

CONCORDIA

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022



NEW LIFE ON CAMPUS

Discover how Concordia is building a better future

IN THIS ISSUE

Take pride
in our community's
accomplishments

Discover
pioneering
research

Learn about
new gifts to the
Campaign for Concordia

Plus more
great news!

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCELLOR

When my first term as chancellor of Concordia began in 2015, the road map ahead was filled with bold objectives for our university.

From campus expansions to the launch of new research centres and programs designed to bridge theory and practice, we charted an audacious plan for growth.

Now, on the eve of Concordia's 50th anniversary in 2024, I feel more confident than ever in our ability to make a difference and effect positive change for the benefit of our students and society.

The term "next-gen" is one that we frequently use to describe our community and the goals of the Campaign for Concordia.

Next-gen is a pledge. A promise to advance education and research that adapts and responds to the challenges — and opportunities — of our current century.

With President Graham Carr at the helm and with the support of our campaign co-chairs, Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Andrew Molson and Lino A. Saputo, BA 89, the chair of our Board of Governors, Helen Antoniou, and our loyal alumni community of 240,000, Concordia has consistently been named North America's top university under 50.



Rest assured: The road map we have built to secure the university's future will propel Concordia to even greater successes over the next five decades with, notably, the introduction of our School of Health and our Next-Generation Cities Institute.

As always, our donor community will play a key role in our efforts to develop innovative post-secondary education and research in Montreal.

In the university's 2021-22 fiscal year alone, **the Campaign for Concordia celebrated 12 gifts of \$1 million or more** — a record total.

The pages that follow will tell the story of some of these major gifts, and demonstrate how they have contributed to Concordia's success.

From our three Beijing 2022 student-athlete medal winners to critical research on climate change, green energy and social justice, I hope you will take pride in the many ways the Concordia community has led over the past year.

My best wishes for a safe and happy fall season.

Jonathan Wener, BComm 71
Concordia Chancellor

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

Contributors

Writers: Ian Harrison and Daniel Bartlett

Graphic designer: Trevor Browne **Editor:** Ian Harrison

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As I reflect on the many ways our community has united in support of Concordia over the last year, I am both hopeful and inspired.

The future of our institution is even brighter because of committed and visionary donors like you.

Our priorities for the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now are being energized by dedicated friends and partners whose gifts support a range of critical needs and impactful changes that will make a difference for Concordia today, tomorrow and for decades to come.

From social-justice programs to flexible internships for students and new research hubs that connect the wider Montreal community to our two campuses, donor generosity — whether in the form of million-dollar gifts or through Shuffle, our record-breaking walkathon — is empowering our ability to advance 21st-century education and research.

And the world is noticing as *Times Higher Education* placed us fifth globally for our work on Smart, Sustainable Cities and Communities, 20th for Climate Action and 48th for our exceptional work on Reduced Inequalities, all of which are key objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our students and alumni are transforming our city — and our world.

We recently celebrated a new Rhodes Scholar, our first-ever Schwarzman Scholar, a first-place finish in the Base 11 Space Challenge, three Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games medal winners and a historic women's hockey season that culminated in a thrilling national championship.

Recent honours bestowed on our faculty include three inductions into the Royal Society of Canada, a Medal of the National Assembly, the King-Sun Fu Prize, the Prix Louis-Comtois and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Medal.



The collective efforts of our community are helping us progress in a number of pivotal areas. Our Next-Gen Cities Institute and new School of Health are taking shape. We're leading an \$80-million pan-Canadian consortium on cybersecurity. Our Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema is tripling in size to respond to new opportunities and priorities of the Government of Quebec.

Our students continue to outperform the competition in local, national and international case competitions. Our new Indigenous Futures Research Centre will sustain groundbreaking work being led by and for Indigenous peoples and communities. What's more, we recently signed on to the Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and earned a second parity certification from Women in Governance for our John Molson School of Business.

These are just some of the ways Concordia is leading by example.

As you read the following pages, please know that your support is driving the important work of creating a better tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graham Carr".

