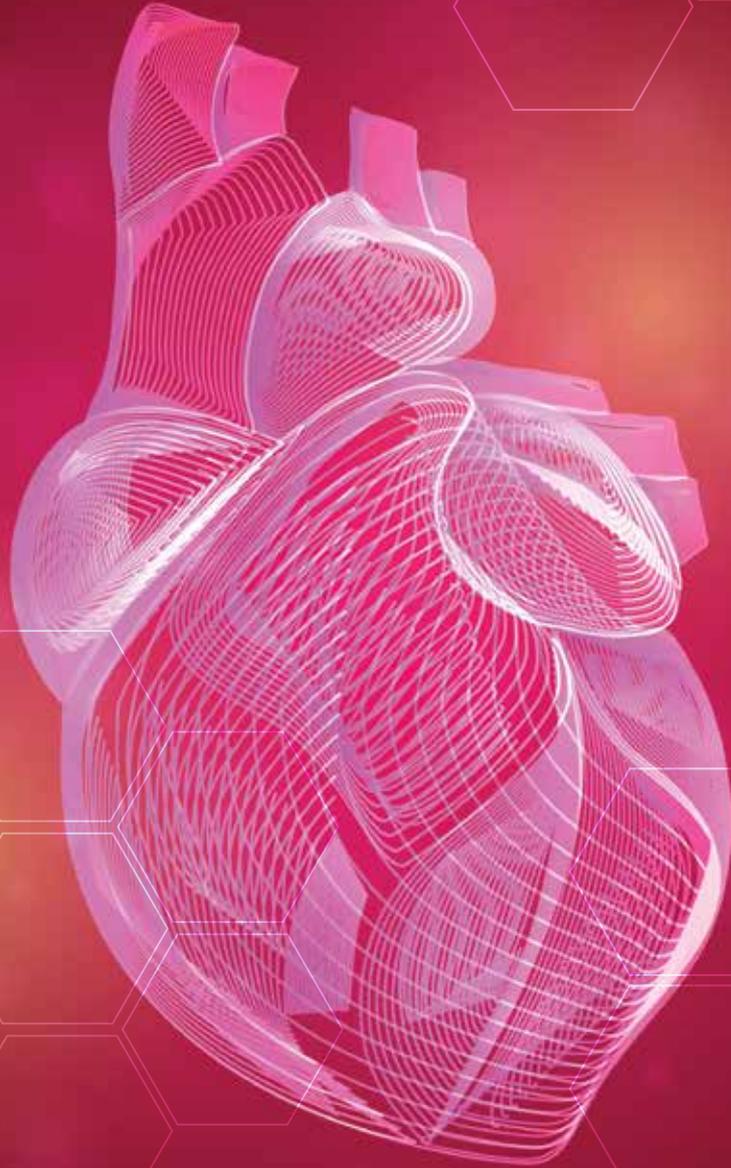


CONCORDIA

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



CONCORDIANS AT THE HEART OF DIGITAL HEALTH

HOW AI-FOCUSED RESEARCH IS TRANSFORMING
THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

FALL 2021 / 50 UNDER 50 / REAL ESTATE BOOM / SPOTLIGHT ON CINEMA

Stories that...

INFORM CONNECT ENLIGHTEN



| The main building of Concordia's Loyola Campus.
PHOTOGRAPHER: PIERRE OBENDRAUF

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CONCORDIA

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

TOP 50 UNDER 50 20

Read Concordia's annual list of outstanding alumni leading the way in their fields



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UNPACKING THE REAL-ESTATE BOOM

Concordians are poised to lead in a white-hot industry

CONCORDIANS AT THE HEART OF DIGITAL HEALTH

How AI-focused research is transforming the future of medicine



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FROM CONCORDIA TO THE BIG SCREEN

Meet graduates of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema making waves in film and television

fall 2021 volume 45 number 3

concordia.ca/magazine

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CONCORDIA

This holiday season, give the gift that makes a difference.

Support next-gen students, research and innovation by making your annual contribution to the Campaign for Concordia before December 31.

Visit concordia.ca/giving to support an area that's meaningful to you.

Finding strength in community

By now, you may have read about the late Nadia Chaudhri, a Concordia psychology professor and neuroscientist (see p. 59) who, faced with her own terminal diagnosis, shed light on the need for additional ovarian cancer research.

Nadia rallied thousands of people around the world to support the next generation of students from diverse backgrounds at Concordia. Harnessing the power of social media, she chronicled her last months and united a community of 150,000 — predominantly strangers — behind her cause.

Her journey was covered by multiple media outlets — her teachable moments resonated with many beyond our own community. Nadia and, sadly, many others — faculty members, alumni and donors — have passed over the recent months, as you'll see in the In Memoriam section of this magazine (p. 61). Like Nadia, they all left a mark on their respective communities.

In both good times and bad, we lean on those around us for a sense of solace, understanding and belonging. And it's through the power of community that we're able to chart a path forward.

As we close in on another 12 months affected by COVID-19, I reflect on my first year as editor and thank all of you who took the time to share your feedback and news with me. Near or far, we've forged ahead together — a reminder that there is strength in numbers. Community makes us stronger.



Despite the challenges, I hope you share my pride in the collective successes of our fellow Concordians. That includes the next-gen research happening at the university and out in the field. The following pages highlight the cutting-edge work being done to improve health care with the help of machine learning (p. 32); Concordians navigating the booming commercial and residential real-estate market (p. 26); and how talented cinema grads are contributing to the film industry at home and abroad (p. 38). You'll also learn about a range of inspiring alumni on our latest Top 50 Under 50 Shaping Tomorrow list (p. 20).

Our editorial team is pleased to welcome back Louise Morgan, GrDip 99, who returns from maternity leave to serve as associate editor alongside Ian Harrison, BComm 01, as of our first issue in 2022.

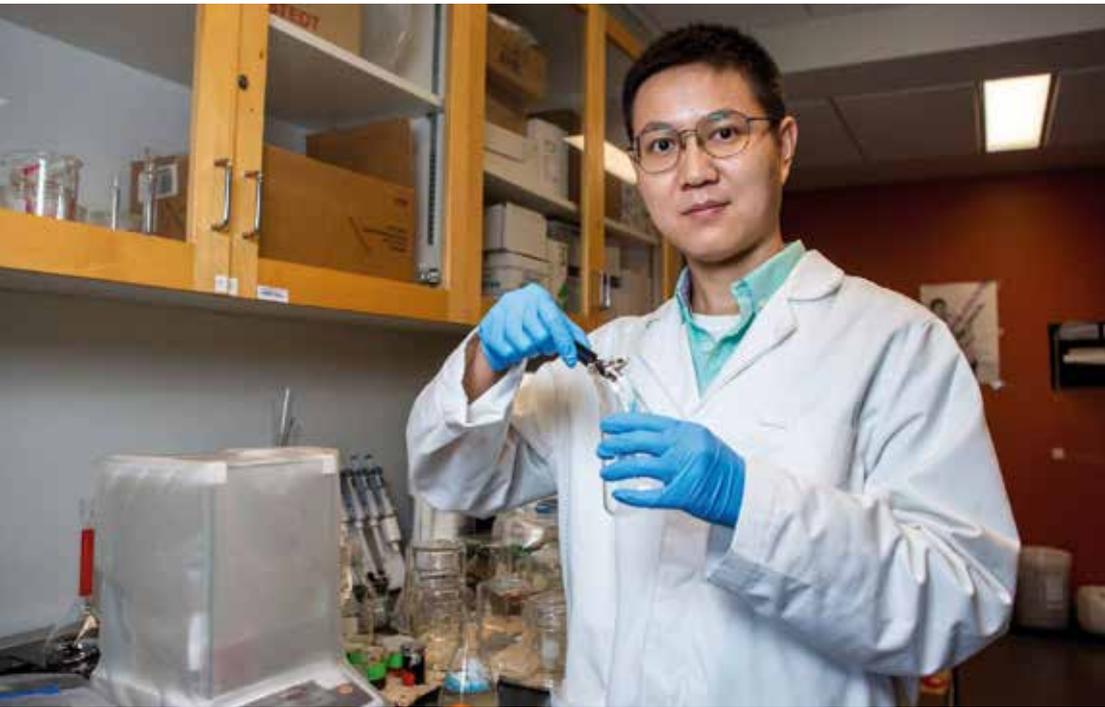
Additionally in the new year, Concordia will be hosting its first in-person convocation ceremonies since

the pandemic began. I'm delighted to know that our recent grads can properly cap their student journeys with a celebration among their community of alumni.

Finally, our next issue will be published in winter/spring 2022. Like many organizations, we've been forced by the pandemic to rethink the way we conduct our day-to-day business. As a result, we will be distributing a smaller number of magazines for subsequent issues as of the new year. Should you prefer to read our stories online — or be communicated with in another way — I would love to hear from you.

As we head into the holidays and gather once again with our communities of friends, colleagues and loved ones, I wish you all a happy and healthy festive season — and all the best for 2022. ■

Marta Samuel, GrDip 10
Editor, *Concordia University Magazine*
magazine@concordia.ca



A SINGLE MASK LEFT EXPOSED UNDER NATURAL CONDITIONS CAN RELEASE MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION MICROPLASTICS INTO THE SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT, ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY BY CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS. PHD STUDENT ZHENG WANG (PICTURED) AND CHUNJIANG AN, AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING, CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, INVESTIGATE HOW DISPOSABLE MASKS BREAK DOWN AND THE RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

CONCORDIA AMONG BEST MAKER SCHOOLS

Concordia is the only Quebec university and one of only six in Canada to make the **2021 list of Best Maker Schools in Higher Education** from *Make: and Newsweek*. The inaugural, non-ranked list targets schools that encourage learning; “have well-developed makerspaces, labs, and studios; and which support diverse, interactive communities that engage in knowledge and skill sharing.”

BUSINESS SCHOOL LEADER LAUDED

Louise Champoux-Paillé, John Molson School of Business executive-in-residence and co-director (practice) of the faculty’s recently inaugurated Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership, was **awarded the Medal of the National Assembly of Quebec** in October. “Louise is a ‘grande dame’ of governance and leadership for women,” said Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of John Molson. “She is a pioneer who has inspired, encouraged and mentored many women in Quebec to pursue their professional ambitions.”

\$1.5M FOR AI AND HEALTH

Concordia professor of health, kinesiology and applied physiology **Simon Bacon** and École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) professor **Éric Granger** were awarded one of two double research chairs from the **Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé** in the field of artificial intelligence in health, valued at **\$1.5 million over three years**. They will study ambivalence as it relates to positive lifestyle changes.

\$5M FOR SOCIAL-SCIENCE RESEARCH

The **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada** has awarded two Concordia Faculty of Arts and Science professors nearly \$5 million in research funding. **Erica Lehrer**, professor of history, will research colonial legacies in museums and **Kim Sawchuk**, professor of communication studies, will study aging in an era of digital data-gathering. The grants are each worth approximately \$2.5 million over seven years.



MAUREEN ADELSON

SARAH MAZHERO, BA 21, IS ONE OF 10 NEW APPOINTEES TO THE **PRIME MINISTER'S YOUTH COUNCIL**. GROWING UP IN CHESTERFIELD INLET, NUNAVUT, SHE WITNESSED HOW FOOD INSECURITY, HOUSING SHORTAGES AND DISCRIMINATION AFFECTED THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY. SHE WILL STRIVE TO COMBAT SYSTEMIC RACISM IN HER NEW ROLE.

TWO STUDENT OLYMPIANS

Middleweight boxer **Tammara Thibeault** competed at the **2020 Summer Olympics**, and swimmer **Danielle Kissler** took part in the **Paralympic Games** this past summer in Tokyo.

TOP MARKS FOR EMBA

CEO Magazine's **2021 Global MBA Rankings** named the **John Molson School of Business Executive MBA 33rd in the world and second in Canada**. Concordia is the only Quebec university to be featured. The John Molson MBA program maintained its ranking as a Tier 1 MBA program internationally.



CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS HAVE DEVELOPED A **NEW WAY TO FIND CANCER AT THE NANOMETRE SCALE**. LAB-ON-A-CHIP TECHNOLOGY USES MAGNETIC PARTICLES TO IDENTIFY BIOMARKERS OF CONCERN **BEFORE A TUMOUR EVEN FORMS**. "THIS TECHNIQUE CAN PROVIDE A VERY EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER THAT WOULD HELP FIND THERAPEUTIC SOLUTIONS AND IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PATIENTS," SAYS **MUTHUKUMARAN PACKIRISAMY**, PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AND DIRECTOR OF CONCORDIA'S OPTICAL BIOMICROSYSTEMS LABORATORY.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Join the conversation using **#CUMagazine** and by following **@ConcordiaAlumni** on social media.



CONCORDIA MARKED THE FIRST OFFICIAL **NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION** – OR ORANGE SHIRT DAY – IN HONOUR OF CANADA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, WITH A PANEL DISCUSSION FOR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS ON THE TOPICS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND THE IMPACT OF INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA. **ANNE WHITELAW**, BFA 87, GRDIP 92, PHD 96, PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC, MODERATED THE DISCUSSION FEATURING **DONNA KAHÉRAKWAS GOODLEAF**, DIRECTOR OF DECOLONIZING CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY. THE UNIVERSITY ILLUMINATED CAMPUS BUILDINGS IN ORANGE IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

QB KUDOS

Olivier Roy, the quarterback for the Concordia Stingers, is enjoying a standout season. The Donnacona, Quebec, native has orchestrated dramatic come-from-behind wins and set a Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) record by passing for 580 yards in a 42-39 overtime victory over the Sherbrooke Vert & Or on September 25. Roy was named the **RSEQ Athlete of the Month** for September and the **U SPORTS Outstanding Player on Offence** for the week ending September 26.

BOOST FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Concordia and the **Lise Watier Foundation** launched the **Spreading Your Wings grant** for women entrepreneurs in September. **Karine Richer received the inaugural award for her edible-insect business, Insectes Intrinsekt.** The \$5,000 bursary will be given annually to a graduate of the Let's Start Up Program, a free 18-week course offered by the Lise Watier Foundation in partnership with **Concordia Continuing Education** and a number of community organizations.

CONCORDIA POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER **LILIAN SALES** WAS AWARDED A **BANTING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP** FOR HER WORK ON **HOW TO PREDICT AND MITIGATE CHANGES TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY.** AS A BIOLOGIST WITH A PHD IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION, SHE USES MATHEMATICAL MODELS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DRIVES SPECIES DISTRIBUTION AT LANDSCAPE, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SCALES. THE TWO-YEAR AWARD IS VALUED AT \$70,000 PER YEAR.



ADVANCING INCLUSIVITY AND EQUITY

Angélique Willkie, an associate professor in the Department of Contemporary Dance, was appointed **special advisor to the provost on Black integration and knowledges**.



PROSPER DOVONON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, HAS BEEN ELECTED A **FELLOW OF THE ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY**, AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC THEORY IN ITS RELATION TO STATISTICS AND MATHEMATICS. HE IS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE THE HONOUR.

FROM EMBA STARTUP TO SUCCESSFUL SME

After determining a market need for breweries during their **EMBA at the John Molson School of Business**, the co-founders of Hart Print — **Stephanie Hart**, EMBA 18, **Jean-Pierre Paradis**, BEng 05, EMBA 18, and **Alexander Anishi**, EMBA 18 — are now experiencing non-stop growth in their digital beverage-can printing business. The founders credit part of their success to resources and support offered by **Concordia's District 3 Innovation Hub**.



WORKING WITH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM, CONCORDIA RESEARCHER **NATHALIE DUPONSEL** HAS DETERMINED THAT **SURGICAL MASKS ARE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE IF WORN WITH A 3D-PRINTED FRAME** TO CREATE A SEAL. A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, SHE STUDIES MAKER EDUCATION AND THE BENEFITS OF DIY DESIGN AND OPTIMIZING CONDITIONS IN SCHOOLS TO FACILITATE STUDENT LEARNING. "EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THIS KIND OF OPPORTUNITY, WHICH IS WHY I PUSH SO HARD FOR SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP DESIGN SKILLS IN STUDENTS FROM DAY ONE," SHE SAYS.



THE FORMER SHARX POOL HALL IN THE **FAUBOURG BUILDING** BASEMENT CLOSE TO SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS HAS UNDERGONE A DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION. **BOLDLY COLOURED NEW STUDY SPACES AND SIX VIBRANT CLASSROOMS** WERE RECENTLY UNVEILED FOR IN-PERSON COURSES, ONLINE TEACHING AND CONFERENCES.

'Concordia set me on my path'

Emmy Award winner Annie Murphy is an actress on the rise

JOANNE LATIMER, MFA 94

Annie Murphy, BFA 10, captured hearts en route to a 2020 Emmy Award for her role on the critically acclaimed *Schitt's Creek*.

From 2015 to 2020, the Department of Theatre alumna more than held her own on the wildly popular CBC comedy next to veteran castmates Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara. Murphy's performance as socialite Alexis Rose inspired countless memes and propelled her career to new heights.

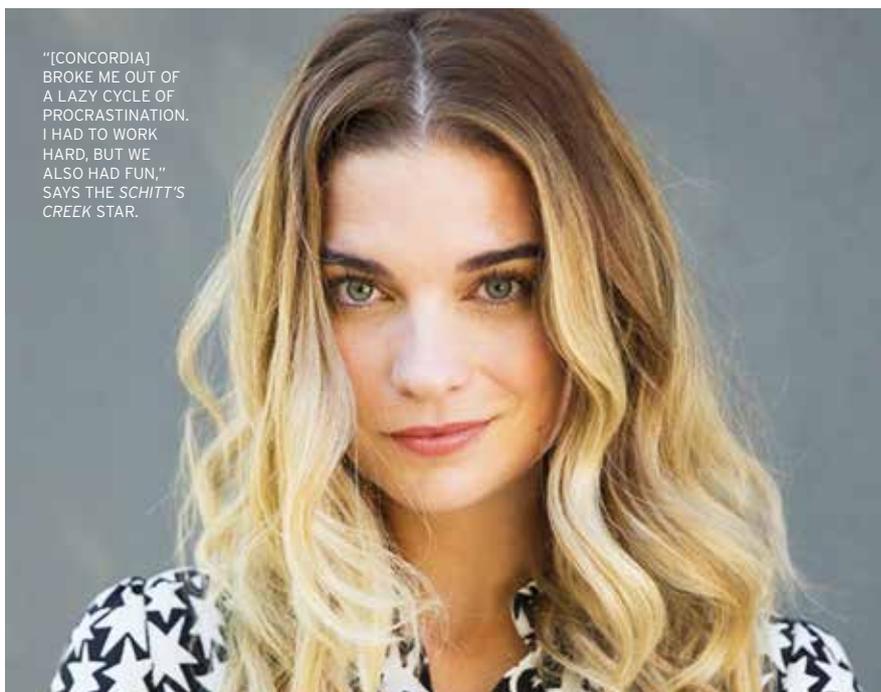
The Ottawa native recently starred in the AMC dark comedy *Kevin Can F**k Himself* and will soon appear in the highly anticipated second season of the Netflix hit *Russian Doll*.

What was it like to be cast with Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara not long after graduating from Concordia?

While I'm incredibly lucky, the truth is something else. When Dan Levy offered me the role of Alexis, I was in Los Angeles and was down to my last few dollars. I'd just blown a film audition — really blown it. On top of that, my home in Toronto had burned down. I was ready to quit.

Some actors skip formal training entirely. Why did you choose Concordia?

I wanted a degree and Concordia has a hands-on program with small classes. It broke me out of a lazy cycle of procrastination. I had to work hard, but we also had fun. Those were formative years. I was figuring myself out, surrounded by creative people. I especially remember my folio class with the late Joel Miller. And I made great friends, like Antoine Yared, BFA 11, who has an incredible career acting at Stratford and doing television. Montreal is a great city because you can be broke and still have a great quality of life.



"[CONCORDIA] BROKE ME OUT OF A LAZY CYCLE OF PROCRASTINATION. I HAD TO WORK HARD, BUT WE ALSO HAD FUN," SAYS THE *SCHITT'S CREEK* STAR.

