

CONCORDIA

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019



4TH SPACE LAUNCHED!

Bringing Concordia research to the world, 4TH SPACE is part living lab, design showroom, exhibition space, science centre and performance venue. Learn more next month at concordia.ca/magazine.

From left: Nadia Bhuiyan, Concordia's vice-provost of Partnerships and Experiential Learning; Marc Miller, Member of Parliament for Ville-Marie—Le Sud-Ouest—Île-des-Soeurs; Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante and Concordia President Alan Shepard.



CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



A year in, the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now continues its momentum and the fall term was full of exciting milestones. We celebrated the historic \$15-million gift from Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89 — and the renaming of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science — in September. We applauded the generosity of the Rossy Foundation, whose gifts helped establish a headquarters for the International Art Hives Network at Concordia as well as a wellness program for our student population. The Doggone Foundation's donation created valuable, community-based internships for Fine Arts students.

Our annual fundraising events smashed records. The Concordia Golf Classic raised \$390,000 to help deserving students and the Shuffle walkathon brought in \$110,000 for student scholarships and bursaries.

We also welcomed our new vice-president of Advancement, two-time grad Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDipl 97. I look forward to working with him and our campaign volunteers to reach our \$250-million campaign goal.

Gifts large and small further our university's nine strategic directions. If you haven't done so already, please consider

making a gift to the campaign. If you are interested in exploring giving options, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

One of the highlights of the fall is our Chancellor's Builders Circle and Friends dinner. It was great seeing 130 guests learn about the impressive research that helps Concordia advance its status as a world leader in higher education.

We share some of that research in these pages, from robots that build synthetic genomes to a miniature cancer killer and overview of how cities can harness wind power. You'll also meet star alumni, Order of Canada honourees and so much more.

Thank you again for your commitment to our university. Wishing you and your loved ones health and happiness through 2019.

Jonathan Wener, BComm 71
Concordia Chancellor



Concordians celebrated a \$200,000 gift from the Doggone Foundation to create the Elspeth McConnell Fine Arts Award on October 9, 2018.

WORKING ART INTO THE COMMUNITY

Concordia's Fine Arts students are bringing their ideas and talent to the non-profit sector thanks to a \$200,000 donation to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now. The Doggone Foundation, established by the late Elspeth McConnell, announced the gift last October.

Eighteen students from the Faculty of Fine Arts' nine departments will receive \$5,000 annually to intern at community-based organizations. "Elspeth's feeling was that you should look first at what can be done in your own community and your own backyard," says Paul Marchand, president of the Doggone Foundation. "She wanted Montreal to be a leader."

LAB BRINGS AUTOMATION TO GENE-BUILDING

Concordia's position as a leader in the burgeoning field of synthetic biology got a boost with the inauguration of Concordia's Genome Foundry. The first facility of its kind in Canada, the lab will help researchers automate their work using robotics.

Currently, synthetic biology involves manually moving and combining small amounts of liquids and cells to break down genes and build synthetic genomes. The robots can perform thousands of these actions per hour and for several hours at a time. This means researchers can complete many more experiments with greater precision. It will also increase the accuracy with which they can be reproduced. "This is a monumental addition to Canada's synthetic biology ecosystem. It empowers us to navigate uncharted waters alongside our international colleagues, and to incubate the future leaders of our field," says Vincent Martin, co-director of the Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology (CASB).



\$4.5 MILLION FOR RESEARCH IN SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



From left to right: Sherif Goubran, Cássia Reis Donato, Jean-Philippe Gagné, Maya Hey and Caroline Trottier-Gascon

Five Concordia PhD students have received prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships. Valued at \$150,000 over three years, the national award is distributed to social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, engineering and health scholars. Concordia recipients include Sherif Goubran, Cássia Reis Donato, Jean-Philippe Gagné, Maya Hey and Caroline Trottier-Gascon.

Their work looks at sustainable buildings, youth homicide prevention in Brazil, fear of losing control, interactions with microbes and experiences of Montreal transgendered people. Learn more at concordia.ca/news.

