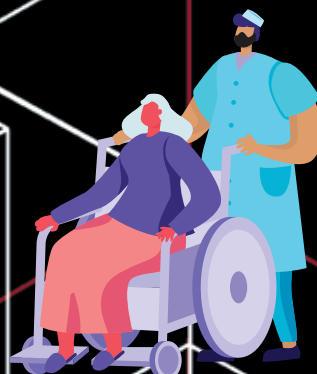


# CONCORDIA

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



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# CONCORDIA

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

## OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

Discover how Concordia's next-gen approach educates students in the age of COVID-19.



## BLACK PERSPECTIVES INITIATIVE

Scholar and community organizer Annick Maugile Flavien powers change at Concordia – and beyond.



## 2020 VISION

The John Molson School of Business celebrates a milestone triple anniversary.



## FACULTY ON THE FRONT LINES

How Concordia-led research can serve a post-COVID-19 world.



## INTERVIEW: HELEN ANTONIOU

Meet the new chair of Concordia's Board of Governors.



## WELCOME TO MTL CONNECT 2020

Concordia and a major digital-arts festival partner up this fall.



fall 2020 volume 44 number 3

[concordia.ca/magazine](http://concordia.ca/magazine)

**COVER:**  
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### CLARIFICATION:

The spring 2020 edition of *Concordia University Magazine* referred to an event ("Stingers standout!," p. 30) since postponed because of COVID-19: the 2020 Concordia Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony, originally scheduled for September 12.

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SOCIOLOGY PHD CANDIDATE **JAMILAH DEI-SHARPE**, MA 19, HAS CREATED THE **NATIONAL BLACK GRADUATE NETWORK** TO CONNECT BLACK GRADUATE STUDENTS AND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN BLACK STUDIES.

## CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

**Concordia University Magazine** welcomes your comments.

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### Keep in touch

To update your address, email or communication preferences – including where and how you receive the magazine – please visit our new Alumni and Friends service hub at [engage.concordia.ca](https://engage.concordia.ca).

## \$2.5 MILLION FOR CONCORDIA-LED RESEARCH

“Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time,” a **seven-year project led by history professor Steven High** at Concordia’s Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, received considerable financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). One of the objectives of High’s research is to **investigate how race, gender and class intersect with the decline of industrial activity and the rise of right-wing populism** (more on p. 28).

## NEW CLASSROOMS AND STUDY SPACE

Concordia’s **Facilities Management**, which oversees all aspects of the university’s physical environment, is constantly at work to create practical urban spaces for academics and students. The newest example is now underway at the corner of Guy and Ste. Catherine streets in Montreal’s Quartier Concordia, where, despite pandemic-related construction challenges, the basement of the Faubourg Building (FB) **will be converted to accommodate open and modern areas for courses and group study** before the fall 2021 term.

## VIRTUAL INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBITION

Concordia alumni contributed to the online **Contemporary Native Art Biennial** this past April. The multi-gallery event’s theme centred on **Indigenous kinship and resistance in the face of colonialism**.

## CREE LAND PROTECTED

**Members of the Cree community of Wemindji have worked with Monica Mulrennan**, a professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, and other researchers **to protect over 30,000 square kilometres of territory** from large-scale resource development. The project is premised on the recognition of Indigenous authority over traditional lands and waters.

## HEADED TO HARVARD

**Shide Salimi**, MAsc 15, PhD 20, the recipient of Concordia's Stand-Out Graduate Research Award, the Concordia Merit Scholarship, the Graduate Student Mobility Award and the Concordia Accelerator Award, assumed a **postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University** last January. The focus of Salimi's research is on **smarter and more sustainable energy-efficient building systems**.

## SAFER SURFACES SLOW TRANSMISSION

Materials with antibacterial and antiviral capabilities, like copper and titanium oxide, can be deployed to **make surfaces more resistant to COVID-19**, say researchers at the Concordia-based NSERC Green Surface Engineering for Advanced Manufacturing (Green-SEAM) Network. Their work aims to better protect front-line workers in high-traffic public spaces (more on p. 28).

## FLAGSHIP PROGRAM TAKES FLIGHT ONLINE

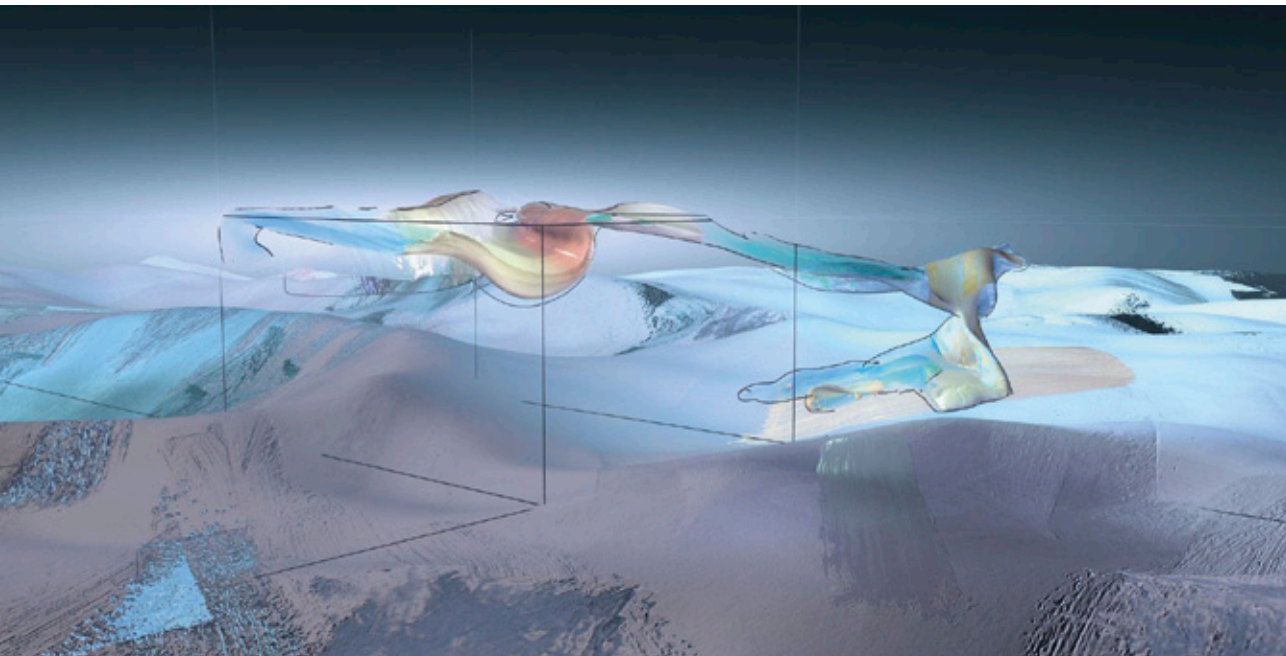
The long-standing flagship of the John Molson Executive Centre (JMEC), the **Airport Executive Leadership Program (AELP)**, made a successful online pivot in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual sessions provided a **new opportunity for aviation executives to improve their strategic management skills**. "Participants are staying 100 per cent active," said **Sandra Nichol**, executive director of JMEC.



**ANITA NOWAK**, GRDIP 99 (LEFT), AND DAUGHTER ANNIKA MEGRELISHVILI-NOWAK, MET CALIFORNIA SENATOR **KAMALA HARRIS** AT NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. "SHE WAS GRACIOUS, CHEERFUL AND ENERGETIC," SAYS NOWAK OF THE 2020 DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO GRADUATED FROM MONTREAL'S WESTMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL IN 1981.

## SUSTAINABILITY ACTION FUND

**Twelve research projects** (five graduate, seven undergraduate) spanning Concordia's four faculties have been **selected for the 2019-20 Sustainability Research Awards**. The projects addressed various environmental-related themes, including community development, food security, labour issues and sustainable consumption.



**ADAM BASANTA**, MA 13, AND **SABRINA RATTÉ**, BFA 05, MFA 12, WERE HONOURED WITH THE **2020 SOBEY ART AWARD**. ALL 25 NOMINEES WERE ANNOUNCED AS CO-WINNERS AFTER THE ONSET OF COVID-19. (PICTURED IS RATTÉ'S *NUÉE*, 2020.)



**SASHA ANDREWS** (PICTURED WITH HER FAMILY), AN ACCOMPLISHED NATIONAL TEAM PLAYER AND FORMER PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE, RECENTLY JOINED THE STINGERS WOMEN'S SOCCER PROGRAM AS AN ASSISTANT COACH.

## ANTI-RACISM EFFORTS

Researchers at Concordia have co-developed and disseminated PROFILE, **a multimedia tool kit designed to combat racial and social profiling** by compelling users to confront their conscious or unconscious biases.

## NEW PROGRAM FOR A MORE ACCESSIBLE FUTURE

**Arseli Dokumaci**, Concordia's new Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Critical Disability Studies and Media Technologies and an assistant professor of communication studies in the Faculty of Arts and Science, will lead **a research program to explore the use of new media technologies within disability movements**, cultures, scholarships and activism.

## BETTER WHEELS FOR MARS ROVER

When a **NASA mission to Mars** blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on July 30, the rover on board sported a new wheel design — thanks, in part, to Concordia researcher **Krzysztof Skonieczny**. “We came up with ways to improve performance on Mars’s loose and rocky soil,” explained Skonieczny, associate professor and Tier II **Canada Research Chair in Aerospace Robotics in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering** at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

## BOOST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

A scientific training **program launched by Concordia and Future Earth will be funded with \$1.65 million over six years** by NSERC's Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) program. The grant will further scientific research on climate, biodiversity and other critical sustainability goals as well as support the career development of students and postdoctoral fellows.



**ALICE** THE CORGI DEVoured THE SPRING 2020 ISSUE OF **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE**.

## FROM CANCER RESEARCH TO COVID-19

Two international postdocs stranded in Canada because of COVID-19 have successfully switched their research focus from cancer to the novel coronavirus. **Gurudeeban Selvaraj** and **Satyavani Kaliampurthi** arrived in Montreal in late December on a 24-week Mitacs Globalink Research Internship to study at Concordia's Centre for Research in Molecular Modeling (CERMM) under the supervision of chemistry and biochemistry professor **Gilles Peslherbe**. The pair are using computer modelling and simulations to look into **molecular approaches health scientists can exploit to develop a vaccine** or search for an antiviral protein-inhibitor drug. "As the fight against COVID-19 is a worldwide effort, it is gratifying to see our researchers' efforts in responding to this public health crisis," said **Paula Wood-Adams**, Concordia's interim vice-president of research and graduate studies.



**FAY ARJOMANDI**, BENG 98, THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2018 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR, AND THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF MIMIK, DEVELOPED PANDIMIK, THE WORLD'S FIRST ANONYMIZED INFECTION-TRACING APP DESIGNED FOR COVID-19.

## DOCTORAL CANDIDATE SCORES DISTINGUISHED AWARD

**Soroosh Shahtalebi**, a doctoral candidate at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering, has been **awarded the Louis-Berlinguet prize** from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT). Shahtalebi was recognized for his article "PHTNet: Characterization and Deep Mining of Involuntary Pathological Hand Tremor Using Recurrent Neural Network Models," which appeared earlier this year in the open-access journal *Scientific Reports*. Under the supervision of associate professor **Arash Mohammadi**, Shahtalebi's work at the Intelligent Signal and Information Processing (I-SIP) Lab applies **machine-learning solutions to problems in medicine and health care**.

## GRAD WINS GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC GOLD MEDAL

**Irene Rozsa**, MA 11, PhD 20, **won the Governor General's Academic Gold Medal this past June**. The Film and Moving Image Studies program alumna earned the prize for achieving **the highest academic standing at the graduate level** among students at the university completing a dissertation. "I am grateful to Concordia for giving me first-hand access to an intellectual community where scholarship, professional dedication and kindness coexist," said Rozsa, whose research focuses on the transnational dimensions of visual culture in Latin America.

## DIAMOND JUBILEE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

This autumn marks the 60th anniversary of Concordia's Department of Political Science. Founded by Distinguished Professor **Henri P. Habib** in 1961, the department boasts a number of notable alumni, including **Peter Schiefke**, BA 07, environmentalist and member of Parliament; **Leah Olson-Friesen**, BA 98, MA 00, chief operating officer at Lumeca Health, and one of Concordia's Top 50 Under 50 Shaping Business; and **Jacques Chagnon**, BA 75, former member of the National Assembly of Quebec.

# Mélie Tiacoh has a passion for fashion and finance

You may have seen this grad on the catwalk

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Less than a decade removed from the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), top model Mélie Tiacoh, BComm 13, has ascended the echelons of the fashion world and set herself up for a successful career in business as a CFA candidate.

We recently spoke to the New York-based Tiacoh about her life on and off the runway — from Victoria's Secret to *Nylon* magazine.

## How has your job been affected by the pandemic?

The modelling industry has been affected big time. Every shoot requires teamwork, and a lot of people are involved. All shoots and castings have thus been cancelled.

Also, a lot of the manufacturing is done in Asia. As a result, many companies haven't had clothes to shoot anyway. Because of these unusual times we are navigating, a lot of clients have asked models to do self-shoots at home.

## What was your experience like as a student at Concordia?

I loved studying in Montreal. My friends and fellow students were all focused. We inspired each other to get good grades and graduate fast. I chose finance as a

major and computer science as a minor because I've always wanted to be a trader on the New York Stock Exchange.

## You chose to study for your CFA designation after you graduated. How have you juggled that with the demands of a busy career?

I love challenges. I'm currently a CFA Level III candidate. I have the advantage of a flexible schedule that I try to manage the best I can. It isn't always easy, but I take it step by step.



COURTESY OF NYLON

## Do you see some compatibility between investment management and the fashion world?

As a model you have to manage your finances and invest wisely, since it's a relatively short career. I've used my skills to protect my finances. I'm currently building my own company, so being my own boss will definitely require some financial skills.

## How do you feel about where the industry is now in terms of representation?

I'm glad to see the direction the industry has taken over the last few years. The world is diverse and that should be represented in the modelling industry as well. It also gives us 'ethnic models' more chances to work and do great things.

## Can you talk about your work with the Kalou Foundation?

For the past three years I have been the ambassador for the Kalou Foundation.

It's the foundation of ex-Chelsea and current Botafogo soccer player Salomon Kalou. Together, we organize a Christmas party every year for the orphans of Grand-Bassam and Abidjan in Ivory Coast. We also raise funds to rehabilitate and build schools, hospitals, dialysis centres and other facilities.

## What do people commonly misunderstand about models and the fashion world? What do you think would surprise most people about the job?

People think that the fashion world is a superficial and perverted industry and that modelling is not a real job, but it definitely is! You travel the world, far away from family, at a young age. You have to learn how to be patient, professional, self-dependent, resilient and to deliver what clients need: you're an actor, a

gymnast and a dancer, all at once.

It's a tough industry, especially because of the fact that you're judged on the way you look. However, as long as you keep a good head on your shoulders and have a good support system, there's no reason to fall prey to it. I'm proud of how mature, independent, open-minded and less self-critical I have become. I wouldn't trade it for anything. ■



# How a Montreal Impact star scored his iron ring

Shamit Shome juggled a pro soccer career and engineering studies

COLIN THRONESS

During Shamit Shome's initial years at Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, only a few of his fellow students knew they had a professional soccer player in their midst.

"Nobody knew who I was at first," says Shome, BEng 20, a midfielder with the Montreal Impact. "It was just easier that way. I went to my classes, got the work done and went home."

Shome's parents, who emigrated from Bangladesh to Edmonton before he was born, had him playing organized soccer at a young age.

"That was the main sport they knew about and thought was the easiest to get into," he explains. "I was just playing for fun, but as I got a bit older, people said, 'Hey, he seems like he could be really good.'"

## FROM EDMONTON TO MONTREAL

Shome eventually signed with FC Edmonton's youth academy. He played a year there and signed with the pro team while he was enrolled at the University of Alberta. After a promising first season he entered the Major League Soccer (MLS) draft, where he was selected by Montreal.

Intent on completing his university education, Shome, whose father is a civil engineer, chose Concordia because of its strong reputation for experiential learning.

Balancing schoolwork and a professional soccer career was "kind of like a big jigsaw puzzle," he admits. But Shome made it work, and he liked that his Concordia classes "gave me the experience in what I'm actually doing as an engineer."

His fondest memories from his five years at Concordia involve all the great people he met along the way.

"I've made a lot of new friends who really helped me feel comfortable here."

## A CHALLENGING YEAR

Because of COVID-19, Shome completed his electrical engineering degree in isolation this past spring. While his iron ring ceremony has been postponed, he remains upbeat.

"There are definitely people around the world and in Canada who are going through much worse. At the end of the day, all I can do is stay positive and hope we can overcome this."

Like many of his classmates, Shome has also been closely following the Black Lives Matter protests.

"The world is starting to come together. This time, I feel like there's a firm movement to



stop racism. Hopefully we can start to change the way we view people of colour."

Shome says he heard racist remarks growing up, sometimes without even realizing it. The experience of playing soccer at a high level provided him with an invaluable opportunity to get to know a more diverse group of people.

"Meeting people from different cultures, coming from all over the world, is really enlightening in terms of what they face, what they see and how they're treated."

"It's been a big eye-opener, both playing professional sports and being in university. Education helps bring people together — by being educated on the issues, we can progress and change." ■



COURTESY OF THE MONTREAL IMPACT

# Meet Yinka Ibukun, West Africa bureau chief for Bloomberg News

'I'm responsible for the coverage of 20 countries'

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

When Yinka Ibukun, BA 07, was promoted to bureau chief for Bloomberg News West Africa last spring, her locus of authority grew considerably.

The veteran reporter was suddenly thrust into a role with tremendous responsibility at a time of severe global unrest. Much of Ibukun's focus has since been on the fallout of COVID-19 on the continent — in May she reported on the extraordinary story of a worker who infected 533 people at a fish factory in Ghana.

We spoke to the French-born, Nigeria-raised journalism grad about her new job, Black Lives Matter and her time at Concordia.

## What has it been like to experience the worldwide anti-racism protests as a journalist based in Accra?

Ghana holds a special place in the American civil rights movement. In *The Heart of a Woman*, Maya Angelou recounts how she moved to Accra, the capital, in the 1960s, with her teenage son, and mingled with an African-American intellectual community here that included people like W. E. B. Du Bois. Du Bois co-founded the largest civil rights organization in the United States but also agitated much of his life for an end to colonialism in Africa. He died in a home in Accra given to him by President Kwame Nkrumah. The

W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan-African Culture, a 15-minute walk from my house, provides a constant reminder of the intersection of those two movements.

Ghana has continued to open its arms to the African-American community. Last year, it encouraged the African diaspora in the U.S. to visit to mark 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived. The government called it the Year of Return. So it's no surprise there have been attempts to protest the police killing of George Floyd and others in solidarity with African-Americans, but two protests were not allowed to proceed because of restrictions on gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Even in Ghana, a lodestar of pan-Africanism, anti-Blackness persists, through colourism for instance.

## Tell us about your career trajectory at Bloomberg.

I joined Bloomberg as a stringer in 2013 in Lagos, my home city. I was recruited as full-time staff a year later and spent six years reporting almost exclusively on Nigeria. I moved to Accra last year and took on a more regional role as a West Africa business reporter. In April, I applied to become West Africa bureau chief and got the job. I'm responsible for the coverage of 20 countries (but not Nigeria, which has a bureau of its own).

