

CONCORDIA

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Find out how Concordia is leading the way to a more sustainable future in Montreal and beyond.



IN THIS ISSUE

Discover how Concordia continues to soar in university rankings

Read about our award-winning Concordians

Get inspired by major gifts to our Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now

Plus more !

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCELLOR



Great news! Our university is progressing steadily in our most ambitious fundraising campaign ever, the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. We've raised \$170 million — or 68 per cent of our goal. This achievement is thanks to the generosity of you, our builders.

Our university received its largest donation ever — a \$30-million planned gift to support students — from an anonymous donor last spring. That gave us momentum.

We also received a visionary \$10-million gift from the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation and the Amelia and Lino Saputo Jr. Foundation on November 1. Thanks to the new support, Concordia's SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation will unite academic knowledge, community-held expertise and entrepreneurial students. Together, they will develop sustainable and transformative solutions to complex societal challenges.

Concordia celebrated a \$5.6-million gift to the Faculty of Fine Arts from the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust, the largest in the faculty's history — and in Quebec's history, toward a university-based fine arts program.

In this issue, you'll discover new research on climate change and ocean-cleaning aquatic drones, and read about award-winning students and alumni. You'll meet our latest honorary doctorate recipients and Alumni Recognition Award honourees.

This October marked the fifth anniversary of our Chancellor's Builders Circle and Friends Dinner. It was a wonderful occasion to toast to our community with so many of you in attendance. I look forward to celebrating more milestones with you in the future.

Until then, have a happy and restful holiday season.

Jonathan Wener, BComm 71
Concordia Chancellor



It's an honour to serve as Concordia's interim president and vice-chancellor while our Board of Governors conducts the search for the next president.

There is a lot to be proud of. Concordia is on a roll and people are noticing. Students from across Quebec and around the world are flocking to study here. Our faculty are earning record research funding and awards. Students are winning major competitions and our alumni continue to do impressive things while increasing their engagement with Concordia.

Our fast-growing network of external partnerships is helping us match next-gen talent, research and ideas with the changing needs and expectations of a global society. And every day our staff works wonders to support the growth, excellence and innovation for which we're rightly known.

All of this is great news as we pursue our ambitious Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. Generous donors are making gifts large and small that demonstrate their desire to support what Concordia is, and what we are determined to achieve.

MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PRESIDENT

I'm excited about our momentum and proud of what we're accomplishing together. The university thrives on your energy, dedication and creativity. I look forward to us sharing even more of Concordia's success in the future.

Graham Carr
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor
Concordia University

LEARN MORE ABOUT CONCORDIA

Our videos: concordia.ca/alumni/videos

Our podcasts: concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts

Our publications: concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications

STAY CONNECTED: JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Share your #CUpride and #CUalumni stories via @ConcordiaAlumni

concordia.ca/campaign

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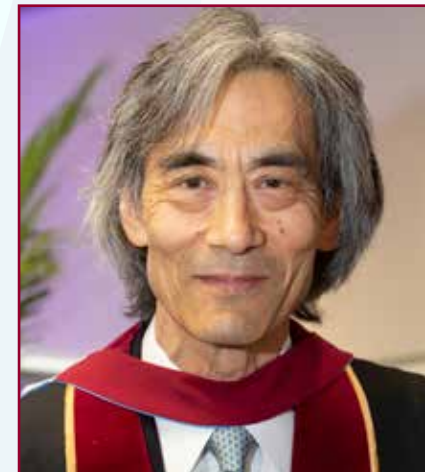


NEW FACES AT CONCORDIA

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

At our June and November convocations, close to 8,000 Concordians made the transition from student to graduate, joining our network of 220,000 alumni around the world. During the ceremonies, we welcomed 14 distinguished individuals as honorary degree recipients, all of whom have made a mark in their respective fields in Canada and throughout the world.