FURTHERING INUIT VOICES IN THE ARTS

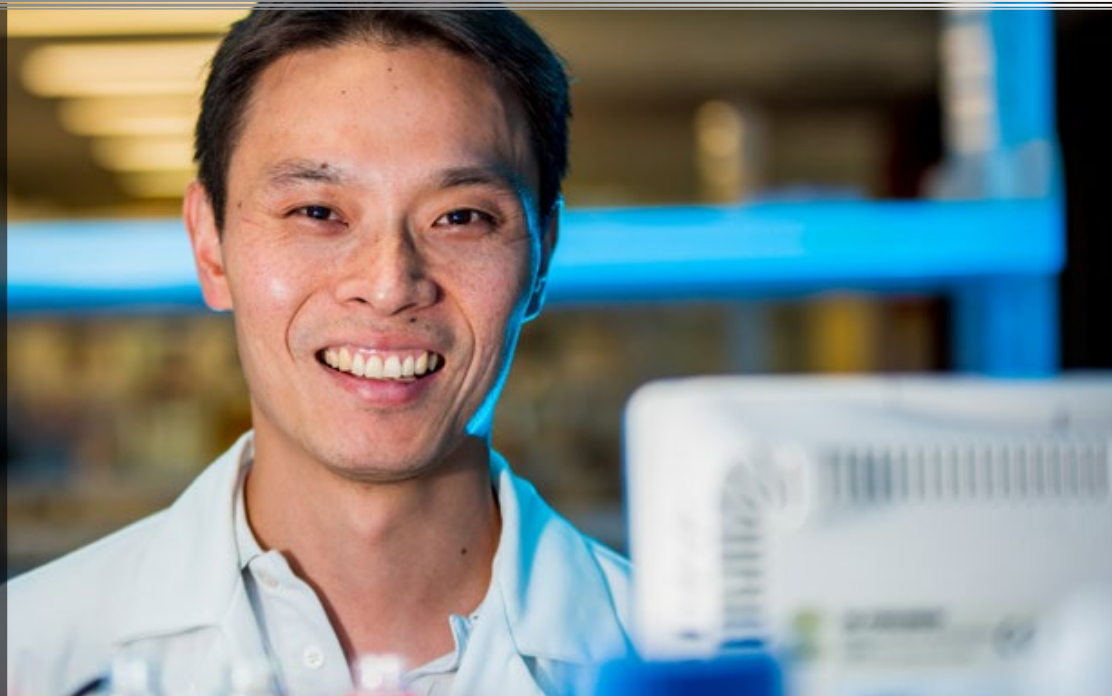
Heather Igloliorte is using her \$2.5-million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to radically increase Inuit participation in arts research and professional practice. The Concordia Research Chair in Indigenous Art History and Community Engagement is developing the Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq Project: Inuit Futures in Arts Leadership. The SSHRC grant addresses a problem she's battled throughout her career: the dearth of Inuit leadership in arts research and the low number of Inuit professionals currently employed across the arts.

While some communities report as many as 25 per cent of Inuit residents employed at least part-time in the arts, Igloliorte, an art curator and associate art history professor at Concordia, says there's more we can do to inform them of potential careers. "Not just as curators or museum staff, but also in the film industry, for example, where we don't have a



cache of sound designers or other post-production specialists, or in theatre, or arts administration," she says. "Think about how beneficial it would be to have people in all these other professions. It would really advance the arts in an exciting way."

Professor Steve Shih and colleagues at the Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology are making major advances in cancer research.



SNIPPING OUT CANCER GENES

Steve Shih, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at Concordia and founder of the Shih Microfluidics Laboratory, says his team has developed a process that will help eradicate cancer. Working through the Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology, the researchers created a gene-editing platform that integrates the automation of complex biology experiments to find cancer-related genes. His findings were published in the journal *Lab on a Chip*.

Once the gene is identified, it can be cut out of the DNA using an established genetic engineering technique and replaced with a healthier one. "Finding genes related to cancer is already very difficult," Shih says. "It's like finding a needle in a haystack, especially with current methods. But hopefully, with this new method, we can expedite the whole process and rapidly find the culprit genes."