I spent most of my time on Loyola Campus, sitting on the grass and hanging out in cafés, while I lived in Westmount and Mile End. Montreal has a great community of actors and creative talent.

Why did *Schitt's Creek* resonate so strongly with the LGBTQ+ community?

Because it's a show — a rare show — that depicts a gay relationship that's just a relationship. No big deal is made about it. It's about their personalities, and not focused entirely on their sexual preference as the main topic. The writers did that on purpose. It's more interesting to tell a story about what happens after 'boy meets boy.'

What drew you to *Kevin Can F**k Himself*?

The filming style is really edgy. Viewers move between two worlds. In one world, it's a traditional sitcom with a laugh track where [my character] Allison is the butt of every joke. Then it switches to a

single-camera, gritty, more dramatic world where Allison plots her revenge. It's so fresh and complicated. Allison is very angry, frustrated, poor and unfashionable — the opposite of Alexis Rose — but she's hopeful. That spark of hope caught my interest.

What would you tell young actors today?

You never know what will pop up or what's around the corner. Stick with it and put in the hard work — that's the price of admission.

What have you learned about handling success?

It's imperative to lead with kindness. Success gives you more options, and it's nice to be a bit picky about what you want to do, but always, always lead with kindness.

Why is your connection to Concordia important?

This is where I grew a lot and learned a lot. Concordia set me on my path. ■

Meet the Concordian revitalizing diversity, equity and inclusion training

Karine Bah Tahé's company aims to build respectful and diverse work environments

DELANIE KHAN-DOBSON, MA 21

At a time when Concordia has taken concrete steps to confront systemic racism and decolonize the institution, an entrepreneurial alumna is doing her part, one workshop at a time.

Karine Bah Tahé, BComm 11, is the CEO of Blue Level, a company that provides diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) training, as well as anti-racism training, sexual-harassment prevention training and related consulting services.

The John Molson School of Business graduate founded Blue Level at the height of the #MeToo movement in 2018, when she saw an opportunity to better educate and empower others on matters of workplace discrimination.

"We tend to have this typical image of a person who is racist or abusive," says Bah Tahé. "But even people who may be well-intentioned are capable of discrimination."

'OUR APPROACH ENSURES THAT EVERYBODY SEES THEMSELVES REPRESENTED'

After completing her degree, Bah Tahé worked with a wide range of global executives and leaders. As a result, she built up an extensive network on LinkedIn and the confidence and knowledge to become a CEO herself.

Bah Tahé became an innovator, too. When she started building the framework for what became Blue Level, she noticed how traditional DEI training over-emphasized examples of overt prejudice. Less blatant forms of bias went unexplored.

"People who take these trainings then think, 'This is not for me, it's for the bad person in the office,'" says Bah Tahé. "And those employees disassociate themselves. They don't pay attention, they don't engage, they don't retain the information."



"THE STUDENT POPULATION AT JOHN MOLSON WAS VERY DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC. THAT PROMPTED ME TO GET INVOLVED," SAYS KARINE BAH TAHÉ.

JORDAN POIRIER

At Blue Level, Bah Tahé and her team take a solutions-based approach.

"Everyone wants to feel good about what their capacities are, and the impact they can have," she explains. "Our approach ensures that everybody sees themselves represented. We provide tools that help companies identify the costs of more implicit and hidden bias."

To demonstrate how individually held biases in the workplace cause harm — and damage the bottom line — Bah Tahé has only to reflect on her own lived experience as a Black woman.

"I have braids. Studies show that if I apply for a job and go for an interview, I have significantly less chance of being hired if I wear my natural hairstyle than if I straighten my hair. It's ridiculous. And it's a global problem."

1,300 PER CENT GROWTH

The worldwide response to George Floyd's murder at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer in June 2020 sparked demand for anti-racism training. Blue Level fielded requests from individual employees and from executives at global Fortune 500 firms, top universities and government agencies.

"We grew by 1,300 per cent in one year as a result," says Bah Tahé. "More and more people want to understand how they can be an ally and support victims of systemic racism and structural discrimination."

The training that Blue Level provides pays off in more ways than one, adds the founder and CEO. Bah Tahé cites research suggesting that investments in DEI boost profitability, customer satisfaction and employee productivity and well-being.

Blue Level currently offers services in 17 different languages and in a number of countries. From startups to multinationals, Bah Tahé and her team prepare people — whether BIPOC or not — to become strong anti-racism advocates in the workplace. By the end of 2021, the company projects that half a million people will have received some form of its training services.

Bah Tahé says her experience as an undergraduate student helped pave the way for this kind of success as an entrepreneur in a unique — and increasingly essential — space.

"The student population at John Molson was very diverse and dynamic. That prompted me to get involved," she says. "I'm a person who likes to be in the action and get things done. Concordia really put me in the driver's seat." ■

From Concordia to Wall Street

How Jeffrey Kobernick came to manage \$4B in assets

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

The most effective piece of advice Jeffrey Kobernick, BComm 80, ever got on his way to a successful career on Wall Street wasn't exactly the most encouraging.

"You're never going to succeed at this business," he recalls being told during a job interview roughly three decades ago. "You're the best you can ever be, right where you are. I think you're wasting your time trying to do more than that."

Now the managing partner and co-founder of NewEdge Wealth, a registered investment advisor (RIA) with more than \$4 billion USD of assets under advisement, Kobernick admits that the strong words from a senior executive shook him up.

But, he adds, "It was extraordinarily motivating and I ended up getting a job at Morgan Stanley, where I became the second-largest-producing financial advisor in the United States."

After subsequent stints as a managing director at Lehman Brothers and UBS, Kobernick is now doing something he's never done before: building a business from the ground up — and during a global pandemic, no less.

The Concordia graduate, who volunteers his time as a mentor to students enrolled in the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program, recently sat down to talk about his life on Wall Street.

Did you aspire to attend business school when you were at Town of Mount Royal High School in Montreal?

My dad always told me that if you have an accounting or tax degree, you'll always have a job. But I always had a sense of wanting to create something. I enjoyed keeping busy.

When I was in high school, I worked for my dad's electrical contracting firm. I did everything from sweeping in the warehouse to estimating new jobs. I worked at Pascal's hardware — I did everything there. I started a business selling necklaces door to door. I was in a band. There was always something in my life that I was trying to build.

What do you remember most about the Faculty of Commerce and Administration in the late 1970s?

I was in the Hall Building, and at that time we considered it pretty close to cutting-edge. But back then, I think we suffered from a bit of an inferiority complex. Now with the John Molson School of Business, there's no doubt that we're at a different level. We're not second fiddle to anyone in my mind.

I've spent a fair amount of time at the school, through my involvement with the Woods program. I used to come up more regularly, pre-COVID, to talk about my experiences on Wall Street. And the students have come down to New York to spend time at UBS, where I worked before starting NewEdge, and to see the floor of the exchange and even a CNBC taping. These visits have gone very well. I think I get as much out of them as the students do.



JEFFREY KOBERNICK, BCOMM 80, MANAGING PARTNER AND CO-FOUNDER, NEWEDGE WEALTH

The tech bubble, 9/11, the Great Recession — your career has spanned several significant global events. What lessons did they impart?

You have to recognize that black-swan events are inevitable. They'll keep coming and they're unpredictable. All you can control is your response. I try to bring a calmness, a sense that we've seen terrible events before, the world is not coming to an end and that we can navigate a way through it.

The plane's going through turbulence — you're an experienced pilot who knows how to land it.

Why did it make sense to pull out of UBS and start NewEdge when you did?

I've had a partner since about 1999. He's about 10 years younger than I am and was sort of the catalyst for this change. We were doing great. Life was good at UBS. So, the question was, why upset the apple cart? And why upset the apple cart in the middle of COVID-19?

For me it was about legacy and succession. It was about finding an opportunity to create something of our own. The real drama was, do you do this during a pandemic or not?

A year on, how would you assess the decision?

Well, COVID-19 — along with Zoom, Microsoft Teams and other platforms — allowed us to be much more efficient with our time. We have clients who are all over the world.

We're now at \$4 billion of assets under advisement. We probably have

around 100 clients and a team of 15 or 16 people. We're not trying to be all things to all people. We're just trying to add five new clients annually. That's it. We're pretty proud of how far we've come in such a relatively short amount of time.

What advice do you have for finance students who want to work on Wall Street?

Do it because you enjoy it. If not, the work and commitment required will just become too onerous and boring — especially when challenges come up.

Be open to new relationships and new experiences. Learn to embrace what may seem like obstacles at first — you never know what path they'll lead you down.

One challenge students have, I think, is that they feel compelled to make the right decision all the time. But you have to accept that you are going to make mistakes. How you manage them and what you do after is what matters most.

How did you adjust to the pace of life in New York?

It certainly has a different vibe from Montreal. I don't know if I should say this or not, but you know the line from the song, 'If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere'? I truly believe that.

I was always into music as a kid. I would get a record album and it would say something like CBS, 49 East 52nd Street. Or Rockefeller Center. And I would dream of that place. It just sounded like the centre of everything.

When I got to New York, I saw that this was all true. But it took a while to adjust. You either get hooked or you can't stand it and get out. It's one or the other.

I miss Montreal. I miss my family. I miss my community. I miss the quality of life. But there's something about New York that's intoxicating. I've basically been on Wall Street in one shape or form for over 30 years now. And it's been, wow, what a ride. What a ride. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. ■

Learn about our impressive network of 230,000 alumni at concordia.ca/alumninews.



MEMBERS OF THE **KENNETH WOODS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** CLASS OF 2017 TOOK A TRIP TO NEW YORK IN 2016 TO VISIT JEFFREY KOBERNICK AND OTHER EXECUTIVES AT UBS.



A STUDENT RESIDENT ENJOYS THE GARDEN AT **ON OUR OWN** WITH HER DAUGHTER.

Parents in need get a second chance at university thanks to \$215,000 gift

JOANNE LATIMER, MFA 94

A bursary fund created by a gift of \$215,000 to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now has given a group of Montreal parents a shot at a university education.

Thanks to the generosity of Mark Sherman, the former CEO of media agency Media Experts, and Mitch Kendall, residents of On Our Own (O3), a non-profit that helps house and support young parents in need, will have the opportunity to attend Concordia.

“Six of our single moms are at [the university], studying everything from accounting to political science,” says Ushana Houston, BA 20, director of O3.

“Many have never stepped foot on campus and don’t understand that bursaries can help with the costs. Donors who partner with Concordia have an enormous impact on many young lives.”

The bursary fund will support tuition fees and the purchase of textbooks for successful undergraduate applicants, who benefit from O3’s range of services.

‘BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY’

“My daughter told me about O3 while she was working at Media Experts,” says Kendall, an entrepreneur and investor.

“This gift is my way of breaking the cycle of poverty for one person every year. Then the effect multiplies — when you change a person’s life, you also change their children’s lives.”

“We thank Mark and Mitch for their generous support of parents with young children who have limited resources and time,” says Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement at Concordia.

“Gifts like these have significant impact on not just the recipient, but on ongoing generations that see first-hand the value of higher education.”

‘IT’S OUR PRIVILEGE TO HELP’

Philanthropy runs in Kendall’s family. His maternal grandfather, Gordon Brown, was awarded the Order of Canada for his record of public service.

“I believe philanthropy is both nature and nurture,” says Kendall. “It has to come from the heart, but if you have a family background that gives back, you’re more likely to get involved. I hope my children will.”

The Kendall family’s connection to Concordia goes back to the university’s founding institutions.

After starting his own packaging and labelling business in 1932, Kendall’s paternal grandfather, Hyman, enrolled at Sir George Williams College as a mature student, graduating with a BSc in 1951 and a BComm in 1953.

More than half a century later, Mitch’s son, Matthew Kendall, BA 18, earned his degree in political science.

Mitch Kendall and Mark Sherman have known each other for a long time, through various encounters at charitable and community events. Their network includes Concordia’s chancellor, Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, who himself lent support to the O3 bursary fund with a gift of \$10,000.

Adds Sherman: “It’s our privilege to help, share the wealth, recognize community responsibility and improve opportunities.” ■

National Bank donates \$2M to help startups supported by Concordia

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Quebec tech startups advanced by Concordia and partners have received a major boost from National Bank.

The financial institution is supporting innovative startups through a \$2-million donation to the Campaign for Concordia to bolster the MentorConnect program.

“Our university is grateful to National Bank for its support of emerging tech entrepreneurs who bring innovative ideas to market and help fuel our economy,” says Concordia President Graham Carr.

“As one of Quebec’s university leaders in startup incubation, District 3 aims to connect entrepreneurs with seasoned coaches and funding opportunities. MentorConnect fills a gap in the journey by matching growing startups with

experienced mentors.”

MentorConnect drives startups and their co-founders to successfully transition companies into established firms.

Under the MentorConnect framework, mentors work in groups of three to volunteer their time and expertise to startup founders. Mentors create a safe, collaborative space in which mentees can thrive.

Louis Vachon, LL.D. 19, who retired from his role as president and CEO of National Bank on October 31, says the financial institution is pleased to support startup founders. “Innovation is a key economic driver. Nurturing startups through mentoring will accelerate their growth in a sustainable way.



“NURTURING STARTUPS THROUGH MENTORING WILL ACCELERATE THEIR GROWTH IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY,” SAYS **LOUIS VACHON**, LL.D. 19, FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NATIONAL BANK, PICTURED (RIGHT) WITH CONCORDIA PRESIDENT **GRAHAM CARR**.

“At National Bank, we aim to have a positive impact on the next generation of entrepreneurs. We are proud to support MentorConnect with this initiative.”

Xavier-Henri Hervé, BEng 87, DSc 11, executive director and co-founder of District 3, adds: “Tomorrow’s innovators need the support and advice of today’s business veterans. National Bank’s donation allows for the expansion of MentorConnect to serve Quebec’s promising and innovative startups.” ■



JOSÉ GARRIDO AT THE ACTUARIAL MATHEMATICS PROGRAM’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2014

JOSEPH LÉGER, BA 15

When José Garrido announced his retirement from Concordia’s Department of Mathematics and Statistics after 35 years of teaching, former students and colleagues joined forces to create an award in his name.

The Actuarial Mathematics Graduate Award in Honour of José Garrido was revealed during a virtual retirement celebration on June 22. Attendees donated

Award honouring beloved professor raises more than \$52,000

more than \$5,000, bringing the fund’s total to an impressive \$52,050.

“Professors such as José Garrido embody the best possible qualities that we look for in our faculty and are a big reason why our alumni remain engaged with Concordia,” said Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, Advancement, at the event.

“This award is a wonderful tribute and will serve to keep [José’s] legacy alive for many years to come.”

Garrido has been a mentor, friend and inspiration to hundreds of students over three decades.

“He made the material come to life for me, more than any other professor, and in his unassuming way restored my

faith in my career choice,” says Francine Pell, BSc 88, a senior vice-president at LifeWorks Wellbeing Solutions.

‘THE EPITOME OF THE IDEAL FACULTY MEMBER’

After arriving at Concordia in the mid-1980s, Garrido helped build the Actuarial Mathematics program into one of the most respected in the country.

An internationally renowned actuary and researcher, Garrido has published dozens of articles in top journals, served on the scientific committees of several major actuarial conferences and has held visiting positions at universities in Mexico, Spain, Australia and the United States. ■

Aune Foundation's gift of \$176,400 supports women in business

WENDY HELFENBAUM

Concordia students pursuing degrees in finance are getting a boost, thanks to a \$176,400 gift from the Aune Foundation.

The Ruth P. Glenen Awards — named in honour of alumna Ruth Glenen, BA 80, MBA 85 — will support female students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

“We are thankful for this important gesture of philanthropy which comes at an opportune time for women at the John Molson School,” says Dean Anne-Marie Croteau.

“It is well aligned with our efforts towards equity, diversity and inclusion, most recently demonstrated by the new Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership and our second consecutive Parity Certification from Women in Governance.”

The Aune family has long supported Concordia. Glenen’s husband, Brian Aune, is a governor emeritus of Concordia’s Board of Governors, having served from 1988 to 2002.

“My dad has Alzheimer’s, which put me in control of the family estate,” says Jonathan Aune. “When my stepmother Ruth passed in 2018 and I started a foundation in his name, one of the first things I wanted to do was honour her.

“Ruth was fearless, whip smart and would always tell you what she was thinking. She was also very generous with her time. Throughout all my stages



JONATHAN AUNE (CENTRE), DIRECTOR OF THE AUNE FOUNDATION, WITH STEPMOTHER **RUTH GLENEN**, BA 80, MBA 85, AND FATHER **BRIAN AUNE**.

of schooling, Ruth always took an interest in the things I was learning and was a huge help when I struggled early on — even if it meant studying the curriculum with me.”

‘SHE WAS ONE OF A KIND’

Glenen went to night school at Concordia to earn her MBA, adds Aune, and mentored many young women over the years.

One of her mentees, Barbara Timmins, is now corporate communications director at the law firm Norton Rose Fulbright Canada. Timmins met Glenen in 1993 as a student at McGill University.

“Ruth was a tough cookie and not the maternal type per se, but she guided young women with a combination of tough love and pragmatic advice,” says Timmins.

“She was a port in a storm who was there when you needed a friend to listen and help you pick up the pieces. She was one of a kind.”

When Aune decided to launch the awards program in Glenen’s name, the first call he made was to Timmins.



“RUTH WAS A PORT IN A STORM WHO WAS THERE WHEN YOU NEEDED A FRIEND TO LISTEN AND HELP YOU PICK UP THE PIECES. SHE WAS ONE OF A KIND,” SAYS **BARBARA TIMMINS** (RIGHT) OF HER FORMER MENTOR RUTH GLENEN.

“I wanted Barb to run it. I said, ‘I’ll be the bank and you be the boss,’ which is actually how my dad and Ruth described each other,” adds Aune.

In addition to providing financial support, the awards also have a strong mentorship component.

“Women promoting women and creating a community — that was Ruth’s vision,” says Aune. “The dream is to have women all across the country stay in touch and help one another, the way she did. That’s how we’ll maintain her legacy.” ■

'It's something he would have loved': \$325,000 gift for women in finance honours a brother's legacy

CHARLIE FIDELMAN

Karna and Jaydeep Gupta were born six years apart. Both graduated from Concordia — Karna, BComm 77, MBA 79, and Jaydeep, BA 82, MBA 84. And both went on to distinguished international careers, one in the tech sector and the other in banking.

Sadly, Jaydeep Gupta died suddenly in March 2020 at the age of 61. At the time, he was Standard Chartered Bank of U.K.'s regional head of retail banking for Africa and Middle East. His older brother said he was a well-respected banker who "left his fingerprint across several continents."

To honour Jaydeep's legacy of supporting diversity and equality, Karna Gupta is now giving more than \$325,000 to the Campaign for Concordia. The Jaydeep Gupta Bursary for Women in Finance will fund two undergraduate bursaries at the John Molson School of Business in perpetuity.

As an advocate for gender parity in the workforce, especially in finance, his brother Jaydeep would have appreciated the endowment, Karna Gupta says.

"It's something he would have loved. He always championed career opportunities for youth and particularly women."

Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of John Molson, thanked Gupta for his contribution to both the success of women in finance and his brother's legacy.

"These generous undergraduate bursaries will enable worthy recipients to focus on their studies rather than on financial constraints," Croteau says, "and to maintain the academic excellence that will jump-start their careers in finance."

CONCORDIA CONNECTIONS

The endowment is also a tribute to the Gupta brothers' appreciation for their alma mater.

Karna Gupta came to Montreal with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from India in 1975. Based on incentives from Gunther Brink, BComm 56, then dean of Concordia's Faculty of Commerce, and a few professors, he enrolled at the university. Jaydeep followed in his footsteps.

However, the connection to Concordia goes deeper.

"I also met my wife, Maria Pia Fusco [BComm 78] there, so Concordia yielded more than a degree, it created a 43-year partnership," Gupta says. A love story? "Yes, that too."



"I'VE BEEN LUCKY TO HAVE GOOD MENTORS, AND I'M MINDFUL THAT YOU NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO SOCIETY," SAYS **KARNA GUPTA**, BCOMM 77, MBA 79.

