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# UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Two grads on the front lines cope with the pressures of the pandemic

### NOW WHAT?

Canada has welcomed a Biden presidency, but the result might not be as good for us as we think

### BEST CASE SCENARIO

Students at the John Molson School of Business shine at case competitions – and get a leg up after graduation



# PREPARING FOR TAKEOFF

New partnership between Bombardier and Concordia fosters next generation of women in engineering

# WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

How Canadians are helping to define and create more equitable food systems



How Concordia is schooling the teachers of tomorrow

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### Brian O'Neill Gallery (1934 - 2021)

### Canadian Irish Studies Foundation co-founder was devoted to his alma mater

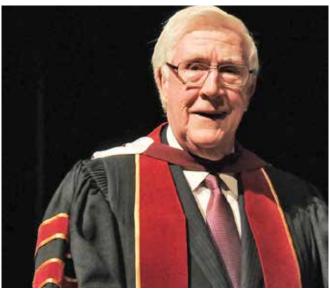
WENDY HELFENBAUM

rominent businessman and former Westmount, Quebec mayor Brian O'Neill Gallery, BA 57, LLD 10, passed away on January 23, 2021. He was 86.

A fifth-generation Irish-Quebecer, Gallery's family legacy was very much rooted in Montreal's history: his great-grandfather, William Hingston, was a chief surgeon, bank president and mayor of Montreal from 1875 to 1877, and his grandfather, Donald Hingston, was a surgeon who founded St. Mary's Hospital in 1924.

Throughout his own lifetime, Gallery made his mark on his city and country, including as the co-founder of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF), which helped establish the School of Irish Studies at Concordia.

"Brian was an undeniable pillar of support for Irish Studies, and an irrepressible personality who marked the



"BRIAN WAS AN UNDENIABLE PILLAR OF SUPPORT FOR IRISH STUDIES," SAID CONCORDIA PRESIDENT GRAHAM CARR.

history of his alma mater," said Concordia President Graham Carr. "We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Nancy, and his family. We are truly grateful for his generosity to Concordia and for emulating the Jesuit ethos of service to society as a 'man for others'."

Gallery graduated from Loyola College - one of Concordia's founding

institutions - in 1957 and remained connected to his alma mater. He served as president of the alumni association in 1971, organized the goldenanniversary celebration of his class and helped raise funds for the Loyola Class of 1957 Bursary.

In the 1980s, Gallery served as mayor of Westmount for four years. He was also the chairman, vice-chairman and a director of Canadian National Railroad, and the Quebec director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews from 1983 to 1985.

In 1995, Gallery cofounded the CISF. A tireless fundraiser, he reached out to his impressive network of business and government contacts, friends and fellow Irish community members to drum up financial support.

Gallery's efforts led to the creation of the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies, now known as the School of Irish Studies, in 2002.

"He helped to create a permanent legacy that will benefit Concordia into the future," said Michael Kenneally, fellow CISF cofounder and principal of the School of Irish Studies. "Our mission is to honour him by continuing to build on his extraordinary achievement."

The Concordia University Alumni Association awarded Gallery the prestigious Humberto Santos Award of Merit in 2010. Later that year, the university presented Gallery with an honorary doctorate. In 2014 he became one of 40 people named a Great Concordian as part of the university's 40th anniversary.

When he retired from the CISF, Gallery's peers established the Brian O'Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund, which provides annual support for 25 students enrolled in Irish Studies.

Gallery is survived by his wife, Nancy MacNaughton, their three daughters, Ann, Mary and Elizabeth, and seven grandchildren.

If you would like to honour Brian O'Neill Gallery's legacy, consider making a contribution to the Brian O'Neill Gallery Irish Studies Scholarship Fund at concordia.ca/artsci/irishstudies/foundation.



GALLERY (FAR LEFT) WAS A MEMBER OF LOYOLA COLLEGE'S 1957 VARSITY CURLING TEAM.

# Optimism amid uncertainty

eading up to the American elections, I—like many Canadians—
apprehensively contemplated what the future might look like if the Trump administration were to earn a second term. As a visible minority whose identity as a Canadian is too often questioned, I struggled to imagine a better way forward after four volatile years.

In the United States and here in Canada, the past year alone has been filled with despair following racist attacks against BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) communities. And, while the November 3 results granted many of us a collective sigh of relief, these and other challenges still lie ahead, as we observe how a Biden presidency unfolds (read more on p. 26).

As the new editor of *Concordia University Magazine*, I look to our global network of 220,000 alumni and am reminded that there is much to be optimistic about. The innovation, talent and diversity of our grads enrich this community, and I'm immensely proud to celebrate the successes of my fellow alumni in these pages.

Regrettably, it may have been some time since you last received a print version of the magazine. This was a result of the unusual circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you are as excited as I am to once again hold a printed copy in your hands.

As you flip through the next pages, you may notice this magazine looks different — and you're right. It is the culmination of a new team collaborating together, pictured above, that I am delighted to



FROM LEFT: TREVOR BROWNE, DESIGNER, MARTA SAMUEL, GRDIP 10, EDITOR, CHRISTOPHER ALLEYNE, BA 09, LEAD DESIGNER. AND IAN HARRISON. BCOMM 01. ASSOCIATE EDITOR

introduce you to: Ian Harrison, BComm o1, associate editor, Christopher Alleyne, BA o9, lead designer, and Trevor Browne, designer. Countless others additionally work behind the scenes to make this final product possible.

The result is our winter 2021 issue, which showcases Concordians who forge ahead in these unparalleled times. Our features explore how alumni on the front lines of health care cope with the pandemic (p. 14); how a new partnership helps foster women in engineering (p. 23); how researchers and grads are working towards better food systems (p. 30); and how faculty members are preparing primary-school teachers to pivot during COVID-19 (p. 40).

The pandemic, of course, remains a challenge to our ways of living. I am confident that our community will continue to rise to its demands. Our next-gen researchers, students, donors and alumni show us how resiliency can move us forward.

If you'd like to share any feedback, I encourage you to write to me at magazine@concordia.ca.

Until the next issue, happy reading! ■

Marta Samuel, GrDip 10 Editor, Concordia University Magazine



CONCORDIA ART EDUCATION MASTER'S STUDENT QUENTIN VERCETTY SUBMITTED A SCULPTURE DESIGN THAT WON A CITY OF TORONTO PUBLIC ART COMPETITION TO COMMEMORATE JOSHUA GLOVER, AN ABOLITIONIST AND FORMER SLAVE. VERCETTY'S WORK IS BASED ON AFROFUTURISM, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS "ANY FUTURISTIC OR IMAGINATIVE CREATION -OFTENTIMES IN SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY OR HORROR - THAT IS INSPIRED BY AFRICAN HISTORY, TRADITION OR CULTURES."

### TASK FORCE ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM

Answering global and local calls to address systemic racism, Concordia launched the Task Force on Anti-Black Racism. "It was clear that the university experience was not one of equitable access for many of our Black students, faculty and staff," says Anne Whitelaw, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, interim provost and vice-president, Academic. The cross-sectional task force aims to deliver a comprehensive set of recommendations and action plans to combat anti-Black racism at Concordia by April 2022.

### COVID-19 TRACING

Concordia researchers have created a web-based tool to estimate the risk of indoor airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2  $\operatorname{in}$ Montreal. Using publicly available data, they can calculate the probability of infection in a building and provide best practices to improve air quality and minimize cases of COVID-19.

### NEW JOURNALIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Francine Pelletier, weekly columnist for Le Devoir and award-winning documentary journalist, was named Concordia's journalist-in-residence. In her new role, Pelletier plans to increase the profile of documentary journalism through a virtual workshop series and other activities. Her expertise in the field will help show students how the format can support exceptional storytelling.



NAOMI AZAR, PHD STUDENT IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, WAS AWARDED THE MIRIAM AARON ROLAND GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP FOR HER RESEARCH ON THE IMPACTS OF PRENATAL EXPOSURE TO **EVERYDAY CHEMICALS ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MENTAL** HEALTH. THE \$100,000 FELLOWSHIP AIMS TO ATTRACT TOP STUDENTS WHOSE RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOSTERS INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION AND ENHANCES CONCORDIA'S RESEARCH PROFILE.

### SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Concordia launched its Sustainability Action Plan in fall 2020 and has already begun its implementation phase. "We must not ignore that climate change is one of the most critical issues of our time," says Concordia President Graham Carr. The new plan will combine with other efforts to support Concordia's newly announced commitment to accelerate solutions to the UN Sustainable **Development Goals.** The plan includes a long-term vision as well as five-year plans around topics like food, waste, climate, research and curriculum.

### NEXT STEPS IN REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The John Molson Executive Centre is offering a new Certification in Real Estate Management, in partnership with the Urban Development Institute of Quebec (UDI) and JMSB's Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate, which launched in September 2020. The certification, offered in French, will help advance professional careers in a rapidly changing industry.

CONCORDIA'S LAW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM – AN INITIATIVE OF JURIST-IN-RESIDENCE MORTON S. MINC, BA 67 – IS NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR. IN 2020, A NOTARY JOINED EIGHT ATTORNEYS WHO SERVED AS MENTORS IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF LAW INCLUDING CRIMINAL, FAMILY, ENTERTAINMENT AND CORPORATE. THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE IS ADDITIONALLY IN ITS SECOND YEAR OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COURT OF QUEBEC, THE LARGEST PROVINCIAL COURT IN CANADA. THE PARTNERSHIP GIVES STUDENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BE MENTORED BY JUDGES FROM THE CIVIL, PENAL AND CRIMINAL, AND YOUTH DIVISIONS.

Concordia University Magazine welcomes your comments.

Concordia University Magazine is published three times a year for alumni and friends. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, or its alumni association.

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### Keep in touch

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### NEWS BITES



AS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING, JULIEN BRISEBOIS, EMBA 07, LED HIS TEAM TO A 2020 STANLEY CUP VICTORY. THE BUSINESS GRAD JOINED THE NHL TEAM AS GM IN 2018 AFTER EIGHT SEASONS AS ASSISTANT GM UNDER HIS MENTOR, HALL-OF-FAMER STEVE YZERMAN.

### \$2.25 MILLION **BOOST FOR AEROSPACE** AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Canada's Department of National Defence has invested \$2.25 million to develop nextgeneration cybersecurity, AI technology and policy at the  $\operatorname{Gina}$ Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science to pave the way for cutting-edge technology. "It is encouraging when the federal government makes significant investments in two of our six research spotlights: aerospace and artificial intelligence," says Paula Wood-Adams, interim vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies.

### WORLD WILDLIFE FUND PARTNERSHIP

Concordia is the first university in Quebec to join the Living Planet @ Campus program in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada. The initiative is meant to encourage the practice of sustainability among the WWF's university members. One of the main goals of the program is to bolster efforts to conserve and protect the natural world, both on and off campus.



**DEBBIE FOLARON**, A SPECIALIST IN MULTILINGUAL AND ROMANI TRANSLATION PRACTICES IN THE DÉPARTEMENT D'ÉTUDES FRANÇAISES, IS THE FIRST CONCORDIA PROFESSOR TO BE AWARDED THE **JEAN MONNET CHAIR** BY THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE PRESTIGIOUS POSITION IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF EU STUDIES WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING IN POLICY, CITIZENSHIP, EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY.

### A SPACE FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

Quebec will soon have its first Indigenous artist-run centre, located in Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montreal. Opening this year, daphne will be a space to encourage respectful exchange with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peers and audiences. The non-profit was co-founded by Hannah Claus and Nadia Myre, MFA 02, assistant professors in studio arts at Concordia, Skawennati, BFA 92, GrDip 96, and Caroline Monnet to serve the needs of Indigenous artists through exhibitions and associated programming, workshops, residencies and curatorial initiatives.



Catherine Mulligan is the first Concordian to be named president of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) — and only the third woman in that role. The Gina Cody School professor is a pioneer of green remediation technologies as well as an internationally recognized expert in the decontamination of water, soil and sediments. Mulligan also became a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering earlier in 2020.



CONCORDIA'S SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE AND THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAVE PARTNERED WITH HOODSTOCK - A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FIGHTING INJUSTICES SUCH AS SYSTEMIC RACISM - TO HELP SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE BOROUGH OF MONTREAL NORTH. THE INSTITUTE'S PROGRAM AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR, MARLIHAN LOPEZ (PICTURED) IS CO-LEADING THE NEW PROJECT WITH NATHALIE BATRAVILLE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF WOMEN'S STUDIES. THE PROJECT AIMS TO DEVELOP SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR BLACK, INDIGENOUS OR LGBTQ COMMUNITIES, DISABLED SURVIVORS AND OTHERS AT THE MARGINS.

### FROM STUDENT TO SCHOOL **BOARD COMMISSIONER**

At just 20 years old, Concordia student Jamie Fabian was sworn in as one of the youngest English Montreal School Board (EMSB) commissioners in Quebec history. Representing Hampstead and Côte-Saint-Luc wards, the second-year student hopes to improve mental health services for EMSB students.



ARTHUR ALLEN, CANADA'S FIRST **NEWBORN OF 2021, HAS A CONCORDIA** CONNECTION. THE FIRST CHILD FOR PROUD PARENTS LOGAN ALLEN AND GENEVIÈVE BEAULIEU, ARTHUR, BORN AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT ON JANAURY 1, IS THE GRAND-NEPHEW OF GINETTE LEDUC. A BELOVED ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR WITH UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT, AND A SECOND COUSIN TO GINETTE'S DAUGHTERS, CHLOÉ HAURIE, BCOMM 14, MYLÈNE HAURIE BCOMPSC 19. AND ANITA HAURIE, BENG 18.



"UNTITLED #13" BY SUNIL GUPTA

# Behind the lens with Sunil Gupta

Revered photographer captures queer life around the world

RICHARD BURNETT, BA 88

hey say every picture tells a story, but Sunil Gupta, BComm 77, gay Indian-Canadian photographer, changed the game when he failed to see his life reflected in visual media growing up.

Born in New Delhi in 1953, Gupta arrived in Montreal with his family in 1969, the year of the Stonewall Riots. He originally studied to become an accountant but opened many eyes - including his own when he switched gears to become one of India's best-known photographers.

Gupta embraced gay life in the heady days of 1970s gay liberation, moving to New York City in 1976 where he studied photography at the Parsons School of Design, then to London, United Kingdom, where he earned a master's in photography at the Royal College of Art.

Gupta's socially engaged work can be found in collections around the world, including at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate in London, the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and the National Gallery of Canada.

His landmark career retrospective From Here to Eternity ran at the Photographers' Gallery in London until February 21, 2021, and opens at the Ryerson Image Centre in Toronto in fall 2021.

### What was it like being a queer teen in Montreal just after Stonewall?

The main issue back then was coming out — and you started with your parents. So that's what I did. I was 16 or 17, I was very young and very confident. I came home one day and announced it to them. We never really discussed it again, but when I studied on Concordia's Sir George Williams Campus, I shared a flat with my sister on Stanley Street and lived a very out existence in what used to be the Gay Village downtown. My apartment was popular with my gay friends because it was so central, and my parents never made a fuss about it.

### How did you deal with racism in a predominantly white queer community?

It was very ethnically divided and full of European ethnicities. The groups were quite rigid. I didn't have a group; it was

FROM HERE TO ETERNITY IS THE FIRST MAJOR CAREER RETROSPECTIVE OF U.K.-BASED PHOTOGRAPHER SUNIL GUPTA, BCOMM 77.

"UNTITLED #22" BY SUNIL GUPTA

just me. But I had embraced a very gay identity from the word go. It was much more useful to me at 17 to be gay than to be Indian.

### How important is it for you to document queer life?

In the mid-1980s I became very conscious that there were hardly any gay men of colour in visual media. There were almost never any gay men of colour appearing in centrefolds. This motivated me to portray queer people of colour in my work.

I also thought for years that my migration experience was about departure from India. I left a very complex, interesting place and arrived somewhere completely unknown. That's what I've always been trying to excavate. What I've come to appreciate more recently is that my journey is really more about an arrival, more about landing in Canada where I found a new identity. It's what's driven all the work and made me who I am.

# Meet accomplished broadcast journalist Caryn Lieberman

'I knew I would move heaven and earth to have this career'

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

When Caryn Lieberman, BA 02, was nine years old, she conducted an interview in her fourth-grade English class as famed broadcaster Barbara Walters.

A decade later Lieberman was on the dean's list as a journalism and communication studies undergrad at Concordia.

The Chomedey, Laval native has since done it all as a beat reporter, news writer, producer, host and anchor. Lieberman has worked in Quebec City and Montreal but now calls Toronto home as a senior digital broadcast journalist for Global News Toronto.

# What's it been like to work as a journalist during a global pandemic?

Oh, wow. Being a parent and a busy journalist has definitely been difficult. But it's shown me that I can still be a good storyteller and mother in challenging circumstances.

I've had the privilege to tell important stories this past year. I've gone into hospitals and met incredible front-line health-care workers who have been very candid about what it's been like dealing with this mysterious illness. Going back, months later, to see how far they've come and conveying that to the public has been very rewarding.

### Can you share some stories that have had a big impact on you over the course of your career?

Since moving to Toronto I've covered a lot of crime. Some stories you can never forget.

I covered the story of an impaired driver who claimed the lives of three children and their grandfather. I'm now in regular contact with the parents of those children—the mother also lost her father in the crash—and they've become incredibly important to me.

After the massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Global National sent me to cover the aftermath. That was touching on many levels. First and foremost because I'm Jewish, so I felt it on a personal level. But also because these are terrible catastrophes that are happening all over the world. There's a lot of hate, a lot of racism, and these stories need to be told.



Empathy and compassion. Without those two elements it's impossible to sit with somebody who's probably in their worst moment. And recognizing the favour they're doing you by agreeing to be interviewed.

You have to be professional. You have to hold back the tears because it's not about you. But you reserve some time at the end of the day to process it.

### Have you ever had any strange or unexpected experiences while on camera?

I have. Unfortunately I've twice been on the receiving end of the 'FHRITP' phenomenon. The first time was when I was very pregnant and covering the story of a pregnant woman who was murdered.

The other incident was during a Black Lives Matter march last summer. In this instance adrenaline took over and while the camera was rolling I approached the person and gave him a piece of my mind.

After some hesitation, I decided that it was worthwhile to post it on Twitter. I wanted other women to understand that we're in this together — and that it's unacceptable.

# What do you most fondly remember about Concordia?

My mentor, the late Linda Kay [MA o1] who was my professor and such a role model. She was amazing and I really admired her and her extraordinary career, especially as a woman. I remember just being in awe of her. She was the highlight for me. ■



"I'VE GONE INTO HOSPITALS AND MET INCREDIBLE FRONT-LINE HEALTH-CARE WORKERS," SAYS CARYN LIEBERMAN. BA 02.

# Engineering grad's commitment to education inspires \$100,000 gift

Paul Haddad and family give back to Concordia by funding student scholarships and bursaries

JOANNE LATIMER, MFA 94

ising at 3 a.m. each morning to work at a bakery, Paul Haddad, BEng (electrical eng.) 94, struggled to make ends meet as a university student.