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



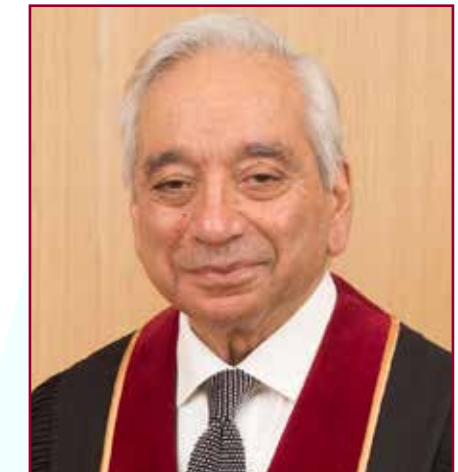
KENT NAGANO, LLD 19
Music director, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

“We count on universities to learn how to be eternally dissatisfied with the status quo. We learn to have intolerance of limitations. We learn that it is important to go beyond just the subjective in order to achieve freedom for our curiosity.”



AIMEE MULLINS, LLD 19
Athlete, actor, model, speaker

“Take back your free time for daydreaming. Daydreaming nurtures natural curiosity and a capacity for reinvention. If you can’t hear yourself, you can’t know yourself.”



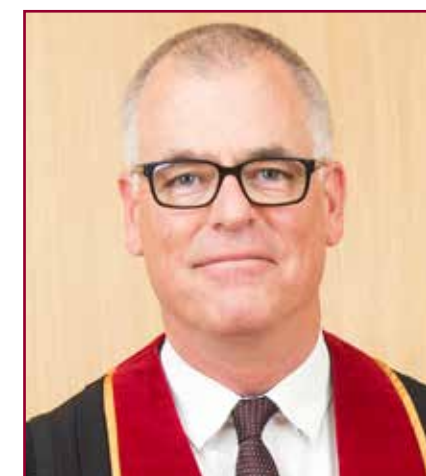
KAMALJIT BAWA, DSc 19
Trailblazing conservation researcher and founder, Ashoka Trust

“You represent the generation that has the power and tools to make the changes that will assure our planet’s future. You have the opportunity to restore and repair our entire planet.”



CAROLINE OUELLETTE, LLD 19
International hockey star; founder, Girls Hockey Celebration

“If you want your dream job to come true, find a way to make yourself instrumental to others.”



PETER SIMONS, LLD 19
President and CEO, La Maison Simons

“Seek the truth. Cultivating the ability to admit your errors will be a key to changing in the future.”



SYLVIA SCHMELKES, LLD 19
Education reformer; academic vice-president, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City

“Consider your privileges and strive for social justice and the distribution of opportunities.”



LOUIS VACHON, LLD 19
President and CEO, National Bank of Canada

“Greater professional choice may be the only advantage you have over past generations. Make sure you use that advantage.”



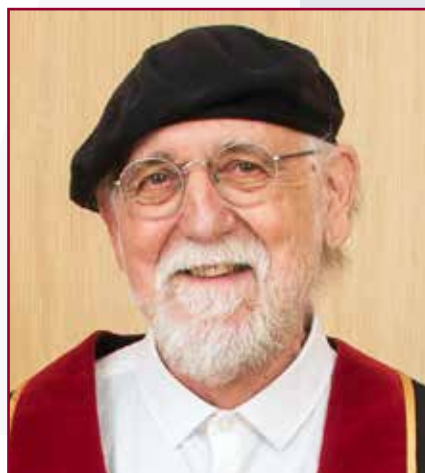
ÉRIC MARTEL, DSc 19
President and CEO, Hydro-Québec

“Be yourself. Don’t try to be something you’re not. Every day you need to say, ‘This is my dream, this is what I want.’”



NATALIE PANEK, DSc 19
Senior engineer, Mission Systems, MDA

“It is so important in science, technology, engineering and math, to have those role models, those mentors, those sponsors and people who will help lift each other up, particularly for young women and minorities, where there can often be obstacles that have no business being obstacles.”



GILLES MIHALCEAN, DFA 19
Sculptor and contemporary artist

“Making art is child’s play — it is based around your capacity to let your child’s heart live.”