Dean Brink published Gupta's thesis in his book, *Business Policy in Canada*. "He was a huge mentor," he recalls. "I've been lucky to have good mentors throughout my life, and I'm mindful that you need to find a way to give back to society."

The employment network within Concordia led Gupta to a position at Bell Canada. He left the company 20 years later, after serving as the company's vice-president of product development.

Gupta then held several senior roles in Canadian and international companies. He also brought his vast business acumen to the boards of Voti Detection, Export Development Canada, Baylis Medical and FinDev Canada, among others aligned with his expertise and interests.

FinDev, for example, promotes women in business and female employment in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, "where investments generally don't go," Gupta says. "We do social investment, which is consistent with my personal passion."

Given his extensive experience in finance and business, Gupta is often sought out as an advisor. In keeping with his ethics, he says his advice for young companies is all on a pro bono basis. "Buy me a cup of coffee and you can hear my ideas." ■



BROTHERS JAYDEEP (LEFT) AND KARNA GUPTA, PICTURED IN 2019

\$1M software donation propels students at Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

A group of Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate students have a unique opportunity starting this fall, thanks to a generous software donation to Concordia.

Altus Group has contributed software licences worth \$1.04 million for two courses offered through the Wener Centre at the John Molson School of Business.

ARGUS — the company’s real-estate asset and portfolio management software — will give students “a jump-start” before they embark on careers in the industry, says Robert Courteau, BComm 81, LLD 11, Altus Group’s CEO from 2012 to 2020.



CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA DONOR **ROBERT COURTEAU**, BCOMM 81, LLD 11, WHO SERVED AS ALTUS GROUP’S CEO FROM 2012 TO 2020, HELPED FACILITATE THE NEW GIFT OF SOFTWARE LICENCES.

“When Concordia established its real-estate curriculum, it was pretty obvious that it would be a good idea for

Altus to support it,” says Courteau, a donor to the Campaign for Concordia who helped facilitate the donation.

“We are grateful for this gift from the Altus Group that will truly benefit our students,” says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of John Molson. “Hands-on exposure to software that is widely accepted as the industry standard will give them an edge as they enter the workforce.”

The two courses the software will benefit are taught by Erkan Yönder, Concordia’s Laurentian Bank Professor in Real Estate.

“The fact that our real-estate finance students will have access to this powerful tool is a huge plus for them — and for the development of the Wener Centre,” says Yönder. ■

RBC Foundation gives \$1M to bolster internships for underserved students and work terms at non-profits

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

A \$1-million gift from RBC Foundation has strengthened Canada’s first university-led internship program for students from underserved backgrounds and will help students who seek non-profit-sector experience.

The donation will support Beat the Odds, run by Concordia’s Experiential Learning Office, and the Non-Profit Sector Internships Program, offered by the Institute for Co-operative Education (Co-op).

“RBC’s support helps our university meet its objective to provide every student with at least one experiential learning opportunity,” says Concordia President Graham Carr.

Nadine Renaud-Tinker, president,

Quebec Headquarters at RBC, says: “We are thrilled to be continuing our unique partnership with Concordia and to contribute to the university’s experiential learning and diversity, equity and inclusion priorities. We look forward to seeing these innovative programs positively impact scores of students for years to come.”

“The Beat the Odds internships funded by RBC will help level the playing field,” says Nadia Bhuiyan, BEng 95, vice-provost of Partnerships and Experiential Learning at Concordia.

“RBC’s support will promote inclusiveness and address challenges often encountered by international, Black and Indigenous students, refugees, people



CONCORDIA PRESIDENT **GRAHAM CARR** AND **NADIA BHUIYAN**, VICE-PROVOST OF PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, AT THE OCTOBER 13 GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT

of colour, students with significant financial challenges, students who are parents and students with disabilities.”

Adds Claude Martel, BA 85, MA 92, PhD 09, director of Concordia’s Co-op: “We thank RBC for empowering our university to connect more students with work-integrated opportunities at non-profits that might not otherwise have the resources to hire them.” ■

\$2M for experiential learning: Doggone Foundation supports fine-arts internships

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Cultural and community organizations will soon hire the student interns they need to energize their activities, thanks to a major gift from the Doggone Foundation to Concordia.

Established by the late Elspeth McConnell, the Montreal-based foundation is investing in next-generation learning opportunities for Faculty of Fine Arts students as part of a \$2-million gift to the Campaign for Concordia.

Combined with a previously announced 2018 gift to create the Elspeth McConnell Fine Arts Awards, the charity's support to the campaign now totals \$2.5 million.

"Creating experiential learning opportunities for all our students is a priority for Concordia. The Doggone Foundation has been bold and generous in its support of fine-arts student learning outside of the classroom," says Concordia President Graham Carr.

"Doggone is a key partner for Concordia in providing paid internships for our students who, in turn, help a variety of arts and cultural organizations thrive. I must admit I'm a bit envious of those opportunities!"



"THE NEWLY EXPANDED AWARDS WILL ALLOW FOR MORE FINE-ARTS STUDENTS TO EMBARK ON MEANINGFUL INTERNSHIPS AT LEADING ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS," SAID **PAUL CHESSER**, BA 94, GRDIP 97, VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT AT CONCORDIA, AT THE OCTOBER 7 GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT.



ELSPETH MCCONNELL FINE ARTS AWARD RECIPIENTS **CHRISTINE WHITE**, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, AND **APRAJITA SAXENA**, BFA 19, GRDIP 20, MA MUSIC THERAPY CANDIDATE

Paul Marchand, executive director of the Doggone Foundation, says the charity is pleased to strengthen its Concordia partnership.

"Our initial awards, established in honour of Elspeth McConnell, exceeded our expectations in terms of student and community engagement," he says. "Providing additional support for internships for promising young practitioners is a meaningful tribute to our benefactor.

"We are also pleased to be able to honour Bill McLennan's legacy with a new award."

Over nine years, the Doggone Foundation's gift will fund 40 annual McConnell Fine Arts Awards valued at \$5,000 each. An additional \$10,000 per year will fund the annual Bill McLennan Northwest Coast Travel Award, named after the late curator emeritus of the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Museum of Anthropology.

The new award will allow a full-time graduate student to venture to British Columbia to develop knowledge of Northwest Coast art-making and Indigenous cultures. The recipient will collaborate with researchers and staff at the Museum of Anthropology at UBC — where the Elspeth McConnell Gallery of Northwest Coast Masterworks opened in 2017 — or other organizations.

"Internships and field work are so crucial to learning and research in fine arts," says Annie Gérin, dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts. "We appreciate the Doggone Foundation's enhanced commitment to empower our students with hands-on experiences at an array of organizations such as museums, cultural festivals and exhibition spaces." ■

View videos about these and other announcements at concordia.ca/campaign.

'The best gift you can give someone is knowledge'

Inspired by his father's quiet generosity, Omar Miqdadi continues a legacy of student support at Concordia

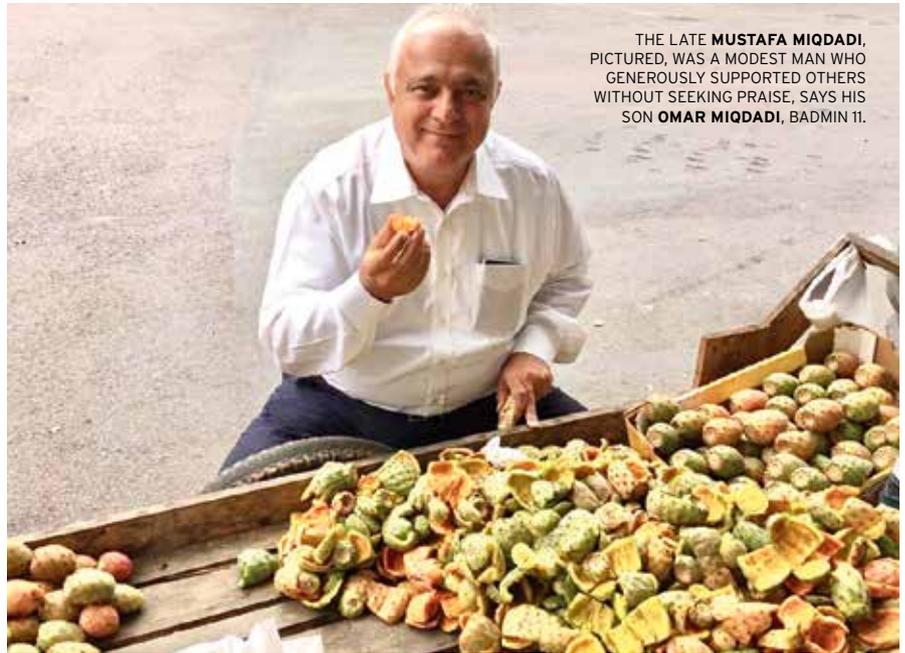
OMAR MIQDADI, BADMIN 11

On the morning of April 9, 2020, my father, Mustafa Miqdadi, passed away from COVID-19 at the age of 69.

He was a very pleasant man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. He was also a big supporter of education. He believed that the best gift you could give someone is the knowledge and tools to survive in this challenging world — and that starts with education.

As I began to handle his affairs after his passing, I was overwhelmed with letters and messages from all the people he had helped get through school or university. I knew about his generosity to some extent; however, he was a modest man and never spoke of it. He helped people without seeking praise.

I was always proud of my father, and that pride was only strengthened after seeing all the messages of appreciation and condolences.



THE LATE **MUSTAFA MIQDADI**, PICTURED, WAS A MODEST MAN WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED OTHERS WITHOUT SEEKING PRAISE, SAYS HIS SON **OMAR MIQDADI**, BADMIN 11.

As I skimmed through his emails, I noticed a few from Concordia University. I was confused because my father never attended Concordia — but I had. I discovered that he had created a bursary for students at my alma mater. I was touched.

He started the Miqdadi Adopt-a-Student Award back when I was finishing my undergraduate degree at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

Between 2009 and 2018, he enabled six students in financial need to get a quality education. He donated an additional \$2,000 in 2018, but unfortunately lost touch with the university due to his heavy schedule.

I was incredibly honoured and inspired. By virtue of my attending Concordia, my father supported other students to get the same education and opportunities at the university. Naturally I asked, "How can I keep this going?"

After a few discussions with the wonderful team at Concordia, we added to my father's final donation and extended the award for the coming years.

I wanted to make sure the award — and my father's generous legacy — would persevere. This marked the start of my path to help others finish their education.

My journey with the team at Concordia has led me to reach out to other institutions my father worked with to help advance education. I want to make sure the work he did over his lifetime continues. I just hope I can do half of what he did as I strive to spread the positive impact he had on many lives within our region and around the world. ■

Join Omar Miqdadi's support of higher education by visiting concordia.ca/campaign.

OMAR MIQDADI
(RIGHT): "I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE AWARD — AND MY FATHER'S GENEROUS LEGACY — WOULD PERSEVERE."



Decision-making in older adults

ALEXA RUEL, MA 18

Imagine that you're standing at a self-serve ticket vending machine in a train station. To buy the correct ticket, you must make a series of decisions among the options presented in each successive menu.

Given that even younger adults often struggle with the sequential decisions required to navigate such a device, it's not surprising that a lot of older adults frequently opt to buy their ticket from a teller instead.

One explanation for this is that as we age, we experience cognitive decline that impacts our learning and decision-making abilities. Such decline is particularly relevant to situations in which we must keep track of several options to choose from while simultaneously planning a future decision — as is the case when buying a ticket from a machine. You have to keep track of and choose between various

ticket types, travel dates and departure times in successive menus all while keeping in mind your main goal, which could be to travel home for an upcoming holiday, for example.

As a researcher in the Lifespan and Decision-Making Laboratory (LDMLab) at Concordia, I use electroencephalography (EEG) and computational modelling to study the neural mechanisms that support changes in decision-making strategies across a lifespan. To do so, I have younger and older adults complete various decision-making tasks that resemble video games. As they complete each task, the EEG allows me to record their neural activity — which is analyzed in parallel with their choices — to understand the strategies that inform their decisions under various conditions.

One main finding from my research is that older adults seem to have a hard time mentally representing structures that are partially observable, such as the menus of a ticket vending machine where the relationship between each menu is only observable once you start navigating through them.

Without the ability to represent these partially observable structures and the relationship between them in the mind's eye, it becomes very difficult to engage in goal-directed decision-making. Therefore, older adults who struggle to do so are often seen relying on simpler strategies instead, such as buying their ticket from a human, rather than a machine. There is nothing wrong with this strategy, yet in a case where the only option is to use a self-serve ticket machine, the deficit that informs it becomes problematic.

We all make decisions every day. Unsurprisingly, the strategies we use when deciding change as we age.

My research will allow us to find solutions for older adults who have difficulties engaging in goal-directed decision-making. By understanding how older adults make decisions, we can improve their environment, ensuring that no one ever gets frustrated by the task of buying a train ticket.

In the long term, my research aims to ensure that older adults don't encounter these problems simply because we have yet to consider their abilities when creating tools and technologies aimed at making a task simpler, not more complex. ■

Alexa Ruel is a doctoral candidate in experimental psychology at Concordia and is a 2021 Public Scholar.

She is the founder and coordinator of the Concordia Journal of Accessible Psychology (CJAP), as well as the co-founder and coordinator of the Concordia Journal of Psychology and Neuroscience (CJPN).

Ruel's doctoral research is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Concordia.





CONCORDIA'S
**TOP
FIFTY**
UNDER
FIFTY
SHAPING
TOMORROW



**Meet the outstanding alumni
leading the way in their fields**

From helping green-tech startups find funding to reimagining how people use, buy and fix their cars, Concordia alumni are helping shape the world of tomorrow.

Selected from our global community of more than 230,000 graduates, the 2021 Top 50 Under 50 are making waves everywhere from Montreal and San Francisco to London and Accra.

Launched in 2019 to promote the university's impressive network of Concordians, the annual Top 50 list spans industries around the world and highlights the careers of #CUalumni across faculties.

INNOVATORS

Big thinkers at the forefront of what's next



Sherin Al-Safadi, MBA 10, PhD 14

Global medical affairs oncology strategy lead at Bayer



Ashkan Karbasfrooshan, BComm 99

Founder of WatchMojo



Philip Barrar, BComm 12

CEO of Moka and chief innovation officer at Mogo



Andrea Limbardi, EMBA 16

Chief digital officer at Indigo



Vatché Bartekian, BSc 00

Founder of Vantage BioTrials



Jonathan Margel, BComm 10

Co-founder of Building Stack



Stewart Campbell, BSc 99

Lifecycle leader at Genentech



Henry Mooney, BA 99

Economics advisor at Inter-American Development Bank



Nicolas Dinh, BEng 03

Co-founder of STACK



Ranjit Sarai, BEng 03

Co-founder of STACK



Angelo Filosa, BSc 96, PhD 01

President of PerkinElmer Health Sciences Canada



Mahesh Shah, BComm 98

Chief product and technology officer at CDK Global



Kevin Finlayson, MFA 05

Director of UX at Shopify Montreal



Megan Shay, BA 07

Vice-president and practice lead, Technology, at National Public Relations



Kyla Henriksen, BA 94

Counsel at Wells Fargo



Valery Zamuner, MBA 13

Senior vice-president, general counsel and corporate secretary at Alimentation Couche-Tard



Jennifer Hollett, BA 97

Executive director of *The Walrus*

Read the full profiles and watch video content online at concordia.ca/cu50under50.

FINANCE

Decision-makers standing out in the competitive world of commerce



Marie-Claude Bourgie, MBA 11

Executive director of the Greater Montreal Climate Fund and vice-president of development at One Drop



Daniela Di Pietro, BComm 95

Executive vice-president of finance at Ascot Capital Group Inc.



Joseph Gallucci, BComm 03, MBA 08

Managing director of investment banking at Laurentian Bank Securities



Philippe Hynes, BComm 02

Founder and president of Tonus Capital Inc.



Vishal Patel, BComm 05

Vice-president of 1832 Asset Management L.P. division at Scotiabank



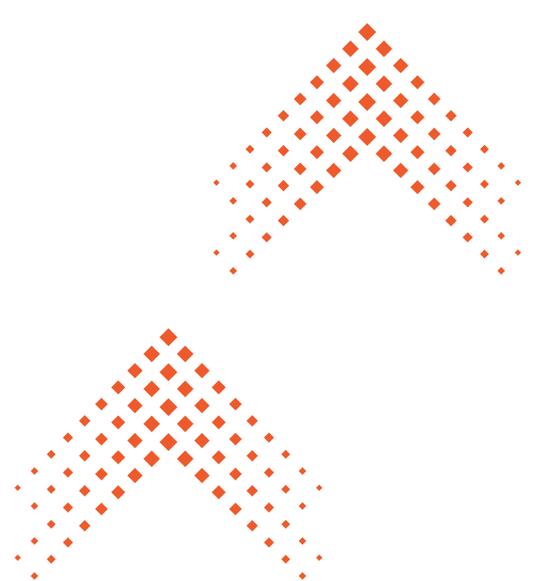
Luke Pelosi, BComm 03, GrDip 08

Executive vice-president and chief financial officer at GFL Environmental Inc.



Ian J. Wooden, BComm 06

Managing director and CEO of IJW & Co.



“Concordia professors were really involved in the success of a lot of the students, and that really stood out for me.”

– Daniela Di Pietro, BComm 95



BUILDERS

Leaders blazing trails for successful organizations and teams



Benjamin Crudo, BEng 12
Founder of Diff



Christopher Thierry, BComm 99
Founder of Rated R Group



Andrew Elvish, MFA 97
Vice-president of marketing at Genetec Inc.



Natalie Voland, PhD candidate
President of GI Quo Vadis



Ian Jeffrey, BA 01
Founder of Breathe Life and co-founder of
MTLinTech and FounderFuel



Fabian Zaccardo, BSc 97
Chief operating officer at Professional
Compounding Centers of America



Ashik Karim, BCSc 02
Founder of UpCapital



Chun Lei He, MSc 05, PhD 10
Lead data scientist and director of data
science at Canada Life

“When my business started to take off, Concordia grads were the first people I looked to hire.”

– Benjamin Crudo, BEng 12



Dan Leib, BCSc 95
Co-founder of League



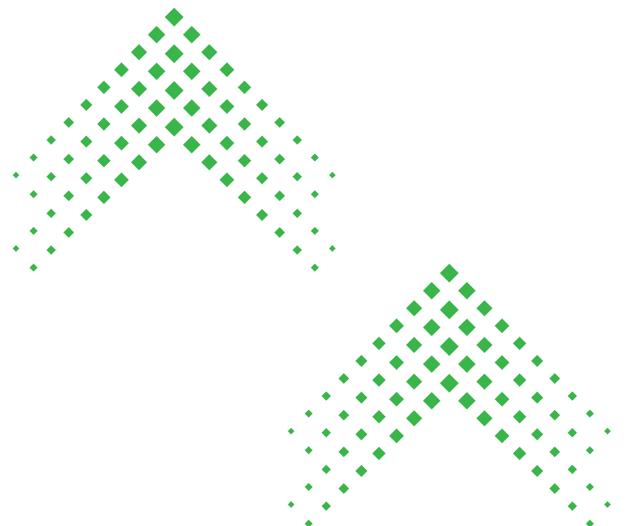
Anne Martel, BFA 09
Co-founder of Element AI



Sue Molloy, BEng 98
President and CEO of Glas Ocean Electric and
adjunct professor at Dalhousie University and
the University of Manitoba



Dominique Simoneau-Ritchie, BEng 06
Vice-president of engineering at Wealthsimple



CIVIC LEADERS

Change-makers advocating for the greater societal good



“Concordia helped me think critically, understand social systems and where the Cree fit into the grand scheme of things, and how to advocate for education and resources for our people.”