Graham Carr
President and Vice-Chancellor
Concordia University

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the support of our dedicated and generous donors, a record \$237 million has been raised for the **Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now.**



George Lengvari, BA 63, a Concordia Sports Hall of Famer and one of the university's most dedicated supporters, made history with a **\$2-million gift to boost basketball** at Concordia and McGill University. The joint gift, to be split evenly by his alma maters, is believed to be the first of its kind in the history of Canadian university sports.



J. Sebastian van Berkom, BComm 69, LLD 17, a long-time Concordia and John Molson School of Business supporter, **gave \$1,180,000 to provide scholarships for finance students** enrolled in the Van Berkom Investment Management Program and further advance the Van Berkom John Molson Small-Cap Case Competition.



A \$1-million gift from the Ajram Family Foundation, made by long-time donors Gaby Ajram, BA 71, and Genevieve M. Dabrowski-Ajram, BA 71, in honour of the former's parents, will support the **Beat the Odds Internship Program**, the **Student Emergency and Food Fund**, an award for graduate students with children, and on-campus internships for international students.



Co-led by **Natasha Pashak**, MA 10, the Calgary-based **Flanagan Foundation** made a gift of **\$1 million to support Concordia's Social Justice Centre**. The centre was founded in 2019 to investigate the systemic causes and effects of inequity and the ways that institutions and practices can better deliver economic, cultural, political, racial, gender and environmental justice.



A \$1-million gift from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation will support efforts at Concordia related to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.



A gift of \$1 million from the RBC Foundation will advance two critical programs at Concordia — non-profit work terms offered through the Institute for Co-operative Education and internships facilitated by Beat the Odds, a program first piloted by the Experiential Learning Office in 2020.

Undergraduate students and Beat the Odds participants Sevda Bostanci and Fawaz Halloum



The 32nd edition of Shuffle raised close to \$700,000 for scholarships, bursaries and student resources and services. The record-breaking total was impacted by the astonishing efforts of the late **Nadia Chaudhri**, a Department of Psychology professor who captured the hearts of millions with her pledge to walk the length of her palliative care unit in support of Concordia's annual walkathon.



The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF) made a gift of approximately \$700,000 to support the first five years of a permanent, tenure-track appointment in Irish literature at the School of Irish Studies. The school was created in 2009 with joint financial support from Concordia and the CISF.

Rhona Richman Kenneally and Michael Kenneally, co-founders of Concordia's School of Irish Studies



Thanks to countless donors who gave generously for **Giving Tuesday** on November 30, **\$385,000 — a record total — will go to more than 60 Concordia programs and initiatives**, most notably the Concordia Stingers and the Student Emergency and Food Fund.



Karna Gupta, BComm 77, MBA 79 (right), established the Jaydeep Gupta Bursary for Women in Finance with a major gift of \$335,000. The generous support for female Department of Finance students is a tribute to Karna's brother, the late Jaydeep Gupta, BA 82, MBA 84.



Dominic D'Alessandro, BSc 67, LLD 98, renewed his support for graduate students with a gift of \$335,000 to the Dominic D'Alessandro Fellowship Fund.



A gift of \$200,000 from the Grace Dart Foundation will advance research aimed at health care for seniors. The donation will accelerate the work of Concordia's **Centre for Research on Aging (engAGE)**, a multidisciplinary and community-engaged hub whose mission is to change how society thinks about — and responds to the hardships of — aging.



The **Zakuta Family Foundation made a gift of \$135,000** to support John Molson students in financial need enrolled in the Real Estate minor program. Foundation director **Michael Zakuta**, the president and CEO of Plaza Retail REIT, is a John Molson volunteer and regular guest lecturer.



André R. Desmarais, BComm 78, LLD 07, gave \$100,000 to advance a variety of university priorities. An honorary chair to the Campaign for Concordia, his **total giving to the university now exceeds \$2 million.**

SANDRA CHARTRAND:

ALUMNA AND MAJOR DONOR TO THE
CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA



When the two co-founders of the Fondation Sandra et Alain Bouchard were submitted a plan to strengthen Concordia's ability to advance creative arts therapies programs for the benefit of students and the community, they were struck by the inherent synergy of the proposal.

