

CONCORDIA

PROVIDING  
**CREATIVE  
SOLUTIONS**  
TO TODAY'S  
**CHALLENGES**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
**2021**

*next-generation university*





# PROVIDING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S CHALLENGES

Because of the extraordinary challenges we've all faced, I'm extremely proud to highlight our community's outstanding accomplishments as we continue our impressive trajectory as one of the world's top-ranked young universities.

Beyond showcasing momentous research contributions by faculty and students, this year's report describes initiatives that anchor Concordia's commitment to social responsibility. The report captures our ambition and ability to think and act across sectors and disciplines to offer novel solutions to today's challenges.

One symbol of this is the new, LEED-certified Applied Science Hub that we opened on Loyola Campus in the midst of the pandemic. A state-of-the-art collaboration space, the hub is home to our new Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, clusters leading research centres in the natural sciences, wet labs for our District 3 Innovation Hub and a bioprocessing facility that will bring industry partners to campus.

Another major initiative is our new Next-Generation Cities Institute. Unique in North America, it mobilizes 14 research centres and more than 100 researchers, artists and their graduate students from all four faculties to support research on smart, sustainable, resilient cities. The institute will play a pivotal role as we deliver on our commitment to the Decade of Action advancing the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, this year's report contains a section on the immense contributions Concordians have made to the welfare of our city throughout the pandemic. We're an anchor institution in Montreal. Whether it's mobilizing our research, delivering high impact digital tools or curating award-winning community programming, we should all take pride in how our university has made a positive difference for society in a disruptive, disconcerting time.

**GRAHAM CARR**  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR



**message from the president**





# NEXT GEN NOW

## FINDING ANSWERS TO SOCIETY'S FAR-REACHING QUESTIONS

AS A NEXT-GENERATION UNIVERSITY, CONCORDIA SETS ITS SIGHTS FURTHER AND MORE BROADLY THAN OTHERS. WE ALIGN THE QUALITY OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO LARGER TRENDS AND SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGES FACING SOCIETY. WE PURSUE TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF OUR HUMANITY. WE FIND INSPIRATION THROUGH NARRATIVE AND DIALOGUE.

WE DIG DEEPER FOR SOLUTIONS.

### PANDEMIC AGILITY

Pivoting to adapt to COVID-19 disruption

### ENGAGEMENT

Bringing our insight, understanding, expertise and commitment to the public

### DISCOVERY

Performing innovative and dynamic knowledge creation across disciplines

### LEARNING

Reconfiguring the traditional classroom with new concepts

### SPACES

Using buildings to their fullest potential to foster multidisciplinary collaboration

### INNOVATION

Adopting novel approaches, judicious risk-taking and purposeful experimentation



# PANDEMIC AGILITY

## HIGHLIGHTS

### *CU Cares community outreach initiative makes a difference*

The COVID-19 crisis has shown Concordia's deep connection to the community. Early in the pandemic, the university launched CU Cares, a collaboration between the Concordia LIVE Centre — the on-campus volunteer resource — and University Advancement. CU Cares connects students, alumni, faculty and staff volunteers to community organizations across Montreal, with a special outreach program for elderly alumni.

The response was heartwarming. More than 400 Concordians, including many students, registered to donate their time, offer support and make much-needed social connections.

Katie Broad, coordinator of Concordia's LIVE Centre, says CU Cares focuses on virtual volunteering, such as letter writing, wellness calls and food preparation. As Broad said after the initial volunteer call, "With everything they are dealing with — the end of term, exams, uncertain summer employment — students are still thinking about what they can do to contribute to our communities."

### ▼ *CU at Home helps move Concordians from isolation to connection*

To bring personal connection during the COVID-19 pandemic, Concordians came together to create CU at Home — a virtual support network designed by the community for the community.

CU at Home offers students, alumni, faculty, staff and partners and their families a regular lineup of online programming spanning self-care workshops, family-friendly activities, fitness classes, art sessions, research webinars and more.

"These are challenging times for everyone. The health and well-being of our community and their families are a top priority," says Nadia Bhuiyan, Concordia's vice-provost of partnerships and experiential learning. "With activities related to coping with the crisis, keeping our kids entertained, adapting to working from home and learning new skills — there's something for everyone."

For instance, studio arts major Liza Isakov led a virtual workshop on how to make paint from natural pigment from vegetable skins. Gillian Leithman, BA 00, MSc 05, PhD 16, a corporate trainer and assistant professor of management, led a four-part Happiness Lab series. "The experience of fun, what the science of happiness would define as positive emotions, is not only essential to our happiness, but greatly contributes to resilience," Leithman explains.



*Able responding  
to the crisis — with care*



### ▼ Concordia-based research network ready to make surfaces safer for frontline workers

The Green-SEAM (Surface Engineering for Advanced Manufacturing) Network based at Concordia has stepped up to promote antiviral metallic and ceramic coatings as a way to slow the transmission of the viruses — including the coronavirus — on surface materials.

“We have a unique network of experts in surface engineering from 11 universities across Canada, 14 industrial companies and government laboratories who specialize in coating materials,” says Christian Moreau, director of Green-SEAM and Canada Research Chair in Surface Engineering. “We want to do everything in our power to connect frontline workers with industrial coating companies and research laboratories who have solutions.”



GREEN-SEAM

### Bringing chemistry labs to students

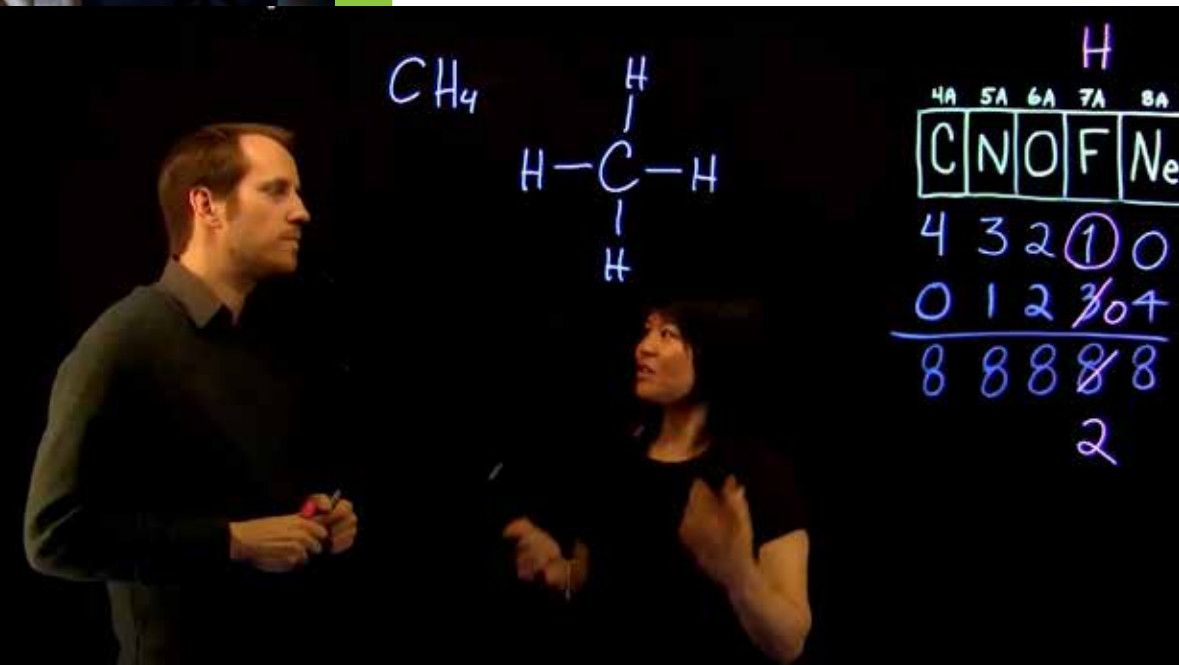
To give students the ability to experience hands-on science during a fully online course, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry provided at-home chemistry kits for the General Chemistry 1 class.