– Stella Lameboy Gilpin, BA 99



Kassa Belay, BA 08

Founding member of United for Brownsville and co-director of Collective Impact at SCO Family of Services



Lauren Chang MacLean, BA 05

Director of legal services for privacy, human rights and employment at Metrolinx



Yinka Ibukun, BA 07

West Africa bureau chief at Bloomberg News



Azam Ishmael, BA 12

National director of the Liberal Party of Canada



Photinie Koutsavlis, BA 97

Director-general of Refugee Affairs at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



Stella Lameboy Gilpin, BA 99

Director-general at Cree Nation of Wemindji



James Snider, GrDip 07

Vice-president of science, knowledge and innovation at World Wildlife Fund Canada

ARTS AND CULTURE

Creators and influencers pushing boundaries of creative thinking and doing



Isabelle Corriveau, BFA 94

Director of Exhibitions and Outreach at the National Gallery of Canada



Allison Katz, BFA 03

Visual artist



Omari Newton, BA 06

Actor, writer, poet, playwright and professor



Isabelle Racicot, BA 95

Veteran TV and radio host



Richard Reed Parry, BFA 03

Musician and member of Arcade Fire



Darrin Rose, BComm 99

Writer, comedian, actor and filmmaker



Marjolaine Tremblay, attendee (film animation)

Executive producer, creative director and bidding producer at Rodeo FX



Melissa Weigel, BFA 04

Creative director at Moment Factory



“My teachers were inspiring Academy Award winners and nominees. They challenged me and were always very helpful.”

– Marjolaine Tremblay, film animation







UNPACKING THE REAL-ESTATE BOOM

CONCORDIANS ARE POISED TO LEAD
IN A WHITE-HOT INDUSTRY

DOUG SWEET

“We all need real estate. We all use real estate.”

This, says Andréanne Lavallée, who sits on the advisory board of Concordia’s Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate, is how we should think about the important role real estate plays in society and our everyday lives.

“Real estate is a fascinating field,” she says. “People don’t realize the number of specialties we have. This is a great business to be in.”

Lavallée serves as senior managing director, Valuation and Advisory Services, at CBRE. In 2015 she was named one of the most influential women in commercial real estate in the province of Quebec by *Premières en Affaires* magazine.

Input from Lavallée and others helps guide the Wener Centre’s objective to serve as a hub for real-estate education and research. The centre was established in 2020 at the John Molson School of Business thanks to a \$10-million gift from Susan Wener and Concordia’s chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, the chairman of Canderel, a Montreal-based property development company.

The centre’s 15-member board is partly made up of industry veterans like Lavallée and includes investors, asset managers, lenders, appraisers, lawyers and developers. Three academics and a student intern also sit on the board, which helps administrators and faculty decide what types of skills and knowledge might best prepare future professionals in the field — and best serve the field itself.

‘THE INDUSTRY WAS BOOMING PRE-PANDEMIC’

Given the current interest in real estate across Canada — both as a subject of discussion and a matter of investment — it should come as no surprise that the real-estate minor is the fastest-growing minor program at John Molson, says the centre’s director, Michel Deslauriers, BComm 85.

The need for such a centre at Concordia was never in doubt, adds Lavallée.

“Real estate is way more complex than most people think, and it affects everybody,” she says. “It also employs people in many more fields than most of us realize, so the kind of training the Wener Centre and John Molson made available was invaluable and in high demand.”

What’s surprised some industry observers is how the real-estate industry in Canada has responded to the COVID-19 crisis.

“The industry was booming and growing pre-pandemic, and that trend has not abated,” says Deslauriers, a full-time lecturer in finance at John Molson and a strategic advisor to real-estate development firms in Montreal.

“It’s a fun industry to be in and a fun time to be in it. It’s one of the big, thriving industries that will never disappear.”

Real estate draws people hoping to be agents and brokers, entrepreneurs, investors, investment analysts and more. These broad possibilities have the Wener Centre’s brain trust looking to future growth, with talk of developing a major program and, later, a graduate program, perhaps all within five years, Deslauriers says.



ESSENTIAL IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

JENNIFER KHAIRALLAH,
MENG 18, SENIOR ASSOCIATE IN
INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL
PROJECTS AT DELOITTE

“We think there’s an appetite for the major out there,” he adds, noting that Ontario’s University of Guelph offers one of the few in Canada. In Quebec, both the Université du Québec à Montréal and Université Laval have real-estate programs. Concordia’s is the first such offering in English.

The industry has made its needs clear, Deslauriers says.

“‘Give us people who are passionate about real estate,’ they told us. Our advisory board has provided us with good insight to help us advance our students.”

A MARKET WITH WINNERS AND LOSERS

Emerging trends and markets can change on a dime.

Deslauriers, for example, is seeing a boom in the construction of rental housing right now to meet the needs of millennials who find home ownership beyond their immediate reach.

The additional supply will be most welcome, Lavallée says, noting that multi-family dwellings are one of the three hottest areas of global real-estate growth, the others being warehousing and distribution centres, and data centres.

Changes in real-estate markets aren’t always universally popular. Not only has the cost of home ownership risen sharply in recent years, according to Statistics Canada, but the cost of rentals is rising as well. While this may be good for sellers and landlords, would-be buyers and tenants are frustrated at best and panic-stricken at worst.

Housing prices rose in Canada by 11.9 per cent between June 2020 and July 2021, far outpacing the 3.7 per cent increase in the Consumer Price Index over the same period.

And in Montreal, where many apartments operate under some form of rent control, the average rent on a two-bedroom apartment rose from roughly \$760 per month to \$903 per month, Statistics Canada reports.

In Vancouver, that two-bedroom apartment rose from \$1,375 to \$1,799 over the same period, while in a small city like Peterborough, Ontario, the average rent for a two-bedroom rose from \$955 to \$1,183.

Lower vacancy rates mean higher rental rates, and that doesn’t help people in lower income brackets, where the housing crisis is much more acute.

INSPIRED TO ‘GROW WITHIN THE INDUSTRY’

Being part of the Wener Centre has been an eye-opener for some students. Anmole Singh, BComm 21, who joined the centre’s advisory board as an undergraduate intern, graduated in May.

“Before my first class, I had only a very general understanding of the subject,” she says.

“Then I learned how big this industry really is. I loved how much impact it has on the world and on people. There’s an importance and permanence related to real estate that’s truly inspiring.”

Singh now works as a junior financial analyst with Werkliv, a Montreal-based development firm that specializes in student housing in Montreal and in the Maritimes.

“There are so many fields within real estate, and they all connect,” she adds. “Each day brings new challenges and experiences that push me to continue learning and growing within the industry.”

Greater interest in rental housing isn’t the only shift occurring.

“One of the hottest topics is transit-oriented development,” says Deslauriers. “That’s the creation of communities around transit hubs.”

The construction of Montreal’s new Réseau express métropolitain (REM), slated to open in part by summer 2022, might be the kind of variable that could displace a chunk of the population from downtown to the outer suburbs, where single-family homes with backyards hold some appeal.



DAVID WARD

“It is one of the big, thriving industries.
Real estate will never disappear.”

– MICHEL DESLAURIERS, BCOMM 85



“There’s an importance and permanence related to real estate that’s truly inspiring.”

– ANMOLE SINGH, BCOMM 21

If the REM can help eliminate commuting time, it could prove to be a tipping point. Initially, it will primarily serve existing communities; long-term growth could expand its reach to encourage the development of new communities in the Montreal hinterland.

Jennifer Khairallah, MEng 18, is a senior associate in infrastructure and capital projects at Deloitte. Prior to joining the company, she worked on two major Montreal projects: the CHUM “superhospital” and the REM.

“The aim of the REM is to have people go in both directions,” Khairallah says, not just from downtown to the suburbs or vice-versa. “People will have the best of both worlds,” she adds, with easier access to major downtown entertainment and cultural venues that will not be duplicated in the suburbs. Downtown will retain its unique opportunities.

The big plus, she says, is that with 26 initial stations and high-frequency service, “there’s going to be an increase in transit ridership that will make it easier to get to the downtown core.”

The flip side is that it will also make it easier for people to live farther from the city centre — especially for those working from home — which will lead to higher demand for housing in the suburbs. Some developments near REM stations are already underway and are being adapted to take advantage, Khairallah says.

‘SUPPLY HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO KEEP UP’

Other forces, like changing economic circumstances and demographics, are already playing a role in how we live.

Statistics Canada recently reported that multi-generational households were Canada’s fastest-rising housing category between 2001 and 2016 — with a 37.5 per cent increase, well above the median housing-category increase, which was 21.7 per cent.



THE ZOOM EFFECT

The growth of cities — along with real-estate development and capacity — has traditionally hinged on improvements in transportation, says Zachary Patterson, a professor at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (CIISE) who is plugged into how changes in transportation technology affect where people live, work and shop.

But what happens when more and more people no longer need to commute — or even leave the house to meet basic needs and acquire certain goods and services?

“Zoom and other platforms could have a major effect on cities and how cities grow,” acknowledges Patterson, who used to work as a transportation modeller with Montreal’s Agence métropolitaine de transport.

“But how large an effect will depend on the degree to which telework will endure past the pandemic.”

COVID-19 has shown employers a future that could include much less investment in office space.

For employees, the pandemic has laid bare the pros and cons of telework — one of the benefits of which is surely the freedom to live even farther away from the office.

So could this all signal the decline of central business districts like downtown Montreal?

Not at all, according to Patterson, who forecasts that big urban centres will continue to grow.

“I don’t think we will see the death of downtown. The reasons cities existed in the first place are still there. There are things that will always need to be done in person. In order to trust someone, you still need to be able to look them in the eye — that’s an immutable fact of human nature.”

“Lack of available inventory was a huge reason for the increase in housing prices.”

— MICHELLE SCHRECK, BA 14



Changing demographics play a big role, especially in the most expensive housing markets, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association.

“While older parents moving in with their children is the most common generation combination, extended families purchasing homes together — whether siblings or with extended family like cousins — is also part of the growing phenomenon,” the association notes.

It shouldn’t come as a surprise that housing and affordability were significant issues in the recent federal election, says Michelle Schreck, BA 14, a commercial real-estate broker in Montreal who also holds a residential real-estate licence.

“Lack of available inventory was a huge reason for the increase in housing prices. Compared with the years before the pandemic, the number of homes on the market is extremely low, so anything that does come onto the market is automatically going to be more expensive or induce bidding wars.”

The lack of supply has been an issue in Canada since the 1980s, adds Schreck.

“Canada’s housing supply has never been able to keep up with its population growth.”

‘THE HYPE FOLLOWS THE TIMES’

Other changes confronting the industry lie on the commercial side and have been largely pandemic-driven. As more companies discovered the economic and productivity benefits of having a large number of employees working remotely, they have in many cases reconsidered their need for high-rise office space.

Rising vacancy rates in commercial real estate are leading prospective, or even existing, tenants to be more aggressive in negotiating rents and facilities, Deslauriers says. At the same time, the pandemic has spurred a demand for larger office

spaces in some circumstances, so workers’ cubicles or desks aren’t jammed together.

Today, Schreck — who studied history at Concordia and was headed for law — is a commercial broker with Core Consultants Realty in Montreal, specializing in the restaurant and retail sector. She says things are looking brighter.

“There was definitely a severe slowdown in retail, restaurants and offices due to lockdowns, personal-distancing measures and so on during the pandemic.

“Now, we are seeing an upswing, with businesses reopening and people inspired to start new restaurants. We already see a shift back into offices very slowly, and we’re seeing alternative uses for traditional office spaces, including micro-gyms and photo studios.”

Other recent changes in real-estate patterns triggered by the pandemic include a sharp rise in the demand for second homes, including cottages, country houses and vacation properties. Given strict global travel restrictions in place around the world, Schreck wasn’t surprised.

“I think people felt suffocated in their own homes. While it was a spur-of-the-moment thing, COVID-19 isn’t over yet, and neither is the country-house hype,” she says.

“It has slowed down, but prices remain high. The hype follows the times.”

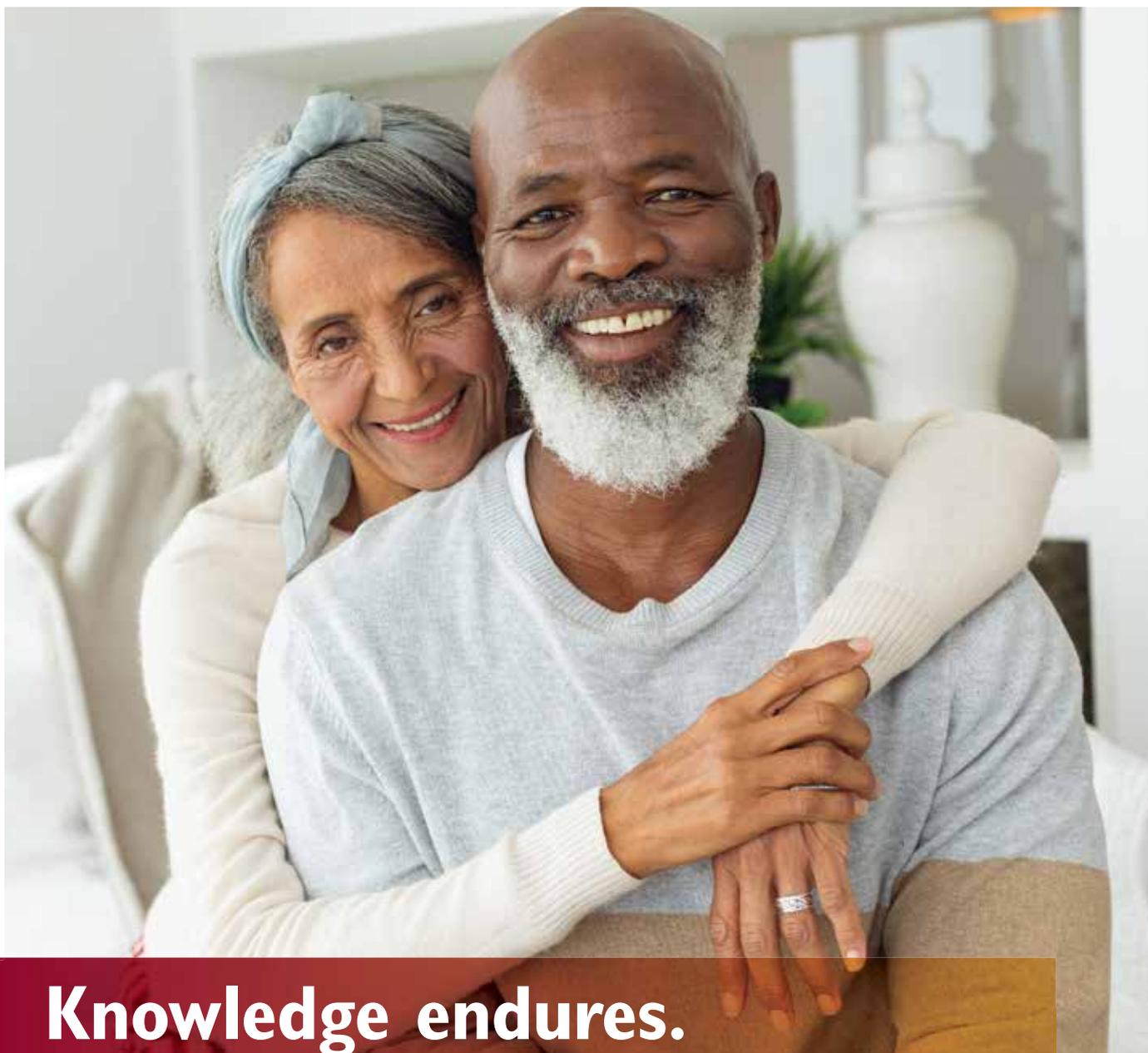
For those who get a rush from not knowing how the story will turn out, real estate is the place to be. The recent past shows just how many changes could lie on the horizon, notes Deslauriers. “I have a sneaking suspicion that we’re only going to see the real effects of the pandemic in a year or two,” he says.

“Our programs emphasize the fundamentals of real estate. It’s a firm grasp of these fundamentals that will help our students deal with the peaks and valleys to come.” ■



“The kind of training the Wener Centre made available was invaluable and in high demand.”

— ANDRÉANNE LAVALLÉE



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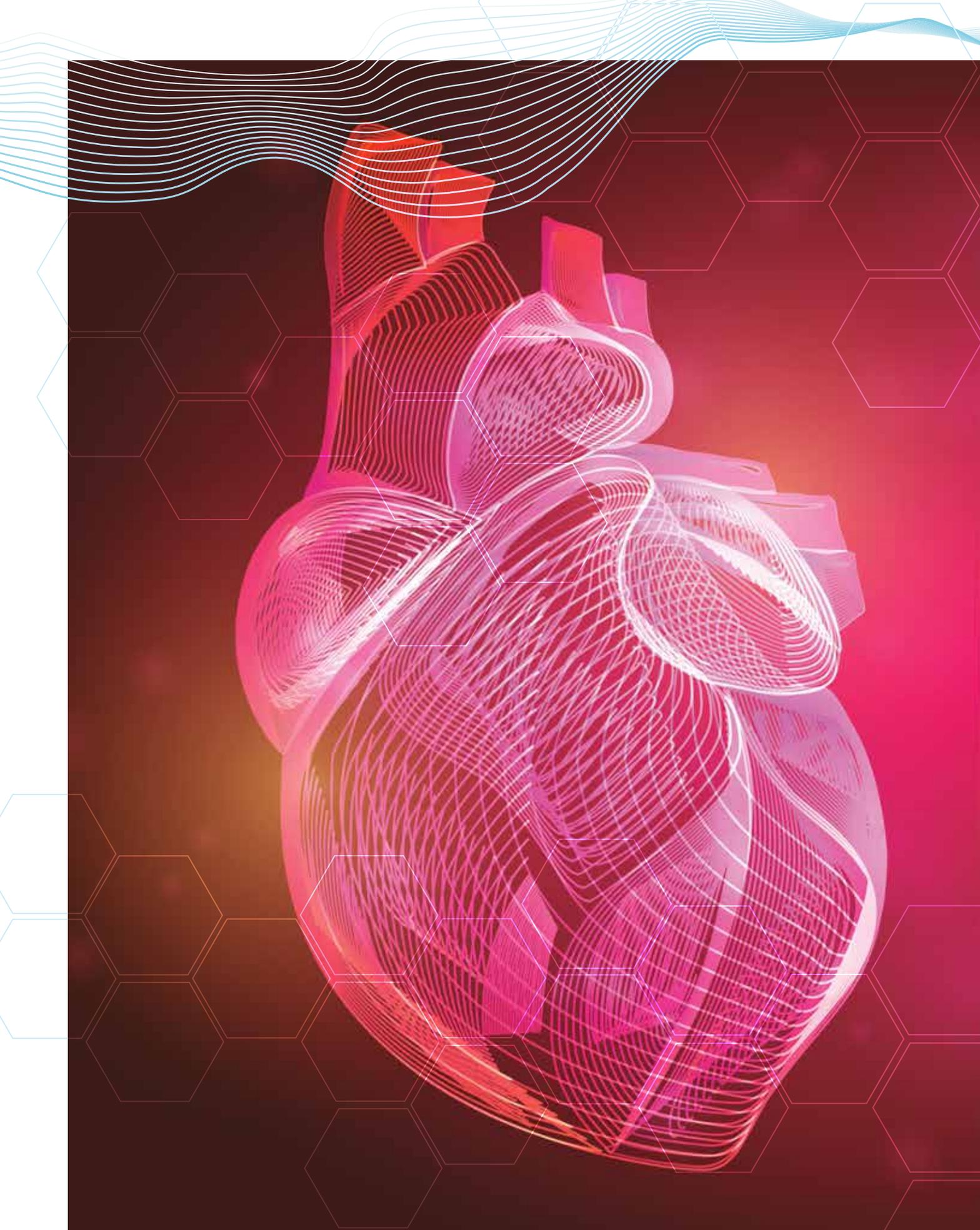


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CONCORDIANS AT THE HEART OF DIGITAL HEALTH

HOW AI-FOCUSED RESEARCH IS TRANSFORMING
THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

ALEXANDER HULS

Whether it's facial-recognition technology, self-driving cars or Alexa fielding Spotify requests, artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming everyday life.

Consumer applications tend to get the spotlight, but AI is also poised to have a revolutionary impact on our health. Research and development is pushing its way into surgery, diagnosis, patient monitoring, elder care and more.

This, say Concordia researchers and alumni in the field, will lead to improvements in health and even the possibility of extending — and saving — lives.

WHY MACHINE LEARNING AND HEALTH?