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR ALL

Biology master's student Will Cheney is at the helm of a project that could give people who experience extreme or chronic pain better access to pharmaceuticals. Working with his colleagues at Concordia's Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology (CASB), his goal is to create a biosensor that detects and quantifies opiates more cheaply and easily than current scientific procedures allow. "In addition, the biosensor may also help us to understand how different opiates interact with receptors in the human brain," says Cheney.

The biosensor plays a role in the metabolic engineering process called strain optimization where it screens for different mutations or genes to optimize yield. "The biosensor quickly evaluates these changes and allows us to identify optimal production strains. Due to the modular nature of the sensing mechanism, we foresee its application in a variety of pharmaceuticals."



Will Cheney is creating an opioid biosensor that will lead to cheaper medical products.

WIND POWER ON THE URBAN HORIZON

Concordia Professor Ted Stathopoulos says urban planners need to start accommodating wind turbines.



City buildings could one day power cities themselves, says Ted Stathopoulos, a professor in the Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering. In a paper published in the *Journal of Wind Engineering and Industrial Aerodynamics*, Stathopoulos and co-authors, graduate students Hatem Alrawashdeh and Aierken Dilimulati, as well as colleagues Marius Paraschivoiu and Pragasen Pillay, provide an overview of the different ways cities can harness wind power.

Their work explores the different characteristics of the urban environment, how we can influence the configuration of buildings and improve city planning to accommodate wind turbines, thus generating higher wind speed and more energy. Of the various options, Stathopoulos says that

the most feasible and aesthetically pleasing would be to incorporate turbines into architectural plans before a building is erected. Yet stakeholders need to be persuaded that the investment is worth it. Based on results he achieved through his experiments, he says the amount of power that can be generated at present is quite low: “In my view, we can start low, and by making modifications — and that’s the advantage of research — you can really get some much better results. It’s a question of persistence and hard work.” Read more at concordia.ca/news.

SENIOR LEARNING EXTENDS BEYOND CLASSROOM

Retirees and people over 65 want a say in their curriculum when it comes to lifelong learning. “It’s essential to rethink our pedagogy with seniors — not for seniors,” says Anita Sinner, an associate professor in Concordia’s Department of Education and co-author of a paper from the *International Journal of Lifelong Education*.

Over the course of eight months, Sinner’s research team followed a group of third-age learners enrolled in Concordia’s community art education (CAE) program. Beyond acquiring new technical skills, the study found that developing social ties and broadening one’s area of interest were also key factors in participants’ personal development. “We found community art education provided a transformative environment for art to ignite the creative potential of third-age learners,” Sinner concludes.



Muthukumaran Packirisamy: "As one of the few Canadians to become a member of the National Academy of Inventors, I feel this is a great honour and a privilege."



FIRST CONCORDIAN TO JOIN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

Muthukumaran Packirisamy, a professor at Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, has joined the ranks of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He is the 11th Canadian scientist — and first from Quebec — to be welcomed by the U.S.-based academy.

Packirisamy, who holds roughly 20 patents, heads Concordia's Optical-Bio Microsystems Laboratory and Concordia Silicon Microfabrication (ConSIM) facility. His work focuses on lab-on-a-chip (LOC) technology, which miniaturizes and integrates several functions traditionally completed in a laboratory onto a tiny physical platform that can fit comfortably in a person's palm.

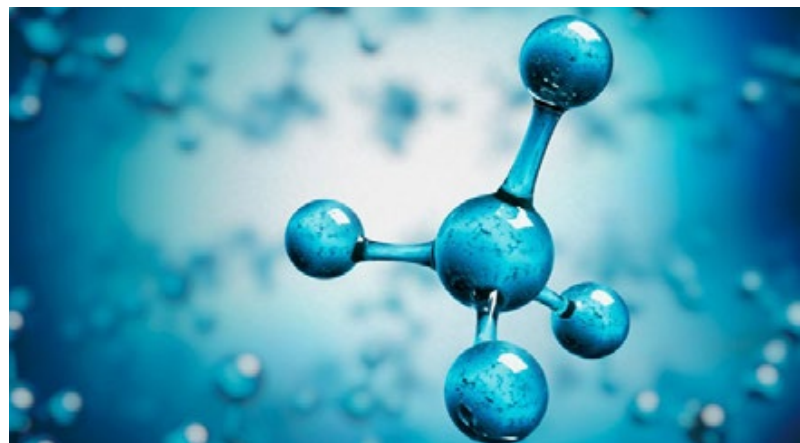
There are significant real-world applications for Packirisamy's research. For instance, thanks to LOC, patients in remote locations can use sensors on one of his chips to take critical health readings and send the data to doctors who cannot reach them easily.