## Your mandate is huge. How do you choose what to cover?

I'm currently training an artificial-intelligence tool used at Bloomberg to pick up certain topics on social media and in news reports. The tool allows you to 'thumbs-up' or 'thumbs-down' suggestions to teach the machine what you find interesting. At the moment, I'm teaching it to catch core Bloomberg stories, like anything relating to cocoa — the two biggest markets in my region, Ghana and Ivory Coast, account for more than 60 per cent of the world's production.

We follow market news, politics, oil, telecommunications and infrastructure, among other topics. With COVID-19, we've been following how various countries are dealing with the pandemic from both health and economic perspectives. Western countries are dishing out trillion-dollar stimuli to protect jobs and businesses, but the countries in my region run small governments and people are more or less on their own. So part of the coverage is what that means for people, economies and governments.

And then there are those timeless stories where all you need is a news hook to build a narrative around, like opportunities to highlight socio-economic or gender inequalities, for instance. The challenge is threefold: monitoring, selecting and choosing a format to present the story. In all three aspects I get support from reporters, editors and various teams.



"AT CONCORDIA, I LEARNED AS MUCH IN THE CLASSROOM AS I DID OUTSIDE OF IT," SAYS YINKA IBUKUN, BA 07.

### What stories have been most meaningful to you?

As a reporter in Lagos, stories that addressed the stark economic inequalities in Nigeria were those I found most meaningful. Due to a lack of social services, that impacts every other aspect of life. I've written about how people die from a lack of access to safe water or how certain government policies have blocked people from accessing financial services and being able to set money aside or even borrow. Nigeria probably has some of the most extreme cases of inequality, but the rest of the West African region faces similar challenges.

### How did you first cultivate an interest in journalism?

My first business was a poorly translated English-French newspaper which my 11-year-old friends and I sold for 50 naira (the equivalent of about \$2 at the time). Long before I was born, my dad became the first Black director of the Western Nigeria Television Service,

the first television station launched in Africa. I wish I could claim that as my origin story, but I feel like I was already set on becoming a journalist by the time I learned he'd had this notable stint as a media professional.

### What made you decide to attend Concordia? What stands out most from your experience at the university?

I was at what was then CERAM Sophia Antipolis (now part of the SKEMA Business School in France) for two years and applied to Concordia because it was a partner university with the best-ranked journalism program. Transferring to a partner university meant I wouldn't have to repeat most of my classes. It also helped that Concordia gave me a merit-based scholarship for international students.

"At Concordia, I learned as much in the classroom as I did outside of it. A popular event then was Cinema Politica that raised awareness about social issues around the world. I learned

about the struggles of Palestinians through student-led political events, the oppression of First Nations and became more aware of discrimination against sexual and gender minorities. I was like a sponge soaking in all the political and social awareness.

A turning point came when I was elected editor-in-chief of *Concordia français*, the only French-language paper on campus. I became its first non-Québécois leader. After a brief honeymoon period, new roles were created to check my powers and I had an editorial disagreement with the new decision-makers. That essentially ended my relationship with the paper. Even now, as organizations talk about getting more Black people in leadership, it's important to acknowledge how vulnerable it can be to be the only Black person — and especially the only Black woman — at the leadership level.

That experience made me seek out the African and Caribbean communities at the university and in my new city. Within less than a year, I'd started my own publication, *Baobab Magazine*, which focused on the African diaspora in Montreal. It was run by a group of women — all but one were Concordia students, and most of them were African or of African descent.

Creating with that group — and working with our many supporters within Black communities to fund it and organize events — remains one of the most meaningful professional experiences I've had because we addressed a real gap in the media space. Montreal's Black History Month Round Table gave us a prize in 2007 for most promising organization. ■



TREVOR BROVINE

PETER POMPONIO, BCOMM 90 (CENTRE), WITH HIS FAMILY (FROM LEFT): WIFE GIULIA; ELDEST DAUGHTER CHRISTINA; SON NICHOLAS; AND YOUNGEST DAUGHTER KAYLA

## ‘Put in the hours’: family commitment to education inspires \$100,000 gift

Alum Peter Pomponio aims to support the next generation of finance talent

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

When Peter Pomponio, BComm (finance) 90, recently donated \$100,000 to support undergraduate scholarships at the John Molson School of Busines (JMSB), global markets — a sector the owner and president of Assante Dorval closely follows — had yet to reel from the uncertainties provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result, questions about the gift to Concordia momentarily gave way to more urgent concerns after the quarantined, but otherwise healthy, Pomponio was contacted at his home.

“It’s sort of business as usual, to be

honest,” responded the wealth management advisor, when asked how the coronavirus had affected Assante, recently named one of the most trusted investment firms in Canada. “Obviously, clients who need to draw from portfolios for income are more vulnerable, but we have a strategy to cushion them in times of crisis. We’re well positioned because we’re conservative investors who plan for the long term.”

“My time at Concordia was a period of immense maturation.”

‘IMPORTANT TO REMAIN FOCUSED’ Pomponio, who also serves as the managing director of Assante Quebec, expressed grave concerns about the human impact of the pandemic but urged anyone troubled by market turbulence to keep a sense of perspective.

“Remember, we’ve lived through worse than the Great Depression. The market correction of 2008 and 2009 was worse than 1929. And we bounced back after three years. These big drops in the stock market, there’s no rational basis for them. So it’s important to remain focused. There’s going to be significant spending by governments to bolster the economy.”

## “It makes sense to start locally, with my alma mater.”

The ability to perform this kind of measured, big-picture analysis — a skill that has helped propel Pomponio to the top of his profession — was encouraged by supportive parents and honed at Concordia.

“My parents were the type to attend all of my conferences at school,” says Pomponio. “There was very little tolerance for failure. There was a pressure on me to succeed, no doubt. They had the approach that if you’re going to take on a project, you had better put your whole self into it and be the best you can be. ‘Put in the hours’ — that’s what my dad used to say.”

### ‘I STARTED TO SEE THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT WAY’

By the age of 16, Pomponio had set his mind on finance as a career. He absorbed business news and stock quotes and even invested some of his own pocket money. When he enrolled at Concordia, he was primed to take his passion to another level.

“Not only did I enjoy my time at Concordia but it was a period of immense maturation. I started to see the world in a different way and got to interact with adults — both students and professors — who had day jobs.



TREVOR BROWNE

POMPONIO AND ANNE-MARIE CROTEAU, BSC 86,  
DEAN OF THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

This motivated me and accelerated my growth and knowledge of the business world.”

Pomponio was hired by an accounting firm after graduating with his BComm in 1990 but soon made the pivot to financial planning at Assante’s corporate predecessor. He’s been with the company for almost three decades now and has earned a sterling reputation in investment and wealth management circles.

With his generous gift of \$100,000 to support finance students at JMSB, Pomponio wants to pay it forward. The decision to give back was not his alone.

“Joseph Capano [principal director

of development at JMSB] facilitated a tour of John Molson for myself and my family. We were very, very impressed by what we saw. Education is so important to us, especially now.”

### ‘JUST THE BEGINNING’

Pomponio and his wife, Giulia, have three children at various stages of their education. Eldest daughter Christina, 24, intends to become a pharmacist and is “living her dream” as a student at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston. Kayla, 21, is about to enter law school, while Nicholas, 16, attends Loyola High School, located across from Concordia’s Loyola Campus in Montreal’s Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood.

Even the best talent struggles to blossom without adequate resources, Pomponio suggested, as he discussed his children’s accomplishments and good fortune. This sentiment is what ultimately prompted the family to propose the bursary and scholarship endowment to JMSB.

“The youth of this world — and a lot of it has to do with technology and the way they think about things — are critical to the evolution of business,” says Pomponio. “I want to fuel that as much as I can. It makes sense to start locally, with my alma mater. There are good things going on here. Hopefully, this is just the beginning.” ■



## Award-winning engineering firm looks to Concordia for reinforcements

More than 70 per cent of SBSA's staff are alums – including its president

JOSEPH LÉGER, BA 15

If you've visited the Montreal Forum since its turn-of-the-century transformation from illustrious sporting arena to entertainment complex, you may not have noticed the national historic site's vertical trusses, steel beams or freestanding concrete foundation.

The work of SBSA, the Forum's redesign is one of many significant projects the structural engineering firm has overseen in its nearly 60-year history.

The Montreal company's extensive portfolio also includes the Ritz-Carlton extension and renovation

project, Kraft Heinz Canada's Mount Royal plant, ABB Campus Montreal and the Royal Victoria Hospital.

SBSA stays ahead of the competition by investing in cutting-edge technology, such as 3D laser imaging and advanced design software, and by building a talented pool of enthusiastic and forward-thinking employees.

The company's ability to adapt has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 crisis.

Thanks to its diverse expertise, broad client base from a variety of construction sectors and a rapid transition to remote work, SBSA has been able to continue its operations

relatively unscathed.

The firm's ties to Concordia run deep. SBSA, which shared a Prix d'excellence Cecobois in 2014 for a project at Groupe Dynamite's head office, currently employs about 15 engineers and designers hailing from the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Milo Shemie, MEng '72, was one of the company's original engineers in the early 1960s and became a partner in 1980 — he remained active with the company until a few years ago.

Here are five other alumni making an impact with SBSA in the field of structural engineering.

## EVAN IRVINE, BENG 09: LUCKY BREAK

For Evan Irvine, the journey to SBSA started somewhat inauspiciously.

“I was really into mountain biking,” he says. “The summer of 2008 was my last before graduating and entering the real world. My plan was to travel around Canada and compete in a few races. Then I broke my collarbone.”

Instead of a cross-country bike trip, the injured Irvine landed an internship at SBSA. He was hired upon graduation and became a part-owner and partner in 2014.

Irvine attributes part of his success to having the right skills at the right time.

“When I arrived at the company, the new 2005 building codes were being implemented,” says Irvine. “I already had a good knowledge of them thanks to Concordia. I also had more knowledge of the computer tools used for analysis and seismic design than most of the more experienced engineers.”

Irvine credits Lucia Tirca and Khaled Galal, both faculty

members in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering.

“They piqued my interest in structural design and prepared me very well for the field. The tasks I was doing when I started working at SBSA were very similar to what we were doing in class.”

Irvine’s responsibilities include project and staff management, business development and marketing, and contract administration.

His arrival marked a major shift for the company, particularly with regard to its hiring practices.

“SBSA was focused on more senior engineers at the time,” says Irvine. “I think the management team was pleasantly surprised with my capabilities and those of the other young people we hired straight out of university and Concordia in particular.

“This led to us hiring and training junior engineers to become future project managers and partners. And it was all because of that lucky summer internship in my last year of school.”



## OANA TAMAIAN, BENG 17: CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Oana Tamaian knew from a young age that she wanted to be involved in building structures, either as an engineer, an interior designer or an architect. Attuned to her interests, Tamaian’s father encouraged her to help out with his home-improvement projects. “My father saw how enthusiastic I was so he allowed me to make decisions,” she says. “He let me be in charge of how to paint a room, how to arrange it and he allowed me to make mistakes. He was a big influence on my career.”

Tamaian was sure she wanted to be an architect. When she wasn’t accepted into any programs, however, she enrolled in structural engineering at Concordia to raise her grades. Poised for another run at architecture school, she suddenly changed her mind.

“After my first year, I didn’t want to make the switch anymore,” Tamaian says. “I really liked the

subject, I liked my professors and I liked the connections I had made. Now, knowing what architecture really is, I’m glad I went into structural engineering.”

Tamaian and her family had emigrated from Romania to Alberta when she was 11. She fully expected to move back to Calgary after graduation but fell in love with Montreal.

“Unfortunately, my French wasn’t fluent, which made it more difficult to get a job, so I accepted work in Saskatchewan at first.”

After six months in Regina and then a year and a half in Ottawa, Tamaian landed at SBSA as a junior engineer.

“I knew I wanted to come back to Montreal, but I wanted to be picky about where I went,” she says. “What sets SBSA apart from other companies is the team. I was impressed by the size of the projects they were willing to take on and how they weren’t afraid of a challenge.”



## ALESSIO BERNARDI, BENG 12, AND MICHAEL BERNARDI, BENG 11: BORN TO BUILD

Like many children, brothers Alessio and Michael Bernardi spent hours playing with Legos. Unlike most children, however, the pastime developed into an enduring passion.

“We were both huge geeks for Legos,” recalls Alessio. “Looking back, that led us to where we are now at SBSA.”

Alessio is a partner with the company and both brothers serve as project managers. (Yet another partner and project manager, Jean-Sébastien Penney, BEng 14, MEng 16, is a double Concordia grad.)

Despite their mutual childhood interest, the Bernardis never expected to be working in the same field, much less for the same employer.

“There was no moment growing up where we thought, ‘I want to be an engineer,’” says Michael. “We were both good at math and sciences and our dad is a general contractor. I saw structural engineering as something that connected to what my family does and what I like.”

The brothers agree on how Concordia prepared them for success.

“Our education was a perfect balance of practical and theoretical,” says Alessio. “The methods Dr. Galal and Dr. Tirca taught us in class are exactly the ones we use in the field today.”



I still pull out Dr. Tirca’s notes once in a while.”

The fact that Michael went through the structural engineering program first was invaluable, says Alessio.

“There are so many disciplines to study, so having my brother go before me really put a spotlight on

engineering. I was able to ask him questions because he had just done the same classes.”

The favour was repaid when Michael joined SBSA in 2015.

“I was really fortunate,” says Michael. “Having my brother here made my transition to SBSA so much easier. I got to know everyone so much quicker and it was easy to ask for help and receive guidance.”

Being unafraid to ask questions is precisely the advice the Bernardi brothers give now to students and junior engineers.

“No matter how ridiculous you think it might be, just ask,” says Michael. “We would rather get a ‘dumb’ question than have someone do the wrong thing.”



## JEFF LEIBGOTT, BENG 80: AHEAD OF THE CURVE

1980 was a big year for Jeff Leibgott, the president of SBSA.

“I graduated and then I took a good part of the year off to travel to Europe and Israel,” he says. “My wife and I got married while we were in school so the trip was like our honeymoon. It was also a chance to get our bearings.”

Back in Montreal, Leibgott set out to find a job. He interviewed with SBSA, but when he didn't hear back,



accepted a position with a steel manufacturer in Pembroke, Ontario.

“Luckily, SBSA called me back a few weeks later. I ended up in downtown Montreal, just around the corner from Concordia — I've been with the company ever since.”

Leibgott started his career at SBSA as a design engineer, became an associate in 1988 and has been at the helm of

the company since 2010.

He says SBSA has had to evolve since he was hired on, particularly when it comes to technology.

“I remember the day we got our first IBM computer in the office. We unpacked it, put it on the table and stared at it, thinking, ‘Now what?’ We never could have imagined the day when we would be using laser scanners and 3D-modelling software.”

Throughout SBSA's progression, the company has maintained a commitment to quality and client satisfaction. Leibgott says the best is yet to come. “We've gone through many phases, but the team we have now is the strongest we've ever had — and it's mainly built around Concordia graduates.” ■

*In Good Company is a series on inspiring grads who work for corporations and non-profits that hire a large number of Concordia alumni. To be featured, please contact us at [alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca) or [@ConcordiaAlumni](https://www.instagram.com/ConcordiaAlumni) on social media.*





## 'We let people know they are not alone'

400-plus Concordians have volunteered for CU Cares. Here's how the community outreach initiative made a difference

JOSEPH LÉGER, BA 15

Nothing reveals true character quite like a crisis — and COVID-19 has shown Concordia to be a community that cares very deeply.

First, when the university created an ongoing COVID-19 Emergency Student Relief Fund, Concordians quickly came together to raise more than \$1 million for those in need.

And since Concordia launched CU Cares in April — a collaboration between the Concordia LIVE Centre and University Advancement to recruit volunteer support for elderly alumni and more than 12 Montreal outreach organizations — the response has been heartwarming.

"We've been so pleased by the community's reaction to CU Cares," says Katie Broad, coordinator of Concordia's LIVE Centre. "So many people have stepped up to help!"

CU Cares connects students, alumni, faculty and staff volunteers to community organizations across Montreal, with a special outreach program for elderly Concordia alumni.

As Broad explains, the focus is on virtual volunteering, such as letter writing, wellness calls and food preparation, so that physical distancing measures are respected.

Impressively, approximately 30 per cent of CU Cares' registrants have been Concordia students.



FOR **LOVINA BROWN**, A THIRD-YEAR POLITICAL-SCIENCE MAJOR AND STUDENT AT THE INSTITUTE FOR CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION, VOLUNTEERING OFFERED THE CHANCE TO INTERACT WITH OTHERS.

"With everything they are dealing with, students are still thinking about what they can do to contribute to our communities," says Broad.

For Lovina Brown, a third-year political science major and student at the Institute for Co-operative Education, volunteering offered the chance to interact with others.

Eager to help wherever she can, Brown works two days a week at a long-term care centre for the elderly and earned a Co-op work term with C.A.R.E. Jeunesse, a non-profit that offers support and advocacy for youth in child-protection placements.



**VIRGINIA GERALD**, RECEPTIONIST AT UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT, WAS ONE OF THE FIRST VOLUNTEERS TO REGISTER.

"Considering what seniors are going through — having to stay inside for their health and well-being, often alone or isolated — I think our role as volunteers is to let them know that they are not alone," Brown says. "And to let them know that they are in our thoughts."

One of the first volunteers to register was Virginia Gerald, a receptionist with University Advancement. Like Brown, she signed up to conduct wellness checks by phone with Concordia's senior alumni population.

"Most of the people I've spoken to are more than 80 years old," says Gerald. "Yet they are sharp and doing such a great job of exercising and staying positive. Everyone has been extremely happy and appreciative."

Brown echoes this sentiment; she says the response has warmed her heart.

"I tell people that I'm calling to make sure they are okay and to see if they have any needs that are not being met," says Brown. "Everyone I've spoken to was over the moon that we had reached out and that someone cared. The Concordians often reminisce about their alma mater and share stories from their time here — it's very touching."

Brown recalls speaking to a gentleman in his 80s who was feeling overwhelmed. Both the man and his wife are diagnosed with significant medical conditions; he was having trouble keeping track of the many phone calls from different doctors' offices.

"I suggested he keep a pen and paper by the phone, and every time someone calls, to write down the date, time, name of the caller and their reason for calling," says Brown.

"It was a simple way for him to take back control. He told me, 'You know, Lovina, every time the phone rings, I'm going to think of you.'" ■

# 3 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

- **Donate online** with your credit card: [concordia.ca/givenow](https://concordia.ca/givenow)
- **Call us** at 514-848-2424, ext. 3884 or 1-888-777-3330
- **Write us** at [giving@concordia.ca](mailto:giving@concordia.ca)

Visit [concordia.ca/communitycampaign](https://concordia.ca/communitycampaign) | [#CUpride](https://twitter.com/UCUpride)



# OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

## Behind Concordia's unprecedented shift to virtual learning

JOSEPH LÉGER, BA 15



When COVID-19 forced Concordia to shut its doors, a massive effort was launched to transition classes online. In less than two weeks, students were completing coursework virtually.

But with a potential vaccine still months away, another challenge loomed for the fall semester.

“We asked faculty to turn things around in about a week [last March],” says Anne Whitelaw, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, interim provost and vice-president, Academic. “Now we’re asking faculty to entirely transform the way they deliver course material in three or four months — it’s important to underscore that eConcordia courses normally take about a year to develop.”

Moving courses online, Whitelaw emphasizes, involves more than repackaging and streaming material.

“Aside from the obvious technical differences, you simply cannot sit in front of a camera on Zoom for three hours in the same way that you sit in a classroom. The way the material is taught has to be completely rethought.”