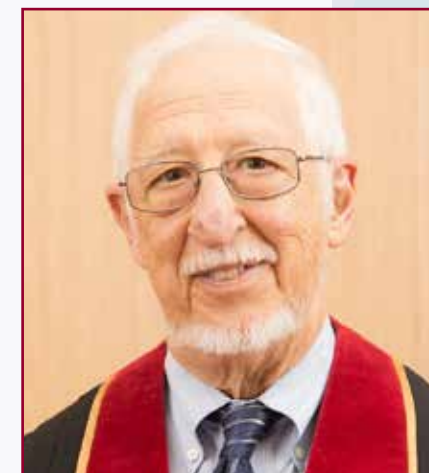
BARBARA DAVIDSON, BFA 90, LLD 19
Photojournalist and filmmaker

“Education equals freedom. I was the first person in my family to get a university degree and I am keenly aware that education lifted me out of poverty and gave me the freedom to achieve so many of my dreams.”



REBECCA BRENT, LLD 19
President, Educator Designs Inc.

“Forge ahead to whatever your next step is and remember that you are ready.”



RICHARD FELDER, LLD 19
Hoechst Celanese Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering

“Pay attention to what you’re good at, what you really love to do and look for opportunities that come along that give you a chance to do that.”



ANNETTE VERSCHUREN, LLD 19
Chair and CEO, NRStor Inc.

“You have to invite everybody at the table to help you make decisions. An inclusive environment with diverse opinions results in much better decisions than one group of homogeneous people.”

EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Our students, researchers and faculty are paving the way for new and improved solutions in human mobility, energy efficiency, integrated design, natural resource conservation and more. Here's a snapshot of some of the big ideas that will help lead to a more sustainable future.



1 Ten Quebec universities, including Concordia, have united to declare a climate emergency. By signing the declaration, at the invitation of the Réseau universitaire québécois en développement durable, these universities recognize the need for social change in the struggle against the growing climate change threat. They are making three structural commitments:

- Become carbon-neutral by 2030, or 2050 at the latest;
- Allocate more resources for research aiming to fight climate change and develop related skills;
- Increase the availability of environmental and sustainability education in academic programs, on campuses and in community-awareness programs.

2 Faculty, staff and students came together to plant 185 trees at Concordia's Loyola Campus in Notre-Dame-De-Grâce. The collaboration was between the Concordia Greening Project student-group and numerous faculty members who partnered with non-profit organization Soverdi. The trees are indigenous species to the area and will encourage biodiversity in various ways.

3 Marouane Elouaraa, BEng 19, **Lam Son Vo Ngoc**, BEng 19, **Zihao Guan**, BEng 19, **Nikko Badoles**, BEng 19, and **Eric Kwarteng**, BEng 19, built the prototype for an ocean-cleaning aquatic drone in their final year of study



at Concordia. The prototype uses image processing technologies and machine learning to store plastic into an integrated collection bin.

4 According to a new study by **Carly Ziter**, assistant professor of biology in the Faculty of Arts and Science, extensive tree canopy cover in an urban area can dramatically reduce the temperature of the immediate environs — enough to make a significant difference even within a few city blocks.

5 PhD candidate **Milad Ashouri** is building an app to monitor and improve home energy use. With his research team, Ashouri is using data-mining frameworks that track building occupants' energy consumption to identify problem areas and recommend improvements.

6 Ursula Eicker, a global leader in green urban energy systems, is our new Canada Excellence Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities at Concordia. The appointment comes with a seven-year, \$10-million grant that will allow Eicker to develop and lead an ambitious research program to establish new tools, technologies and strategies for zero-carbon municipalities.

7 Théo Chauvirey, master's student in the Department of Design and Computation Arts, is using mycelium — the vegetative part of a fungus that is lightweight, strong, fire retardant and completely compostable — to show how we can incorporate biomaterials in public-transport design so to rely less on wasteful products.

8 A new study co-authored by **Michel Magnan**, professor in the Department of Accountancy, shows that many firms are keenly aware of growing environmental concerns among members of the public and, in response, are revealing their environmental practices.

9 Liangzhu Wang, associate professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, received \$540,000 in funding via the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to develop a means of assessing heat wave risks in buildings housing vulnerable populations.

Read more at concordia.calresearch.



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HATS OFF TO OUR COMMUNITY!

In their fields of study, in their industries and in their communities, Concordians around the world are doing great things. Take pride and learn about some of our latest top honours.



