CELEBRATING TWO DECADES OF FRIENDSHIP AND FUN IN SUPPORT OF OUR STUDENTS
SPECIAL THANKS FROM CONCORDIA PRESIDENT GRAHAM CARR

Philanthropy plays a crucial role in making Concordia Canada’s next-generation university. In 2023, we celebrated 20 years of the Concordia Golf Classic — our flagship event in support of our students — thanks to you.

Each fall, just as our students return to campus, our dedicated Golf Classic community comes together for a great day on the greens to support an important cause: deserving Concordia students.

Our annual Golf Classic marked its two decades last September by raising a record $600,000. Since the tournament’s inception, together we have raised more than $7.6 million for student success — what an achievement!

Golf Classic funding provides critical support to the next generation of leaders and changemakers through scholarships and bursaries. More than 1,700 deserving Concordia students from our four faculties — both graduate and undergraduate — have benefited from Golf Classic scholarships and bursaries.

In the following pages, you will learn more about two decades of student award recipients and their gratitude for your support.

Our tremendous success is only possible thanks to our dedicated supporters — members of our volunteer leadership team, corporate partners, alumni and friends. Your commitment underscores your belief in supporting the next generation, and we are grateful for your continued engagement.

On behalf of our students, thank you!

Sincerely,

Graham Carr
President and Vice-Chancellor
TWO DECADES OF FRIENDSHIP AND FUN
IN SUPPORT OF STUDENTS

Each year, the Concordia Golf Classic welcomes 150 business leaders, alumni, donors and friends of Concordia, including many long-time supporters of the only fundraiser in Quebec that unites executives from the province’s nine major banks.

The university’s premier fundraising event in support of our students, the Golf Classic has been a popular and successful event since day one. Concordia governor emeritus and benefactor Richard Renaud, BComm 69, LLD 09, and the Honourable Marcel Danis, BA 65, then vice-president of External Relations and secretary-general, sparked the idea to raise funds for students in financial need. Under the leadership of Joseph Capano, now principal director of Corporate Relations and Special Initiatives, an annual tradition was born. The Golf Classic launched in 2003 at the prestigious Le Fontainbleau golf course in Blainville, Que.
Boasting an impressive roster of co-chairs and co-presidents, the fundraiser was presided over by Norman Hébert, BComm 77, former chair of Concordia’s Board of Governors, and long-time board member George Hanna, BA 72, throughout its first decade. Former Concordia chancellor the late L. Jacques Ménard, BComm 67, LLD 06, also served for two years.

Parallel tournaments were also held near Toronto at Glen Abbey Golf Course in Oakville, Ont., in 2004 and 2005, with former Concordia board member Dominic D’Alessandro, BSc 67, LLD 98, the late Ned Goodman, LLD 97, founder and benefactor of the Goodman Institute of Investment Management Program at Concordia’s John Molson School of Business, and the late Brian Steck, BComm 68, serving as its co-presidents.

In 2014, entrepreneur and venture capital investor Luigi Liberatore, LLD 18, welcomed Concordia to his own exclusive and challenging course, Golf Griffon des Sources in Mirabel, Que., where the tournament has been held ever since.

That same year, joining Liberatore as co-chairs on our volunteer leadership team were André Desmarais, BComm 78, LLD 07, Louis Tanguay, BComm 75, LLD 18, and former Concordia board vice-chair James Cherry. The team further expanded with the involvement of banking executives Stéphane Achard, BComm 87, MBA 94, (Desjardins), Martin Thibodeau (RBC) and Sylvain Corbeil (TD), who helped recruit a team of co-presidents representing Quebec’s nine major banks in 2014.

The Golf Classic is now a signature event that draws a full house annually. Thanks to support from our co-chairs and co-presidents, partners and sponsors, new fundraising records have been set nearly each year. From the initial $200,000 raised at our inaugural tournament in 2004, our fundraising goals have climbed and been surpassed — with our combined efforts amassing a record $600,000 in 2023. That brings the total funds raised over the last 20 years to an impressive $7.6 million for Concordia students!