By 2027, the health-care AI market is expected to hit \$51.3 billion USD, according to a 2020 report published by Meticulous Research. This will be driven in part by the increasing accessibility and rapid growth of heavy computing power, which enables the high demands of a common form of health-care AI: machine learning.

As the name implies, machine learning is a form of AI that echoes how humans absorb and process information. The AI is fed large amounts of data and, using complex algorithms, begins to not just learn from it, but know what to do with it. It can recognize patterns, offer predictions, categorize and detect anomalies in ways — and at volumes — that humans can't. What's more, as it does all of that, it continues to learn, refining and improving its abilities.

What's driving a wave of AI health innovations isn't just the increasing sophistication of AI technology, however. It's also human ingenuity.

"AI is a tool — it's up to human researchers to find the applications," says Mojtaba Hasannezhad, a Concordia PhD candidate in electrical and computer engineering working on AI-based assistants to help the elderly. "We have to be able to come up with the ideas of where we can use these amazing and advanced technologies."



SIMON BACON, PROFESSOR
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, KINESIOLOGY
AND APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY



CAN AI INFLUENCE HEALTHY HABITS?

Scrolling through Apple's or Google's apps stores reveals a number of fitness apps that promise to improve our health. After downloading and trying the app, many users become annoyed with notifications or ignore them altogether — 96 per cent stop using fitness apps after only 30 days.

Simon Bacon, a professor in the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology, is looking to apply AI to the problem and help apps better learn when and how to engage us to take care of our daily health needs.

“One of the key things in e-health is trying to understand how we get behaviour to change,” says Bacon, who also serves as the FRSQ Research Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health for Behaviour Change and the CIHR Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research Mentorship Chair in Innovative Clinical Trials.

Bacon believes that identifying ambivalence is a key way to do it.

When a fitness app prompts someone to exercise or a calorie tracker reminds them to calculate that BLT they had for lunch, it can generate a strong reaction. Especially if they're unenthusiastic about the notification.

“People express ambivalence in a variety of different ways,” Bacon says. “Most of it is quite subtle.”

It could be a shrug of the shoulders, he notes, a furrowing of the brow, a muttered remark under the breath, or a twitch of the mouth. Bacon's goal is to train an AI algorithm to be sophisticated enough to be able to identify those gestures by using something we all have.

“The fact that most digital devices have cameras and microphones provides us with a great opportunity to be able to measure ambivalence within an e-health application,” he says.

When the AI is given access to our phones, it can study our faces to identify ambivalence in order to do a better job of engaging us to work out or eat healthier.

“The idea is to try to understand the person in front of the screen,” says Bacon. “So instead of giving them a standard, prescribed ‘do this, do that,’ it adapts to how the user is feeling at the time.”

Bacon's isn't the only AI using facial recognition within the health industry. Recent years have seen the technology used to check in patients, diagnose diseases and identify signs of mental-health distress. All share a common goal, however. If eyes are windows to the soul, these AI devices want to use our faces to open the door to better health.

THE POWER OF CHATBOTS AND VIRTUAL ASSISTANTS

Chatbots have already pervaded our lives in many ways. They're ready to provide assistance on a customer support page when the internet goes out or ask whether help is needed when checking out products on a company's webpage. Now they're also making an impact in the health space.

First Outcomes, founded by CEO Dinesh Gambhir, BEng 83, is one company that's mobilizing sophisticated AI chatbots to engage patients with health monitoring, procedure follow-ups and as-needed assistance.

For example, after an outpatient surgery, usually a doctor or nurse has to take time to place a phone call and check in on a patient's progress. First Outcomes' bots can do that instead.

“The robots can reach out and ask the patient, ‘How are you doing?’” says Gambhir.

If the answer is positive, the AI checks again at a pre-assigned time. Otherwise, says Gambhir, “the bot can do a hard transfer to a triage nurse so a human can decide what to do next.”

Gambhir's AI isn't limited to aftercare. It's also being deployed to assist people with diabetes by monitoring glucose levels and can keep track of how medication changes affect health. The goal is not just to ensure optimal care but to free up health practitioners to focus on more of what they trained to do, rather than administrative tasks.



“AI is a tool – it’s up to human researchers to find the applications.”

– MOJTABA HASANNEZHAD

“We train people to be caregivers, whether they are nurses, social workers or providers,” says Gambhir. “My job is to allow them to do the job they were educated for and what they want to do.”

In that way, First Outcomes is part of an incoming wave of AI bots aimed to help clinicians stay closer to their patients in more efficient ways, while providing those patients with greater care.

Mojtaba Hasannezhad’s work is indicative of a variation on First Outcomes’ technology. The Concordia 2021 Public Scholar contributed to a non-invasive device that can be plugged into walls in order to monitor the elderly or the disabled. “If, for instance, someone coughs: What kind of cough is that? Is it a sign of some disease? The device can detect that and classify it,” says Hasannezhad.

The AI-driven tool can monitor vital signs and recognize falls or respiratory distress. It can even learn a person’s daily routines – their physical activity, how long they’re in bed or in the bathroom – in order to identify deviations that could be cause for emergency. In those cases – much like Gambhir’s bots – it becomes about providing patients with better care.

“The same device can communicate with the residents. If something happened to them it can ask them if they are okay,” says Hasannezhad. Or, it can alert caregivers that their patients may need assistance.

SAFER, MORE INFORMATIVE SCANS

One of the most life-changing – and potentially saving – emerging uses of AI is its application in medical imaging, such as CT scans, radiography, ultrasounds and more.

A current struggle in health care is that medical-imaging professionals haven’t been able to keep up with demand. The hundreds of images that CT, MRI and other scans produce can overwhelm practitioners and lead to mistakes. Those mistakes can be harmful, given that imaging devices are often responsible for identifying life-threatening conditions.

NEXT-GEN PATIENT CARE

With technology promising to help improve global health, companies using artificial intelligence to contribute to the cause are on the rise. Startups and entrepreneurs backed by Concordia’s District 3 Innovation Hub are among those at the centre of AI and health care. District 3 provides tools, programs and mentorship to help startups make critical advancements with a global impact. Meet three successful businesses making their mark on the future of medicine.

Plakk

Using artificial intelligence and deep learning, Plakk co-founder and CEO Khashif Khan is helping tackle some of the leading causes of death and disability: heart attacks and strokes. With the help of AI, Plakk quickly analyzes medical images to accurately predict how dangerous a plaque – the buildup of cholesterol or fat – is on artery walls. Geared towards prediction and prevention, it can detect areas for concern early by marking medical images, allowing for researchers and clinicians to then take action sooner.

Vital Tracer

Continuous monitoring can go a long way in improving everyday health – and can also anticipate future concerns. Vital Tracer, co-founded by Zahra Zangenehmadar, PhD 16, does just that with a smartwatch designed to help prevent cardiovascular disease. The watch uses multiple sensors to constantly track, record and analyze a wearer’s biological signals, which are then translated into vital-sign measurements such as blood pressure, heart rate and blood oxygen saturation. It can also help with home-care monitoring, sending out alerts to caregivers if signals start to become unusual and concerning.

Aifred Health

Approximately 280 million people globally suffer from depression – one of the most common forms of mental illness – says the World Health Organization. Aifred Health aims to better manage and personalize the treatment of depression with the help of AI. Using an app powered by machine learning, users are sent a short weekly questionnaire that helps assess their mental health. The AI collects and analyzes the data and uses it to make adjustments, anticipate remissions and determine optimal treatment. For its contributions to advancements in the field, the startup earned second place and \$1 million USD at the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE competition in June 2021.

“It has the promise of detecting the cancer in early stages, when the patient still has a high chance of survival.”

– PARNIAN AFSHAR



Human vision is also limited in what it can detect, leading to missed early signs of something potentially fatal.

That’s where AI comes in. The technology can’t be overworked and can spot what the human eye can’t. Huge amounts of data — made up of medical images that show and do not show traces of diseases — have become available through open-source libraries. These images are fed to an AI that can quickly learn, for example, what a lung-cancer node looks like versus what doesn’t.

“The idea is to make sense of these images and to spot patterns that are not always visible to the human eye,” says Marta Kersten-Oertel, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, whose research includes AI-powered diagnosis of CT scans for strokes.

With that comes the ability to detect cancers, strokes, cognitive disorders and more — and the chance to save lives.

“It has the promise of detecting the cancer in early stages, when the patient still has a high chance of survival,” says Parnian Afshar, a PhD student with the Concordia Institute of Information Systems Engineering (CIISE) who has worked on deep-learning-enabled imaging that has successfully been able to detect brain tumours and lung-cancer nodes. The power of her AI’s detection and diagnostic skills was even adapted to the pandemic, using the technology in chest scans to determine if patients had COVID-19.

This type of technology has already proven to be effective. In 2019, researchers at Google and academic medical centres put a lung-cancer-detecting AI up against six radiologists. The AI

spotted signs of cancer with 94 per cent accuracy — better than the humans. In some cases, the AI even noticed indications in early scans that the doctors didn’t.

Using AI’s keen “eyes” won’t just be limited to medical imaging, either.

“One of my main research areas is actually image-guided surgery and augmented reality,” explains Kersten-Oertel, who also serves as the Concordia University Research Chair in Applied Perception. “There’s a lot of work being done on using AI to answer questions like, ‘Is it safe to cut here or not?’”

NOT WITHOUT RISKS

A common fear of AI is that it will make certain jobs obsolete. In the health industry, that will likely be less of a concern.

“It should be a tool that is used by people and not something that replaces people,” says Kersten-Oertel. “It is important to always have a human in the loop.”

Whether it’s AI-guided imaging or surgery, it’s not a matter of making health-care practitioners obsolete, but easing people’s workloads and providing tools to help them in their daily clinical tasks, she adds.

“They all revolve around developing tools to help clinicians or patients. They can be used to train the next generation of radiologists, clinicians and surgeons.”

Job loss may not be a major issue, but there are others. The data AI requires is filled with personal information — names, medical histories and more. This triggers concerns over privacy.

Initiatives like Bacon’s and Gambhir’s would require consent to opt in, of course, but that’s not to say there aren’t risks.



DINESH GAMBHIR, BENG 83,
CEO, FIRST OUTCOMES





“As we become more sophisticated in terms of developing programs and algorithms, in parallel there are unscrupulous people out there who are developing viruses and hacks,” notes Bacon.

Ethical challenges will require monitoring. The high cost to develop and deploy AI can privilege accessibility to people in wealthier nations, neglecting lower-income countries.

“One of the things we have to think about is how we can make AI accessible to everyone,” says Kersten-Oertel. “How can we create these tools and technologies so that they’re benefiting the whole world?”

Societal imbalances can also find their way into AI itself. Data may seem neutral, but it’s not invulnerable to institutional biases. If the data it’s given to learn isn’t inclusive and representative of all kinds of people, the AI will internalize the biases we see more broadly in our society.

Hospitals in affluent areas have more resources, which means patient outcomes are good. Hospitals in more disadvantaged

places will not have the same resources and may see worse outcomes. If data from the first hospital is fed to an AI, it will be misrepresentative of experiences at the second hospital.

For example, research has shown that women of colour, and particularly Black women, are often diagnosed with breast cancer later than white women. That means AIs that have been fed non-inclusive mammogram data could fail to account for that crucial disparity.

“We have to be aware of these existing biases and do our best to make sure that we’re not propagating them,” says Kersten-Oertel.

Bacon expresses a similar imperative for AI to produce broad, inclusive outcomes in health care.

“We want people to be healthier and happier. We want them to live longer, fuller lives. I know it sounds very grandiose, but that’s what drives us. It motivates us. That’s really what’s at the core of all of this work.” ■



“How can we create these tools and technologies so that they’re benefiting the whole world?”

– MARTA KERSTEN-OERTEL



FROM
CONCORDIA
TO THE
**BIG
SCREEN**



Meet award-winning
graduates of the
Mel Hoppenheim
School of Cinema
making waves in
film and television

Over the span of four decades, Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema has become the largest university-based centre for the study of film in Canada and has graduated more than 2,500 students.

Thanks to a \$1-million gift in 1997 from film-industry entrepreneur and supporter Mel Hoppenheim, the school has developed into a foremost training ground for future filmmakers, animators and researchers.

Alumni have been nominated for — and have won — Academy Awards, Emmy Awards and Canadian Screen Awards and have had works screened at the likes of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Cannes Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival.

Meet some of the Hoppenheim grads strengthening Concordia's reputation as a leader in film production, film animation and film studies.

KIM NGUYEN, BFA 97
DIRECTOR



Credits include: *The Hummingbird Project* (2018), *Eye on Juliet* (2017), *Two Lovers and a Bear* (2016), *Rebelle* (2012)

“I did some horrible movies at Concordia, and I am really thankful for that. I made huge mistakes, but I had those painful lessons very early. Concordia let us make flawed movies and learn from the critiques afterwards. I learned a lot.”

STEPHEN SURJIK, BFA 82
DIRECTOR



Credits include: *Umbrella Academy* (2019-20), *Lost in Space* (2018-19), *Jessica Jones* (2015-19), *Da Vinci's Inquest* (1998-2005)

“Creativity is a shared phenomenon, and it grows with time, exposure and trust.”

WILL NIAVA, BFA 17
DIRECTOR



Credits include: *Suga* (2021), *ZOO* (2020)

“Film production at Concordia was so exciting but challenging. It's the connections that you get that are the best. It feels like whoever comes out of that school is bound to make it or is already on their way.”

MARIE-JULIE DALLAIRE, BFA 92
DIRECTOR



Credits include: *Big Giant Wave* (2020), *Un cri au bonheur* (2007), *Arrival* (second unit director, 2016)

“For me, a documentary is a narrative piece of art in the same way as fiction. I want people to dive into my films and forget about whether it's documentary or fiction.”

KATHERINE JERKOVIC, BFA 02, MFA 07
DIRECTOR



Credits include: *Routes en février* (2018), *Le gardien d'hiver* (2010), *Atlas sur l'aube* (2004)

“Many art forms have been with us for centuries, but I think cinema is the most globalized one. It is in the best position to build bridges between people with different views and experiences around the planet.”



ON SET OF *ROUTES EN FÉVRIER* WITH DIRECTOR **KATHERINE JERKOVIC**, BFA 02, MFA 07

“I have never felt that I was taken less seriously [in the industry] because I am a woman. I have previous generations of female filmmakers to thank for this. They really laid the groundwork for someone like me.” - **SOPHIE DUPUIS, BFA 10**

FÉLIX DUFOUR-LAPERRIÈRE,
BFA 07
FILM ANIMATOR



Credits include: *Archipel* (2020), *Ville Neuve* (2018), *Transatlantique* (2014)

“The [Film Animation] program created a dialogue between film and visual arts where I could exchange ideas, techniques and visual strategies.”

YUNG CHANG, BFA 99
DIRECTOR



WANG SHIQING

Credits include: *Gatekeeper* (2016), *China Heavyweight* (2012), *Up the Yangtze* (2007), *Earth to Mouth* (2003), *The Fish Market* (2002)

“The great thing about Concordia’s cinema school is that the professors take the onus off the idea of having to make it in Hollywood, and instill a certain value in the craft of filmmaking. They encouraged us to define our own vision. That’s something I’ll never forget.”

MERYAM JOOBEUR, BFA 13
DIRECTOR



Credits include: *Brotherhood* (2018), *Born in the Maelstrom* (2017), *Gods, Weeds and Revolutions* (2012)

“[Filmmaking] is an intersection of storytelling, history and technology. I had to follow my dream, which is why I became a Concordia student in film production. My love for filmmaking was nurtured most at Concordia.”

STEPHEN CAMPANELLI,
BFA 83
DIRECTOR AND CAMERA OPERATOR



Credits include: *The Mule* (2018), *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* (2017), *Gran Torino* (2008), *Million Dollar Baby* (2004), *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995)

“Concordia is where I learned to pick up a camera and really make professional movies.”

CAROL NGUYEN, BFA 20
DIRECTOR



LOUIS MORA

Credits include: *No Crying at the Dinner Table* (2019), *Tundra* (2018), *Every Grain of Rice* (2017), *Façade* (2016)

“Through the years, I just fell in love with filmmaking. It gave me an outlet to speak — to express my inner feelings, grief and traumas I hadn’t yet been able to articulate. Being able to share those stories with audiences made it feel that much more worthwhile.”

SOPHIE DUPUIS, BFA 10
DIRECTOR



PATRICK JOSEPH DUFOURT

Credits include: *Souterrain* (2020), *Chien de garde* (2018), *Forces Tranquilles* (2015)

“I have never felt that I was taken less seriously [in the industry] because I am a woman. I have previous generations of female filmmakers to thank for this. They really laid the groundwork for someone like me.”

STEPHEN CAMPANELLI, BFA 83, IS A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF CLINT EASTWOOD’S PRODUCTION CREW.



CLAIRE FOLGER

“Concordia gave me so much. It opened my eyes to new realities and perspectives. Beyond that, it introduced me to my cinematic family.”

- YVES BÉLANGER, BFA 84

SONIA BONSPILLE BOILEAU, BFA 06
DIRECTOR



NISH MEDIA

Credits include: *Rustic Oracle* (2019), *Last Call Indian*, *Skindigenous* (2018), *Wapikoni* (2017), *Le Dep* (2015), *The Oka Legacy* (2015)

“Together, we can break down stereotypes that have been perpetuated in the media and reclaim Indigenous narratives in order to reshape our collective memory.”

EMILIE GOULET, BFA 01
COMPUTER GRAPHICS
ANIMATOR



Credits include: *Soul* (2020), *Toy Story 4* (2019), *The Angry Birds Movie* (2016), *The Little Prince* (2015)

“I remember the first day because I was so hungry to be around people with similar interests. At the time, Concordia was the only university in Montreal that had a specific film animation program.”

JESSICA LEE GAGNÉ, BFA 12
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS

Credits include: *Severance* (2021), *Mrs. America* (2020), *All Day and a Night* (2020), *Escape at Dannemora* (2018), *Daddy* (2017)

“Concordia was very free and open, and got me to discover — without forcing me into a style or aesthetic — my own self.”

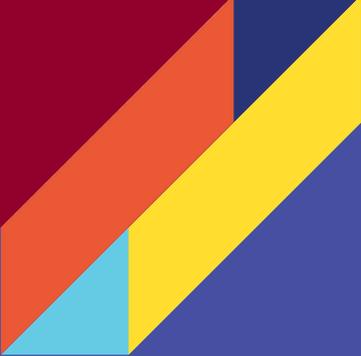
YVES BÉLANGER, BFA 84
CINEMATOGRAPHER



Credits include: *Nine Perfect Strangers* (2021), *The Mule* (2018), *Big Little Lies* (2017), *Brooklyn* (2015), *Wild* (2014), *Dallas Buyers Club* (2013), *Laurence Anyways* (2012)

“Concordia gave me so much. It opened my eyes to new realities and perspectives. Beyond that, it introduced me to my cinematic family.”

Read full profiles about these and other successful Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema alumni at concordia.ca/alumni/cinema. ■



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LEARNING THAT WORKS
concordia.ca/cce

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

New programs and initiatives accelerate growth

KATIE MALAZDREWICZ,
BA 06, GRDIP 09

Concordia's John Molson School of Business is launching a new master's-level research program: the Master of Science (MSc) in Business Analytics and Technology Management.

The program, previously known as the MSc in Decision Science and Management Information Systems, will train data-driven industry specialists and researchers who will build upon the latest knowledge and best practices in both business analytics and technology management. The two-year, full-time program has been uniquely designed to broadly encompass the field of business analytics and business technology management, while allowing students to refine their area of interest.

"As organizations reconfigure their business models to fit today's digitally driven consumers, it is important for graduate students to be aware of issues surrounding both the managerial and technical aspects of data-driven business decision-making," explains Suchit Ahuja, assistant professor, Supply Chain and Business Technology Management, and the program's first director.

"For the benefit of both business and society, it is important that in our digitally driven world, we train students to not only mine for good data, but to accurately analyze it," explains Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School of Business. "This can only be achieved when the right minds know what to do with the information and technology in front of them."

Learn more about the new MSc in Business Analytics and Technology Management at concordia.ca/mscbatm.



