concordia University Alumni Association
- Henri Habib Distinguished Lecture Series

Thursday, September 22

- Career Speed Networking and Cocktail Reception

Friday, September 23

- Evening football game (Concordia Stingers vs. Sherbrooke Vert et Or)

WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID:

Family Fair Day

"Thank you to all who organized, worked or volunteered on Family Fair Day. My daughter, grandchildren and I had a great time from face painting and other activities. Great job!"

Reunions

"Thank you for all your efforts in organizing and promoting the weekend's 50th reunion events and President's Reunion Brunch. It was great to see all of the old faces a half century later."



"Thank you for putting this event together. I really enjoyed meeting everyone after all those years. Concordia was great a university then and has grown to be even greater."



Thursday, September 15, to Sunday, September 25
For updates and details: homecoming.concordia.ca
514-848-2424, ext. 4856

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ACCOMMODATIONS:

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hotelmartitime.com

1155 Guy St.

(corner of René-Lévesque Blvd. W.)

514-932-1411 or 1-800-363-6255

Le Nouvel Hotel and Spa

lenouvelhotel.com

1740 René-Lévesque Blvd. W.

1-800-363-6063; fax: 514-931-5581

Chateau Versailles

chateauversaillesmontreal.com

1659 Sherbrooke St. W. (north side)

514-933-8111 or 1-888-933-8111

fax: 514-933-6967

Le Meridien Versailles

versailleshotels.com

1808 Sherbrooke St. W. (south side)

514-933-8111 or 1-888-933-8111

fax: 514-933-6867

Novotel Montreal

novotelmontreal.com

1180 de la Montagne St.

514-861-6000; fax: 514-861-0992

Marriott Residence Inn

Montreal-Westmount

residencemontreal.com

2170 Lincoln Ave.

514-935-9224

All suites include fully equipped kitchens.

Loews Hotel Vogue

loewshotels.com/en/Montreal-Hotel

1425 de la Montagne St.

(across from Ogilvy's)

514-285-5555

TRANSPORTATION:

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Via Rail Canada offers Concordia alumni year-round discounts: 7% off full fare in business class (formerly Via 1) and 35% off full fare in economy class (formerly Comfort). Reserve at viarail.ca and enter discount code 810217.

Budget Rent-a-Car

1-800-268-8900

Concordia alumni receive a rental discount on certain cars. Enter discount code A433700.

RECREATION:

Campus Recreation

All alumni will have access to Le Gym when they show their Alumni ID card. Pay the internal rate (10% to 30% discounts) for various classes and activities. Sir George Williams Campus: 514-848-2424, ext. 3860
Loyola Campus: 514-848-2424, ext. 3858
athletics.concordia.ca/campus

CALL FOR CLASS REUNION CHAMPIONS

President's Reunion Dinner 2011

Graduates from the classes of pre-1961, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, and 2001 are invited to celebrate their special graduation anniversaries at the President's Reunion Dinner. If you would like to volunteer as a Class Champion for your reunion class, please contact Erin Mullins, Associate Alumni Officer, Homecoming & Reunions, at erin.mullins@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 3881. Help us bring your former classmates together in order to celebrate this momentous event.

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LONDON CALLING

While Britannia no longer rules the waves, her reach is still wide. This can be seen in the allure of working in London for Concordia grads. We visit a few who have chosen to make Britain home.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY STEVEN SPARLING, BFA 97

CONQUERING GLOBAL SALES

James Finley, L BSc 72, has been around the world with Rolls-Royce.

Ushered into the plush central-London head offices of Rolls-Royce to meet the executive vice president of sales, it strikes you how far James Finley, L BSc 72, has travelled since his student days at quiet Loyola College in the early 1970s. Sitting in his bright office, Finley talks of the incredible international ride he has taken with Rolls-Royce.

Finley was born in Scotland, where his father worked for Rolls-Royce, the company best known for its high-class cars but which also provides engines and power systems for aerospace and other industries. The company transferred his family to Montreal when Finley was 14. A few years later, despite offers from McGill, Carlton and other universities, he chose Loyola. "The degree program that Loyola was offering was more attractive and it felt like it would be a better place to be educated," Finley says. "Although I graduated in chemistry, I never worked in the chemical industry," he adds. "I went to work for Rolls-Royce in Montreal, in their aero-engine marketing group, doing sales support." In 1980, he left Rolls-Royce for Cooper Energy in Calgary, where he joined the city's burgeoning energy industry. But Rolls-Royce would continue to play a part in his career. The two companies he'd worked

James Finley is Executive Vice President of Sales at Rolls-Royce in London.



for entered into a joint venture to form Cooper Rolls Inc., with Rolls-Royce eventually buying out the rest of the company in 1999.

Cooper Rolls transferred Finley in 1985 to Singapore, where he held regional sales responsibility for part of Southeast Asia. In 1992, he was promoted to regional director for all of Asia Pacific. "That whole period in Asia was just a tremendous experience," Finley says. "I did business all over Asia: China, India, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. If you look at that whole region, it's incredibly diverse in terms of cultures, languages and business norms. Learning how to do business in Japan is totally different than in India or in China. I think the biggest thing I learned was the awareness of the need to accommodate that cultural difference but still maintain the business integrity of Rolls-Royce."

Finley's accomplishments in Asia resulted in the company inviting him to London in 1999 to take over the global sales role for its energy business. "I think a lot of the reason they asked me was due to the success we had in Asia Pacific. They wanted me to do the same thing globally, to develop markets in Latin America and then subsequently in places like Russia, North Africa, Nigeria and Angola," Finley says.

Today, Finley spends 60 to 70 per cent of his time travelling. "There are two thrills in my job: meeting people all around the world and helping to develop strategies for how we are going to be successful in these very diverse and different environments," he says. Despite this heavy schedule, Finley and his wife still find time to enjoy London. "It's one of the great cities of the world. Anything you want to do in London, you can do."

Finley advises every Concordia grad to "go and work internationally and learn about other cultures and countries—it's the greatest learning experience," he says. "It will be another Concordia degree, but will be in a different classroom."

It's one of the great cities of the world. Anything you want to do in London, you can do.

THE ART OF THE MOVE

The academic path of Pandora Syperek, BFA 03, has led her to points west and east.

It appears that Pandora Syperek, BFA (art hist. & studio art) 03, doesn't fear making big moves, such as from Toronto (population of metropolitan area: 5.1 million) to Banff, Alta. (population 6,700), then to London (population of metropolitan area: 7.1 million). "Toronto to Banff was pretty weird," Syperek relates, "but Banff to London was physically shocking." Today, a year and a half into pursuing a PhD in Art History at University College London, she's comfortable calling the British capital home.

Syperek grew up surrounded by art, literally, as she was born and raised in Toronto only a block away from the Art Gallery of Ontario. After a year at York University, in 2001 she

transferred to Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts. "I thought the faculty members were excellent," Syperek says. "The studio instructors were all actively engaged in their own practice and the art history program is very progressive. It encourages interdisciplinarity and feminist, post-colonial and post-structuralist readings of art history."

She singles out professor Loren Lerner, chair of the Department of Art History, as a major influence: "She encouraged a feminist methodology that has been integral to my research." Syperek also retains fond memories of Studio Arts instructor Robert Murray, whom she describes as "unorthodox, but inspiring. He's irreverent and subversive, but really dedicated."



Pandora Syperek studied Art History at Concordia and is now in her second year in the University College London's PhD in Art History program.

Syperek graduated in 2003 with a BFA in Art History and Studio Art. After a positive experience as Lerner's research assistant, coupled with the realization that the path of a practising artist was, perhaps, a bit perilous, Syperek set her sights on further study. She returned to York University to pursue an MA in Art History and a concurrent Graduate Diploma in Curatorial Studies. Upon finishing in 2006, Syperek headed west after landing a position as a program assistant at the Banff Centre's Walter Phillips Gallery. The change initially delivered a culture shock. "But I think Banff is unlike any other small town, especially with the Banff Centre, which is this odd capsule on the side of the mountain with hundreds of really fascinating, accomplished people coming and going all the time," she says. "It's an amazing place to be."

Syperek passed two-and-a-half happy years at the centre, moving from the gallery to coordinating the visual arts residency program. However, despite thrills like the time a "massive female moose," as she describes it, ran right in front of her while she was biking up the path to work, it soon became time to move on again. "I missed academia," Syperek says.

England beckoned, and in 2009 Syperek began her PhD studies. Much of her time now is spent at the British Library

conducting research for her thesis, *Jewels of the Natural History Museum: Gendered Aesthetics in South Kensington, c. 1850-1900*. Syperrek also teaches an undergraduate class, Art in London, and pens art criticism for *Canadian Art*, *C Magazine* and *MAP Magazine*. Last year she was awarded the Canadian Art Foundation Writing Prize. Only time will tell if she settles in London—or her itinerant ways return.

The studio instructors were all actively engaged in their own practice and the art history program is very progressive.



Fred Bolza at the Sony Music UK offices. After uncertainty regarding his career, Bolza says he applied for an MBA because he knew “regardless of where I ended up, it would be of use, if nothing else, in understanding a world where business plays such a big role.”

INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MUSIC

Sony Music UK’s Fred Bolza, MBA 98, took a circuitous path to his current VP position.

Federico (Fred) Bolza, MBA 98, has literally been all over the map. Born in Southampton, England, to Italian parents, Bolza spent his first 18 years moving between England, Montreal and Milan, with occasional visits to relatives in Argentina. This international upbringing resulted in him becoming quadrilingual (English, French, Spanish and Italian) and holding a distinct world view—yet with no defined career goal.

Bolza chose to enrol in Chemical Engineering at McGill University in 1988. He divided his time between studies and his passion, music, singing for the Montreal cult garage-punk band The Cryptics. But his head won out over his heart, and Bolza followed his BEng with an MSc in Environmental Engineering from the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in France. He then spent three years as an environmental engineer for a Udine, Italy-based company that designs solid-waste recycling facilities. He worked on one project in

Vietnam for the World Bank.

Eventually, however, Bolza realized that engineering wasn’t for him. At that point, his father suggested he was in danger of becoming “the most over-qualified unemployed person in the world,” he recalls. So Bolza took stock. “I looked at the world around me and I saw that it was becoming managerialized.” Therefore, in 1996 he headed back to Montreal to pursue an MBA at Concordia’s John Molson School of Business. He was impressed by the faculty members’ interest in him. “Their faith in me really paid off because I went from someone who just scraped through [while studying engineering] to finishing at the top of my class,” Bolza says. “I was really excited to be there—the fact that many of the people were doing the MBA part-time meant that it was more for grown-ups than an extension of school. That’s what I needed.”

After graduating, Bolza hopped the pond again and joined Ernst & Young’s management consulting practice in Milan. Soon after, he took on a project in London—and quickly realized this was where he wanted to be. In 2000, he arranged a transfer there.

As a former musician, avid record collector and sometime music journalist, Bolza’s interests ultimately found a home in music-industry consulting. In 2006, he landed at MCPS-PRS, the U.K. music-licensing body. The next year, shortly after Bolza spoke at a music-industry conference, the CEO of Sony Music U.K. approached him and declared: “Right, you’re coming to work for me.”

The fact that many of the people were doing the MBA part-time meant that it was more for grown-ups than an extension of school. That’s what I needed.

He started at Sony in 2007 and, within a year, became its vice-president of Strategic Development. In 2009, he was named VP of Marketing Services. Bolza is responsible for developing Sony Music’s UK marketing strategy and runs an in-house agency that helps recording artists find the widest possible audience. Sony is now rolling out a creative marketing model he and his team developed for the company globally.

Bolza also works on the Music Matters campaign, a music-industry effort to remind listeners of music’s significance and value. “We’re trying to have a grown-up conversation with the British public about why music matters to them and then, from there, create an ethical fair-trade movement around music,” he explains.

To cap a fruitful year, Bolza and his wife will soon welcome their second child. It seems Bolza is finally anchored in one spot—for now.

RE-USING AND RE-LOVING

The environmental-related career of Chantal Beaudoin, BComm 05, began at Concordia.

Chantal Beaudoin, BComm 05, excitedly holds up a red wiggler. Beaudoin has spent the last five minutes explaining how she's adapted worm-composting technology developed in Montreal to suit the London climate. "I can't wait to get back to Montreal to share my innovations," Beaudoin says. She's clearly taken with her worms.

Today, Beaudoin lives and breathes recycling and sustainability, but it wasn't always so. "I didn't even know what sustainability meant before I went to Concordia," she reveals. By chance, in one of her John Molson School of Business courses, she was given the choice of doing a project or volunteering for Sustainable Concordia. "I just took the easy option, or what seemed to be the easy option," Beaudoin admits. That decision changed the direction of her life.