"Our faculty members at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science are focused on achieving excellence in teaching, research, discovery and innovation," says Amir Asif, the school's dean. "Receiving a fellowship from the National Academy of Inventors is a further testament to Muthukumaran Packirisamy's contributions for the betterment of society through industrial collaboration, responsible innovation and knowledge transfer to solve everyday problems."

Packirisamy, who teaches in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, says support from Concordia facilitates his success. "An invention begins with an idea that has value for society, as well as potential commercial value," he says. "The partnerships and innovation unit of the Office of Research is instrumental in bringing the invention along the path to patenting and finding partners for commercialization."

\$9.5 MILLION FOR 72 PROJECTS

Concordians are getting \$9.5 million to advance groundbreaking research projects, thanks to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Grants will be provided to 53 faculty researchers and 19 graduate students. "This support enhances Concordia's research expertise and helps provide a stimulating environment for research training in a range of disciplines," says Christophe Guy, Concordia's vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies. Some of the projects recognized include new ways to develop synthetic organisms, organic carbon cycling and preservation in aquatic environments, and biochemical understanding of aging and aging-related diseases. Read more at concordia.ca/news.



FALL CONVOCATION DINNER



1 Five leaders from the business, philanthropic and artistic communities received honorary doctorates from Concordia at the fall convocation. From left, they are: Luigi Liberatore, Nathalie Pilon, Meredith Monk, Miriam Roland and Louis A. Tanguay, BComm 75;

2 Guests at the fall convocation dinner at Concordia's Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre; **3** Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, new vice-president of Advancement at Concordia, with Bram Freedman, CEO and president of the Jewish General Hospital Foundation; **4** Tony Loffreda, BComm 85, vice-chairman at RBC Wealth Management, with his wife Angelina Loffreda.



CONCORDIANS NAMED TO ORDER OF CANADA



The latest Order of Canada cohorts include 11 members of the Concordia family. All have left an indelible mark on their communities, their country and the world. The appointees are:

COMPANION: **1** The first woman Chief Justice of Canada, The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, LLD 11;
2 Astronaut Roberta Lynn Bondar, 2009 Loyola Medal Recipient

OFFICER: **3** Former editor-in-chief of *Le Devoir*, Lise Bissonette, LLD 86; **4** Telus CEO Darren Entwistle, BA 86, LLD 12; **5** businessman Henri-Paul Rousseau, LLD 04

MEMBERS: **6** Canadian Space Agency veteran Virendra K. Jha, PhD 82; **7** Writer Ann-Marie MacDonald, Concordia's first Mordecai Richler Writer in Residence **8** Concordia's first jurist-in-residence, Justice Morton Minc, BA 67; **9** Air Canada CEO Calin Rovinescu, LLD 16; **10** Health care advocate Sharon Sholzberg-Gray, BA 64; **11** CTV Montreal's chief news anchor, Mutsumi Takahashi, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13

RECOGNITION FOR INDUSTRY TRAILBLAZERS

The John Molson School of Business (JMSB) has teamed up with Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton to fête Quebec business leaders. The newly created Person of the Year Awards will offer prizes in four categories and will be granted based on innovation and vision, financial performance, scope of accomplishments and community involvement. "Leveraging the strength of our two organizations' networks, this contest creates real opportunities for collaboration between academia and industry," says Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, dean of the John Molson School of Business.

Winners will be announced at the May 9, 2019, gala at Montreal's Gare Windsor. Learn more at rcgt.com/awards.