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1 Concordia celebrated its annual **Alumni Recognition Awards** on May 2. Twelve recipients — Concordia students, faculty, staff and alumni — were honoured for their outstanding achievements and contributions to their communities. Front row from left: **Winston Kan**, BA Admin 81; **Alain Tessier**. Second row: **Constantina Roumeliotis**; **Eva Pomeroy**; **Christine Lengvari**, BSc 72; **Anne-Marie Côté**, on behalf of **Antoine Labranche**, BA 09. Back row: **Nicholas Brooks**, on behalf of **Kenneth M. Brooks**, MBA 99; **Brandon Montour**; **Alan Shepard**; **Peter Kruyt**, BComm 78; **Morton Minc**, BA 67; **Vivek Venkatesh**, MA 03, PhD 08; with **Paul Chesser**, BA 94, GrDip 97.

2 **Lino A. Saputo Jr.**, BA 89, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia, and chairman of the board and CEO of Saputo Inc., took top prize at the inaugural

Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton – John Molson School of Business Person of the Year Awards gala on May 9. The award celebrates leaders who, through their vision and leadership, have brought their organizations to a higher level.

3 **Morton Minc**, BA 67, Concordia's jurist-in-residence, and **4** **Mair Verthuy**, co-founder of Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute and its first principal, have been named to the Ordre national du Québec as officer and chevalière, respectively.

5 **Nadia Myre**, MFA 02, Indigenous artist and assistant professor in the Department of Studio Arts, has been named a member of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec. Myre is a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Algonquin First Nation and is a major figure in Québécois, Canadian and Indigenous contemporary art.



1

1 The Irish government honoured two Concordia professors for their groundbreaking work at the university. **Rhona Richman Kenneally**, professor in the Department of Design and Computation Arts, and her partner, **Michael Kenneally**, principal of the School of Irish Studies, received the 2019 Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad. They earned the award in the category of Business and Education for their work on behalf of Ireland, principally for establishing the School of Irish Studies.



2

2 The City of Montreal honoured **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, as chevalière to the Ordre de Montréal. The award was presented on May 17 by Montreal Mayor **Valérie Plante**.

Four members of the Concordia community are among new appointees to the Order of Canada: **3 Alanis Obomsawin**, LLD 93, named companion of the Order; **4 Graham Fraser**, LLD 12, and **5 James A. O'Reilly**, BA 60, named officers of the Order; and **6 Brenda Harris Singer**, BA 67, named member of the Order.



(Frank Gunn / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

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On the rise

Four pre-eminent university rankings reaffirmed Concordia's standing among leading institutions around the world. Concordia maintained its position in the 2020 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings and remained among the world's top 500 universities in the 2020 QS Graduate Employability Rankings. Concordia was also named, for the second consecutive year, Canada's top university under 50.

In the Maclean's University Rankings 2020, Concordia upheld its 10th-place standing overall among 15 comprehensive universities across Canada. Concordia took a significant leap in the 2019-20 Center for World University Rankings, rising 144 spots to 575th of 2,000 universities ranked worldwide. It was the largest improvement among 43 Canadian universities.