The kits contain lab-grade glassware, including beakers, flasks and graduated cylinders. They also have a weighing balance and a burette, the equipment that gives students the ability to measure mass and volume with reasonable accuracy and precision, which differentiates them from most recreational-use chemistry kits.

### Virtual conference on the healing power of stories

Award-winning documentary filmmaker, author and drama therapist Yehudit Silverman, professor emerita and former chair of Concordia's Department of Creative Arts Therapies, recently published *The Story Within – Myth and Fairy Tale in Therapy*. The book is geared for therapists or anyone seeking to use her therapeutic methods and offers a distinctive and creative process for transformation.

In October, Concordia's 4<sup>TH</sup> SPACE hosted The Story Within Conference, facilitated by Silverman. The online half-day conference, free and open to all, featured nine panellists who are leaders in the field of creative arts therapies and social sciences, and breakout groups for participants.



### ▲ Web-based tool will reduce risk of indoor SARS-CoV-2 transmission

A team of researchers led by Leon Wang, associate professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, built a web-based tool to estimate the risk of indoor airborne transmission of the coronavirus in Montreal's buildings.

Wang, alongside PhD students Ali Katal and Maher Albettar, developed the City Reduced Probability of Infection site, which calculates the probability of infection through aerosol transmission in indoor spaces and offers best practices to improve building air quality, which could help slow the spread of the virus.

### ◀ Lightboard studios assist faculty with online instruction

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Concordia to find innovative ways for professors to record and share lectures online. Luckily, the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) had already set up two lightboard studios, one on each campus, prior to the current crisis. Lightboards are writable glass panels equipped with LED lights that illuminate the content written or sketched onto the surface.

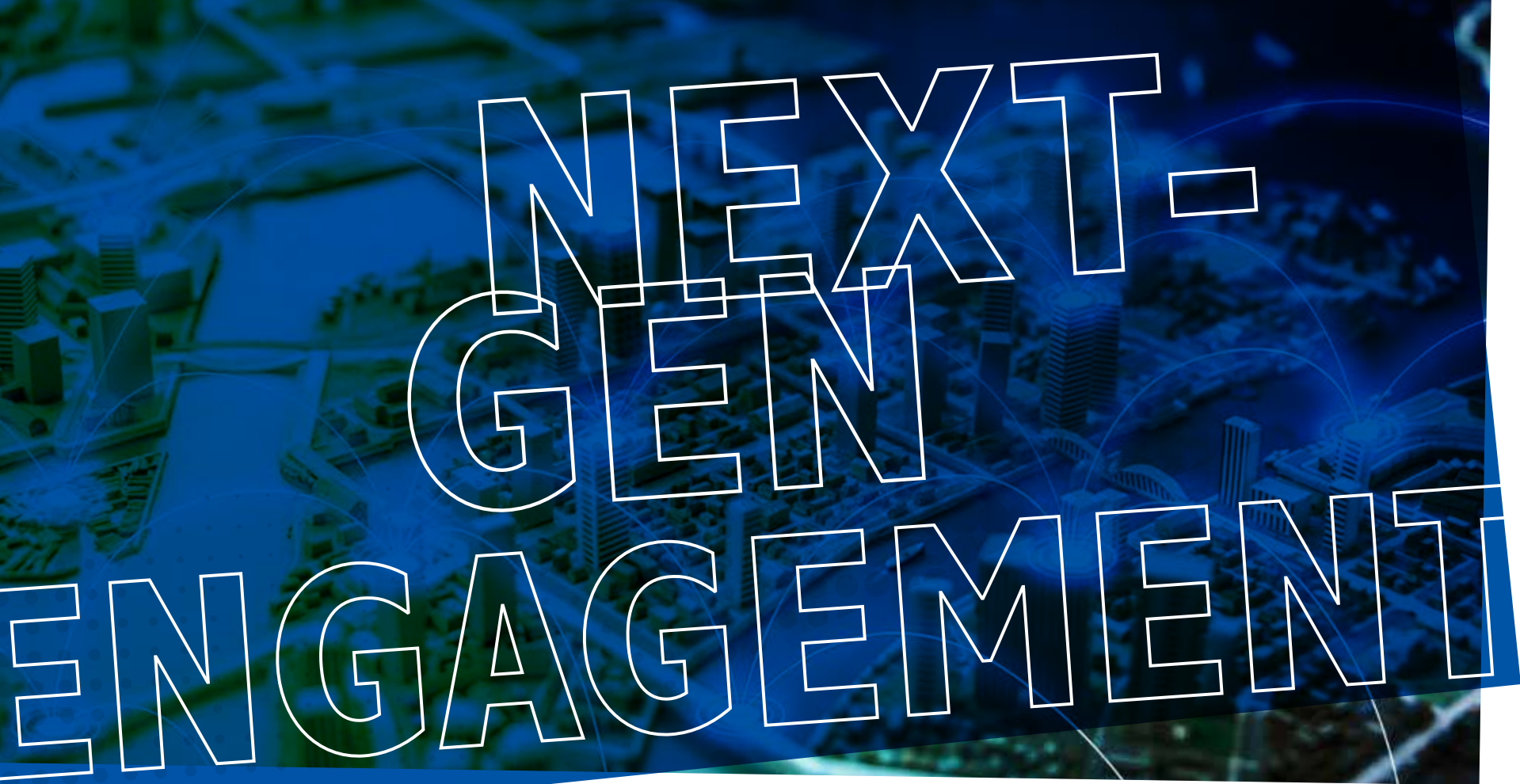
“They give faculty a unique space to create visual learning content that makes them feel like they’re teaching in their own studio classroom,” says Rob Cassidy, CTL’s director.

### The engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response virtually connects to older adults

Concordia's Centre for Research on Aging, engAGE, rose to the challenge of the COVID-19 crisis with support from the Fonds de recherche du Québec — Santé. Led by Janis Timm-Bottos, associate professor in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies, engAGE aims to combat social isolation among older adults through conversation, art making and media creation.

The team created the engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response (ELLDER), which was adapted to bring creative engagement to elders. ELLDER documents cost-effective, health-promoting models to bring isolated seniors, university students and researchers together.





**Fulfilling our pledge to  
create a better world**

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

Concordia has pledged to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a call to action and game plan for promoting prosperity while protecting the planet.

Along with environmental sustainability, the 17 global goals cover sustainability relating to social justice, inclusivity, the economy, strengthening institutions and fostering collaboration on development across sectors and organizations.

Concordia will use the goals as a framework for continued action in support of sustainable development in the community and throughout the world. The university will undertake a broad range of SDG-related teaching, research, engagement, innovation and operational activities.

### **Concordia launches its Sustainability Action Plan**

In the fall, the university unveiled its Sustainability Action Plan, which includes a long-term vision as well as five-year plans around five stream topics: food, waste, climate, research and curriculum.

"The streams allowed for a diverse set of voices to be represented and removed the sense of silos between operational and academic units," says Michael Di Grappa, Concordia's new vice-president of services and sustainability.

The plan's long-term goals will guide short-term actions and priorities. It will combine with other efforts to support Concordia's commitment to accelerate solutions to the UN's SDGs.

### **Black Perspectives Initiative kicks off**

Concordia's Black Perspectives Initiative (BPI) launched in February through the Faculty of Arts and Science. BPI connects and supports activities related to Black perspectives, initiatives and scholarship on campus and within the broader Montreal community. It offers funding, mentorship, programming and research dissemination.

"At its core, this project was informed by Black student activism, which has been very strong at Concordia since the university's inception. The BPI allows for those perspectives to be heard, respected and supported from within the university's structure," says Annick Maugile Flavien, BSc 13, GrDip 15, MA 18, founding coordinator.

### **Concordia launches the Task Force on Anti-Black Racism**

As part of its responsibility to the community, Concordia launched its President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism in October.