Anne-Marie Croteau, BSc 86, dean of JMSB, and Emilio Imbriglio, BComm 81, GrDip 82, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton president and CEO.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

From the Chancellor's Builders Circle and Friends Dinner to the Shuffle, Concordia's annual 6.5-km walkathon fundraiser, the fall calendar was packed with opportunities to celebrate philanthropy.

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS — ANNUAL DINNER ON OCTOBER 25, 2018

1 More than 200 guests packed the room at Le Salon 1861 to celebrate philanthropy. **2** Co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia Lino Saputo Jr, BA 89, with his wife, Amelia Saputo, BA 90; **3** CTV News Montreal anchor Mutsumi Takahaski, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, with Concordia Chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71; **4** Michel Boyer, BA 12, national correspondent for CTV News, and Amanda Kline, BA 11, reporter for CTV News Montreal, co-emceed the event; **5** Concordia President Alan Shepard with Stephen Jarislowsky, LLD 03; **6** Peter Kruyt, BComm 78, vice-president at Power Corporation of Canada; Leslie Raenden of Power Corporation, and Concordia staffer Cherry Marshall, BA 06, MA 10; **7** Concordia student David Marino wowed the crowd with his musical performance; **8** Presenting their Concordia research were Cheryl Gladu (left), PhD candidate in the Individualized Program, and Shauna Janssen, BFA 94, MA 09, PhD 14, director of the Institute for Urban Futures, Concordia University Research Chair in Performative Urbanism and assistant professor in the Department of Theatre.



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A \$15-MILLION GIFT TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA

1 Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, the first woman awarded a PhD in building engineering at Concordia, made a \$15-million gift to Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science — now known as the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science — on September 24, 2018. She is pictured with Concordia President Alan Shepard (left) and Amir Asif (right), dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science;

2 400 guests attended the Gina Cody gift announcement; **3** From left: Concordia President Alan Shepard; Helen Antoniou; Sue Montgomery, Mayor of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce; Fay Arjomandi, BEng 98, founder and chief product officer at mimik; Thomas Cody, MBA 83; David Lametti, Member of Parliament and now Minister of Justice; Tina Cody; Gina Cody; Amir Asif, dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science; Roya Cody; Board of Governors Chair Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 77; Anahita Bigtashi; Concordia Chancellor Jonathan Wener, BComm 71; Rob Oliphant, Member of Parliament; former Québec MNA Jacques Chagnon, BA 75; and Campaign for Concordia co-chair Andrew Molson; **4** Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Mayor Sue Montgomery addresses the crowd; **5** City News Montreal journalist Emily Campbell, BA 18, interviews Gina Cody; **6** Hélène David, member of the Government of Quebec; **7** Gina Cody meets young engineering and computer science students inspired by their school's new namesake.