Her first major initiative for Sustainable Concordia, in 2003, was called Recto Verso, which encouraged students and staff to use both sides of paper sheets and reduce paper consumption. "Out of that grew R4, which was the first student group looking at environmental issues on campus," she says. The launch of R4, which stands for rethink, reduce, re-use and recycle, led her to a full-time job at the university. "When I started R4, I did a business plan to look at how Concordia could reduce waste disposal costs by improving recycling and introducing composting," Beaudoin and Louise Hénault Ethier, BSc 05, MSc 08, then launched R4 Compost, an onsite composting system that uses worms to break down organic waste, and a Worm Swap program that allows students to buy and sell red wigglers

and home worm-composting units.

Beaudoin moved to London in 2008 to pursue, on a part-time basis, an MSc in Responsibility and Business Practice from the University of Bath (she graduated in 2010) and seek new work opportunities. She spent three months searching for a job, only to be told by headhunters that she was "aiming too high" and lacked local industry knowledge. Beaudoin overcame this by making cold calls to people she admired and asking for 15 minutes of their time to talk about their careers. She made five calls, was granted three meetings and received two job offers. One of those was for the London School of Economics (LSE), which brought her onboard to launch a "re-use" program for student residences at the LSE and seven partner U.K. universities. Under the program, at the end of each school year students donate used goods—such as clothing, electrical items, kitchen equipment and toiletries—to local charities or to be sold to new students the following September. In the first year alone, the scheme helped save 85 tons of useable goods from going into landfills.

The LSE project will wind up in mid-2011, but Beaudoin will rebrand and bring the concept to her native Montreal. The project, to be called Re-Love/Aime Encore, will help give new life to products headed for the garbage. Beaudoin aims to implement the program across Montreal and encourage people to embrace shopping at used-goods stores.

Someone recently told Beaudoin that she could become the "Oprah of Quebec" when it comes to the environment. "I said, 'Yeah, bring it on!'" she laughs. "It's sexy to be green. That's the message I want to promote." ■

Steven Sparling, BFA 97, is a London writer.



Chantal Beaudoin, seen in London's Clapham Common, has developed sustainability projects at Concordia and the London School of Economics.

B R A C I N G F O R R T H E N E X T C R A S H

*Concordia Finance professors have adjusted their courses
to match recent global financial upheaval.*

by Sylvain Comeau

The global financial meltdown of the past few years caused large financial institutions to collapse, national governments to grant multi-million-dollar bailouts and stocks and housing markets to crash. It devastated world economies and led countries such as Greece, Ireland and Portugal into insurmountable debt. Much of the blame rests with the short-sightedness of those in the banking and finance industry (see “The world financial crisis: how did it happen?” on page 15), many with business degrees in hand. So why didn’t their education better prepare them?

That question sits on the mind of Sandra Betton, chair of the Department of Finance at Concordia’s John Molson School of Business (JMSB). “As a result of the financial crisis, there has been some soul-searching within the academic community,” she says. “Was there something missing in our education of financial managers? Was there something we left out? Did we teach half the picture instead of the whole thing?”

While business schools certainly can’t take full blame—“I don’t know if, as a university, we can teach common sense and judgement,” Betton says—the crisis has spurred significant changes to the JMSB Finance department’s course offerings. “We have made adjustments to our classical financial institutions stream [courses on banking and financial institutions] to bring it up to date and reflect what we learned from the crisis, what went wrong,” Betton says. “At the undergraduate level, we redesigned our set of courses on financial institutions, which used to be split between domestic banking and international banking. Nowadays, if you look at the crisis, there’s no real distinction between domestic and international.”

Today, JMSB teaching distinguishes between classical banking practices, such as providing loans and taking deposits, and off-balance-sheet activities, those not included in a bank’s financial statements, like mortgage-backed securities. Betton explains that the banks didn’t stumble by conducting business as usual. “They got in trouble when they started to engage



in esoteric activities, like trading the mortgage loans, repackaging and selling them.”

The crisis highlighted the risks inherent in the world of finance and provided an opportunity for Finance faculty members to learn from what happened and find a better way to prepare students. One result is a new risk-management course that will be launched in the fall. “The course will look at how you manage risk and how you judge computer models,” Betton says. “There are always factors which are not in the models but still should be taken into account. One problem during the financial crisis was that people put too much trust in the models; they forgot that in most of them, there is an error term, which is the part we cannot explain.”

WHAT IS A FINANCIAL BUBBLE?

The term “bubble” often is used to describe a shaky financial situation. What exactly is it? “A bubble is the decoupling of the market value of a certain asset from its intrinsic value,” Reena Atanasiadis explains. This occurs during a speculative fever, when the marketplace is willing to pay more and more for a given asset simply because prices are expected to continue to climb. The dot.com bubble of the late 1990s is a case in point.

This phenomenon is popularly known as the “greater fool theory,” in which buyers reason they can pay a foolish price for an asset simply because an even bigger fool will pay even more later on. “Take something that’s actually worth \$100,” Atanasiadis says. “It’s not unheard of for someone, acting within the confines of a bubble, to pay \$300 for it, believing that it will go up to \$500. It may work in the short term, but not in the long term.” Eventually, the bubble bursts.

Famous historic bubbles, which Atanasiadis covers in her Crises and Bubbles course, include the Tulip Mania in early 17th-century Holland, in which the cost of a single tulip bulb rose to the value of tons of grain or dozens of oxen—before prices suddenly collapsed, never to recover; and the Japanese real estate bubble, in which the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Atanasiadis relates, “had the same value, in 1991, as the entire state of California.”

Behavioural finance states that investors are not rational; they’re normal. They are subject to greed and fear, and driven by certain biases.

Burst bubble

In 2008, Finance lecturer Reena Atanasiadis, BComm 87, MBA 95, offered the first JMSB course, Crises and Bubbles, to cover the brewing situation. “The idea was that we were living through interesting times, so let’s look at what got us here,” Atanasiadis recalls. She covered the current events and then explained the theory behind what was happening. “I wanted to examine what this crisis has in common with every other historic bubble.” (See “What is a financial bubble?” at right.)

The course, which Atanasiadis did not offer this past school year but intends to revive soon, was an offshoot of her behavioural finance course. “When we teach finance, we have certain theories which assume that investors will be rational,” she says. “But behavioural finance states that investors are not rational; they’re normal. That means they are subject to greed and fear, and driven by certain biases which influence the value of an asset. So in behavioural finance, we accept the fact that humans are a big part of the system and that they cause anomalies. What we saw during



LINDA RUTENBERG

Finance faculty members (from left) Latha Shanker, Reena Atanasiadis, Department chair Sandra Betton and Ravi Mateti in the Finance lab in the John Molson School of Business Building.

the financial crisis was a very big anomaly and how it was corrected.”

Atanasiadis adds that a consistent thread running through the recent crises has been the role of governments in setting central banking policies. “An economy creates inflation, but government policy is what creates hyperinflation,” she says. By lowering prime lending rates to near zero, large financial institutions have had access to a kind of “easy money” and, Atanasiadis

asserts, bankers have often “acted like drunken gamblers in Vegas”—which led to the U.S. housing-market slowdown that began in 2006-07.

On the case

Many JMSB Finance professors also took the initiative of integrating case studies torn from daily headlines. “We are always looking for real world examples—what’s happening out there that is related to what we are teaching.”

Betton explains. "For instance, the financial crisis is a perfect opportunity to talk about risk versus return, how people should make decisions versus how they do make them. People often know better but make an irrational choice even if they know it isn't the best decision."

The U.S. housing crash fit particularly well into Finance professor Latha Shanker's undergraduate course on options and futures, which partly focuses on financial catastrophes like the recent one. "It was the greatest financial debacle ever," she says. "It also was the first to affect all countries, not just one country or one region."

Teaching the history of such events is critical because, in the world of finance, one person can make an enormous

difference, she adds. "In many of the case studies I cover in my course, it was just one person, not properly supervised, who triggered a disaster," Shanker notes. "So if you could have reached that one person before he made his crucial mistakes, then you could have actually averted a debacle."

Ravi Mateti, an assistant professor of Finance, will teach the new risk-management course and he has also added relevant case studies to his options and futures course. "There are important lessons to be learned," he says. "History shows us certain pitfalls and we can see the signs which others overlooked. I think one of the key lessons was this: never invest in instruments which you don't understand." But he notes that not everyone is

inclined to learn from history: "As a professor, it is incumbent on me to let the students know what happened. After that, it's up to them. If they wish to learn from what happened, that's well and good. If not, there's nothing much you can do. Nevertheless, it has to be taught."

That's particularly true since the final chapter on these kinds of financial disasters has yet to be written. "We can be sure that financial crises will happen again—although maybe not of this magnitude—because of the interconnectedness of today's world," Mateti says, "and because of human nature. People tend to have short memories." ■

Sylvain Comeau is a Montreal freelance writer.

THE WORLD FINANCIAL CRISIS: HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

JMSB Finance professors have their own views on the causes of the recent world financial crisis.

Reena Atanasiadis explains that the U.S. housing collapse, which culminated in 2008 but began in 2006-07, triggered the crisis. But the American government sowed the meltdown's seeds in the early 2000s when it started to encourage banks to give mortgages to people in lower-income neighbourhoods—even if they didn't have the means. These became known as "NINJA loans": loans to those with No Income, No Jobs or Assets. In addition, banks and financial institutions persuaded existing homeowners to take on second or even third mortgages.

Soon, artificial demand buttressed house prices. Banks increasingly relaxed their lending standards and housing speculation snowballed. "It didn't matter who you lent to or if there was any chance they could pay it back," Atanasiadis says.

U.S. government deregulation allowed banks to keep these mortgages off their books, providing much room for creativity. Massive numbers of mortgages were bundled together as financial instruments—known as "mortgage-backed securities"—and traded between investment banks, even as the gulf between those instruments and the underlying value of the mortgages widened dramatically.

As Latha Shanker notes: "It was impossible to tell whether the people holding the mortgages could actually pay for them." In many cases, they couldn't. Hence, a new phrase was coined: toxic assets. Still, bank executives felt intense pressure to maintain their high annual returns on real estate and thus continued their high-stakes gambles.

As everyone and his cousin jumped into the real estate game, eventually sellers started to outnumber customers. "Buyers had been lured into the market by 'teaser rates'—low interest rates that

only applied to the first year," says Ravi Mateti. "After that, rates were adjusted sharply upwards to compensate for the initial teaser rates. That accelerated the number of defaults." Nonetheless, few thought that so many people would default at the same time.

These defaults began in 2006-07 and the U.S. housing market started its historic slide. Since then, according to U.S. Federal Reserve numbers, American housing prices have dropped about 26 per cent, wiping out \$6.3 trillion in home values, a steeper drop than during the Great Depression.

The record decline in values hammered banks and other financial institutions, leading to massive failures and government bailouts. Those left standing stopped lending, and the resulting lack of liquidity—the credit squeeze—triggered recessions that linger today in many countries.

The repercussions are likely to be felt for years to come. "People need time to forget their shock," says Finance chair Sandra Betton. "There is a lot of uncertainty and unemployment in the U.S., which gives rise to conservative sentiment. Hopefully, that won't mean that the U.S. puts up protectionist walls."

Throughout the 2000s, the Canadian housing market remained sane compared with its southern neighbour, as prices rose slower and banks maintained their careful lending standards. So Canada was spared the worst of the crisis. But, Betton warns, "if the recession in the U.S. gets worse or persists for a long time, the demand for commodities will dry up. Then Canada would be in trouble. So I don't think we can call ourselves 'safe.' "

Shanker agrees. "The effects are widespread and I think we will feel them for at least five to 10 years" she says. "It has spread from the financial sector to the broader economy, like manufacturing and car companies. The U.S. and Europe felt the brunt of the impact, but I don't think Canada has escaped."

You gain weight. Then you lose it ... but it won't keep off. You try different diet and exercise regimes, but the kilos refuse to stay away. What are you doing wrong?

Whatever it is, you aren't alone. The Canadian Health Measures Survey estimates that 24 per cent of Canadians are obese, according to body/mass index (BMI) scores. Perhaps even more stunningly, another hefty 37 per cent of Canadians are overweight, meaning that 61 per cent of the population is carrying excess kilograms. Numbers for the United States are similar—except for an obesity rate hitting 33 per cent. (BMI scores are calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height in metres squared: 25-29.9 is considered overweight, 30 and above obese.)

These numbers translate into some big losses in terms of both lives and money. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that conditions directly stemming from being obese or overweight, including heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure, are

the fifth-leading cause of death globally, killing 2.8 million adults annually. And a January 2011 report by the Society of Actuaries calculated that dealing with issues connected to excess weight costs Canada \$30 billion and the U.S. \$270 billion yearly (including long- and short-term health care, as well as lost income and productivity).