After his shift at the bakery ended, he sorted mail at Canada Post until 2 p.m.

"That gave me a couple of hours to relax at Concordia before classes started in the afternoon," recalls Haddad, from his home in Atlanta. "In that precious block of free time, my ambition took shape. Concordia was where my dreams turned into plans."

Haddad's plans came to fruition and then some. He began his professional career as an electrical engineer and became a successful entrepreneur, culminating in a recent shift to investing and executive advising of companies in communications, data analytics and advertising technologies.

Haddad is now giving back by supporting students at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Thanks to a \$100,000 gift to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now, the Paul Haddad Bursary in **Electrical and Computer Engineering** will provide two bursaries of \$5,000



IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT, PAUL HADDAD, BENG 94, WILL OFFER MENTORSHIP TO HELP GUIDE STUDENTS AND OPEN DOORS FOR THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

each year to undergraduate students.

The Haddad Family Scholarship will fund five scholarships of \$2,000 each year to top students in the undergraduate Computer Science program.

"Electrical engineering and computer science are difficult subjects that require dedication," says Haddad, who speaks five languages. "If I can alleviate some financial burden for students worrying about making their rent and paying tuition, that's something I'm going to do."

In addition to financial support, Haddad will offer mentorship to help guide students and open doors for their employment.

"I've coached over 150 professionals during my career and none of them had early mentorship when it mattered the most," he explains. "You need to adopt a career-development mindset, learn emotional management and know how to navigate your ambitions as early as possible in order to increase your chances of success."

Paul's sister May could not agree more. She also worked at the bakery while attending Concordia before studying fashion at LaSalle College. In 2012 she launched a successful womenswear line called Mia More after a long career in fashion design.

"Concordia

into plans."

"Paul, my sister Naila and I come from a close-knit family that puts the emphasis on education, making the best life for yourself and helping others," says May Haddad. "It takes forethought and guidance when you're young."

Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vicepresident of Advancement, appreciates the family's commitment to their alma mater and to helping students.

"The Haddad family's generous gift provides a strong support structure for student success," says Chesser. "Their scholarships and bursaries for the Gina Cody School will inspire the next generation of engineers and computer scientists."

### 'MY FAMILY LOST EVERYTHING'

The Haddads are originally from Lebanon. Their father had no formal education, yet he worked as an accountant to put his children through the best private school in the country.

"It was a big sacrifice. Our parents' dream was for us to go to college," adds May Haddad. "We came from a very humble background, but what we lacked in finances, we had in love, culture, ambition and values."

War in Lebanon brought tragedy to the family. Their grandfather was killed in a bomb explosion, their apartment got its share of war damage and they escaped physical harm repeatedly by sheer luck.

"There was so much death, so many massacres. My family lost everything, like many Lebanese families did," says Paul Haddad, who left Lebanon in 1987 with \$200 and a ticket to Montreal. "My parents told me to work hard and do everything possible to bring my sisters over. By 1990, everyone was in Canada

"I had a support system to guide my journey and I'd like to do the same for others."



and had to face the difficult reality; we had to start from nothing, so we had nothing to lose."

Yet he remembers the temptation to forego higher education in order to earn fast cash in Canada.

"Education seemed like a luxury when five family members were living together in a two-bedroom apartment with one bathroom," he recalls. "We lived like that for eight years. It was a hard decision but it was the right decision - no question."

### FROM ELECTRICAL ENGINEER TO ENTREPRENEUR

Paul Haddad was fascinated with computers and realized that a foundation in electrical engineering was essential to work in the field. He chose Concordia, where he met the late Jaroslav Svoboda, an engineering professor Haddad credits for putting him on the path to success.

"Professor Svoboda fuelled my

entrepreneurial ambitions by telling me stories about Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak [LLD 11]," says Haddad. "Then he taught me something very valuable. He said that I needed to work and succeed in a big company at the beginning of my career in order to be trusted, to become known, to get global experience and to gain credibility.

"He gave me that valuable career-planning mentality and asked me to be patient, but not to give up on my entrepreneurial ambitions."

Haddad followed suit, rising through the ranks at Nortel. After nine

THE HADDAD FAMILY, PICTURED IN LEBANON IN THE 1970s (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): JOSEPHINE, PAUL, MAY, NAILA AND SIMON



MAY HADDAD CREDITS HER PARENTS FOR PUTTING AN EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION.

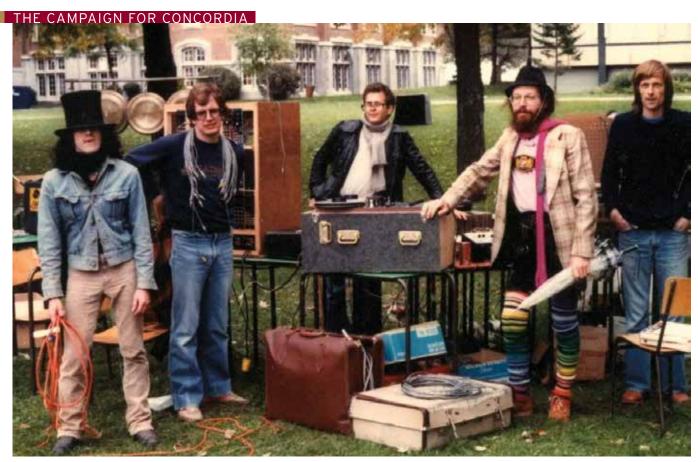
years in leadership positions, he left to co-found Solusia, an information management software provider focused on the wireless industry.

Next, he served as senior vicepresident and general manager at various companies, including Concurrent, in global media data and advertising solutions, and Cablevision Media Sales, in advanced data analytics.

While holding several patents in advanced data and information management systems and bandwidth exchange technology, Haddad branched out again. He founded a4 Media for Altice USA, in 2016. He turned his vision of this datadriven advertising technology business into a profitable company with over \$350 million in yearly revenues.

Haddad is now a full-time investor and executive advisor in the technology and communications industries. He also serves on boards, collaborates with private equity and venture capital firms, and continues to grow his personal investments and advisory portfolio, including the Gem Shopping Network, Simetric, Brightline, Plingo and FourthWall Media.

"The foundation of my career plan came from Concordia, from Professor Svoboda and from my family," says Paul Haddad. "I had a support system to guide my journey and I'd like to do the same for others."



KEVIN AUSTIN (SECOND FROM RIGHT) AND FRIENDS BEFORE A LIVE SHOW ON CAMPUS, CIRCA 1982

# Kevin Austin Award in Electroacoustic Studies honours dedicated professor

The new prize received a major boost from Arcade Fire's Richard Reed Parry

ANDY MURDOCH

oncordia's Department of Music officially launched its Electroacoustic Studies program 20 years ago. Yet, like any great record, you can trace its roots through much deeper influences.

Fifty years ago, Kevin Austin co-taught a course called Contemporary Idioms and Media at Sir George Williams University - one of Concordia's founding institutions. He remembers 35 students who enthusiastically explored many facets of contemporary music, a handful of whom also made "weird noises" on borrowed audiovisual equipment.

By 1971, 80 per cent of the program's design was in place a focus on perception, ear-training, composition, performance,

psychoacoustics, history, repertoire and working with other artistic mediums - it just took the rest of the world 30 years to catch up.

On November 25, 2020, Concordians around the world virtually gathered to celebrate the program's anniversary with the announcement of the Kevin Austin Award in Electroacoustic Studies. It's a gift that will support many electroacoustics studies students in perpetuity.

### **GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mark Corwin, chair of the Department of Music, organized the award and calls Austin one of his mentors. "Working alongside Kevin over the last 30 years, I've come to understand and adopt his vision. His initiatives have made this program so successful."

Corwin has also been impressed by Austin's outstanding record of supporting students.

He has funded 11 distinct student awards at Concordia and his support has helped more than 70 students over the past 35 years.

"It dawned on me that Kevin had established these numerous awards, but none of them bear his name," explains Corwin. "So, four years ago, I started contributing to a fund called the Kevin Austin Award."

The award is a \$35,000 contribution towards the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Campaign for Concordia. Many alumni, faculty members and friends in the music community joined Corwin to contribute to the new award, including Arcade Fire's Richard Reed Parry, BFA 03.

## "I learned early on that to pay back is to pay forward."

"It's through Richard's significant support that the Kevin Austin Award is now fully funded and ready to support an award for our 20th anniversary," Corwin notes. "It will continue to support one student per year, in perpetuity."

### 'IT TOTALLY SAVED ME'

Parry vividly remembers benefiting from one of Austin's awards during his last year at Concordia.

"I was working very hard on way more things than one person could reasonably attempt to simultaneously accomplish and I was spread very thin."

On top of his full course load, he played in two bands, curated an art show, performed music for dance classes, edited film, recorded concerts, composed music and took an independent study course with Austin.

Parry was also broke, living on free school lunches and sneaking onto buses with expired transfers. In the midst of this instability, he received the award.

"At that moment, it totally saved me. I felt such relief, such joy that some



KEVIN AUSTIN HAS TAUGHT IN CONCORDIA'S DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS.

of my sprawling artistic efforts were being noticed, regardless of how unfocused or interdisciplinary. I could eat, I could take the metro, I could function. It was a vote of confidence that I desperately needed."

### 'EVERYONE STANDS ON OTHER PEOPLE'S SHOULDERS'

Austin has a stack of letters and emails on his desk from Concordia students whom his "small gifts" have helped over the years. Many speak of how the recognition opened doors for them they didn't know existed.

"Everyone stands on other people's shoulders," Austin says. "I stand on those of so many people whom I have owed gifts to over the years that I can never pay back.

"I learned early on the way that to pay back is to pay forward. In 1981, I began building awards named for people who were significant in my own development and who went out of their way to improve the quality of my life."

The future of a fine-arts education is about relationships, making sure energy flows between people, both in and outside the classroom, Austin adds. He sees the award in his name as both an honour and an investment in future music students.

As for Parry, he says he's proud to be part of creating the award in Austin's name. "If only everyone who eventually receives this award could somehow take classes with him." ■



AS A CONCORDIA STUDENT, RICHARD REED PARRY, BFA 03, MUSICIAN AND MEMBER OF ARCADE FIRE, BENEFITED FROM AN AWARD FUNDED BY KEVIN AUSTIN.

# ATTHE FOREFRONT OF COVID-19 HEALTH CARE

How two Concordia grads deal with the pressures of a pandemic

URSULA LEONOWICZ, BA 97, WITH FILES FROM JOSEPH LÉGER, BA 15



ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK

hile health-care workers are trained to handle acute stress, few could have adequately prepared for an event like the COVID-19 pandemic.

With scant experience to draw on from the outset of the crisis, and with the long-term effects of the disease still hazy, hospital staff have had to concurrently mobilize to care for the infected and confront the threat of exposure. For many, the task has exacted a severe toll.

Before the mass deployment of COVID-19 vaccines across Canada, we spoke to two Concordia alumnae on the health-care front lines — Natalie Cousineau, BSc 96, and Emilie Casselle, BA  $\circ_7$  — to find out how they have coped with the pandemic, both personally and professionally.

### **NATALIE COUSINEAU: EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN**



As a staff emergency physician at a Barrie, Ontario-area hospital, Natalie Cousineau is on duty 24-7. The exercise science graduate says that the unknowns associated with COVID-19 are what pose so much difficulty.

"It came on the scene as a very unpredictable disease. For many of us, it was the first time in ages that we were working 10 hours and then coming home to read for another three. Things were changing so fast, especially at the beginning. It was an exercise in flexibility and thinking on your feet, but on a completely different level."

Another hurdle Cousineau had to overcome was how to best see any friends or familiable balance patient care with the need to self-protect and protect others, whether non
"There are moments when you

"I know a lot of colleagues — single moms — who sent their

COVID patients or family

members at home.

kids to live with relatives when this first started," she says.

"They either lost their childcare or couldn't go to work, hec

"They either lost their childcare or couldn't go to work, because of contagion concerns."

Cousineau is thankful her two children, aged 10 and 12, are old enough to be aware of the pandemic but not so old that the enormity of the crisis overwhelms them.

"We sent them to live with relatives, but when my husband and I realized this was going to be a marathon and not a sprint, we brought them home. I make sure to go through a very extensive decontamination after every shift."

### **'IT'S OUR JOB'**

Cousineau has felt cheered — and somewhat bemused — by the moral support directed at health-care workers since the start of the pandemic. A note was recently left on her doorstep that read: "Thank you for the work that you do. And thank you for putting yourself out there on our behalf."

"It feels kind of awkward to accept that kind of praise," she says. "Most of us have been doing this behind the scenes for so many years because it's our job. Practically speaking, what would be most appreciated is having the personal protective equipment and tangible support that we need."

To help meet that demand, volunteers have stepped up at the hospital where Cousineau works.

"They're sewing us masks and surgical caps. The masks are really just for staff to take home, to use when we go out in public or with our families, but it's so nice to not even have to think about it.

"It's very heartwarming. It feels like we're supported and like everyone is behind us."

### **EMILIE CASSELLE: NURSE CLINICIAN**



want to cry. And there are moments

when a patient gets better."

Under normal circumstances, Emilie Casselle spends her work hours in the surgery department of a cardiac unit at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

Since the onset of COVID-19, however, the nurse clinician and human relations grad has supported a number of other units as needed.

"It changes all the time and that's something that I've heard echoed from health-care workers generally," says Casselle. "We're having to be a lot more adaptable and flexible than before.

"We don't always know where we're going to work on any particular day. It might be a COVID unit, an ambulatory care unit or a general floor. The lack of predictability about what our work is going to look like has been a big thing to deal with."

Because of her risk for exposure, Casselle has not been able to see any friends or family for quite some time.

> "I haven't seen my mother since this started. Healthcare workers are showing up to work and putting their patients first, which is incredible, because everybody has their own home life or situa-

tion that they might be worried about. I'm really impressed and in awe of colleagues that continue to do that."

# 'I'VE SURRENDERED TO NOT KNOWING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS'

Though the pandemic has compelled health-care workers like Casselle to face a new and uncertain reality, the alumna — with an assist from her online yoga community — has adopted a mindful approach.

"I've surrendered to not knowing what the future holds and not knowing what's going to happen beyond this shift. I've been able to live a lot more in the present, and that's been a positive thing.

"There are moments when you want to cry, during and after work. And then there are moments when a patient gets better. I was in a COVID unit the other day and was able to talk to a couple of patients about discharging them. That gives you hope."

Casselle also hopes the pandemic prompts calls to provide essential workers with better pay and more security.

"There are people working minimum-wage jobs who are exposing themselves to tremendous risk. Praise is great, but what are we as a society going to do to support them?"

# 'A major nexus of transdisciplinary collaboration'

\$63-million Applied Science Hub opens for research on Loyola Campus

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

new era of research at Concordia was celebrated on December 1 when the Applied Science Hub was officially launched on Loyola Campus.

The \$63-million state-of-theart facility - built with \$36.7 million of support from the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec - is designed to enable cooperative advancements between the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and District 3 startup accelerator.

The virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony - a first for Concordia - included pre-recorded interviews conducted by student journalists with hub researchers as well as remarks from William Amos, Parliamentary Secretary for the Government of Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and Danielle McCann, Minister of Higher Education for the Government of Quebec.

"Not only will this facility encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and foster innovation," said Amos. "It will also help train a generation of Canadian workers, a workforce able to tackle realworld challenges in our communities."

McCann spoke of the provincial government's pride in contributing to the creation of the hub and added that it "will become a model of its kind for all Quebec universities."



EVENT EMCEE APHRODITE SALAS MA 99 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

### 'A DECISIVE MOMENT FOR CONCORDIA'

"This opening marks a big step in the evolution of our research capacity," noted President Graham Carr. "The Applied Science Hub will be a major nexus of transdisciplinary collaboration, where industry actors, startups and entrepreneurs partner with our graduate students and faculty on next-generation research. This is a decisive moment for Concordia."

Paula Wood-Adams, interim vicepresident of Research and Graduate Studies, said partnerships were key in bringing the project from blueprint to building. "Without the assistance of the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec, this milestone would not have been possible."

Michael Di Grappa, BA 84, vicepresident, Services and Sustainability at Concordia, remarked that the building is "the result of extraordinary collaboration between departments within Concordia and experts outside the institution."

The Applied Science Hub houses laboratories and research equipment supporting such fields as agriculture, health and sustainable development. On-site research disciplines include aquatic biology, microscopy, cellular imaging, nanoscience, bioprocessing and chemical and materials engineering.

# **FUN HUB FACTS**

The Applied Science Hub adds 8,420 square metres of new building space to Loyola Campus.

It includes 43 new research labs.

Construction involved 5,500 cubic metres (13,000 metric tonnes) of concrete.

At the peak of construction, 130 tradespeople were on site daily.

The new building represents an investment of \$63.1 million: \$20.6 million from the Government of Canada; \$16.1 million from the Government of Quebec; and \$26.4 million from Concordia.

Designed by Menkès Shooner Dagenais LeTourneux and NFOE, experts in sustainable architecture and development, the Applied Science Hub is expected to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification.

Visit concordia.ca/sciencehub to learn more.



# Concordia launches the Next-Generation Cities Institute

14 research centres come together to shape the future of urban life

J. COHEN

The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing cities the world over to transform the configuration of public spaces and services to ensure the health and safety of citizens.

They are also looking at ways to reclaim economic and cultural vibrancy once the pandemic is under control.

Many hope to do so while honouring commitments to adopt more ecologically sustainable practices.

These are the types of challenges that will inform research at Concordia's Next-Generation Cities Institute.

"Cities are great places. Because of their density, they can be the most efficient and sustainable form of human development," says Ursula Eicker, who holds the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities at Concordia.

"At the same time, they are responsible for two-thirds of carbon emissions. If we don't transform cities worldwide, we're going to have serious problems."

Eicker has spent the past year establishing the Next-Generation Cities Institute. She serves as co-director, along with Carmela Cucuzzella, BCompSc 90, BFA 05, Concordia University Research Chair in Integrated Design, Ecology and Sustainability for the Built Environment.

"We're incredibly excited about this new initiative," says Concordia President Graham Carr. "Sustainability is an issue of global importance and Concordia is committed to addressing it. The Next-Generation Cities Institute will be essential in mobilizing research to further our goals."

# 'IT'S ABOUT BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER'

By 2050, it is expected that up to 75 per cent of the world's population will live in cities, making efficient design all the more important.

The Next-Generation Cities Institute combines over 200 researchers from 14 university research centres that represent a variety of disciplines, including engineering, science, the arts and humanities.

Because many of the factors affecting the future of urban planning are interconnected, addressing the sustainable development of next-gen cities requires a multidisciplinary research effort. "As an institute," says Cucuzzella,
"we want to build new knowledge about
the integrated, sustainable design of
our urban environments, passing from
the technical, to the built, to the sociocultural qualities of the city, and we
want this knowledge to be shareable
with other cities around the world."

Paula Wood-Adams, interim vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, says the Next-Generation Cities Institute will play a vital role in bringing researchers together to work towards common goals.

"Concordia's successful bid for the CERC created a wonderful opportunity to launch the institute," she says.
"University-wide collaboration is essential for developing the kinds of projects that will have a meaningful impact on the future of our urban communities."

