

Your Generosity in Action

# momentum

2022 NEWSLETTER FOR LOYAL CONCORDIA DONORS

ISSUE  
Nº7



# CONCORDIA

# Get to know our student body

We're 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 under 50 in North America. We annually register some 51,000 students through our innovative approach to experiential learning and cross-functional research.

## Total enrolment

Undergraduate	<b>37,272</b>
Graduate	<b>9,539</b>
Concordia Continuing Education	<b>4,442</b>



## Programs

<b>400</b>	undergraduate programs
<b>129</b>	graduate programs

## From around the world

International	<b>9,999</b>
Canadian Quebec resident	<b>32,798</b>
Canadian Non-Quebec resident	<b>4,014</b>



## Enrolment by faculty

Faculty of Arts & Science	<b>19,724</b>
Faculty of Fine Arts	<b>3,964</b>
Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science	<b>10,696</b>
John Molson School of Business	<b>9,915</b>
Independent, visiting and other	<b>2,512</b>

## Linguistic profile

English	<b>49.3%</b>
French	<b>19.2%</b>
All others	<b>31.5%</b>

\*Figures reflect 2020-21 academic year.



# Positioning for a better tomorrow

A message from  
Graham Carr

Given the constant challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, I'm sure all of us just want to put the last year behind us. There's no doubt that successive waves of COVID took a toll on our community and soured the mood of the world. We seized every opportunity to bring students back to campus when

public health conditions allowed. But there were limits to what we could do, which only made us yearn even more for the vibrancy of the full campus experience.

Despite the challenges and frustrations, when I reflect on the past year, I'm struck by how much we accomplished and moved forward with our determination to be one of Canada's, and the world's, great universities.

Our Board approved the creation of a new School of Health that will be transformative for Concordia, allowing us to bring fresh value to preventive, clinical and community health, biomedical sciences and engineering, technology development, and health-systems innovation.

We launched the Indigenous Futures Research Centre, another signal of our commitment to decolonization, truth and reconciliation, but also to forging new, forward-looking approaches to research and training that differentiate Concordia on a global scale.

Concordia's students continue to get outstanding results in national and international arts, case and rocketry competitions, while our women's ice hockey Stingers won both the 2022 Quebec title and the Canadian U Sports championship!

V1 Studio — part of our District 3 Innovation Hub — created a fantastic Scientific Ventures Program, unique in Canada, that helps entrepreneurial PhD graduates take their research to market.

We also welcomed five new Canada Research Chairs — all women identified as emerging leaders in the fields of behavioural health, genetics, computational physics, cinema and the study of disease.

What's more, the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now has made remarkable strides.

In the space of a few weeks last fall we announced a string of \$1-million-plus gifts for fine arts, social justice, experiential learning, leadership and varsity sports from the Doggone, Flanagan and RBC foundations, and George Lengvari, BA 63, a pillar of the Concordia community.

Our annual campaign attracted a record number of 17,242 individual supporters, while the Campaign for Concordia raised an impressive \$27.5 million in the 2021 calendar year — all of it possible thanks to you, our magnificent donors.

The success of our students, faculty and researchers inspires our community's vision for a better tomorrow.

Thank you. I sincerely hope the accomplishments made possible by your generosity are as much a source of pride for you as they are for me and the whole Concordia community.

Sincere regards,

**Graham Carr**, President and Vice-Chancellor

# Spotlight on innovation

Concordia researchers are tackling societal problems and finding solutions to improve our communities and our planet — and garnering important research funding for their work.

## Concordia School of Health approved

Concordia's Board of Governors approved the creation of a new **School of Health** ([concordia.ca/schoolofhealth](http://concordia.ca/schoolofhealth)) at the university, furthering the transformative health research already underway across all faculties. This bold initiative helps Concordia stand out as a next-generation university, offering integrated opportunities for health-related learning, discovery, innovation and engagement.