She says that training faculty and giving them the tools to teach online has been a major focus for the university and a learning process for everyone.

“Most of our faculty are now fully engaged in experiential learning. As a university, we spend a lot of time thinking about research and innovation, but we rarely have the opportunity to have such an in-depth conversation about teaching. I believe this will be a silver lining of the pandemic for our university.”

### CONCORDIA WELL POSITIONED

Whitelaw says a big part of the successful pivot was a strong pre-existing digital strategy.

“We were already thinking about ways to use digital platforms to support and streamline our work. But to be clear, we’re not looking to use this as an opportunity to become an online university.”

The lion’s share of the planning and oversight falls on the shoulders of Sandra Gabriele, PhD 04, vice-provost of Innovation in Teaching and Learning, and the small, formidable team at the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

“I always describe CTL as the little engine that could,” says Gabriele. “They just keep turning out ideas and content that frankly astonishes me.”

Many of the initiatives Gabriele and CTL implemented were pending projects that were fast-tracked.

“Most of what we put into place had funding lined up. This includes upgrading Moodle [a free and open-source learning management system], which used to have a clunky interface and really wasn’t user-friendly. The latest version is much more visually pleasing and has great features — including far greater accessibility for our students with disabilities.”

**“They just keep turning out ideas and content that frankly astonishes me.”**

### ‘IT WAS A MASSIVE LOGISTICAL UNDERTAKING’

Gabriele says that Concordia’s fall semester will be a combination of synchronous — real-time — and asynchronous — on-demand — learning.

“This hybrid model is the foundation of what we call active learning. Students get to really dig into the content, take it apart and push the boundaries.”

The goal, Gabriele adds, was to make course content as accessible, digestible and interactive as possible.

Accessibility was vital because some students live in different time zones, while others work, act as caregivers or share study spaces with roommates or family members.

“What we’ve been stressing to faculty is the need to create three kinds of engagement,” says Gabriele. “Engagement between students and professors, either as individuals or as a group, student engagement with the course material and, finally, student engagement between themselves — something that we know is vital to the university experience.”

Though the bulk of classes will be online, some courses requiring hands-on work will be taught in person with strict guidelines.

“Our environmental and safety team walked through every single lab or studio space to assess accessibility, how many people can safely be in the room or pass in the hallways, how the transition between classes will take place and so much more. It was a massive logistical undertaking.”



## 'A RICHER AND DEEPER LEARNING EXPERIENCE'

While CTL and the rest of the university have been transforming Concordia's academic landscape, Laura Mitchell, executive director of Student Services, and her team have been busy readying a virtual campus experience for students.

"Our biggest priority was to ensure that services and resources that are normally available to students continue," says Mitchell. "I'm very proud of how we've managed to accomplish that."

Much like CTL, many of the online initiatives implemented by Student Services were projects that were either planned or forecast, such as Future Ready — a program to help grads transition into the workplace.

"Attendance for our Future Ready workshops has gone through the roof," says Mitchell. "There's a real appetite for online programming from our students and we expect it to continue even after the pandemic."

Though COVID-19 has disrupted higher education across the country and the world, Gabriele believes the situation presents an opportunity.

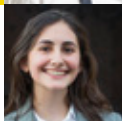
"Comparing online with in-person learning is like comparing a novel to a movie. Each medium, when done well, provides its own beautiful and engaging experience. One of the outcomes of the pandemic is that we're having a new dialogue about the different ways we can use technology to provide our students with a richer and deeper learning experience." ■

## 4 CONCORDIA STUDENTS ON LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has presented students with a unique set of challenges. We spoke to four Concordians about their coping strategies, lessons learned and hopes for the coming months.



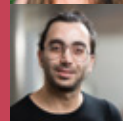
**Keroles Riad**, BEng 13, MSc 16, INDI program doctoral candidate, Public Scholar and founding member, Waste Not, Want Not



**Elena Sarsam**, finance undergraduate and vice-president, external affairs, CASA Cares



**Kristen Karlsen**, political science undergraduate and student life coordinator, Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA)



**Johnny El Hage**, master's candidate, Department of Education

### How have you been affected by the pandemic?

**Kristen:** As the coordinator responsible for planning ASFA's Freshman Orientation (Frosh) week for roughly 500 incoming students, I've had a different student experience during the pandemic than some. I'm planning ASFA's first-ever virtual Frosh, which has been a crazy and extremely rewarding experience.

**Johnny:** It was a shock because everything stopped — my work, my research, the art collective I helped found. This period forced me into a deep reflection to re-evaluate how and where I dedicate my time. It made me realize that I needed to focus more on my thesis.

### What's been a key takeaway?

**Elena:** Over the years, I've put certain activities aside because I 'didn't have the time.' Now that we're stuck at home, I find myself no more likely to achieve these things than I was before. It's not about having time, it's about making time for what's important — this has motivated me to be more proactive.

**Keroles:** That change, even radical change, is possible in a very short period of time. I hope that we can recognize that while this pandemic is a big crisis, the climate crisis is also happening concurrently and is super urgent. I hope that we, as a society, will recognize this and act with the same urgency we did for the pandemic.


### If you could fast-forward one year, what would be an ideal outcome?

**Elena:** That we'll have learned something from this. A year from now, I'll still be a student and I think it would be great to see a mixture of in-person and online learning continuing at Concordia.

**Johnny:** Normally, when we're in the midst of our university experience, we rarely have the opportunity to pause and evaluate. COVID, however, forced us to stop. It led me to highlight some new priorities. Fast-forward one year, I hope to give more attention to what I have a passion for while giving myself more care and attention.

**Kristen:** An ideal outcome for me would be that corporations, governments and public institutions not rush to reopen only to maintain profit margins and unjustly endanger lives in the process.

**Keroles:** First, hopefully I will have my PhD! Also, I'm very excited because at Waste Not, Want Not we've been working to create a spin-off company. We want to approach large organizations and try to replicate what we've done at Concordia [see [concordiacompost.ca](http://concordiacompost.ca)]. Hopefully, a year from now we'll have a financially viable model that can operate city-wide. That's where the real impact will be.



'IT'S  
WONDERFUL  
TO BE A  
**YOUNG BLACK  
WOMAN WHO  
CAN MAKE  
HER OWN  
DECISIONS'**

## Annick Maugile Flavien powers change at Concordia – and beyond – with the Black Perspectives Initiative

RICHARD BURNETT, BA 88

In the opening passage of her upcoming memoir about growing up Black in Montreal, Annick Maugile Flavien, BSc 13, GrDip 15, MA 18, describes a harrowing, catalysing encounter with police in 2000.

Flavien, 12 years old at the time, was returning home from a Halloween party in the neighbourhood of Côte-Saint-Luc.

“My brother was driving,” Flavien recalls. “He did a U-turn and someone called the cops.”

The siblings were soon surrounded by six squad cars.

“They drew their guns to our faces. It was traumatic because it didn’t matter that we had done nothing wrong.”

Flavien and her brother were eventually released and went home to try to make sense of the incident.

“I wanted to understand what had really happened,” Flavien says. “I heard my family whisper, ‘You know, when you’re Black in these neighbourhoods, you have to be careful.’ That alerted me to the truth.”

The next day at her mostly white elementary school, Flavien’s classmates struggled to relate to what had happened to her.

“That’s when I knew this was something I would have to deal with myself and that it was very much because of my skin colour. In a way, it was the first time I realized what it meant to be Black outside my home. It really woke me up and marked my life.”

### ACTIVISM AND SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to the memoir, which she hopes to publish in 2022, the three-time Concordia graduate hosts *It Could All Be So Simple*, a monthly program on CKUT radio ([ckut.ca](http://ckut.ca)), and the podcast *When Matriarchs Gather*.

Flavien also facilitates the intergenerational “Mapping Blackness in Montreal” project and is training to become a full-spectrum doula and childbirth and eldercare educator. Her hope is to deliver free workshops and services to Montreal’s Black community.

This past spring, Flavien launched the Black Perspectives Initiative (BPI), a hub to connect and support activities related to Black perspectives, initiatives and scholarship.

Funded by Concordia’s Faculty of Arts and Science, BPI first began as a three-year pilot project in 2016 under the auspices of the Critical Feminist Activism and Research (C-FAR) initiative at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

**“THE EMOTIONAL LABOUR PEOPLE ARE SHOULDERING TO ORGANIZE MOVEMENTS LIKE BLACK LIVES MATTER IS A CRISIS IN AND OF ITSELF.”**

ANNICK MAUGILE FLAVIEN,  
BSC 13, GRDIP 15, MA 18

# "WE'RE CONSTANTLY SILENCING OUR TRAUMA BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO TAKE UP TOO MUCH SPACE."



FLAVIEN ORGANIZED "SYMBOLS OF RESISTANCE," A RESIDENCY PROJECT AND ART SHOW ABOUT BLACK ART BY MONTREAL-BASED BLACK ARTISTS, IN 2018.

Co-founded and co-coordinated by Flavien and Meghan Gagliardi, BA 16, MSc 19, C-FAR promoted anti-racist and anti-oppressive approaches to equity, inclusion and representation on campus and beyond.

"When C-FAR ended in 2019, the Faculty of Arts and Science offered to fund BPI and asked me to submit a pitch," says Flavien.

During its inaugural year, BPI is focused on strengthening relationships within Concordia's Black community through academic scholarship and

award support, mentorship, research opportunities and programming that centres on Black perspectives.

BPI has already launched two research projects: "Imagining Black Futures – (Re)membering Voices, Coalition and Space," which recontextualizes Montreal's Black public history while envisioning what Black life could look like in the year 2050; and "Black Mental Wellness on Campus."

"We're creating an online platform," Flavien elaborates. "Students will be able to book therapists on the website as well as access other resources catered

to the specific needs of the community. Black mental-health practitioners are very difficult to find."

Mental health has become a renewed priority after a historic year of worldwide anti-racism protests in the wake of lethal police violence.

"The emotional labour people are shouldering to organize movements like Black Lives Matter is a crisis in and of itself. The well-being of Black students and other members of the Black community is constantly being attacked from all sides."



### 'WHAT WILL MY IMPACT BE?'

Flavien says that BPI is informed, first and foremost, by Black student activism, which has a long and proud history at Concordia.

"None of this is possible without that legacy. So I would say BPI is a response to Concordia's Black community. The reach of the Black Lives Matter movement has pushed other organizations and initiatives at the university to seek out BPI and become interested in the work we would have done with or without Black Lives Matter."

While her brush with the police animated her activism two decades ago, Flavien's politically active parents had a formative influence on her life and work.

"When my parents arrived in Canada from Haiti in the 1960s, their main worries were finances and education," Flavien says. "They built a foundation that enabled their children to reach higher. Now I ask myself, 'What will my impact on the world be?'"

"It's wonderful to be a young Black woman who can make her own decisions. It's challenging and revolutionary because of the history and state of the world, but I feel so grateful to be who I am, right here, right now."

That gratitude extends to the opportunities and connections that Concordia has helped facilitate.

"When students come to my office, their reaction is relief because they're able to speak with someone who looks like them," Flavien explains. "And to know that they can come in and speak about their identity first without being afraid to say, 'I think it's difficult as a Black person to do this or do that' — that is huge."

"We're constantly silencing our trauma because we don't want to take up too much space. So I think many young people are comforted when they don't have to put up that front. They can speak their truth and be supported in it. And it's beautiful to see." ■

*If you would like to support the Black Perspectives Initiative and its mission, visit [concordia.ca/givetobpi](http://concordia.ca/givetobpi).*

**"WHEN STUDENTS COME TO MY OFFICE, THEIR REACTION IS RELIEF BECAUSE THEY'RE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE THEM."**

## 'THE BLACK ALUMNI COUNCIL HELPS US CONNECT'

After the celebratory launch of Concordia's Black Alumni Network a year ago, the university's Black Alumni Council was back in September — albeit virtually — with two notable events.

The Council, which oversees the Black Alumni Network, supported the Homecoming Resolute Forest Products lecture on September 10 featuring Nikole Hannah-Jones of *The New York Times Magazine*. Jones, a journalist whose work focuses on racial injustice, was awarded the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for her essay in the 1619 Project, an ongoing initiative to reframe U.S. history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the centre of the national narrative.

The Council also sponsored a career development event for students on September 17 featuring campus services and student clubs.

"Our goal is to bring together alumni and support students," says chair Tseli Moshabesha, BA 11. "The Council is important as it continues one of the defining aspects of student life on campus — building community. The Black Alumni Council helps us connect after graduation, whether it is in a different city or in another country, and maintain solidarity with other Black Concordians."

Moshabesha says the Council's work complements such movements as Black Lives Matter, as well as the Black Perspectives Initiative (BPI) at Concordia: "We want to push forward initiatives that will help Black students and alumni."

The Black Alumni Council will next host a virtual Black Alumni Network event, tentatively scheduled for October.

*Black alumni and allies who would like to join the Black Alumni Network can email the group at [alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca).*



# 2020 VISION

# THREE 20TH-ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES MARK A MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

While 2020 will be remembered for COVID-19, worldwide anti-racism protests and a critical United States presidential election, for the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) it has had another layer of significance. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the school's endowment by the Molson family and, furthermore, the 20th anniversary of two visionary programs: the Goodman Program in Investment Management and the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program (KWMPM).

Like Concordia at large, JMSB had to swiftly acclimate to the challenges imposed by the pandemic. After the protective lockdown was enforced, the school took steps to ensure that academic standards were upheld, with the welfare and safety of students,

faculty and staff front of mind.

"We want to enrich learning by offering a continuously relevant curriculum and adopting new and innovative teaching methods," said JMSB dean Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, last February.

**"With the Molson family name at the head of our faculty, our brand has grown exponentially."**



ERIC MOLSON, LLD 06, ATTENDED THE CEREMONY TO INAUGURATE THE JOHN MOLSON BUILDING IN SEPTEMBER 2009.

ANNE-MARIE CROTEAU, BSC 86, DEAN OF THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SINCE 2017



## MILLENNIAL REFRESH

A \$10-million gift by Molson Inc. and the Molson Foundation, facilitated by Concordia Chancellor (1993-2005) Eric Molson, LLD 06, helped reposition the former Faculty of Commerce and Administration for the 21st century.

"It was a transformative gift that ushered in a new era of business education for Concordia," says Croteau. "With the Molson family name at the head of our faculty, our brand has grown exponentially, as has the reach of our graduates."

When Frederick H. Lowy, LLD 08, Concordia's president emeritus, conferred Eric Molson's honorary degree in 2006, he noted that the former chancellor's "steadfast, quiet leadership saw the university through both foul weather and fair."

“His devotion to Concordia, his strength of character, his dignity and his consideration of others have been nothing short of exemplary.”

The momentum sparked by Molson in 2000 was soon boosted by another \$10-million show of support to help fund a new home for the business school. When the state-of-the-art \$118.5-million John Molson Building (MB) was ceremonially unveiled in 2009, it marked the crescendo of an unprecedented commitment to Concordia by Eric Molson and family.

The visibly moved chairman emeritus of Molson Coors told the audience of distinguished guests that he was proud to have his ancestor’s name so closely associated with the university.

“We take pride that the Molson family’s relationship with our university remains just as strong today with Andrew Molson as co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia — our most ambitious fundraiser to date,” says Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement at Concordia.

## LAURELS GALORE

In the two decades since the initial Molson endowment, the business school has racked up one impressive accomplishment after another.

As the trophy case in the Molson Building lobby attests to passersby, JMSB undergraduate and graduate students have consistently outclassed competitors at case events — an important benchmark for success.

Notably, soon after the Molson family’s generous gift, JMSB became the first business school in Quebec — and only the fourth in Canada — to be fully accredited by the U.S.-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Other accolades, from a spot on *The Economist*’s annual list of the top 100 MBA programs worldwide to the establishment of novel research centres and think tanks, such as the Institute for Governance of Private and Public Organizations (IGOPP) and the David O’Brien Centre for

Sustainable Enterprise, have further elevated JMSB’s profile. In 2019, the business school became the first to earn a Parity Certification from Women in Governance, a non-profit that supports women in the areas of leadership development, career advancement and access to board seats.

To this list, one has to include two innovative programs that, as it turns out, both turned 20 in 2020, too.

## ENTER GOODMAN AND WOODS

When Ned Goodman, LLD 97, one of Canada’s most esteemed merchant bankers, donated \$1 million to JMSB in 2000, it was in service of a fairly radical proposal: a part-time MBA program with a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) track, that would enable students to work concurrently in finance in Montreal or Toronto.

With that, JMSB became the first CFA-partner business school in Canada — and one of the first in the world.

“Two things about the Goodman Program in Investment Management make it really unique,” says Sandra Betton, a Goodman lecturer. “The very close relationship between the curriculum and the CFA program and the fact that it’s offered simultaneously in two cities. The vision Ned Goodman articulated from the start was that the CFA gets you the job, the MBA gets you the career.”

Indeed, the Goodman program, which Croteau calls “another jewel in our crown,” has become a de facto feeder school for Bay Street, Wall Street and institutional investors the world over.

“What I enjoyed the most was the diversity of the students, the friendships that flourished and, of course, the networking opportunities,” says Bonnie Yu, BComm 02, MBA 08, now a director with the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. “After the Goodman Program, besides the big jump in my salary, the experience led me to more interesting career opportunities.”

“We hope to establish ourselves as a lifelong learning resource for our graduates.”



NED GOODMAN, LLD 97 (RIGHT), WITH FREDERICK H. LOWY, LLD 08, CONCORDIA'S PRESIDENT EMERITUS



**KEN WOODS**, MBA 75, LLD 17 (RIGHT), WITH CALVIN C. POTTER FELLOW **MEAGHEN ANNETT**, BCOMM 10, AND FORMER KWPMP DIRECTOR **ABRAHAM BRODT**

A similar comment can be made about the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program at JMSB.

Established with a \$1-million gift by businessman Ken Woods, MBA 75, LLD 17 — a Concordia graduate who was inspired by the late Calvin C. Potter, BComm 48, a legendary professor emeritus and chair of the finance department — the two-year program gives undergraduate students the chance to manage a real-life portfolio.

“The year 2000 was important for us in many ways,” notes Croteau. “It was also the year that a long-time friend and supporter of the university made an incredible donation to found the KWPMP. The students who complete this demanding program are in the best positions to make meaningful change and impact in the investment world.”

Advised by a cohort of industry professionals who serve as mentors and members of a client committee that convenes every quarter, stock-savvy KWPMP students have collectively tripled the \$1-million gift made by Woods to kick-start the portfolio two decades ago.

“I’m overwhelmed,” said a proud Ken Woods in 2010. “I hardly imagined when we began that the program would succeed the way it has.”

Judith Kavanagh, BComm 87, has served on the KWPMP’s client committee since day one.

“The program gets a 10 out of 10 from me in terms of how it prepares students for careers in finance. It’s really rigorous. Graduates go on to become major players and occupy excellent positions in portfolio management across Canada.”

#### ALUMNI POWER

Goodman and Woods alumni not only go on to chart remarkable careers, they also pay it forward.

“When I say I’m very appreciative of the Woods program, it’s personal development, career development but also my family,” says Thomas Horvath, BComm 09, whose partner, Sandy Poiré, BComm 10, was the 2010 JMSB valedictorian and a fellow KWPMP standout.

Horvath volunteers as a case competition coach and co-lectures an investment course for KWPMP

members and other JMSB students. “The school has given me so much — that’s why it’s important for me to give back.”

Graduates have generously set up scholarship and bursary funds for current students, devote time and energy as mentors, serve as lecturers and host seminars on campus.