"Over summer 2020, I began meeting with Black faculty, staff, students and alumni," says Anne Whitelaw, interim provost and vice-president, academic. "It was clear that the university experience was not one of equitable access for many of our Black students, faculty and staff"

The task force's mandate is to oversee and coordinate the work needed to generate recommendations that will address systemic anti-Black racism as it occurs across the university — in employment, policies, teaching and learning practices.



ANNICK MAUGILE FLAVIEN



### Indigenous personas initiative seeks to achieve more inclusive digital environments

As part of Concordia's Digital Strategy, the university partnered with Leger to run a series of public consultations with Indigenous students and faculty. The collaboration produced Indigenous student and faculty personas to help highlight important considerations when planning inclusive digital environments.

"The public consultations with Indigenous students and faculty have provided a better understanding of the specific challenges related to Concordia's digital environment," says Guylaine Beaudry, vice-provost of digital strategy and university librarian. "This information will help shape the university's digital priorities to ensure more respectful, reciprocal and mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous members of our community."

### Who is responsible for protecting communities facing the impacts of COVID-19?

"We are in this together. We care." An overwhelming number of businesses communications expressed this sentiment early on in the COVID-19 pandemic — but not for long.

Department of Marketing faculty Zeynep Arsel and Aya Aboelenien and York University's Charles Cho note in their published article that "care" reached a ceiling — and, eventually, the responsibility to limit the virus's impact shifted from organizations to consumers. Their research findings reveal that when there is ambiguity of scientific knowledge, such as with COVID-19, organizations should "not wait for government or organizational directives to try and 'act right,'" Arsel says.

### Groundbreaking exhibition celebrates past, present and future Inuit art

Heather Igloliorte, associate professor of art history and Tier 1 Concordia University, was one of the INUA exhibition's co-curators, who represented the four regions of Inuit Nunangat, the homeland of Inuit in Canada.

INUA virtually launched Qaumajuq, the new centre at the Winnipeg Art Gallery dedicated to Inuit art and culture. The show features approximately 100 works from over 90 Inuit artists from across northern Canada, as well as some in the urban south and from circumpolar Indigenous artists.

### Tainted H<sub>2</sub>O project earns national recognition

Tainted H<sub>2</sub>O, a project coordinated by Concordia's Institute for Investigative Journalism, won the Radio Television Digital News Association Dan McArthur Award for investigative journalism. The nationwide collaborative investigation exposed dangerous lead levels in Canada's drinking water.

Tainted H<sub>2</sub>O was a yearlong investigation conducted by more than 120 journalists from nine universities and six media groups. The investigation reviewed thousands of undisclosed results and tested water from hundreds of homes in 11 different cities. One-third of tests exceed the national safety directives.

### Concordia initiative will direct Canadian component of the World Values Survey

The new Center for Research on Values, Attitudes and Societies will give researchers access to data from the World Values Survey, to help them better understand how principles and attitudes evolve. The survey observes human values, beliefs and behaviours in up to 80 countries.

The centre is co-directed by Department of Political Science professors Guy Lachapelle, who will also supervise the project in Canada with the help of collaborators, and Antoine Bilodeau. The centre received \$350,000 in funding from the Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes and Concordia.



### Professor partners with Cree to protect 30,000+ square kms of Indigenous territory

A SSHRC-funded research partnership explored ways to protect land of the Cree community of Wemindji, located on the coast of James Bay, Quebec, in the context of growing pressure from extensive development.

Members of the Cree community worked with Monica Mulrennan, associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment and associate vice-president of research, development and outreach in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, and a multidisciplinary team of natural scientists and social scientists. Mulrennan also co-edited *Caring for the Eeyou Istchee: Protected Areas Creation on Wemindji Cree Territory*, a book that documents the decades-long project.

### Community Service Initiative connects business students with non-profits

Dave McKenzie, GrDip 93, MA 03, is coordinator of the MBA Community Service Initiative (CSI), which he founded in 2008. The initiative, embedded in the John Molson School, creates opportunities for experiential learning by connecting faculty resources to the needs of the wider community.

As pressures on resource-strapped community organizations intensify, McKenzie oversees the CSI's role to help ensure that agility-boosting business techniques are paired with a recognition of communities as experts on their own requirements. He asks, "How can we really help, and what do they want us to do?"





## Breakthrough investigations for tomorrow



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **\$1.65M grant will advance research toward environmental goals**

Concordia has partnered with global sustainability network Future Earth to launch a scientific training program for students at the intersection of environmental science and digital innovation. The program received \$1.65 million over six years from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Collaborative Research and Training Experience program to further scientific research on climate, biodiversity and other critical sustainability goals.

Damon Matthews, Tier 1 Concordia University Research Chair in Climate Science and Sustainability and professor of geography, planning and environment, is spearheading the Leadership in Environmental and Digital Innovation for Sustainability project.



NATALIE PHILLIPS



CARLY ZITER

CARLY ZITER

#### **Helping 5G technology become a reality**

The expected surge of connected objects is a major hurdle to the deployment of fifth-generation wireless technology — known as 5G.

Recent Gina Cody School doctoral graduate Mohaned Chraiti, PhD 20, found an innovative approach to this challenge. “Because there will be millions of devices connected to the network, there is a good chance that many of these will be accessing the same information,” he says. He adds that his work aims to “exploit the similarities between the data transmitted to the users. This way, the same information doesn’t need to be sent out multiple times.”

#### ◀ **Natalie Phillips examines the link between sensory acuity and cognition in aging**

A paper co-authored by Natalie Phillips, professor in the Department of Psychology, found that sensory acuity — especially poor hearing — is linked to declines in memory and executive function in otherwise relatively healthy, autonomous, community-dwelling older adults.

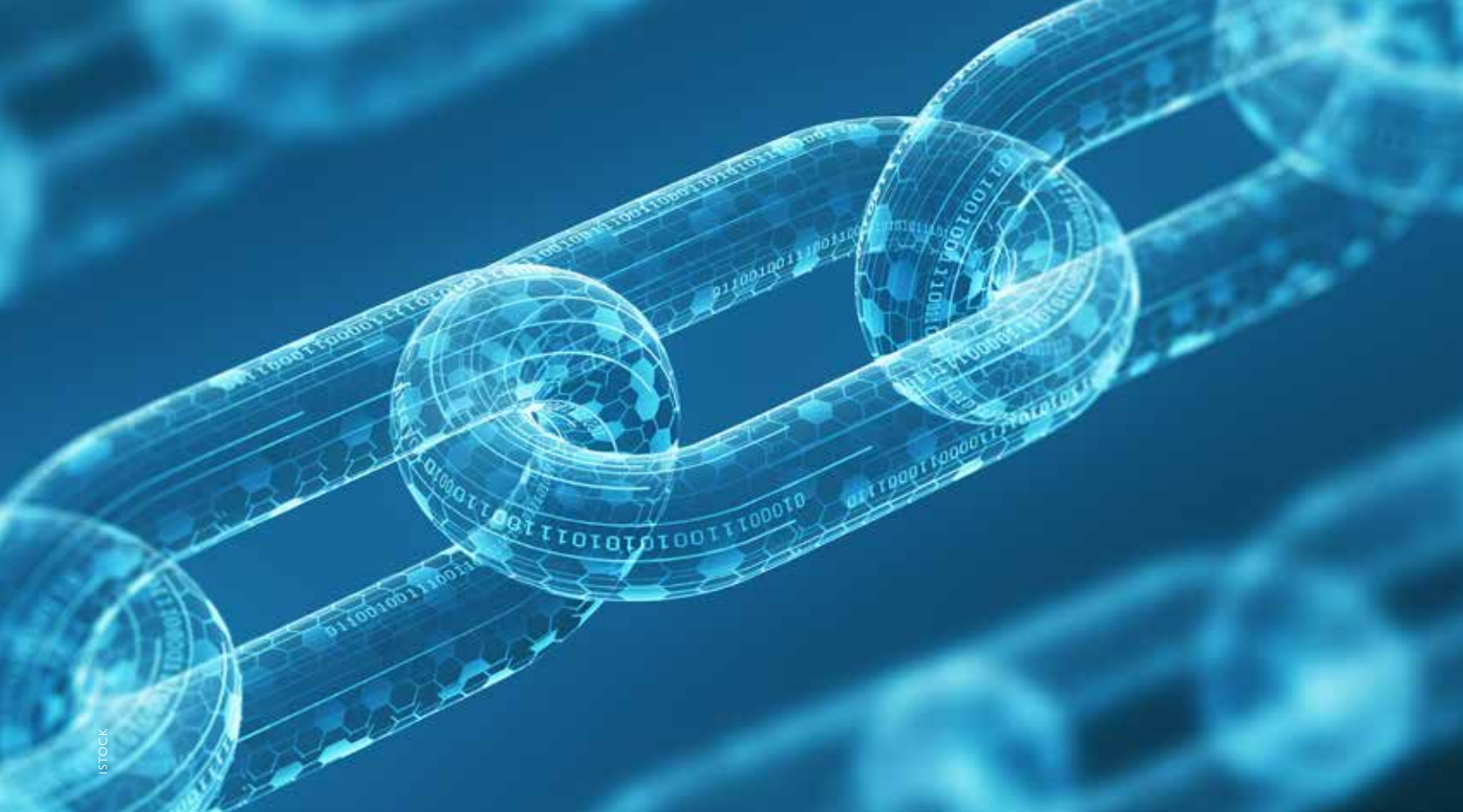
Their paper asks if social factors — loneliness, depression and so on — also play a role in cognitive decline. “All we can say at this point is that individuals who have poorer sensory abilities have poorer cognitive abilities, and we can’t explain it by more restricted social networks or social functioning,” she says.