The private Montreal-based charity had long concentrated on two pillars of support: the arts and culture sector, and projects dedicated to people with neurodevelopmental disorders and intellectual challenges.

"All of a sudden, here was a golden opportunity from Concordia to combine these two objectives," said Sandra Chartrand, BA 85, who, along with husband Alain Bouchard, the co-founder and chairman of Alimentation Couche-Tard, established the Fondation Sandra et Alain Bouchard a decade ago.

"In a sense, this had been at the heart of our philanthropy from the start — a dual recognition that vulnerable, often marginalized members of the community need help to integrate into and contribute to society, and that the arts can play a powerful role in this regard."

\$1M IN IMPACTFUL SUPPORT

Chartrand was thrilled to discover that her alma mater had been at the vanguard of this effort for decades, thanks to the Department of Creative Arts Therapies and the Centre for the Arts in Human Development (CAHD).

Through education, research and community-focused programs centred on art therapy, dance and movement therapy, drama therapy and music therapy, these two closely aligned hubs at Concordia have enhanced the lives of participants faced with a range of physical and cognitive challenges.

A gift of \$1 million from the Fondation Sandra et Alain Bouchard has now helped to consolidate this work and cement Concordia's status as a pioneer in the field.

Among other initiatives, the foundation's gift will support a clinical creative arts therapies program in French at the CAHD for adults on the autism spectrum, and provide financial assistance for graduate students in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies.

What's more, the couple's generosity has helped to establish a new centre — the Concordia Arts in Health Centre (CAiHC) — that will provide quality, accessible services from the Department of Creative Arts Therapies to the Montreal community as part of an innovative experiential learning opportunity for students.

The launch of the CAiHC has also been supported by a \$500,000 gift from the Fondation Famille Mongeau, co-founded by Guylaine Leduc and Claude Mongeau, the former chief executive officer of Canadian National (CN) Railway.

'A FIELD THAT'S INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZED AS CRITICAL'

"Outreach programs in service of our community have always been part of Concordia's culture," noted President Graham Carr at an on-campus celebration to announce the two gifts on May 24.

"We're beyond grateful that two new donors — the Fondation Sandra et Alain Bouchard and the Fondation Famille Mongeau — are providing such generous support to help the university to expand our groundbreaking creative arts therapies programs to the benefit of our students and members of the community in and around Montreal."

Chartrand remarked that her gift to Concordia is personal both as a graduate of the university and as the parent of a child with special needs.

"We have a son with a minor intellectual disability. He's quite functional, but there's no question that his experience has influenced what we hope to accomplish with our foundation.

"When I reflect on how Concordia has led in this growing field — one that's increasingly recognized as critical and effective — I can't help but admire the achievements of people like Guylaine Vaillancourt, the chair of the Department of Creative Arts Therapies. The work of her department and its two related centres aligns with our values, which is incredibly gratifying. We're very proud and honoured to be able to support Concordia in this way."

CONCORDIA CELEBRATES



The John Molson School of Business launched its inaugural day of pride on November 18. **John Molson School Day** was celebrated with a social-media campaign, a virtual event featuring six speakers and several informal in-person activities, such as a photo booth and various giveaways. More than 160 people attended the virtual event and more than \$3,000 worth of prizes was awarded to students and alumni.



Concordia launched its **Applied AI Institute** on March 18, naming associate professors Tristan Glatard, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, and Fenwick McKelvey, Department of Communication Studies, as co-directors. “The new appointments acknowledge the value of collaboration that we will continue to deliver to society, science and emerging technologies,” said Paula Wood-Adams, Concordia’s interim vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies.



The **School of Community and Public Affairs (SCPA)** celebrated 40 years of interdisciplinary education and community engagement on May 7. The special cocktail reception and dinner — postponed since 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic — was held in person at Montreal’s Cabaret Lion d’Or, with remarks from President Graham Carr, Distinguished Professor Emeritus Marguerite Mendell, BA 72, and more. Emceed by John Moore, BA 88, the event also offered an opportunity for graduates to catch up and meet the SCPA’s new principal, Anna Sheftel, BA 03.