SUCHIT AHUJA IS THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE MSc IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

John Molson has partnered with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation — FPA2 (CANADA) — to further promote sustainability projects. Founded in June 2008, the FPA2 (CANADA) is dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development on a local and global scale. It supports public and private organizations' initiatives related to research and studies, technological innovation and socially aware practices.

"With Concordia's commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and John Molson's long history of sustainable business research and education, this partnership came together naturally," says Croteau.

The MBA program's Community Service Initiative (CSI) worked with the foundation to rebrand its online presence in Canada by repositioning its marketing and social media strategy to grow recognition and attract a larger and younger following.

"The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (CANADA) is proud to collaborate with Concordia University and its prestigious John Molson School of Business," says Diane Vachon, president of the foundation in Canada and Honorary Consul General of Monaco in Montreal.

MBA INTERNATIONAL CASE COMPETITION RETURNS

After a hiatus in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the flagship annual John Molson MBA International Case Competition (ICC) will return from January 2 to 8, 2022, in a new virtual format. The competition — now called the MBA e-ICC — is a not-for-profit event organized by a team of John Molson MBA candidates and is open to top business schools worldwide. It is recognized as the largest and most prestigious case competition of its kind.

Since the announcement of the event's return, there has been great enthusiasm "from every participant, coach, judge, sponsor, board member and Concordia faculty," says Nashit Vakil, an MBA e-ICC 2022 organizer responsible for marketing. "I encourage Concordia students to become part of this great family through our volunteer program. Your opportunities to form valuable relationships will be priceless." ■

To support the case competition and the competing teams, visit concordia.ca/supportcaseteams.

Ahead of the curve in teaching and learning

ELENA PARIAL

With the fall academic term underway, the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science community takes pride in a number of recent new achievements and milestones.

Mourad Debbabi, dean of the Gina Cody School, has appointed Tanja Tajmel, associate professor at Concordia's Centre for Engineering and Society, to the role of special advisor, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). It is the faculty's first role dedicated to directly addressing recommendations made by the university's Working Group on EDI, and will support the EDI strategic planning within the faculty.

Tajmel joined Concordia in 2018 and holds the Concordia University Research Chair in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).



TANJA TAJMEL IS THE SPECIAL ADVISOR, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI), FOR THE GINA CODY SCHOOL.

FUNDING AND RESEARCH NEWS

The Gina Cody School's work on applied artificial intelligence (AI) continues to garner government support. Emad Shihab, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, received a \$1.6-million grant to lead the training program for the development and social aspects of AI systems. The program will bridge software engineering and AI.

State-of-the-art materials characterization equipment now has a consolidated home at Concordia, with the recent approval of the university's 25th recognized research unit.

Located at the downtown Sir George Williams Campus, equipment at the Concordia Materials Characterization Platform (CMCP) will be overseen by Dmytro Kevorkov, a materials characterization specialist who will help users achieve the best possible results for their research. "The new platform will enable world-class research in surface engineering, advanced materials, nanotechnology and environmental sustainability by covering a wide-spectrum characterization of materials," says Mourad Debbabi. "It will also allow us to train highly qualified personnel who will be a real value-add to the high-tech industry."

The Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering has a new home with modern workspaces in the ER Building, also located downtown. "Our offices and research labs create an environment where students and professors will each have their own space to conduct cutting-edge research while being close to each other in order to encourage collaboration," says department chair Lata Narayanan.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Gala Licheva, an undergraduate student in aerospace engineering, was among the winners of the Government of Quebec's 2020-21 Hats Off to You! contest. Licheva received the Prix Transports Excellence Science from the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) — awarded to a student who exemplifies a passion for their field. Licheva is part of Space Concordia's Rocketry Division, where she is collaborating on a liquid-powered rocket project.

When the pandemic thwarted their vacation plans, mechanical engineering students Jérémy Maltais and Jordan Bernier pivoted to create a now thriving startup enterprise. Nav Camper was created using the knowledge Maltais and Bernier gained at the Gina Cody School to develop luxury campervans that offer a next-gen camping experience.

Tristan Gosselin-Hane and Alexandre Lavoie, undergraduate students in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering — and cybersecurity enthusiasts — topped the leaderboard at the CyberSCI national Capture-The-Flag (CTF) competition — an event that requires participants to solve various cybersecurity challenges within a limited time frame. The duo will represent Canada at the European and International CyberSCI competitions in Prague and Athens this fall and winter, respectively. ■

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

'It feels like a homecoming'

ANDY MURDOCH

In 1993, Lenore Vosberg, director of clinical services and public outreach at Concordia's Centre for the Arts in Human Development (CAHD) had an idea. She wanted to produce a play featuring some of the adults with developmental disabilities with whom she worked as a social worker.

She pitched the idea to Stephen Snow, associate professor of drama therapy, who at the time taught a course on therapeutic theatre for special-needs populations.

They adapted the story of *Aladdin* for the stage and the result was a resounding success. Propelled by the positive results, Vosberg and Snow teamed up with Miranda D'Amico, professor of education, and the CAHD was born.

Over the years, the CAHD has produced 13 original shows and more than 100 original songs. In addition, the program has hosted more than 250 interns and about the same number of clinical-therapy participants.

The centre not only puts a spotlight on the talents of people with developmental disabilities, it also focuses on encouraging inclusion by showcasing their abilities, advocating for their rights and, in turn, changing social perceptions.

The CAHD celebrated its silver jubilee anniversary on June 17 with a virtual fundraising event. Graduates of the centre, their families, past interns and staff as well as supporters and members of the community attended the event, which included a screening of a documentary highlighting the centre's achievements over the past 25 years.



JOSHUA BENLOLO AND ROBBIE ZUNENSHINE PERFORM AT THE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT'S FALL 2017 BENEFIT CONCERT.

REWRITING CANADIAN CULTURAL HISTORY

Deanna Bowen, assistant professor of intersectional, feminist and decolonial 2D and 4D image-making practices in Concordia's Department of Studio Arts, has won the \$50,000 annual Scotiabank Photography Award.

The award is Canada's most lucrative photography prize, recognizing the achievements of established mid-to-late-career artists. Bowen is the fifth Concordian to receive the award since it launched nine years ago.

Over the course of her career, Bowen has received numerous honours, including a 2020 Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts, a 2016 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and the 2014 William H. Johnson Prize.

"Making political art is not a Canadian norm, which makes it even more special to be recognized from a jury of my peers, among a cohort of predominantly racialized artists," says Bowen.

"This win provides the opportunity to reach out to an international community and make connections with Black and Indigenous artists around the world. That's a big factor in my efforts to help rewrite Canadian cultural history."

'I LOVE THE RANGE OF CREATIVE PRACTICES AT CONCORDIA'

Since starting her position as the new director of Concordia's FOFA Gallery in August, the most pressing item on the agenda of Nicole Burisch, MA11, has been bringing the gallery back into its physical space.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Faculty of Fine Arts repurposed the gallery space as a depot for the Centre for Digital Arts, which used it to distribute equipment and course kits to fine-arts students.

Over the course of her career, Burisch has worked with organizations like the National Gallery of Canada, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Mentoring Artists for Women's Art, and Artex, among others.

"I love the range of creative practices at Concordia and that we have a mandate to be involved in all of them, to think of broader projects and in a more interdisciplinary way," says Burisch.

As an alumna of the university's Art History program, Burisch has strong connections with Concordia and has been back frequently to lecture on curatorial practice and craft theory.

"I've already received a warm welcome back and it feels like a homecoming," she says. ■

'The work in our faculty is more relevant and necessary than ever'

MARCO BUTTICE, BA 21,
AND TAYLOR TOWER

As the world grapples with the health, economic and broader social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic — including calls to action against inequity and violence over the past two years — students are choosing Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science to gain the knowledge and tools needed to confront today's most pressing, interconnected challenges.

"The work in our faculty is more relevant and necessary than ever," says Dean Pascale Sicotte. "Not only what is done, but how it is done, as well as by and for whom."

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

In August, CBC News reported that interest in Canada's past is growing among students in response to social-justice movements like Black Lives Matter and heightened awareness around Indigenous rights and reconciliation.

The desire to learn more is reflected in Concordia's Department of History, where undergraduate courses are full. At the graduate level, there has been significant growth in numbers of applications, registrations and admissions.

The faculty's First Peoples Studies program in the School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA) is also gaining traction. Numbers for the 2020-21 academic year show a considerable increase in enrolment. The program welcomed two faculty members — Nicolas Renaud and Sigwan Thivierge, BA 15, MA 16 — as assistant professors.

Among Renaud's areas of expertise are Indigenous ecology, colonialism and decolonization, and Wendat worldview and history. He is also a documentary and experimental filmmaker. Thivierge is a

linguist who specializes in Algonquin and Kartvelian languages and works both in theoretical linguistics and community language reclamation.

"We are truly excited about the diverse approaches to First Peoples Studies that these two faculty members bring to the School of Community and Public Affairs," says Anna Sheftel, BA 03, who was recently named principal of the SCPA. "We're confident that through their exceptional research and teaching profiles, they will enhance our already dynamic First Peoples Studies program."

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO COMMUNITIES

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute's Major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality has grown exponentially since its inception in 2019.

"We saw a 30 per cent growth in enrolment in the last year alone," says program director Natalie Kouri-Towe. "We now have 150 majors — over 100 more than we had anticipated when it first launched."

Kouri-Towe also directs the program's practicum, a 100-hour community placement experiential learning course that benefits both student learning and local organizations.

"Our students gain skills and experience, building connections with communities throughout the city of Montreal," she says. "The success of our program lies in our outreach and program coordinator Marlihan Lopez," says Kouri-Towe of the feminist activist who in 2019 was named one of the world's 100 Most Influential People of African Descent Under 40. "Her years of experience in community organizing in Montreal have helped link students with placements that connect to their interests and commitments."



NATALIE KOURI-TOWE AND MARLIHAN LOPEZ
STEWARD THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
IN SEXUALITY PROGRAM AT THE SIMONE DE
BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE.

AN INTERSECTION OF DISCIPLINES

Like other faculty programs and departments, Concordia's Department of Biology also experienced an increase in enrolment throughout the pandemic. There were 160 more applicants and 118 more admissions than in 2020.

Two new programs — the Bachelor of Science in Systems and Information Biology and the Bachelor of Computer Science in Health and Life Sciences — are connecting students at the intersection of computer science and biology. The interrelated programs are a partnership between the Department of Biology and the Department of Computer Science at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The goal is to provide students with the technical skills required to advance the exploration, understanding and operations of biological systems in an era of big data and data analytics.

"I am proud of the faculty's momentum and the new, exciting learning avenues that we are able to provide to our students," says Sicotte. ■

Book Club

Zoe Marner is the 2020-21 winner of the Gabriel Safdie Award in Creative Writing for Drama

The following is excerpted from a longer work.



RAQUEL walks in.

SINEAD is displeased.

MIRELLA: Hi love, how are you?

RAQUEL: Hey, I'm alright.

MIRELLA: We were just talking about *Wuthering Heights*.

RAQUEL: I didn't have time. I'm working on this piece for the fibre arts festival.

Beat.

Or I guess I did have time. I just couldn't—

MIRELLA: Yeah.

SINEAD: Do you want a drink?

RAQUEL: Yeah, I'll just get an extra glass.

MIRELLA waves down the SERVER while pointing to her glass.

SINEAD: Which do you want?

The SERVER brings an extra glass.

RAQUEL: *(to SERVER)* Thank you.

SERVER exits. RAQUEL examines both bottles.

I'll go with this. *(She reaches for the Sauvignon Blanc.)*

SINEAD: Not you too.

RAQUEL: What? It's for Irsa.

MIRELLA: That's what I said.

SINEAD notices RAQUEL's white shirt that says "Si tu n'agis pas, qui agira?" under her jacket.

SINEAD: Why are you wearing that?

RAQUEL: Crazy right? I just found it.

SINEAD: Where did you find it?

RAQUEL: It was with my other university stuff, buried under my textbooks.

MIRELLA: What's so special about the shirt?

SINEAD: It's just old.

RAQUEL: Sinead and I got matching ones in Aix.

MIRELLA: You two wore matching shirts?

RAQUEL: Yeah! We thought we were the coolest.

SINEAD: We were so embarrassing.

RAQUEL: It was humiliating even.

SINEAD and RAQUEL share a giggle. SINEAD catches herself.

MIRELLA: What does it mean?

RAQUEL: If you don't act, who will act.

MIRELLA: Act?

RAQUEL: Like take action, usually it's about political agitation but it depends on the context. It works for all kinds of situations. For me it's like, you need to stand for something. If you don't look out for people, you're the problem too. Rock the boat, or things will only get worse.

MIRELLA: Sinead, where's yours?

SINEAD: I lost it.

MIRELLA: Shame.

RAQUEL: Such a shame.

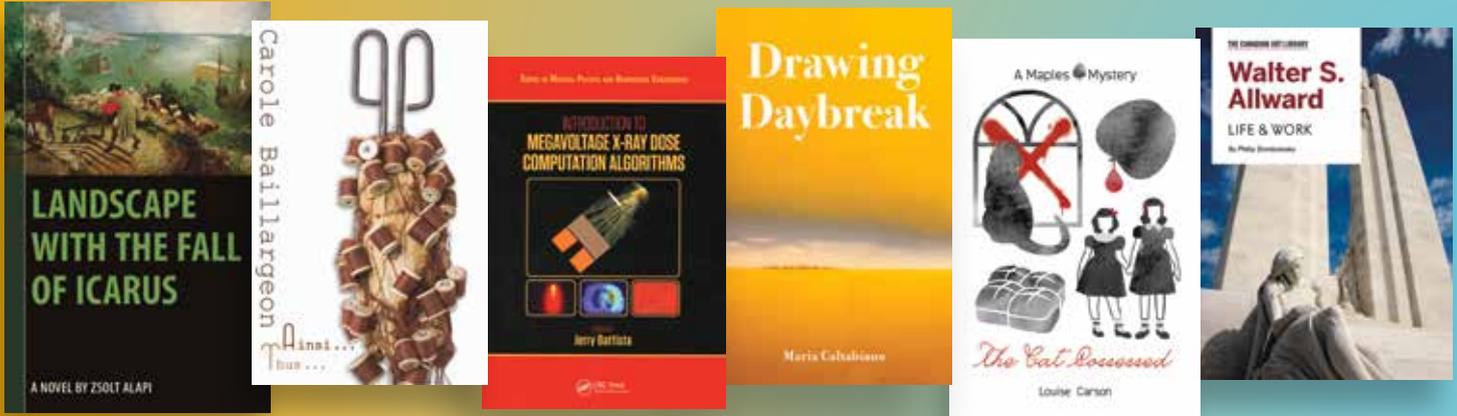
MIRELLA: Anyway, it's cute.

RAQUEL: Thanks.

Beat.

Mirella, what'd you think of the book? ■

New poetry and memoirs, whodunits and short fiction



DELANIE KHAN-
DOBSON, MA 21

Zsolt Alapi, GrCert 85, lecturer in Concordia's Department of Education, recently published ***Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*** (DC Books, \$23.95). The story follows Stephen and his manic obsession with a W. H. Auden poem and a Bruegel painting that lends its name to the book's title. Once discharged from a psychiatric ward, Stephen reflects on his past, his failed marriage and a potentially destructive passion for books.

Supported by the Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec, textile artist and sculptor **Carole Baillargeon**, BFA 86, MFA 96, published ***Ainsi... (Thus...)***, a bilingual monograph detailing her

exhibition by the same name, from ideation to public presentation. The publication describes Baillargeon's work, her influences and the links to family heritage that are rooted in Quebec, humanity and personal histories. Book requests can be made at carole.baillargeon.ca.

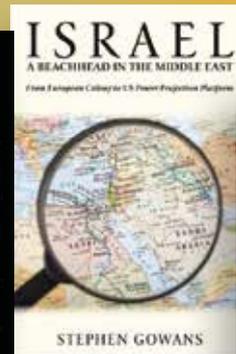
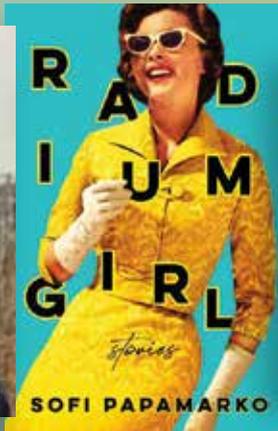
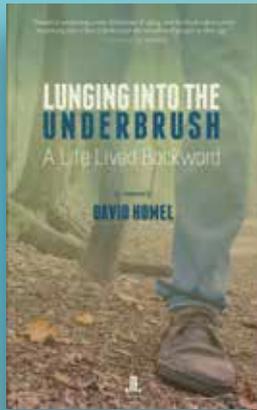
Introduction to Megavoltage X-Ray Dose Computation Algorithms (Routledge, \$54.95), edited by **Jerry Battista**, BSc 71, examines how radiation treatment can be customized to individual cancer patients. The handbook helps explain dose-calculation algorithms used in treatment planning software with a goal of helping to achieve a high-dose region over the disease site, while minimizing damage to nearby critical organs.

In her first collection of poetry, ***Drawing Daybreak*** (Guernica Editions, \$20), **Maria Caltabiano**, BA 93, explores and shares her various emotions since losing her husband to cancer. Part elegy, part celebration, *Drawing Daybreak* brings together the portraits of loss and introspection that accompany mourning with poems that speak to unfamiliar paths towards healing.

Sleuth and artist Gerry Coneybear, along with her 20 cats, are at the centre of **Louise Carson's**, BFA 79, latest book ***The Cat Possessed*** (Signature Editions, \$16.95). When a suspicious death takes place in a small town along the Ottawa River, Gerry begins to investigate. The whodunit is the fourth in Carson's Maples Mystery series.

Philip Dombowsky, BFA 84, MFA 95, chronicles the life of Canadian sculptor Walter Seymour Allward (1874 – 1955) — one of the foremost artists of his generation — in ***Walter S. Allward: Life and Work*** (Art Canada Institute, \$40). The digital book is the first significant critical study of the prolific sculptor most well-known for his Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France, visited by 800,000 people each year.

In 1970, **David Homel** escaped the American draft by moving to Paris. A hiking accident in Spain led to a traumatic journey of botched surgeries, addiction, loneliness and the constant pain that would define his life for years to come. In his new memoir, ***Lunging into the Underbrush: A Life Lived Backward*** (Linda Leith



Publishing, \$21.95), Homel — a lecturer in Concordia’s Département d’études françaises — confronts body-image issues, performance anxiety, masculinity and the challenges of desire in a bid to stay in the game as long as possible.

Swimming Toward the Sun: Collected Poems 1968-2018 (Guernica Editions, \$25), is a selection of Laurence Hutchman’s, MA 79, memories over 50 years. From his travels to Europe to turbulent times in 1970s Montreal, a long residence in New Brunswick and his return to Ontario, Hutchman explores the relationship between real and imaginative landscapes as he bears witness to his place and time.

Radium Girl (Buckrider Books, \$20), the new collection of 12 stories by Sofi Papamarko, GrDip 05, explores the boundaries of love, death, loneliness and justice. Readers are introduced to a cast of unforgettable characters, with plots that twist and turn in unexpected ways, as Papamarko explores how human beings cope, break and triumph in the face of often unbearable circumstances.

Simcha Paul Raphael, BA 72, MA 75, is the co-editor of **Jewish End-of-Life Care in a Virtual Age: Our Traditions Reimagined** (Albion-Andalus Books, \$16.95). The compilation of writings by chaplains, ethicists, rabbis and lay caregivers addresses the unprecedented challenges

imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on death and mourning within the Jewish tradition, while offering direction for the unknown future of Jewish end-of-life care beyond the pandemic.

Barbara Rudnicka, BEd 83, provides proofreading and editing in a newly published book, **Israel, A Beachhead in the Middle East** (Baraka Books, \$24.95), by political analyst Stephen Gowans. The author challenges the argument that Israel controls U.S. foreign policy, tracing the development of the self-declared Jewish state to its birth as a European colony onward.