#### **NDG residents asked to measure the trees in their own backyards** ▲

The NDG Tree Project, led by Carly Ziter, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, invited residents of Montreal’s Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood to explore and document urban trees — in their own backyards. They use everyday tools to collect simple trunk measurements and photos and submit them to the research team.

“Montreal is fortunate to have an excellent public tree inventory, but many of the city’s trees are actually located on private land, and we know very little about them,” says Ziter. Her work as a member of the Smart Sustainable Resilient Cities and Communities team finds nature-based solutions to ensure the health and well-being of urban residents.





### **Tinder provides an example of how people use technology for more than expected**

Tinder has become the go-to app to facilitate hookups and casual dating. However, some of the app's estimated 50 million-plus worldwide users are employing it quite differently — from multilevel marketing to political and health campaigning to promoting local gigs.

This so-called “off-label use” is explored in a paper published by Stefanie Duguay, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies. “When people encounter a new technology, whether it’s a hammer or a computer, they use it in ways that fit their needs and lifestyle,” Duguay says.

### **\$2.25M to develop next-generation cybersecurity, AI technology and policy ▲**

Teams at Concordia are improving how unmanned autonomous vehicles operate through groundbreaking multidisciplinary research — now with support from Canada’s Department of National Defence (DND).

Khashayar Khorasani, professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has received \$2.25 million over three years from the DND. Khorasani will lead two interdisciplinary, collaborative networks to develop innovative defence technologies and define the policies that govern them.

The two grants focus on the improvement of autonomous systems for unmanned aerial vehicles — think drones — by applying next-generation cybersecurity and artificial intelligence principles.

### **The effects of obesity mirror those of aging ►**

According to the World Health Organization, more people are dying from being overweight than underweight.

In a published paper, a research team led by Sylvia Santosa, associate professor in the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology, argue that obesity should be considered as premature aging. The paper looks at how obesity predisposes people to acquiring the kinds of potentially life-altering or life-threatening diseases normally seen in older individuals: compromised genomes, weakened immune systems, decreased cognition, increased chances of developing type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer and other illnesses.

### **Concordia-led collaborative research looks at deindustrialization**

Twenty-four researchers and dozens of partner organizations will collaborate on a transnational investigation into working-class job loss and its political consequences in the West due to deindustrialization. The project is based at Concordia’s Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling under the direction of Steven High, professor in the Department of History.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) provided extensive financial support for the seven-year-long project. Much of the research will focus on oral histories, which will allow researchers to see the consequences through the eyes of communities and individuals.



### **How corporations can shield themselves from local corruption**

The problem of corruption, or rent-seeking, is endemic in most countries to varying degrees. A published paper co-authored by Lawrence Kryzanowski, professor in the Department of Finance, shows how corporations can adopt ways to avoid being the target of corrupt high-ranking officials.

“Managers and CEOs of firms can either go along with rent-seeking by political actors, or they can take certain strategies to make themselves less attractive,” Kryzanowski says. For example, if a business opts to spend or borrow cash on an acquisition, it will lack the funds to pay off a predatory official.

### **Former right-wing extremists can help counter recruitment into violent organizations**

Two Concordia researchers present in-depth analyses in their published interviews with former members of right-wing extremist groups who departed for a variety of reasons — usually at significant personal risk. Their candid interviews reveal ways to prevent and counter recruitment into these groups and options available to those who want to leave.

The papers’ lead authors are Ryan Scrivens, a former Horizon Postdoctoral Fellow at Concordia and now an assistant professor at Michigan State University’s School of Criminal Justice, and Maxime Bérubé, a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow working with Concordia’s Project Someone.



**Outstanding faculty and programs  
deliver knowledge and expertise**

# NEXT- GEN LEARNING

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate opens**

The Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate opened at Concordia's John Molson School of Business in September. The centre will be a hub for teaching and research on commercial and residential real estate, a first of its kind in Canada.

"Real estate is a very sophisticated industry, requiring an awful lot of talent and knowledge from the people who enter the workforce," says Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, chairman of Canderel and Concordia chancellor, whose \$10 million gift to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now created the centre. "My hope is that our centre will provide the education and backing that our students need in a very demanding world."

### **Expanding experiential learning opportunities**

The Experiential Learning Office launched the Beat the Odds Program in the summer to support those most likely to face barriers to employment and career advancement. The program helps foster greater equity among students who will benefit most from a paid professional experience in their field of study.

"The program helps ensure inclusiveness and actively promotes these opportunities to address challenges often encountered by international, Black and Indigenous students, peoples of colour, students with significant financial challenges, students who are parents and students with disabilities," explains Nadia Bhuiyan, vice-provost of partnerships and experiential learning.

### **Scholar receives major Universities Art Association of Canada award**

Martha Langford, distinguished university research professor in the Department of Art History and research chair and director of Concordia's Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art, received the 2020 Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC) Recognition Award. The award recognizes association members or non-members who have demonstrated unselfish and devoted service to the UAAC and a commitment to the ideals of the profession.

"I am touched beyond words to be recognized by UAAC, an organization that truly encourages the interaction between established and emerging scholars — that is the lifeblood of our field," Langford says.



### **Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance receives \$1.8M award**

Concordia's Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance (CSLP) received a \$1.8 million infrastructure grant from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture. The grant, spaced over seven years, is intended to allow organizations to coordinate the efforts of interdisciplinary research groups.

The CSLP aims to have a positive social impact through research on teaching and learning processes, working especially to develop educational tools and strategies. Pursuing these goals, the centre carries out research at the intersection of cognitive science, instructional design, educational technologies and social pedagogy.

### **Concordia literacy programming adapted for school closures in Kenya ▲**

The CSLP has collaborated for the past five years on a project to improve early primary students' literacy in a remote part of Kenya. The partners had been using ABRACADABRA, an interactive instructional software that teaches foundational literacy skills, and READS, an organized catalogue of free digital stories, part of Concordia's Learning Toolkit software.

When schools closed due to COVID-19, the partners initiated a pilot project called ABRA@Home to transform the digital literacy approach so students and parents can use it at home. In all, they reached more than 100 students.