Now that the institute is taking form, Eicker says Concordia researchers want to cooperate with partners in cities and communities to decide on joint projects.

"It's about bringing everyone together. We need people to be excited and able to collaborate."



# Concordia grads help power Montreal media and tech company

Meet 4 alumni key to Stingray's success

DONNA VARRICA, BA 81

rom multiplatform music services to subscription video on demand (SVOD), there's a Montrealbased company steadily expanding its footprint in the world of music entertainment.

Stingray Group Inc., a streaming media and technology company founded in the 1990s, provides curated content through a product portfolio that now reaches an estimated 400 million users across 156 countries.

Much of that reach comes from products included in cable-TV packages from the likes of Bell and Videotron. Stingray also offers in-store music and digital signage to the retail industry.

Beyond a head office in Montreal's Cité du Multimédia neighbourhood, the company - whose ranks include a considerable number of Concordia graduates - has more than 1,200 employees and operates in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Israel, Australia, Singapore and South Korea.

Meet four Stingray personnel with proud links to Concordia.

"[Stingray is]. dedicated to unleashing the power of music in all its forms."

### CATE CADBURY, BA 05 CREATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

hoosing a university major that would facilitate the career she hoped for gave Cate Cadbury many sweat-drenched, sleepless nights until she came upon the Department of Communication Studies at Concordia.

"Right away I knew it would be the perfect fit," she says. "I look back at that hypercaffeinated version of myself and remember being both impressed and intimidated by the sheer breadth of knowledge and talent that resided within those walls. It was as enriching as it was stimulating and it challenged me to think differently.

"The professors had a deep impact on me. In particular, department chair Rae Staseson was a mentor who pushed me to become a more critical thinker."

Cadbury now heads up Creative Services at Stingray, overseeing a team charged with every aspect of content production. She credits her undergraduate experience with giving her the necessary tools to do the job, from reviewing creative assets and building business cases, to understanding consumer behaviour and studying competitors. Working with Concordia students and professors influenced the way she looked at art, media, people and the world, and nurtured her collaborative spirit, she adds.

The grad describes Stingray as a "complex beast" born of several mergers and acquisitions. "It's dedicated to unleashing the power of music in all its forms and enabling consumers to effortlessly access music everywhere," Cadbury says. "With over 200 music curators located all around the world, Stingray offers a human touch, while other music providers often over-rely on computer algorithms."

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cadbury is confident in Stingray's prospects for growth. "Music is critical for our sanity, whether it's background music while we're working, karaoke to distract and entertain or a motivating fitness playlist," she says. "These are just a few of the ways that Stingray's products have helped with well-being as we all struggle to establish a 'new normal."





"Engineering, at least in my program, is less about what you learn and more about how you think," says Dhir. "These skills can then be applied to any number of projects, as well as navigating life."

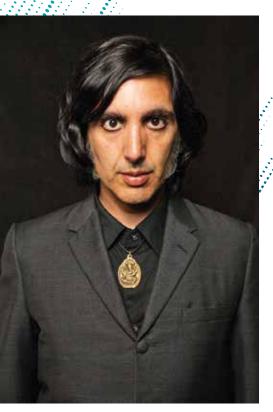
Dhir's job at Stingray requires him to write technical documentation, user manuals and technical grant applications for the company's diverse divisions and platforms. Often juggling several projects at once, Dhir transforms complex technical concepts into publications that can be easily understood by the general public.

While rendering convoluted text into lay terms can be challenging, he credits his years at Concordia with helping him focus, multitask and organize projects systematically.

"Focusing on technical writing was the right choice for me," Dhir says. "Every industry that uses computers needs technical writers to correct and document its processes and practices."

Dhir cites Christopher Trueman, a professor in the Department of **Electrical and Computer Engineering** who teaches electromagnetics and supervised Dhir's final project, as a big influence.

Following graduation, Dhir's career path led him to Oracle, the global computing infrastructure and software company, where he worked as a technical writer for close to a decade. He says he welcomed the jump to Stingray in 2017 because he loved that it was an international company headquartered in Montreal and because it provided him with a music-based creative environment to work in. "It's a perfect balance."



### STEPHANIE NG THOW HING, BCOMM 06, GRDIP 10 **CONTROLLER**

Stephanie Ng Thow Hing had no doubt she would follow up her BComm in Accountancy with a Chartered Accountancy (CA) diploma at Concordia. While her undergraduate degree "was not a breeze," it prepared her to take on the challenge.

"Concordia definitely helped shape me and gave me the skill set I needed for the workforce," Ng Thow Hing says.

While studying for her CA designation, Ng Thow Hing worked full-time at an accounting firm. Now a controller at Stingray for Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, she has a broad mandate that includes financial work related to acquisitions.

Lessons from the John Molson School of Business now play an important role for Ng Thow Hing at Stingray, particularly the business cases that refined her ability to understand a problem and design a quick solution, in addition to the communication skills she developed through class projects.

"I learned a lot from observing some of my teachers at Concordia," she says. "To this day, whenever I have to present an analysis to management, I always start with the end result and build from there."

Ng Thow Hing is confident in Stingray's future because of the company's ability to innovate and stay in sync with consumer habits.

"Stingray is quick to react and address any changes," she says. "We're also constantly providing new content and have been developing new tools. This is evident in our breakthrough B2C [business-to-consumer] products. Our revenues have increased exponentially in the last year because of them. I think this is where we're headed."

"Concordia gave me the skill set I needed for the workforce."





In Good Company is a series on inspiring grads who work for corporations and non-profits that hire a large number of Concordia alumni. To be featured, please contact us at alumni@concordia.ca or @ConcordiaAlumni on social media.

## LUC PERREAULT, BA 82 STRATEGIC ADVISOR

↑ hen Luc Perreault enrolled in the Department of Communication Studies at Concordia in the late 1970s, most machines were run manually. Recognized as one of the best in Canada, the then small department taught him lifelong skills that he used to build a career.

Film scholar Father Marc Gervais, BA 50, taught Perreault how to light a subject and how to frame and create a meaningful image with a manual 35mm camera. A visual had to "sing a song when you look at it." Teaching ethics in media, the late Dennis Murphy, BA 67, showed Perreault how to debate an idea.

"These are teachings that stay with you for a long time," Perreault says.

"Great professors and small groups of students made the atmosphere vibrant at Concordia. We were all working together to gain the most knowledge from everybody involved."

Perreault spent more than 30 years with the Weather Network/Méteo Média, shepherding it through a pivot to digital in 1996 and to mobile apps and more diversified content delivery with the introduction of smart devices.

Now Perreault shares his significant expertise with Stingray as an advisor. He prepares briefing notes on the state of the industry and the evolution of the regulatory environment, and develops strategies for government relations.

Perreault's current preoccupation is Bill C-10, which is seeking to make changes to Canada's Broadcasting Act. He believes it could trigger unintended consequences for the industry and is

working with others to present a united front to government representatives.

When it comes to strategic leadership, Perreault likes to paraphrase Wayne Gretzky.

"Skate to where the puck is going to be, not to where it's been," he says. "Stingray is doing this extremely well in expanding internationally and adapting its content to a variety of delivery platforms."

Perreault adds that throughout the pandemic, Stingray has filled a content void as people have been compelled to stay at home.

"The curtailment of theatrical events and new movie releases has benefited the SVOD ecosystem," he says. "Access to entertainment is paramount to maintaining a good state of mind, and I'm proud of the company's consistent efforts in this regard."

# Like father, like son

### Family legacy inspires community to support full-tuition bursary

BILL CLELLAND

y brother Neil was diagnosed with a particularly fast-growing and deadly cancer in February 2020. No treatment, no hope, nothing. He chose to end his life under Canada's medical assistance in dying (MAID) program.

A week before he died, Neil told us he wanted to fund a student's university education. The reason had to do with our father.

Our dad, Norman Clelland, was a very generous guy. He valued higher education but was denied the chance to pursue it himself.

Dad served as chairman of the Montreal Association for the Blind and was very active in the charitable sector. Later in life, he was a board member and benefactor at the YMCA that established Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions.

Unbeknown to us, Dad also put students through school in the 1930s. We only learned about this at his funeral in 1972, when we were approached with condolences and thanks.

Neil wanted to follow Dad's example. My sister Sheila [BComm 82, GrDip 83] and I told him that we fully supported the idea.

Neil had enough to fund a student for a year, or maybe even through a full bachelor's degree. But we suggested that we set up a bursary in our father's name.

He liked that. So we told him, 'When you leave us, we'll get going on it.' He gave us the names of some people he thought could help. After Neil passed on March 14, we got to work.

It was great work to do. I'm retired now from a career in sales. There's nothing like selling something that's meaningful and personal like this.

We initially funded the bursary with \$40,000 from Neil, my wife and me, and Sheila and her husband. Our goal was \$130,000 — which generates \$5,000 of annual support for one student, ad infinitum. With help from Neil's circle of friends and contacts, we were at \$114,000 as of early December.

Neil had a lot of friends. Many came from Lac-des-Seize-Îles in the Laurentians, where we spent our childhood summers. A lot of the funding came from that community.

My grandfather bought property there a hundred years ago. It's a special place. Like other residents, I would live under a park bench before I'd sell that land. There are three cottages there now for the next generation, Sheila's three boys.

It's a unique and tight-knit community of about 150 cottages around a small lake, mostly accessible only by water. Generations of families like ours have lived and grown up on Lac-des-Seize-Îles. Close relationships develop over the years.

Most of the funds for the bursary came from there and from people my brother knew in Montreal's West Island communities of Pointe-Claire and Dorval, where he lived for 40 years.

In Neil's obituary we wrote that "he was a friend, confidant, coach, volunteer" and that he "believed the most important things in life are passion, hope and love for one another." This was absolutely who he was.

Because of the pandemic, we couldn't have a celebration of life. We laid his ashes to rest in November but without a proper service - just a small group of close family.

When this is all over, we'll have a celebration for Neil with everyone who cared about him. He was surrounded by a lot of love.

If you would like to support the Norman Clelland Bursary, visit engage.concordia.ca/donate  $or\ email$ giving@concordia.ca.



# Preparing for takeoff

New partnership between Bombardier and Concordia fosters next generation of women in engineering

JOSEPH LÉGER, BA 15

2 020 was a year of change for Bombardier, Quebec's longstanding manufacturing giant. It began with the arrival of new president and CEO Éric Martel, DSc 19, in April and culminated with the announcement of the sale of Bombardier's rail division to Alstom and its repositioning as a pure-play business-jet global leader.

While these were some of the headlines making waves in the business world, other changes were on the rise with major implications for the future of women in engineering and the aerospace industry in Canada.

"There has been a real culture shift at Bombardier since Éric arrived," says Maya Sheikh Alsouk, MA 16, diversity, inclusion and talent advisor at Bombardier.

"We have a new diversity and inclusion strategy and we have a CEO who is taking a stance and saying 'I want to make a difference. I want to promote diversity and inclusion and I'm committed to making it happen.' We are all inspired and empowered to make a difference!"

### 'UNIQUE PROGRAM' DEBUTS

One of the more significant diversity and inclusion measures taken by Bombardier was to become a key partner in Concordia's Women in Engineering — Career Launch Experience (WIE-CLE) in the fall of 2020. The initiative combines paid internships for women studying

engineering with an individualized mentorship program.

Created in partnership with Concordia's Institute for Co-operative Education, Bombardier adopted the template for WIE-CLE to create its own customized Women in Engineering internship program. The first cohort of 10 interns were all students from the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

"We have a CEO who is taking a stance and saying 'I want to make a difference."

"Bombardier has been an amazing partner," says Anna Sommer, BFA 94, MBA 16, program coordinator at the Institute for Co-operative Education. Sommer created the WIE-CLE template for Bombardier. "They wanted to do something much more concrete and this was a great way to start—as far as we know this is a completely unique program."

Jade Dagenais, BComm 20, the Women in Engineering internship program lead at Bombardier, agrees.

"This is a very special program because of the mentorship and networking aspects," she says.

"Our interns have their work supervisors, but we also match each of them with their own mentor.



GINA CODY, MENG 81, PHD 89, WITH MARCO BEAULIEU, HEAD OF UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION AT BOMBARDIER, AT CONCORDIA'S 2020 ENGINEERING AND COMMERCE CASE COMPETITION

Through roundtable sessions, interns get to connect and speak with various people in engineering."

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, all internship activities are being held virtually. Participants are given full access to Microsoft Teams, including private channels for interns and mentors to network and discuss the program. Interns additionally have access to the LinkedIn Learning platform to benefit from a wide variety of courses and workshops.

While the situation may not be ideal, Dagenais says every effort is being taken to give the interns a rich and fulfilling experience.

"Our program is new, so it is still flexible," says Dagenais. "Our team is very open and we're giving the interns the opportunity to tell us what they want from the program. If they want to meet the vice-president of Engineering, no problem, I'll make it happen."

For their final project, the interns were tasked with identifying systemic barriers for women in engineering at Bombardier.







ANNA SOMMER, BFA 94, MBA 16

MAYA SHEIKH ALSOUK, MA 16

JADE DAGENAIS, BCOMM 20

"We asked our interns to look for any barriers they may have experienced or seen during their internships and how they impact the role of women in engineering," says Dagenais. "We also wanted to know what they recommend be done to ameliorate or completely remove these barriers."

The interns presented their final project to senior management on December 8, 2020. Company employees attended the virtual presentation as observers, and recordings of the event were shared internally to raise awareness and encourage others to join the program as mentors.

#### CLOSING THE GENDER GAP

Engineering has one of the biggest gender gaps of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, with women making up less than 13 per cent of working engineers in the country, according to Engineers Canada.

This is especially troubling because, as the organization notes, the country could be short by as many as 100,000 engineers by 2025.

"The industry needs more talent," says Sommer. "Women's enrolment in engineering programs is already quite low and that number drops off intensely as they enter the industry.

"Through this Women in Engineering program, Concordia is looking to create a happy bridge between the two and help female students succeed."

Sommer believes WIE internship programs will help attract more women

into university engineering programs and improve the industry's ability to recruit and retain women engineers.

Sheikh Alsouk adds that an internship has the power to either inspire or alienate women from wanting to work in the industry.

"A lot of organizations are good at hiring women or minorities, but once they are hired there are few measures in place to make them feel welcomed and valued," she says.

"Having done an internship myself, I understand how the experience can mould you. It has the potential to give you strength and inspiration, or it can kill your ambition. That's why we prepared our mentors to support our interns and help them thrive in our organization."

### GENESIS OF THE PROGRAM

The idea for the WIE program came from Claude Martel, BA 85, MA 92, PhD 09, director of the Institute for Co-operative Education.

"Claude recognized that there was a shortfall of talent in the area of diversity and that women have a hard time entering the engineering industry," explains Sommer. "I think it was in August of 2019 that he asked me if there was a way of creating a program to help address this issue.

"I researched the topic extensively and developed the structure for a program that would help bridge the student experience from education into the workplace. This would allow them to go into their early careers with more confidence and a better understanding of the barriers they might encounter."

Once the template for the program was developed, Sommer began reaching out to various industry partners to see if there was any interest.

"Bombardier was one of the first organizations I contacted," she recalls. "I spoke with Marco Beaulieu, head of University Collaboration at Bombardier, and right away he saw the value of the program."

Jade Dagenais had just finished her own internship at Bombardier and had been hired by Beaulieu to work on the company's extensive internship program - a collaboration with some 30 post-secondary institutions with the goal of supporting 1,000 paid internships per year - when Sommer approached them with the WIE-CLE program.

"As soon as we saw Anna's program, we knew it would make a great addition to our existing internship program," says Dagenais. "After that, it was just a matter of figuring out how to make it work for our needs."

Bombardier's WIE program officially launched on October 1, 2020. The virtual event featured Gina Cody as the keynote speaker and had more than 300 attendees.

When asked about her future hopes for the program, Sommer replies: "At some point, I hope we don't need it anymore. I hope that we achieve equality and then we can focus on other areas of need. I don't expect it to happen quickly, but it would be nice to see that one day."

# MEET THREE INTERNS IN BOMBARDIER'S WOMEN IN ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Mohona Mazumdar is a second-year undergraduate Co-op student in software engineering.

"In CEGEP, I was studying health sciences and our classes were gender balanced. When I got to university, I was surprised by how few women there were. But I'm very happy I chose this program. I like how a software engineer can build something just as important and valuable as a bridge or plane in the form of an app.

My goal is to work for a company that aligns with my values where I can come up with something that helps people, even if it's a small application.

For my internship, I'm working as a data analyst for human resources with the University Collaboration team at Bombardier. I love this program and I like how Bombardier and Concordia are committed to changing the situation for women in engineering. I think this program is really going to have a huge impact."

Doria Bouzerar is a second-year undergraduate Co-op student in mechanical engineering.

"For my internship, I am in the project engineering change group. Our team oversees projects to make changes to existing aircraft. I love the environment and the team dynamic - I've felt really welcomed since the first day and it makes me want to work hard and be involved. This internship program is a great initiative that reaches more people than you would expect. Many people think it's just about women in engineering, but it's also about increasing diversity.

The beauty of being in mechanical engineering is that it is a broad field - I can work in aerospace, in the biomedical industry or in robotics. I would like to have the knowledge to apply my skills to help my community and change society in a positive way."

Lejia Li is a third-year undergraduate Co-op student in industrial engineering.

"My internship is in Aircraft Reliability Database and Report Development at Bombardier. My team has been very supportive and helpful. I'm encouraged to ask questions and solve my own problems. Both Concordia and Bombardier have been very supportive.

The mentorship is the biggest advantage of this program. I have a one-hour meeting with my mentor every week and I learn a lot from her.

I'm considering pursuing my master's degree after working for two to three years. I want to stay in industrial engineering because of exciting topics like Industry 4.0, and I want to study things such as AI and smart manufacturing – I think that is the future.

It's also a field that focuses on optimizing processes and efficiency, which we can use to help people and create a more balanced society." ■



MOHONA MAZUMDAR



**DORIA BOUZERAR** 



LEJIA LI



Canada has welcomed a Biden presidency, but the result might not be as good for us as we think

DOUG SWEET

hen the Abacus polling firm asked Canadians last November whether a Joe Biden presidency would be good for the United States and the world, the results were emphatic.

An overwhelming majority welcomed the former vice-president's win over Donald Trump. Even in Alberta, where the oil industry now faces a reversal of U.S. approval for the Keystone XL pipeline, fully 73 per cent favoured a Biden administration.

In Quebec, 88 per cent were seen to hold that view. The Canadian average was a resounding 85 per cent.

And while Canadians, like many others in the world, welcomed an expected return to normalcy after four

turbulent years of Trumpism, they might find themselves less enamoured of a Democratic administration as the rosy glow of an emotional election fades. This, according to a number of Concordia professors and alumni experts who are keen observers of U.S.-Canada economic, political and cultural relations.

Crucially, Canadians would do well to remember that, historically, with the exception of the most recent administration, Democrats have tended to be more protectionist on trade than Republicans. Biden has already touted a "Buy America" campaign to help rebuild infrastructure and a tattered economy south of the border.



