



CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS

Newsletter

JUNE 2017

WE ARE CANADA'S NEXT-GENERATION UNIVERSITY

It's been a year since Concordia charted its course for the future with nine strategic directions. We're growing our research profile, giving students an edge through experiential learning and embracing our city — and the world.

So much is going on within our diverse community! In this second *Chancellor's Builders Newsletter*, you'll see highlights of our progressive research wins, award-winning faculty and students, and impressive alumni. They get their hands dirty, mix it up and go beyond. Our latest *President's Report* offers wider coverage of Concordians' many accomplishments (concordia.ca/news/publications-reports).

Concordia continues to advance in rankings: we're top among Canada's younger universities. And Montreal is now the world's top student city — what better place to inspire creative ideas and sustainable solutions to global and local problems.

It's encouraging to know alumni believe in our mission and strive to help push it forward in whatever ways they can. We are grateful to Christine Lengvari, BSc 72, who recently made a \$1-million planned gift to her alma mater. The combined generosity of all our donors helped raise \$22 million this year for Concordia and our students.

Canada needs next-generation universities. To respond to this new reality, Concordia is launching its most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, in support of our 46,000 students.

I hope we can count on your support, as graduates, donors and friends. Our campaign kicks off on November 1, so stay tuned!



Jonathan Wener, BComm 71
Concordia Chancellor



Pictured at the Chancellor's Builders Circle Dinner in November 2016, from left: Susan Wener; Chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71; and Mutsumi Takahashi, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13.

AVIATION THINK TANK LAUNCHED AT CONCORDIA

A first of its kind in the world, Concordia's Aviation Think Tank will bring together researchers and industry professionals to ease exchanges on key issues of strategy, business practices and policy development for the benefit of the aviation industry.

"The Aviation Think Tank will provide a dynamic platform for dialogue to address the priorities of business, government and the public on issues ranging from sustainability to profitability," says Concordia President Alan Shepard.

The advisory board — featuring a cross-section of high-level professionals — is chaired by Pierre J. Jeannot, BSc 57, LL.D 97, former director general and CEO of the International Air Transport Association.

"The knowledge and ideas generated will promote new policies, best practices and key actions to help set the pace in a complex arena," says Jeannot.

The think tank will be independent and impartial, informed by research conducted by John Molson School of Business (JMSB) professors and students, in collaboration with researchers from Concordia and other universities.

Learn about JMSB's aviation management programs at concordia.ca/jmsb/aviation.



FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

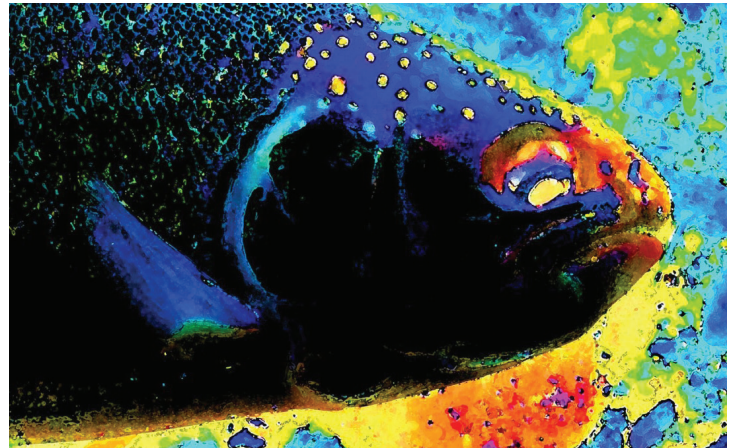
Concordia's Aviation Think Tank, launched in September 2016, provides an international and interdisciplinary forum to advance the industry and serve diverse public and private stakeholders.

NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Two Concordia professors have been awarded close to a combined \$1 million in research funding from the Government of Canada.

Dylan Fraser, associate professor in the Department of Biology, received \$579,840 over a three-year period. The funding will enable him to gauge how eco-evolutionary changes generated by common harvesting approaches affect the productivity of fisheries.