The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science held its second faculty-wide day of pride on March 18. **Gina Cody School Day** featured a social-media campaign and two virtual events — a talk with 2020 Alumnus of the Year Charlie Kawwas, BEng 93, MASc 99, PhD 07, chief operating officer at Broadcom, and a student-research showcase — attended by nearly 300 people.



Concordia's first recognized Indigenous research centre — the **Indigenous Futures Research Centre (IFRC)** — was launched in November 2021. Co-led by Jason Edward Lewis, Concordia University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary (Tier 1), and Heather Igloliorte, Concordia University Research Chair in Circumpolar Indigenous Arts (Tier 1), the centre will “expand outward and touch every aspect of the university as we go

forward,” said Igloliorte. “With new Indigenous faculty joining the university, and future positions realized, we will grow in dynamic ways.”



The Faculty of Arts and Science's **Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies** marked its 10-year anniversary. Established thanks to a \$5-million donation from the Azrieli Foundation in June 2011, the institute's first decade saw a number of significant accomplishments, including expanding Israel studies at Concordia with the first-such minor program at a Canadian university in 2013, building important bridges between Montreal and Israel, and raising Concordia's international profile in the world of multidisciplinary Israel studies.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Researchers at Concordia's four academic faculties continue to be highly productive, attracting support from every major federal and provincial funding agency. Discover more about their recent work and achievements.



1

Adrian Tsang¹ (Biology) was awarded \$6 million over three years from the Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP). The research funding — from Genome Canada and Génome Québec, in partnership with Elanco

Animal Health — will support the production and engineering of an alternative to antibiotics in livestock animal feed.



2

Simon Bacon² (Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology) was awarded \$1.5 million from the Weston Family Foundation through its Brain Health: Lifestyle Approaches and Microbiome Contributions 2021 program. Bacon's project

will study patients undergoing bariatric surgery, a weight-loss procedure, and how dramatic changes in diet and the gut microbiome can impact brain structure and function.



3



4

The Government of Canada announced \$76.4 million in funding over four years to the National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC). The NCC and the resulting Cyber Security Innovation Network (CSIN) are co-led by Concordia and four other Canadian universities. **Mourad Debbabi³**, dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, is one of five co-founding executive directors of the NCC. **Paula Wood-Adams⁴**, interim vice-president, Research and Graduate Studies, is chair of the NCC board.



5

Christian Moreau⁵ (Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering), Canada Research Chair in Thermal Spray and Surface Engineering, will receive \$1.875 million as co-principal investigator on a project funded through the New Frontiers in Research Fund. The total value of the project is \$24 million.



6



7



8



9



10

Concordia welcomed five new Canada Research Chairs (CRCs). The total award value, including additional infrastructure funding from various sources, exceeds \$5 million. The new CRCs are:

- **Melissa Passarelli⁶** (Chemistry and Biochemistry) Canada Research Chair in Spatial Omics: from Single-cell to Clinical Innovations
- **Ishita Tiwary⁷** (Cinema) Canada Research Chair in Media and Migration
- **Elena Kuzmin⁸** (Biology) Canada Research Chair in Synthetic and Functional Genomics
- **Rachael (Ré) Mansbach⁹** (Physics) Canada Research Chair in Computational Physics/Biophysics
- **Nicole Alberts¹⁰** (Psychology) Canada Research Chair in Behavioural Health Intervention

Linda Booij¹³ (Psychology), **Sylvia Santosa¹⁴** (Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology), **Roisin O'Connor¹⁵** (Psychology) and **Claudine Gauthier¹⁶** (Physics) were awarded funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Project Grant competition. The combined value of the CIHR funding is \$2,639,498.



13



14



15



16



11

Eliane Ubalijoro¹¹ (Geography, Planning and Environment) received \$295,568 in funding from the Microsoft Corporation in support of a 14-month project entitled “A landscape analysis of carbon and water modelling (techniques and players) to inform the scale-up of nature-based climate solutions in Canada.” Together with **Damon Matthews¹²** (Geography, Planning and Environment), the research team will work on addressing key questions



12

around leveraging digital technologies for carbon and water monitoring to prioritize research and investment focused on promising avenues for scaling machine-learning applications in Canada, and to present a more inclusive and representative view of nature-based climate solutions.



NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

Psychology researchers **Emily Ah-Yen** and **Cole Dougherty** are the first-ever winners of the **Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award**, designed to help neuroscientists from underrepresented backgrounds realize their academic goals. The award was created by **Nadia Chaudhri**, a Department of Psychology professor whose spirited battle with ovarian cancer drew worldwide support before her death last October.



To bring more transparency to the sustainable fund management market, the **Concordia University Foundation** has teamed up with seven other institutional investors across Canada to find the best environmental, social and governance (ESG) asset managers in the

country. Organized by the **Trottier Family Foundation**, the Great Canadian ESG Championship will see more than 55 asset managers compete to win part of a \$75-million investment mandate.

A May 19 breakfast hosted by **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, and Dean **Mourad Debbabi** honoured a new class of scholarship recipients supported by the Campaign for Concordia co-chair and namesake of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.



A memorial fund in honour of **Jean-Marc Vallée** has been established — to top up a donation the famed director personally made to the university — in support of future filmmakers at Concordia's **Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema**. Vallée, whose work included the films *C.R.A.Z.Y.*, *Dallas Buyers Club* and *Wild* as well as the television dramas *Big Little Lies* and *Sharp Objects*, passed away on Christmas Day at the age of 58. His untimely death came shortly after his final public appearance — at Concordia's annual Wild Talks on November 16, 2021.

Discover more about the **Jean-Marc Vallée Memorial Fund** at concordia.ca/donate/jmv.



Concordia scored a gold Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) ranking from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Developed in 2010, STARS is designed to help institutions measure their progress

in sustainability and allow for comparisons between them. “The points we received for LEED certification are thanks to our state-of-the-art Applied Science Hub,” said **Michael Di Grappa**, BA 84, Concordia's vice-president of Services and Sustainability. “That's a particular source of pride, since earning LEED Gold is far more challenging for a research-intensive building like the hub than a standard building.”

BEST IN CLASS

Times Higher Education (THE) Young Universities Rankings: Concordia placed number one in Canada for the fifth straight year and fifth among newer North American universities.

THE World University Rankings: Concordia placed in the 601–800 category for the fourth consecutive year, putting it in the top 48 per cent of 1,662 universities ranked by *THE*, despite an increase of 135 institutions.

QS World University Rankings of the Top 50 Under 50: Concordia placed first in North America for the third year running and in the 61–70 range overall for the fourth consecutive time.

Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (NTU Ranking): Five Concordia subjects placed among the top 10 in Canada and the top 750 worldwide.

Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities: Concordia placed in the 501–600 category out of more than 2,000 universities, compared to landing in the 601–700 range last year.

CEO Magazine's 2022 Global MBA Rankings: Concordia's John Molson Executive MBA program moved up six places in *CEO Magazine's* 2022 Global MBA Rankings. The EMBA program now sits at 27th out of 84 EMBA programs reviewed internationally. It also ranks second in Canada, with Concordia being the only Quebec university featured.

HATS OFF TO OUR COMMUNITY



Nine honorary doctorates were recognized at Concordia's spring convocation:

Guy Cormier¹; **Jennifer Flanagan²**; **Julie Gichuru³**; **Lady Mireille Gillings⁴**; **Margie Gillis⁵**; **David Keith⁶**; **Lee-Ann Martin⁷**; **Olivette Otele⁸**; and **Nathalie Petrowski⁹**, BA 76.



Ten PhD candidates from diverse disciplines were selected as Concordia's 2022-23 Public Scholars: **Hone Mandefro Belaye**, Sociology and Anthropology; **Andréa Cartile**, Mechanical Engineering; **Scott DeJong**, Communication Studies; **Arwa Hussain**, Religions and Cultures; **Vrinda Nair**, Physics; **Varda Nisar**, Art History; **Mostafa Saad**, Building Engineering; **Ghalia Shamayleh**, Marketing; **Aristofanis Soulikias**, Individualized Program; **Mieko Tarrius**, Geography, Planning and Environment.