"It would be a mistake for Canada to insist on its agenda as it establishes a new relationship with the White House." - MARGIE MENDELL



### TROUBLE FOR TRUDEAU?

The January 5 Senate runoff elections in Georgia, which saw the once red state elect two Democrats in tight races, "is really going to decide how Biden's presidency turns out," says Moshe Lander, a senior lecturer in economics at Concordia.

"With the Democrats in control of the levers of government, it's not going to be very good economically for Canada in the short term. They're hostile to pipeline development and to the fact we are very much a resource-based economy. That's not going to jibe with their earthy, protect-the-planet, save-theenvironment, anti-big-business thing."

Lander says there was no way Biden would risk annoying left-wing Democrats by reneging on his pledge to pull out of the Keystone pipeline. This is not good news for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose own re-election fortunes will not be helped by unhappy Western provinces heavily dependent on the fossil-fuel industry.

"[The pipeline issue] was low-hanging fruit for Biden," says Lander. "It's an easy, early success for him, where he can say, 'Hey, I delivered on a promise.'"

Nor is Biden expected to spend political capital helping Trudeau find a solution to the imprisonment of two Canadians in China, after Canada, acting on a request from the Trump administration, arrested Huawei executive and heir Meng Wanzhou in 2018 on charges she had violated U.S. sanctions on Iran.

"What you're basically trying to argue for is the release of two Canadians in prison in exchange for a high-ranking executive who's under house arrest in Canada," Lander says. "So he would immediately look weak on China in trying to cut a deal, and he's not even saving American nationals."

### **GREATER ENGAGEMENT ON THE WAY**

And neither are Canada-U.S. trade issues likely to be at the top of Biden's to-do list, given the enormous work he faces in trying to heal a deeply divided nation, control a rampaging pandemic and monumental vaccine deployment, and mitigate COVID-19's devastating economic fallout.

Does that mean Canada will be an afterthought in Washington now that Biden has assumed office? In some ways, yes, experts like Lander say, but in other important ways, no.

Canadians, for one, can cheer a return to respectful discourse and dialogue between the two countries; they can welcome Biden's understanding of the importance of maintaining good relations with allies; look forward to a fresh commitment to combat climate change, including a U.S. return to the Paris Agreement; anticipate the arrival of a president who will govern in a more traditional manner rather than by executive order and inflammatory tweets; and herald the ascension of a leader who is anything but a petulant narcissist.

These are all significant positives for those who applaud the fact that Biden won 306 votes in the electoral college, well above the required 270. But they are not positives unique to Canada.

As Lander observes, both the U.S. and Canada have a strong mutual interest in wrestling the COVID-19 virus to the ground in order to be able to reopen the border for tourism, a key economic sector for both nations.

"I don't think we can be completely seen as the 25th item on Biden's list of priorities," says John Parisella, BA 67, who taught political science at Concordia in the 1980s and 1990s and has served on the university's Board of Governors. "I think we're going to be very much at the top, not as a specific country, but as part of the shift towards a greater engagement and respect for allies, multilateral organizations and international institutions."

"With the Democrats in control of the levers of government, it's not going to be very good economically for Canada in the short term." - MOSHE LANDER



### "The job of the President of the United States is not to make life easier for foreign heads of state." - DAVID AZERRAD, BA 01





Parisella, who has authored a number of books and articles on U.S. politics and served as Quebec's delegate general in New York, has met Biden. "This guy listens. This guy is civil and has a human touch. I'm less confident when we get to Congress, because it's very divided, but I'm optimistic about Canada."

And he notes that the United States has been divided before from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, social upheaval in the 1960s, Watergate and the Cold War.

Margie Mendell, an economist who teaches at Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs, and who co-founded the university's Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy in 1988, is pleased by Biden's election. "We're dealing with a gentleman, and that is good news for the world and good news for Canada. [But] I don't think trade relations with Canada will be a big priority."

### 'CANADA HAS TO PAY FOR ITS MISTAKES'

"Biden has an established relationship with Trudeau and Trudeau will not have to walk on eggshells," Mendell says. "But I think it would be a mistake for Canada to insist on its agenda as it establishes a new relationship with the White House."

Biden wasn't going to budge on Keystone nor is he likely to move on the "two Michaels" issue in China, she says, adding that "Canada has to pay for its mistakes."

Not all voices sing Biden's praises. David Azerrad, BA 01, a political science professor at Hillsdale College's graduate school in Washington, D.C., and an occasional Fox News contributor, doesn't foresee a return to normalcy.

"Biden has been in D.C. for many years and presents himself as someone who is going to bring us back to the way things were," he says. "I'm doubtful of that, because he's quite weak, both in terms of the state of his faculties, and also the fact that the moral high ground in the Democratic Party today is held by the woke Left. And I am not



# "[The election of Biden] is a game-changer for Canada and the world." – DÉSIRÉE MCGRAW, BA 93



particularly confident in his ability to stand up to them. We may end up with the case of the weak being led by the woke."

As far as a change to a more predictable and cooperative tone in Washington vis-à-vis Canada, Azerrad is blunt: "The job of the President of the United States is not to make life easier for foreign heads of state."

### THE POWER OF THE EVANGELICAL BLOC

One of the most fascinating elements of American politics over the last four years has been the remarkable devotion and resiliency of Donald Trump's base, which includes Christian evangelicals. André Gagné, a professor in Concordia's Department of Theological Studies, recently published Ces évangéliques derrière Trump: Hégémonie, démonologie et fin du monde (Labor et Fides, 2020), on the phenomenon of evangelical support for a man whose personal life has largely been lived outside the strictures of the Ten Commandments.

Evangelicals, who at approximately 110 million represent close to a third of the American population, "can profoundly affect politics because of their demographics," Gagné says. This is less true in Canada, where evangelicals represent roughly 13.5 per cent of the population.

"Some Christian congregations and organizations in Canada that embrace similar political ideas could have been emboldened by the political influence which U.S. evangelicals had in the past four years," he adds, "but their demographics prevent them from having the same impact.

"At the same time, the stigma associated with the term 'evangelical' — due to the last four years of U.S. politics — has also led Canadian evangelicals to dissociate themselves from the actions of evangelicals who supported Trump."

How could evangelical Christians embrace a man like Trump? The relationship was transactional, Gagné says.

"They still won. They still got something out of his four years," including hundreds of conservative judicial appointments, a crucial shift of power on the U.S. Supreme Court from liberal to conservative that could last for a generation and more complete American support for Israel, which is part of the evangelical agenda.

### **'GAME-CHANGER FOR CANADA'**

There was only a slight decline in evangelical support for Trump between the 2016 and 2020 elections, Gagné says, noting exit polls after the November 2020 vote showed about 76 to 81 per cent support for Trump, against the same 81 per cent of evangelicals who supported him in 2016.

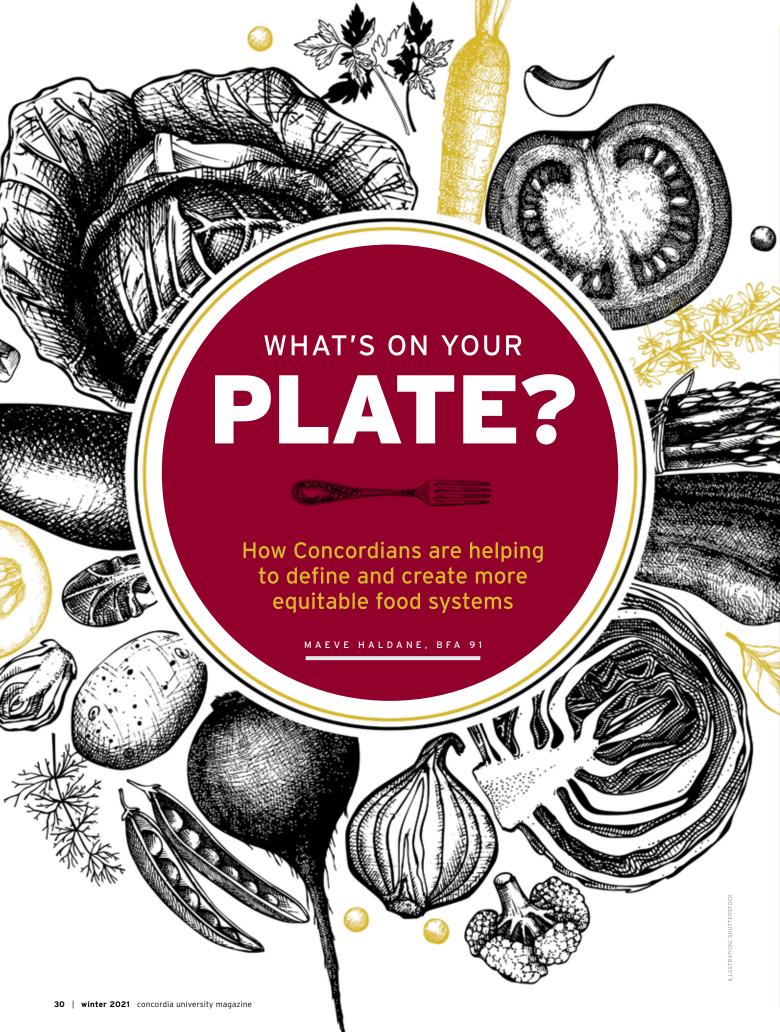
Désirée McGraw, BA 93, a politically engaged observer on both sides of the border, and a dual citizen who votes out of Michigan in U.S. elections, is a member of Democrats Abroad and co-founder in Canada of former vice-president Al Gore's, LLD 07, Climate Reality Project. She is delighted with Biden's win, anticipating a "predictable, reliable partner" in Washington.

"We derive a lot of our power and influence by virtue of our relationship with the United States," she says.

Like others, McGraw expected Biden to kill Keystone, and describes his election as a big boost for the fight against climate change, underlined by the appointment of former secretary of state John Kerry to the newly created cabinet-level post of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.

Liberal governments in Canada and Democratic governments in the United States have generally maintained strong partnerships, notes McGraw.

"Canada," she predicts, "will have a good relationship with the Biden administration. "It's a game-changer for Canada and the world, and a total game-changer for the Trudeau government."





walk through Victoria, B.C. neighbourhoods reveals a variety of food trees and community gardens. Beyond the sustenance they provide, they're doing something else for the city. They're building community.

The residents who tend to the gardens and collect their harvest are part of a growing movement of people who want to know how their food is produced, processed and distributed. They are defining food systems and agriculture through environmentally sound and sustainable methods — steps towards becoming food-sovereign communities.

How food gets from farm to table is fraught with challenges, and Concordia researchers are helping equip the next generation of leaders to create more just communities.

While food sovereignty isn't a new concept, it's one that has been steadily gaining traction in Canada. In its 2019 budget, the federal government announced a five-year \$134-million investment in a national food policy—its first ever—to address food-related issues such as food access, security and waste. The success of the policy is highly

dependent on the collaboration of all levels of government and everyday citizens.

Working closely with Victoria residents is Virginie Lavallée-Picard, MA 14. Following their call for increased urban food production, Lavallée-Picard was hired as the City of Victoria's food systems coordinator to collaborate with residents to develop and sustain community and boulevard gardens, food trees and urban farms.

"We need to encourage a bit of a decentralized process," she says. "We need a more collaborative approach that would help us better see how food connects to climate change and all these other challenges that we're facing."

Realizing municipalities could play a crucial role in growing equitable and regenerative food systems, Lavallée-Picard dove into a master's at Concordia to better understand how rural governments work with farmers. "We need to re-envision and rethink how we feed ourselves," she notes, adding that collaborative food governance and diverse, better-connected communities are crucial for tackling issues related to food systems and overall food systainability.





# INSECTS FOR DINNER



Though a common food source in some parts of the world, insects have yet to become a mainstay in the Western world's diet. Some companies are working to change that.

As part of her humanities doctorate thesis at Concordia, Laura Shine, PhD 20, studied the emerging insect industry in Quebec.

There are two main approaches behind convincing people to try novel foods, the former Public Scholar says: a top-down approach, from the rational brain, that looks at the environmental or nutritional benefits; and a bottom-up, or sensory approach, which considers the pleasure of eating insects.

"Neither approach works in isolation, although lots of companies seem to forget that, selling bad-tasting products while saying they're good for you," Shine says.

Repeated exposure and visibility, often in the form of celebrity endorsements, are big incentives to trying bugs, though your circle of

friends is likely to have a bigger impact. When potluck dinners were something people did before the COVID-19 pandemic, Shine, for example, would make cricket brittle for friends to try.

Cricket rearing has low environmental impact and doesn't take much space, but does require a vast crew of humans. "While it's sure that pound for pound, crickets consume a lot less water and grain than cattle, it's not sure how they compare to vegetarian choices, or even to chicken," Shine says. "From an accessibility point of view, they'd be better positioned as an alternative to nuts – but then the environmental benefit is less clear."

Insects could be useful as animal fodder. Shine explains that salmon feed, which mostly – and unsustainably – consists of smaller fish, could be replaced by black soldier fly meal. And because some bugs eat discards, a thriving insect industry could upcycle food waste. But, Shine cautions, "if bugs are mass-reared in industrial facilities, they will probably turn into yet another food prone to disease, like most monoculture products are. I'm not sure that's very tempting."

Though people have been advocating for more sustainable and equitable food for years, the COVID-19 pandemic has made a wider public even more aware of weaknesses in our food systems, from food insecurity to health risks in meat-processing plants.

"We start with transportation and the carbon footprint of food delivery," says Elizabeth Miller, a professor in the Department of Communication Studies and documentary maker who teaches a course on media and the politics of food. "We study questions like, 'How far does our food have to travel?' and 'What's the implication and impact?""

Miller also focuses on labour and gender issues around food, such as who picks our crops under what conditions, and who gets exposed to harmful pesticides.

"The history of food is the history of tariffs," she says. "Understanding why and how things are cheap is a critical entry point to conversations about food."

### 'WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO IMPROVE THE WORLD'

Erik Chevrier, BA 04, MA 11, a part-time instructor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, teaches about food through the lenses of sustainability and culture. A current PhD candidate, Chevrier has researched and catalogued Concordia's campus-community organizations, creating an online archive (concordiafoodgroups.ca) of the student-run projects.

He says that as a next-generation education and research centre, Concordia is a place "where we have to innovate, experiment and try to figure out how to improve the world."

Chevrier sits on the committee of the Food Advisory Working Group to help lead the university towards transformative approaches to sustainability and to become a food-sovereign campus, from production to waste management. He also chairs the Concordia Food Coalition, which looks at ways the university could run its own food services, involving students, staff and faculty.

The university's Sustainability Action Plan — which includes a long-term vision as well as five-year plans around food, waste, climate, research and curriculum — would have a tremendous impact on the larger community and would show students a new way forward.

Chevrier is critical of food systems. "Agriculture is one of the most destructive forces," he notes. "In Canada, the United States, Brazil and China, huge monoculture farms are destroying the planet — our soil, our air, and they're using most of our water.

"The roots of colonialism and racism also stem from our food system. African slaves were put to work on plantations and farms. Colonizers took over Indigenous land and disregarded traditional agricultural practices. Food is rooted in class-based systems that are extremely exploitative and still persist to this day." This includes Canada's use of low-paid migrant farm labour, which originated in the First and Second World Wars to inexpensively feed soldiers.

"The more you drive down costs, the less you pay for labour and the more social inequality is created," remarks Chevrier, who would like the Government of Canada to grant migrant workers the same rights as permanent residents and Canadian citizens.

"I'm not necessarily advocating for higher food prices, but we need to figure out how to pay for the true cost of food. We can't externalize the environmental or social costs."

#### A FAIR TRADE?

Jordan LeBel, a Department of Marketing faculty professor at the John Molson School of Business, grew up on a small farm in rural Quebec, where he saw how little profit went back to the farmers. Now LeBel wants his students to be aware of the effect they have as consumers.

"If you want to eat avocado toast, good for you, but don't pretend your choices don't have an impact," he says. "In Chile, communities have been devastated and can no longer afford to eat avocados themselves, which is one of their staples. A pineapple from Costa Rica is \$1.99, which doesn't even begin to cover the true cost. The farmer probably gets pennies for that."

Even ostensibly progressive ways of working with farmers don't always help. LeBel has studied the cacao trade extensively and has even lived with farmers, acquiring a keen sense of their struggles. For instance, while fair-trade arrangements help farmers demand fair prices, they may only be paid long after delivery, or with vouchers until a prescribed weight of beans has been fulfilled. This can sometimes take months between big harvests and obliges many farmers to accept predatory loans to survive.

Farmers will not necessarily drive new developments in the future, LeBel points out. He notes with skepticism the influence wielded by venture capital and technology firms, many of which have no agricultural experience.





"The more you drive down costs, the less you pay for labour and the more social inequality is created."

- ERIK CHEVRIER, BA 04, MA 11

"Some are improving our lives, but when it all comes with ridiculous profit-making expectations you have to question it," he says. "They want to invest in the next startup 'unicorn,' the next big thing."

Chevrier thinks many of the latest so-called advancements are part of the problem. The pursuit of higher yields with genetically modified organism (GMO) technology, he believes, is unnecessary because ample evidence exists to prove that natural methods can be just as effective.

Chevrier takes pride in teaching his students about actionresearch, a form of inquiry grounded in social justice and community participation.

### **OVERHAULING THE SYSTEM**

When you look at our collective food system, common themes emerge. Farmers and labourers aren't getting fair treatment. Consumers are unequally served. Environmental problems are rife.

Most acknowledge that the system is broken — but can it be fixed? Activist Jennifer Gobby, a Department of Geography, Planning and Environment postdoctoral fellow who focuses on social movements, sees capitalism as a major part of the problem.

"Our system is organized around principles and goals that prioritize economic growth above all," she says, "regardless of whether or not that contributes to a liveable planet and people who are taken care of."

Gobby adds that crises often spur powerful social changes. Although the effects of COVID-19 have been global, the pandemic has had the most impact on people vulnerable to and marginalized because of racism, sexism and classism. In a year that also included worldwide anti-racism protests, inequality and social justice have been front of mind for many.

This places political pressure on elected officials, says Gobby, who notes that when governments neglect or are slow to address systemic problems, resourceful people seek out new pathways. When it comes to food, this can take the form of alternative markets that better meet people's needs. Still, formidable challenges persist.

"Generally, the people most affected by social or environmental problems are systemically or structurally excluded from decision-making processes," Gobby says.

Another obstacle is that many efforts are siloed. Some groups are focused on sustainable agriculture, others on distribution logistics — but do they coordinate or collaborate? More broadly, we would do well to remember the intersectionality of climate change, income inequality, racism and food security.

#### THE WAY FORWARD

Gobby is full of hope. She spent 15 years off the grid on British Columbia's Lasqueti Island, before returning to Quebec, and academia, to better articulate her political vision.

Even amid the pandemic, or perhaps because of it, Gobby thinks social movements are getting better at working across silos and building networks of mutual aid. She also believes that more people, who aren't necessarily activists, are recognizing "cracks in the system" and are increasingly supportive of radical solutions and change. As a result, maybe they'll turn to local food growers, join a gardening co-op in their neighbourhood, or vote for more progressive candidates.