### **Catherine Mulligan named president of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering**

Contaminated soil, polluted harbours, toxic sediment — these are all-too-common problems for a society that's struggling to clean up the environment while searching for eco-friendly energy supplies. Thankfully, environmental engineers like Catherine Mulligan are on the job.

Mulligan, professor in the Department of Building, Civil, and Environmental Engineering and Concordia Research Chair in Geoenvironmental Sustainability (Tier I), is a pioneer of green remediation technologies as well an internationally recognized expert in the decontamination of water, soil and sediments. She became the first Concordian to become president of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering — and the third woman in that role.

### **John Molson executives in residence bring expertise to Concordia**

The John Molson School executives in residence bring their extensive experience to help support students and faculty. Corrine Charette, BSc 75, LLD 11, held the position from 2018 to 2020. Her work centres on IT and data governance. Current executive in residence Louise Champoux-Paillé focuses on equal opportunity for women in business.

Champoux-Paillé has co-written several articles with Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School. "We recently published an article about the importance and success of female leadership during the pandemic in *The Conversation* and in *Premières en affaires*," Champoux-Paillé says.

# NEXT-GEN SPACES

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ◀ **\$63M Applied Science Hub opens**

The Applied Science Hub — a \$63.1-million, LEED-certified, state-of-the-art facility — opened on Loyola Campus in December. The hub was built thanks to \$36.7 million in support from the Government of Canada and Government of Quebec. Its strategic design enables interdisciplinary collaboration and research between faculty and students in the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science as well as the District 3 Innovation Hub.

The science hub also houses the Centre for NanoScience Research, which engages in multiple areas of nanotechnology research; the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, which has the capacity to tackle research that addresses our post-carbon world, among other things; and District 3's BioHub, a first of its kind in Canada, where early-stage scientific entrepreneurs have access to programs, networks and facilities to help them develop market-ready innovations.

**Advanced facilities ensure long-term viability and cross-disciplinary cooperation**



APPLIED SCIENCE HUB



# NEXT-GEN INNOVATION

## Taking the creative route to solving real issues

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Concordia launches the Next-Generation Cities Institute

The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing cities to transform their public spaces and services and reclaim their economic and cultural vibrancy while maintaining ecologically sustainable practices. These types of challenges will inform research at Concordia's newly established Next-Generation Cities Institute, which gathers researchers from a broad range of disciplines.

"Cities generate most of the world's gross domestic product and are the locus of innovation and productivity," says Ursula Eicker, the institute's interim director and Canada Excellence Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities. "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."



ROCH GLITHO

#### Building the digital highway to 5G — and beyond

"Having fast, reliable communications is a necessity to enable the next generation of 'smart' Internet of Thing (IoT) devices," says Roch Glitho, professor and Canada Research Chair at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering.

Glitho was appointed Canada's first Ericsson/ENCQOR 5G Industrial Research Chair in Cloud and Edge Computing for 5G and Beyond. Edge computing is when some processing tasks are distributed and processed closer to the source of the data to decrease the chance of delays and/or dropped messages. 5G is the emerging digital infrastructure needed to accommodate the coming wave of IoT devices.

#### District 3 creates a bioeconomy fast track

Concordia's District 3 Innovation Hub 3 hosted the four-week intensive BioLingual Program in the summer to enable business professionals and engineers to understand the science and language behind biotech — crucial for those who wish to work in the emerging bioeconomy.

The program offers practical multidisciplinary learning opportunities through several interactive live online sessions. Participants learned how the latest technologies are used to engineer biological solutions and began developing their networks by meeting startups and biotech scientists looking for co-founders and team members.

#### Novel approach to synthesizing essential medicines named a top Quebec discovery

Many modern medicines are derived from rare molecules found in plants and bacteria yet are difficult to produce in large quantities. A study published by Vincent Martin, biology professor and Concordia University Research Chair in Microbial Engineering and Synthetic Biology, and his California colleagues outlines a quicker and more efficient process.

Using cutting-edge synthetic biology approaches, they were able to produce a large amount of benzyloquinoline alkaloid to synthesize an array of natural and new-to-nature chemical structures in a yeast-based platform. This, Martin explains, can provide a blueprint for the large-scale production of thousands of products, including the opioid analgesics morphine and codeine.

Québec Science named the research by as one of the top 10 discoveries of 2020.



VINCENT MARTIN



### Looking to aggregate environmental knowledge for stakeholders ▶

Maria Maisuradze, BComm 09, project manager of the Sustainability Ecosystem, acknowledges that there is little time to develop curricula or train educators about sustainability education before it becomes irrelevant.

This is just one of the issues that Sustainability Ecosystem, hosted at Concordia's John Molson Executive Centre, is looking to rectify for the community in Montreal and beyond. To help overcome this hurdle, Sustainability Ecosystem developed the Learning Labs, which are designed to deepen understanding on quickly evolving environmental, social and governance topics and help catalyze the adoption of sustainable practices for businesses, asset owners and investors.

### Concordia engineers help develop an emergency response drone

Luis Rodrigues, professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is collaborating with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in developing autonomous navigation and control for Ambular, an emergency response urban air mobility vehicle. The ambulance drone is designed to transport people in tight, hazardous urban environments from their homes to the hospital.

ICAO's Ambular team approached Rodrigues to assist in building a full-scale mock-up. "We will design algorithms to plan trajectories and control the vehicle to fly safely from source to destination in response to an emergency," Rodrigues says.



MARIA MAISURADZE

### Sustainable Investing Practicum promotes environmentally and socially driven investment

The John Molson School signed a partnership agreement with Manulife Investment Management to establish the first sustainable investing practicum at a Canadian university. The program's inaugural cohort started in May.

The three-credit Sustainable Investing Practicum enables undergraduate business students to better understand the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing in a capital market environment. "The ultimate goal of this practicum is to demonstrate the superiority of ESG investing as an investment philosophy," explains Amr Addas, adjunct professor in the Department of Finance. "I believe all investment decisions should ultimately be considered through an ESG lens."

# ABOUT CONCORDIA

**#1 in North America**  
University under 50 years

**75% of courses**  
have fewer than 60 students

**#1 favourite student city**  
in North America

Concordia is a next-generation university, continually reimagining the future of higher education. Located in the vibrant and multicultural city of Montreal, Concordia is the top-ranked university in North America founded within the last 50 years and annually registers some 51,000 students through its innovative approach to experiential learning and cross-functional research.

## MONTREAL: CENTRE OF INNOVATION

Concordia is committed to improving its city and society through its research creation, progressive vision and community engagement.

### SUSTAINABILITY

From student initiatives and strategic planning to courses and volunteer opportunities, sustainability permeates every level of Concordia's thinking.

### ENGAGEMENT

The university puts community engagement at the heart of its mission, vision and purpose by building mutually beneficial relationships and responding to local priorities.

### MONTREAL

The cosmopolitan hub, which affords residents and visitors an unmatched *joie de vivre*, is officially among the best places in the world to be a student.

### HISTORY

Concordia helps preserve the city's rich and storied past with archival collections and a heritage site.

**#1 in Canada** Quality Education toward UN Sustainable Development Goals, THE Impact Rankings

CONCORDIA.CA/ABOUT





## MULTICULTURAL AND CONNECTED STUDENTS

Our diverse student body benefits from 400 undergraduate and 200 graduate programs, and six types of experiential learning opportunities.

**50,900**  
students

**3,000+**  
co-op students

**10,000+**  
international students

**150**  
countries represented

## BOLD, DARING, INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE

Concordia's nine strategic directions guide the work of designing a next-generation university.