Eight members of the Concordia community were recognized with the Order of Canada — one of the country's highest civilian honours — in the past year for their outstanding achievements, dedication to community and service to the nation:

- **Naomi Azrieli**, Campaign for Concordia donor, and chair, Azrieli Foundation
- **Barry Bultz**, BA 69, head of the Division of Psychosocial Oncology, University of Calgary
- **Geneviève Cadieux**, associate professor, Department of Studio Arts
- **Ethel Côté**, GrDip 02, founder, MécènESS, and co-founder, Social Enterprise Council of Canada
- **Madeleine Féquière**, BA 85, corporate credit chief, Domtar Corporation
- **Morris Goodman**, Campaign for Concordia donor, and chair and co-founder, Pharmascience
- **Joy MacPhail**, Campaign for Concordia donor, and co-owner, OUTtv
- **Suzanne Sauvage**, president and CEO, McCord Stewart Museum; former member of Concordia's Board of Governors

Four Concordia alumni were among the 2022 laureates for Black History Month in Montreal:

- **Leon Llewellyn**, BFA 74, GrDip 75
- **Quincy Armorer**, BFA 97
- **Roan Higgins**, Cert 08, BA 12
- **Naya Ali**, BA 11

CBC Quebec honoured its 2022 Black Changemakers in February — its second edition celebrating exceptional members of the province's Black communities who are making a difference. Five Concordians are among this year's changemakers:

- **Dorothy Williams**, BA 84, MA 99
- **Mubeenah Mughal**, BA 02
- **Loreena Gabriel**, BA 12
- **Gift Tshuma**, BA 16
- **Temi Akin-Aina**, former associate director of Alumni Relations at Concordia

Barry F. Lorenzetti, president and CEO at BFL Canada, was named Knight of the Order of Montreal, the city's highest honour. A gift of \$500,000 from Lorenzetti in 2021 established the Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

Three undergraduate students brought home medals from the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Freestyle skier **Marion Thénault** (Aerospace Engineering) took home bronze in mixed team aericals. Paralympian **Anton Jacobs-Webb** (Mechanical Engineering) won silver as a member of Canada's men's para ice-hockey team. **Pascal Dion** (Finance) won gold in men's short-track speed skating 5,000-metre relay.



Four undergraduate students — **Aaliyah Crawford**, **Daniel Amico**, **Melanie Afriat** and **Alexandra Hillcoat** — were among the 2022 recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Youth Medal. The award recognizes the involvement and determination of Quebecers who have a positive influence in their own community or throughout the province.



Sponsored by the Concordia University Alumni Association, the 30th annual Alumni Recognition Awards were held on June 13 at the Windsor Ballrooms in downtown Montreal. The 2022 honourees were:

- **Norman E. Hébert**, BComm 77: Humberto Santos Award of Merit and Service
- **Nadia Naffi**, MA 12, PhD 18: John F. Lemieux Young Alumni Medal
- **Roger Côté**: Honorary Life Membership Award
- **Ajay K. Gupta**, BComm 95: Benoît Pelland Alumnus of the Year Award
- **Environmental Health and Safety Concordia**: Outstanding Staff and Faculty Award
- **Kaylee Cohen**, BSc 22: Outstanding Student Leader Award
- **Afroza Khanam Chowdhury**, BEng 22: Outstanding Student Leader Award
- **Ruma Ahmed**, BEng 22: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award
- **Fatoumata Tewa Camara**, BA 12: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award

SPOTLIGHT ON PHILANTHROPY

\$2M for experiential education from the Doggone Foundation



Elspeth McConnell Fine Arts Award recipients Christine White, current undergraduate student, and Aprajita Saxena, BFA 19, GrDip 20, MA 22.

A major gift to the Campaign for Concordia has enabled a range of arts and culture organizations across Montreal to hire the student interns they need.