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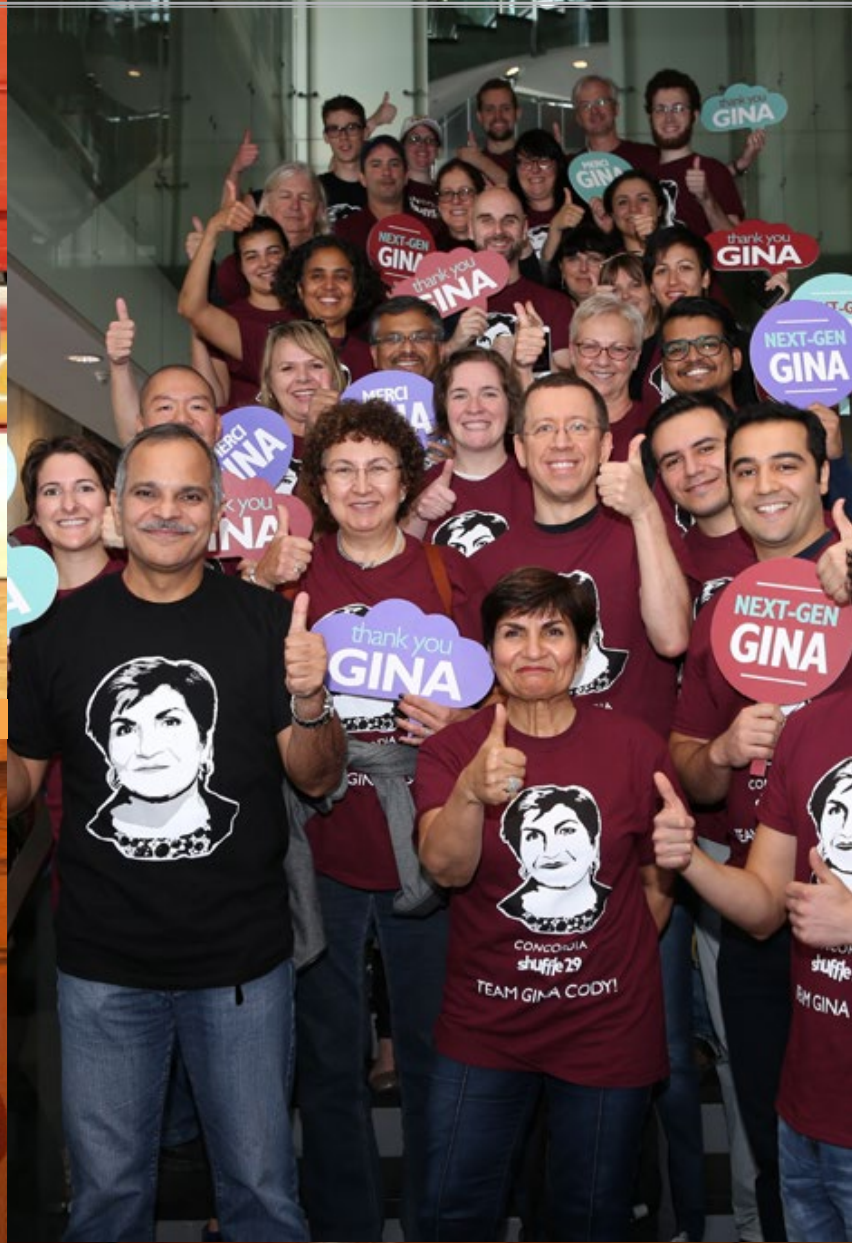


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CONCORDIA



CONCORDIA STINGERS WIN THE INAUGURAL GEORGE LENGVARI CUP

1 The Stingers men's basketball team beat the Redmen 69-61 at McGill. From left: Concordia Director of Recreation and Athletics D'Arcy Ryan, BA 98, MA 02, MBA 09; Stingers captain Ricardo Monge, BComm 18; George Lengvari, BA 63; Stingers guard Adrian Armstrong; Concordia head coach Rastko Popovic, BComm 05. Photo: Derek Drummond, McGill Athletics

SHUFFLE 29 RAISES \$110,000 FOR STUDENTS

2 Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, (centre) at the kickoff to Shuffle 29, our annual walkathon.

GINA CODY MEETS MONTREAL MAYOR

3 Gina Cody (right) visited Montreal's City Hall to sign the official guest book, the Livre d'or. Pictured here with Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante (left), Cody was recognized for her \$15-million gift to Concordia's newly christened Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

THREE-TIME TONY AWARD WINNER DELIVERED THE WILD TALKS LECTURE

4 As part of Homecoming 2018, Christine Jones, BFA 89, (right) spoke about her artistic process and her career path. Her latest feat? Bringing J.K. Rowling's wizarding world to the New York and London stages with *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. Jones says she is still inspired by her time at Concordia. "The university taught me how to think like a theatre animal." She is pictured with the lecture series' namesake Catherine Wild, BFA 77, professor of studio arts.

CONCORDIA GOLF CLASSIC RAISES \$390,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