Controlling weight is clearly an important issue for individuals and societies alike. So what happens in the body when it adds or loses fat? One increasingly likely hypothesis proposes that when you first add extra weight, this initial gain alters the metabolic processes governing fat storage so that fat becomes easier to store and harder to shed. And these altered processes, in addition to making it more difficult to fit into last summer's shorts and swimsuits, could also affect our susceptibility to a host of health issues—ranging from osteoarthritis to psychological disorders—connected to excess weight.

Enter Sylvia Santosa, who joined the faculty of Concordia's Department of

Exercise Science in January 2011 fresh from post-doctoral research in nutritional sciences at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Santosa is a good advertisement for health and fitness, trekking 40 minutes each day to her Loyola Campus office and then maintaining the pace at work, walking through Exercise Science's corridors while holding conversations or working out ideas—a habit she picked up from her post-doctoral supervisor. But while she may circle the ground floor of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex, in every other way she is pushing forward, discovering new ways to track the long-term physiological consequences of weight gain.

Santosa's interest focuses on the cellular level. "If you become overweight and then lose weight, what is actually happening? How do things change?" she asks. Her Nutrition, Obesity and Metabolism Lab will explore whether the way the body performs these metabolic processes—how you process and store fat, for instance—shifts after you

THE SKINNY ON FAT



gain weight. "I'm just setting up the lab now," she says, "but once we are in action we will be looking at these metabolic aspects of weight regain and especially what happens at the cellular level, in fat storage cells, when you become overweight."

Fruits of her labour

Learning about this process involves looking at how and why people store fat differently. Some folk (mostly men) are apple-shaped, increasing fat in abdominal adipocytes—that is, fat storage cells around the belly—while others (mostly women) are pear-shaped, amassing most of their fat around the thighs. In terms of health indicators, apple-figured types are much more prone to obesity-related disease than their pear-formed counterparts. Santosa's post-doctoral research explored how sex steroids—testosterone and estrogen—affect how (and where) fat is stored, over both the short and long terms. "We studied men whose testosterone levels have been suppressed as part of their ongoing treatment after being cured of prostate cancer, along with post-menopausal women whose estrogen levels are reduced. We compared these groups to men with normal testosterone levels and women with normal estrogen levels respectively," she reports.

While a lowering of sex steroid levels in the body clearly leads to an increase in fat, it hasn't always been evident why this is so, nor why fat would accumulate in specific parts of the body. Santosa's collaboration with the Mayo Clinic's Michael Jensen suggests that the issue is not directly with the fat oxidation

My hope is that this new knowledge can translate into new treatments and therapies to help people deal with obesity and its related problems.

process (that is, how the body burns fat) but rather with how the body initially processes and stores fat.

Many of the advanced techniques Santosa employed at the Mayo Clinic will also feature in her endeavours at Concordia. "My research involves intensive metabolic studies, and few places in Canada are able to support this kind of research, especially given the specific equipment I need," she explains. "The new PERFORM Centre was really a big attraction when I was first considering coming to Concordia. The facilities that the centre will have—including all the metabolic and biological facilities that will support the multidisciplinary research that I would like to do—are unique in Canada. When you join an established centre, everything is set up but you have to conform to the infrastructure. Here, much is still in the process of being established, so I get to have a say in how the infrastructure is developed." The other lure was the ambiance she sensed in Exercise Science. "It seemed like a pleasant department to work in. The people here are great, and it's incredibly important to have good colleagues."

According to Robert Kilgour, chair of Exercise Science, that feeling is mutual. He sees Santosa as an integral part of the team forming the research core of the PERFORM Centre, scheduled to open

in September. (See "PERFORM Centre to open its doors" on page 15.) "We recruited Sylvia to fill an important niche here. She is a specialist in nutrition science, which is a critical part of exercise science," he says. "And she comes to us from the Mayo Clinic, one of the world's premier research centres, where they do state-of-the-art nutritional evaluations of individuals. With this background, she brings a complete research arsenal, including excellent ideas in terms of developing studies focusing on people who are prone to being overweight and how certain characteristics can predict it."

Santosa's Nutrition, Obesity and Metabolism Lab will not only explore questions of how to explain weight-gain issues but also its consequences. Excess weight gain is associated with everything from cardiovascular disease to diabetes to hypertension and even some cancers, and Santosa's research straddles the fundamental and the clinical. On the one hand, the lab will investigate metabolic processes at the cellular level, providing data and generating knowledge that will clarify how the body metabolizes fat. "Then, my hope is that this new knowledge can translate into new treatments and therapies to help people deal with obesity and its related problems," she says.

NEW CONCORDIA EXERCISE SCIENCE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SYLVIA SANTOSA SEARCHES FOR THE MECHANISM OF OBESITY.

BY PATRICK MCDONAGH

Santosa brings a complete research arsenal, including excellent ideas focusing on people who are prone to being overweight and how certain characteristics can predict it.

Exercise Science assistant professor **Sylvia Santosa** in the new **PERFORM** Centre, the location of her **Nutrition, Obesity and Metabolism Lab**.



Roundabout road to Concordia

Santosa followed a circuitous route into nutrition science. While in high school in Toronto, she developed a bad allergy to penicillin and had to be admitted to hospital. "When I was being released, physicians told me which foods I had to avoid and which I should eat. I was fascinated because I had never thought of food as a way to treat medical conditions," she recalls. While pursuing an honours BAsC at the University of Guelph, Santosa became increasingly enthused about the nutrition field because it also encompassed a wide range of other disciplines, including psychology, sociology and business in addition to biology and food science.

A summer undergraduate research position focusing on the effects of fish oil on cardiovascular diseases introduced her to the allure of the laboratory, launching her research career. She began to investigate obesity during doctoral studies at McGill University. "My work there was exploring what happened to cholesterol production and absorption after you lost weight: would your body adjust production to compensate in some way for the weight loss?" Santosa relates. This question launched her on her current trajectory. "I've been very fortunate in my young research career to have had really strong mentors," she says, citing Peter Jones and Michael Jensen, her doctoral and post-doctoral supervisors, respectively. "If you have good people to guide you, everything becomes less overwhelming."

Despite having been at Concordia only since early 2011, Santosa is already being sought out as a guide and mentor in her own right. "I'm not yet teaching courses so haven't had much exposure to students, but they are very good at finding you," she laughs. "I had some approaching me my first week here, when I was still finding out where the photocopier was!" As Kilgour points out, "Even though Sylvia hasn't had a chance to get into the classroom yet, many of our undergraduate students and a few of our residents have been going to her for advice. There's certainly a demand for the kind of knowledge she can develop and share."

In the meantime, as she fleshes out her research agenda, Santosa is settling into her new environment: Setting up her lab, planning the course in nutrition, sports and exercise science that she will be teaching when September rolls around, and organizing projects for graduate students interested in working with her. Another challenge for young

professors navigating new academic landscapes, of course, involves developing a network of collaborators. "I want to work with people at Concordia, I've approached a researcher in Ottawa, I'm collaborating with others at the Mayo Clinic, and I have a number of other options open, but I need to start arranging more meetings," she says.

Santosa has a long to-do list: "First I need to get funding for research projects; then I need to clear the research with the ethics board, find study participants and build a research team to conduct the studies. And then the real work can begin!" She is still walking as she speaks, holding an even pace—or perhaps ever-so-slightly increasing it. "I'm really just starting out. I have lots of ideas in my head," she says, striding steadily forward. "It is an exciting time for me." The excitement, it seems, is really just beginning. Fat, beware! ■

Patrick McDonagh, PhD '98, is a Montreal freelance writer



PERFORM Centre to combine research, education and community outreach

Exercise Science assistant professor Sylvia Santosa is part of the research team associated with Concordia's new PERFORM (Prevention, Evaluation, Rehabilitation, FORMation) Centre, opening in the fall on the Loyola Campus. The Centre, which aims to integrate research with education and community outreach, will focus on the significance of exercise, nutrition, physical activity and other behaviours to health evaluation, disease prevention and rehabilitation, with the long-term goal of developing effective approaches to improving health.

While the initial core of researchers comes from Exercise Science, including professor and chair Robert Kilgour, associate professor Simon Bacon and assistant professors Geoff Dover, Véronique Pepin, Nancy St-Onge and Santosa, the Centre aims to develop partnerships with researchers across Concordia and throughout Quebec, as well as nationally and internationally. "We want people to be aware of PERFORM as a unique research-driven centre with a community focus," says Kilgour. "There will be a lot of opportunities for exciting collaborations—even more than seem apparent right away."



Is Keith Richards the coolest living rock musician? Could be. (Mick Jagger fans might argue otherwise.) But there wouldn't be much debate that the infamous Rolling Stones guitarist has helped inspire the hippest office at Concordia: that belonging to VLSI/CAD Specialist **Tadeusz (Ted) Obuchowicz**, BEng (comp. eng.) 90, MEng (elec. eng.) 95.

Text-filled bookcases line his space on the 16th floor of the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex (EV Building) on the Sir George Williams Campus. Obuchowicz's lair features a spectacular view of Mount Royal and Stones-inspired memorabilia: prized photos taken by Obuchowicz of Richards and the group in concert; illustrations of Richards; a tongue-and-lip-logo; custom-made stained glass and clock; and two electric guitars. And that's only half

the story: the workplace also sports a collection of African masks, plants, driftwood and other photos and mementos, topped off (literally) by a 4.5-metre boa constrictor snakeskin suspended across the ceiling.

Obuchowicz moved to the office when the EV Building opened in 2005. He first arrived at Concordia in the late 1980s to pursue a Computer Engineering degree, followed that with a master's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1995 and then landed a position as lab coordinator for the faculty's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Two years later, he took on his current role, running the VLSI (very large-scale integration) research lab and acting as a CAD (computer aid design) tool specialist, among other duties. He's also a talented part-time Electrical and Computer Engineering



*Engineering and Computer Science's
Ted Obuchowicz occupies Concordia's
coolest office (maybe).*

PHOTO BY SPYROS BOURBOULIS

instructor—as witnessed by his 2000–2001 Teaching Excellence Award from the faculty.

But the office is what sets Obuchowicz apart. The snake-skin is authentic, he relates, a gift from his late grandmother. During the Second World War, she had been deported from Poland and made her way to refugee camps in India and Africa. While in Mombasa, Kenya, she purchased the skin from a local, then brought it when she immigrated to Canada soon afterwards.

And what sparked Obuchowicz's interest in all things Keithian? "I remember being 13 or 14 and discovering the band, looking at Keith and thinking, 'He's really cool and I'd really like to be like him!'" Obuchowicz recalls. While that dream didn't fully materialize, the guitars are real (he's an

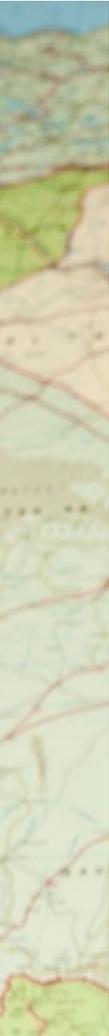
amateur player), and the engineer in him is intrigued by the technical side of the instrument—that is, "the application of electromagnetic properties." In other words, it's only rock 'n' roll, but he likes it!

This summer, Concordia's coolest office will likely be relocated to a windowless room in the EV Building, but Obuchowicz sees a bright side: "I'm losing a window but gaining extra wall space for pictures of Keith." ■

—Howard Bokser

To nominate your choice for Concordia's coolest office, send an email to Howard.Bokser@concordia.ca.

Ted Obuchowicz invites former students to contact him at ted@ece.concordia.ca.



A M A N O F F O R T U N A

An intimate discussion with Middle East expert and Concordia Distinguished Professor Emeritus Henri Habib, who celebrates 50 years at the university.

B Y A D A M A V R A S H I

JOSE LECOMTE

Political Science professor Henri Habib has taught thousands of students during his 50-year tenure at Concordia, travelled the world, written books, even visited Libya on Moammar Gaddafi's dime. But the much-sought-after Middle East expert isn't prepared to face his next hurdle: retirement.

"People always ask me, 'When are you really going to stop working?'" Habib tells me when I pay a visit to his Hall Building office. It's a constant refrain from friends and colleagues—even family. "My mother, who is 95, asks me when I'm going to stop," he adds. Although he accepted early retirement from Concordia back in 1998 and was named a Distinguished Professor Emeritus shortly thereafter, Habib can't seem to leave the building. "As long as I can go on, I will go on. But what I'm doing is not work. For me, the stimulus of giving a lecture keeps me alive."

Keeping busy is Habib's modus operandi; last semester alone, he taught a course on the Middle East in Global Politics to 90 students, presented a seminar on politics in Iraq, lectured as a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa and delivered several public talks. In the hour and a half we spoke, Habib received three calls and one knock on the door from students, all looking to speak to their Mideast savant. After more than five decades at the podium, one thing is wholly clear: Habib is still in demand.