- 1 DOUBLE OUR RESEARCH**  
Pursue bold goals in research that reflect our talents and our ambition to tackle big challenges.
- 2 TEACH FOR TOMORROW**  
Deliver a next-generation education that's connected, transformative, and fit for the times.
- 3 GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY**  
Use rich experiences outside the classroom to deepen learning and effect change.
- 4 MIX IT UP**  
Build agile structures that facilitate intellectual mixing and internal collaboration.
- 5 EXPERIMENT BOLDLY**  
Be inventive and enterprising in creating tomorrow's university.
- 6 GROW SMARTLY**  
Add capacity where our strengths and emerging enrolment demand intersect.
- 7 EMBRACE THE CITY, EMBRACE THE WORLD**  
Achieve public impact through research and learning.
- 8 GO BEYOND**  
Push past the status quo and go the extra mile for members of our community.
- 9 TAKE PRIDE**  
Celebrate successes and be purposeful about building a legacy.

## INTEGRATED FACULTY

Our professors and researchers advance forward-looking knowledge and discovery and are connected to a far-reaching network.

**2,150+**  
professors and librarians

**118**  
Research Chairs

**\$61.9 million+**  
research income

## COMMITTED TO DECOLONIZATION AND INDIGENIZATION

Concordia acknowledges that it is situated on unceded Indigenous lands and recognizes the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation as the custodians of the surrounding lands and waters. The university is committed to truth and reconciliation and engaging with ongoing Indigenous issues.

**1st**  
First Peoples major in Quebec

**1992**  
Aboriginal centre opens

**1**  
Indigenous Directions Action Plan

**30**  
Indigenous graduate scholarships





## LOOKING FORWARD

With close to \$15 million raised in the 2020 calendar year, the **Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.** has rallied our community and further secured our place as Canada's next-generation university. As we reimagine how universities can best serve society in a complex and rapidly changing world, there is no better time to give.

Chaired by business leader and philanthropist **Lino A. Saputo Jr.**, BA 89, and recent Order of Canada appointees **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, and **Andrew Molson**, the Campaign for Concordia is facilitating forward-thinking education and research.

A heartfelt thank-you to our generous donors — your support is helping us advance leading-edge learning to benefit more than 51,000 students, 6,600 faculty and staff, and 220,000 alumni around the world.

Learn more at [concordia.ca/campaign](https://concordia.ca/campaign).

# THE FUTURE OF GIVING



1



2

## A LEGACY OF LOVE: THE KELLY-ANNE DRUMMOND SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly-Anne Drummond, BA 02 **1**, enrolled at Concordia more than two decades ago to study communications and explore her interests in sound, video and journalism. Active in sports, she became a member of the Stingers women's rugby team.

Friends and professors alike admired Kelly-Anne's sunny attitude, inquisitive mind and determination to see every project through to the end. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in 2002.

In October 2004, Kelly-Anne tragically lost her life to domestic violence — a heinous crime that left her family, friends and community in a state of insurmountable shock and grief.

"Kelly-Anne loved life," says Doreen Haddad **2**, Kelly-Anne's mother. "A scholarship in her memory was the natural thing to do."

The Kelly-Anne Drummond Scholarship provides \$1,000 of annual support to a standout full-time woman undergraduate who balances successful academic results with rugby. Created in 2019-20 in partnership with the women's rugby program, the award celebrates a student athlete who "was a guiding light with an infectious smile."

"I believe that this is what Kelly-Anne would want me to do," says Doreen Haddad. "To honour her legacy at a place she loved and respected. Candidates for this scholarship are students who are role models — students like Kelly-Anne."

To honour the memory of Kelly-Anne Drummond, please consider a gift to support the annual Kelly-Anne Drummond Scholarship.

Visit [engage.concordia.ca/donate/kelly-anne-drummond-scholarship](https://engage.concordia.ca/donate/kelly-anne-drummond-scholarship).



## MAJOR GIFTS

### 'CONCORDIA WAS WHERE MY DREAMS TURNED INTO PLANS': PAUL HADDAD SUPPORTS THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS AND COMPUTER SCIENTISTS

Successful entrepreneur Paul Haddad, BEng 94 <sup>3</sup>, is giving back to his alma mater 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 annual bursaries of \$5,000 to undergraduate students.

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

"These are difficult subjects that require dedication," says Haddad. "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 Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement at Concordia, appreciates Haddad's commitment to the university.

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



Haddad was fascinated with computers from a young age 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 as an encouraging influence.

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

He next served as a senior executive at the likes of Concurrent and Cablevision Media Sales.

While holding several patents in advanced data and information management systems and bandwidth exchange technology, Haddad branched out again. He founded a4 Media in 2016 and built the data-driven advertising technology business into a profitable company with over \$350 million in annual revenues.

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







SUPPORTING THE  
NEXT GENERATION  
MAJOR GIFTS TO THE  
CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA:  
NEXT-GEN. NOW

A **\$1-million** gift from an anonymous donor will support bursaries at the John Molson School of Business.

An anonymous gift of **\$500,000** was made to bolster the Concordia Social Innovation Project Fund.

The **Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation** **4** gave **\$369,400** in renewed support to the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art for graduate students enrolled in the Faculty of Fine Arts. The Université du Québec à Montréal, a partner with Concordia in the fellowship initiative, received the same level of support from the foundation.

The **Rossy Foundation** **5** made gifts of **\$350,578** and **\$300,000** to support projects undertaken by the Department of Journalism's Institute for Investigative Journalism. The foundation also gave **\$100,000** to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Relief Fund.

**Esther Mayer** and **Robert Heft** made gifts of **\$290,000** and **\$250,000** to establish the Nathaniel and Gabriel Mayer-Heft Graduate Scholarship. The award will support Judaic Studies PhD students in the Department of Religions and Cultures.

Concordia's **Engineering and Computer Science Association** gave **\$264,000** towards the ECA Engineering and Computer Science Equipment Fund.

After an initial **\$110,000** in support towards the COVID-19 Emergency Student Relief Fund, Concordia's **Graduate Students' Association** gave an additional **\$54,000** to help fellow students in need.

Via his Flash Fund Foundation, **Kenneth Woods**, **6** MBA 75, LLD 17, pledged **\$153,028** to further support finance students in the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program as well as student-athletes.

The **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec** pledged **\$150,000** to establish a Sustainability Ecosystem at the John Molson School of Business. The Ecosystem will unite industry experts, support service providers, task forces and specialists to share and advance knowledge in sustainability.

The **Trottier Family Foundation** **7** made a gift of **\$150,000** toward the Sustainability Ecosystem.

The **Inspirit Foundation** pledged a combined **\$130,000** to support the operational needs of the Institute for Investigative Journalism and, for a period of two years, an Indigenous journalist position. The selected individual will help lead and coordinate reporting on ongoing and new investigations.

A gift of **\$115,000** from the **Flanagan Foundation** will support the mission of Concordia's multidisciplinary Social Justice Centre, which consists of more than 80 faculty from 27 academic departments.

**Mitchell Kendall** pledged **\$115,000** to create the Nicole and Mitchell Kendall Endowment in support of the Nicole and Mitchell Kendall Bursary. The bursary supports female undergraduates at Concordia who are residents or former residents of On Our Own, a not-for-profit community organization that provides subsidized housing, programs and services for young parents.

**Paul B. Haddad**, BEng 94, gave **\$100,000** toward the Paul Haddad Bursary in Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Haddad Family Scholarship.

The late **Gaston Lamontagne** gave **\$100,000** toward the Student Emergency and Food Fund.

The **Naim S. Mahlab Foundation** gave **\$100,000** toward the Naim Mahlab Fellowships Endowment, which supports students enrolled in Jewish and Israeli Studies, and the Student Emergency and Food Fund.

With a gift of **\$100,000**, **Norman Raschkowan** lent support to the Raschkowan Creative Arts Therapies Outreach Projects Awards at the Faculty of Fine Arts.

**Brian Neysmith**, BSc 66, former Board of Governors member, has made another **\$75,000** gift to fund the Carolyn and Brian Neysmith Graduate Fellowships. Brother **John Neysmith**, BComm 68, BA 72, a student mentor and dedicated volunteer, gave an additional **\$50,000** to the Neysmith Family Undergraduate Bursaries.