Established by the late Elspeth McConnell, a noted patron of the arts, the Doggone Foundation invested in the future of Faculty of Fine Arts students as part of a \$2-million gift announced in October 2021.

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

Paul Marchand, executive director of the Doggone Foundation, said that the charity was pleased to strengthen the partnership it first formed with Concordia in 2018.

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

Over nine years, the Doggone Foundation's most recent gift will fund a further 40 annual Elspeth McConnell Fine Arts Awards. Valued at \$5,000 each, the awards allow selected students to undertake internships at non-profit arts organizations.

An additional \$10,000 per year will fund the annual Bill McLennan Northwest Coast Travel Award, named after the late curator emeritus of the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Museum of Anthropology. The award will allow a full-time graduate student to venture to British Columbia to develop knowledge of Northwest Coast art-making and Indigenous cultures. The recipient will collaborate with researchers at, among other organizations, the Museum of Anthropology at UBC, where the Elspeth McConnell Gallery of Northwest Coast Masterworks opened in 2017.

‘INTERNSHIPS AND FIELD WORK ARE SO CRUCIAL TO LEARNING AND RESEARCH’



GRAHAM CARR

Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor

“Creating experiential learning opportunities for all our students is a priority for Concordia. The Doggone Foundation has been bold and generous in its support of student learning outside of the classroom. Doggone is a key partner for Concordia in providing paid internships for our students who, in turn, help a variety of arts and cultural organizations thrive.”



ANNIE GÉRIN

Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

“Internships and field work are so crucial to learning and research in the arts. We appreciate the Doggone Foundation’s enhanced commitment to empower our students with hands-on experiences at an array of organizations such as museums, cultural festivals and exhibition spaces.”



APRAJITA SAXENA, BFA 19, GrDip 20, MA 22, Elspeth McConnell Fine Arts Award recipient

“When I learned about who Elspeth McConnell was, I was inspired and felt like my mission was aligned with the objectives of the award. I want to contribute to society through the arts and advance the well-being of individuals. The financial support I gained through the award gave me a lot of freedom and was a wonderful source of validation.”



ANNE WHITELAW, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96
Provost and Vice-President, Academic

“This new support from the Doggone Foundation demonstrates the extent to which our partner believes in the potential of next-gen teaching, learning and research. The foundation’s commitment to Concordia — which began in 2018 with an initial gift of \$200,000 in support of fine-arts student internships — honours the late Elspeth McConnell, a benefactor who recognized the transformative power of the arts.”



PAUL CHESSER, BA 94, GrDip 97
Vice-President, Advancement

“The newly expanded Elspeth McConnell Awards will allow more fine-arts students to embark on meaningful internships. These real-world experiences will help them find their place in establishing fruitful careers and practices. We thank the Doggone Foundation for recognizing Concordia’s role in nurturing experiential learning for our students as they seek rewarding careers in their respective disciplines.”

MOMENTS IN TIME



Thanks to his maturity and prowess on the basketball court, **George Lengvari**, BA 63, energized the sports scene at Loyola College a decade before it merged with Sir George Williams University to become Concordia. The forward and centre powered the 1962-63 Loyola Warriors to a first league title and a berth in the inaugural Canadian Intercollegiate Athletics Union championship. Lengvari was named MVP for his efforts and was inducted into the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

As a philanthropist and mentor, Lengvari's impact on varsity basketball at Concordia and at McGill University, where he earned his law degree, has been transformative. The George Lengvari Cup, established in 2019, has stoked the competitive rivalry between both schools and serves as an annual testament to his generosity.

More recently, Lengvari's gift of \$2 million to further encourage varsity basketball at his alma maters was acknowledged as a major milestone in the history of university athletics in Canada.

The 2021 U SPORTS Mitchell Family Alumnus of the Year has also donated \$320,000 to establish the Weider Awards — a new tradition to celebrate the accomplishments of varsity athletes at Concordia.

Named for Lengvari's mentors, Montreal fitness icons Joe Weider and Ben Weider, the first awards were presented to Stingers hockey star Brigitte Laganière, BA 20, and Malick Sylvain, a standout defensive end for Stingers football, at a special ceremony this past March.