The legend

At Concordia, Henri Habib is the Middle East politics cynosure. For those confused about the differences between Sunni and Shia—the two major denominations of Islam—or about Iranian nuclear proliferation, he is the professor to consult. Knowledge aside, Habib is also legendary for what



Henri Habib's list of accolades is long. It includes receiving the John W. O'Brien Distinguished Teaching Award from Concordia in 1985 and an Honorary Life Membership Award from the Concordia University Alumni Association in 1991; he was named a Concordia Governor Emeritus in 1997; and he has three endowments named in his honour at Concordia, including one that funds the Henri Habib Distinguished Lecture Series on Peace, Conflict and Global Politics, which was launched in 2004.

Very often, when we had department meetings I would say,
"We are not the U.N., we are not trying to settle the
problems of the world. Come on, come down to earth!"

he has accomplished within the corridors at Loyola College and then, after the 1974 merger with Sir George Williams University, at Concordia.

Habib was pursuing a PhD at McGill University in 1960 when Loyola's rector, Father Patrick Malone, S.J., LLD 75, offered the 23-year-old a teaching job. Barely a year later, Father Malone approached the young scholar again and offered him the chance to start a political science department. "I didn't have any particular administrative skills," Habib admits. "But I thought back to [Niccolò] Machiavelli, who said that half of what happens to you is *Fortuna*—luck—and what you do with that is the other half. So when I was asked, I jumped at the chance."

At first, Habib was Loyola's lone



AP PHOTO/RODRIGO ABO

A woman poses in front of graffiti depicting Moammar Gaddafi during an anti-Gaddafi demonstration in Benghazi, Libya, in May.

he recounts. "But we were treated like VIPs the minute we landed. For two weeks, they took us from city to city, to Benghazi to the oil fields to the different places to meet people."

Libya now and then

The Libya depicted across TV screens this spring, revealing a conflict between rebels and a dictator who refuses to relinquish power, is hardly the place Habib remembers. "Eventually, power corrupts," he notes. "And 'absolute power corrupts absolutely,' as Lord Acton said. So power went up to the government's head and now the situation has deteriorated."

When Habib visited Libya with his students, he planned to travel to Lebanon to write a book about

It was only when we were landing in Tripoli when I thought,
'What on earth have we gotten ourselves into?'
But we were treated like VIPs the minute we landed.

Political Science professor but by 1969 the department had grown to include eight other faculty members. In 1981, Habib stepped into the role of chair of Concordia's Department of Political Science, at first temporarily and then permanently a year later. He remained as chair for a remarkable 16 years. "My mission as chair was to make the students and staff happy and to increase the number of students," he says. "Very often, when we had department meetings, I would say, 'We are not the U.N., we are not trying to settle the problems of the world. Come on, come down to earth!' I'm a very pragmatic person."

For all his practicality, Habib has embarked on many unconventional learning adventures with his students. One such excursion occurred in the early 1970s, when he led 20 students and 10 professors on a trip to Libya, paid entirely by the government of Libyan dictator Moammar Gaddafi.

The idea to travel there stemmed from an article Habib had read soon after the 1969 coup that brought Gaddafi to power. Habib wrote a letter to the Libyan leader explaining that he and his students would be very interested in visiting the country. Habib had developed a habit of sending letters to important figures but rarely received responses aside from a few formulaic "thank you for your interest" replies.

But Libya was different. Within a few months, Habib received \$50,000 from its government for the venture. However, he wasn't sure what to expect once they arrived. "It was only when we were landing in Tripoli when I thought, 'What on earth have we gotten ourselves into? What if no one is there to receive us?'"

the country while taking a sabbatical year. But *Fortuna*, as Habib puts it, presented herself once again. "The Minister of Education came to me on one of the last days and said, 'People have written about Lebanon so much. Why don't you write a book about Libya? We will provide you with primary sources that Gaddafi has written himself,'" Habib recalls. "So again Machiavelli came to mind. I didn't even have to think about it; I was game."

In the preface of Habib's eventual book, *Politics and Government of Revolutionary Libya* (Cercle du livre de France, 1975), he wrote: "The present volume cannot be definitive, for the events in Libya will take a few more years to reach a point at which analysis is possible." At the time of his research, Gaddafi's regime was helpful to the population and was slowly achieving some progress. Gaddafi was trying to settle nomadic tribes into apartments instead of tents, to improve their living conditions. He even created prefabricated schools and clinics that could be moved along with them.

Habib asserts that Gaddafi started to change for the worse around that time (1975), when he wrote his *Green Book*, an imitation of Mao Zedong's manifesto, *The Little Red Book*, and decided to alter the traditional Muslim calendar used in Libya. Habib expresses wariness for the country's current prospects. Some of the rebels are struggling for democracy but many others are fighting for an Islamic fundamentalist state to emerge, he asserts. "There is one thing that people don't realize: Benghazi and that region has been the centre of Islamic

fraternities. Since the 19th century, there is the Senussi fraternity, which is one of the main strains of modern Islamic fundamentalism. Maybe it's not Al-Qaeda, but there are Islamist movements in Libya."

Habib cautions that arming these rebels may hurt Western countries in the long run: "You have to be careful, you can't just arm anybody. And it seems that some of the Western powers, particularly France and Britain, are gung-ho on doing just that. You may end up with the same situation that happened in Afghanistan, when they armed the Jihadist rebels to fight the Soviets and ultimately produced bin Laden."

The man behind the legend

Habib was first attracted to history while growing up, listening to the stories his grandmother—or Teta, as she was known—would tell him each morning. She spun tales of Habib's grandfather, Beshara Habib, whom he had never met. Beshara was a lieutenant governor for the Ottoman Empire in Jerusalem, responsible for the Christians and Jews who lived in the ancient city. He himself was a Christian, a rarity within the ranks of the leadership, which made for very exciting stories.

Habib recounts one such anecdote. The Turkish sultan, Abdul Hamid II, would occasionally call his lieutenant governors to Constantinople for evaluations, inviting them for dinner. If the sultan didn't like them, he would push a button and the floor beneath them would open, causing them to fall into the deep waters of the Bosphorus Strait!

These rich sagas inspired the young Habib to study history. His grandmother recounted her stories so vividly and with such description that he still can picture them in his mind. It's the same approach he uses in class. "When you give lectures to students, you have to be colourful, you have to make the things you are teaching come alive," he says. "I don't just come in and give a lecture and walk out. I show them the passion."

Habib still keeps in touch with many of his former students, even attending weddings and baby showers of past disciples. Why does he develop such a strong bond with those who take his class for a semester or two? "Well, it's because I listen," he says. "As a professor, I feel I have to be able to assist people in seeing their vision because they alone will know what they want. And I always say: do what you like most, because you only have one life to live."

For his part, Habib is most proud when his students land influential positions within the political realm. In April, for example, Habib was pleased to discover that his former student, Jacques Chagnon, BA 75, had been named Speaker of the Quebec National Assembly. "I don't have kids, but to me, all my students are in a sense my big family," he says. "I'm very impressed with everything they've accomplished. Now I'm just waiting for one of them to become prime minister of Canada and then invite me to be their special advisor." ■

Adam Avrashi, BA (journ.) 11, is a Montreal freelance writer.

Henri Habib: A mentor, professor and friend

Among the countless students taught by Concordia Distinguished Professor Emeritus Henri Habib, many have remained friends while others continue to sing his praises. (For example, see "LinkedIn to inspirational profs," Spring 2011.) We reached a few of them.



George Lengvari (above, in the Los Angeles offices of Weider Global Nutrition, where he's vice chairman), L BA 63, took one of Habib's first Political Science classes at Loyola College in 1962, and later established a scholarship at Concordia in Habib's honour: "[At the time,] Henri was new to Loyola and he was probably no more than three or four years older than his students. He made his classes interesting and entertaining. We became friends and have remained in close contact for almost 50 years."

Albert Zoltowski, BA 75, a student of Habib's at Loyola in the early 1970s, remembers the debates that emerged in class: "Heated discussions took place among his students on various subjects, including the Israel-Palestine issue. Professor Habib patiently listened to each student until he or she ran out of steam. He then calmly continued his lecture, always focusing on the facts, leaving it up to the students to draw their own conclusions."

Recent graduate **Mathieu D. Pinsonnauld**, BA (poli. sci.) 08, says that Habib treated him and his classmates like family,

always complimenting them on a job well done: "He was always receptive, approachable and accommodating to his students—including the rude ones! He was always open-minded, allowing plenty of time for his students to discuss the topics in class."

The Honourable **Baljit S. Chadha**, attendee (bus. admin.) 77, MBA 08, is another of Habib's friends: "Dr. Habib is the most knowledgeable person in Montreal, perhaps even in Canada, on Middle East history and current affairs. I wish there were more of him in the world so that we can get a 'group-think'-wave to bring peace to the Middle East."

Claire Mullins Kruyt, BAdmin 87, has frequently invited Henri Habib as a guest lecturer to discuss the Middle East to her private study group: "Ever the generous teacher, Dr. Habib has communicated his passion of the Middle East to countless students over the last 50 years and also to our small group. He has offered us a window to understand, in part, some of the complexities and subtleties of this region."



20TH ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS BANQUET

Two former ambassadors and a senator were among the 175 guests who came out to commemorate nine of the university community's best and brightest at the 20th Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet, held May 16 at the Hyatt Regency Montreal. The Concordia University Alumni Association created the awards in 1990 to recognize the exceptional contributions of alumni, students, faculty members, staff and friends of Concordia and its founding institutions, Loyola College and Sir George Williams University.

Canadian senator and retired lieutenant-general Roméo Dallaire, Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) Senior Fellow, was on hand to support his colleague Frank Chalk, a professor of History and director of MIGS, recipient of the Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award. Former Canadian ambassadors Malcolm McKechnie and Kenneth Taylor—best known for helping six Americans escape from Iran during the hostage crisis in 1979 when he was Canadian ambassador there—were guests of their friend Paul M. Levesque, L BA 57, Benoit Pelland Distinguished Service Award recipient. The event concluded with

a special tribute to Henri P. Habib, a Distinguished Professor Emeritus, to mark his 50 years at the university.

Pictured, front row (left to right): **Paul M. Levesque**, L BA 57, Benoit Pelland Distinguished Service Award; Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor **Frederick Lowy**; **Rosalind H. Wolfe**, BA 75, Humberto Santos Award of Merit; Distinguished Professor Emeritus **Henri P. Habib**; **Gina-Parvaneh Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, Alumna/a of the Year Award; **Rita Lc de Santis**, Honorary Life Membership Award; and **Dominique McCaughey**, BA 96, MA 02, Acting Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Relations. Back row: **Frank Chalk**, Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award; **Steven High**, Alumni Award for Excellence in

Teaching; **Jameson Jones-Doyle**, BA 08, Outstanding Student Award; **Jean-Claude Trottier**, accepting for his brother, Jean-Marc Trottier, AMBA 02, MBA Alumna/a of the Year Award; and **Philippe Purreaux**, BComm 00, President, Concordia University Alumni Association. **1**

YOUNG ALUMNI

Building on the success of its first season, the Young Alumni cooking class this year gave 20 alumni the opportunity to prepare and enjoy fine cuisine, paired with great wine, in a beautiful setting at Ateliers & Saveurs in Montreal on January 31. The Young Alumni salsa class, now in its second year, was held over four evenings in February and March at





Montreal's Espace des Arts. A group of 25 graduates from the last 15 years learned the fundamentals of salsa dancing from instructor Gary Katch, BEng 82. And experienced vegetarian chef, caterer and teacher Gigi Cohen led the first Young Alumni vegetarian cooking class on March 9 in her own Harvard Gourmet Café in Montreal. With 15 alumni in attendance, Cohen demonstrated several dishes and kept up an entertaining and informative commentary about healthy eating.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The Educational Technology Panel Discussion was held on February 9 in the Alumni Room in the John Molson School of Business Building (MB Building). Panellists Reuben Tozman, BA 94, MA 00, Laura Winer, BA 78, MA 82, PhD 97, Jacques Lecavalier, MA 91, and **Wendy Lowe**, BFA 86, MA 96 (pictured, left, with **Christine Triesdale**, BFA 96, MA 03), **2** kept the 41 attendees riveted—some later said it was the best Ed Tech event they'd been to.

Two months later, on April 6, more than 40 Education and Educational Technology alumni and a handful of new Ed Tech graduating students gathered at Montreal's Ye Olde Orchard Pub. Concordia assistant professor of Education Claude Martel, BA 85, MA 92, PhD 09, led the evening's proceedings. A glass was also raised in memory of Professor Gary Boyd, co-founder of the Educational Technology program, who had died the weekend before.

STORYTELLING

Perfectly suited to Valentine's Day on February 14, storyteller Stéphanie Bénétéau, BA 91, related a series of deliciously clever and erotic stories to 52 fellow alumni in the Henry F. Hall Building. Told in a lively and compelling style all her own, the stories focused on women who are afraid of neither love nor power and the men who help or hinder them on their quest.