Perhaps most importantly, they also champion and hire younger graduates from their alma mater.

“Because we’re one of the largest business schools in the world, our base of more than 51,125 alumni is growing rapidly,” says Croteau. “Alumni are a powerful force, from both a reputation-building and recruitment perspective. And we need to better harness that force by providing more opportunities for our alumni to engage with the school after graduation.

“Over the course of the next few years, we hope to establish ourselves as a lifelong learning resource for our graduates. One’s education is never complete and I believe that there is a lot we can offer our alumni after they’ve entered the workforce.” ■



# FACULTY

# ON THE

HOW CONCORDIA-LED RESEARCH

# FRONT

CAN SERVE A POST-COVID-19 WORLD

# LINES

JOEL BARDE

**A** diversity doesn't build character, it reveals it. This adage, adapted from a quote by the 19th-century American writer James Lane Allen, has been widely circulated throughout the COVID-19 crisis to illustrate good — and poor — examples of governance.

For a number of Concordia professors and researchers, the pandemic has exposed a host of preventable, structural vulnerabilities in society, from the

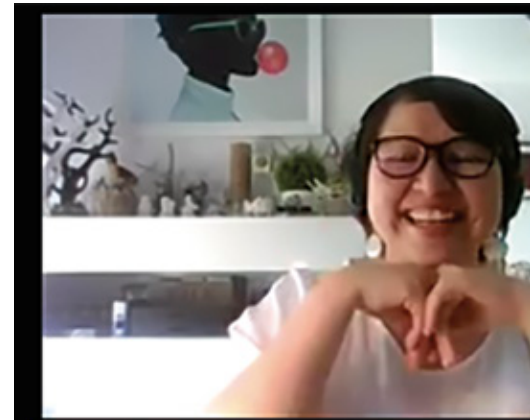
troubled state of elder care to the precarious nature of essential and lower-wage work. It has also afforded the opportunity to take concrete action to address some of these issues.

Concordia's Centre for Research on Aging (engAGE) launched an initiative to address social isolation among seniors last January. Located in Quartier Cavendish (formerly Cavendish Mall), in the Montreal suburb of Côte-Saint-Luc, the Creative Living Lab saw students facilitate book and film clubs, digital technology skill shares and an art



**JANIS TIMM-BOTTOS,**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE  
ARTS THERAPIES, AND  
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF  
THE ART HIVES NETWORK

STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS TAKE PART IN A VIRTUAL TEAM MEETING FOR THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON AGING (ENGAGE) LIVING LAB.



hive for older adults, all overseen by a diverse cohort of researchers. The lab's activities quickly developed a loyal following.

The sudden onset of COVID-19 forced the Creative Living Lab to go digital in March.

"It's been an extraordinary opportunity to look at how we think about social isolation," says Janis Timm-Bottos, the project lead, associate professor in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies, and the founder and director of the Art Hives Network ([arthives.org](http://arthives.org)). "When anything gets turned upside down in such a massive way, it lets you see things from different perspectives."

According to Timm-Bottos, the Lab's online groups, formed post-pandemic, have helped older members of the community cope with social isolation, the harmful effects of which she likens to cigarettes. As a result, the art therapist and interdisciplinary scholar has spent much of this year thinking about the role institutions of higher learning can play in hastening a more equitable future.

"It's important for people to remember that we're riding out the same

storm," says Timm-Bottos. "I'm really hoping that solidarity can produce more kindness, more reaching out and more of an effort to create healthy spaces for people to connect."

### 'LESS SELFISH AND MORE UNIFIED'

While the severity of its impact has varied, there's no question that the pandemic has affected everyone. Canadians have looked to government officials to ensure that the health-care system was not overburdened and have grappled with the challenges of spending an inordinate amount of time at home.

"It's pretty rare to have an event that touches every facet of society," says Nicole De Silva, whose research looks at international co-operation and global governance. Such common experiences can help spur change, though society must be vigilant to guard against government overreach, argues the assistant professor in the Department of Political Science.

In May, De Silva published a paper in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* that looked at how major emergencies can threaten human rights when governments introduce exceptional

"The pandemic has helped accelerate movements to end police violence and take down monuments to racism."



NICOLE DE SILVA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE





measures that lack sunset clauses and outlive their utility. De Silva, who served as the inaugural IKEA Research Fellow in International Relations at the University of Oxford, says that COVID-19 decrees have compelled many Canadians to reflect on their rights for the first time.

“It’s an interesting test, particularly for a country like Canada that sort of rests on its laurels when it comes to human-rights governance.”

Christian Moreau, Canada Research Chair in Surface Engineering and a professor in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, sees the unifying nature of the crisis as an opportunity to improve things for the most vulnerable among us — and mobilize efforts to mitigate future crises.

“All around the world, we are facing the same problem,” says Moreau, who also serves as the director of research

at the Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation (CIADI). “I think it’s a unique experience and I’m hoping that we will emerge a little less selfish and a little more unified.”

Such unity will be key to addressing issues such as the disproportionate effect the pandemic has had on the working poor as well as larger existential threats, such as global warming, he explains. Like COVID-19, climate change is an issue that “we have to face.”



**STEVEN HIGH**, PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,  
AND FOUNDING MEMBER,  
CENTRE FOR ORAL HISTORY  
AND DIGITAL STORYTELLING

“What we see today is a result of years of government cutbacks and people being underpaid.”

**INEQUITY EXPOSED**

While the aftermath of COVID-19 may have a unifying effect, its fallout has not been evenly distributed.

“Who is most likely to get COVID?” asks Steven High, a professor in the Department of History and a founding member of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling. “It’s the front-line workers, from bus drivers to grocery store clerks, who are working-class and often racialized, who are most impacted.”

High is in the midst of a collaborative, seven-year \$2.5-million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) research project on

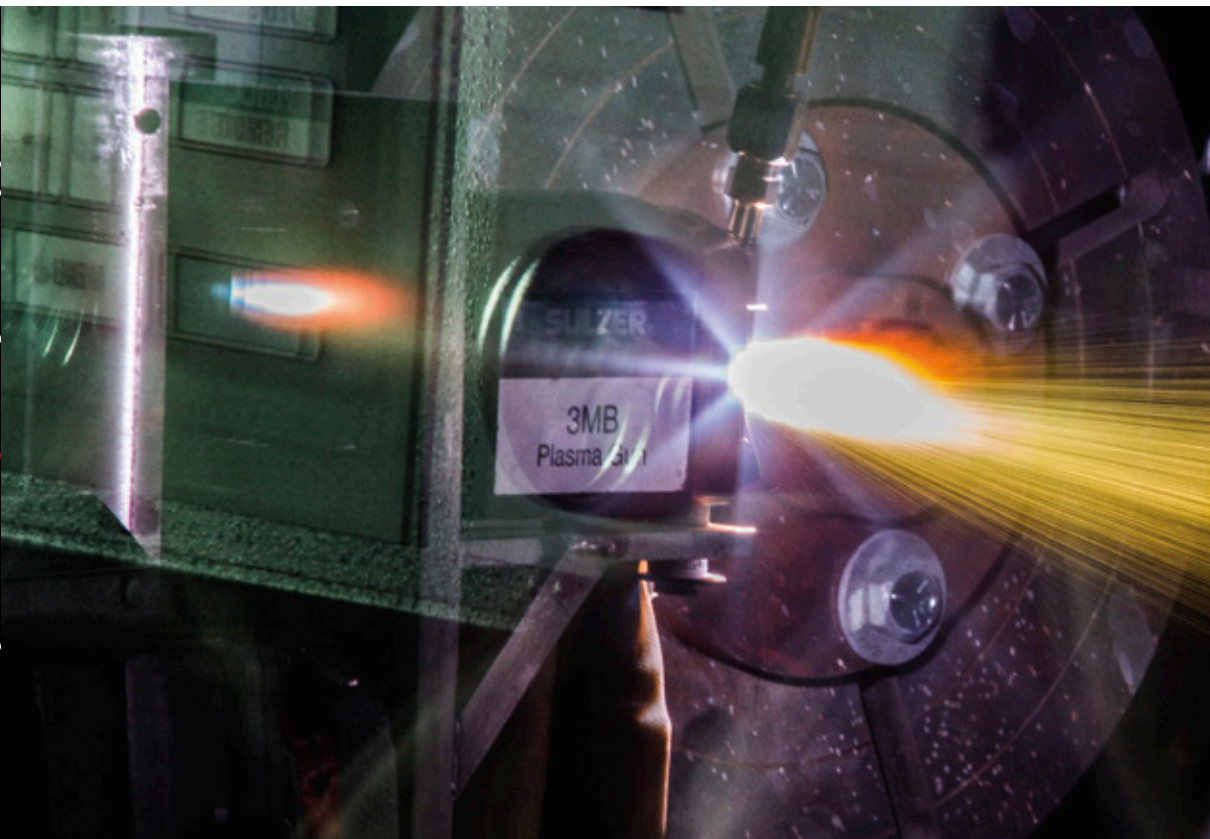
deindustrialization and the rise of populism. He notes that Canada and the United States have moved towards a new economic model marked by a decline in well-paid manufacturing jobs and a rise in short-term and part-time employment. Many workers now lack job security, health care and the support of a union to collectively bargain on their behalf.

In High’s estimation, government should use its powers to promote full-time work and increase the minimum wage. This, he says, could help level the playing field between unionized and non-unionized businesses.

High also sees the situation in

Quebec’s elder-care facilities as emblematic of larger systemic problems. According to CBC News, 88 per cent of deaths from COVID-19 in the province have been in long-term care homes. In June, Quebec’s chief coroner ordered a public inquiry into the large number of fatalities — more than 5,700 as of late August — at these and other, similar facilities.

“What we see today — in terms of the huge death toll in Quebec — is a result of years of government cutbacks and people being underpaid,” says High. “Many people who are working in long-term care facilities work through temp agencies and are being moved



from place to place. This is part of the reason why we've had such a terrible experience here in Montreal."

The reality of COVID-19 is that it's had a highly uneven impact on society, with people in the knowledge economy largely able to continue working.

"I haven't stopped receiving cheques every two weeks and I'm at very minimal risk of contracting the virus," says Zachary Patterson, associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment,

and Canada Research Chair in Transportation-Land Use Linkages for Regional Sustainability. "The people who are really suffering have lost their jobs on account of everything being shut down."

Patterson, whose work focuses on the modelling of transportation, the environment, land use and their linkages, says that while there is currently some reluctance to use public transportation, that should ebb as the contagion reduces.

For now, he remarks that more resources "should be devoted to those most at risk."

### RESEARCH WITH SOCIETY-WIDE IMPACT

With faculty on the front lines of research across a broad range of disciplines, Concordia is poised to drive crucial innovations with society-wide implications.

Christian Moreau, who serves as director of the Green-SEAM

**CHRISTIAN MOREAU,**  
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND  
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING, AND  
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN  
SURFACE ENGINEERING



LED BY CONCORDIA'S CHRISTIAN MOREAU, GREEN-SEAM – A NETWORK COMPOSED OF RESEARCHERS FROM 11 CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES – AIMS TO DEVELOP AND DEPLOY INNOVATIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS SURFACE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS.

(Surface Engineering for Advanced Manufacturing) Network, sees an opportunity to develop better mechanisms to handle current threats and prepare for future events. The network supports key Canadian economic sectors that generate high-value jobs and are export intensive, including advanced manufacturing in aerospace, automotive, natural resources industries and renewable energy. In total, Green-SEAM researchers have secured Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) funds for five surface engineering projects related to the COVID-19 fight.

Moreau's team is studying how various surface coatings can be deployed to reduce the spread of the virus. He notes that while the virus lasts for two to three days on stainless steel, a material widely used in most medical facilities, copper surfaces tend to neutralize it in a couple of hours. Other materials, such as titanium oxide, can be even more effective in reducing transmission.

"We are starting a process for looking at the key challenges that we should address in the coming years," says Moreau, of the Green-SEAM Network's mandate. "Clearly antiviral and antibacterial surfaces could be amongst the solutions that are assessed."

Moreau adds that the network's partners in the private sector have been keen to participate. "If they have tools that can be useful to fight the pandemic, they are ready to invest and contribute to society."

Frédéric Godin, a Department of Mathematics and Statistics faculty member whose research focuses on how to minimize risk in the financial services industry, sees a lot of potential to harness machine learning to alleviate the negative economic consequences of crises like the pandemic.

**"If [private-sector partners] have tools that can be useful to fight the pandemic, they are ready to invest and contribute to society."**

"AI can be used to try to understand who is more at risk of defaulting," says Godin. "Also, a company can learn how to better serve individual clients by better understanding their profiles and building specific services for them."

There's also a need to address changes in leadership style. For many Canadians, one of the most tangible day-to-day adjustments has centred on work. With Zoom and Slack the new norm, certain adaptations have been required at the managerial corporate level.

Kathleen Boies, a professor in the Department of Management at the John Molson School of Business, and Concordia University Research Chair in Leadership Development, says that this new work-at-home arrangement has major implications.

"It will have an impact on how we approach leadership and the supervision of employees," she observes. "Being confined at home has really brought to light what works and what doesn't in terms of management."

Boies adds that for many, the experience of telecommuting has led to important reflections on work-life boundaries and the importance of social networks. "Hopefully, these thoughts about various aspects of our lives will end up advancing society for the better."

#### **HISTORY REPEATS**

In Nicole De Silva's view, society must study and learn from COVID-19 in order to be prepared for future crises. There has been a collective amnesia around similar events in the past that we must avoid, she says.

**"I hope we will have taken very good note of the weaknesses, or vulnerabilities, of our health system and work to address them."**

Between 1918 and 1920, the H1N1 influenza A virus killed somewhere between 17 and 50 million people. “People just wanted to forget that period because it was so traumatic,” says De Silva. “It took World War II and the Holocaust to prompt states to not only create the United Nations but embed human rights into the organization.”

De Silva adds that the experience of the pandemic — from mass unemployment to an extended lockdown — has prompted activism around certain causes and initiatives. That’s reason for optimism.

“There’s been talk of having a treaty on the rights of older persons at the global level,” she says. “The pandemic has also helped accelerate movements to end police violence and take down monuments to racism.”

**KATHLEEN BOIES**, PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, AND  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH  
CHAIR IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Janis Timm-Bottos hopes that a more equitable future emerges in the wake of the pandemic.

“I certainly hope that we will have taken very good note of the weaknesses, or vulnerabilities, of our health system and that we can, collectively, work to address them. I also very much hope that we have had a collective awakening around the importance of older citizens in our society and that things will change substantially and quickly to ensure their safety, health, comfort and well-being.”

#### **‘WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER’**

Timm-Bottos adds that much like the seniors she’s working with in engAGE’s Creative Living Lab, she and her family have taken comfort in art, using it as a way to ground themselves amid a rapidly changing world rife with uncertainty.

In her view, the workshops the lab offers can be scaled up and provide a cost-effective alternative to expensive one-on-one art therapy sessions.

With Canadians having to live with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future, Timm-Bottos thinks social environments are a valuable area of investment.

“If we would put money there, we would see tremendous improvements in connectivity and overall health,” she says. “Society needs to normalize the experience we’re all going through and recognize that almost everyone has experienced significant challenges related to COVID-19. We’re all in this together.” ■

## **CU CARES ANSWERS THE CALL**

Launched last April in the midst of the global COVID-19 crisis, CU Cares is a collaborative effort by Concordia’s LIVE Centre and University Advancement to fortify community groups with people power. Thanks to a generous volunteer network of students, faculty, staff and alumni, CU Cares has mobilized to deliver food to vulnerable seniors, place wellness calls to people with mental-health struggles, sew face masks for front-line workers and more. As the pandemic endures, however, the need for help is just as important as ever.

If you would like to lend your support, visit [concordia.ca/cucares](https://concordia.ca/cucares). (To learn more about how our community has come together, see “Setting an Example,” p. 16.)

## Looking ahead with Helen Antoniou

Concordia's new Board of Governors chair starts her mandate at a time of rapid change and uncertainty

DAMON VAN DER LINDE, BA 08

When Helen Antoniou succeeded Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 77, as chair of Concordia's Board of Governors on July 1, it dawned on her just how much the university — and the world — had changed since her official appointment to the post last December.

"We're obviously dealing with a new reality that came upon us very suddenly and has had a pervasive impact on all of our lives," says the leadership coach and former corporate lawyer, management consultant and business executive.

"It has not been easy to adapt, but I think Concordia is innovative and well-equipped to provide our students with the best education consistent with the health and well-being of our community.

"It's during the difficult times that you notice good governance working well behind the scenes. Our board is responsive, participatory and effective,



ANTONIOU WAS OFFICIALLY NAMED THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS LAST DECEMBER.

**"It's during the difficult times that you notice good governance working well behind the scenes."**

ensuring that the interests of all of Concordia's stakeholders — be they students, faculty, staff, alumni, the community — are well balanced and serve to prepare the leaders of tomorrow, while moving forward research and innovation."

### **'WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A DIVERSE BOARD'**

Antoniou first joined Concordia's Board of Governors in 2015; she became vice-chair in July 2019. Her new three-year mandate will involve chairing meetings (online for now) where legal and administrative frameworks are established and

strategic decisions are made — such as the university's 2019 pledge to aim for 100 per cent sustainable investments by 2025.

Fellow board members include Concordia President Graham Carr as well as 25 representatives encompassing faculty, students, support staff and members of the business, philanthropic and public sector communities.

"We're very fortunate to have such a diverse board," says Antoniou. "That's where we get our strength — from the different thoughts and voices around the table. We've made a point over the years to try to get different constituents from the broader community."

“Concordia is innovative and well-equipped to provide our students with the best education consistent with the health and well-being of our community.”

NORMAN HÉBERT JR., BCOMM 77, AND HIS WIFE DIANE DUNLOP-HÉBERT, BCOMM 82, ARE LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS OF CONCORDIA.



#### A MULTIFACETED CAREER

Guiding the board through uncertain times will take creativity and adaptability, two traits the Montreal native has shown throughout an accomplished and multifaceted career.

With law degrees from McGill and Université de Paris II, Assas in France — along with a Master of Public Health from Harvard — Antoniou has worked as a corporate commercial lawyer in Montreal and London, United Kingdom. She also advised large multinationals as a management consultant in Paris for five years.

Later, at Bombardier Aerospace and at the McGill University Health Centre, she assumed leadership roles and provided vital strategic direction. She also managed to find time to research and write *Back to Beer ... and Hockey: The Story of Eric Molson* (McGill-Queen's University Press), the bestselling biography of Eric H. Molson, LL.D. '66, the former Molson Coors chairman and Antoniou's father-in-law.

As the long-time chancellor of Concordia from 1993 to 2005, Molson facilitated a transformative endowment that led to the establishment of the John Molson School of Business in 2000 (see more on p. 24). Championing the university has clearly become a family affair.

“It's the spirit of Concordia that really attracts me. Graham Carr calls it a ‘next-generation’ university — and it is! It's bold, innovative, both globally minded and community-focused. I consider myself very lucky to be part of it,” says Antoniou.

#### 'TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION'

Antoniou currently works as an executive coach for corporate leaders and their teams, as well as family business owners and their successors. She believes this will serve her well in her new role which involves listening, understanding and supporting those running the day-to-day operations of the university.

“Running any organization takes vision, strategy, flawless execution, teamwork and collaboration. But when you're dealing with a multi-stakeholder system as complex and dynamic as a university, the teamwork and collaboration aspects become very important. I think we're lucky at Concordia to have someone like President Carr at the helm who embodies these values,” she notes.