5 Joseph Capano, principal director of development, John Molson School of Business and Special initiatives (far left) and Concordia President Alan Shepard (centre), with the team of honorary chairs and co-presidents, from left: François Touchette, vice-president and managing director, National Client Group – Canada, National Bank; Nathalie Soucy, head of sales, vice-president, Business Services, Desjardins Group; Sylvain Corbeil, senior vice-president, TD Commercial Banking, Quebec and Atlantic Regions, TD Bank Group; Luigi Liberatore; Maria Mangiocavallo, BComm 86, GrDip 89, vice-president and head, Commercial Banking and Roynat Capital, Quebec Region, Roynat/Scotiabank; Louis Tanguay, BComm 75, LLD 18, corporate director; Charles Douville, BComm 84, senior vice-president, head of Commercial Banking – Quebec Region, HSBC Bank Canada; René Douville, head, Corporate Finance Division – Quebec, BMO Bank of Montreal; Jean-François Prince, regional vice-president, Business Financial Services – Quebec Headquarters, RBC Royal Bank; Demo Trifonopoulos, BComm 85, vice-president and region head – Quebec, CIBC Commercial Banking; Sophie Boucher, vice-president and head, Commercial Banking and Syndication, Business Services, Laurentian Bank. Missing are: André Desmarais, BComm 78, LLD 07, deputy chairman, president, co-CEO, Power Corporation of Canada; Nadine Renaud-Tinker, president, Quebec Headquarters, RBC Royal Bank.



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CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: AN IMMIGRANT TAKES PRIDE AND GIVES BACK

ALUMNUS DOMINIC D'ALESSANDRO GIVES OVER \$1 MILLION TOWARD FELLOWSHIPS TO SUPPORT YOUNG RESEARCHERS

“Why don’t you skate, Dad? Why don’t you swim?” my children would ask me when they were young,” says Dominic D’Alessandro, BSc 67, LLD 98. “When I was a little boy, we didn’t have much. Life was tough, but everybody we knew was in the same situation.”

Life changed radically for D’Alessandro after he graduated from Loyola College, one of Concordia’s founding institutions. He has given more than \$1 million toward the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

His father died when he was seven, four years after the family immigrated to Canada from Italy. His 14-year-old brother went to work delivering bread to support the family. His mother raised four children by herself.

D’Alessandro beat the odds and went on to become one of Canada’s most prominent business leaders. The recipient of numerous awards, he was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 2003 and Canada’s Outstanding CEO of Year in 2002. He received an honorary doctorate from Concordia in 1998 and the Loyola Medal in 2004.

Formative years at Loyola College

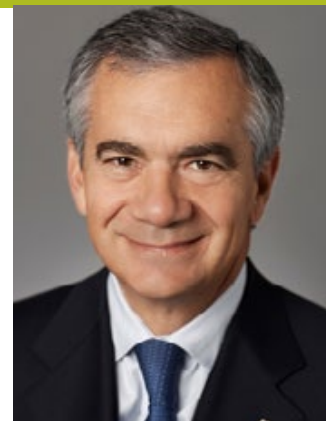


The young D’Alessandro was a bright student with a natural ability in school. He skipped two grades and, at age 14, enrolled at Loyola, studying math and physics.

D’Alessandro is grateful to his alma mater for setting the course for his success. His degree opened doors. It was also during his Loyola years that he met Pearl, his wife of 51 years.

Through his giving to Concordia, he created the Dominic D’Alessandro Fellowship Fund to support master’s and doctoral students in research-oriented programs.

“I want to make it easier for deserving students who have an appetite to learn. I believe in education — it makes better citizens and better human beings of us all by helping us to understand the world around us. Frankly, I think education is the best investment,” he says.



D’Alessandro’s commitment to Concordia extends beyond his philanthropy. He has served on the university’s Board of Governors and now volunteers as honorary vice-chair for the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

“As a proud Concordia graduate and long-time volunteer, Dominic D’Alessandro embodies the Jesuit and Loyola College ethos to be a ‘man for others,’” says Concordia President Alan Shepard. “Dominic was an astute businessman who worked hard to succeed. He is generously giving of his time and resources to support our next generation of students.”

“I’m very proud of who I am and where I come from. I’m especially proud that I haven’t lost my values. I remember what it’s like to be disadvantaged. I had a hard time as a kid and today I believe that if you can help somebody, why wouldn’t you?”

Watch the video at bit.ly/ddalessandro.

- Concordia’s 9 Strategic Directions are bold, daring, innovative and transformative: concordia.ca/directions.
- Learn how Concordia’s most ambitious campaign to date will empower tomorrow’s leaders: concordia.ca/campaign.
- Discover what Concordia achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world: concordia.ca/concordiafirsts.

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