“The tournament’s success is a testament to the hard work of so many,” says Capano. “I am immensely grateful to our steadfast panel of co-chairs and co-presidents who open their networks and help bring in this critical support for our students, as well as to our corporate sponsors and donors. My thanks also go to our internal Golf Classic committee, including Jennifer Stapenhorst, Perry Calce, Tony Patricio, Shanna Parisien, Alana Mota and Chris Walker.”
Golf Classic by the numbers

$7.6 million Raised

1,700 Awards distributed

$5,000 to $10,000 Graduate scholarships

$1,000 to $3,000 Undergraduate awards

3,400 Tournament participants

MORE THAN

50% of students rely on financial aid

65 Sponsors
IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Opening the door to success

More than half of our 51,000 students rely on financial aid and, as the cost of being a student continues to increase, so does the number of individuals who rely on financial aid each year.

Golf Classic awards have benefited more than 1,700 undergraduate students from our four faculties — including former bursary recipient Liliane Chamas, BSc 09, a Rhodes Scholar. They support students from Quebec, Canada and around the globe.

Receiving a Golf Classic undergraduate award, valued from $1,000 to $3,000, can make a significant difference in a student’s life. These awards include bursaries to assist students in financial need, and scholarships to attract and reward students who excel academically or in varsity sports.

In more recent years, Golf Classic funding has also supported graduate students, through Concordia Merit Scholarships, valued from $5,000 to $10,000, which attract research-based graduate students in master’s and doctoral programs. The tournament also funds a conference and exhibition award, providing opportunities for students to travel to and attend enriching extra-curricular events.
GOLF CLASSIC AWARD RECIPIENTS SAY THANKS!

Student recipients of Golf Classic scholarships and bursaries come from all walks of life. They include top students and researchers who choose Concordia to pursue their important work, talented young people from Quebec and across Canada, as well as immigrants facing the additional challenges of settling in a new country — even student parents, balancing work, studies and childcare.

Through the years, many have written heartfelt letters of gratitude — both for easing the financial burden and also for demonstrating a belief in their abilities and encouraging them to achieve their highest potential in the classroom and on the sports field. Read words of gratitude from some of the current and past recipients who have graduated and gone on to successful careers.

“...The award really helped me focus on school and football rather than working to pay off my university debt like I did my first year. Being a student athlete almost all my life taught me that even on your worst days, you have to show up and be consistent in order to succeed. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community.”

Mohamed Cisse (current student)
John Molson School of Business, Accountancy
Stingers Men’s Football
Class of 2025
“Chasing my dreams far away from home quickly becomes expensive, but this award has been such a game-changer. The weight it takes off my shoulders allows me to focus on making my time here count. Knowing there’s someone out there helping a stranger makes me feel like I could explode with gratitude. It makes more difference than they could ever know.”

Meaghan Comeau  
Faculty of Arts and Science, Exercise Science  
Stingers Women’s Rugby  
Class of 2025

“I consider it important to be an active community member while studying, so I volunteered on and off campus. I hope to build a career out of helping others achieve their own career goals — the exact reason I fell in love with the field of human resources. Being selected for a Golf Classic bursary has reminded me there are people who believe in my abilities and recognize my potential for success, and that is priceless. Thank you for your generosity!”

Emma Alguire, BComm 18  
(Human Resource Management)  
Valedictorian, John Molson School of Business
Receiving the entrance scholarship was an honour, giving me the motivation to continue working hard in engineering, even when faced with challenging material. I will graduate next year, having achieved excellent academic standing at Concordia. Most importantly, this award made me want to give back to Concordia — a university that has given me so much. Distinguished donors, thank you for making this all possible!

**Kristina Kefalas**, BEng 14, MEng 18 (Building and Civil Engineering)

I am very grateful for having received the Golf Classic Entrance Scholarship. It has not only allowed me to purchase the numerous books I needed for all my classes and helped me pay for tuition, but it has reminded me of something very important: the value of working hard towards what we love. My first love is learning, and I would dedicate my whole life to this task.