And on March 8 in the Hall Building, Mike Burns captivated an audience of 44 alumni and friends with his warm, resonant voice and powerful stories mixed with a touch of Irish humour and irreverence. His stories are based on the tales of his native Ireland, handed down by his father and grandmother.

ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Forty alumni and students attended the Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Chapter's (ECAC) February 15 workshop on conflict negotiation. Facilitator Deborah Dysart-Gale, chair of the General Studies Unit of Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, invited participants to reflect on the nature of conflict and then she identified the different approaches to handle it.

Two dozen Engineering and Computer Science alumni and students came out on March 8—International Women's Day, which fell during National Engineering Month—to hear about the career experiences of Madiha Kotb, BEng 76, MEng 81, Maria Valerio, BEng 85, MEng 88, Susan Klucinskas, BEng 91, and Meera Patel, BEng 05, in a panel discussion moderated by Véronique Tokateloff, BEng 05.

The ECAC drew 57 alumni and students to a presentation by Jean-Pierre Chalifoux from l'Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec on March 24 in the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex (EV Building). He explained the process of becoming a professional engineer in Quebec. At the Chapter's annual general meeting, held before Chalifoux's presentation, Véronique Tokateloff, BEng

05 (President), Ali Boroumandian, BEng 08 (Vice-President) and Khaled Murywed, BEng 08 (Event Coordinator), had their mandates renewed as executive committee members.

DESIGN AND COMPUTATION ARTS

Department of Design and Computation Arts presented two spring events in the EV Building as part of the Infusion Speaker Series. On February 16, Thibaut Duverneix, GrCert 06, and Philippe Archontakis, associates of the Montreal-based design agency Department, presented their work as an example of evolution in the field. And on March 16, Helga Wild, who specializes in understanding how complex human systems operate, presented Designing (for) the social object.

JOURNALISM

Renowned *New Yorker* essayist Adam Gopnik delivered the Reader's Digest lecture on March 4 at the MB Building. About 50 Journalism and English alumni and their friends then headed off for a lively networking cocktail hosted by the Journalism Alumni Chapter at Montreal's Ye Olde Orchard Pub. To everyone's delight, **Gopnik**, pictured (right) with Journalism professor **Wayne Larsen**, BA (journ.) 98, **3** dropped in.

CONCORDIA GOES WEST

About 130 Concordia alumni and their families gathered at Cap-Saint-Jacques Nature Park in Pierrefonds, Que., for a morning of sugaring-off on March 13. They enjoyed a carriage ride to the sugar shack, where they were served soup, crêpes and traditional *tire d'étable* on the snow.

DONOR AND STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATION

More than 300 people gathered March 15 at Concordia's Donor and Student Awards Celebration at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Montreal. The annual event is an opportunity for scholarship recipients to personally thank their benefactors and serves as a platform to induct



4 Donor and Student Awards

undergraduate, graduate and fellowship awards. Pictured are **Patricia Dudar**, L BSc 68, MSc 77, right, with the recipient of the Patricia Dudar Athletic Award, student and cross-country runner **Elizabeth Mokrusa**. **4**

GARNET KEY

An intimate group of past and present members of Concordia's Garnet Key Society got together at Sir Winston Churchill Pub in Montreal on March 16. Natasha Krsteski, BA 09, 51st Key, vice-president of the Garnet Key Alumni Chapter, welcomed the lively crowd, which included (pictured, from left) **Mary Sarli**, BA 94, 37th Key, **Michael Signer**, BA 79, BComm 84, MBA 04, 21st Key, and **Marshall Johnson**, L BA 67, L MA 70. **5**

DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT / MASTER'S IN ENVIRONMENT

On March 25, more than 40 alumni, faculty members, staff and students reunited at a cocktail reception held in the Hall Building to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Diploma in Environmental Assessment and third anniversary of the Master's in Environment. The guest speaker was Bram Noble, an associate professor of Environmental Assessment & Resource Management at the University of Saskatchewan.



5 Garnet Key

JMSB

More than 55 John Molson School of Business (JMSB) alumni, students and staff came out March 28 for the fourth and final JMSB Alumni Chapter pub night of the academic year. Held at Café Ferreira in Montreal, guests networked and caught up over cocktails and canapés.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STREETS CAFÉ

Forty alumni and friends gathered April 5 at Stewart Hall in Pointe Claire for a public conversation, called *The Knowledge Implosion: Has the Era for Experts Ended?*, to explore whether today's unprecedented access to information devalues knowledge or encourages learning.

STINGERS

About 70 faculty members, staff, coaches, parents and guests celebrated Concordia student-athletes' academic and athletic achievements at the Graduating Stingers Luncheon held at Loyola's Communication Studies and Journalism Building on April 8. The Class of 2010-11 includes 38 athletes representing 10 different sports. Women's basketball alumna **Wanita Jones**, BA 98, **6** conveyed a heart-warming and personal address to the graduating Stingers.

ENGLISH

Alumni, students and friends gathered April 8 to see Johanna Skibsrud, MA 05, read from her novel *The Sentimentalists*, winner of the 2010 Scotiabank Giller Prize for Fiction. Skibsrud was on hand to sign copies of her book after the reading, held at Concordia's J.A. DeSève Cinema.

MASTER'S IN PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

More than 130 faculty members, staff, alumni, students and friends of Concordia's Master's in Public Policy and Public Administration celebrated the program's 30th anniversary at Montreal's Atwater Club. The April 9 event paid tribute to the late Leo Tavormina, MA (PP&PA) 93, the program's beloved internship coordinator from 1993 to 2005. The MC was CTV reporter and Journalism lecturer Aphrodite Salas, MA (PP&PA) 99.

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

More than 70 Theological Studies alumni, faculty members, staff and students came together for a reunion on April 27 in the EV Building. Department chair Christine Jamieson emceed the proceedings. Retired professor Sean McEvenue was the special guest, and the department honoured professors Pamela Bright and Charles Kannengiesser for their long service and dedication.



6 Stingers



8 China Chapter



7 Toronto Chapter

GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTERS

Washington State

On February 20, Washington State alumni gathered at the Three Lions Pub in Redmond to watch the NHL Heritage Classic between the Montreal Canadiens and the Calgary Flames in Calgary. (The Flames won 4-0.)

Toronto

More than 50 alumni gathered on February 22 at Bymark, the renowned restaurant and lounge in Toronto's financial district, to listen to an inspiring speech delivered by Joe Mardini, BComm 83, VP of Bell Data Centre Solutions. Pictured are Chapter executive members **Monique Hutchins**, BComm 00, and **Cass Simons**, S BComm 71. **7**

China

Nine Beijing alumni gathered to celebrate Chinese New Year at the South Beauty Restaurant on February 26. Hong Kong alumni celebrated the Year of the Rabbit at the Concordia Hong Kong Foundation Spring dinner on March 1 at the city's Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

Concordia University Librarian Gerald Beasley travelled to China as part of an organized tour of research libraries and took the opportunity to meet alumni and Chapter presidents in Hong Kong (March 23), Shanghai (March 26) and Beijing (March 27). Pictured at the Hong Kong breakfast meeting on March 23, left to right, are Chapter president **Ronald Lo**, BComm 93, **Gerald Beasley** and former chapter president **Dennis Chan**, BComm 91. **8**

Calgary

On March 24, alumni living in Calgary attended the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra's performance of The Best of Fleetwood Mac. Chapter president Dan O'Connor, BComm 81, reports that everyone also had a wonderful time at the pre-concert reception at Milestones.

The scotch-tasting event at wine market Zyn on April 30 brought together 20 Calgary alumni and guests. Attendees enjoyed themselves thoroughly and all took advantage of the retail outlet on the way out.

Dubai

Concordia's second alumni event in Dubai on March 30 took place at the Qamardeen Hotel in Old Town. Special guest speaker Kris Panday, Canada's consul general in Dubai, discussed Canada's bilateral relations with the U.A.E. The two dozen alumni and friends who attended enjoyed reminiscing about their university days over wine and cheese.

London

More than a dozen alumni living in London attended a networking pub night on April 5 at Horniman at Hay's. Chapter rep Nick Bleser, BA 09, reports that most people stayed well past the event's scheduled end time. Guest speaker James Finley, L BSs 72, vice-president of Rolls-Royce International Limited, talked about his experience at Loyola College and his career.

Washington, D.C.

On April 16, Washington, D.C.-area alumni and friends enjoyed a spring lunch at the renowned Tex-Mex restaurant, Lauriol Plaza. And on April 30, Concordia graduates participated in the All-Canada University Association Wine Pairing Dinner at the University Club of Washington, D.C. **■**

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

64 Jim Hammerton, S BA, earned a PhD in History from the University of British Columbia in 1969. Jim taught in the History Department at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, from 1969 to 2004, retired, then resumed in

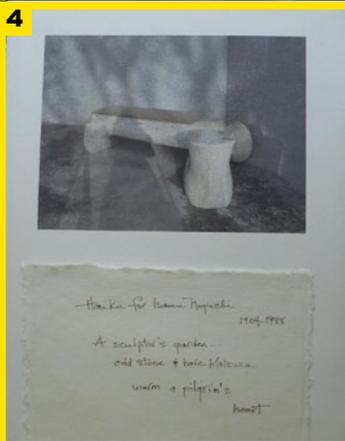
2009-10 as Head of School of Historical and European Studies. He's again retired in Alphington, Australia, but still writing and publishing. "Any Sir George History students from 1964 still there?" j.hammerton@latrobe.edu.au

69 Peter Thomson, S BComm, writes, "After three years in youth and community work, two

years at Vanier College [in Montreal] and 35 years at John Abbott College [in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue] in academic advising and as an active union executive member, retirement starts this August in Pointe-Claire with my wife, Cindy. Most of the kids and grandchildren are west of Toronto. Hope to visit more often. What new opportunities/career might lie ahead?" cegepadvising@yahoo.ca, pbt1322@gmail.com

became involved in the world of publishing and decided to become an academic editor. She built a freelance career, launched and managed a Women's Studies series with Sumach Press and now owns The Editing Company (theeditingco.com) in Toronto. She and her editing team offer a wide range of services to academic publishers, scholars and journals, as well as to the non-fiction trade, businesses and associations. "Editing gives me the chance to learn so much about so many different subjects. I am a constant learner."

80 Beth McAuley, BA (history), completed her MA in History at the University of Toronto. Beth



1 > Linda Rutenberg, S BA (music) 74, MFA (photog.) 86, held an exhibition of her photos, "The Nocturnal Chronicles," from February 10 to March 4 at the Avenue Art Gallery in Montreal. Linda has published several books of photography, including *The Garden at Night: Private Views of Public Edens* (Chronicle, 2007). lindarutenberg.com 1) *Cirrus*

2 > Ann McCall, BFA (studio arts) 78, presented an exhibition of her collagraphs, "Nature découpée," from May 25 to June 12 at Galerie Jean-Claude Bergeron in Ottawa. 2) *Triptyque découpé*

3 > Aydin Matlabi, BFA (photog.) 07, MFA 10, held an exhibition of his photographs, "Came Like Water, Like Wind I Go," from April 4 to 29 at Concordia's FOFA Gallery. The photos were taken during Aydin's trip to Iran during the June 2009 uprising. Aydinmatlabi.com 3) *Profile*

4 > Marilyn Berzan-Montblanch, BFA (art ed.) 96, exhibited in the 18th annual collective art show called "Images de femmes" from March 5 to 21 at the Bibliothèque du Mile End in Montreal. 4) *Presence: Haiku for Isamu Noguchi*

5 > Brent (Dil) Hildebrand, BFA (painting and drawing) 98, MFA (studio art) 08, held his first New York City solo exhibit from March 3 to 6 at VOLTA NY, a curated solo-project fair highlighting cutting-edge art. And a large canvas by Dil will be included in "Extreme Painting," an exhibition organized by Montreal-based Contemporary Art Galleries Association that will tour 12 Montreal galleries from July 14 to August 28. agac.qc.ca 5) *Studio B*

6 > Daniel Barkley, BFA (cinema) 90, MFA (studio art) 94, participated in Artsida, an art exhibition to benefit people living with AIDS in the Montreal area, from March 23 to April 12 at

Completing my BA and MA in history opened that door for me.”

Suraj Sadan, MA (art ed.), received the India Empire NRI Excellence Award for Promotion of Peace Through Art in New Delhi in January. Suraj is a Montreal-based artist, teacher and curator inspired by the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, whom he met in 1947 in a post-partition refugee centre in Delhi. In 2006, Suraj set up the Mahatma Gandhi International Foundation in Montreal to promote Gandhi’s philosophy of non-violence and peace.

30TH REUNION

81 Albert Carbone, BEng, MEng 84, received an Award of Distinction from Concordia’s Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science on January 28. Albert is the founder of Stelvio Inc., a Montreal-based multinational software solutions company.