Looking beyond COVID-19, Antoniou hopes to see the continued growth of innovative programs centred on fields like sustainability, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, health care and smart cities.

“I like our focus on real-world solutions to topical problems. Concordia is a relatively young university and a very dynamic one, with a lot of great accomplishments over the years. I think it's on an upward path and I'm hoping to see that continue.” ■

## CELEBRATING NORMAN HÉBERT JR.

The business leader and philanthropist capped an impressive run at the helm of Concordia's Board of Governors

JOSEPH LÉGER, BA 15

University leaders and members of Concordia's Board of Governors gathered for a virtual celebration on June 18 to bid farewell to Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 77, as he ended his term as chair of the board, a position he had held since 2012.

Hébert Jr., president and CEO of Groupe Park Avenue Inc. and a member of the Order of Canada, looks back on his tenure with satisfaction and optimism.

“I'm proud of what we have accomplished over the past eight years. Concordia has established itself as a top academic institution, not just in Quebec and Canada, but internationally. This is reflected in everything from student applications and faculty recruitment, fundraising and alumni engagement, to how the media talks about us — there's a great buzz about Concordia.”

Hébert Jr. served two mandates as chair of Concordia's board, with his second term extended two years to June 2020. During this time, he oversaw several important initiatives and expansions, including the award-winning District 3 entrepreneurship incubator, one-of-a-kind 4<sup>th</sup> SPACE, Gina Cody's historic gift to the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, construction of the new \$62-million Applied Science Hub on Loyola Campus and the launch of the Campaign for Concordia, the university's most ambitious fundraising effort to date.

# Concordia partners with MTL connect 2020 for virtual program

Annual event to feature 400 speakers, 10,000 participants from over 50 countries

MOLLY HAMILTON

Concordia is partnering with Montreal Digital Spring (Printemps numérique) — a non-profit whose primary mission is to boost digital intelligence — for MTL connect: Montreal Digital Week, its major event hosted from October 13 to 18, 2020.

Over six days, MTL connect will feature 400 speakers for conferences, panels, workshops, technological showcases and a virtual job fair.

Some 10,000 participants from more than 50 countries are expected to take part.

“We have created an event focused on the impact and challenges of digital transformation — social, economic, environmental — across sectors,” says Concordia graduate Claude Landry, BFA 85, MTL connect director of programming.

The inaugural MTL connect took place in 2019 with over 2,000 attendees. Its second edition, scheduled for March 2020, was postponed due to COVID-19.

MTL connect’s fall programming will be held under nine themes: sustainable development, education, health, artificial intelligence, financial technology (fintech), cybersecurity, the future of work, creativity and the city of the future.

Alongside MTL connect, Montreal Digital Spring will also be hosting the 26th International Symposium on Electronic Art — ISEA2020 — under the theme “Why Sentience?”

The weeklong event will address pressing contemporary issues. Current practice-based approaches will be



MONTREAL DIGITAL SPRING



CTV NEWS MONTREAL AND CONCORDIA

**GINA CODY**, MENG 81, PHD 89 (RIGHT), WILL DISCUSS LEADERSHIP WITH **MUTSUMI TAKAHASHI**, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13.

Their talk helps kick off MTL connect on October 13.

“As distance learning and telecommuting become keystones of our society, MTL connect will give us an opportunity to discuss how we need to pivot to become more effective leaders in a digital landscape,” says Cody, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia and benefactor of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science (GCS).

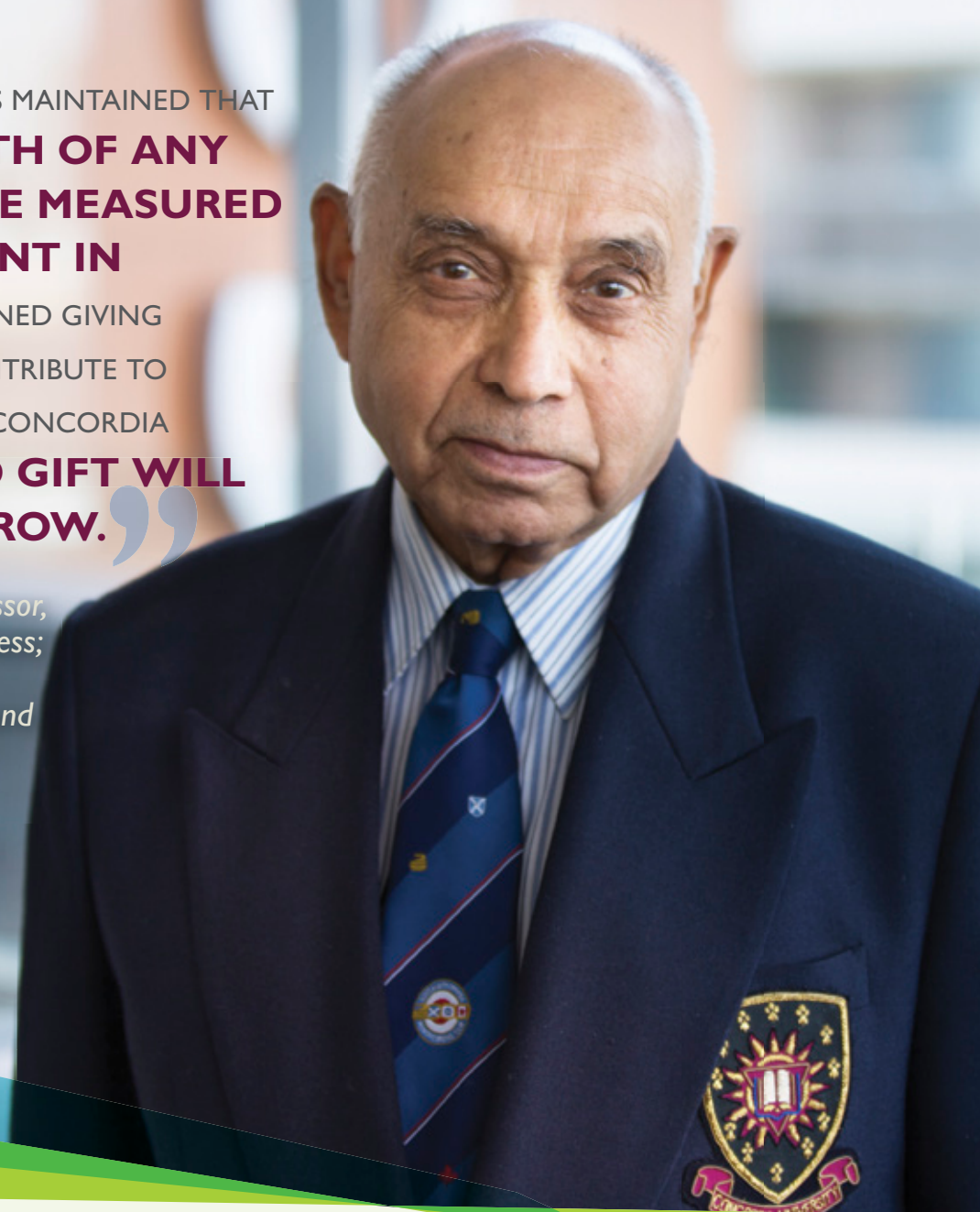
Other prominent speakers confirmed for MTL connect include Jeanne Holm, chief data officer for the city of Los Angeles; Audrey Tang, digital minister of Taiwan; Ursula Eicker, Concordia’s Canada Excellence Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities; Vivek Venkatesh, MA 03, PhD 08, UNESCO co-Chair in Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism and Professor of Inclusive Practices in Visual Arts in Concordia’s Department of Art Education; and GCS faculty member Fehmi Jaafar. ■

Visit [mtlconnecte.ca/en](http://mtlconnecte.ca/en) to learn more.



“MY GRANDFATHER ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT **THE REAL WEALTH OF ANY COUNTRY CAN BE MEASURED BY ITS INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION.** PLANNED GIVING IS A LASTING WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO EDUCATION. AS LONG AS CONCORDIA LIVES, **MY PLANNED GIFT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.**”

– Mahesh C. Sharma, professor,  
John Molson School of Business;  
creator of Uma Sharma  
Memorial Graduate Award and  
Sandhya and Swati Sharma  
Memorial Scholarship



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PRESIDENT  
**GRAHAM CARR**  
CONGRATULATED  
PARTICIPANTS OF  
SHUFFLE 30 IN 2019.

## Shuffle 31: reimagined and resilient

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01,  
WITH FILES FROM  
MARCO BUTTICE

One year after Concordia’s annual walkathon shattered a record with \$143,000 raised for student support, a different kind of Shuffle — reimagined in the age of COVID-19 — proved just how resilient the university’s community can be.

Bookended by closing and opening ceremonies online, Shuffle 31 invited participants to walk where they wanted, when they wanted, between September 18 and 25.

Shufflers were encouraged to reuse T-shirts from Shuffles past to proclaim their school pride or use resources from a downloadable “Virtual Shuffle Kit” to create their own. Participants promptly shared their DIY designs on Concordia’s social media channels, with the most creative awarded a special prize.

Meet three Shuffle 31 teams that made a difference in kicking off the university’s annual Community Campaign — part of the ambitious \$250-million Campaign for Concordia: Next-gen. Now.



SHUFFLE 30 DREW A BIG CROWD TO LOYOLA CAMPUS A YEAR AGO.

### CU AT THE TOP — GOAL: \$20,000

CU at the Top’s members biked, ran and walked up Montreal’s Mount Royal to raise funds for Concordia’s Black Perspectives Initiative (see p. 20).

“We hope our support will help create a more equal, inclusive and just society,” said team co-captain Katia Lorye, a development officer in the Faculty of Fine Arts. “During these times of financial instability, student support is more important than ever.”

### HUMAN RESOURCES — GOAL: \$2,000

More than 40 Concordia Human Resources staff and their families raised funds for the HR Shuffle Award for Excellence and the HR Shuffle Bursary.

“Our team looks forward to participating in the Shuffle and contributing to this wonderful event

that is a symbol of the Concordia spirit,” said team member Émilie Fortin, BA 06, an organizational development advisor with Human Resources. “We’re happy to provide a helping hand.”

### STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE — GOAL: \$2,000

Composed mostly of staff from Concordia’s Student Success Centre (SSC), which provides students with vital tools and assistance, members of this Shuffle 31 team raised funds for an award to support a returning student with a previous failed standing.

“We’ll use this scholarship to support the underdogs,” declared team captain Ann McLaughlin, a coordinator at the SSC.

To learn more about Shuffle 31, visit [concordia.ca/shuffle](https://concordia.ca/shuffle).

# Staying connected with CU at Home

In response to COVID-19, Concordia launched CU at Home to help our community stay engaged, active and connected. The initiative, which kicked off in March, includes virtual events, family activities, workshops, webinars and more — designed by our community, for our community. Learn about some of the events that took place in spring and summer.

**Navigating career changes during the pandemic**, a two-part webinar series hosted by **Jessica Gohier**, BA 09, founder of Profilia CV, to help navigate the challenges of job-hunting during the pandemic.

**Learn Irish Dancing**, a two-part series hosted by Irish dancer **Lucas Lawton**, BA 17, to teach basic jigs and reels for participants of all ages and

skill levels. This workshop was created to prepare attendees for the President’s Homecoming Céilí on September 11.

**PROFILE: A tool kit against racism and bias**, a webinar hosted by Concordia professor **Vivek Venkatesh**, MA 03, PhD 08, drawing from the PROFILE tool kit — a practical guide against racism and bias designed to address systematic racial and social profiling — to better understand why society is at a collective impasse over profiling.

**COVID-19 vs. the economy**, a Q&A session with nationally renowned expert **Moshe Lander**, senior lecturer in Concordia’s Department of Economics, to examine the risks of reopening provinces too early during the pandemic.

**Create with Navy**, two 45-minute workshops hosted by **Navy Chadsey**, BFA 17, designed for families to have fun learning to paint together. Under Chadsey’s guidance, attendees tackled a field of wildflowers, a vibrant mountainscape and a colourful bumblebee.

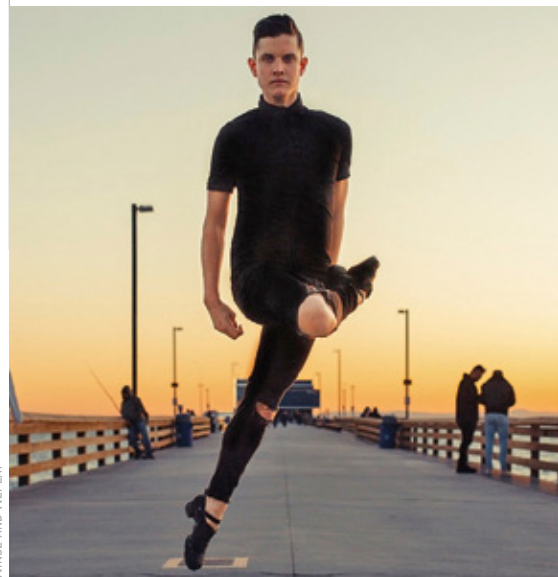
Discover all CU at Home programming by visiting [concordia.ca/CUatHome](http://concordia.ca/CUatHome).



**JESSICA GOHIER**, BA 09, IS THE FOUNDER OF PROFILIA CV, A RESUMÉ EXPERT, FREELANCE WRITER AND EDITOR.



CONCORDIA PROFESSOR **VIVEK VENKATESH**, MA 03, PHD 08, IS THE UNESCO CO-CHAIR IN PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE.

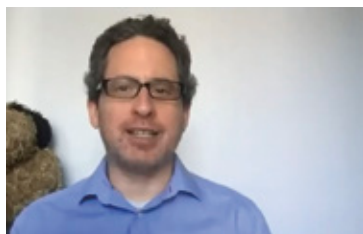


RINSE AND REPEAT

**LUCAS LAWTON**, BA 17, IS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED IRISH DANCER WHO HAS RANKED AS HIGH AS FIFTH IN THE WORLD IN SOLO COMPETITION AND THIRD IN THE WORLD IN TEAM DANCING.

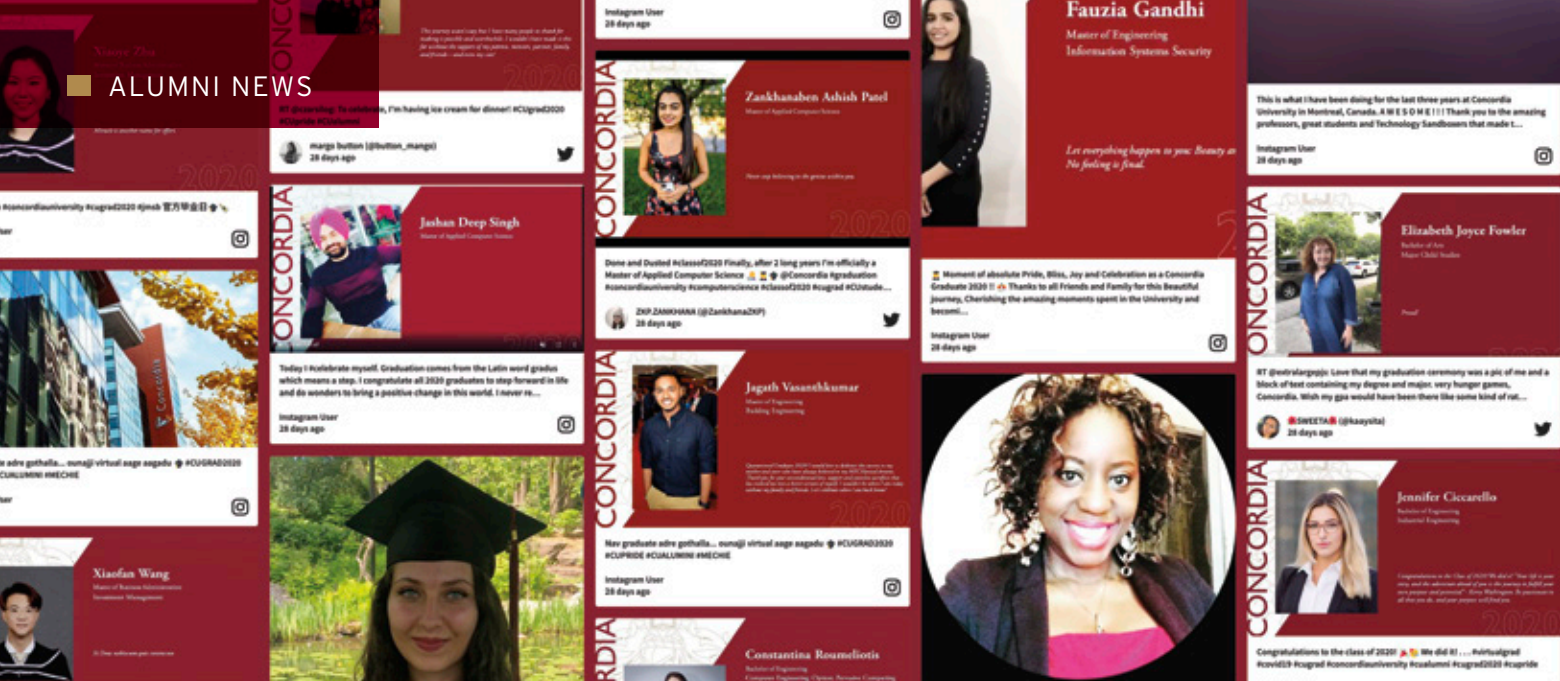


**NAVY CHADSEY**, BFA 17, IS THE FOUNDER OF CREATE WITH NAVY, WHERE SHE PRESENTS CUSTOMIZED ART EVENTS IN HOMES OR BUSINESSES FOR ALL AGES AND OCCASIONS.



**MOSHE LANDER**, A SENIOR LECTURER IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, IS A REGULAR GUEST ON GLOBAL AND CJAD, AND IS FREQUENTLY INTERVIEWED BY *THE GLOBE AND MAIL* AND *THE NATIONAL POST*.





NEW GRADUATES SHARED THEIR PRIDE ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING CONCORDIA-BRANDED GIFS, FILTERS AND THE #CUPRIDE, #CUGRAD2020 AND #CUALUMNI HASHTAGS.



"A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE GRADUATES OF CONCORDIA FOR 2020," SAID **KATHY REICHS**, LLD 11, TO A NEW COHORT OF ALUMNI. REICHS, A CRIME WRITER AND FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST, WAS A PRODUCER ON THE FOX TV SERIES BONES.



"WORK HARD, NEVER GIVE UP – NOTHING CAN HOLD YOU BACK," SAID **HARDEEP GREWAL**, BComm 83, PRESIDENT OF OHCAL FOODS, TO THE CLASS OF 2020.

## Class of 2020

Concordians banded together to fête the class of 2020 in style with CU Celebrate, the university's first virtual celebration of graduating students. The online festivities took place on June 18 in honour of the more than 6,200 new graduates who joined a network of 220,000-plus Concordia alumni around the world.

The celebrations included a live social-media wall where posts from new grads were displayed featuring Concordia convocation GIFs and filters. Congratulatory video messages were also shared from star alumni, honorary degree recipients, university leaders and members of the Concordia University Alumni Association. Words of wisdom and advice came from **Kathy Reichs**, LLD 11, **Hardeep Grewal**, BComm 83, **Alexandre Bilodeau**, BComm 16, **Fay Arjomandi**, BEng 98, and **Peter Simons**, LLD 19, among others. The celebrations were capped off with a live online dance party led by DJ **Chris Tan**, BFA 11, of the music duo Royce and Tan.

Watch video messages at [concordia.ca/CUcelebrate](https://concordia.ca/CUcelebrate).