**Richard Stilwell**, BA 68, made a **\$75,000** pledge to establish the Richard T. Stilwell Sr. Memorial Adopt-A-Student Bursary. The entrance bursary will support students admitted to a full-time undergraduate degree in any area of study.

**Holger Kluge**, BComm 71, gave **\$74,000** to the John Molson School of Business. The former chairman of Shoppers Drug Mart will support management students with a namesake annual bursary as well as case competition students at the undergraduate and MBA levels.

The **Ajram Family Foundation** pledged **\$66,666.67** to support Concordia's Greatest Needs.

The **Michaëlle Jean Foundation** **8** pledged **\$59,000** as part of a partnership agreement with Concordia's Landscape of Hope project, led by Vivek Venkatesh, MA 03, PhD 08. Landscape of Hope is a unique, evidence-based intervention that magnifies youth narratives as they pertain to building resilience against racism, discrimination, prejudice and cyber bullying.

A **\$62,500** pledge from the **Brucebo Foundation** was made to establish the Brucebo Fine Arts Scholarship Foundation Fund and the William Blair Bruce Travel Scholarship. The former will offer summer residencies at the Brucebo studio cottage in Själsö, Sweden. The travel scholarship will involve a research trip culminating in Visby, Sweden, where the recipient will deliver a public lecture sponsored by the foundation.

**Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, made a gift of **\$50,000** to establish a Memorial Scholarship Fund for Iranian Students.

The **Concordia University Alumni Association** donated **\$50,000** to the COVID-19 Emergency Student Relief Fund.

**Peter Kruyt** **9**, BComm 78, donated **\$50,000** in support of special initiatives at Concordia.

**Richard Lapointe**, BComm 90, made a new pledge of **\$50,000** in support of the Richard Lapointe Bursary, established in 2007 to support undergraduate students at the John Molson School of Business.

**Tulsi N. Mirchandaney**, AMBA 00, gave **\$50,000** to her Tulsi Nowlakhia Mirchandaney Endowment, which supports students enrolled in Supply Chain Operations Management at the John Molson School of Business.

An anonymous donor gave **\$50,000** to support the varsity men's hockey program at Concordia.

**GIFTS-IN-KIND**

**CQG, Inc.**, a company that provides innovative tech solutions for the financial trading industry, made a **\$1,923,840** gift-in-kind in support of the John Molson School of Business.

**Morningstar Research Inc.** donated licenses for its trading software valued at **\$172,000** to support students at the John Molson School of Business.

**Esri Canada** made a gift-in-kind of software valued at **\$125,160** to the Faculty of Arts and Science. The software was used by the Institute for Investigative Journalism for Project Pandemic, a collaborative data co-op designed to provide news organizations with crucial information related to COVID-19.

**PLANNED GIFTS**

**Peter Jockel**, BFA 85, included a bequest in his recent will that will direct 90 per cent of his estate to support Faculty of Fine Arts graduate students. The Jockel Scholarship Endowment for Graduate Students in Fine Art Painting will eventually provide a minimum of \$35,000 in annual support.

**Edward C. Prest**, BEng 80, created an **endowment legacy** for future annual support to two graduate students in Arts and Science and/or Engineering.

A bequest by **Ellen Wilcox**, BSc 71, MSc 80, will support Concordia's Greatest Needs.

A **former Board of Governor member** has left part of her estate to Concordia's Greatest Needs.

**Leslie Kupferstein**, BComm 70, made a bequest in support of Concordia's Greatest Needs.

Two alumni, a **husband and wife**, are dedicated to Concordia and the **bequest of a significant legacy** to the university, the designation of which is currently under consideration.

An anonymous planned gift of **\$50,000** will support the Henri P. Habib Distinguished Speakers Series Endowment and the Recreation and Athletics Development Fund.

**Ruth Gesser**, BA 78, made a planned gift in support of the Centre for the Arts in Human Development, which uses creative arts therapy to make a difference in the lives of intellectually and developmentally disabled adults.







## COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Concordia's community of supporters answered the call to bolster the 2019-20 Community Campaign. All told, 9,243 donors contributed more than \$2.3 million — an increase from the previous year.

Our first-ever virtual Shuffle was also an unprecedented success, with more than \$135,000 raised towards the 2020-21 Community Campaign. The annual September walkathon's 31-year fundraising total now stands at more than \$1.8 million — [visit concordia.ca/shuffle](https://concordia.ca/shuffle) to learn more.

Additionally, #GivingTuesday, a global annual day of philanthropy that took place on December 1, saw close to 800 members of our community contribute more than \$260,000.

Thank you to the many alumni, faculty, staff, parents, students and friends who selflessly donate to our Community Campaign on an annual basis. A special nod to the 740 donors who went above and beyond with Leadership gifts. The combined support from this distinguished group made up 72 per cent of the total funds raised through the 2019-20 Community Campaign.

Whether \$100 in support of student bursaries and scholarships or a significant pledge to fund a specific activity or area of research, every dollar contributes to the high-impact priorities behind the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

Join our momentum. Visit [concordia.ca/communitycampaign](https://concordia.ca/communitycampaign).

## KEY EVENTS

### CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC

Since 2004, the annual Concordia Golf Classic has raised more than \$5.8 million in critical financial support for students such as former bursary recipient and Rhodes Scholar Liliane Chamas, BSc 09.

While COVID-19 made it necessary to cancel the Golf Classic for 2020, \$250,000 was nonetheless raised. Organizers hope for a successful return in 2021 with honorary co-chairs Luigi Liberatore, LLD 18, Louis Tanguay, BComm 75, LLD 18, and André Desmarais, BComm 78, LLD 07, as well as co-presidents Tony Aksa, Sophie Boucher, Sylvain Corbeil, Charles Douville, BComm 84, René Douville, Maria Mangiocavallo, BComm 86, GrDip 89, Nathalie Soucy, Nadine Renaud-Tinker and Demo Trifonopoulos, BComm 85.

### KEVIN AUSTIN AWARD IN ELECTROACOUSTIC STUDIES



At a virtual event on November 25, the 20th anniversary of the Department of Music's Electroacoustic Studies program was celebrated with the announcement of the Kevin Austin Award. Named in honour of dedicated professor Kevin Austin, the new prize received a major boost from alumnus Richard Reed Parry, BFA 03, of Arcade Fire.

## CU AT HOME

The Concordia community came together in 2020 to create CU at Home: a virtual support network designed by the community, for the community, to respond to the adversity of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CU at Home offers students, alumni, faculty, staff and others a regular lineup of online programming.

Some 106 CU at Home events, out of 136 total alumni events, were delivered in 2020 to more than 10,000 attendees. This included specialized programming from Alumni Relations, 4<sup>TH</sup> SPACE, the Student Success Centre, the Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, the John Molson Executive Centre and many more.

"The response has been amazing. I'm so thankful to all those who are building this online community," said Nadia Bhuiyan, Concordia's vice-provost of partnerships and experiential learning. "We are all navigating this new world together, and we'll get through it together."

To learn more visit [concordia.ca/cuathome](https://concordia.ca/cuathome)



## CU CARES

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, last April Concordia launched CU Cares — a collaboration between the Concordia LIVE Centre and University Advancement — to mobilize volunteer support for elderly alumni and outreach organizations across Montreal. Within weeks more than 400 Concordians — 30 per cent of whom were students — had registered.

"We've been so pleased by the community's reaction to CU Cares," said Katie Broad, coordinator of the LIVE Centre, an on-campus volunteer resource centre. "So many people have stepped up to help! But to be honest, I'm not entirely surprised. We work with community members all the time who are engaged and ready to help 365 days a year."

To learn more visit [concordia.ca/cucares](https://concordia.ca/cucares)

### CONCORDIA COMMUNITY VS. COVID - 19

Around the world, Concordia students, staff, faculty and alumni joined forces in 2020 to confront the challenge of COVID-19. Their stories of courage and hope in the face of adversity — from the moving social distancing portraits of acclaimed artist Adad Hannah, MFA 04, PhD 13, to the struggles of grads like Natalie Cousineau, BSc 96, and Emilie Casselle, BA 07, on the health-care front-lines — inspired our university community at large.