Muthukumar Packirisamy, Concordia University Research Chair in Optical Bio Microsystems and professor in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, received \$340,500. Packirisamy will work with an industry partner to reduce the size and enhance the performance of digital network components.



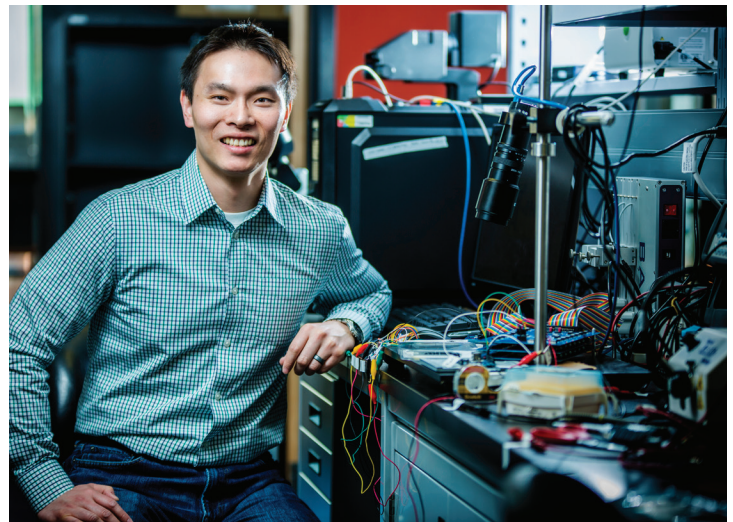
Dylan Fraser, associate professor of biology, has received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada strategic partnership grant for his ecosystem functioning and fisheries productivity research.

A BOOST FOR SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY RESEARCH

A pair of researchers from Concordia's Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology got big news from the Canada Foundation for Innovation in February 2017.

The John R. Evans Leaders Fund announced that it awarded \$100,000 to David Kwan, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, and Steve Shih, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The infrastructure project has a total value of about \$250,000. Shih and Kwan were awarded an additional \$100,000 from the Province of Quebec, with an extra \$50,000 coming from other funding sources. With this support, they will be able to start integrating robotics into their workflow. Their goal is to reduce the time it takes to produce a range of products, such as biofuels and vaccines.



"Automation gives scientists more time for creative thinking and design, rather than continuous and intensive manual lab work," says Steve Shih, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDENTS WIN TWO MAJOR CASE COMPETITIONS



John Molson School of Business undergraduates Brenden Kumarasamy, Catherine Trudeau and Ian Hutt-Borrelli won first place at Ryerson's 2017 Organizational Behaviour Case Competition.

For the seventh time in eight years, a Concordia team won the Organizational Behaviour Case Competition at Ryerson University in Toronto.

The three-person group devised a culturally inclusive strategy for CIBC. “Our team’s incredible performances and team spirit earned them the first-place win,” says head coach and advisor Mark Haber, a part-time lecturer in the Department of Marketing at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB).

The achievement was one of two first-place finishes in January for JMSB’s case competition program. The Concordia delegation also took gold at the Financial Open hosted by the University of Ottawa.

Concordians don’t just compete in case competitions — they organize them. Teams from 18 countries came together for the 36th John Molson MBA International Case Competition, held in January 2017.

Learn more about JMSB at concordia.ca/jmsb.

- Learn about our university’s notable leaders, prominent researchers, entrepreneurs, artists, athletes and thinkers at concordia.ca/greatconcordians.
- Discover what Concordia achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world at concordia.ca/concordiafirsts.

EMERGING JOURNALISTS TURN THEIR LENSES ON THE PRESS



JourNews explores a wide range of issues, from press freedom to war reporting to writing on climate change.