**Steve Santerre**, BA 16 (Western Society and Culture)
“Because of your generosity, I was able to pay for a large part of my first year’s tuition at Concordia. Since I was not forced to spend many hours each week at my part-time job, I devoted this time to my studies in biochemistry, enabling me to attain a nearly perfect grade point average of 4.23. Thank you sincerely for the fantastic start to my university career.”

Sheena Kelly, BSc 17  
(Exercise Science)

“I hope you know that every time you give this award there must always be someone like me, whose struggles you unknowingly eased, whose spirit you unknowingly lifted and whose life you unknowingly changed. I am forever grateful.”

Regina Coeli Tolentino, BSc 2016  
(Behavioral Neuroscience)
This list of 778 students provides only a sample of the many students supported by scholarships and bursaries funded by the Concordia Golf Classic since its inception. The sheer volume of award recipients is a testament to the impact of our supporters’ generosity.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

After graduating from Concordia, many Golf Classic award recipients go on to become leaders in their field, building successful careers in entrepreneurship and banking, engineering and computer science, artificial intelligence, health and natural sciences, among many other areas. Find out where some of our Concordia Golf Classic scholarship and bursary recipients are today.
Sabina Matyiku, BA 09  
(Linguistics) * with Great Distinction  
Machine-learning engineer, Apple

Charmaine Christie-Primo, BEng 12  
(Civil Engineering)  
FastTrack architect, Microsoft

Cirous Sadeghi, BSc 12 (Biology)  
Chief cardiology fellow,  
NYU Long Island

Danielle Yolande Russell, BSc 15  
(Ecology)  
Senior specialist, Environment and Climate Change, CAE

Matthew Leddy, BA 18  
(Human Environment, Sustainability Studies) * with Distinction  
Program coordinator, Energy & Climate Action, University of Alberta

Liliane Chamas, BSc 09 (Biology), Rhodes Scholar  
Geneticist and investor | HealthTech principal, Oxford Science Enterprises

François Yea, BComm 18 (Finance)  
Collateral associate, BMO Capital Markets

Gregory Gibson, BEng 16  
(Electrical Engineering and Electronics)  
Software developer, L3Harris Technologies
**Roberto Trenard**, BEng 09  
(Electrical and Computer Engineering)  
Director of lab, RTINGS.com

**Pardeep Trehan**, BEng 14  
(Industrial Engineering)  
Digital transformation and continuous improvement manager, ABB

**Jermaine Santoya**, BComSci 21  
(Computer Applications)  
Product marketing manager, Genetec

**Alessia Ruberto**, BComm 11  
(Accountancy), Corporate controller, TrafficTech

**Marc Roche**, BComm 10 (Finance),  
BEng 16 (Aerodynamics and Propulsion)  
Manager of Manufacturing Engineering, Taiga Motors

**Keroles Riad**, BEng 13 (Aerodynamics and Propulsion), MSc 16 (Engineering), PhD 21 (Engineering)  
Postdoctoral research fellow, Carleton University; CEO, enuf Canada

**Ève Provencher-Dagenais**, BComm 19  
(Marketing)  
Senior advisor, Customer Experience, Laurentian Bank

**Jacques Gallant**, BA 13  
(Journalism) * with Distinction  
Legal affairs reporter, Toronto Star
Yael Depaz, BSc 11 (Biology)
Senior engineering manager, Atlassian

Juan Antonio Contreras, BEng 14 (Aerodynamics and Propulsion)
Senior consultant, Technology Consulting, EY

Olivier Bastien, BA 08 (Psychology)
Senior strategy advisor, Independent Strategic Advisory

Amanda Arella, BA 14 (Political Science) * with Great Distinction
Lawyer | Director, Public Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Communications, YWCA Canada

Ning Wang, MCompSci 10 (Computer Science and Software Engineering)
Data pipeline software engineer, Amplitude

Joelle J. Paquet, BComm 13 (Finance)
Chief analyst, National Bank of Canada
OUR DEDICATED GOLF CLASSIC VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP TEAM

Each year, committed members of the business community step up to serve on our volunteer leadership team, including our current three long-time co-chairs and a team of co-presidents representing Canada’s nine major banks.