## From lab to market

In collaboration with Concordia, District 3 Innovation Hub founded **V1 Studio** to create a solid foundation for scientific entrepreneurial initiatives. V1 Studio's Scientific Venture Program, a two-year postdoctoral program aimed at building stronger bridges between the scientific and business innovation sectors, began in September 2021.

## Disposable masks harming the ocean

A single mask left exposed under natural conditions can release more than 1.5 million microplastics into the shoreline environment, according to a study by Concordia researchers investigating how disposable masks break down and their environmental impact.



HEATHER IGLOLIORTE AND JASON E. LEWIS

## First-of-its-kind research centre

Concordia launched its first university-recognized Indigenous research centre in November 2021, helmed by co-chairs **Heather Igloliorte** and **Jason E. Lewis**, both professors in the Faculty of Fine Arts. Supporting work led by and for Indigenous peoples and communities, the Indigenous Futures Research Centre represents years of hard work and a collective leap forward for Indigenous-led scholarship at the university. Learn more at [milieux.concordia.ca/indigenousresearch](http://milieux.concordia.ca/indigenousresearch).



## A new way to detect cancer

Concordia researchers, including **Muthukumaran Packirisamy**, director of Concordia's Optical Bio-Microsystems Laboratory, have developed a new liquid biopsy method. Lab-on-a-chip technology uses magnetic particles to identify biomarkers of concern before a tumour even forms, leading to significantly improved cancer diagnosis and treatment.

### Canadian Cyber Security Innovation Network

The Government of Canada announced \$76.4 million in funding over four years to the **National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC)**. As lead recipient, the NCC will establish the Cyber Security Innovation Network, a vital platform for the advancement of cybersecurity. Gina Cody School dean Mourad Debabbi will lead the initiative with co-directors from universities across Canada.

### Five professors named Canada Research Chairs

Concordia is now home to **five additional Canada Research Chairs (CRCs)**, whose funding is worth a total of \$3 million over five years and whose research topics span chemistry and biochemistry, cinema, biology, physics and psychology. Extra infrastructure funds — a matching contribution from the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation as well as support from Concordia and other sources — add \$2.06 million to the CRC awards for a combined value of more than \$5 million.

### Harnessing the power of music

The **Montreal Chinese Hospital** launched a new music therapy program with Concordia in 2021 to address isolation and loneliness among nursing-home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The collaboration has shown a positive impact on pain management, memory improvement, isolation, anxiety, depression and end-of-life care.



CONCORDIA RESEARCHERS **MONICA MULRENNAN** AND **DYLAN FRASER**

### Bridging Indigenous knowledge with science

Concordia researchers **Monica Mulrennan** and **Dylan Fraser** joined a national project to understand and protect northern fisheries. Biology, genomics, social science and Indigenous Knowledge come together for the FISHES project (Fostering Indigenous Small-scale fisheries for Health, Economy, and food Security). It received \$14.5 million in funding, primarily from Genome Canada and Génome Québec.



### Facilitating dialogue between doctors and moms-to-be

Concordia researcher **Angela Alberga**, BSc 05, wants to help empower pregnant women to improve communication with their health-care providers. Alberga is working with a cross-Canada team, funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research, to develop a deck of about 45 MomCards designed to prompt conversation about sensitive topics that first-time moms may encounter.

*Learn about our community's latest advancements at [concordia.ca/research](https://concordia.ca/research).*

DONOR PROFILE

## Brad McAninch and Mark Fazio

### SHARING A VISION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



Brad McAninch, BEng 97, and Mark Fazio, BEng 94, have a lot in common: both are graduates of Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, both lead successful careers at the same company, and in 2019, both decided to pay it forward with a gift of \$52,000 to their alma mater.

McAninch and Fazio are the chief executive officer and executive vice-president, respectively, at Modern Niagara Group Inc., a top construction company based in Ottawa with offices across Canada. Their support helped establish the yearly Modern Niagara Scholarships in Engineering, which provide two undergraduate students at the Gina Cody School with financial aid valued at \$3,250.