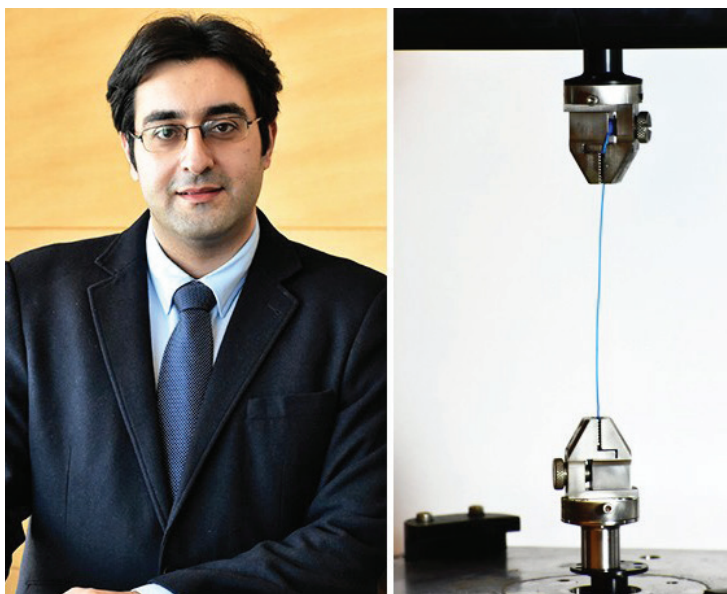
A new online magazine takes a closer look at the state of the media — and it’s the work of Department of Journalism graduate students.

JourNews looks at the fifth estate — particularly in Quebec. “So many things in Quebec aren’t talked about,” says part-time journalism instructor Donna Nebenzahl, who spearheaded the project.

“We wanted each article to be dynamic and showcase different forms of multimedia,” adds Cecilia Keating, one of the 17 students who worked on investigative pieces and held different editorial roles.

Visit journews.concordia.ca.

HEART-SAVING TECHNOLOGY



PhD candidate Amir Hooshian and a cardiac guide wire being tested to measure its mechanical properties. Hooshian’s work is making minimally invasive cardiac surgeries safer.

Cardiac surgeries are getting safer — thanks to robots. Concordia PhD candidate Amir Hooshian is making those devices even better.

“During minimally invasive surgeries, surgeons lose their haptic [or touch] perception,” says Hooshian. Technology known as haptic feedback systems can assist in the procedure by duplicating a doctor’s sense of touch.

Hooshian’s technology works by measuring the interaction between the robot and the patient’s body. Contact force, image processing and mechanical analysis all contribute to improving the surgeon’s visual and touch feedback.

NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Concordia awards 9 new honorary doctorates

Nine individuals who have made their mark in the fields of literature, athletics, international aid, music, business and philanthropy will receive honorary degrees at Concordia's spring convocation.



They are **1** Governor General's Literary Award-winning author **Kim Thúy**; **2** educational technology trailblazer **David A. Martin**, BSc 71; **3** investment guru and philanthropist **Kenneth W. Woods**, MBA 75; **4** soprano **Measha Brueggergosman**; **5** economist and writer **Robert Calderisi**, BA 68; **6** senator and Paralympic gold medallist **Chantal Petitclerc**; **7** Internet of Things pioneer **Jahangir Mohammed**, MASc 93; **8** cosmetics-company founder **Lise Watier**; and **9** business leader and philanthropist **J. Sebastian van Berkomp**, BComm 69.

The honorands will join the more than 5,700 students from Concordia's four faculties and the School of Graduate Studies who will receive their diplomas at Montreal's Place des Arts from June 5 to 7.

A graduate who stands up for Haiti

She's a world-famous rock star who is committed to her cause. Régine Chassagne, BA 98, LLD 16 — a member of the band Arcade Fire — founded KANPE in 2010. As the alumna says, its mission is “to play an integral part in the fight to help Haiti break free from a vicious cycle of poverty.”

For her contribution to culture and philanthropy, Chassagne was recognized with an honorary doctorate from her alma mater. “I think my late mother would have been very proud, as is my father. Both my parents attended Concordia,” said Chassagne on the occasion. (kanpe.org)

Supporting Olympic hopefuls

Concordia joined the Game Plan Education Network to support aspiring Olympians. The initiative offers Canadian national team members more flexible educational opportunities while they are training and competing.