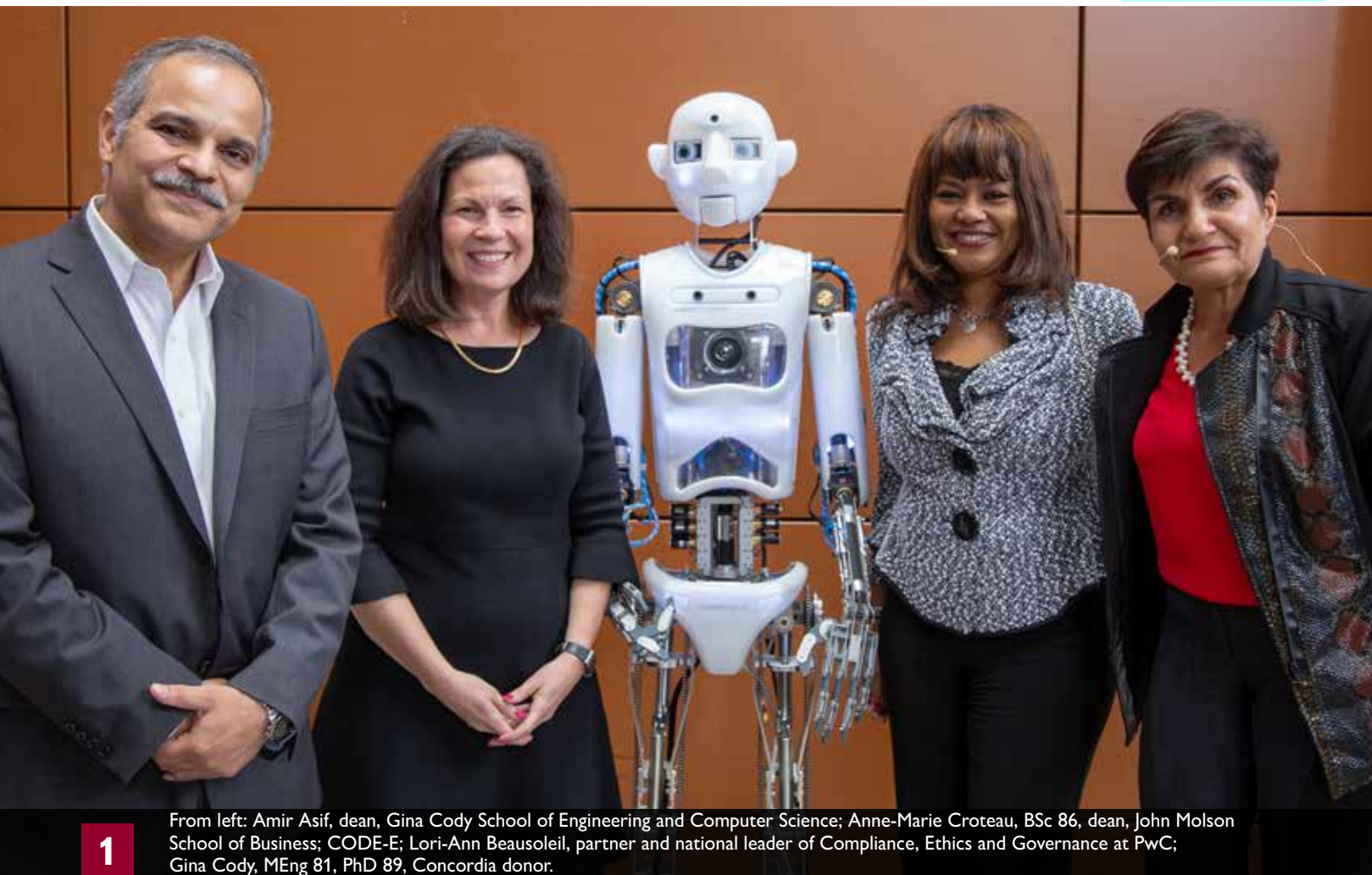
7 Concordia grad student **Newsha Arezi** is the winner of Canada's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition for her presentation on her research into the on-demand delivery of anti-cancer drugs. The annual contest challenges graduate students to summarize their complex research in just three minutes in front of a live audience.

8 **Zinnia Naqvi**, master's student in Concordia's Department of Studio Arts, is one of three artists to win the 2019 New Generation Photography Award, valued at \$10,000. Scotiabank and the Canadian Photography Institute at the National Gallery of Canada created the award to support artists under 30 years old.

9 *CEO Magazine* names Concordia's John Molson EMBA among the best in the world. The program — Quebec's first EMBA offering — ranks 2nd in Canada and 33rd globally, according to the magazine's 2019 global executive MBA rankings list.

10 Students from Concordia's John Molson MBA program reached the podium at this year's Rotman A4S International Case Competition at the University of Toronto. Concordia teams came in first place and third place at the sustainability-focused event.

Learn more at concordia.ca/alumninews.



1 From left: Amir Asif, dean, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science; Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, dean, John Molson School of Business; CODE-E; Lori-Ann Beausoleil, partner and national leader of Compliance, Ethics and Governance at PwC; Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Concordia donor.

WHO WAS THERE?

Throughout the year, Concordia celebrates its community of students, donors, alumni, faculty, staff and friends. See who attended our recent events.

1 CODE-E, a theatrical robot created by PwC to interact with students and spark interest in technology, made its first Canadian appearance at Concordia. CODE-E moderated a discussion between **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, and **Lori-Ann Beausoleil**, partner and national leader of Compliance, Ethics and Governance at PwC.