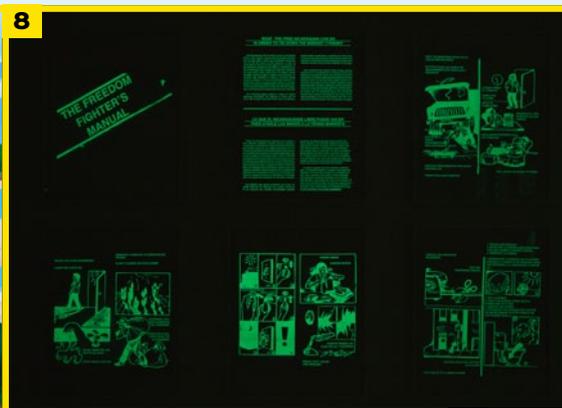
John Oriettas, BFA (music), plays Paul for the Montreal-based Beatles tribute band **Replay** (replaythebeatles.com). The band not only reproduces the Beatles’ music but also their Liverpudlian accents,

on-stage antics, costumes and instruments. Replay has toured across Canada and recently finished recording and filming two original songs and music videos.

84 Janet Mrenica, BA (urban studies), BComm (acct.) 92, recently earned an Audit Committee Certification from the Directors College of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. Janet is based in Ottawa and is Director of Financial Planning and Reporting, Finance Directorate, at Environment Canada.

85 Madeleine Féquière, BA (traduction français-anglais), a reçu le 26 février dernier le prix Toussaint-Louverture lors du 4^e gala d’excellence de la Jeune Chambre de commerce haïtienne. Madeleine est directrice du crédit corporatif pour Domtar, à Montréal.

88 John Way, BA (geog.), works for Federal Express in Warwick, R.I. “I got re-married to a lovely Italian woman, Rhonda,



Galerie Dentaire in Montreal. artsida.org 6) Detail from *l'Homme qui prie*

7 > Alicia Surveyer, BFA (studio art) 07, participated in the Lakeshore Artists’ Association’s annual spring exhibition from April 16 to 17 at the Fritz Farm Community Centre in Baie D’Urfé, Que. aliciasurveyer.com 7) *Honeymoon*

8 > Juan Ortiz-Apuy, BFA (sculpture) 08, held a solo exhibition called “The Freedom Fighter Manual” from January 20 to February 27 at Galerie Push in Montreal. Juan reproduced pages of a CIA manual air-dropped over Latin American countries during the 1980s. Juan was born in San Jose, Costa Rica, and is now pursuing an MFA at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. He will exhibit in September at the MacLaren Arts Centre in Barrie, Ont., and in early 2012 at the Whippersnapper Gallery in Toronto. juanortiz-apuy.com 8) *Freedom Fighter Manual Page 12*

9 > Gabriela Ana Lim, BFA 08, will participate in a two-artist exhibition entitled “Palette de Tango” from July 2 to August 14 at L’entrepôt in Lachine, Que. The show will feature the Buenos Aires-born artist’s recent paintings and drawings, which are inspired by the Tango tradition. 9) *Tango* (Gabriela)

10-12 > Concordia’s FOFA gallery held an interdisciplinary exhibition called “[in-tur-pri-tey-shunz]” from April 4 to 29. The exhibition explored the intersections between contemporary art and oral history. The works included: *Otsi! Rise of the Kanien'kehá:ka Legends*, a video game developed by Kahnawake Survival School students for Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (Jason Lewis and **Skawennati Tricia Fragnito**, BFA [design art] 92, DIA 96) **(10)**; “IN-Sight,” a sound installation piece by **Héloïse Audy**, MFA (studio art) 09 **(11)**; and “My little Voice can’t Lie,” a sound-installation performance by **Khadija Baker**, BFA (painting and drawing) 07 **(12)**.



Dimitris Ilias, BFA 92, GrDip (adv. music perf.) 99 (above, left), is artistic director of Chroma Musika and Panarmonia Atelier Musical in Montreal. On October 25, Dimitris received an Honoris Causa from the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada in the category of Culture/Living Arts. The award was presented by the Hon. David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (above, right), in a ceremony at the Ontario legislature in Toronto. chromamusika.com



Michael Zavacky, BFA 94, designed two Canadian Christmas 2010 stamps. Michael is the owner of Ottawa-based branding agency McMillan Digital Art.

in October 2009. I am an outdoor emergency-care volunteer instructor with the National Ski Patrol and Yawgoo Valley Ski Patrol and Search and Rescue. My daughter, Amanda, turned 16 in November and is an honors student, plays mellophone in the competitive band, plays varsity lacrosse, and is an accomplished figure skater. I will never forget the fun I had during my years at Concordia. I hope my friends from my class are all doing well.”

97 Paul Shoebridge, BA (comm. studies) 97, recently co-created an interactive online

documentary, entitled *Welcome to Pine Point*, produced by the National Film Board of Canada. pinepoint.nfb.ca

98 Cornel Gabara, BFA (theatre), directed Tom Stoppard and Andre Previn’s *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor*, in collaboration with the Toledo Symphony, at Carnegie Hall on May 7. It was the New York City premiere of the full version of the Cold War-themed political play. Cornel is Assistant Professor of Theater at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

06 Julie Groleau, BFA (études cinématographiques), a produit le court métrage *Laisse don’ faire*, inspiré de la chanson *Oublie ça* de Keith Kouna et présenté le 21 février 2011 au Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois à la Cinémathèque québécoise, à Montréal. Le film, réalisé par Patrice Laliberté et distribué par Baikal, raconte les mésaventures d’un jeune homme ordinaire, simplement désireux de boire un verre, tranquille, dans un bar, mais sur qui le destin s’acharne. Information : baikal.ca

07 Abigail (Abby) Veronneau, BA (comm. and ethnic studies & Fr.), and her former roommate, **Laura Schnurr**, BComm 10, recently began a multi-continental master’s degree in global studies. The program accepts only 30 students annually from around the world, only four from North America, and is conducted jointly by the University of Freiburg (Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany), the University of Cape Town, FLACSO Argentina (Buenos Aires), Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok) and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi). “The program focuses on globalization, international governance and cultural change. I received a

lot of support from Concordia Sociology and Anthropology Professor Vered Amit, as well as from my colleagues at the U.S. Consulate in Montreal, where I worked for the past three years.”

08 Leah Selk, BFA (photog.), recently became the coordinator of the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society in Williams Lake, B.C., where she grew up. Leah holds a Diploma in Visual Arts from Camosun College in Victoria. She is a specialist in photography and photographic installations and was previously the exhibition coordinator of the Station House Gallery in Williams Lake.



Margo Legault, BComm (mktg.) 01, a former Stingers rugby player, will fulfil a lifelong dream to represent her country when she plays for the Canadian national Australian rules football team at the Australian Football International Cup in August in Sydney and Melbourne.

Karen Takacs, Attendee 88, was awarded a 2011 YWCA Women of Distinction Award in May for leadership in the field of international development and her lifelong commitment to women's rights. Karen is executive director of Canadian Crossroads International, a Toronto-based international development organization that helps organizations in developing countries address women's-rights issues. She also serves as chair of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation. She holds a Master of Management for National Voluntary Sector Leaders from McGill University.



Barbara Davidson, BFA (photography & film studies) 90, won a Pulitzer Prize for feature photography in April. Barbara is a *Los Angeles Times* photographer and won for her series of images depicting the impact and legacy of that city's crossfire



of deadly gang violence. (Above is a photo from the series.) She also won a Pulitzer in 2006 for breaking news photography, for her coverage of Hurricane Katrina for the *Dallas Morning News*. (See "Cool eye for hot spots," June 2006, *Concordia University Magazine*.)

Concordia University bestowed six honorary doctorates during its spring convocation ceremonies June 20 to 22 at Place des Arts. The six distinguished recipients joined more than 4,700 graduating students from across Concordia's four faculties and the School of Graduate Studies.

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C., LLD 11, has been Chief Justice of Canada since 2000, the first woman to fill the position. She holds an LLB from the University of Alberta. Her judicial career began in 1981 and a succession of distinguished appointments followed. In 2010, she was named Canadian of the Year by the Canadian Club of Toronto and inducted into the International Hall of Fame by the International Women's Forum.



Rémi Quirion, LLD 11, is Vice-Dean (Life Sciences and Strategic Initiatives) for McGill University's Faculty of Medicine and McGill's Senior University Advisor (Health Sciences Research). He is also Scientific Director of the Research Centre for the Douglas Hospital Institute, a professor in McGill's Department of Psychiatry and executive director of the International



Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's disease. He holds an MSc and PhD in Pharmacology from the Université de Sherbrooke and has received many honours and awards.

Corinne Benedetti Charette, BSc (elec. eng.) 75, LLD 11, is an engineer and Chief Information Officer for the Government of Canada. She is responsible for setting the strategic direction and establishing policy for the federal government in the areas of information management and security, information technology, access to information and privacy. She is a member of the Loyola Alumni Association's Board of Directors and active with other charitable causes.



Monique F. Leroux, LLD 11, is Chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group in Montreal. She also chairs the Boards of Directors of the Caisse Centrale Desjardins, Desjardins Trust and Desjardins Venture Capital, and presides over the Desjardins Group Management Committee. Among her many accolades, she is a 2011 honouree of the Public Policy Forum and has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Women's Executive Network.



Steve Wozniak, LLD 11, co-founded Apple Computer, Inc., with Steve Jobs in 1976. He's now Chief Scientist for Fusion-IO and author of *iWoz: From Computer Geek to Cult Icon*. He has made significant investments of his time and resources in education. He is the recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Heinz Award (for Technology, the Economy and Employment) and in 2000 he was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame.



Theo Jansen, LLD 11, is a renowned Dutch sculptor. The focal point of Jansen's work for the last 20 years has been the creation of kinetic sculptures that he calls "Strandbeests" or "beach animals," large yet elegant wind-powered wood and plastic structures. His work has been exhibited in Europe, North America and Asia. His writing, teaching and lectures challenge perceptions of the relationship between art and science.

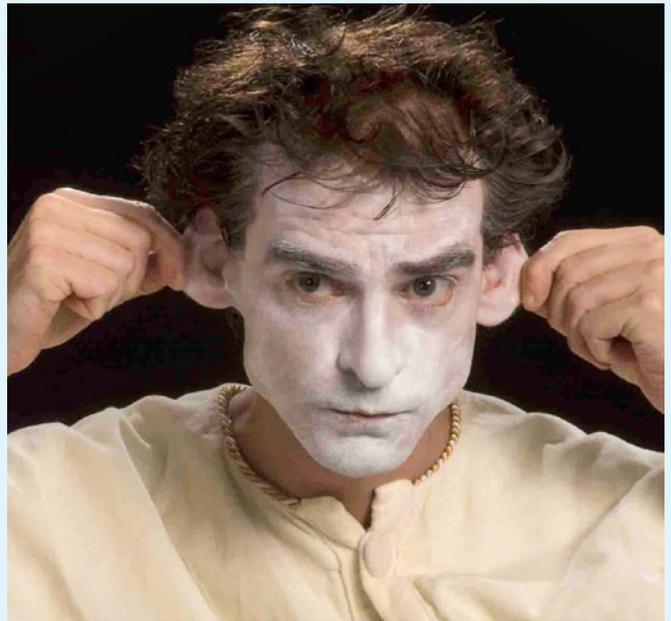


To read the full biographies of all the recipients, visit now.concordia.ca

09 Selica Sevigny, BA (comm. studies), and her partner, Richard Lee, recently created a new style of adventure racing, called Spartan Race, targeted to non-experts and held across the U.S., Canada and the U.K. "Our mission is to bring adventure racing to the 'average Joe.' I began racing two years ago and placed third in one of the world's hardest, 48-hour endurance events, called Death Race, in Pittsfield, Vt. We have built a community of professional athletes, Olympic-level athletes and people who have never raced a day in

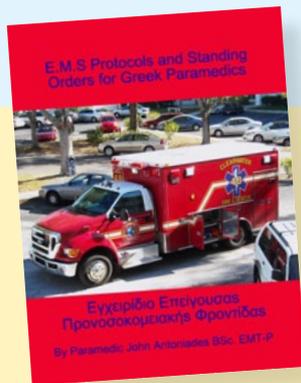
their lives! It has been quite a hectic yet very remarkable journey. We are currently searching for volunteers and interns." spartanrace.com, facebook.com/spartanrace

10 Nicholas Santillo, BFA (theatre perf.) and **Julia Dawiskiba, BFA** (theatre perf.), were among the movement ensemble of the 1973 Peter Shaffer play, *Equus*, directed by Paul Van Dyck from April 13 to 24 at the Rialto Theatre in Montreal. ■



Jean-Jacques Ringuette, MFA (arts plastiques) 1999, a tenu une exposition de ses photos, intitulée *Figures de la mascarade ou La vie passionnante de Félicien*, à l'espace d'art et d'essai contemporains Occurrence de Montréal, du 29 janvier au 12 mars 2011. Natif de Trois-Rivières, Jean-Jacques est titulaire d'un baccalauréat en arts visuels, spécialisé en photographie, de l'Université d'Ottawa. Ses œuvres ont été montrées en Europe, aux États-Unis et au Québec. Elles se trouvent également dans différentes collections privées ainsi qu'au Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. Dans cette série de photos, Jean-Jacques s'est représenté en clown.