Two-time Olympic gold medallist Alexandre Bilodeau, BComm 16, has said institutional support is essential for athletes who want to pursue their academic careers while in training.



Then a John Molson School of Business student, Alexandre Bilodeau, BComm 16, made Canadians and Concordians proud at the 2014 Sochi Olympics in Russia, earning his second gold medal in mogul skiing.



From Industry 4.0 to exergaming, these PhD researchers are aiming to be change leaders. From left: William Robinson, Humanities; Gonzalo Quintana Zunino, Psychology; Desirée de Jesus, Film and Moving Images; Alexander McClelland, Humanities; Lucas A. Hof, Mechanical Engineering; Leanne Keddie, Business Administration; Rocco Portaro, Mechanical Engineering; Nadia Naffi, Educational Technology; Lisa Ndejuru, Individualized Program; and Erin O’Loughlin, Individualized Program.

From psychology to technology — Concordia’s 10 new public scholars

Innovative research should be shared with the world — that’s the driving principle behind Concordia’s Public Scholars Program.

Established in 2015, the initiative bridges academics and the community. Selected PhD candidates began receiving professional training in topics such as op-ed writing, government and media relations, and public speaking. They will hold the Public Scholar title for one year.

“Garnering public awareness can help us be leaders for change and encourage others about the benefits of academic research,” says Alexander McClelland, a PhD student in Humanities.

A first — and only — in doctoral studies

Concordia is the sole university in Quebec — and one of two in Canada — to offer a PhD in software engineering. Previously, many doctoral students conducted research in this area yet earned their degree in computer science.

“The new PhD program will allow students to focus on core software-engineering topics instead of it being a sub-discipline of computer science,” says Peter Rigby, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering and champion of the new program.

Some 18 students began their PhD in software engineering last September. That number is expected to grow to 32 by September 2017, and to 82 by the year 2020.

Professor’s exhibition tackles a stigma

Yehudit Silverman’s display at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts takes on a subject most shy away from. *Seeds of Hope* deals with suicide.

“The idea was to shed some light on the stigma and silence that surrounds the whole issue,” says Silverman, chair of the Department of Creative Arts Therapies.

Four groups of people — ranging from survivors to social workers to community members — constructed masks as part of the therapeutic process.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CONCORDIA:

Our videos: concordia.ca/alumni/videos

Our podcasts: concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts

Our publications: concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications

KEYSTONE BUILDERS: SPOTLIGHT ON MAHESH SHARMA

Tragedy struck Mahesh Sharma, a professor at Concordia's John Molson School of Business, over 30 years ago. He lost his wife, two daughters and mother-in-law in the bombing of Air India Flight 182.

A planned gift to Concordia has allowed him to cherish the beloved memory of his family. "That accident made me very strong. And made me think positively in life. I look at my family and how they were. That encourages me to do things," says Sharma.

The Sandhya and Swati Sharma Memorial Scholarship — named after his daughters — honours their legacy.

"Being awarded the scholarship just says 'you're going to be okay, Liana, you're going to be fine,'" says Liana Di Iorio, a JMSB student who received the support.

"If you want to help people, make people educated," says Sharma.

View a video of Sharma discussing his planned gift at concordia.ca/plannedgiving.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Professor Mahesh Sharma honoured the memory of his daughters through the Sandhya and Swati Sharma Memorial Scholarship.

SAVE THE DATE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017, 6 P.M.

Cirque Éloïze
417 Berri St., Montreal



Be the first to hear about
Concordia's plans as Canada's
next-generation university.

Join us at our
**CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE
AND FRIENDS DINNER.**

We have a special evening
lined up for you, so please
SAVE THE DATE!

This unforgettable event will set the stage for Concordia for the coming decades and beyond.
Stay tuned for more details.

Do you know someone extraordinary? Nominate them for an honorary degree.
Visit concordia.calnominat for instructions.