2 Concordia's **Madeleine Mayo**, MFA 18, and **Céline Huyghebaert** of Université de Montréal à Québec, are the winners of the 10th annual Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art. The \$60,500 fellowships provide laureates with the recognition and support they need to transition from academia to the professional world.



From left: Céline Huyghebaert; Claudine Bronfman; Stephen Bronfman; and Madeleine Mayo, MFA 18

2



From left: Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97; David Marino; Jamie Orchard, BA 91; William Gagnon, BEng 17; Katherine Purchase; and Stéphanie Jasmin, BFA 99

3



From left: Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, LLD 17; Alan Shepard; James Shavick, BA 72, LLD 16

4



From left: Antoinette Bozac, BA 78; Alan Shepard; Stephen Halperin, BA 72



From left: Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, Advancement; John Coleman, former Agent General for Quebec in London; Leisha LeCouvie, senior director, Alumni Relations



Phyllis Yaffe, Consul General of Canada in New York

3 More than 300 guests gathered for Concordia's Donor and Student Awards celebration on March 28. Emceed by **Jamie Orchard**, BA 91, senior anchor and assistant news director at Global Montreal, the event highlighted the importance of philanthropy and the student recipients of donor support. Speakers included students and alumni: **Paul Chesser**, BA 94, GrDip 97, **William Gagnon**, BEng 17, **Katherine Purchase**, and **Stéphanie Jasmin**, BFA 99.

4 From February through May, Concordia alumni in cities such as London, U.K., New York, Toronto and Vancouver gathered to celebrate the achievements and contributions of former Concordia President **Alan Shepard**, who left his position at the university in June.

Discover events near you at concordia.ca/alumni-events.

A TOAST TO OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS AND FRIENDS

This year marked the fifth anniversary of our Chancellor's Builders Circle and Friends Dinner. With more than 130 donors and friends in attendance at our October 15 event, the celebration included speeches from **Graham Carr**, interim Concordia president; **Jonathan Wener**, BComm 71, and **Susan Wener**; **Norman Hébert Jr.**, BComm 77, chair of Concordia's Board of Governors; **Lino A. Saputo Jr.**, BA 89, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia; **Ursula Eicker**, Canada Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities; and **Rachel Downey**, GrDip 18, PhD candidate in Concordia's Department of Psychology. The event, which took place at Old Montreal's St. James Theatre, was emceed by **Anne Whitelaw**, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, interim provost and vice-president Academic.



Front row, from left: Ursula Eicker, Canada Research Chair in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Cities; Anne Whitelaw, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, interim provost and vice-president Academic; Rachel Downey, GrDip 18, PhD candidate, Department of Psychology; Susan Wener, philanthropist and author; Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, Concordia Chancellor. Back row, from left: Graham Carr, interim president; Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 77, chair, Concordia Board of Governors; Lino A. Saputo Jr., BA 89, co-chair, Campaign for Concordia; Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, Advancement



Amelia Saputo, BA 90



Gary Vegh, BSc 88, GrDip 92, and Saraj Sajedi, BSc 91



From left: Mutsumi Takahashi, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13; Kathleen Weil; Mahesh Sharma



From left: Ursula Eicker, Graham Carr, Jonathan Wener, Susan Wener, and Paul Chesser



Tahra De Lallo, BA 85, and Howard Davidson, BComm 80



Norman Hébert Jr., left, is pictured with Lino A. Saputo Jr.



Students from Concordia's Department of Contemporary Dance performed at this year's dinner.



Miriam Roland, LLD 18, and Paula Wood-Adams



Paul Chesser, vice-president of Advancement (far left), with Concordia research students and Public Scholars.

\$250,000 GIFT TO SUPPORT CONCORDIA BUSINESS STUDENTS

Nearly 50 years after moving to Canada from Greece, **Greg Rokos**, BComm 82, is now helping the next generation of business students. On March 12, 2019, Rokos announced his \$250,000 gift to support seven annual undergraduate and graduate bursaries and scholarships at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.