John Antoniadis, BSc 69, recently wrote *E.M.S Protocols and Standing Orders for Greek Paramedics* (Greek Edition), a Greek-language step-by-step manual for medical staff providing pre-hospital emergency care. The guidelines are based on the American E.M.S system and follow the latest U.S. Department of Transportation and Department of Health protocols. stores.lulu.com/medic



Matthew Hood, BA 11, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest mountain in Africa, in January. Matthew raised more than \$6,000 (his goal was \$5,000) for the Linda Christine Hood Memorial Fund, named in memory of his mother, at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. Half the funds went to breast cancer research and half to the hospital's oncology ward. Matthew is a Montreal-based photographer. hoodvisuals.com



Desiree Larretche, BComm (mktg.) 07, is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts (major in acting) at the Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University in New York City. Her professional name is Desiree Elle [desiree-elle.com]. As part of the program, Desiree performed April 13-16 in the Off-Broadway play *Broken Bones*, a one-act drama about spousal abuse.

SAVE THE DATE

Preparations are underway for **Celebration 75**, the dinner-dance being held during Homecoming in September 2012 to honour the 75th anniversary of the **Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University**.



If you haven't already done so, there's still time to submit your story for the memory book being prepared for the occasion. Please contact Harvey Stoliar at hstoliar@videotron.ca.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information in the year to come! To make sure you don't miss out on upcoming news, update your email address at alumni@concordia.ca.

**Harvey Stoliar, S BComm 62,
and Robert Barnes, S BA 68**
*Co-Chairs, 75th Anniversary
Dinner-Dance Planning Committee*

Become a sponsor!

Help us reduce costs and increase prizes.
Contact us today for more information:
alumni@concordia.ca; 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd.
W., FB 520, Montreal, QC, Canada H3G 1M8

NOTICE

is hereby given that the Loyola Alumni Association Inc. will hold its

105th Annual General Meeting Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting is held for the purpose of receiving reports and the election of the 2011-2012 board of directors and officers. All alumni of Loyola College, Concordia University and Sir George Williams University are invited to attend.

Loyola Campus, Administration Building, AD-308
7141 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal

RSVP by August 31, 2011
Online: alumni.concordia.ca/register
Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397
Toll free: 1-888-777-3330

Information: nancy.wada@concordia.ca or
514-848-2424, ext. 3882

HOMEcoming '11 SEPTEMBER 15-25, 2011

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Get in on the fun at our yearly celebration for alumni, faculty members, staff and friends. Volunteers are needed to welcome guests, hand out promotional materials and provide info. Training will be provided. Get involved now!
For more information, please contact Erin Mullins at erin.mullins@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424, ext. 3881.

BEYOND THE BOARDROOM: PASSING ALONG WISDOM FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

This fall, Concordia will launch Beyond the Boardroom, a pilot project that will bring senior (including recently retired) executives back to their alma mater to offer current students and recent graduates insight on leadership, management and work-life balance.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rose Wangechi at Rose.Wangechi@concordia.ca.

NOTICE

is hereby given that the Concordia University Alumni Association will hold its

28th Annual General Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at 6 p.m.

Alumni and the general public are welcome to attend the meeting, held for the purpose of receiving reports and the election of the 2011-2012 board of directors and executive. Notice is also given that this meeting will constitute a special general meeting to approve a modification in our general by-laws, namely to change our financial year end from May 31 to April 30.

Faculty Club Lounge, Sir George Williams Campus
Henry F. Hall Building, H-763
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal

RSVP by September 14, 2011
Online: alumni.concordia.ca/register
Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 4397
Toll free: 1-888-777-3330

Information: nancy.wada@concordia.ca or
514-848-2424, ext. 3882

John P. Doyle, L BA 42, died on April 30 in Montreal. John is survived by his wife, Donald, and his stepchildren, John, Veronica and Patrick.

Charlotte (Garfinkle)

Steinberg, S BA 47, S BSc 48, died on April 2 in Montreal. Charlotte is survived by her children, Abby, Sonny and Eric. She was 86.

Lawrence Clarkson, S

BSc 48, S BComm 50, died on March 20 in Burlington, Ont. Lawrence is survived by his wife, Jean. He was 92.

Arthur T. Wickham, L BA

49, died on April 5 in Montreal. Arthur is survived by his wife, Suzanne Rodrigue, and his children, Marc, Philip and Guy.

George Christie, Sr., S

BComm 54, S BA 56, died on April 20. George is survived by his wife, Shirley, and his children, Cheryl, George, Sandra and Nancy. He was 83.

Henry Shee Wing Lee, S

BA 55, died on January 14 in Laval, Que. Henry is survived by his son, Ken. He was 84.

Gerald Schreiber, S BSc 55,

S BComm 58, died March 12 in Montreal. Gerald is survived by his wife, Carol, and his daughters, Janet and Gail. He was 84.

Kenneth C. Etheridge,

S BA 57, died on April 26 in Montreal. Kenneth was 83.

Helena Huraj, S BA 57,

died on March 12, in St. Thomas, Ont. Helena was 83.

Theodore Elfer, S BA 58,

BComm 58, died February 8 in Montreal. Theodore is survived by his mother, Erzebet, his wife, Annette Turgel, and his son, Robert.

John M. Millons, S BA 59,

died on February 12 in Ottawa. John is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Tedford, and his children, Susanna, Jeanne and John.

Dorothy (Heaver) Gilday,

S BA 60, died on April 22. Dorothy is survived by her children, John, Nora and Brent. She was 91.

Joseph Gervay, L BSc 61,

died on February 14. Joseph is survived by his wife, Helen, and his son, Michael. He was 79.

David Montefiore

Bernstein, S BA 62, died on April 16 in Montreal. David is survived by his children, Nathania and Michael. He was 71.

Larry Heitner, L BSc 63,

died on March 30 in Montreal. Larry is survived by his children.

Alfred Buttermann, S BSc

64, died on February 26 in Vancouver. Alfred is survived by his wife, Sylvia Bick, and his children, Deborah and Warren.

Laxman P. Pande, S BEng

64, died on February 14 in Montreal. Laxman is survived by his children, Alaka, Rajan and Ravindra. He was 89.

Pearl Feintuch, S BA 65, died

on March 3. She is survived by her son, Dale. She was 94.



Roger Abbott, L Attendee 64, LLD 09, died on March 26 in

Toronto. Roger, along with Don Ferguson, L BA (Eng.) 70, co-founded the Royal Canadian Air Farce comedy troupe in 1973. The *Air Farce* program was broadcast on radio for 24 years and on CBC Television from 1993 to 2008. The troupe was involved in numerous humanitarian causes and won many awards and honours, including a Governor General's Performing Arts Award in 1998, a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in 2000 and a Gemini Humanitarian Award in 2005. Roger is survived by his mother, Betty, and his sister, Jackie. He was 64.

Douglas Biggers, S BA 66,

died on March 15 in Montreal. Douglas is survived by his brothers, Jack and Ken.

Imants Steprans, S BA 67,

died on January 28 in Montreal. Imants is survived by his wife, Marija, and his sons, Juris and Janis. He was 87.

Paul Joseph Murphy, S

BA 68, died on February 19 in Montreal. He is survived by his children, Kathleen, Peter, Louise and John. He was 83.

Melvyn Hain, L BComm 69,

died on March 16 in Montreal. Melvyn is survived by his wife, Nancy, and his children, Neil, Tracy, and Lori. He was 67.

Patrick Vallely, S BA 69,

MA 76, died on March 9 in

Montreal. Patrick is survived

by his wife, Marie, and his children, Kevin, Anne and Michael. He was 70.

Linda (Karas) Yule,

S BA 69, died on April 19 in Montreal. Linda is survived by her husband, Ron, and her children, Greg and Andrea.

Douglas Canavan,

S BEng 70, died on March 31 in Windsor, Ont. Douglas is survived by his wife, Doreen, and his children, Michael, Daniel and Robert. He was 68.

Morris Krymalowski,

L BA 71, died on May 2 in Montreal. Morris is survived by his mother, Madzia, his wife, Susan, and his children, Sam and Elisabeth.

Karoly Landauer

Losonczy, S BSc 71, died on April 19 in Toronto. Karoly is survived by his daughter, Laura. He was 76.

Claire Gohier, S BSc 72,

died on February 8 in Montreal. Claire is survived by her husband and stepdaughters. She was 59.

Mymoon Mohammed, S BA

73, died on April 24 in Montreal. Mymoon is survived by her brother, Raffick. She was 71.

Edgar Howard Hardy, S BA

74, GrDip 77, died on February 3 in Montreal. Edgar is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and his children, Indra, Cintra, Dave and Steve. He was 82.

Josephine Kulikowsky,

L BA 74, died on February 3 in Montreal. Josephine is survived by her husband, Walter. She was 72.

John Sobczak, L BA 74,

died on February 1 in Montreal. John is survived by his wife, Elvira, and his son, Stefan.

Lucy Ilena Centomo-

Rosato, BSc 75, died on April 30 in Montreal. Lucy Ilena is survived by her husband, Tony, and her children, Cristina and Richard. She was 57.

Frank L. Chevallier, BA 75,

died on March 2 in Phoenix, Ariz. Frank is survived by his stepchildren, Kathy, David, Hugh and Tony.

Paul Dennis Paquin, BFA 76,

died on February 9 in Montreal. Paul is survived by his brothers, Gerard and Eugene.

Wilda Lois Stewart,

BA 76, died on February 3 in Montreal. Wilda is survived by her brother, Harding. She was 86.

William J. Cozens, BA 78,

died on April 9 in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. William is survived by his children, Cathy, Mimi, Paul, John, Mike and Christine. He was 88.

Rita M. (Conway) Bangs,

BA 82, died on March 22 in Lachine, Que. Rita is survived by her husband, Dean, and her children, Nancy, Kevin, Deana and Laure Ann. She was 85.

Horace Holloway, BA 82,

died on March 1 in Laval, Que. Horace is survived by his son, Raymond. He was 72.

Rose (Label) Levine, BFA

83, died on April 12 in Pointe Claire, Que. Rose is survived by her children, Saul and Gary. She was 92.

Janet S. MacKinnon,

BFA 84, died on February 4 in Montreal. Janet is survived by her mother, Heather, and her daughter, Kate. She was 53.

John Malcolm Udy, PhD 85,

died on March 31 in Montreal. John is survived by his wife, Norma, and his daughters, Claudia and H el ene. He was 82.

Lindsay Cowell-Plain, BEng

88, MBA 90, died in February in Toronto. Lindsay was 52.

Ian Todd, BSc 88, died in

autumn 2010 in Montreal. Ian is survived by his wife, Fen. He was 45.

Patricia Kalnitsky (Alt),

MA 89, died on February 3 in Montreal. Patricia is survived by her husband, Michael, and her daughters, Callie, Justine and Melanie. She was 47.

Howard J.G. Whitton,

GrDip 93, died in April in Montreal. Howard is survived by his wife, Elaine, and his sons, David, Mark and Alan. He was 81.

Helen (Sheremeta)

Lennon, BA 94, died on February 14 in Montreal. Helen is survived by her husband, Bernard, and her children, Christine, Nancy, Sharon and Patrick. She was 72.

Danuta Padowicz

Wroblewski, Cert 94, died on April 5 in Montreal. Danuta was 78.

Anne (Raven) Michaels,

BA 96, died on February 1 in Montreal. Anne is survived by her daughter, Kristine. She was 88.

Marion Elizabeth (Krausmann) O'Connor,

GrDip 97, died on April 16 in Montreal. Marion is survived by her children, Kevin Barry and Shannon. She was 66.

Sara Tooher, BEng 98,

MEng 01, died on April 18 in Montreal. Sara is survived by her husband, Alain, and her daughter, Isabella. She was 36. ■

Keep in Touch

New job? Just moved? Just married? Or just want to let your former classmates know what you've been up to? Visit

alumni.concordia.ca/keepintouch

Or mail or email us any information about yourself—don't be shy—you'd like to appear in Class Acts.

Please include: your name (including name at graduation); year(s) of graduation and degree(s) from Concordia, Loyola or Sir George, and other universities; street address, phone number(s) and email address; and any other relevant personal or business info and messages that you'd like to appear.

By email: alumni@alcor.concordia.ca Subject: Class Acts

By mail: Class Acts, Advancement and Alumni Relations, Concordia University, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., FB 520, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

Join the the Concordia University Alumni association LinkedIn group at alumni.concordia.ca/benefits/olc.