"IT IS NOT THE PERIOD THAT DEFINES YOU, BUT HOW YOU REACT THROUGH THESE MOMENTS THAT WILL DEFINE YOUR GENERATION," SAID **PETER SIMONS**, LLD 19, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF LA MAISON SIMONS.

# 30 years of Concordia Homecoming

September 2020 marked a milestone for Concordia as alumni and friends celebrated the 30th anniversary of the university's Homecoming. Though festivities shifted online due to COVID-19 restrictions, alumni found good reason to celebrate this year's events, which took place from September 9 to 17.

Noteworthy moments from the anniversary year included a conversation, presented by Resolute Forest Products, between **Nikole Hannah-Jones** and CBC's **Shari Okeke**, BComm 95. Hannah-Jones covers racial injustice for *The New York Times Magazine* and was awarded the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for her introductory essay to the 1619 Project, which aims to reframe U.S. history by centring the consequences of enslavement and the contributions of Black Americans.

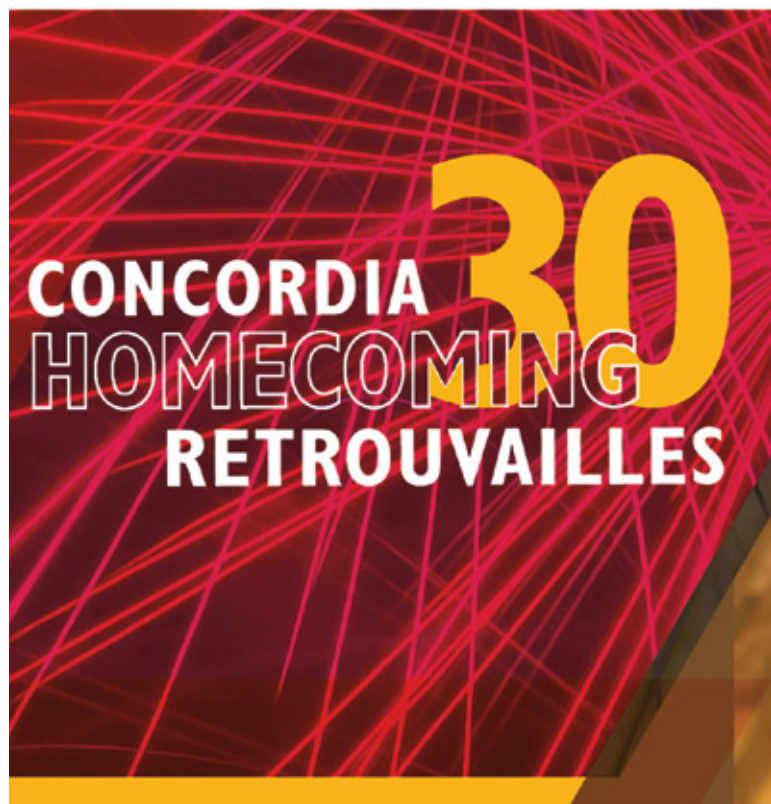
Concordia President **Graham Carr** also invited all alumni for a toast to the Homecoming anniversary with an Irish céilí (pronounced kay-lee) hosted by Irish-language scholar **Gemma Lambe**. The gathering featured university updates from President Carr, highlights from **Michael Kenneally**, principal and chair of Concordia's School of Irish Studies, and a jig led by Irish dancer **Lucas Lawton**, BA 17.

Discover Art Volt featured a conversation between **Annie Gérin**, new dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts (see p. 50), with **Cheryl Sim**, MA 07, managing director and curator at Fondation Phi pour l'art contemporain. The pair discussed the Art Volt Collection — a new platform for emerging contemporary art — and the importance of supporting artists and creative practitioners at early stages of their career.

The Gina Cody School Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series hosted **Richard Howe**, BEng 88, chairman and CEO of Inuvo Inc., for a talk called Driving Innovation with Applied AI. Howe discussed how he was able to transform a company in decline into a leader in artificial intelligence, as well as how his organization leverages AI in response to some of the world's challenges. Howe was joined by Concordia's **Tristan Glatard**, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, and Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Big Data Infrastructures for Neuroinformatics.

Learn more about the 30th anniversary celebrations at [concordia.ca/homecoming](http://concordia.ca/homecoming).

**RICHARD HOWE**, BENG 88, TALKED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AT THE GINA CODY SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES.



**CHERYL SIM**, MA 07, MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CURATOR AT FONDATION PHI POUR L'ART CONTEMPORAIN, SPOKE ABOUT WAYS TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE FLEDGLING ARTISTS.



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST AND PULITZER PRIZE WINNER **NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES** HEADLINED THIS YEAR'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCORDIA HOMECOMING.

## Celebrating Irish Studies

Dear Editor,

To elaborate on your recent article on Irish Studies at Concordia (*Concordia University Magazine*, winter 2020), we wish to draw attention to the enormous contribution of Brian O’Neill Gallery, BA 57, LLD 10, in developing this area of study over 15 years, which eventually led to the creation of the School of Irish Studies in 2009. Partnering with Peter O’Brien and Michael Kenneally, Gallery created the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF) in 1996, and by calling on his very extensive network of friends, business and government contacts, and Irish community members (including many of his fellow alumni of Loyola College — one of Concordia’s founding institutions), Gallery enthusiastically sought financial support for this project. While an increasing number of courses, programs, public lectures, academic structures and community-outreach events were being consolidated within Concordia, Gallery’s ability to inspire donors and work with a succession of university administrators ensured the steady growth of this area of study.

Particularly notable was the partnership Gallery created between the CISF, Concordia and the Government of Quebec under the leadership of then Premier Jean Charest, which led to the creation of the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies, with a mandate to conduct research, teach and publicize the multi-faceted story of the Irish in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. As a fifth-generation Irish-Quebecer himself, with several illustrious ancestors who shaped the history of Montreal and indeed Concordia itself through its Loyola roots, Gallery was passionately dedicated to highlighting this history so that Quebecers could learn about and connect with this very important part of their heritage.

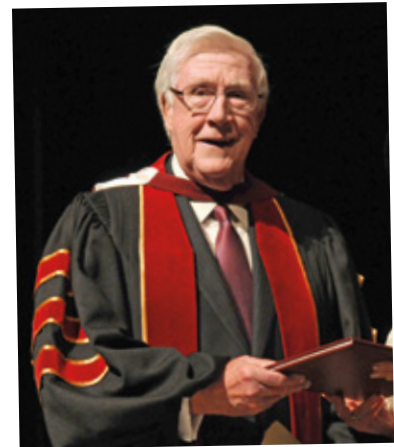
With the School of Irish Studies now firmly established, Gallery can take pride in his exceptional achievements. Indeed, he has received several Irish-community awards to recognize his accomplishments. The Concordia University Alumni Association awarded him the prestigious Humberto Santos Award of Merit in 2010 and that

same year the university itself conferred him with an honorary degree. Upon his retirement from the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, a special evening was organized at which various dignitaries from Concordia and from the wider business, political and cultural community acknowledged the fulfillment of his dream.

To give permanent recognition to Gallery, the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation established the Brian O’Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund which annually awards free tuition to about 25 students in Irish Studies and has disbursed more than \$300,000 since its inception. Perhaps the most enduring part of Gallery’s legacy is the knowledge that the numerous annual courses in Irish Studies, the Irish Public Lecture Series and ongoing community-outreach events will ensure that his achievement will continue, on a permanent basis, to shape the lives of countless individuals.



**Ten Years A-Growing  
Dix ans de croissance  
Deich mBliana ag Fás**



**BRIAN O'NEILL GALLERY** WAS AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE IN NOVEMBER 2010.



**Pamela McGovern**, Chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation  
**Michael Kenneally**, Principal, School of Irish Studies

*To mark the 10th anniversary of the formal creation of the School of Irish Studies, Concordia’s University Advancement has partnered with the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation to prepare a 24-page booklet outlining the achievements of Irish Studies since inception. If you would like to receive a copy of this booklet, please contact the School at [irishstudies@concordia.ca](mailto:irishstudies@concordia.ca).*



LES RATÉES, A SHORT SCIENCE-FICTION FILM DIRECTED BY MYRIAM GUIMOND, BFA 16, PREMIERED ON AUGUST 22 AT THE VIRTUAL 2020 FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL.

## International film fest goes virtual

The annual Fantasia International Film Festival took place virtually between August 20 and September 2. Now in its 24th year, the festival presented 20 films produced or directed by Concordians, including *Grooves* by **Danielle Caron**, BFA (film prod.) 20. The film was the winner of the university's 2020 Fantasia Award.

Premiering at this year's online festival was a short film by **Myriam Guimond**, BFA (film prod.) 16. In the director's *Les Ratées*, three teenaged fans of horror and science-fiction novels encounter strange events at a library.



REGRET, DIRECTED BY SANTIAGO MENGHINI, BFA 12

*Regret*, by **Santiago Menghini**, BFA(film prod.) 12, follows the story of a man battling his inner demons after the death of his father. The 16-minute short horror film was awarded the Midnight Jury Award at SXSW 2020.



RACHEL SAMSON, BFA 19, BRINGS ILLUSTRATIONS TO LIFE IN *TEMPS DE GLACE*.

In her short animation *Temps de glace*, **Rachel Samson**, BFA (film anim.) 19, illustrates a young girl's daydreams as she sits by a hockey rink. Samson's film premiered at this year's festival on August 29. ■

# TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR ALMA MATER!



Tony Loffreda, BComm 85

Christine Lengvari, BSc 72



Rana Ghorayeb, BA 97, MEng 01

John Zeppetelli, BFA 84



Winston Kan, BAdmin 81

Dawn Tyler Watson, BFA 94

You are part of Concordia's accomplished 220,000-member alumni family.

- Tell us where you're at:  
[concordia.ca/keepintouch](https://concordia.ca/keepintouch)
- Share your successes:  
[alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca)
- Join us on social media:  
[@Concordia.Alumni](https://twitter.com/Concordia.Alumni)



#CUpride #CUalumni

# CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC RAISES MORE THAN \$5.8 MILLION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

The annual event has helped more than 1,500 students since 2004

MOLLY HAMILTON



*"I think it's a great model for a fundraiser where all the bankers come together. It's all about, how can we better support the community? We compete on most days, but once in a while we come together to have a bigger impact on causes like education."*

**– Sylvain Corbeil, Senior Vice-President, TD Commercial Banking, Quebec and Atlantic Regions, TD Bank Group**



*"I believe knowledge acquired through higher education drives the future of the world. So it is difficult to find a better cause to support. All the money raised is helping hard-working, financially challenged students who need assistance."*

**– Louis Tanguay, BComm 75, LLD 18, honorary co-chair**



*"The ultimate objective of the Golf Classic is to build a better world by educating people and by giving them the necessary tools to make this a better world for everyone."*

**– Luigi Liberatore, LLD 18, honorary co-chair and owner, Golf Griffon des Sources**



*"It is a great fundraiser. If you take the amount of money raised over time, that's an impressive number. It helps out a lot of students who are going to make a difference in society. The money raised will give a chance to many people who would otherwise not have had the opportunity."*

**– André Desmarais, BComm 78, LLD 07, honorary co-chair**



*"It's a really unique tournament. The fact that all the banks, who are usually in competition, come together for this cause and to do something good for Concordia, for the students and for the reputation of the school, is very important."*

**– Nathalie Soucy, Head of Sales, Vice-President, Business Services, Desjardins Group**



*"For us at HSBC, we want students to have the best possible education. Some of them obviously need financial support and we can help them get that through the Golf Classic."*

**– Charles Douville, BComm 84, Senior Vice-President, Regional Head of Commercial Banking – Quebec, HSBC Bank Canada**



Since it first teed off in September 2004, the Concordia Golf Classic has raised more than \$5.8 million for scholarships and bursaries that have benefited more than 1,500 students.

The money raised from the annual event provides critical financial support, encouraging the next generation of leaders and change-makers — like former bursary recipient Liliane Chamas, BSc 09, a Rhodes Scholar — to reach their fullest potential.

Boasting an impressive roster of co-chairs and co-presidents, the fundraiser was presided over by Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 77, and George Hanna, BA 72, throughout its first decade. The late L. Jacques Ménard, BComm 67, LLD 06, also served as co-president for two years.

Held at the exclusive Golf Griffon des Sources in Mirabel, the tournament is the only fundraiser in Quebec to convene executives from Canada's major banks in support of a good cause.

While COVID-19 has made it necessary to cancel the Golf Classic for 2020, organizers have high hopes for a successful event in 2021. Until then, continuing to extend support to students during this challenging time is more imperative than ever.

A heartfelt thank-you to our co-chairs, co-presidents, alumni, friends and partner organizations whose generosity and support have made this event such a huge success over the years.

[concordia.ca/golfclassic](http://concordia.ca/golfclassic)

*"Everybody looks forward to the Golf Classic and the money raised is going to a great cause. It's also an opportunity for people to get together – a lot of the same players come back every year. People are generous in their support and I think that's important."*

**– Frank Cavallaro, CBC weatherman and event emcee**



*"It's an important cause for Laurentian Bank because it helps students reach their potential by reducing financial barriers and challenges. We always like to promote this fundraiser because it's promoting education, employment and entrepreneurship for tomorrow's leaders."*

**– Sophie Boucher, Vice-President, Business Development, Business Services, Laurentian Bank**



*"The actual purpose of the Golf Classic speaks to not only me but also BMO, in terms of the importance of education. We strongly believe that education is the foundation of our society and social values."*

**– René Douville, Senior Vice-President and Head, Corporate Finance Division - Quebec, BMO Bank of Montreal**



*"RBC has been involved in the Golf Classic for years, and for many reasons. At RBC, it's in our DNA and values to contribute to the prosperity of our communities. We also recognize how important it is to support the development of our youth, who are our future."*

**– Nadine Renaud-Tinker, President, Quebec Headquarters, RBC Royal Bank**



*"Education is a very strong priority for our city. This is why National Bank is so keen on supporting universities. It is not only a corporate responsibility but a privilege."*

**– Tony Aksa, Associate Vice-President Commercial Banking, National Bank**



*"The tournament gives people an enjoyable way to network and give back to a staple of the community."*

**– Demo Trifonopoulos, BComm 85, Vice-President and Region Head - Quebec, Commercial Banking CIBC**



*"When I was in university, I benefited from what I consider to be not only an amazing education but an entrance scholarship. When I look back at the success I have attained in my career at Scotiabank, I really attribute it to Concordia."*

**– Maria Mangiocavallo, BComm 86, GrDip 89, Vice-President and Head, Commercial Banking and Roynat Capital, Quebec Region, Roynat/Scotiabank**

Works from Benjamin  
Bush Anderson, winner of  
the 2018-19 Gabriel Safdie  
Undergraduate Creative  
Writing Award for Poetry



STEPHEN ANDERSON

UMPTEENTH  
an essay on sustainability

With an ornery wink and a one  
two three I buttoned my  
shirtsleeves. We woke exhausted  
we'd been peering in our sleeps.  
You felt it important to note that  
we held our hands with our  
wrists, our wrists with our elbows.  
I argued our fingers were held by  
our knuckles, our knuckles held  
by our shoulders. This was an  
impasse, we both held our  
ground. With what you asked we  
giggled. You held my gaze a  
moment longer.

PURRING THE LINE'S GONE SLACK  
[Portions of Poem Broken Free from the Leash]

acres of  
earshot of  
arm's length of

the mind both  
expanse and  
exit wound

the arrow tip  
leads to the mouth

of

aa  
cave horse  
which in named Loop-  
the nick of de-Loop spooked  
time wind and by the crowds careens  
water erode until to a halt and impossibly  
it is so wide that it one by one they spun to see  
winks away to

nothing

AN ANGLE MOVING TOO QUICKLY TO BE NAMED

it was about ye  
high and ye  
wide

there was mutual relief  
like a ceasefire or  
the end of a  
singalong

didn't you unhook the sidelong look from the whites of your eyes  
or am I imagining your face twelve hundred miles from here  
where the bullseye is in the periphery and centerstage is a trapdoor  
you twirled a baton but that is beside the point

the point is here  
nestled at the bottom of an iceberg  
where solid ice and icecold water  
mingle in their experimental ozone  
too preoccupied with becoming  
to stop and smell the undertow

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

## 'I'm impressed by the ingenuity and resiliency I've seen,' says new dean Pascale Sicotte

ELISABETH FAURE, BA 07,  
GRDIP 10, AND TAYLOR TOWER

Over the last six months of global upheaval and uncertainty, Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science has been drawing on its strengths to tackle the challenges facing students, faculty and staff.

According to Pascale Sicotte, who began her mandate as Faculty of Arts and Science dean on August 1, the faculty's quick-thinking and innovative response laid the foundation for a strong academic year ahead.

"The Faculty of Arts and Science leveraged its breadth of expertise in the service of our students and our community," she says. "I'm impressed by the ingenuity and resiliency I've seen in my short time here."

From the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, faculty members were at the forefront of moving courses online. Members of the education department's Educational Technology team mobilized to help the university make the pivot, earning them the moniker "EdTech Heroes."

Anti-racism protests worldwide have also fuelled and renewed the faculty's commitment to work towards eradicating racism and building a more diverse and inclusive community.

Recent and ongoing projects include



PHOTO BY JODI O PHOTOGRAPHY

PASCAL SICOTTE BEGAN HER FIVE-YEAR TERM AS FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE DEAN ON AUGUST 1.

the Black Perspectives Initiative (p. 20) launched in February of this year, as well as last year's Protests and Pedagogy conference, which marked the 50th anniversary of the protest known as the Sir George Williams Affair.

The Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability is also offering a new course taught by renowned historian Dorothy Williams, BA 84, MA 99. Black Montreal (LOYC 298-02) is largely designed to introduce students to the major themes, issues and debates in the city's Black history from its origins until today.

As the new Applied Science Hub on Loyola Campus proves, the faculty continues to grow in other ways.

Researchers and staff inside the innovative space will advance groundbreaking work in fields such as aquatic biology, microscopy and nanoscience.

And this fall, with courses continuing online, the faculty will offer first-class education to its students, Sicotte says.

"This is an exciting place to be. We will continue to support our strong and talented community, as it continues to excel and rise to the challenges facing us all."

Concordia plays a key role in these times of drastic social change, the dean adds.

"We're harnessing the power of research and education to improve our world."

## 'Research collaborations with industry partners are ongoing and robust,' says interim dean Mourad Debbabi

VINCENT ALLAIRE

While the pandemic has changed working habits the world over, faculty and staff at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science (GCS) have diligently pivoted operations to enhance teaching for the online environment.

With experiential learning at the core of GCS's mission, new opportunities for hybrid and inclusive learning are on the horizon. The goal is to help students stay engaged, focused and socially active, while giving them access to a high-calibre education.

Under the new leadership of interim dean Mourad Debbabi, who assumed the role on May 1, research labs that require on-site access reopened this past summer.

"Moreover, our research collaborations with industry partners are ongoing and robust, enriching the relationships with the public and private sector that make the Gina Cody School such a relevant training ground," says Debbabi, a professor at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering, NSERC/Hydro-Québec Thales Senior Industrial Research Chair in Smart Grid Security and Honorary Concordia University Research Chair Tier I in Information Systems Security.

While new to the role, Debbabi has been implicated in some big initiatives at GCS. Most recently, in August 2019, he and his team of cybersecurity researchers received \$560,000 to launch the Open-Source Cyber Fusion Centre with Carleton University and two industrial partners, eGloo and AvanTech.