\$5.6-MILLION GIFT TO SPARK CREATIVE DISCOVERY

A \$5.6-million gift from the **Peter N. Thomson Family Trust** will help spark creative discovery at Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts. The new support — the largest-ever gift in Quebec towards a university-based fine-arts program — will connect artists and scholars to Montreal, Canada and the world through three key areas: graduate student scholarships, field-school awards and an arts innovation fund.



\$30 MILLION TO ADVANCE TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Concordia receives largest donation in its history: \$30-million planned gift to support students

The vision and generosity of a donor is marking Concordia's history with a remarkable bequest of \$30 million, the largest gift ever to the university in support of students. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has made a planned gift to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

Concordia is beneficiary to an increasing number of planned gifts, which provide donors with creative and flexible strategies to achieve their financial, philanthropic and estate-planning goals. Planned gifts also permit tax advantages for donors and their heirs. Bequests allow Concordia alumni, faculty, staff and friends to create long-lasting legacies that

benefit society, advance research and support the next generation of students.

"Since its founding, Concordia has benefited from the trust of visionary donors whose planned gifts have helped shape the university and its people," says Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, Advancement. "We are incredibly honoured to be custodians of this remarkable gift."

Learn how private support helps advance the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now at concordia.ca/plannedgiving.

THE ARTS PAINT A VITAL PART OF ANY HEALTHY SOCIETY AND REQUIRE STRONGER SUPPORT

BY LESLIE RAENDEN



Modern societies think nothing of devoting considerable resources to training people for jobs in today's tech-driven, knowledge economy. Generally, no one quibbles. Jobs are important. Progress is important. Being competitive in a global environment is important.

Yet what about training artists, or graphic designers, or musicians? Societies more focused on software might not always consider the importance of the arts. In truth, healthy societies need both. And universities are the ideal places to provide this kind of training and development.

Universities are sometimes considered remote institutions. Civic leaders, including Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante, have championed universities to interact to a greater degree with their local communities.

There is no better way for universities to engage with the populations that surround them than through the arts — a universal, easily shared forum for the exchange of ideas, enjoyment and feelings of community and togetherness.

Simon Brault, CEO and director of the Canada Council for the Arts, has said: "The arts remain one of the very rare human activities that could bring a sense of conciliation, inclusion and justice."

And how important are the arts economically? Indicators from 2014, consistent with those from 2010, give us the answer. Statistics Canada estimates the direct economic effect of culture industries was \$61.7 billion in Canada in 2014, or 3.3 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

In 2014, some 700,100 Canadian jobs were directly related to culture industries — 3.9 per cent of our 18.1 million jobs, according to a report from Hill Strategies.

The arts world cannot always rely on government for the kind of funding that will keep it vibrant, fresh and relevant.

A 2012 report by the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts, for example, indicates that, in U.S. dollars, Canada spent \$5.19 per capita on the arts, compared with \$19.81 in Germany, \$13.54 in England and \$8.16 in Australia.

So the arts in general, and fine arts in particular, need strong philanthropic supporters who are prepared to trust whatever product emerges, to take chances and to understand that not everyone will agree on the value of a particular work of art or performance.

What is also clear is the need to nurture artists so they might make the most valuable contributions possible, free to pursue goals, passions and visions.

While more government funding is always welcome and worthy, it is vital for potential philanthropists to consider the importance of the arts in our society.

Concordia University, in Montreal, recently celebrated the largest donation to its Faculty of Fine Arts — and the largest in Quebec towards a university-based fine-arts program. The \$5.6-million gift was made possible through the generosity and vision of the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust. This gift from my late stepfather will help support graduate students, field-study programs as well as a fund to develop innovative major projects going forward — exactly the kind of substantial and long-term philanthropic support the arts need in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world.

What will come from this? Greater connectivity between the university and the community, as the shared cultural experience is broadened and enhanced. A heightened level of creativity and an opportunity to pursue projects to completion. A greater richness in the wide variety of cultural offerings provided by Canada's largest fine-arts faculty.

And — ultimately — a greater security for the arts in general. As Simon Brault of the Canada Council noted: "I think that the more [the arts] are embedded in day-to-day life, the more protected they are."

Canada's universities play a crucial role in cementing the arts in our everyday lives. That is definitely something to be celebrated. And supported.

Leslie Raenden is a representative of the Peter N. Thomson Family Trust and Peter Thomson's stepdaughter.