Cabaret, magic recorders and deadly falls

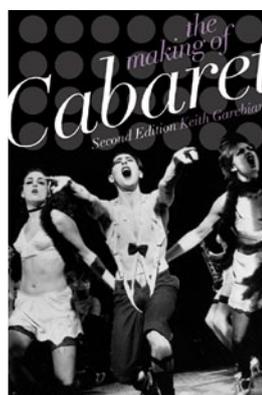
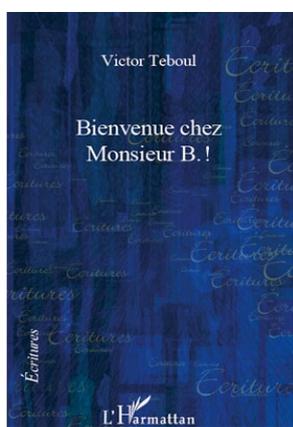
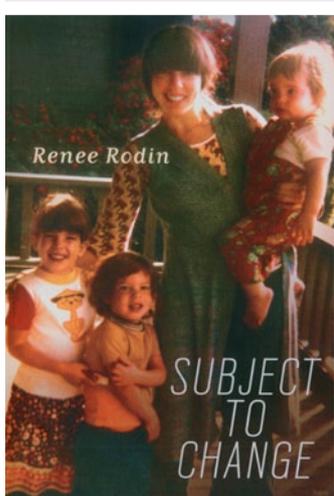
Subject to Change (Talonbooks, \$18.95), by **Renee (Irene) Rodin**, S BA (psych. & soc.) 66, is a collection of short, personal narratives. Ranging from tales of a bright young man she met during her teen beatnik years to the murder of her son's fiancée, the stories read as richly as

déroule dans les coulisses du pouvoir juif de Montréal. Jeune journaliste pour une station de télévision québécoise, Maurice Ben Haïm provoque une controverse en interviewant un ancien nazi qui a trouvé refuge au Canada. Auteur de plusieurs publications, dont des romans et des

Way. The prolific Garebian has penned 18 books, a chapbook and hundreds of articles. A multiple award-winning poet, his previous book of poetry, *Children of Ararat* (Frontenac House, 2010), about the Armenian genocide, was one of 10 selected for publication by the jury for Dektet

lyrical journey from Africa to the Caribbean and finally to Canada, his words invoking emotion and nostalgia as he explores the differences in cultures and his experiences as a traveller.

Swinging On a Star: Growing up in Montreal's east end (available through



they do quickly. "Here is a clear-eyed account of a life lived with passionate commitment to community, family, and the undying need for social justice," Canadian poet Daphne Marlatt writes. "Renee Rodin's candid voice opens up dark seams in contemporary life even as it lightens them with a quick sense of the surreal in the serious."

Victor Teboul, S BA (littérature française) 1969, a publié son troisième roman, **Bienvenue chez Monsieur B.!** (L'Harmattan, 32,50 \$). L'histoire se

essais, Victor Teboul dirige le magazine en ligne bilingue **tolerance.ca** qu'il a fondé en 2002 afin de promouvoir un discours critique sur la tolérance et la diversité. Information : **victorteboul.com**.

A revised, expanded edition of **The Making of Cabaret** (Oxford University Press, \$21.95), by **Keith Garebian**, S MA 71, provides a detailed account of the original 1966 Broadway version of *Cabaret*, describing how the show evolved from Christopher Isherwood's 1930s Berlin stories to the Great White

2010, a Canadian poetry competition.

The Journey Home (iUniverse \$10.95) by **Horace I. Goddard**, BA 75, is a mythical-poetic collection of bold and introspective verse about an African Caribbean man's search for a home in the diaspora. Man may be a migratory being but he also nurtures a yearning for the land of his origin. Goddard questions what home means, what culture means when a person is transplanted, and what race means in a country that is predominantly black or white. The poet offers a

yesican11@hotmail.com, \$15), is the touching memoir by **Patricia Bissonnette**, BFA (dram in ed.) 78, MA (ed. studies) 96, that follows her through her early years and into her twenties. "The story is a piece of family and social history; a tale of growing up during the late 1930s, '40s and early '50s in Montreal's east end. It contains universal truths that will find a response in people of my generation as well as today's struggling single mothers, and girls growing up fatherless," writes Bissonnette.

Head of a Man (Reality Street, \$14), the first novel by **John Gilmore**, BFA (jazz studies) 81, centres on a man—the victim of a trauma, at a psychological and spiritual impasse—who stops at a backpacker hostel in Asia. “I admire this spare, lean gem of a novel, so lyrical and evocative its brief prose fragments get into your head and stay there,” Canadian poet and writer Gary Geddes comments. Gilmore previously authored

the horses tell their own stories while their current caregivers battle the bad guys right to the riveting dénouement. The narrative follows the fortunes of a horse refuge run by a gifted animal communicator, Skye Spahro, and her daughter on a tiny island just outside Montreal. When a powerful businessman connives to get his mare back, things get uglier and uglier. Threaded throughout the novel is the history of le Canadien,

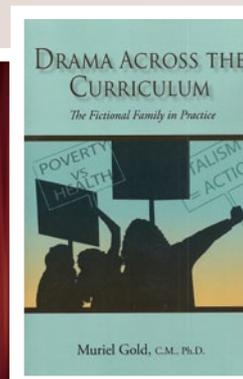
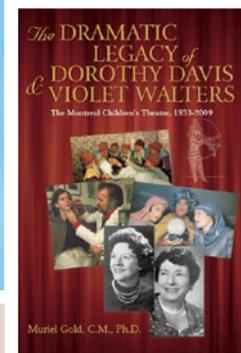
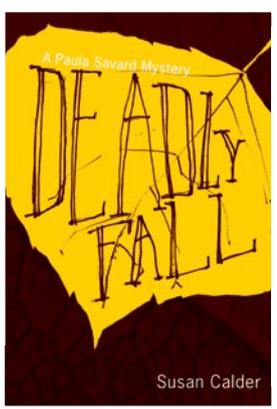
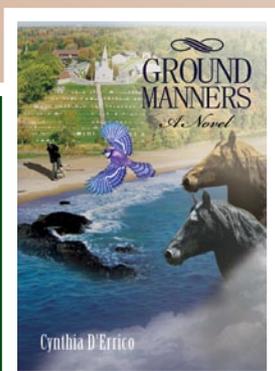
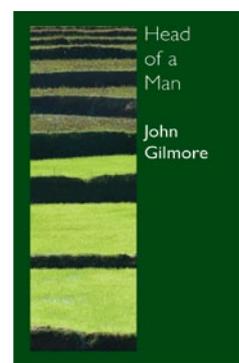
mystery series in which Paula battles crime while dealing with the challenges of being a member of the so-called “sandwich generation”—that with children and aging parents—as well as the usual complications of career and romance. **susancalder.com**

Dimitris Ilias, BFA (music) 92, GrDip (adv. music perf.) 99, collaborated in a unique transatlantic production that resulted in **The Magic Recorder**

music charts! Net profits from Canadian sales of *The Magic Recorder* will benefit the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal.

themagicrecorder.com, **chromamusika.com**

Muriel Gold, PhD 94, former artistic director of Montreal’s Saidye Bronfman Centre, recently published two books. **The Dramatic Legacy of Dorothy Davis and Violet Walters: The Montreal Children’s Theatre**,



two books on Montreal jazz history: *Swinging in Paradise: The Story of Jazz in Montreal* (1988) and *Who’s Who of Jazz in Montreal: Ragtime to 1970* (1989). The original research materials for these are held in the archives at Concordia, where Gilmore has been a part-time instructor in the Education department.

Author **Cynthia D’Errico**, BA 82, combines and brings Anna Sewell’s *Black Beauty* and a Dick Francis thriller into the 21st century in **Ground Manners** (XLibris, \$29.99 hardcover, \$9.99 e-book). D’Errico lets

Canada’s national horse, as well as Quebec’s efforts to preserve le Canadien as its heritage breed.

Set in Calgary, **Deadly Fall** (TouchWood Editions, \$26.95 hardcover; \$9.09 e-book) revolves around the investigation of insurance adjuster Paula Savard into the murder of her childhood friend, Callie. The death exposes secrets and Paula must come to grips with the role she inadvertently played in her friend’s death. This is the first novel by **Susan Calder**, BA (urban studies) 88, and marks the launch of a

(Chroma Musika, \$30), based on a classic German tale, *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. It features the Chroma Musika/Socrates choir of 54 children from Montreal and the Zouzounia, Greece’s most popular children’s musical group, accompanied by Ensemble Sinfonia de Montréal. The Canadian portion was cut at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall on Loyola Campus. Concordia Music professor Mark Corwin recorded, mixed and edited the music for the CD-and-book package. In Athens, the CD beat Justin Bieber in the

1933-2009 (iUniverse.com, \$20.95), recounts how two young Montrealers founded the Montreal Children’s Theatre and led it to lasting success. Despite an improbable start during the Great Depression, the theatre has since touched the lives of thousands of children, including William Shatner and broadcaster Hana Gartner, L BA 70. And **Drama Across the Curriculum: The Fictional Family in Practice** (iUniverse.com, \$19.95), describes the effectiveness of Gold’s Fictional Family technique as a teaching tool. ■

Winning support

BY JOHANNA SKIBSRUD,
MA 05

I've been asked several times to describe how it felt to hear my name announced as the 2010 Scotiabank Giller Prize winner for my novel, *The Sentimentalists*, last November, but the strange thing is that I hardly heard it—or felt anything at all. In my memory, there's instead a tremendous lag between the moment when Jack Rabinovitch—who founded the Giller Prize in 1994 in honour of his late wife Doris Giller, a literary journalist who also attended Concordia—read out the winner's name and the moment I finally recognized that name as my own. Only through the reactions of people around me did I realize what was happening—what had happened—and finally made my way to the stage to accept not only the Giller Prize but also the new direction my life had suddenly taken.

Maybe there is always a similar space of disconnect between seminal moments and everything and everyone that brought you there.

My Concordia experience played a key role in that trajectory. When I arrived at the university in 2003, I decided to tackle a novel as my MA in Creative Writing thesis project, and that fall I enrolled in my first fiction workshop with the beginnings of a story in my head. This story, seven years later, would become *The Sentimentalists*.

It is interesting—and poignant—to me that it was while I was just beginning work on this original story—about a submerged town and a single man's attempt to retain the past, to counteract the sweeping scale of history, as well as of specific, personal loss—that my father began to tell me stories of his experiences as a U.S. Marine in the Vietnam



Johanna Skibsrud won the 2010 Giller Prize for her first novel, *The Sentimentalists*.

War, which he had not spoken of out loud for over 30 years. The thematic intersections between the fictional story that I had recently begun and my father's own seemed obvious to me: I remember hanging up the phone after my first conversation with him that night and feeling the weight of the new responsibility I understood to be suddenly mine. I believed then, as I believe now, that my father had chosen to tell me of his experiences in part because he trusted that as a writer I would do something with them. He sensed that re-telling the story now, at this point in time, was in some way important. And that I was equal to the task.

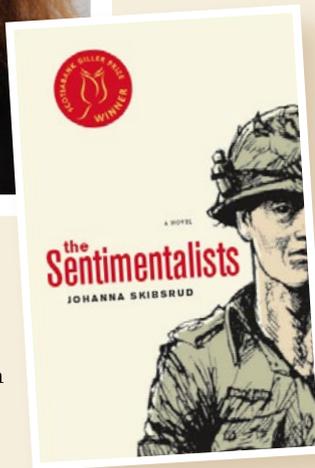
This is testament to the validation and encouragement I received from my family that allowed me from a young age to believe my long-time ambition of becoming a professional writer—or indeed, any other goal I might conceive for myself—was not out of reach. Their implicit trust in my promise as a writer, and their encouragement to pursue

that promise, were and continue to be indispensable to me, especially because—like all good support systems—that expectation and encouragement did not come without a sense of the practical steps and sustained efforts and encouragement necessary to achieve a desired goal.

Later, my many devoted Concordia professors provided similar support. They allowed me to delve into my first substantial project, and discover the joys—as well as the small,

deeply personal payoffs—of hard, and focused, work. That investment of time and effort—which I was able to sustain thanks to funding later received from the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Council for the Arts—is essential to every success story. Such stories are rarely, if ever, solitary affairs, and I feel fortunate that Concordia's Creative Writing program was an integral part of my own. ■

Johanna Skibsrud, MA 05, is the author of The Sentimentalists (Gaspereau Press, 2009) and two poetry collections, Late Nights With Wild Cowboys (Gaspereau Press, 2008), which was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Award, and I Do Not Think That I Could Love A Human Being (Gaspereau Press, 2010), shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize. Originally from Nova Scotia, Johanna now lives in Montreal and is pursuing a PhD in English literature at the Université de Montréal.





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