This past June, the Carolina Gallo Scholarship for Women in Engineering and Computer Science was introduced to help achieve a more equitable gender balance in fields still largely dominated by men.

Carolina Gallo, BA 84, a social-justice advocate and political science graduate,



**MOURAD DEBBABI** STEPPED INTO THE ROLE OF INTERIM DEAN OF THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE ON MAY 1.

cites Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89 — GCS's chief supporter and namesake donor — as an inspiration.

"I am very proud of what Concordia has become," says Gallo. "It made me who I am, and it continues to demonstrate what it means to be progressive, open and inclusive."

Relatedly, and in a first for the school, the Girls Summer Engineering and Technology (GirlSET) camp was delivered as an online program by GCS from July 6 to 17. GirlSET provides engineering experience for girls in grades eight to 11 and encourages them to pursue careers in STEM.

Meanwhile, faculty and researchers are creating partnerships with organizations in both the public and private sectors, highlighting GCS's research strengths in smart cities and resilient communities, applied artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, software engineering, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure management, and cyberphysical systems.

While prioritizing these research strengths, the development of complementary graduate programs continues. Future plans at GCS include creating recruitment strategies to attract top-drawer talent. The school's proven ability to rise to the demands of the COVID-19 crisis (see p. 28) will surely play a part in any success beyond 2020.

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

## 'Responsibility, inclusiveness and engagement': the John Molson School of Business is future-ready

KATIE MALAZDREWICZ,  
BA 06, GRDIP 09

The John Molson School of Business (JMSB) drafted a strategic plan in 2019 to propel it to new heights and solidify its position as an institution that produces valuable business research, prepares students for the job market and contributes meaningfully to society.

"When we began working on our plan, we did it knowing that it had to support Concordia's nine strategic directions, which lay out the actions required for a future-ready, next-generation university," explains Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, JMSB's dean since 2017.

"We went through the exercise of looking at who we are as a business school. What do we know about ourselves? What are we good at and what drives our decisions? It was pretty clear that there are a few fundamental principles JMSB has always been committed to upholding: responsibility, inclusiveness and engagement."

In 2019, The John Molson School of Business became the first business school ever certified by Women in Governance. The non-profit supports initiatives related to leadership development, career advancement and access to board seats for women across Canada. The certification recognizes organizations that have achieved results by articulating a commitment to gender parity in the workplace, integrating it

into the ecosystem of the organization and implementing mechanisms to achieve that commitment and sustain it over time.

The school also signed a partnership agreement last year with Manulife Investment Management that established the first sustainable investing practicum at a Canadian university. After months of preparation, the inaugural cohort of students started the program on May 1.

The three-credit Sustainable Investing Practicum (SIP) enables undergraduate business students to better understand the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing in a capital market environment. Students will make fund management recommendations to a supervisory committee based on sustainable investing criteria.

"The ultimate goal is to demonstrate the superiority of ESG investing as an investment philosophy," explains Amr Addas, adjunct professor of finance at JMSB and supervisor of the SIP.

Important new trends and areas of focus have emerged over the past few years, particularly in data intelligence, analytics and data mining.

With the Minor in Data Intelligence, business undergraduate students receive supplemental training in areas such as data modelling, data mining and forecasting. This minor provides the tools to build models for analyzing business problems that help organizations avoid risk and take advantage of opportunities.



UNDER DEAN ANNE-MARIE CROTEAU, THE JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS WAS CERTIFIED BY WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE.

As part of the MBA program, students can pursue the SAS Certification in Data Analytics. Over the past year, this option has seen an almost 50 per cent increase in enrolment. Courses included in the certification are Statistical Software for Data Management and Analysis, Business Forecasting, Data Mining Techniques, and Statistical Models and Data Analysis.

## 'Concordia holds a key position in Montreal's cultural scene': Annie Gérin's mandate as Fine Arts dean begins

ANDY MURDOCH

Annie Gérin, professor, scholar, accomplished administrator, beloved member of the Montreal arts community, and the recent interim dean of the Faculté des arts at UQAM, recently succeeded Rebecca Duclos as dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, who has finished her five-year mandate.

After an extensive search across Canada and the United States, the faculty appointed Gérin, who officially began her term on August 1.

Fluent in English, French and Russian, Gérin holds a PhD in the History of Art and Cultural Studies from the University of Leeds, a Master of Art History from York University and a BA in art history from the Université de Montréal.

She has published extensively and is well known for her research in Canadian and Soviet art in the 20th and 21st centuries, with a special interest in art as experienced by non-specialized publics outside of gallery spaces.

The search committee was impressed with Gérin's vision for the faculty's future, says Anne Whitelaw, interim provost and vice-president, Academic.

"Annie's exceptional track record in senior academic leadership roles and in university governance, as well as her commitment to respect-based dialogue and decolonization, will be of great value



PHOTO BY ÉMILIE TOURNÉVACHE

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE WAS IMPRESSED WITH ANNIE GÉRIN'S VISION FOR THE FACULTY'S FUTURE.

to Concordia and serve her well as a key member of our senior leadership team."

Gérin's demonstrated knowledge of the Quebec and Canadian cultural scenes as well as her skill at relationship-building — internally, with university stakeholders and with different levels of government — will be significant in further expanding the faculty's and university's networks, opportunities for cross-cutting collaborations and reputations, adds Whitelaw.

For the last five years, Rebecca Duclos led the faculty in collaboratively developing a vision that cemented Concordia's recognition and status as a force within the local, national and international cultural sphere. Gérin says that this strong reputation will be invaluable in opening

doors for Concordia students.

"Concordia holds a key position in Montreal's cultural scene. Its Faculty of Fine Arts is uniquely poised to develop the programs and partnerships that will change education in the fine arts and the way we think about the role art can play in society."

Duclos will return to her faculty position in the Department of Art History.

"I warmly thank Rebecca Duclos for her outstanding leadership of the Faculty of Fine Arts across her five-year mandate as dean," says Whitelaw. "She developed and implemented a strong strategic direction for the faculty and firmly established Concordia as an anchor institution on Montreal's cultural landscape." ■

## Concordia awards 7 new honorary doctorates

This spring's recipients included a science champion, a preserver of Indigenous culture and a BBC journalist

JAKE BRENNAN



**Jennifer Flanagan** is the co-founder, president and CEO of Actua, Canada's largest science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) outreach organization. The national charity partners with companies, governments, post-secondary institutions and community organizations to provide STEM programs that build self-confidence and employability skills to more than 300,000 youth annually. Flanagan's work has been recognized with accolades including the RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Award, Top 40 Under 40, WXN Most Powerful Women and the YWCA Women of Distinction Award.



Hong Kong-born **David Fung** has founded or co-founded more than 30 business ventures in North America, Europe and Asia. Trained as a chemical engineer, he has held key research and operational positions at global chemical and engineering companies and has spent much of his career developing sustainable industry and energy solutions. These include the world's largest smelter sulphuric acid recycling system, wastewater recycling in Israel, a Sino-Canadian waste-powered plant in Shanghai, a packaging-recycling partnership in Europe, Asia and North America, and a sustainable aquaculture operation in China.



**Dame Julia Higgins'** approximately 250 publications span chemistry, physics, chemical engineering and materials science. Among her many research firsts is her use of neutron scattering to investigate the dynamics of polymer molecules. Higgins was the first woman fellow of both the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering. Beyond her extensive research and teaching activities, Higgins has actively promoted the advancement of science and technology education, particularly for women.





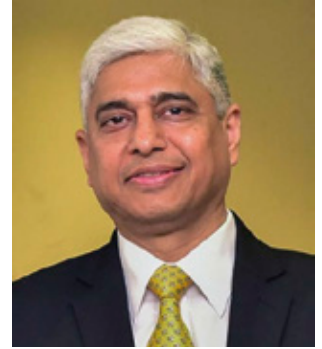
Born to the Sahtuotine First Nation on Great Bear River in the Northwest Territories, **Fbbie Tatti** is a fluent speaker, writer and storyteller of the North Slavey Language. Over the past four decades, she has helped develop an influential model for Aboriginal language curricula and served as an advocate and monitoring agent of the NWT Official Languages Act. She was involved in both the Sahtu People's land claim settlement and the community of Deline's self-government agreement. She has also hosted a CBC North TV current affairs program.



New Brunswick-born **Lyse Doucet** has spent her 37-year career telling stories that often go underreported in Western media. She served the BBC for 15 years as a foreign correspondent from West Africa and the Middle East, where she developed an international reputation as an expert on the regions. In 1999, Doucet transitioned into the role of senior presenter, but as the BBC's chief international correspondent, she continues to report from the field and make documentaries. Doucet is often deployed to interview key figures and anchor major news events around the globe.



Montreal-born **Margie Gillis** is one of the most influential Canadian choreographer-dancers of the 20th and 21st centuries. In 1979, she became the first performer to take Western modern dance to China, and her original works, infused with political, social and cultural themes, continue to be performed around the globe. She has served as a spokesperson for OXFAM, the Planned Parenthood Foundation, several AIDS-awareness organizations, and is an active defender of environmental causes.



**Vikas Swarup's** diplomatic and literary career spans more than three decades. Most recently, he served as the official spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, and then as India's High Commissioner to Canada. In 2019, he became Secretary (West) in India's External Affairs Ministry. Swarup's first novel, *Q&A* (HarperCollins Canada, 2005), was published in 43 languages and won multiple awards. The film version, *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008), won seven BAFTAs, four Golden Globes and eight Oscars, including Best Picture. ■

Watch video messages from Concordia honorands and illustrious alumni at [concordia.ca/CUcelebrate](https://concordia.ca/CUcelebrate).

## ALUMNI UPDATES

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

### MOLLY HAMILTON

**76 Anthony Vanelli**, BSc (math.), MSc (math.) '78, was named provost and vice-president academic at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont. He assumed his new position on August 1, 2020.

**81 Patricia Abbott**, BA (journ.), is celebrating 30 years as conductor of the English Montreal School Board Chorale and 40 years with the Chorale du Gesù as a founder and conductor since 1982.

**Gina Cody**, MEng, PhD '89, will be featured in a book published by Simon & Schuster titled *Extraordinary Canadians* (written by Peter Mansbridge) that will be released this fall.

**82 Brian Howlett**, BComm, was appointed president and CEO at Hemlo Explorers Inc. (formerly Canadian Orebodies Inc.), a mineral exploration company with a portfolio of properties in Ontario and Nunavut.

**88 Brenda Shanahan**, MBA, was named a member of the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians.

**89 Michael Singer**, BComm (acct.), was named interim CEO of Aurora Cannabis.

**90 Benoit Arsenault**, BA (econ.), was appointed vice-president, business development for Quebec at Raymond James, a division of the American financial services company Raymond James Financial.

**Michael Winzap**, BA (poli. sci.), was named Ambassador of Switzerland to Samoa, as well as Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand accredited to other Pacific Islands.

**92 Eric Poteet**, BComm (fin.), was named head of North American institutional foreign exchange sales for Toronto Dominion (TD).

**93 Geneviève Dussault**, BA (psych.), GrDip (institutional admin.) '99, was appointed senior account director at Tam-Tam\TBWA, a Montreal-based marketing and communications agency.

**Karen Hogan**, BComm, GrDip (acct.) '95, was nominated by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to be Canada's new Auditor General.

**95 Tamir Moscovici**, BFA (film prod.), joined talent agency The Directors Network as a director for commercials and branded content in the U.S.

**96 Jennifer Hayes**, BA, MBA '01, was reappointed as Commissioner of the Canadian Dairy Commission by Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau. Hayes has held the position since 2017.

**Heather Kirk**, BComm (fin.), was named senior vice-president and chief financial officer at Groupe Sélection, the largest private retirement complex developer in Canada.

**Dominique McCaughey**, BA (hist.), MA (hist.) '02, was named chief executive officer at the Montreal-based organization Agence Ometz.

**97 Andrew Chlebus**, BA (soc.), GrDip '99, was named vice-president of business solutions at LG Canada.

**99 Mary Chronopoulos**, BComm (econ.), EMBA '06, was appointed vice-president and chief financial officer at Énergir Inc. She assumed her new role on April 6, 2020.

**00 Monique Hutchins**, BComm (mrkt.), was named corporate secretary at Oxford Mining Corporation, a gold explorer focused on highly prospective and underexplored areas of Northern Quebec.

**01 Massimo Iamello**, BComm (acct.), GrDip '08, was named partner at MNP LLP, one of the largest full-service chartered accountancy and business advisory firms in Canada.

**Henry Kwan**, BA (econ.), was named sales director at Vanguard Canada.

**Elisa Gruber Lustig**, BComm (fin.), was hired as director of private investing at Ballentine Partners in Waltham, Mass.

**02 Audrey Lefebvre**, BA (comm. studies), was named vice-president, director of operations and client lead at Tam-Tam\TBWA.

**03 Marie-Hélène Beaulieu**, BA (comm. studies), was hired as head of brand partnerships and strategy at The Unknown Group, a Montreal-based content marketing and strategy agency.

**Pauls Calitis**, AMBA, was appointed chief operations officer and member of the supervisory board at airBaltic, the flag carrier of Latvia.

**Nicolas Dinh**, BEng (comp. eng.), **Ranjit Sarai**, BEng (software eng.) '03, and **Miro Pavletic** have developed STACK, a mobile app launched in Canada that aims to simplify how consumers save and spend money.

**Joseph Galluci**, BComm (mktg.), MBA (investment mgmt.) '08, was appointed to the board of directors of Skyharbour Resources.

**04 Jarad Pesner**, BA (classical civilization), was appointed senior business developer at Solotech, an audiovisual and entertainment technology company, in Ottawa, Ont.

**06 Robert-Paul Juster**, BA, was named the Sex and Gender Science Chair by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health. Juster, a researcher at the Centre de recherche de l'Institut universitaire en santé mentale de Montréal, will focus on LGBTQI2S wellness and resilience.

**Arda Yapar**, BComm (fin.), was named finance manager of alternative investments at Montrusco Bolton Investments.

**07 Marion Morris**, BA (comm. studies), was appointed senior director of strategy and operations at BICOM Communications.

**08 Kristen Petitclerc**, BA (poli. sci.), was hired as a lawyer at Renno & Vathilakis, a litigation firm located in Montreal.

**09 Andrea Clarke**, BSc, MSc '12, MBA '17, was named senior director of Community Engagement and Social Impact in the Office of the Provost at Concordia.

**11 Patricia Lanoie**, BA (comm. studies), was named director at Romeo & Fils, a Montreal-based production house.

**14 Iain Farmer**, MBA, was appointed vice-president of corporate development at Osisko Gold Royalties Ltd.

**Katerina Fragos**, BComm, was named to the 2020 “30 Under 30” list by *GreenBiz*. Fragos was noted for her work in sustainability and climate-change consulting at PwC.

**Michael Sabia**, LLD, was named chair of the Canada Infrastructure Bank. The bank was established by the federal government in 2017 to help spur revenue-generating infrastructure projects through public-private partnerships.

**Sarah Volstad**, BA (journ.), was hired as legal counsel at Astaldi, a construction multinational based in Rome.

**15 Manel Menouar**, BA (poli. sci.), was appointed senior policy advisor to the office of Bill Blair, Canada’s Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

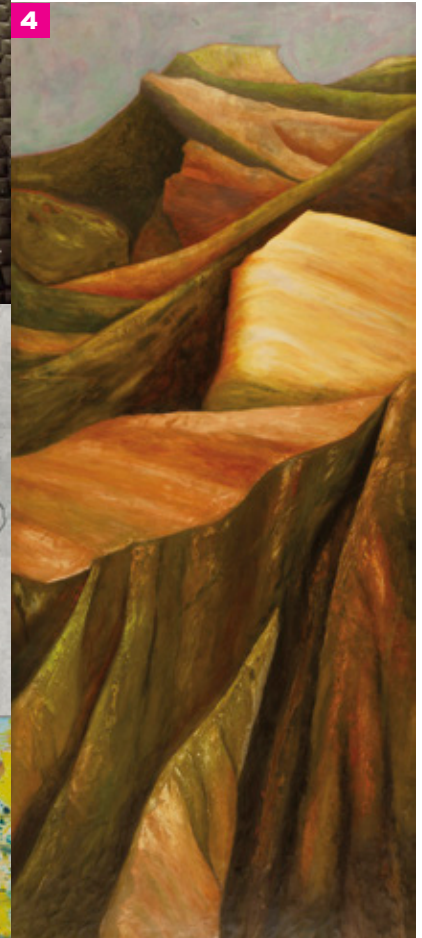
**16 Sasha Alcoloumbre**, BA (western society and culture), wrote, directed and produced a film called *Trois Mois*. It was featured as part of an LGBT Film Series at Never Apart in Montreal last February.

**Massimo Cannucci**, BA (Eng. lit.), was named media copywriter at Valtech, a global digital agency.

**Antoine Landriault-Arbour**, BComm (fin.), was named senior associate at Diagram Ventures.

**17 Khatidja Kassam**, MBA, was hired as communications advisor at Bonjour Startup Montreal, which aims to promote entrepreneurial innovation in the city.

**Sara Baron-Goodman**, BA (journ.), was named senior copywriter at 1Milk2Sugars Communications.



**Charles Vennat**, EMBA, was named CEO of 48North Cannabis Corp.

**18 Julie Rollet**, BComm (mktg.), was named content project manager at Valtech.

**19 Daniel Herrera**, EMBA, was named chief corporate development officer at Medcolcanna Organics, a Calgary-based medical cannabis company. ■

**1** **Susan Stromberg**, BA 74, submitted this image to the Hyde Collection for the Glen Falls, N.Y., museum’s digital art competition. Stromberg had been struggling with artist’s block until she accidentally spilled a glass of milk and was inspired to fashion the shape of the COVID-19 virus. 1) *Don’t Cry Over Spilt Milk: Stay Home, Be Safe, Stay Strong* (2020).

**2** **Raymonde Jodoin**, BFA 83, took part in a group show at Maison Antoine-Lacombe last February and March until COVID-19 forced the museum and heritage house in Saint-Charles-Borromée, Que., to close. 2) *Fleurs 2018 no. 7*, Sumi-e and crayons on washi paper (2018).

**3** **Chrissy Cheung**, BFA 00, will present her work at the 24th Eastside Culture Crawl at Parker Street Studios in Vancouver, B.C., from November 19-22, 2020. 3) *Vermilion*, acrylic on canvas.

**4** **Shelley Freeman**, BFA 99, exhibited works last winter at Galerie Carlos in Montreal’s Old Brewery Mission and participated in the group show *Let’s Get Wild* at the Métèque collaborative art space in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. 4) *Ridges* (2019).

**Leon Llewellyn**, BFA 74, GrDip (art edu.) 75, was the recipient of the 2020 Dr. Clarence Bayne Community Service Award, named for Concordia professor emeritus Clarence S. Bayne, from the Black Theatre Workshop. Llewellyn was recognized for his significant volunteerism in the arts and education within Montreal's Black community.

**Margaret Atwood**, LLD 79, was the recipient of a Library and Archives Canada Scholar award. The awards recognize the outstanding contribution of Canadians who have dedicated their lives to the creation and promotion of the country's cultural, literary and historical heritage.

**Barry Blitt**, ATTD 80, won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning for his satirical covers for *The New Yorker* magazine. **1**

**Janet Stewart**, BA (hist.) 80, was the recipient of a 2020 Champions of Mental Health Award from the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health in the Community (Individual) category.

**Caroline Vu**, BA (psych.) 85, was the first-prize winner of the concours littéraire Octobre le mois des mots in Sorel-Tracy, Que. The theme of this year's contest was migration.