In her upcoming poetry collection, **Sensorial** (Inanna Publications, \$18.95), Carolyne Van Der

Meer, MA 97, takes readers on a journey in sensory perception. To be published in April 2022, *Sensorial* was written over several years during which the author drew on some of her own experiences, while also observing and interpreting her environment, often intentionally putting herself in awkward or uncomfortable situations to develop new perspectives. ■

Inspiring fundraisers and speakers

1 **Samira Nasr**, BA 93, editor-in-chief of *Harper's Bazaar*, joined radio and television host **Isabelle Racicot**, BA 95, for **Future of: Fashion x Media** on July 13. Nasr spoke about her path in the industry and how staying true to herself has helped her remain focused. "Bring your whole self. Your differences are your superpower," she said. Nasr's close friend and fellow Concordia classmate **Martin Rouleau**, BComm 94, made a surprise appearance and heartfelt introduction at the event.

2 Concordia's **Shuffle 32 walkathon** was a record-breaking success with more than 550 shufflers **raising \$668,000**. This year's tally brings the total raised to more than \$2.5 million since 1990.

President **Graham Carr** announced the total at a virtual closing ceremony on September 24. "Thank you to everyone who walked, cycled or ran to meet their goals, and thank you to everyone who sponsored or challenged someone," Carr said.

Shuffle 32's success can't be told without crediting the late **Nadia Chaudhri** (see p. 59), who **single-handedly raised more than \$500,000**. When she entered palliative care

in August, the psychology professor joined Shuffle to raise funds for the **Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award**. Chaudhri shuffled the corridors of her palliative-care ward every day as long as her body allowed, inspiring people around the world to support her cause.

3 The Faculty of Arts and Science celebrated **Henry Habib, Distinguished Professor Emeritus**, and his contributions to the field of political science. Habib's keynote lecture touched on his long career at the university, from founding the Department of Political Science 60 years ago to welcoming former prime ministers to campus. The October 4 event included a special announcement from **Claire Kruyt**, BAdmin 87, who shared that supporters had contributed **more than \$85,000** for political science scholarships in Habib's name.

4 After a one-year hiatus, the **Concordia Golf Classic** returned on September 7. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors and participants, the tournament raised **\$400,000 for students**. The event has raised more than \$6.4 million for student bursaries and scholarships since it first launched in 2004.



1 **SAMIRA NASR**, BA 93, IS THE FIRST BLACK EDITOR OF *HARPER'S BAZAAR* – AMERICA'S LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED FASHION MAGAZINE.



2 **NADIA CHAUDHRI'S** FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR SHUFFLE 32 RECEIVED 7,500 DONATIONS IN LESS THAN ONE MONTH OF REGISTERING FOR THE ANNUAL WALKATHON. SHE WAS NAMED SHUFFLER OF THE YEAR AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 24.



3 **HENRY HABIB** IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED SCHOLAR AND AUTHORITY ON THE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND IS FREQUENTLY INVITED TO SPEAK AND COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT.



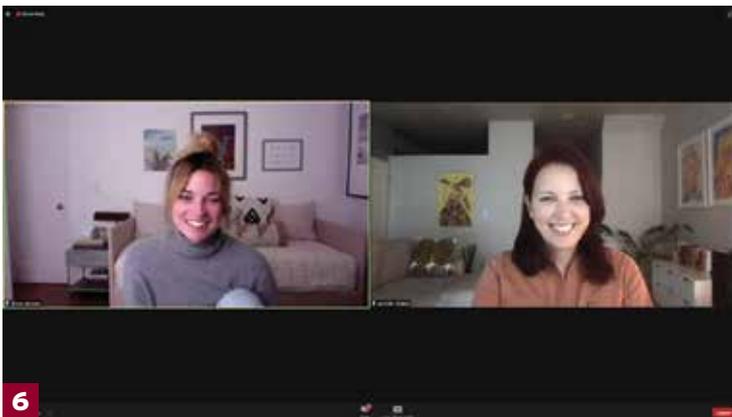
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MEMBERS OF THE 2021 **CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC** LEADERSHIP TEAM GATHERED TO PRESENT THE TOURNAMENT'S IMPRESSIVE FUNDRAISING TOTAL. THE ANNUAL TOURNAMENT IS THE ONLY FUNDRAISER IN QUEBEC THAT BRINGS TOGETHER EXECUTIVES FROM CANADA'S NINE MAJOR BANKS.



5

SUKYONG YANG, DIRECTOR OF THE KENNETH WOODS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, MODERATED A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH FORMER NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT AND CEO **LOUIS VACHON**, LLD 19, ON OCTOBER 21.



6

SCHITT'S CREEK FANS LOGGED IN FOR A PRE-HOMECOMING EVENT WITH EMMY AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS **ANNIE MURPHY**, BFA 10, ON SEPTEMBER 17. **JENNIFER HOLLETT**, BA 97, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF *THE WALRUS* AND ONE OF CONCORDIA'S TOP 50 UNDER 50 SHAPING TOMORROW, MODERATED THE EVENT.



8

THOMAS LEBLANC, BA 14, AND **TRANNA WINTOUR**, BA 10, ARE THE HOSTS OF THE CBC PODCAST *CHOSEN FAMILY*.



7

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: **TSELI MOSHABESHA**, BA 11, MODERATED THIS YEAR'S BLACK ALUMNI REUNION, WHICH FEATURED PANELLISTS **YINKA IBUKUN**, BA 07, **MICHAEL DENNIS**, BCOMM 90, AND **ANNICK MAUGILE FLAVIEN**, BSC 13, GRDIP 15, MA 18.



9

ALI OMAR EL-FAROUK ENAAM, BFA 09, WAS AMONG THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING COFFEE HOUSE PERFORMERS. HE IS AN ACTIVE EGYPTIAN-CANADIAN GUITAR AND OUD PLAYER BASED OUT OF MONTREAL AND CAIRO.

5 Close to 100 alumni and supporters of the **Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program** (KWMPMP) attended a virtual event in October that included remarks from **Anne-Marie Croteau**, dean of the John Molson School of Business, and program benefactor **Ken Woods**, MBA 75, LLD 17, as well as a fireside chat between KWMPMP director **Sukyong Yang** and **Louis Vachon**, LLD 19, the recently retired president and CEO of National Bank.

6 Concordians around the world took part in the second virtual edition of Homecoming festivities from September 21 to 25. To kick-start the celebrations, 400 alumni logged in for a conversation between Emmy Award-winning actress **Annie Murphy**, BFA 10, star of *Schitt's Creek* and *Kevin Can F**k Himself* (more on p. 8), and **Jennifer Hollett**, BA 97, executive director of *The Walrus*. Murphy also taught a virtual masterclass to Department of Theatre students.

Also on the Homecoming schedule was a talk on how to commercialize intellectual property, featuring **Pierre Chamberland** of IPRO, **Charlotte Savage**, undergraduate student and founder of HaiLa Technologies, and **Luc Sirois** of the Conseil de l'innovation du Québec.



10 FROM LEFT: **PASCALE SICOTTE**, DEAN OF CONCORDIA'S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, **RICHARD WAGNER**, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA, AND **MORTON MINC**, BA 67, CONCORDIA'S JURIST-IN-RESIDENCE



CONCORDIA STUDENTS **PRISCILA SANCHES** AND **GUILHERME SPERB PEREIRA** SHARED THEIR SHUFFLE 32 PRIDE BY CREATING AN INSTAGRAM REEL SHOWCASING A COLLECTION OF SHUFFLE T-SHIRTS FROM PAST YEARS.

7 Concordia's Black Alumni connected for an online reunion and a panel discussion on leadership. Guest speakers included **Michael Dennis**, BComm 90, a departing partner at KPMG, and **Yinka Ibukun**, BA 07, West Africa bureau chief at Bloomberg News.

Hopeful property buyers tuned in for a talk about the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) and its effect on Montreal real estate (more on p. 26). Insights were shared

by panellists **Paul Broccolini**, executive vice-president of Broccolini Construction, **Amelia Grich**, BComm 05, MBA 10, residential real-estate broker, and **Jennifer Khairallah**, MEng 18, senior associate in infrastructure and capital projects at Deloitte.

8 Members of Concordia's LGBTQ+ community enjoyed the musings of **Tranna Wintour**, BA 10, and **Thomas Leblanc**, BA 14, comedians and co-hosts of CBC's *Chosen Family* podcast.

The entertainers treated the audience to a cheeky roundup of "obsessions" from their Concordia days, including the shuttle bus between campuses, and people-watching at Le Gym fitness centre.

9 Homecoming festivities closed with a virtual coffee house headlined by blues musician **Dawn Tyler Watson**, BFA 94. Audiences enjoyed performances by *La Voix* contestants **Willis Pride**, BFA 14, and **Matt Holubowski**, BA 12, international oud performer **Ali Omar El-Farouk Enaam**, BFA 09, and a special duo performance by **Corey Thomas**, BFA 19, and **Emily Reuangrith (Ziyíng)**, MFA 17. Juno Award nominee **Patrick Lehman**, BFA 09, performed his new original song, "L.A. Lover."

10 Concordia's Jurist-in-Residence program hosted its first hybrid event, which featured the Right Honourable **Richard Wagner**, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Joined in conversation by Morton Minc, BA 67, Concordia's jurist-in-residence, Wagner emphasized the importance of education in understanding Canada's unique legal institutions and demystifying laws. Close to 600 guests logged in for the October 20 event. ■

View our latest events at concordia.ca/alumnievents.

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

80 David Gibbins, BComm, was appointed global capital advisor at the McMaster Innovation Park.

82 Karen Macdonald, BA, was appointed vice-chair of the Foundation of Greater Montreal.

84 Vito Cerone, BComm, was named senior vice-president, International, at Cargojet Inc.

Stewart Schaefer, ATTD, was named president of Sleep Country Canada and will continue to serve as president of Dormez-vous.

86 Nick Nardi, BSc, became a senior advisor at 3Lines Venture Capital.

87 Carolena Gordon, BA, was named senior partner and member of the global board of directors at Clyde & Co LLP.

Anne Whitelaw, BFA, GrDip 92, PhD 96, was appointed provost and vice-president, Academic, at Concordia.

90 Theodora Samiotis, BA, was named a senior advisor within the corporate and health-care practices at energi PR.

91 Caroline-Anne Tytko, BA, was named vice-president of human resources at ADGA Group.

93 Ryan Rice, BFA, was named curator of Indigenous art for the on-site gallery at OCAD University.

95 Roberto Nardi, BComm, GrDip 97, became chief operating officer at Nakisa.

97 Nathalie Giroux, BSc, was appointed chief people officer at Lion Electric Company.

Jonathan Roiter, GrDip, was named chief financial officer at Goodfood Market Corp.

99 Mary Chronopoulos, BComm, EMBA 06, was appointed chief financial officer and corporate secretary at Supremex Inc.

Martin Laperrière, BA, was named assistant coach of the Laval Rocket in the American Hockey League.

01 David Benamron, BComm, became executive vice-president, life insurance division, at Groupe Financier Botica.

02 Anwar Soussa, MSc, was named head of the Ethiopian Operating Company on behalf of the Global Partnership for Ethiopia Consortium at Safaricom.

05 Annick Beauchemin, BComm, was appointed marketing director at Bota Bota.

Julie Foisy, BA, was appointed director of Concordia's Student Success Centre.

Amber Goodwyn, BFA, was named artistic director of the Regina Folk Festival.

Michael Marcotte, BComm, was appointed senior vice-president of Corporate Development and Capital Markets at Champion Iron Ltd.

Kristian Zimmerman, BA, was named partner and lawyer at Fasken.

06 Dawei Chen, MBA, was named chief financial officer at Skillful Craftsman Education Technology Ltd.

Jacques Djofack, EMBA, was appointed director of financial management at African Development Bank Group.

Scott Loong, BA, was named partner at Panache Ventures.

08 Michel Desgagné, EMBA, was appointed president and CEO of Logibec.

Kristina Partsinevelos, BComm, joined CNBC as a general-assignment reporter.

09 Amélie Brindamour, BFA, MA 14, became deputy director of Kamouraska Art Centre.

Esther Latourès, BA, was named a development agent at Loisirs Laurentides.

Gabrielle Martin, BFA, joined the collaborative leadership team at PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.

11 Nicole Burisch, MA, was appointed director of Concordia's FOFA Gallery.

Ali Gianni Zia, BA, was hired as a lawyer at Tutino Joseph Grégoire.

13 Cory Klumak, BComm, was hired as a lawyer at KRB Lawyers.

Benjamin Vago, MA, was appointed director of investment sales at Ariel Property Advisors.

15 Marie-Laurence Goyette, BA, joined Langlois Avocats as a lawyer.

Carla-Anide Guillaume, BA, was selected to join the WSP Youth Advisory Council.

Nathaniel Port, BComm, GrDip 17, was promoted to senior vice-president of finance and accounting at Bitfarms Ltd.

16 Alexa Santella, BA, joined Trivium as a lawyer.

Andrew Oddy, BSc, was selected as assistant athletic therapist for the Ontario Reign of the American Hockey League, based in Ontario, California.

17 Tyson Rosberg, MA, was named curator at the Missisquoi County Museum in Stanbridge East, Que.

18 Gaëlle Bergeron, BSc, was appointed athletic therapist and assistant equipment manager of the Coquitlam Express in the British Columbia Hockey League.

Danielle Gasher, BA, was named director of international sales at Voltage Pictures.

19 Walid Jabri, BFA, was hired as video editor at Orkestra.

20 Patrick Drolet, BComm, was named head coach of the Meaford Knights of the Greater Metro Junior Hockey League.

21 Joel Mason, PhD, was appointed artistic director of the Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature Centre.

Sarah Mazhero, BA, was named to the Prime Minister's Youth Council.

George Lengvari Jr., BA 63, won the inaugural Mitchell Family U SPORTS Alumni of the Year Award.

Richard Pound, BA 63, LLD 10, received an honorary degree from the University of Guelph.

James Temerty, ATTD 64, was ranked #24 on the *Maclean's* Top 50 Power List for 2021.

David Martin, BSc 71, LLD 17, and wife Nancy Knowlton, founders of Calgary company Nureva, received a Frost & Sullivan Global Technology Innovation Award.

Mohan Munasinghe, MA 75, received the Blue Planet Prize, considered the environmental equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Gerald K. Stone, BA 75, was awarded the Judaica Bibliography Award by the Association of Jewish Libraries.

Carolina Gallo, BA 84, was named one of Canada's Clean50, celebrating contributors from various industries to a clean economy.

Mark Kelley, BA 85, was co-winner of a JHR/Canadian Association of Journalists Award for Human Rights Reporting.

Robert Frances, BComm 87, MBA 91, was named *Finance et Investissement's* Financial Personality of the Year in the Multidisciplinary Firms category.

Lino A. Saputo Jr., BA 89, was awarded the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Prix Philanthrope par excellence. Saputo is chair of the board and chief executive officer of Saputo Inc. He also serves as co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. **1**



Morwyn Brebner, BFA 93, won the Writers Guild of Canada Showrunner Award for *Coroner*.

Eric Gravel, BFA 94, won best director in the Orizzonti section of the Venice Film Festival for his film *À plein temps*. His film also won the best lead actress award.

Isabelle Racicot, BA 95, host of CBC podcast *Seat at the Table*, was a finalist for a TD Gala Dynastie 2021 award honouring Black excellence in the "Committed Podcast of the Year" category.

Sonya Branco, BComm 98, GrDip 00, vice-president of finance and CEO of CAE, was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards in the KPMG C-Suite Executives category.

Monelle Hébert, BA 00, became the first female motorcycle officer in the history of the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM).

Osman Hasan, MEng 01, PhD 08, received a Civil Award from the National University of Sciences and Technology.

Medhat Khalil, PhD 03, was inducted into the International Fluid Power Society Hall of Fame.

Félix Lajeunesse, BFA 03, and his team at Felix & Paul Studios, received the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Interactive Program for *Space Explorers: The ISS Experience*.

Jonathan Montpetit, BA 05, was named one of the 2021 William Southam Journalism Fellows at University of Toronto's Massey College.

Aaron Derfel, BA 06, was nominated for a Michener Award and won a Canadian Association of Journalists Award for his coverage of the COVID-19 outbreak at Herron residence in Dorval, Que.

Chih-Chien Wang, MFA 06, received the Louis-Comtois Prize for Visual Arts, which rewards artists who have distinguished themselves in Montreal's contemporary art scene over the past 15 years.

Petrona Joseph, BA 07, was a finalist for a TD Gala Dynastie 2021 award honouring Black excellence in the "Engaged Web Personality of the Year" category.

Richard Charlebois, LLD 10, was named a member of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Michelle Smith, MA 10, was the recipient of a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University.

Kate Arthur, MA 11, was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards in the BMO Entrepreneurs Category for her work as founder and CEO of Kids Code Jeunesse.

Anahita Norouzi, BFA 13, was bestowed the Grantham Foundation for Art and the Environment Award.

Aimee Wall, MA 15, was longlisted for the 2021 Giller Prize.

Amr Yosry, BEng 16, was named a 2021 Top 40 Under 40 Aerospace Professional in Canada by *Wings Magazine*.

Calin Rovinescu, LLD 16, was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame.

Maya Malkin, BA 17, was the recipient of the 8th annual Canada's Walk of Fame Emerging Musician Program.

Kim Thúy, LLD 17, was longlisted for the 2021 Giller Prize.

Amelia Wong-Mersereau, BA 17, MA 20, was awarded *Canada Art's* Winter 2021 editorial mentorship.

Lorne Trottier, LLD 18, was named an Honorary Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Édith Cloutier, LLD 18, received an honorary doctorate from the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS).

Francis Gélinas, BFA 18, won Best Virtual Reality Film at the Santa Monica International Film Festival.

Darian Goldin Stahl, PhD 21, was named a 2021 Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of British Columbia.

Ahreum Lee, MFA 21, was the winner of the Impressions Artist Residency 2021 by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

Jackie Flanagan, co-director of the Flanagan Foundation and Campaign for Concordia donor, was inducted as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Governor General's Literary Awards

The Canada Council for the Arts celebrates the best of Canadian literature with its Governor General's Literary Awards. Various Concordia alumni are among the nominees and winners:

Lazar Lederhendler, MA 93 (winner for translation)

Christopher Cook, BA 05 (nominated for drama)

Alexis Diamond, BA 98 (nominated for translation)

Arianne Des Rochers, BA 12 (nominated for translation)

EY Entrepreneur of the Year Program

The EY Entrepreneur of the Year Program highlights entrepreneurs across Canada that are transforming the world through innovation and prosperity. Three Concordians were finalists for the 2021 Quebec program, with one selected as the winner:

Louis St-Laurent, ATTD 82 (winner)

Cherif Habib, BCSc 03 (finalist)

Sam Kersheh, BComm 94 (finalist)

The Royal Society of Canada

Recognized for their outstanding research and career achievements, five Concordia alumni and faculty members were named among the latest inductees to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC).

John W. Berry, BA 63 (fellow)

Jason E. Lewis (fellow)

Greg Matlashewski, BSc 78 (fellow)

Thien Thanh Dang-Vu (member)

Kathleen Vaughan, MFA 98 (member)

Additionally, **Fiorenzo Vetrone**, BSc 99, PhD 05, was awarded the Rutherford Memorial Medal in Chemistry from the RSC. ■

TAKE PRIDE in your alma mater!



Julien BriseBois, EMBA 07
General manager, Tampa Bay Lightning



Eunice Bélidor, BFA 12
Curator, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts



Ana Marinescu, BComm 06, MBA 09
Founder, URBANA Marketing



Aaron Hancox, BA 07
Audiovisual producer and director



Paul Haddad, BEng 94
Investor and executive advisor



Skawennati (Fragnito), BFA 92, GrDip 96
Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow

You are part of Concordia's accomplished 230,000-member alumni family.

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concordia.ca/keepintouch
- Share your successes:
alumni@concordia.ca
- Join us on social media:
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#CUpride #CUalumni



1 Patricia Belmar, BFA 14, participated in the Women's Art Society of Montreal's annual juried art show held at Le Vivart from April 20 to 26. 1) "Facing the Day," acrylic on stretched gallery canvas (2021).