Virginie Lavallée-Picard's primary interest is in how municipal governments make decisions around food. Many believe that equitable and regenerative food systems must be place-based.

Municipal food system planning touches, in part, on the "nitty-gritty of regulatory and compliance measures for landuse planning: zoning bylaws, business permit bylaws," she adds.

Yet another important key to planning, according to Lavallée-Picard, is asking what collaborative food governance looks like, as well as how we can work and think creatively together to grow equitable and regenerative food systems.

Just outside Victoria, Lavallée-Picard runs Wind Whipped Farm — a certified organic market garden — with her partner. She feels lucky to have feet in both municipal governance and farming. "It's a lot of work but it's a treat to be able to grow food for your own community. It contributes to better, stronger, more resilient communities," she says.

Erik Chevrier sees collective gardens as an important piece of the puzzle. When the pandemic hit, his Concordia work slowed down and the safest place to be was outside. An experimental backyard farmer, Chevrier got involved with a SPIN (Small Plot Intensive) farm near social housing in his Montreal borough of Lachine. The project quickly flourished and provided cheap, fresh food for residents.





"A more collaborative approach would help us see how food connects to climate change and other challenges we're facing." - VIRGINIE LAVALLÉE-PICARD, MA 14



VIRGINIE LAVALLÉE-PICARD, MA 14, IS A FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATOR WITH THE CITY OF VICTORIA, AND RUNS WIND WHIPPED FARM IN METCHOSIN, B.C. SHE COLLABORATES WITH VICTORIA RESIDENTS TO HELP THEM PLANT, DEVELOP AND HARVEST THEIR OWN FOOD ACROSS THE CITY.

## TRENDING TECHNOLOGIES



Jordan LeBel, a professor of marketing at the John Molson School of Business, keeps an eye on trends. In the wake of the pandemic, certain technological advancements have leapt forward, according to the researcher. Online grocery shopping and delivery, once a niche pursuit, have become much more wide-

spread. The U.S. online grocery market, previously predicted to grow to \$100 billion by 2025, is now projected to soar to \$250 billion over the next four years, he says.

Technology can be a force for good, depending on how people choose to use it – and the food industry is no exception. Plastic waste can be reduced thanks to the development of biodegradable resins that can be sprayed on fruits and vegetables to prolong freshness. And in an industry that can be frustratingly opaque, technological advancements are being harnessed to improve tracing within the global food supply chain, which could reduce fraud.

The appeal of robot labour – no sick days necessary – has grown as well. Robots are already in warehouses and are beginning to roam the aisles of hypermarkets at night, cleaning and realigning goods. A large meat-processing company recently announced it would test the use of robots for larger cuts on carcasses. Pizza giant Domino's is testing delivery using driverless cars, and other fast-food chains are experimenting with burger-flipping robots.

Whether this is seen as a sign of progress or a dystopian future may depend, in part, on what governments and big business do to supplement the loss of such low-wage work.

"On one hand, these are not fun jobs," says LeBel. "On the other hand, where's that knowledge going? The people who used to do those jobs, they have a certain savoir faire. Now, even butchers are being replaced by robots. As a society, as an industry, what are we doing to make sure knowledge doesn't get lost?"



ERIK CHEVRIER, BA 04, MA 11, IS A PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR AND PHD CANDIDATE AT CONCORDIA. DURING THE PANDEMIC, HE HELPED DEVELOF AN URBAN FARM. WHERE HIS STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED. TO PROVIDE FRESH FOOD FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

PHOTOS: KIM GAGNO

"You name it, we're growing it," exclaims Chevrier.
"Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans, amaranth, a whole bunch of different leafy greens, bok choy, arugula."

Hardy kale and broccoli grew into December and residents contributed to compost, which will help rebuild the soil. The project hopes to expand and has secured enough funding for three years.

"We're looking to become viable through the markets, and anything that's surplus will be donated to food banks," says Chevrier. His Concordia students volunteered on the community farm, gaining first-hand experience in organic gardening, food production and regenerative agriculture, while enhancing food security. They also mapped the neighbourhood's food organizations online.

"By interacting with the community, students can learn about food systems and also create tangible 'things' like maps, food, infrastructure like compost bins and recipe books," says Chevrier.

Urban farms may be limited in what they can grow (wheat and potatoes take up a lot of space), but the benefits are vast, from reduced transport costs and emissions to providing more densely nutritious food.

#### REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Soil health—a major challenge in the face of climate change and monoculture—will be key to feeding our growing planet

sustainably, experts say. A step beyond organic agriculture, regenerative agriculture focuses on methods that replenish and enrich soil, make soil resilient to droughts and floods, and even increase the nutrient output of crops.

Jordan LeBel is excited about his work with Regeneration Canada, a non-profit organization that aims to catalyze systemic change in Canada's agricultural and land management sectors.

"With regenerative agriculture, animals can have a sustainable place in our system. It's not only about not doing harm. It's about actively restoring and healing our soils," he says.

Our planet is in rough shape because of harmful agricultural practices, a message LeBel is eager to get across. He's equally passionate about proposing solutions. A recent brainstorm at a conference on living soils led the marketing expert to understand that in traditional agriculture, you pay the farmer for the product; in regenerative agriculture, you pay the farmer to take care of the soil.

Some corporations are stepping up to the challenge. LeBel is a fan of B Corp certification, which compels profit-driven companies to "meet minimum fulfillments on key social, environmental, and in some cases, cultural metrics." Powerful food conglomerates like General Mills include B Corp certified companies, and Danone is aiming to be entirely B Corp certified by 2025.





"Our system is organized around principles and goals that prioritize economic growth, regardless of whether or not that contributes to a liveable planet and people who are taken care of."

– JENNIFER GOBBY





"Understanding why and how things are cheap is a critical entry point to conversations about food."

- ELIZABETH MILLER

Retailers, too, can play a meaningful role, by asking suppliers hard questions and demanding accountability. "They're at the end of the chain that gets food to customers," says LeBel. "If they want sustainably sourced fish, it trickles back. If we had to investigate every purchase we made at a supermarket, it would take us a whole day just to go grocery shopping."

With the burden so heavily placed upon consumers, LeBel would like to see improvements in the areas of public policy and regulation.

#### WITH KNOWLEDGE COMES POWER

Universities can play a huge role in advancing food literacy and producing citizens who will change policy.

Elizabeth Miller exposes her students to all kinds of ideas, from the juggernaut influence of large-scale businesses to the value of composting our own scraps.

Miller — who spent last summer organizing bike tours of food waste sites around Montreal with MJ Thompson, associate professor in the Department of Art Education, and associate dean of Research in the Faculty of Fine Arts — likes to shake up how students absorb classroom theory. She assigns oral history projects and has received grateful notes from students who cherished the chance to record and cook a family recipe with an elder family member.

Intergenerational flows of information are crucial to any future progress, says Miller, who relishes the aha moment when a student realizes older generations practised sustainability before the term was even invented.

"Sometimes working in an intergenerational context can unlock a shift in thinking and a return to practices that have long been forgotten," she adds.

Chevrier encourages his students to increase their food autonomy by making sourdoughs and trying fermentations. "These are methods so many of us have lost over time. A lot of students don't even cook for themselves."

As a communicator, Miller wants her students to understand how some colossal food systems are naturalized and perpetuated.

"Corporations control media so it becomes difficult to contest the systems that commit labour injustices and generate health hazards for all of us," she says, noting that with knowledge comes the power to disrupt these messages that entrench inequality and corruption.

For every complex problem Miller lectures about in class, she describes multiple global campaigns working to solve it. She steers students towards collaboration, rather than competition, through projects that require trust, sharing and establishing contracts with one another. No matter what one person's best practices might be, Miller wants her students to learn that systemic change only happens with collective action and cooperation.

"We have to stage rehearsals of the world we want to see," she says.

"The classroom is a powerful place to do that." ■





IN SUMMER 2020, CONCORDIA PROFESSORS ELIZABETH MILLER AND MJ THOMPSON TAUGHT AN INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE CALLED WASTESCAPES, A SEVEN-DAY ZERO-WASTE BIKE CHALLENGE THAT INVITED STUDENTS TO ENGAGE CRITICALLY WITH THEIR OWN WASTE PRACTICES. THE COURSE ALSO INCLUDED SELF-GUIDED BIKE TOURS TO VISIT FOOD AND OTHER WASTE SITES AROUND MONTREAL.

# SCENARIO

DAMON VAN DER LINDE, BA 08

Students at the John Molson School of Business shine at case competitions and get a leg up after graduation

arley-Davidson is in a pickle. The Milwaukee-based motorcycle manufacturer needs to attract new riders to survive. But with an iconic, century-old brand to protect and a loyal group of core, older customers to satisfy, the task is complex. What strategy should the company employ to stay relevant and bolster future growth?

The answer to this - and other challenges like it - requires a broad range of business knowledge and savvy. Enter the cohort of students at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB), who regularly test themselves at national and international case competitions.

"By cracking cases that span diverse themes and industries, I can approach business problems, presentations and other challenging or high-pressure situations with great confidence," says Amanda Rushton, MBA 20, a senior associate at PwC Canada and former president of Concordia's MBA Case Competition Committee.

The Harley-Davidson case is typical, and one where students have mere hours to propose a final analysis to a panel



MARIE-PIER DARSIGNY, PRESIDENT OF THE CONCORDIA MBA CASE COMPETITION COMMITTEE, PRESENTS AT THE 2020 STÉPHAN CRÉTIER FOUNDATION (GARDAWORLD) CASE COMPETITION. WHERE HER TEAM CAPTURED FIRST PLACE.

of professors and business executives. The pressure-packed atmosphere supplements classroom lectures and group work, and represents the kind of practical, transdisciplinary approach to business education that Concordia has long nurtured. The university has subsequently become a case competition luminary, not only at the organizational level but as a result of its all-star student participants.

Impressively, Concordia has managed to excel at case competitions aimed at both undergraduate and graduate students. The John Molson School of Business MBA International Case Competition is a notable standout. The largest and oldest MBA case-study

event in the world, it first pitted groups of students from Concordia, McGill University, the University of Ottawa, Université Laval and Université du Québec à Montreal against each other in 1982.

"It's part of our DNA," says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School of Business. "Students can apply what they've learned in the classroom, offering them an opportunity to know themselves better and achieve their greatest potential."

#### PEAK PERFORMERS

Concordia has ascended the podium at case events around the world. In 2019, the team took first place at the DeGroote School of Business Case Competition at McMaster University and placed first and third at the A4S International Case Competition at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Business.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, case competitions have made a virtual shift. By the end of 2020, undergraduate teams had completed three international competitions online, including a third-place finish at an event held by the University of Arizona.

"We're resilient and have risen to the challenge," says Nora Baronian, BSc 99, EVERY YEAR, THE MBA CASE COMPETITION COMMITTEE HOSTS AN INTERNAL CASE COMPETITION TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR ANALYTICAL SKILLS.

MBA o6, director of the undergraduate case competition program. "However, we're all hoping to go back to competing in person, for the experiences and connections that happen in that environment."

Participants benefit not just from the competitive environment but also from the formidable effort required to coordinate and host case events at Concordia. At the MBA level, students are charged with assembling 36 teams of students and coaches from different schools, as well as hundreds of volunteers and judges from the business community.

"They develop the ability to organize an extraordinarily complex and difficult competition with many aspects of executive decision-making," says William Meder, BComm 65, academic advisor for the John Molson MBA International Case Competition's organizing team. "They're responsible for making sure that a thousand people have a great event."

#### **GOING BEYOND**

The success of these events has helped propel cases to a more prominent role in the classroom and beyond. In fall 2020, JMSB signed a partnership with Ivey Publishing to distribute business cases written by the JMSB community to schools around the world. Part of Western University's Ivey Business



CONCORDIA'S **STÉPHANE LARIN**, BCOMM 14, MBA 20, **RACHEL SIMMONS**, **AMANDA RUSHTON**, MBA 20, AND **PAOLA SUNYE**, MBA 20, CELEBRATED A FOURTH-PLACE FINISH AT THE 2019 UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER CASE CLUB COMPETITION.



School, Ivey Publishing is one of the world's leading case publishers.

Guy Barbeau, director of Student Life and Special Projects at JMSB, says that case competition participants have a distinct advantage when they enter the workforce.

"They have a lot of skills desired by the marketplace and become very good at synthesizing large amounts of complex information in a short period of time. They have to work effectively in teams and develop great time-management, communication and organizational skills."

Thanks to their competition experiences, students find themselves better equipped to manage the myriad aspects of an organization, whether finance, accounting, marketing, operations or human resources. They also develop intangible skills that hiring managers look for.

"I learned a lot about leadership," recalls Sapandeep Singh Randhawa, MEng 16, MBA 20. "How to motivate peers, better clarify expectations and deadlines within teams, ensure group cohesion, and how to hold people—including myself—more accountable."

Although the 4oth edition of JMSB's MBA International Case Competition has been postponed to January 2022, Concordia teams will continue to organize and compete in 2021 — be it online or in person. Though the pandemic has been a disruptive force, students say they have learned how to work smarter and triumph over adversity. ■

Read about the latest achievements at concordia.ca/casewins.

Many JMSB alumni who have gone on to dynamic careers describe their case competition experiences as invaluable. Read some of their testimonials:

"Organizing case competitions provided me with an opportunity to build a strong network within the Montreal business community and interface with levels of management that are otherwise far more difficult to gain access to."

- Aleksey Cameron, BA 09, MBA 18, attaché and project manager to the CEO, Canderel Group

"Participating in case competitions during my MBA helped me sharpen my presentation skills, think on my feet and address difficult questions about proposed strategies and tactics."

> - Ivonne Medina, MBA 11, vice-president, Business Development, Crescita Therapeutics

"It's really changed the way I approach a problem. I have become much quicker at identifying issues and formulating a very clear solution."

> Anju Suddul, BSc 08, MBA 17, strategic partnership manager, Intelerad Medical Systems

"Participating in case competitions was hard and pushed me beyond my limits, but it was the most rewarding experience of my MBA. I use the strategic thinking, presentation and storytelling skills that were refined during case competitions on a daily basis."

- Anne Morinville, MBA 19, medical science liaison, Novartis

# 



# How Concordia is schooling the teachers of tomorrow

V WI

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

f there's a belief that sustains the Early Childhood and Elementary Education (ECEE) program at Concordia, it's that learning begins — and can only begin — when students feel secure.

This applies as much to the roughly 160 undergrads enrolled in the program as it does to the children whose learning needs they'll be entrusted with, both as student teachers and, eventually, as professional teachers with classrooms of their own.

The challenge over the last year has been adjusting to create an optimal learning environment during a pandemic.

It's a responsibility that ECEE director and faculty member Nathalie Rothschild had to confront when COVID-19 abruptly compelled the university and schools across Montreal to close last March.

Rothschild manages classroom internships, where student teachers are paired with a cooperating teacher for weeks at a time. The coronavirus threw this experiential cornerstone of the program into disarray.

"We had to go through some very quick changes to our courses and, in my case, with students who were just starting their final internships," says Rothschild. "We had to think of alternative ways for them to develop the competencies required of teachers, but in a completely different context.

"Our approach had to become more theoretical. It was a difficult shift for faculty and students. Our first Zoom class after the lockdown was very emotional."

Sandra Martin-Chang, a professor whose research focuses on childhood cognitive development with respect to reading, was moved by her students' grace under pressure.

"They handled the change with a lot of courage. ECEE tends to attract very bright and high-quality people. Everyone asked, 'How can I help?'"

"Children are like water, they cut a path where there is none. And the best teachers know how to facilitate this."

#### A NEW WAY TO EVALUATE

The program promptly adapted to ensure that students on track to graduate could do so remotely. Then, over the summer, after it was announced that Quebec's primary and secondary schools could reopen, Rothschild thought a lot about other pivots the program could make.

One of the most significant required a tech assist from the Department of Education's Technical Office. With children back in classrooms as of September, ECEE students could resume their internships. But because of COVID-related protocols, Rothschild and other supervisors couldn't evaluate them in person.

Enter remote observation kits. Provided by the Faculty of Arts and Science, the kits — which consist of an iPad, tripod and microphone — have proven remarkably effective.

"We can see the entire class, which is great because when students teach a lesson they're often not staying in the same place—especially in kindergarten," says Rothschild.

"I can also hear my students when they're having individual conversations with the children, or when they're talking to themselves about what to do next. When I'm there in person, I don't pick up on that."

After the pandemic, Rothschild anticipates a hybrid model where the advantages offered by the kits are leveraged, particularly at schools at a remove from Concordia's downtown campus.

#### **'KIDS ARE CONSTANTLY LEARNING NEW THINGS'**

Still, technology is an imperfect substitute. Effective teaching involves trust and emotional connectivity. The pandemic has

interfered with this in a number of ways. Many four-, fiveand six-year-olds started school in the fall for the first time, only to be met by teachers wearing expression-masking personal protective equipment.

"We're talking a lot about how this year has been different for kids," says Rothschild. "Play looks very different because of the sharing of materials and the physical space required for it. Teachers can't convey an encouraging smile the same way, or give a reassuring hug or pat on the back.

"A lot of kindergarten kids in Montreal are in a second- or third-language context. And it's very difficult to understand your teacher through a mask, particularly when it's not your mother tongue. But many teachers have found very creative solutions, like recording themselves reading a story. They show the video in class and turn the pages so the kids can track their facial expressions and see their mouth moving."



## "You have to have passion and drive to be a good teacher."

While the pandemic has provoked a lot of anxiety, Martin-Chang has faith in the natural resilience she's observed in children as well as teachers.

"Children are like water, they cut a path where there is none. And the best teachers know how to facilitate this. I'm confident most kids will come out of this having learned what they need to learn."

The key, notes Martin-Chang, is to first address their emotional needs.

"The first need is safety and connection. Are they surrounded by adults who care about them and who know what they're doing? Once that's in place, kids thrive. Think about it. Kids are constantly learning new things. Their rate of experiencing change far exceeds that of an adult."

#### 'DEVELOPING DEEPER CONNECTIONS'

Two recent ECEE grads, Jonathan Bécotte, BA 20, and Melina Murray, BA 20, can relate to this kind of swift adaptation. Both had internships cut short because of COVID-19, celebrated convocation in absentia and embarked on teaching careers during the pandemic.



Bécotte, who was awarded the Sara Weinberg Award for Excellence in Teaching when he graduated, teaches a grade fivesix split class at École Saint-Émile in the Montreal neighbourhood of Rosemont. His

challenges have included replacing a beloved teacher and teaching remotely for two weeks because of a COVID-19 case at the school.

"Not even experienced professionals were prepared for this," Bécotte says. "Which is kind of reassuring — to see veteran teachers just as overwhelmed. The pandemic has fostered even greater collaboration because we're all in this together. We're developing deeper connections as colleagues."

In order to deepen the connection with his students, Bécotte had to strike a balance between preserving some of their former teacher's ways and establishing his own identity. It wasn't easy.

"I got emotional in class one day. I said 'Look, these are my rules — typical rules about respect. But now it's your chance. What are your expectations? How can I make you happy?' I wanted them to know that I had empathy for what they've had to go through.