Our team has included:

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

André Desmarais  
BComm 78, LLD 07

Luigi Liberatore  
LLD 18

Louis Tanguay  
BComm 75, LLD 18

*Former member
CO-PRESIDENTS

Stéphane Achard*
BComm 87, MBA 94,
Executive vice-president, International,
National Bank of Canada

Tony Aksa, CFA
Vice-president, Strategic Markets
Development, National Bank of Canada

Sophie Boucher
Senior vice-president, head of Personal
Banking and Small-Medium Enterprises,
Laurentian Bank of Canada

Michel Cantin
Vice-president, Development and
Partnerships, Western Quebec Division,
Desjardins

Sylvain Corbeil*
Senior vice-president, Business Banking
Distribution, Quebec, Scotiabank

Viviane Croux
Senior vice-president and Quebec head,
BMO Commercial Bank Canada,
BMO Bank of Montreal

Charles Douville, BComm 84,
Senior vice-president, regional head
of Commercial Banking – Quebec Region,
HSBC Bank Canada

René Douville*
Market lead, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems,
Wealth – Quebec, BMO Bank of Montreal
Philippe Langelier
Managing director, Quebec Corporate Client Group, RBC Royal Bank

Maria Mangiocavallo, BComm 86, GrDip 89, Vice-president, Commercial Banking, Quebec Region, Scotiabank

Isabelle Ménard
Head of Quebec and Atlantic, Commercial Banking District and Commercial National Accounts Quebec, TD Bank Group

Jean-François Prince
Regional vice-president, Business Financial Services – Quebec, RBC Royal Bank

Nadine Renaud-Tinker*
President, Quebec Headquarters at RBC Royal Bank

Nathalie Soucy
(Retired) Vice-president, Network Support and Cross-Sector Initiatives Division, Mouvement Desjardins

Martin Thibodeau*
Regional president, British Columbia, RBC Royal Bank

Demo Trifonopoulos, BComm 85, president and region head – Quebec, CIBC Commercial Banking

* Former member
A FINAL THANK-YOU

The Concordia Golf Classic is the university’s flagship event in support of our students.

A heartfelt thank-you to our co-chairs, co-presidents, partner organizations, alumni and friends for your generosity through the decades. Your dedication to Concordia truly makes a difference to our students — helping to propel the next generation of leaders and innovators.

Funds raised by the tournament count toward our Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the university’s history. Now in its final stages, I am thrilled by our success as we close in on our $350-million goal. Now more than ever, private giving is critical to building our future as Canada’s next-generation university.

As a proud alumnus of Concordia, I am inspired by the incredible generosity of our community and grateful for your ongoing support.

We couldn’t have done it without you.

With gratitude,

Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97
Vice-President, University Advancement
ABOUT CONCORDIA

Concordia is a next-generation university, continually reimagining the future of higher education. Located in the vibrant and multicultural city of Montreal, Concordia is the top-ranked university in Canada founded within the last 50 years and among the most innovative in its approach to experiential learning and cross-functional research.

The university annually registers 50,000 diverse and engaged students, including more than 11,000 international students from some 150 countries, in its Faculty of Arts and Science, John Molson School of Business, Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science and Faculty of Fine Arts, and in Concordia Continuing Education.
#1 in North America university under 50 years

TOP 200 in the world for support of Sustainable Development Goals

75% of courses have fewer than 60 students

#3 in North America favourite student city

50,000 students

4400+ Co-op students

150+ countries represented

11,000+ international students
ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: NEXT-GEN NOW

Concordia is leading its most ambitious fundraising effort ever (concordia.ca/campaign).

The campaign supports nine strategic directions that advance Concordia’s role as Canada’s next-generation university (concordia.ca/directions). With co-chairs Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Andrew Molson and Lino A. Saputo, BA 89, volunteer leaders across Canada, the United States and Asia are helping to drive this major initiative.

The Campaign for Concordia will culminate in 2024-25, the year of Concordia’s 50th anniversary.