2 As part of Concordia's Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery's *SIGHTINGS* exhibition program, "Holographic Ki" is a two-stage online project created by Hanako Hoshimi-Caines, BA 20, and her mother. Described by the artist as a "Japanese-mess-mix musical," the project launched on May 25, 2021, and ran until September. 2) "Holographic Ki (Red)," performance (2021).

3 From October 12 to 18, Roxanne Dyer, BFA 98, presented *Beauty for Ashes* at Galerie ERGA in Montreal. The exhibition featured a series of oil paintings by the artist that were inspired by a passage from the Book of Isaiah: "(...) to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." 3) "Soft Pink Peonies," oil on canvas (2021).

4 Diana Bruno, GrDip 98, took part in the Women's Art Society of Montreal's (WASM) annual juried art show from April 20 to 26. Her submitted artwork won second prize – the first photograph to ever be awarded a prize at a WASM show. 4) "Anomie," archival inkjet print (2010).

5 Raymonde Jodoin, BFA 83, exhibited her work at the Visual Art Centre in the Montreal enclave of Westmount, in honour of the centre's 75th anniversary. The *Clay Roots* online and in-person fundraising event and exhibition ran from September 2 to 15, 2021. 5) "Tulips," Conté and pastel drawing on Arches paper (2017).

Nadia Chaudhri (1978 - 2021): 'She was a force of nature'

Beloved professor spent final days raising awareness – and record funds – to support the next generation of neuroscientists at Concordia

Brave. Thoughtful. Talented. Inspiring. Nadia Chaudhri — a Concordia professor, neuroscientist, mother and wife — will be remembered as much for how she lived as how she fearlessly shared her final days on social media.

Chaudhri passed away on October 5, 2021, more than a year after she was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. She was 43.

After going public with the devastating news and chronicling her journey on Twitter, Chaudhri amassed more than 150,000 followers. She leveraged the social media platform to provide insights on her struggles — and triumphs — with the world.

“Help me shake my booty to raise funds for the Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award,” she tweeted at the onset of a record-breaking fundraising effort.

Chaudhri spent her last weeks at the McGill University Health Centre’s palliative-care ward rallying support for minority and historically marginalized students in neuroscience.

Chaudhri gathered unprecedented support for her student award by signing up for Shuffle 32, Concordia’s annual walkathon, pledging to walk the palliative-care ward for as long as she could. “Your donations and love are giving me wings,” she tweeted.



NADIA CHAUDHRI JOINED CONCORDIA IN 2010 AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND MEMBER OF ITS CENTER FOR STUDIES IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROBIOLOGY (CSBN).

Chaudhri’s cause raised over \$645,490 to date from a record 9,000 donors.

“Nadia was a force of nature. She was an incredibly talented researcher with a passion for teaching and student success matched only by her commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion,” said Concordia President Graham Carr.

“She enriched us. Our entire community grieves her death and offers deeply heartfelt condolences to her son, Reza, and husband, Moni — whom she lovingly called her Sun and Moon — her family, friends, colleagues and the thousands of supporters to the Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award who embraced her cause.”

Chaudhri openly shared her story on Twitter and with media to advocate for better screening for ovarian cancer, as well as for increased funding for research and treatment.

In recognition of Chaudhri’s efforts, Liberal MNA Jennifer Maccarone dedicated the Medal of the National Assembly of Quebec in her honour on October 5. The medal will be presented to Chaudhri’s family.

FROM PAKISTAN TO CONCORDIA

Originally from Karachi, Pakistan, Chaudhri left her home at the age of 17 to pursue her Bachelor of Science degree at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania — with a full scholarship to cover her yearly \$31,000 USD tuition, room and board.

Chaudhri became the first woman to receive the college’s Williamson Medal, awarded to a member of the senior class for outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements.



NADIA CHAUDHRI AND HER HUSBAND, **MONI ORIFE**.

She earned her PhD in neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh in 2005 and then became a postdoctoral fellow at the University of San Francisco.

In 2010, Chaudhri joined Concordia as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2014. She was also a member of her department's Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology (CSBN).

On September 9, 2021, Concordia promoted her to full professor.

Chaudhri's research on the development of alcohol and drug addiction, she said, was propelled by students at her Chaudhri Lab in the Faculty of Arts and Science. She was also active in her department's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (EDI) committee.

"Nadia was an international leader in the study of neurobiology of substance use disorders and relapse, and her innovative research led to major discoveries in the field," said Aaron Johnson, chair of the Department of Psychology and associate professor.

"However, perhaps her greatest accomplishment was working with the students in her lab and our psychology program — promoting, mentoring and supporting them. Nadia was a true scholar in every sense, and tirelessly did service for the department and the Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology," he added.



CHAUDHRI PICTURED WITH HER SON, REZA, WHOM SHE REFERRED TO AS HER SUN.

"Nadia's tireless work to raise funds for her award is a true inspiration and characteristic of her drive to make important things happen."

"One issue she championed was addressing the underrepresentation of women and minority groups in the field of neuroscience. Despite her diagnosis and hospitalization, she continued until the end to develop support for students from underrepresented backgrounds that will impact the department and the field of neuroscience for years to come."

A LASTING LEGACY

As an advocate for emerging scholars from diverse backgrounds, Chaudhri launched the Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award at Concordia to provide vital funding to behavioural neuroscientists unable to fully participate in the field due to prejudice and other systemic barriers.

"Nadia's strength and grace were an inspiration," said Brad Skog, principal director of Annual Giving at Concordia, whose unit

oversees the Shuffle.

"Her efforts resulted in the greatest outpouring of support we've ever seen."

The annual scholarship will support neuroscientists from underrepresented backgrounds and will enable diverse scholars to achieve their fullest potential while helping to shape future neuroscience research.

"Nadia was such a special part of my life," said Krista Byers-Heinlein, Chaudhri's friend and colleague in the Department of Psychology.

"She was impressive in so many different ways — a brilliant neuroscientist, a dedicated mentor to students, a talented artist, a great cook, a loving mother to her son and partner to her husband, honorary auntie to my daughter and a caring member of her family and community.

"Nadia's tireless work to raise funds for her award — even during the final stages of her terminal illness — is a true inspiration and characteristic of her drive to make important things happen.

"Her absence will leave a big hole in our hearts."

Chaudhri leaves behind her husband, Moni Orife, and their son, extended family, colleagues, friends and supporters. ■

To honour Nadia Chaudhri's legacy of support for the next generation of scientific leaders, visit concordia.ca/wingspanaward.

Jeanne Maranda (1926 - 2021)

Alumna was among first cohort to graduate from the Simone de Beauvoir Institute

Jeanne Maranda, BA '87, a towering figure in the history of Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute, as well as a staunch advocate for women's rights in media and advertising, passed away on April 7.

At the age of 52, Maranda was among the first cohort of students to enrol in Concordia's

new Women's Studies program at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute's inception in 1978.

"It was love at first sight, intellectually speaking," she said in a 2000 interview with the Concordia news team. "I took every single course. I took one twice, I liked it so much. I ended up with 109 credits for my BA."

Maranda was the founding president of Meute/MédiAction, a group that worked to improve the image of women in advertising and publicity.

She was a member of the Conseil des femmes de Montréal, as well as the Fondation Thérèse-Casgrain.

Her numerous honours include the Women of



Distinction Award from the YWCA for advancing the cause of women. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Leo Conway, L BSc 49, April 8, 2021.

Edgar L. Maugham, L BA 50, November 9, 2019. He was 90.

Edward V. Shiner, S BA 50, June 25, 2021, Halifax, NS. He was 99.

Rhodes Bethume (Tim) Evans, S BComm 52, July 13, 2021. He was 90.

Ian L. Henderson, S BComm 52, April 12, 2021. He was 91.

Meer Friedman, S BComm 54, May 14, 2021.

Norma E. Johnston, S BA 54, January 31, 2021.

Ken MacKeracher, S BA 54, October 5, 2021, Toronto, Ont. He was 89.

Linda Myers-Hall, S BA 57, March 26, 2021. She was 88.

Richard J. Simpson, S BSc 58, November 10, 2020. He was 85.

James D. Sullivan, L BA 58, May 24, 2021. He was 83.

Colin M. Edwards, S BComm 59, S BSc 71, Williamstown, Ont. He was 87.

Carl Erik Ohlson, L BSc 59, July 21, 2020. He was 81.

Earl F. Pritchard, S BComm 59, April 15, 2021. He was 85.

Doreen Muriel Page, S BA 60, S MTM 71, December 29, 2019. She was 91.

David Rannie, L BComm 62, September 8, 2020.

Maurice John Colson, L BA 63, March 26, 2021. He was 78.

Algis A. Grazys, L BSc 63, April 28, 2021, Ottawa, Ont. He was 82.

Angus C. MacLeod, S BA 63, April 9, 2021. He was 96.

Gordon Pepper, S BA 63, March 30, 2021. He was 80.

Stephen Retfalvi, L BA 63, March 16, 2021. He was 78.

Paul J. Watt, L BA 63, January 14, 2021.

George Franklin Gaffney, L BA 64. He was 78.

Pablo Majdaniw, L BSc 64, September 20, 2020.

Aurèle C. Quenneville, L BComm 65, April 11, 2021. She was 75.

Theodore Shtym, ATTD 65, April 15, 2021.

Robert Townsend, L BA 66, July 21, 2018. He was 76.

Verna Asbil-Negm, S BA 67, April 17, 2021. She was 85.

Stanley Hodge, S BComm 67, May 15, 2021. He was 77.

Ronald Luciano, S BA 67, March 13, 2021. He was 80.

David Edward Southmayd, S BA 68, S MA 70, March 26, 2021. He was 75.

Edgar McDougall, L BA 69, April 23, 2021. He was 82.

Michael J. McNally, L BSc 69, S MTM 72, July 6, 2021. He was 74.

Richard Wojcicki, L BComm 70, June 10, 2021. He was 81.

Joseph L. Borrelli, L BComm 71, March 31, 2021. He was 71.

Hilda T. Fox, S BA 72, April 5, 2021. She was 74.

Brenda Massie, L BA 72, March 16, 2021, Toronto, Ont. She was 69.

Edna (Allan) Bolla, S BA 73, March 12, 2021. She was 94.

Pierre Gervais, L BA 73, October 3, 2016. He was 66.

David Durham (1997 - 2021)

'His energy brought meaning and inspired a true sense of hope'

Remembered as a radiant student and dedicated teaching assistant, David Durham, BFA 21, was a recent graduate of Concordia's Department of Studio Arts. He attended the university's first Black Graduation Celebration in June and was honoured to be among recipients of the inaugural Black Graduation Award.

"The celebration is the debut of an extremely significant recognition of Black excellence and academic achievement. It reflects an opportunity for a young Black man like me to be seen and heard," Durham said at the online celebration.

Annick Maugile Flavien, BSc 13, GrDip 15, MA 18, founding coordinator and

manager of Concordia's Black Perspectives Office — which organized the event — recalled Durham's passion and infectious smile. "His energy brought meaning to the work that we do at Concordia and inspired a true sense of hope and legacy in us all," she said. "We were privileged to meet David's family and saw the genuine pride he exuded from sharing his family with us."

Durham was pursuing a career in the animation industry, both as a studio and independent filmmaker, a role through which he wanted to expand diversity and encourage Black voices.

"I remember David vividly from the moment he came to present his portfolio



for admission to film animation," said Shira Avni, associate professor in the program. "His radiant, kind, positive way with people was immediately apparent, and his artwork was both achingly beautiful and incredibly professional for such a young artist.

"As a brilliant student, visionary filmmaker and a patient, generous and dedicated teaching assistant, his presence gladdened our hallways. My sincerest condolences to his family and to everyone — all of us — who loved him."

Durham offered advice to the next generation of Black graduates: "Always empower and embolden our voices among those who intend to silence us. It is imperative that we continue to speak up and speak out against institutions that infringe on our values and cultures. Most importantly, always live and be unapologetically Black." ■

Barry (Luke) Levy, S BComm 73, June 24, 2021. He was 70.

Georgina M. Ascroft, BA 75, March 28, 2021, New Westminster, B.C.

Tessa (Selvin) Berger, BA 75, July 1, 2021. She was 67.

Moria Edwards, BA 75, March 5, 2021. She was 83.

Arlette T. Ford, BA 75, March 18, 2021. She was 92.

Franklin-Noel Thevenaz, BA 75, November 12, 2019. He was 75.

Nader (Mark) Behelak, BFA 76, August 31, 2021. He was 73.

Terrence T. Regan, BA 76, May 18, 2021. He was 69.

Ilmar Jaan Soom, BComm 76, May 7, 2021. He was 68.

Robert D. Clerk, BComm 77, February 23, 2021. He was 83.

Harry Kuntz, GrDip 77, MA 93, PhD 10, April 3, 2021. He was 85.

Bernard Shalinsky, MA 77, July 6, 2021. He was 76.

Gertrude Batist, BA 78, April 24, 2021. She was 93.

Gregory A. Chirinian, BComm 78, May 12, 2020.

Alvin George Noftall, BComm 78, GrDip 80, June 1, 2021. He was 75.

Noubar Boyadjian, BComm 79, March 22, 2021. He was 64.

Renate Raschkowan, BA 80, February 2021. She was 88.

Thomas Symons, LLD 81, January 1, 2021. He was 91.

Abrey Serge Myers, BA 83, June 25, 2020. She was 64.

Carlo Alberto Terenzi, BComm 83, January 21, 2021. He was 76.

Harry Kuntz, GrDip 77, MA 93, PhD 10, April 3, 2021, Pointe-Claire, Que. He was 85.

Ann Catherine Walsh, BA 83, April 11, 2021. She was 89.

Joan Kepron, GrCert 84, BA 88, February 9, 2020. She was 89.

Anthony Costanzo (1938 - 2021)

'An education is the passport to a better life'

HOWARD BOKSER

Anthony Costanzo, a Concordia professor of classics, modern languages and linguistics for more than 50 years, died in Montreal on June 17. The former president of the Concordia University Faculty Association was also a planned-giving donor who supported the next generation of students at the university.

Costanzo first taught Italian at Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, in 1968.

He became an associate professor in what is now the Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics at Concordia in 1980. His research interests included the Italian language

and literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Costanzo officially retired in 2008 but continued teaching until this year.

Born in Italy in 1938, Costanzo arrived in Canada with his family in 1951. In a video testimonial he made in 2018 to explain why he made a planned gift to Concordia, Costanzo recalled how he considered dropping out of high school.

"My mother said to me, 'You don't want to go to school? One day you will regret it.' This pushed me," he recounted.

Costanzo instead advanced academically, earning an MA in Romance languages from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1964 before returning to Montreal and eventually joining Loyola.

"Throughout my career, others inspired me, pushed me, to aim higher," Costanzo said in the video. "If we help students today, they will help us tomorrow. Having an education is the passport to a better life."

'TONY'S WAS A POWERFUL VOICE'

Costanzo became involved with the Concordia University Faculty Association (CUFA) in the late 1980s. He served as CUFA's vice-president in 1990-91 and president in 1991-92. He rejoined the CUFA executive as secretary from 2007 to 2010 and then as a member-at-large from 2010 to 2014.

"Whether the issue was contract negotiations, salary issues or defending individual faculty members, Tony's was a



powerful voice," said Charles Drainin, professor of accountancy at the John Molson School of Business and a CUFA member-at-large.

Dario Brancato, a Concordia professor of classics, modern languages and linguistics, remembered his late colleague fondly. "I will miss my conversations with him in his office about his three passions: Italian culture — especially winemaking — teaching and Concordia, a place where he was in his element, and that he served until his death." ■

Henry Klumak,
BComm 84, June 29, 2021.

Raymond J. Malcius,
BComm 84, April 30, 2021.
He was 72.

Marylyn D. Baker,
BA 86, September 4, 2020.
She was 80.

Tobias Levkovich,
BComm 82, October 1, 2021,
Woodmere, NY. He was 60.

**Antonietta Morganti-
Sassi**, Cert 86, GrDip 89,
December 26, 2019.
She was 75.

Judith A. Farnsworth,
BFA 89, April 11, 2021.

**Anne (Schnitzer)
McCaffrey**, BComm 89,
June 1, 2021, Calgary, Alb.
She was 54.

Jason Michael Zytynsky,
BA 89, May 2, 2021.
He was 55.

**Judith Elizabeth
(Koszukan) Brocklehurst**,
BEd 91, April 27, 2021.
She was 56.

William Robert Mesher,
BFA 92, MA 03, GrDip 18,
May 10, 2021. He was 62.

Carolyn Desrosiers,
GrDip 92, August 2020.
She was 56.

Angelo Cotoia, BEng 93,
May 12, 2021. He was 55.

Lorna Lillian Mullin Baird,
GrDip 93, April 17, 2021.
She was 89.

Thomas R. Berger, LLD 94,
April 28, 2021. He was 88.

Dawn M. Strathy, BFA 96,
April 8, 2021, Mission, B.C.
She was 90.

Lori Jacobs, BA 98, April
22, 2016. She was 60.

Shahin Parhami, BFA 98,
March 13, 2021. He was 53.

Joseph Zeitoune,
BComm 99, April 12, 2021.
He was 47.

Rachel Lynn Hoffman,
Cert 02, BA 04, May 28,
2021. She was 93.

Mathieu Marchese,
BEng 04, April 20, 2021.
He was 42.

Andrew W. Staples, MA 09,
March 14, 2021. He was 56.

Catherine Polson, BA 13,
May 6, 2021. She was 31. ■

'The most valuable years of my academic career'

At 92, Margaret Kamester reflects on her journey

MARGARET KAMESTER,
GRDIP 78, GRCERT 86

Education was highly regarded in the home in which I grew up. My parents were Scottish — Scotland had one of the earliest universal and compulsory education systems in the world. It dated back to the 16th-century Scottish Reformation, when it was deemed essential that everyone should read the Bible for themselves.

My mother had been a teacher and my father was an engineer. They settled in Bristol, England, where I was born in 1929. We lived through the Second World War and our city was heavily bombed. I was lucky to attend good schools, and at 18 years of age was awarded a scholarship to Bristol University, where I studied history and was awarded an honours degree. I went on to Oxford University and earned a certificate in education.

I found, however, that teaching was not for me, and I switched to library studies, working in Bristol Public Libraries and taking courses in the evenings. I was married in 1955 and lived in London, enjoying classical music concerts and singing — my main hobbies throughout my life. In 1960 my husband's company moved us to Montreal, where we led a busy life with three sons and many musical activities.

Once our children were in school, I enrolled at Concordia. Taking one course at a time, I earned a Graduate Diploma in Library Studies and worked part-time as a cataloguer in a public library. In my early 50s, influenced by Betty Friedan's book



"I am grateful that my life experience and education have enabled me to make the most of my intellectual abilities."

The Feminine Mystique, I began to study for a Certificate in Women's Studies at Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Among my varied courses was a study of women in ancient history and a study of George Eliot's novel *Daniel Deronda*, with its fascinating heroine Gwendolen Harleth.

Then, British historian Jo Vellacott joined the faculty at the institute. Her speciality was the history of the British women's suffrage movement in the early 20th century, and I immediately enrolled in her courses. And so began a relationship that grew through common interests and led to my work as her research assistant and long-time friend.

I look back on this time as the most valuable years of my academic career. My association with my classmates and the faculty at the institute was a revelation to me; I particularly remember Mair Verthuy, inaugural head of the institute, and psychologist Elizabeth Henrik. My marriage ended around this time, and the support of Jo and some of the students was very helpful to me. (Sadly, Jo died in 2019, and I wrote a tribute to her for Concordia.)

Eight years ago I moved to Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, where my eldest son lives; my youngest is also within easy reach. I am happily established in a seniors' residence, near to two universities, so there are many retired academics among the residents. I write regular articles on a variety of subjects for the resident newsletter. We have come through the pandemic safely, and were all vaccinated on-site.

My family have been a huge support for me, and I see them all regularly. My only granddaughter is engaged to be married next fall, and one of my six grandsons and his partner are planning a wedding in 2023, which all gives me a huge incentive to keep going!

At age 92, I am thankful above all for my devoted family. I am also grateful that my life experience and education have enabled me to make the most of my intellectual abilities. I hope that younger people who have the opportunity to pursue an education will do likewise and enjoy the satisfaction that this brings. ■



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