"I keep an emotional thermometer on the wall for when they

# "The reason why our program is one of the strongest in Canada is that we focus on the innate needs and emotional development of the child."



feel anxious or upset. It's a good tool for when they don't feel comfortable to tell me out loud. When a few of them indicate that they're feeling sad, we talk about it."

This compassionate style of classroom management is a direct result of the ECEE program and great cooperating teachers, says Bécotte. It's a sentiment echoed by Murray, whose career also began last fall, at Harold Napper School in Brossard, on Montreal's South Shore.

"The program emphasized the importance of connection and safe spaces," she says. "This has become even more important this year."

#### **MORE THAN JUST A JOB**



Like Bécotte, Murray has had to employ some novel tactics to prime her gradefour class for learning.

"Unfortunately, my

classroom doesn't have windows. That was a concern for some parents. It's a strain, but we've adapted. I'm constantly disinfecting. And every morning I find an image of a window and project it on the smart board to give my students an emotional lift."

Murray also uses a colour-coded system - similar to a traffic light, with green, yellow and red — so her students can subtly, and voluntarily, indicate their emotions.

"If they're feeling overwhelmed they can change the colour, which is a visual cue for me to know if something's wrong."

The prototypical ECEE student at Concordia sees teaching as more than just a job. In Murray's case, it's a calling that runs in her family. Her father, Don Murray, BA 17, graduated from the program the year she started and also teaches grade four, at a school not far from her own.

"You have to have passion and drive to be a good teacher," she says. "I've always known I wanted to do this, from kindergarten on."

That's exactly what the program wants to nurture and cultivate, says Martin-Chang.

"The reason why our program is one of the strongest in Canada is that we focus on the innate needs and emotional development of the child and on the content knowledge of the teachers. So teachers need to be 100 per cent about caring and 100 per cent about knowing how to teach the content they need to teach.

"We have world-renowned experts teaching in their areas of expertise. You can't overestimate the power of that knowledge. It sets us apart. And then we get great people - people like Jonathan and Melina." ■

#### MEET ECEE STUDENT **GABRIELLE LACOSTE**



A fourth-year ECEE student at Concordia, Gabrielle Lacoste began her third internship last fall in a kindergarten class at

Bancroft Elementary School in Montreal's Plateau-Mont-Royal borough (some of the art she created with her students is featured in these pages).

#### How have you adjusted to virtual coursework?

My professors at Concordia have been very considerate. I find I have more time for myself now because I can better organize my time and my schedule. The virtual environment is less structured, which I enjoy.

#### What is it like to wear PPE and teach kindergarten kids?

Very difficult at first. I had been home for months - my Bancroft internship was my first time in public since the pandemic began. But over time the visor and the mask became part of my uniform and I forgot about them. My focus was on my relationship with the kids.

#### How do you feel about the kit Concordia has used to observe and evaluate student teachers remotely?

I think it's a great alternative. I was a little nervous that it would feel weird, but it didn't. You forget that it's there - even the mic. It just fades into the background and you lose yourself in your teaching.

#### Has the pandemic imparted any lessons about classroom management that you can put to good use when you start your career?

My cooperating teacher at Bancroft (Catherine Cyr, who mentored Jonathan Bécotte as well) set up her classroom so that each student had their own individual bin of materials. Before the pandemic she had a more communal approach. I thought it worked guite well - it gave them a sense of autonomy. That's something I might take away from this experience and use in my future classroom.

# 'Our big focus is making sure alumni have all the support they need'

As new president of the Concordia University Alumni Association, Linda Donnini is focused on what's ahead



LINDA DONNINI, BSC 91, FIRST JOINED THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AS A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO HER ALMA MATER.

URSULA LEONOWICZ.

hen the Concordia V University Alumni Association (CUAA) welcomed its new board of directors and executive team for the 2020-21 year last fall, it also introduced a new president: Linda Donnini, BSc 91.

The Faculty of Arts and Science grad — who takes on the role from predecessor Kim Fuller, BFA 96 — first joined the association's board in 2015.

"I was at the point in my life where I felt I had accomplished much of what I had set out for myself and decided it was time to give

back," says Donnini. "I owe a lot of where I am today to what I learned at Concordia - from an education perspective as well as from a personal perspective - so I decided that this was a great place to start my volunteer career.

"If I can help current students or alumni achieve that same sense of accomplishment and pride in their alma mater, I'm in."

The CUAA is a volunteer body that represents more than 220,000 alumni worldwide and provides the university with advice, support and sponsorship that is reflective of constituent needs. The association works with

Alumni Relations to provide graduates with a variety of benefits, services, programs and events — the latter of which have gone online in the form of workshops, webinars and more since the start of the pandemic.

"Pre-COVID-19, it was more about assisting the university and the Alumni Relations team in getting as many people involved and engaged as possible through meaningful professional, academic and social opportunities," says Donnini.

"This year, given the pandemic, our big focus will be making sure alumni have all the support they need, mostly through

initiatives such as CU Cares and by contributing to the fundraising campaigns."

A collaboration between Concordia's LIVE Centre and University Advancement, CU Cares mobilizes students, faculty, staff and alumni to volunteer at Montreal organizations in need of people power to assist with food preparation, wellness calls and crisis-line support.

#### 'I KEEP GOING BACK TO MY ROOTS'

For Donnini — who attended Montreal's Villa Maria High School and Marianopolis College, and helped co-found the Villa Maria Foundation while attending Concordia -

## "I owe a lot of where I am today to what I learned at Concordia."

giving back to her alma mater is in her nature.

"It's like I keep going back to my roots," she says with a laugh. "When I decided to become part of the CUAA and walked into the Hall Building at the downtown Sir George Williams Campus for the first time, it brought back a lot of memories. It just felt good."

Donnini had worked in the automotive industry for 20 years, but embarked on a new challenge a year ago as vice-president of marketing at Hamster, the largest Canadian-owned provider of office supplies and services. It's been a busy time for her, professionally speaking, but that's only encouraged her to give back even more.

"Concordia taught me structure, hard work, loyalty and teamwork, so when you commit to a team to deliver a project, you show up and contribute," she says.

"It also taught me all the academic knowledge required to succeed in my career — including business and marketing — and allowed me to meet many different people and build long-lasting relationships. It helped me grow as a person by being exposed to many different cultures," she adds. "I loved my time at Concordia."

# TAKE PRIDE in your alma mater!



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

- Tell us where you're at: concordia.ca/keepintouch
- Share your successes: alumni@concordia.ca
- Join us on social media:
   @Concordia.Alumni



# 'Everyone should be able to feel healthy and feel good'

How 3 grads are making moves in fitness and wellness

MOLLY HAMILTON

researcher, a celebrity trainer and a fitness company CEO. Meet three Concordia alumnae impacting society through inspiring initiatives in the areas of health and well-being.

#### VALERIE DESJARDINS: BUSINESS OWNER. CELEBRITY TRAINER AND HEALTH COACH

Personal trainer and fitness studio owner Valerie Desjardins, BA 04, took her passion for physical activity and nurtured it into a career. At Concordia, she served as captain of Stingers women's varsity soccer and was named an all-star in 2002. She went on to play for Canada's national soccer team and also captained a Roller Derby World Cup championship team.

Desjardins has since used her experiences as a top athlete to develop a highly successful training method for high-profile clients such as Jennifer Aniston, Ariane Moffatt and Coeur de Pirate.

#### WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY **ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

Watching my clients evolve. Through our work they end up letting go of patterns that have been holding them back - lifestyle decisions, relationships, any energy

that isn't aligned with their goals. They begin to feel empowered and stronger on all levels, spreading that amazing energy into their communities. We use the body as a vehicle to strengthen the individual in all aspects of their lives.

#### WHAT'S BEEN THE MOST **EXCITING EXPERIENCE OF** YOUR CAREER?

Truthfully, I find every single day exciting in this industry. With COVID-19 I've had to pivot and develop a new approach with clients for personal training through devices online. It's also pushed me to finally create my own digital platform, which has been a huge success. And yes, training Jennifer Aniston and taking care of Michelle Pfeiffer was pretty rad. I'm fortunate to be the go-to trainer for female celebrities when they film in Montreal.



#### HOW DID CONCORDIA **CONTRIBUTE TO** YOUR CAREER?

I was the captain of the soccer team while I studied at Concordia. That sense of teamwork helped me with my business leadership skills. I was also inspired by a few professors in sociology and women's studies who

encouraged me to use my personal story to fuel my writing. It's been a tool that I've used to express myself on social-media platforms and grow a solid online community.

# ERIN O'LOUGHLIN: RESEARCHER PAR EXCELLENCE

Even as a child, Erin O'Loughlin, BA 05, GrDip 08, PhD 20, knew she wanted a career related to physical activity.

Her PhD research at Concordia focused on "exergaming" — physically active video games — and its potential to decrease sedentary behaviour in young people.

O'Loughlin currently serves as a project coordinator at the Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM) and is slated to begin postdoctoral work at the University of Toronto this spring. O'Loughlin is also involved in a research project called AdoQuest that assesses the effects of nicotine dependence in adolescents.

# WHAT'S BEEN THE MOST EXCITING EXPERIENCE OF YOUR CAREER?

Being one of Concordia's Public Scholars in 2017! I just remember being so excited that I had this opportunity. It was a big highlight of my career because not a lot of people get to actually go out and talk about their research and have everyday people read about it.

# WHAT'S A COMMON MISCONCEPTION PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT FITNESS AND HEALTH?

That they have to lose weight to become healthy. There's this notion that if you lose weight, you'll be healthier. That's not necessarily true. You can really do a lot of good for your body without weight loss being the main focus.

#### HOW DID CONCORDIA CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR CAREER?

How did it not? I did my bachelor's there, a graduate diploma in administration and a doctorate. I couldn't be in the position that I'm in without Concordia. Also, Concordia has been really good to me in terms of support from my supervisors Tracie Barnett and Lisa Kakinami. The university allowed me to do research in a newer area, which I think is awesome.





#### SAHRA ESMONDE-WHITE: FITNESS TELEVISION PRODUCER

Sahra Esmonde-White,
BA 97, began her career as a
health economist. Around
the same time she decided to
make a change, her mother
— Miranda Esmonde-White,
a former dancer with the
National Ballet of Canada —
created Essentrics, a dynamic
workout designed to engage
the muscles and joints.

After it took off with everyone from seniors to Olympic athletes, the mother and daughter formed another company, also called Essentrics, to produce fitness and wellness-related content. Sahra has since produced award-winning documentaries and hundreds of fitness shows, and has assembled a list of clients that includes British model and actress Lily Cole, Canadian actress Sarah Gadon and the Montreal Canadiens.

# WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Receiving testimonials from people telling us how much we've helped. It's motivating to know we're changing people's lives and in such an accessible and affordable way. Everyone should be able to feel healthy and feel good.

#### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO ADOPT A MORE ACTIVE LIFESTYLE?

Find workouts you enjoy and be patient. If you can turn a small change into a new habit, then you'll be ready to take on the next small change. Within a year or two, you'll look back and be proud of how far you've come.

# HOW DID CONCORDIA CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR CAREER?

I truly enjoyed my time at Concordia and loved most of my classes and the style of teaching. The Department of Economics was very supportive.

I really enjoyed the strong sense of community at the university.

The Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership program empowers women graduates to connect, share professional experiences and expertise, and learn from each other. In this series, meet leaders from among Concordia's nearly 100,000 alumnae who fill the ranks of business, media, engineering, science, the arts, humanities and more. Learn more at concordia.ca/alumni/women.

# **Building** community online

espite the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Concordia virtually honoured more than 1,800 students who made the transition to new grads in November 2020. Our community shared its pride through CU Celebrate festivities, which included congratulatory messages from university leaders and notable alumni. Words of wisdom and advice came from Kim Thúy, LLD 17 1, Julian McKenzie, BA 16 2, Sonia Benezra, BFA 82, Skawennati, BFA 92, GrDip 96 3, Julien BriseBois, EMBA 07, Sarah Barrable-Tishauer, BA 12, and Shamit Shome, BEng 20, among others.

talk entitled "Who Should Get the Olympic Medals -Athletes or Engineers?" Part of Concordia's Juristin-Residence program's Law Meets Engineering series, the talk was presented to students, faculty and staff in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. Pound, a member of the International Olympic Committee, highlighted the organizational challenges surrounding the Olympic Games, emphasizing that the infrastructure, technology and security needed to safely

Richard W. Pound, BA 63,

LLD 10 4, presented a

accommodate athletes, coaches and medical and support personnel is "an engineering feat not for the faint of heart."

Concordia hosted its **Extraordinary Canadians** event on December 3 5. Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia, joined retired news anchor Peter Mansbridge and Mark Bulgutch, retired news producer, for a conversation on their new book, Extraordinary Canadians: Stories from the Heart of Our Nation. The book features personal stories of exceptional people across the country, including Cody, who are making Canada a better place and inspiring others to do the same. More than 500 guests registered for the online event, which was moderated by Jamie Orchard, BA 91.

Concordia alumni around the world logged on for a virtual event in December to celebrate the holiday season. Reconnecting with their community, grads were treated to musical performances by Dawn Tyler Watson, BFA 94 5, Patrick Lehman, BFA og, Amelia McFall-Keefe, BFA 16, and current jazz student Olivia **Khoury**, and a DJ set by Chris Tan, BA og. ■



"YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN NAVIGATING 2020 – YOU ARE EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE," SAID AUTHOR  ${\bf KIM\ TH\acute{u}Y},$  LLD 17, TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF FALL 2020. THÚY'S DEBUT NOVEL RU WON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD FOR FRENCH-LANGUAGE FICTION IN 2010.



"LOOK AT THE PERSON RIGHT NEXT TO YOU," SAID JOURNALIST **JULIAN MCKENZIE**, BA 16. "THEY MIGHT HELP YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY TOWARDS BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL."



'SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, MEAN WHAT YOU SAY AND REMEMBER THE COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE NOURISHED YOU," SAID MOHAWK ARTIST SKAWENNATI, BFA 92, GRDIP 96, TO GRADS WHO JOIN A NETWORK OF 220,000 ALUMNI.













#### DAWN TYLER WATSON,

BFA 94, WAS AMONG ALUMNI MUSICIANS WHO PERFORMED AT CONCORDIA'S GLOBAL ALUMNI HOLIDAY CELEBRATION ON DECEMBER 11. WATSON IS THE RECIPIENT OF FIVE CANADIAN MAPLE BLUES AWARDS, NINE QUEBEC LYS BLUES AWARDS AND A SCREAMING JAY HAWKINS AWARD FOR BEST LIVE PERFORMANCE, AMONG OTHER ACCOLADES.



#### RICHARD POUND,

BA 63, LLD 10, IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND FORMER ATHLETE WHO WAS TWICE A SWIMMING FINALIST AT THE 1960 OLYMPIC GAMES, AND CAPTURED FOUR MEDALS AT THE 1962 COMMONWEALTH GAMES.

# **CONCORDIA** HOMECOMING RETROUVAILLES Celebrate with us! **SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2021**

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- Executive MBA 35th anniversary
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Contact alumni@concordia.ca to plan your reunion.

#### JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

# Strengthening ties with business and academic communities

KATIE MALAZDREWICZ, BA 06, GRDIP 09

his past fall, the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) signed a partnership with Ivey Publishing to publish and distribute business cases written by the John Molson community to schools around the world. Part of the University of Western Ontario's Ivey Business School, Ivey Publishing is one of the world's largest and most prestigious case publishers.

Raymond Paquin, Department of Management associate professor and director of the John Molson Case Publications Initiative, explains that cases are more than a teaching tool (more on p. 38).

"It's a pedagogy — an applied approach that places the student in a real-life business situation," he says. "They're tasked with exploring a business challenge, analyzing it from all perspectives and formulating a plan to move the business forward."

With fewer than 30 co-branded partnerships globally, Ivey places great importance on high-quality cases. Only four other co-branded partners are Canadian, situating JMSB among the best case writers in the country.

"We are extremely proud of this partnership," says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School of Business. "This initiative supports our strategic goal of creating strong and sustainable partnerships both nationally and internationally. The case publications



initiative helps place the school at the forefront of business education and as a leader in case-based learning."

#### **CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS**

The faculty also recently signed a partnership with Responsible Research in Business and Management (RRBM). The international network of business and management scholars is committed to "socially responsible science." This means that the school's research is rigorous and relevant in supporting businesses and organizations by improving peoples' lives and society more broadly.

"Our vision, mission and core values are already well aligned with RRBM's principles," notes Croteau. "This partnership was a natural fit for us. It also further solidifies our school as a globally recognized academic institution that is focused on responsibility, relevance and impact."

IMSB is also the first business school in Canada to be officially recognized as a partner by RRBM, placing the school at the forefront of responsible business education and research, both within Canada and globally.

As part of the school's ongoing commitment to cultivating strong and sustainable partnerships, JMSB was proud to renew its association with Premières en affaires. The mission of the Montreal-based French-language publication is to promote and empower women in business, support effective networking and provide a reliable source of information on current affairs. The affiliation with the magazine leverages the school's expertise through editorials on timely and current topics and the dissemination of beneficial business knowledge and advice.

# **Expressions of collective resourcefulness**

ANDY MURDOCH

hile courses offered by the Faculty of Fine Arts moved online for the fall and winter terms, hundreds of students in the Department of Studio Arts picked up take-home studio kits to use for ceramics, sculpture, fibres and material practices, and printmaking.

It was no small feat to develop the kits and adapt studio-based classes to a home environment, says Kelly Jazvac, associate professor in the Sculpture program. Without access to Concordia's facilities, fine-arts students lack communal workspaces where they can learn to use special equipment, handle hazardous materials and experiment safely.

Jazvac was part of a team of instructors and technicians that spent the summer hammering out technical details for the kits to ensure the remote delivery of a high-quality visual-arts curriculum.

Creating the kits required everyone to reimagine materials and methods from the ground up, explains ceramics and sculpture technician Marie-Pier Laverdière.

"We had to order new materials, test them, make sure they were compatible with our facilities and have discussions with our instructors to rethink the teaching."

For Juan Ortiz-Apuy, BFA 08, assistant professor of sculpture, the kits are an expression of the collective resourcefulness that the pandemic has evoked.

"For some students, that's meant banding together to rent a studio," he says. "For others it's been about repurposing materials or making public installations on their balconies and windows. It's all about creative problem-solving during the pandemic."

#### **MAJOR RECOGNITION**

Martha Langford, distinguished research professor in the Department of Art History and research chair and director of the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art, received the 2020 Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC-AAUC) Recognition Award.

"Martha is a force of nature," says Annie Gérin, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, who received the award in 2019. "She is truly a pillar of our community, and I feel proud to have her as a colleague."

#### ART VOLT SALES AND LOANS

The Art Volt Collection, a non-profit artwork loan and sales service, set up a series of events to promote its launch last spring. In September 2020, alumni tuned in to a conversation with Dean Gérin and Cheryl Sim, MA 07, managing director and curator at Fondation PHI pour l'art contemporain. During two well-attended online events in October, the public was able to purchase juried artworks and watch a livestream of performance and video works by graduating fine-arts students and recent alumni.