To learn more visit [concordia.ca/communityvscovid](https://concordia.ca/communityvscovid).







## ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS

The 2020 edition of the Alumni Recognition Awards — organized annually by the Concordia University Alumni Association — honoured eight graduates, two non-graduates and a current student for outstanding achievements and contributions to society.

The 2020 recipients were:

- **Howard Davidson**, BComm 90 <sup>10</sup>, Humberto Santos Award of Merit
- **Harriet De Wit**, MA 76, GrDip 81, PhD 81 <sup>11</sup>, John F. Lemieux Medal
- **Richard F. Schmid**, Honorary Life Membership
- **Georges Paulez**, BComm 77, Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award
- **Charlie Kawwas**, BEng 93, MAsc 99, PhD 07, <sup>12</sup> Alumnus of the Year
- **Ana Marinescu**, BComm 06, MBA 09, MBA Alumna of the Year
- **Caroline Roux**, Alumni Award for Innovative Teaching
- **Joanne Beaudoin**, BA 83, Outstanding Staff Award
- **Katherine Rossy**, MA 13, Young Alumna of the Year Award
- **Mackenzie Murray**, Outstanding Student Leader Award

To learn more visit [concordia.ca/alumni-friends/applause/awards](https://concordia.ca/alumni-friends/applause/awards)

## SALUTE TO NORMAN HÉBERT, JR.

University leaders and members of Concordia's Board of Governors gathered for a virtual celebration on June 18 to bid farewell to **Norman Hébert Jr.**, BComm 77 (pictured with wife Diane Dunlop-Hébert, BComm 82), as he completed his term as chair of the board, a position he had held since 2012.

"I want to thank Norman for his extraordinary contributions to Concordia, which extend well beyond his years as chair of our board," said Concordia President Graham Carr. "He and his family have been long-time champions and supporters of our university."

## EXTRAORDINARY CANADIANS

A virtual event was held on December 3 to celebrate the new book *Extraordinary Canadians: Stories from the Heart of Our Nation*. Moderated by **Jamie Orchard**, BA 91, the event featured co-authors **Peter Mansbridge** and **Mark Bulgutch** as well as **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, the benefactor of Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and one of 17 extraordinary Canadians in the book.

## HOMECOMING

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



Noteworthy moments from the anniversary year included a conversation, presented by Resolute Forest Products, between Pulitzer Prize winner **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, <sup>13</sup>

best known for the 1619 Project, and CBC's **Shari Okeke**, BComm 95.

Concordia President **Graham Carr** also invited all alumni for a toast to the Homecoming anniversary with an Irish céilí hosted by Irish-language scholar **Gemma Lambe**.

Discover Art Volt featured a conversation between **Annie Gérin**, new dean of Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, with **Cheryl Sim**, MA 07, managing director and curator at Fondation Phi pour l'art contemporain.

The Gina Cody School Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series hosted **Richard Howe**, BEng 88, chairman and CEO of Inuvo Inc., for a talk called Driving Innovation with Applied AI. Howe was joined by Concordia's **Tristan Glatard**, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, and Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Big Data Infrastructures for Neuroinformatics.

To learn more visit [concordia.ca/homecoming](https://concordia.ca/homecoming)

## TAKE PRIDE IN OUR AWARD-WINNING ALUMNI

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

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

**Jacqueline Cole Blisson**, BA 02, was named a Master of Wine, one of only 409 in the world.

**Julien BriseBois**, EMBA 07 <sup>14</sup>, led the Tampa Bay Lightning to a Stanley Cup championship as franchise general manager. BriseBois was also a finalist for the NHL's 2020 Jim Gregory General Manager of the Year Award.

**Meryam Joobeur**, BFA 13, was nominated for an Academy Award in the Live Action Short Film category for *Brotherhood*.

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

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

**Roger Lemoyne**, BFA 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*.

**Leon Llewellyn**, BFA 74, GrDip 75, was the recipient of the 2020 Dr. Clarence Bayne Community Service Award, named for Concordia professor emeritus Clarence S. Bayne, from Montreal's Black Theatre Workshop.

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

**Annie Murphy**, BFA 10 <sup>15</sup>, won a 2020 Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role on *Schitt's Creek*.

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

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

**Craig Silverman**, BA 99, media editor at BuzzFeed, won the 2019 McGillivray Award from the Canadian Association of Journalists.

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

## 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 07, 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 <sup>17</sup>, 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







## IN MEMORIAM

THE CONCORDIA COMMUNITY  
MOURNED THE LOSS OF SEVERAL  
UNIVERSITY SUPPORTERS AND  
AMBASSADORS IN 2020, INCLUDING:

**L. JACQUES MÉNARD, BComm 67, LLD 2006,  
Concordia Chancellor Emeritus, 18**

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of a dedicated champion of our university and an accomplished member of Quebec's business and philanthropic communities. Jacques was a visionary leader who embraced our city and advocated for the betterment of society. He was an extraordinary graduate of Concordia and a great supporter of the university."

— Graham Carr, President, Concordia University

**LESLIE RENÉE (CLEMENT) COHEN, BA 81,  
MA 84, PhD 93**

Cohen joined Concordia's Department of Psychology in 1985 and impacted hundreds of students over the course of her long career.

"Her teaching evaluations demonstrated her dedication to the well-being of her students," said Jean-Roch Laurence, chair of the department from 2007 to 2013. "Year after year, her students reflected on the thoroughness of her teaching, her empathy and her commitment to their academic success."

Cohen also devoted herself to Concordia's part-time faculty association, where she served on the executive and as vice-president of professional development and training. Throughout her tenure with the association from 1994 to 2011, Cohen helped win seniority for a number of colleagues, which provided job security for part-time faculty.

**AARON MAX FISH, LLD 16 19**

A dedicated donor to Concordia, Fish was revered as a global pioneer and authority on security and lock design. He endowed the Aaron M. Fish Scholarship of Excellence in Mechanical Engineering in 1999 and met regularly with student recipients, giving them tours of his lock museum and factory in Montreal. Fish was recognized with a Concordia Alumni Honorary Life Membership in 2010 and received an honorary doctorate in 2016.

**HERBERT MARX, BA 58**

Marx was a respected lawyer, law professor, politician and judge who was a member of the National Assembly of Quebec from 1979 to 1989, a cabinet minister, and a Justice of the Quebec Superior Court. He served as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Quebec from 1985 to 1988 and was appointed a Justice of Quebec Superior Court in 1989 by the Government of Canada.

**RICHARD MCCONOMY, BA 66**

The founder of the Richard McConomy Conflicts Resolution Centre, McConomy enjoyed a successful career as a lawyer in Montreal. He played football for Loyola College — one of Concordia's founding institutions — and was a member of the 1962 team that was inducted into the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

**MARK PRENT, BA 70 20**

An accomplished visual artist and virtuoso mould-maker, Prent inspired generations of fine arts 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.

# Thank you!

Concordia's generous community helps us lead  
as Canada's next-generation university. We introduce recognition  
circles to acknowledge the support of our dedicated donors.

"Concordia's donors  
contribute enormously to  
the success of our university.  
Our giving circles recognize  
the generosity of our  
supporters. Thank you!  
We are immensely grateful  
for your commitment."

— **GRAHAM CARR, PRESIDENT  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY**

Learn more at  
[concordia.ca/DonorRecognition](https://concordia.ca/DonorRecognition)



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- Lifetime gifts of  
\$100,000 or more



- Gifts for five or more  
consecutive years
- Lifetime members give  
for 25 years or more



LEADERSHIP  
CIRCLES

- **Deans' Circle:**  
Annual gifts of  
\$500 to \$1,999
- **President's Circle:**  
Annual gifts of  
\$2,000 to \$24,999



HERITAGE  
SOCIETY

- Planned gifts or  
bequests that leave  
a legacy

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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