Nuvei, a payment technology firm whose chairman and CEO is **Philip Fayer**, ATTD 00, was named one of Canada's "Best Managed Companies" by *Canadian Business* magazine.

**Nika Khanjani**, MFA (studio arts) 11, was co-winner of the Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes. The \$50,000 prize will help develop three new operas by emerging Canadian woman-identified composers and librettists.

**Mara Eagle**, MFA student in Concordia's Department of Studio Arts, was awarded one of the 2020 Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art, valued at more than \$60,000 over two years.



### CERCLES DES GRANDS ENTREPRENEURS DU QUÉBEC

The Cercle des Grands entrepreneurs du Québec showcases the achievements and commitment of inspiring individuals whose actions have contributed to the province's entrepreneurial vitality and economic development. This year, two out of the four inductees were Concordians.

**André Chagnon**, LLD 04  
**Christiane Germain**, LLD 13

### NEW GENERATION PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD LONGLIST

The New Generation Photography Award grants three photographers under the age of 30 with a \$10,000 prize each fall. The 2020 longlist includes two Concordians.

**Delphine Lewis**, BFA (photo.) 17  
**Garnet Dirksen**, MFA candidate

### SOBEY ART AWARD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a \$25,000 prize was awarded to everyone on this year's Sobeys Art Award longlist. Two Concordians were co-winners.

**Sabrina Ratté**, BFA (film prod.) 05, MFA (studio arts) 12  
**Adam Basanta**, MA 13

### 2020 SCOTIABANK PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

The \$50,000 Scotiabank Photography Award recognizes a mid-to-late-career photographer. Two Concordia alumni were nominated this year.

**Emmanuelle Léonard**, BFA(photo.) 98  
**Jin-me Yoon**, MFA 93

### 2020 JUNO AWARDS

The Juno Awards celebrate Canadian musical achievement.

**Dawn Tyler Watson**, BFA 94, won Blues Album of the Year for *Mad Love*.

**Kent Nagano**, LLD 19, won Classical Album of the Year: Large Ensemble with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal for *The John Adams Album*.

**Tim Baker**, BA 04, was nominated for Songwriter of the Year, *Forever Overhead*: "All Hands," "Dance," "The Eighteenth Hole."

**Joseph Baron Grass**, BFA 07, was nominated for Songwriter of the Year, *Wave*: "Broken," "Dream for Dreaming," "Here Comes the River" (co-songwriter).

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## Leslie Renée (Clement) Cohen (1957-2020)

'A person who worked selflessly, with honesty and integrity'

MOLLY HAMILTON

Long-time Concordian Leslie Renée (Clement) Cohen, BA 81, MA 84, PhD 93, passed away on January 28, 2020, in Montreal. She was 62.

After she completed all three of her degrees at Concordia, Cohen joined the university's psychology faculty in 1985. She soon met, and later wed, a fellow part-time instructor in the department, Samuel Clement.

"I had a life that I never would have had if I hadn't met Leslie," says Clement (pictured above with Cohen). "She was curious, empathetic, principled, funny, nervy and she was always looking for things she could do for people."



Cohen taught hundreds of students over the course of her 17-year career and was well respected by members of the Concordia community.

"Her teaching evaluations demonstrated her dedication to the well-being of her students," says Jean-Roch Laurence, psychology

professor and chair of the department from 2007 to 2013. "Year after year, her students reflected on the thoroughness of her teaching, her empathy and her commitment to their academic success."

Cohen also devoted herself to Concordia's part-time

faculty association, where she served on the executive and as vice-president of professional development and training. Throughout her tenure with the association from 1994 to 2011, Cohen helped establish university-wide seniority for a number of colleagues, which provided job security for part-time faculty. As a result, Cohen improved the professional fortunes of many at Concordia.

"I remember a person who worked selflessly, with honesty and integrity," says Laurence. "A person whom I came to respect and admire for her dedication to the highest standards of teaching — not only for herself but for all of her colleagues." ■



Concordia mourns the loss of lawyer **Richard McConomy**, L BA 66, who passed away on August 16, 2020. McConomy played football for Loyola College — one of Concordia's founding institutions — and was a member of the 1962 team that was inducted into the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

**Marian N. (Abbey) Adam**, S BA 45, May 16, 2020. She was 101.

**Isadore Don Albin**, S BA 56, May 6, 2019, Montreal, Que.

**Jane (Ross) Allan**, S BSc 69, June 2, 2020. She was 73.

**Eunice Baldwin**, S BA 52, May 19, 2020, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Allan Nicholas Battah**, BComm 75, May 22, 2020. He was 67.

**Geoffrey Clayton Blair**, BA 89, May 1, 2020. He was 56.

**Irene Blayney**, BA 79, May 28, 2016.

**Brian George Bleakley**, S BSc 71, June 4, 2020. He was 82.

**Bernard C. Bloom**, S BA 60, May 26, 2020, Edmonton, Alta. He was 79.

**Murray George Bolton**, L BA 73, May 26, 2020, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 80.

**Walter Borys**, BSc 75, May 1, 2020, Toronto, Ont. He was 80.

**Stéphanie (Meszner) Both**, S BA 65, April 29, 2020. She was 96.

**Norma (Goldbach) Botner**, S BA 73, March 25, 2020. She was 89.

**David A. Bruley**, GrCert 94, April 5, 2020. He was 55.

**Stephen Huntley Bruneau**, BSc 75, May 31, 2020.

**Gordon R. Brunet**, BComm 78, April 6, 2020, Montreal, Que.

**Gunter R. Brunet**, S BSc 71, MSc 86, May 15, 2020, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 85.

**Barrington E. Burgher**, L BSc 72, April 4, 2020. He was 83.

**Bernice A. (Hazen) Camacho**, BComm 83, March 31, 2020. She was 89.

**Clifford T. Caron**, S BSc 72, April 1, 2020. He was 74.

**Emma Holic Carroll**, S BComm 51, March 30, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 90.

**Janet (Burr) Chapdelaine**, GrCert 87, BA 91, April 17, 2020. She was 76.

**Maria La Starza Colarusso**, BA 92, Cert 93, March 24, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 75.

**D'Arcy Coulson**, L BA 57, April 2, 2020, Pontiac, Que. He was 83.

**Enid Amanda Dayle**, BA 76, April 10, 2020. She was 92.

**Tekahonwen:sere Melvin Diabo**, L BA 64, April 20, 2020. He was 79.

**Linda Diorio**, BFA 85, April 4, 2020.

**Fr. Norman J. Dodge, S.J.**, L BA 29, May 2, 2020, Pickering, Ont. He was 92.

**Joseph Donohue**, BFA 74, August 13, 2019, Montreal, Que. He was 65.

**Edward Entus**, S MTM 70, April 15, 2020. He was 88.

**Allan Flegg**, GrDipl 74, May 27, 2020. He was 71.

**Allan Abbey Flom**, BAdmin 88, April 24, 2020. He was 95.

**Byrne Alexander Fulton**, L BA 70, June 3, 2020, Richmond Hill, Ont. He was 72.

**Walter Gapmann**, BA 75, GrCert 85, May 3, 2020. He was 71.

**John Francis George**, BSc 74, July 16, 2018, Ottawa, Ont. He was 66.

**Murray Joel Gold**, BComm 84, May 6, 2020, Montreal, Que. He was 62.

**Harold P. Gordon**, S BA 61, June 6, 2020, Sunny Isles, Fla. He was 83.

**Allan Gotlieb**, LLD 05, April 18, 2020, Toronto, Ont. He was 92.

**Heather (Evans) Guest**, BA 74, April 20, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 69.

**David Nelson Hall**, S BSc 69, PhD 76, May 14, 2020. He was 71.

**Nat Hier**, S BA 52, April 23, 2020.

**Mary Helen Hidas**, BA 75, April 8, 2020. She was 78.

**Lois Hollingsworth**, MA 90, May 11, 2018, Montreal, Que. She was 82.

**Robert G. Hollingworth**, S BA 71, May 21, 2020. He was 71.

**Michael Homonko**, S BA 57, May 4, 2020. He was 91.

**John Frederick Howell**, BA 95, March 13, 2020.

**Daina B. (Liepins) Hyder**, GrCert 84, April 18, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 84.

**Bruce Douglas Irwin**, BFA 83, May 3, 2020. He was 69.

**Jozef Janiak**, S BSc 73, BA 76, April 4, 2020. He was 70.

**Peter Kerenyi**, BA 74, April 29, 2020.

**Edmund Ksonzek**, S BSc 60, MSc 79, March 9, 2019. He was 88.

**Lily (Gregus) Kubina**, BA 79, GrCert 89, March 21, 2020.

**Marie-Helene Lacasse**, EMBA 98, Montreal, Que.

**Gerald R. Lavalley**, S BA 67, MA 80, May 7, 2020, Pointe-Claire, Que.

**Shirley Patricia (Newman) Lefebvre**, BA 83, March 20, 2020. She was 89.

**Barbara C. (Hyman) Maclaren**, BA 76, May 8, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 83.

**Joan Anna (Solomon) Maass**, BA 77, May 17, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 95.

**Michael B. McCrann**, BComm 85, March 11, 2019, Kanata, Ont. He was 55.

**Robert L. Munro**, S BA 51, May 14, 2020. He was 92.

**Gerald Murphy**, L BComm 52, April 27, 2020, Montreal, Que. He was 88.

**Linda Nelson-Gougeon**, BA 82, BAdmin 92, March 12, 2020, Mexico.

**Margaret Moore O'Meara**, BA 77, July 22, 2019. She was 94.

**Elizabeth (Merson) Ostro**, S BA 44, April 24, 2020. She was 97.

**Luciano Ottoni**, BComm 79, April 9, 2020. He was 62.

**Arthur (Bud) Gerard Patton**, L BA 53, April 13, 2020, Montreal, Que.

**Paula (Stone) Pelletier**, BA 79, June 5, 2020, Lighthouse Point, Fla. She was 72.

**John J. Pepper**, L BA 49, May 15, 2020, Montreal, Que. He was 92.

**Catherine E. Pilley**, BA 79, April 11, 2020. She was 89.

**Michael Owen Prince**, L BA 52, May 28, 2020, Kanata, Ont. He was 89.

**Dorothy (Arbess) Rakmil**, S BA 53, April 23, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 89.

**Molly (Katz) Rechnitzer**, S BA 58, April 1, 2020, Halifax, N.S. She was 83.

**Ross Reeves**, BA 84, April 5, 2020, Wotton-under-Edge, U.K. He was 60.

**Lorna Rosenstein**, S BA 63, April 21, 2020. She was 79.

**Allan Salomon**, S BA 63, April 6, 2020. He was 81.

**David Lawrence Sargon**, BA 02, May 1, 2020. He was 47.

**Maureen (Mo) Steenhill**, BFA 96, April 21, 2020. She was 47.

**Lucien St. Martin**, L BA 71, October 26, 2018.

**Ellen Lynn Thomson**, BA 13, May 18, 2020. She was 58.

**Ivan M. Trebichavsky**, S BA 72, April 12, 2020, Montreal, Que. He was 72.

**Emmanuel Triassi**, MEng 79, April 6, 2020, Montreal, Que. He was 68.

**Herbert Vool**, S BA 54, April 2, 2020. He was 87.

**Larry Weller**, S BA 70, S MA 73, April 22, 2020. He was 73.

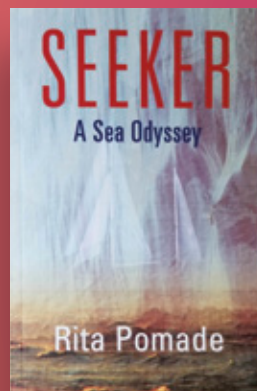
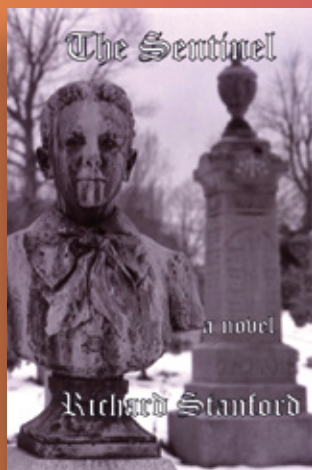
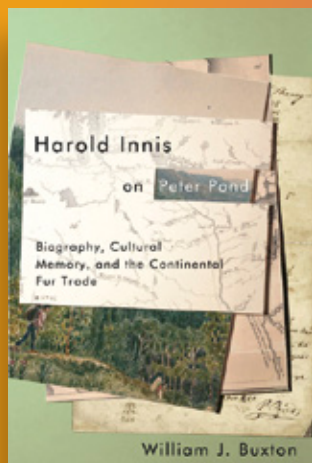
**Mary Wenger**, S BA 66, March 27, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 83.

**Barbara M. West**, L BA 73, May 30, 2020. She was 71.

**Gilbert Stanley Williamson**, S BA 70, April 24, 2020, Pointe-Claire, Que.

**Eugene (Gene) Yakovitch**, S BA 62 May 5, 2020. He was 80.

## Wanderings past and present, wishes for a sensible future



MARCO BUTTICE

Drawing on more than 30 years of experience in economic history, **William J. Buxton**, professor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, examines the role of biographer in *Harold Innis on Peter Pond: Biography, Cultural Memory, and the Continental Fur Trade* (McGill-Queen's University Press, \$39.95). Addressing Innis's engagement with the legacy of fur trader and adventurer Peter Pond, a frequently overlooked historical figure, Buxton explores changing political and intellectual circumstances throughout Canada's confederation.

**Richard Stanford**, BFA 79, tells a multi-layered family saga spanning 100 years in *The Sentinel* (Eta Carinae, \$24.50). Beginning in 1884, the novel follows the Lloyd-Craigs, a family of reporters and artists from the Eastern Townships who will go to any length in pursuit of a story. Covering major 20th-century events such as the two world wars and the Russian Revolution, Stanford's tale is a deep dive into the morals of journalistic inquiry.

*Seeker: A Sea Odyssey* (Guernica Editions, \$25), a memoir by **Rita Pomade**, Cert 92, begins as a dream of paradise; a fantasy shattered along the way due to a disintegrating marriage.

Spanning six years and a dozen countries, Pomade recounts venturing into an unknown and more exciting life, and the heartbreak and growth that comes with the risks.

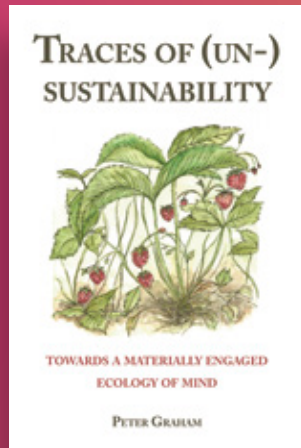
**Brigitte Huppen**, BFA 89, has written her second French-language young-adult novel. *Dix jours* (Bayard Canada, \$19.95) is a throwback to the aesthetics of the 1970s and 1980s. After a trip to Vancouver with her father in 1978, Anya is tasked with writing about the best memory of her summer upon her return to school. She recalls the 10-day journey and her discovery of the Sex Pistols, learning to redefine and assert herself in the process.





Long-time French editor of *Les cahiers de la femme*, **Jeanne Maranda**, BA 87, challenges the demeaning portrayal of women in advertisements and details the quarter-century-long fight for change in ***What's wrong with this picture? 25 years against sexism in advertising*** (Tellwell Talent, \$11.99). Maranda further points out the progress that has been made for women in professional spaces and the measures that still need to be taken.

**Peter Graham**, GrDip 05, Cert 09, MA 10, 14, examines the relationship between bodies, environment and biodiversity in his newest book, ***Traces of (Un-) Sustainability: Towards***

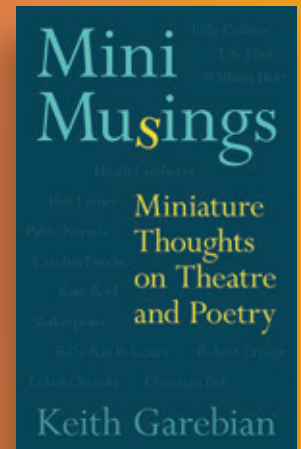


***a Materially Engaged Ecology of Mind*** (Peter Lang, \$129.95). A specialist in sustainable development, Graham critiques market-based economic systems and highlights the outcomes of changing minds collectively.

Professional artist and public speaker **Guy Giard**, BFA 83, tells his story in the autobiography ***Le grincement des balançoires*** (Self-published, physical \$19.99, ebook/audiobook \$9.99). Sharing his experience of overcoming abuse and PTSD, Giard hopes to provide healing to those on the path to recovery.



Poet and freelance critic **Keith Garebian**, MA 71, showcases a mix of short reviews in his new collection, ***Mini Musings: Miniature Thoughts on Theatre and Poetry*** (Guernica Editions, \$20). In his blurb of the book, former Concordia professor Henry Beissel writes: “*Mini Musings* has a richness that belies its title. The mix of observations, anecdotes and reflections presented in terse, witty prose, is consistently entertaining, informative and deliberately provocative.” ■



***Meet and Eat at Lee's Garden***, by author and filmmaker **Day's Lee**, BA 78, will broadcast on Saturday, October 31, on *Absolutely Canadian* (CBC, Quebec only). The documentary, which will also be available to stream on CBC Gem, centres on the restaurant Lee's father opened in Montreal in 1952 and what it represented to the city's Chinese community.

## 100 years strong: remembering Arthur Lismer and the Group of Seven

RONNA MOGELON, BFA 82

My mum and dad were very artsy and involved in the art community in Montreal in the 1960s. They hosted art shows in our home before artists could find galleries to represent them. My mother, Lila, was from Saint John, New Brunswick, and was very close with painter Fred Ross, who was her teacher at art school. (Several of his works are hanging in the National Gallery of Canada, in Ottawa, Ontario.) Before he had a regular gallery, he showed his artwork at our house.

As well, my father, Alex, wrote the monthly art column in *The Montrealer*, a magazine from the 1960s and 1970s. Mum usually interviewed the artists and Dad wrote the story from her



ARTHUR LISMER'S OLYMPIC WITH RETURNED SOLDIERS (1919)

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reel-to-reel recordings. A real tag team! So, our family was very involved with the arts.

Anyhow, my parents wanted us to have a good background in art and so they sent us to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on Saturday mornings to take art classes with Arthur Lismer. Most kids went to nursery school. We went to Arthur Lismer school.

Because I was so young, my recollections are rather scattered. I remember how tall he was, but then again, being only six years old, I was pretty short at the time. I seem to recall he smoked a pipe. I remember how I felt like a real artist because we got to stand at an easel and paint. My older sister, Marcia, who took the class a few years previous to me, remembers the big art show at the end

of the year, where all the artists' paintings were on display and she got to dress up in her best outfit. My cousin Richard remembers the licorice pipes that we got at the end of the class on our way home.

I'm not sure if his classes had an effect on me, but I suppose they might have. Years later, I chose art as my field of endeavour and graduated from Concordia with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Maybe some of his teaching rubbed off after all! ■

*As told to Ellen Bond and excerpted, with permission, from "The Group of Seven and me: A few degrees of separation," published on Library and Archives Canada's blog on May 6 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Group of Seven's first formal exhibition.*

**"Most kids went to nursery school.  
We went to Arthur Lismer school."**



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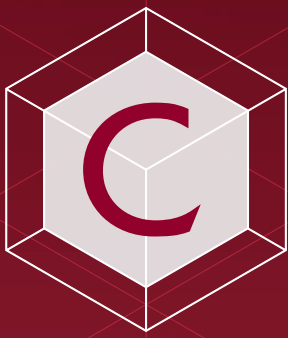


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