#### REMEMBERING MARK PRENT (1947 - 2020)

Mark Prent, BA 70, accomplished visual artist and virtuoso mould-maker, passed away suddenly in September. Prent inspired generations of finearts students, staff and faculty during his 43-year career at Concordia as a senior technician in the Department of Studio Arts. He was well-known for his unequalled technical mastery and his keen devotion to helping students realize their artistic projects.

MARK PRENT WITH ONE OF HIS SCULPTURES AT HIS MONTREAL GALLERY, CIRCA MARCH 1977

#### GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

# New platforms for multidisciplinary research

VINCENT ALLAIRE

otwithstanding the pandemic, the last months showed how dynamic our researchers and students are at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The Next-Generation Cities Institute's launch (see p. 17) is a testament to the impactful and interdisciplinary research at Concordia to think about the future of human mobility, energy efficiency, integrated design and nature conservation. The institute is led by Ursula Eicker, holder of the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities at Concordia, and co-led by Carmela Cucuzzella, BCompSc 90, BFA 05, Concordia University Research Chair in Integrated Design, Ecology and Sustainability (IDEAS) for the Built Environment. The institute harnesses researchers' multidisciplinary expertise associated with 14 research centres from all four faculties.

Our researchers in the Department of Materials and Chemical Engineering (CME) were proud to participate in the Applied Science Hub's virtual launch (p. 16) and be part of this new chapter in Concordia's history. Last summer they moved into their brand new state-ofthe-art labs on Loyola Campus and

are already working on advances in organic batteries, cancer treatments and vaccine stabilizers.

Not far from their CME colleagues, a team of researchers is planning to inaugurate the new Field Research Facility for Buildings of the Future. With help from the Department of Facilities Management, Hua Ge, PhD 03, and her team have designed and built a living lab to explore innovations in net-zero-energy technologies.

"The facility will expand our capacity to train the next generation of building

and electrical engineers for the design and operation of net-zero-energy buildings," explains Ge, the project leader of the facility and a professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Finally, we couldn't be prouder of Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, who was recently named to the Order of Canada (p. 57). Her career and philanthropic endeavours are an inspiration to students, faculty members and alumni alike.



THE DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING MOVED INTO LOYOLA CAMPUS'S STATE-OF-THE-ART **APPLIED SCIENCE HUB** IN SUMMER 2020.

#### FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

# 'Creative problem-solving is in our DNA'

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

hanks to a lineup of online-only events last fall, the Faculty of Arts and Science "connected to audiences in remote stretches of the country and, in some cases, across the world," says Dean Pascale Sicotte.

Jurist-in-Residence Morton S. Minc. BA 67, hosted six events in his series of conversations with prominent jurists.

"Zoom has given us a true sense of being in a global village of academic learning", says Minc. "We are not restricted in the way we look at things anymore."

Helmed by Minc and launched in 2017, the Jurist-in-Residence program is the first of its kind for any English university in Quebec.

The Department of Theological Studies held a four-part series, "Spirituality as Land, Story and Relation," featuring guests from the worlds of poetry, academia, film and literature in discussion on issues related to spirituality and Indigeneity.

Between 90 and 200 people were in attendance at each event, breaking records for turnout.

Matthew Anderson, affiliate professor in the department and one of the series' curators, says he was surprised to see how organically the presentations complemented each other.

"Despite the fact that we were in

front of our computer screens, the events were intimate and deeply enriching," he says.

When Concordia's engAGE Centre for Research on Aging launched its Creative Living Lab at Montreal's Cavendish Mall in January 2020, the goal was to cultivate an interactive space for collaborative research with older adults.

Forced to close the space in March, the team moved the experience to Facebook with the name engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response.

The team presented intergenerational events like film and book clubs, artmaking activities and more — all done virtually with the option to join by phone or Zoom.

The Azrieli Institute saw large attendance numbers for its fall events. with over 150 people attending the screening of Udi Nir's documentary Golda, which used rare archival footage to provide insight into the life of the late Golda Meir, former prime minister of Israel.

"Golda set records for attendance." says institute director Csaba Nikolenyi. "This shows the potential of virtual events. We also held an event that helped to raise money for students, so it has been a good semester for us."

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Graduate Research Conference (CBGRC) successfully celebrated its 23rd annual event, with over 200 people registering.



DEAN **PASCALE SICOTTE** ADDRESSED A REMOTE AUDIENCE AT THE DEAN'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

"The fact that we were virtual allowed us to invite speakers from around the world," says organizer Gabi Mandl, BSc 17, a PhD student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. "We had more universities, too, which was wonderful."

At the faculty level, two key events moved online.

The annual Scholar Awards, which honours the faculty's highest-achieving undergraduates, had over 300 people tuning in to the livestream and over 550 subsequent views on YouTube.

The Dean's Awards for Excellence, held each year to celebrate the faculty's staff, faculty members and researchers, aired on December 10 and has generated more than 350 YouTube views.

While Sicotte is eager to see everyone in person again, the opportunity to connect online during this time has been invaluable.

"I think our success with these events comes from a profound desire to stay connected," she says. "Creative problem-solving is in our DNA."

## Eric J. Nestler accepts honorary doctorate

The pioneer in depression and drug-addiction research was honoured this fall as part of CU Celebrate a virtual recognition ceremony for 1,831 new graduates

JAKE BRENNAN

ased in New York at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Eric J. Nestler is a professor of neuroscience, pharmacological sciences and psychiatry; director of the Friedman Brain Institute; and dean of academic and scientific affairs.

Nestler's contributions to research, public advocacy and training in the fields of drug addiction and depression place him in the top ranks of neuroscientists.

His work makes a compelling case for recognizing drug addiction and depression as diseases of the brain with their own characteristic neurochemical and genetic signatures, like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and schizophrenia. His exceptional ability to bring clarity to complex problems has inspired generations of scientists worldwide.

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

Paul Keens-Douglas, BA (soc./anthro.), former poet laureate of Trinidad and Tobago, received an honorary doctor of letters from the University of the West Indies.

Tony Vanvari, MBA (business admin.), was appointed to the University of Toronto's faculty council as an alumni member in the Faculty of Engineering.

Luigi (Louis) Falco, BEng, was named vicepresident, engineering and quality, at United Underground Precast in Wallingford, Conn.

Michael Di Grappa, BA (poli. sci.), was named vice-president of Services and Sustainability at Concordia.

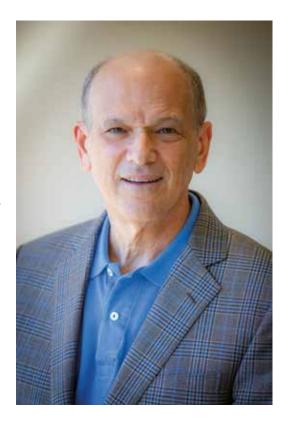
7 Riccardo Cichi. BA **O** (econ./hist.), was named president and chief sales officer, North America, at Bridgestone Americas, based in Nashville.

Cristine Laforest, BComm (mktg.), became the general manager at Bel Cheese Canada.

Charles "Criau Loeven, BEng (electrical), Charles "Chad" was named vice-president of marketing at TransientX, a company based in Hoboken, N.J.

Valerie Hannah, BComm (fin./acct.), was named managing director and chief executive officer, Distributed Energy, Renewable Power Group, at Brookfield Asset Management in New York.

Madhavi Mantha, BEng (comp. sci./software eng.) was made partner, Technology Strategy and Transformation, at Deloitte Canada.



Mark Rubin, BComm (mgmt. admin.) was named executive managing director at Colliers International, Boca Raton, Fla.

Paul Richardson, BA (econ.), was appointed United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Representative to Cameroon.

Inder Arya, BA (hist.), **YL** was named vice-president and portfolio manager at **BBC** Dominion Securities.

Stephanie Kushnir Chalupa, BA (econ.), was named senior director of Certified Home Health Agency Services at UR Medicine Home Care in Rochester, N.Y.

Charlie Kawwas, BEng (comp. eng.), MASc (electrical/ comp. eng) 99, PhD (electrical/comp. eng.) 07, was promoted to the position of chief operating officer at Broadcom in San Jose, Calif.

Anthony Kiendl, BFA, was named CEO and director of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Patrick Lauzon, BA (econ.), was named chief marketing and innovation officer. management committee, at Groupe Biron Santé in Brossard, Que.

Samira Nasr, BA (philosophy), former executive fashion director at Vanity Fair, was appointed editor-in-chief of the U.S. edition of Harper's Bazaar in New York.

Gharmaine iveiss...
BFA (art hist.), MFA Charmaine Nelson, (art hist.) 95, was named Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Transatlantic Black Diasporic Art and Community Engagement at NSCAD University. Nelson will use the funded, seven-year (renewable) position to work with NSCAD to develop the Institute for the Study of Canadian Slavery.

Tarah Schwartz, BA (comm. studies), former news anchor at CTV News, was named director of communications and marketing at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Foundation in Montreal.

Michael Harvey, BSc, PhD (bioanalytical chem.) 01, was named senior vice-president of drug development at Inversago Pharma Inc. in Montreal.

#### Stéphane Morneau,

BComm (acct.), GrDip 98, was named chief financial officer at PayFacto Payments Inc. in Verdun, Que.

Phaedra Charlton, BA (comm. studies), was named director of communications and marketing for the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

#### Jean-François Milette,

BA (poli. sci.), was named global head of client solutions at Trans-Canada Capital.

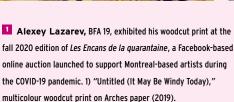
Rohan Crichton, BA (poli. sci.), MA (educational studies) 05, PhD (commerce) 20, was named assistant professor of consumer and organizational studies at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

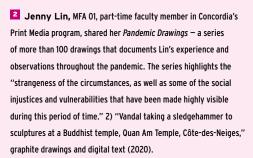
**Jennifer Hodgson**, BA (econ.), was named CEO at Raymond James Trust (Canada).

Kahente Horn-Miller, BA (anthro.), MA (social and cultural anthro.) o3, PhD (humanities) was named the inaugural assistant vice-president, Indigenous Initiatives, at Carleton University in Ottawa.













- Deanna Fogstrom, MA 96, presented a solo show of paintings and photographs at the Britannia Art Gallery in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her work, inspired by study and travel, is called *Paris: Love and Protest*, and was shown from July 24 to August 28.

  3) "Cadmium Yellow Paris," oil on canvas (2019).
- G. Scott MacLeod, BFA 03, MA 13, presented his

  After the War with Hannelore exhibition which included

  a documentary, animation drawings and graphic novel —

  at Maison de la culture Notre-Dame-de-Grâce from September 11

  to November 8. The exhibition traced Hannelore Scheiber's

  experience of the Cold War on the occasion of the 30th anniversary

  of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany.

  4) "People on the Berlin Wall 1989," graphite animation on Mylar

  (2008).

L. Jacques Ménard, BComm (econ.) 67, MBA 70, LLD 06, Concordia's late Chancellor Emeritus and former president of BMO Financial, was posthumously awarded a 2020 Honorary Laureate YMCA Peace Medal.

Marc Lachapelle, BA 77, was named Canadian Automotive Journalist of the Year in 2019 by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC).

Roger LeMoyne, BFA (cinema) 79, won a 2020 Canadian National Magazine Gold Award (Photojournalism and Photo Essay category) for his work on "Who Owns Colombia's Gold?" in The Walrus.

Michael Tai, PhD (religion) 84, was awarded the 2019 Fritz Jahr International Award for Research and Promotion of European Bioethics.

John Sicard, BCompSc 88, president and CEO of Kinaxis, was named Ottawa's 2020 CEO of the Year.

Felice "Phil" Torre, BComm (acct.) 90, won the 2019 Trainer of the Year award in vocational training, awarded by the Quebec Institute for Financial Planning.

Skawennati (Fragnito), BFA (design) 92, GrDip 96, was named a 2020 Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow — one of 16 recipients worldwide.

Heidi Barkun, BFA (studio art) 99, received a 2020 Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art valued at more than \$60,000.

#### Craig Silverman, BA

(journ.) 99, media editor at Buzzfeed, won the 2019 McGillivray Award from the Canadian Association of Journalists.

#### Jacqueline Cole Blisson,

BA (comm. studies) 02,

was named a Master of Wine, one of only 409 in the world.

Annie Murphy, BFA (theatre) 10, won a 2020 Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role on Schitt's Creek.

Pascal Plante, BFA (film prod.) 11, directed the lone Canadian entry — Nadia, Butterfly — chosen for Official Selection at the 73rd Cannes Film Festival.

Françoise Bertrand, LLD 13, Montreal vice-chair, Campaign for Concordia, was named to the Order of Montreal.

Stephen Lines, BSc, GrDip 02, was named vice-president, environment and community relations, at First Mining Gold Corp. in Vancouver.

#### Stacey Masson, BA

(comm. studies), was named vice-president, marketing and communications, of Cossette in Montreal.

Efrem Berman, ■ BComm (mgmt. info. systems), was named vicepresident of Global Loyalty and CRM at Radisson Hotel Group, Minneapolis, Minn. Rosey Edeh, MFA (art hist.), was named co-anchor of CTV Morning Live Ottawa.

#### Matthew Ross, BA

(English lit.), was named Quebec Regional Manager at B'nai Brith Canada.

Paul Karwatsky, BA (journ./poli. sci.) was named head of marketing and communications at Giant Steps Foundation, which supports autism education at Giant Steps School, Montreal.

Sara Lopez Assu, BA (urban studies) was named executive director of the Campbell River Art Gallery in British Columbia.

Harley Finkelstein, BA (econ.), former chief operating officer at Shopify Inc., was promoted to president.

Ananda Kautz, BComm (admin.), was named head of innovation, digital banking and payment at the Luxembourg Bankers Association (ABBL).

Patrick Gagnon,
BComm (acct.), GrDip (attendee), was appointed vicepresident, corporate controller, at Héroux-Devtek, a key player in the aerospace industry.

Hakim Hajoui, BEng (comp. eng./software eng.), was named Morocco's ambassador to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, based in Casablanca and London.

7 Dominic Godard, BComm (fin.), was named senior investment assistant, wealth management, at National Bank Financial.

Eric Guraieb, BEng (industrial), was made a partner with Bain & Company's Energy and Natural Resources and Performance Improvement practices, based in Dubai.

Katie Seline, BA (comm. studies), was named account and project manager at Music Rights Clearance in Montreal.

Milan Stefancik, BComm (internat. bus.), was named director of sales and marketing at Christina Lake Cannabis Corp. in Vancouver.

#### **ORDER OF CANADA**

The most recent appointments to the Order of Canada included eight members of the Concordia family:

**Howard Alper**, BSc (chem.) 63, LLD o7, distinguished professor, Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Ottawa, was promoted to Companion of the Order of Canada.

Seven Concordians were inducted as Members of the Order of Canada:

Ella Amir, PhD 12, executive director, AMI-Quebec

**Guy Berthiaume**, member of the Concordia University Press board of directors

**Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, philanthropist and co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia

**Elliot R. Lifson**, BSc 64, BA 65, vice-chairman, Vêtements Peerless Clothing Inc.

**Elizabeth Langley**, dancer, choreographer, teacher and dramaturge who developed Concordia's Contemporary Dance program

**Andrew Molson**, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia; chairman, Avenir Global

**Geoff Molson**, John Molson School of Business volunteer; president, CEO and co-owner, Montreal Canadiens

Phillip Gingras, BA
(anthro.), MA (social and
cultural anthro.) 10, was named
interim executive director with
Brock University's Brock LINC
(Learn, Innovate, Network
and Collaborate) initiative.

Emile Kinuma, BComm (fin.), MSc (admin.) 11, was made Rwanda Country Manager at credit risk management firm TransUnion.

Allan Vicaire, BA (poli. sci.), was named project coordinator at Concordia's Office of Indigenous Directions.

Jalana Lewis, BA
(psych.) became director
of African Nova Scotian
community engagement at
Dalhousie University.

Marie-Claude Bourgie
(MBA) was named
interim CEO at Quebec-based
Dominion Water Reserves Corp.

14 Adam Prizio, BEng
(aerospace), was appointed
head of engineering, research
and development, and
innovation at Quebec-based
M1 Composites Technology.

**T5** Emily Lynch, BA (poli. sci.), joined the Montreal office of Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt as a lawyer/associate.

#### Marianne Tremblay,

BComm (fin.), was named chief of staff to the CEO at Alpha Blue Ocean Investment Fund in London, U.K.

# 2020 QUEBEC WRITERS' FEDERATION (QWF) AWARDS

The QWF supports English-language literary arts within the province of Quebec. In 2020, its annual awards recognized four alumni:

**Madelaine Caritas Longman**, MA 17, won the Concordia University First Book Prize for the poetry collection *The Danger Model*.

**Alexei Perry Cox**, BA 16, MA (creative writing) 19, was awarded the 3Macs *carte blanche* Prize for "It's a Slow Ride," published in the QWF's online literary journal *carte blanche* (Issue 39).

**Kelly Norah Drukker**, BA (English and creative writing) 99, MA (English) 13, was named runner-up of the 3Macs *carte blanche* Prize for "Thin" (*carte blanche*, Issue 39).

**Danielle Bobker**, MA (English) 99, was nominated for the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction for *The Closet: The Eighteenth-Century Architecture of Intimacy*.

#### ASSOCIATION DES MBA DU QUÉBEC (AMBAQ)

In November 2020, the AMBAQ honoured 11 individuals for their contributions to their fields during the pandemic. Among them were two Concordians:

**Enzo Caprio**, EMBA 14, clinical administrative director of Optilab-Montreal MUHC

**Stilian Nikolow**, EMBA 20, director of strategic growth at Gestisoft

Adrienne Huard, BFA (art hist.), was named editor-at-large of Canadian Art magazine. Reham Al Azem,
GrDip (visual journ.),
joined the Toronto team at
OMNI News: Arabic Edition
as a video journalist.



# Hands

Inspired by Yoan Capote's "Abstinencia (Libertad)"

Silvana Morales is the 2019-20 winner of the Gabriel Safdie **Undergraduate Creative** Writing Award for Poetry.



Your hands got you a ride to school, thumb pointing towards the hot sun. They brought milk home for your siblings, fought the bully who stole your only pair of shoes. Your hands picked ticks off your little sister's scalp, plucked candy from the offerings your mother left out for her santos, felt the sting of her wooden spoon on bare knuckles.

LIB

Your hands held many things: scalpels, syringes, guavas, seashells, sometimes other hands. Your mother's before you boarded the plane, the rosary beads you counted one by one during the flight your hands shook so you sat on them, felt the cracks in the leather seat and wondered if this is what freedom felt like.

ER

In your New World your hands lost their fingernails to the cold, your hands ran their naked fingers through snow the way they did through rice. Your hands did the work no one else's hands wanted; used plungers, saws, wrenches, shovels. Your hands learned the language of others like them, hands not bound by accents, stutters, borders.

TAD

## Aaron Max Fish (1932 - 2020)

#### Concordia mourns renowned innovator, entrepreneur and philanthropist

SAMIA ALADAS, BFA 96, AND JOANNE LATIMER, MFA 94

aron Max Fish, LLD 16 — inventor of the push-button 🐧 lock and dedicated donor to Concordia — passed away on October 1, 2020. He was 88.

Widely respected as a global authority on security and lock design, Fish generously supported future engineers at the university.

"Our community is saddened by this loss, as we say goodbye to a friend and a tireless champion of higher education," said Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, Advancement.

In 1999, Fish established the Aaron M. Fish Scholarship of Excellence in Mechanical Engineering. He regularly met with recipients and gave students tours of his lock museum and factory on the border of La Petite-Patrie and Mile

End, Montreal. In March 2010, Fish was recognized with a Concordia Alumni Honorary Life Membership for his many accomplishments. He also received an honorary doctorate from the university in 2016.

"I met Aaron Fish after his retirement — he was still full of vigour and passion," said Martin Pugh, chair of the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering.

"He was always thrilled to see young people learn about the skill and tradecraft of locks and their manufacture."

A Montreal native, Fish began his apprenticeship in the business at eight years old. His father was a locksmith. The family lived on Saint-Urbain Street, in Mile End.

Fish graduated from Baron Byng High School in 1949.

"My dream was to go to MIT for mechanical and electrical

engineering, but I didn't have the marks," Fish once recalled. "I could have overcome that obstacle, but by the end of the summer my mother told me, 'If you want to eat, you had better go to work!""

At the age of 17, Fish started his own key business with \$20 and a bicycle.

In 1965, he founded Unican Security Systems and developed the very first push-button lock for Bell Canada. Unican also became the dominant producer of key blanks and duplicators in the world.

Fish's lock design was adopted by the Pentagon, the United Nations and the Industrial Bank of China, among others. By 1999, the Montreal-based Unican had some 3,700

employees and worldwide sales of more than \$450 million.

In 2001, Fish sold Unican to Swiss conglomerate Kaba Group for \$720 million. He bought back the company in 2007 and renamed it Capitol Industries.

Through the Wally and Aaron Fish Family Foundation, Fish and his wife, Wally Fitzgerald Fish, supported a number of causes and not-for-profits in Montreal and beyond.

Fish is survived by his wife and their children, Marlene, Donna, Michael, Stephen, Ariela, Chiara and Samuel.



#### Felicia V. Haffman,

S BA 46, April 23, 2015, West Palm Beach, Fla. She was 96.

#### Ronald Keith Marwood.

S BSc 53, November 6, 2020. He was 88.

#### Robert James Allore,

L BSc 55, November 10, 2020. He was 87.

Henry Schneider, S BSc 55, March 30, 2020. He was 86.

David Kahn, S BComm 56, August 15, 2020. He was 87.

#### Romuald (Romi)

Szalowski, S BSc 56, June 20, 2020.

Douglas Hadley, S BA 57, August 15, 2020. He was 92.

#### Harvey George Jensen,

S BComm 59, October 14, 2020. He was 88.

#### Anita David,

S BA 60, August 11, 2020. She was 84.

Ivan Lantos, S BSc 60, July 10, 2020. He was 84.

#### Ernest Lawrence Schibli,

L BA 60. November 12. 2020. He was 80.

#### June Alleyne Bertley,

S BA 61, July 21, 2020, St. Catharines, Ont. She was 91.

#### Theodore Gorecki,

S BComm 61, September 22, 2020. He was 85.

#### Michael Anthony Sears,

L BComm 61, November 11, 2020. He was 82.

#### David Page Fairchild,

S BA 62, S BSc 63, August 18, 2020. He was 84.

#### Raymond Leo Benson,

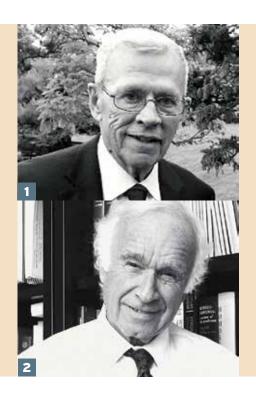
S BComm 64, November 12, 2020. He was 87.

wo new trees adorn Loyola Campus in memory of faculty members Bob Roy 1 and Alex Schwartzman 2. Planted in late October, the trees were gifted by friends and colleagues of the late professors.

A basswood outside the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex honours Roy, a key figure in the development of the facility and a beloved member of the Department of Biology. He died in 2019 at the age of 77.

A newly planted beech tree is visible from Schwartzman's former office outside the Department of Psychology. Schwartzman helped found a program in clinical psychology at Concordia as well as the university's Centre for Research in Human Development. He died in 2018 at the age of 90.

In honour of both professors, two new annual awards have also been established at Concordia: the Alex E. Schwartzman Scholarship in Psychology Endowment and the Bob Roy Memorial Award.



#### Wilson Gasewicz,

L BSc 64, June 30, 2020. He was 77.

Michael Grink, S BComm 64, September 21, 2020. He was 81.

Rein Maasik, S BComm 64, November 22, 2019. He was 76.

Myer Stern, S BA 64, August 4, 2020.

#### Lawrence Gamulka,

S BComm 65, July 28, 2020.

Geiljis Smilga, S BSc 65, August 7, 2020. He was 92.

#### Antony George Tieman,

S BA 65, August 25, 2020. He was 83.

#### Tibor Bertalan,

S BA 66, September 10, 2020. He was 77.

#### René Vincent Bondoux,

S BComm 66, July 29, 2020. He was 83.

#### Eugene J. D'Iorio,

L BComm 66, January 20, 2020, Burnell, Fla. He was 75.

Alexis Barontseff, S BA 67, June 6, 2020, Burlington, Ont. He was 78.

#### Elliott Heft.

S BA 67, October 19, 2020. He was 77.

Pram M. Kerr, S BA 67. June 20, 2019. She was 92.

Carlos Lammens, S BSc 67. June 12, 2018. He was 79.

#### Fernando Palladino.

L BEng 67, November 6, 2020. He was 73.

Arne Robb, S BA 67, June 18, 2020, Kirkland, Que. He was 76.

Gerri Barrer, S BA 68, June 23, 2020. She was 72.

Eric E. Fox, S BComm 68, September 30, 2020. He was 77.

Ralph Gerstein, S BA 68, August 8, 2020.

#### **Patrick James**

Mayne, L BComm 68, September 18, 2020.

Patrick Alexander Glashan, L BSc 69, November 13, 2020. He was 72.

Terence Pye, L BA 69, July 3, 2018.

Dorothy Eveline Sparks,

S BA 69, August 3, 2020. She was 82.

#### Agnes Helen Bokross,

S BA 70, October 4, 2020. She was 98.

Michael Lazoff, L BSc 70, September 3, 2020.

#### Mark G. Prent,

S BA 70, September 2, 2020. He was 72.

#### Carol (Asner) Schreiber,

S BA 70, July 19, 2020. She was 92.

#### Kathyrn (Katy) Bindon,

S BA 71, September 9, 2020. She was 71.

#### Mark Israel Dubrovsky,

L BComm 71, August 6, 2020. He was 71.

#### Waguih Elias

**Tabet**, S BComm 71, October 16, 2020.

#### Jo-Coreen Margaret

**Waters**, S BA 72, August 7, 2020. She was 68.

**Russell Blakely**, S BSc 72. He was 71.

#### Alma Noreen Dobson,

S MTM 73, September 2, 2020, Calgary, Alb. She was 88.

**Elizabeth Freitag**, S BA 73, August 5, 2020. She was 92.

#### Eugene Robert (Bob)

**McBurney**, S BA 73, September 13, 2020.

#### Donald Stewart McLeod,

S MSc 74, November 10, 2020. He was 71.

#### Doris Darney Ramsey,

S BA 74, October 31, 2020. She was 92.

#### Frances Kay (Smith)

**Balogh**, BA 75, October 7, 2020.

#### James F. Gregson,

BA 75, June 26, 2020, Chateauguay, Que. He was 67.

José M. Perez, BComm 75, MCompSc 81, GrDip 87, February 1, 2020. He was 70.

#### Charlotte A. Toupin,

MA 75, September 18, 2019. She was 90.

#### Marcia (Lang) Goldsmith,

BA 76, June 11, 2020. She was 85.

#### Marilyn (Schwartz)

Schreiber, BA 76, BEd 79, September 30, 2020. She was 92.

#### Helen Donnelly Stashin,

BA 76, October 21, 2020, LaSalle, Que. She was 88.

**Kevin McGrath**, BComm 77, June 29, 2020. He was 65.

#### Robert Callender,

BEng 78, September 14, 2020. He was 65.

Nancy Miller, BA 78,

October 25, 2015. She was 65.

#### Phyllis Scott-Fiegel,

BA 78, March 5, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 91.

#### Elizabeth (Carroll)

McNamee, BA 79, September 26, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 104.

#### Florence (Shapiro)

**Weigens**, BA 79, October 14, 2020. She was 94.

#### Margie (Bloom) Auerbach,

BA 80, July 25, 2020. She was 95.

#### Ronald Neftin,

BComm 81, September 9, 2020. He was 62.

#### Elizabeth Riehm,

BA 81, August 11, 2020. She was 96.

#### Phyllis Allison Burns,

BA 82, June 17, 2020, Dorval, Que. She was 90.

#### George Lee Morris,

S BA 62, October 17, 2020. He was 80.

#### Leonard Edward Kent,

BA 84, October 11, 2020. He was 89.

#### Beverley Ann Stevens,

BSc 84, GrDip 93, October 10, 2020. She was 58.

**David Reich**, MEng 85, June 6, 2020. He was 92.

**Aurelio Vitale**, BEng 85, October 22, 2020.

**Daniel Oxley**, MFA 86, June 19, 2020. He was 66.

Richard Eugene Marquis,

EMBA 87, May 18, 2020.

#### Thomas Ian Catterill,

BA 88, October 6, 2020, Gabriola Island, B.C. He was 61.

#### Geneen Henrietta (Carson) Kumarapeli, MA 88,

October 13, 2020, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que.

#### Christina Laura Ash,

BA 91, July 15, 2020, Kingston, Ont. She was 55.

#### Diana (Goodwin) Cobb,

BA 91, September 7, 2020.

#### Philip Claude Huint,

BComm 91, MSc 99, July 12, 2020, Montreal, Que. He was 71.

**Birgit M. Sandmark**, BA 91, October 28, 2020, Victoria,

October 28, 2020, Victoria B.C. She was 90.

June C. Bos, BAdmin 92, January 13, 2020.

She was 82.

#### Arthur Herscovitch,

BA 92, September 3, 2020. He was 55.

#### Davis Joachim.

GrDip 92, October 27, 2020. He was 71.

#### David Carlyle Johnston,

BEd 94, October 15, 2020, Montreal, Que. He was 69.

Neil Uditsky, BA 94,

September 1, 2020, Toronto, Ont. He was 48.

#### Ross Brinkert.

BA 95, August 20, 2020. He was 49.

#### Marjory Eileen (Grimshaw)

**Broden**, BA 95, September 20, 2020. She was 90.

Frances M. Zyto, BA 95,

August 30, 2020.

#### Éric Alexandre Nadeau,

BA 97, August 2, 2019. He was 45.

#### Sandra Alfoldy,

MFA 97, PhD 01, February 24, 2019. She was 49.

**George Wall**, BFA 98, November 9, 2020.

#### Virginia Carol Shepley,

BA 01, August 22, 2020. She was 70.

Mario De Fazio, BSc 02, August 3, 2016. He was 36.

#### Stephan Marcellin Gaines,

BEd 02, June 6, 2020. He was 57.

#### Thomas A. Brzustowski.

LLD 03, June 19, 2020. He was 83.

**Arwa Abouon**, BFA 07, June 9, 2020, Montreal, Que. She was 38. ■

# Youthful echoes, soulful visions



MARCO BUTTICE

n her ninth published work, Louise Carson, BFA 79, moves from darkness to light in **Dog Poems** (Aeolus House Press, \$20). The collection addresses the duality of existence, from cheerful moments involving Starbucks baristas and stickers on bananas, to the consequences of living with chronic fatigue.

Tiffany Lafleur, BA 17, published her debut fantasy novel A Forgotten Past (Ellysian Press, \$14.99), the first in her The Sapeiro Chronicles series. Lily is a Spirit Hopper, one who can control animals and other people. While evading those who want to use her powers for their own gain, Lily seeks a group that might hold the key to her real identity. Trust, however, does not come easily for her — and her saviours have secrets of their own.

Alyssa Milani, BA 14, has written a new science-fiction thriller, A Truth Be Told (Ingram, \$15). Briana wakes up in a strange room with no memory of who she is, only to find a man named Charlie with her. Together, they try to escape an inevitable fate in a strange world inhabited by grotesque creatures bent on creating a new order.

A collaborative effort spanning the years of a relationship, Fire and Water (Black Moss Press, \$17.95) is a two-part book written by husband and wife Laurence Hutchman, MA 79, and Eva Kolacz. Through different interpretations of their union, Hutchman and Kolacz highlight the passionate and tender moments.

The first French young-adult novel by Virginie Karagirwa, BA 11, is currently available in bookstores across Quebec and in France. Alvira - Les enfants de Fador (Éditions ADA, \$21.95) follows Gabrielle, who discovers she is one of six chosen ones to liberate the parallel world of Alvira from the reign of its terrifying Regent. Guided by her protector, Gabrielle begins a journey in search of the other chosen ones dispersed around the world.

Journalist, editor and translator Heather Camlot, BA 94, recently published her novel The Other Side (Red Deer Press, \$14.95). The coming-of-age story centres on Liam, a 12-year-old boy swept up by the mystery of a young girl's death as he comes to terms with his German grandfather's past during the Second World War.

#### Sacramento Love

(Buttontapper Press, \$19.76) by Laura Roberts, BA 07, chronicles 26 fictional romances - eachsparked somewhere in the California state capital. Released as a companion to Roberts's forthcoming travel guidebook, Sacramento From A to Z, this short series of love notes embraces the spirit of the city as characters meet everywhere from diners and dive bars to some of Sacramento's most beloved landmarks.

Joey Vaccaro, BComm 81, GrDip 83, under the pen name Joe Torrence, exposes the widespread repercussions of wealth in The Poison of Money (American European Entertainment, \$21.99), based on a true story. Vaccaro takes us behind the scenes into the personal



life of Johnny Torrio, one of the most powerful men of the 20th century, and the dangers of family secrets.

Cedric Speyer, MA 87, and co-author John Yaphe bring together the historically separate domains of mental health and spiritual growth in Applications of a Psychospiritual Model in the Helping Professions: Principles of InnerView Guidance (Routledge, \$78.50). The book introduces the InnerView model, highlighting core concepts and methodologies involved in restoring "soul work" to therapeutic practice.

Set in the Greek community of Montreal's Mile End neighbourhood, A Foreign Country (Dumagrad, \$20) by Fotios Sarris, BA 85, traces the lives of the

narrator's parents, from their childhoods in war-torn Athens to their tragic ends in contemporary Montreal. The tale is a reflection on the vulnerability of Western secular beliefs to the powers of nationalism and the pull of history.

A new collection of poetry by Elda Pappadà, BA 05, entitled Freedom (FreiseinPress, hardcover \$30.86, paperback \$18.43), explores the relationships that we experience as we navigate the emotional highs and lows of everyday life. Written over a seven-year period, Pappadà's emotional archive is gleaned from the conversations we have with ourselves when we look in the mirror, and the internal struggles we all have about life, the soul and self-acceptance.

#### The Butcher of Park Ex and And Other Semi-Truthful Tales

(Guernica Editions, \$20) is a humorous collection of personal stories from Andreas Kessaris, BA 94, inspired by growing up in Montreal's Park Extension neighbourhood. A black sheep in his Greek community, Kessaris sets out on a 40-year search for answers, while trying to navigate a world where he is constantly the odd man out.

Montreal-based experimental artist R41ÑBoWTR4\$H-Dominique Pelletier, MA 14. - released a new album, Les Filles du Chalet (Rainbow Trash Records, \$10). The theremin player and sound designer, whose work oscillates between different genres of chip music and noise, promises that the work will be "uncomfortable even to those who appreciate it." ■

# A journey in self-discovery

LYDIE DUBUISSON, BFA 17

s a child, I had a difficult time seeing a clear path to my future. I was — and still am — a big dreamer. Most of my report cards came back with "distracted" as the recurring feedback. Despite that fantasizing as a child, I could have never imagined who I'd become today.

I was raised in a conservative evangelical family in a very small town on Montreal's South Shore. My upbringing focused on the rapture, the afterlife in heaven, a disdain for earthly pleasures and on becoming a wife.

After graduating from high school and realizing the rapture could take longer than expected, I panicked. I panicked because my fundamentalist education added to a society that erases Black girls and women from culture. I panicked because it became increasingly hard to imagine myself as something other than a statistic or stereotype.

Being a Black woman in Frenchspeaking Tiohtià:ke/Montreal is incredibly complex and confusing. Strangely enough, being a religious Black woman in white suburbia accustomed me to being an unstoppable oddball. It gave me the drive to exploit my creativity and take control of my destiny.

For as long as I can recall, I thought writers were the luckiest people in the world, so I placed that career on an unattainable pedestal. Through my upbringing, I was taught that Black women don't write. I didn't know about Maya Angelou because she was not to be spoken of in evangelical churches and she didn't exist in French education. Black women sing. So that's what I did.

After leaving home and my community, I joined the People's Gospel Choir of Montreal where I started my life as a singer.



"I embraced my story, my voice and my style on the seventh floor of the John Molson Building."

I then auditioned for a production of Jesus Christ Superstar with a community theatre company. I was hooked on musical theatre, yet yearned for more.

I was 32 when I enrolled at Concordia to become an English teacher. I was working at the Montreal Children's Hospital at the time and I'd spend my days catering to a team of surgeons and nurses who were passionate about their work. I changed course to audition for Concordia's Department of Theatre. I had read about the Theatre and Development program, which focused on theatre as a social vector for change. It was the first time I truly saw myself.

The program's mandate was to use theatre as a way to engage with community, and as a development tool

for education, therapy and exploration. It was theatre for empowerment an opportunity to be more than an entertainer. All it took was a few classes with professors Ted Little and Rachel Van Fossen to feel right at home in my program; I embraced my story, my voice and my style on the seventh floor of the John Molson Building.

I am a playwright, a director and a dramaturge. I write plays about what I know: Black girls in churches, isolated immigrants, the invisibility of intersectionality and hope. I share stories in English, French and also in Creole. Lydie Dubuisson from the 1980s would never have imagined this life. She would have never believed that she could be a creator or that her voice would be heard. I still don't know what my future holds, but I know I will allow myself to continue to dream big. ■

Lydie Dubuisson is the artistic associate for Montreal's Black Theatre Workshop (BTW). A reading of her play, Sanctuary, opened the BTW's 50th-anniversary season in January.



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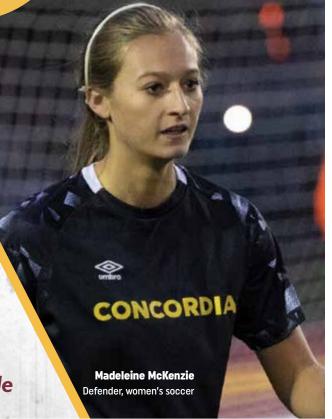




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