"Scholarships enable students to focus on their work and not worry about money during their studies," says McAninch, who was named to Concordia's Top 50 Under 50 Shaping Business in 2019.

Fazio agrees: "Brad and I want to help provide other young students with the same opportunities and access to the great education that we had at Concordia.

"Our degree — and our time in Montreal — provided us with a diverse set of experiences and a broad knowledge base that has been the foundation of our careers. Concordia's Engineering program is a great place for Modern Niagara to support the development of our

*"Concordia's Engineering program is a great place for Modern Niagara to support the development of our industry's next generation of leadership."*

industry's next generation of leadership," he adds. "And, if paying it forward exposes students to the benefits of joining our organization and increases the interest in Co-op placements and permanent positions, everybody wins."

Another commonality McAninch and Fazio share is the influence of their fathers on their career paths. The late Paul Fazio was an esteemed professor at the Gina Cody School, and John McAninch served as Modern Niagara's first CEO from 1997 until his retirement in 2004.

"You know, our dads took very different paths in life, but their history and values are similar," Fazio says. "I think that above all else they would agree that life is a team sport and that if you can help people around you, you should. I hope our fathers are proud of us — I believe they are."

"Mark and I both had great role models," McAninch adds, "and we both benefited from a great education at Concordia. Now we are in position to pass it forward, and we're tremendously proud to give back and help where we can."

STUDENT PROFILE

## Dima Anbari

### FINDING A NEW LEASE ON LIFE



It was a bursary at Concordia that helped Dima Anbari “overcome financial strain.” The fourth-year John Molson School of Business student says the Robert C. White Bursary supported her in completing her long-overdue bachelor’s degree.

“I unknowingly married an abusive partner who interrupted my studies and moved us to Dubai,” she says. Anbari fled her abuser in 2017 and returned to Canada “with only the clothes on my back, and three children aged 12 and under.”

While living in the Middle East, Anbari supported her family as she forged a career as an independent qualitative research consultant. She only had her DEC (college diploma) in commerce as credentials. “That was fine in the Middle East, but I knew it wasn’t enough to prove myself in Canada. I knew I would need to go back to school for career growth.”

After a complicated return that involved starting her life “from scratch,” Anbari was relieved by the welcome she received back home in Canada and at Concordia. “I thought I would have to reapply after leaving for 14 years, but to my surprise, Concordia just reopened my file. It was a huge load off my shoulders.”

Financial aid soon followed. “I was in my second year when a filing error cut off my financial aid mid-term. I was devastated.” Concordia’s Financial Aid and Awards Office

*“Donors give people like me  
a second chance.”*

issued Anbari an emergency cheque, and she later received the renewable Robert C. White Bursary. “It gave me peace of mind,” she says. “I have a bit of wiggle room for whatever my kids need. Coming back to Concordia helped me rebuild my confidence and self-esteem. The bursary gave me hope.”

After finishing her undergraduate degree, Anbari plans to apply for a full-time job in her field of study at a large corporation in Quebec. She is also pursuing a minor in data intelligence and professional writing, which she maintains “will open up a lot of new opportunities. Both will support me as a marketer. I also just want to prove to myself that I can do it.”

Anbari is grateful for the opportunity to thank Concordia supporters for their generosity. “Donors give people like me a second chance. Without these scholarships I’m really not sure how I would have been able to continue,” she says.

“It’s been immensely challenging. But having a bit of peace of mind financially helps me focus on my ultimate goal, which is having the credentials that will get me back on my feet.”

## DONOR PROFILE

# Maria Diamantis and Dimitris Ilias

## LEAVING A MUSICAL LEGACY



United through music — and with a little help from Concordia — soprano Maria Diamantis and tenor Dimitris Ilias, BFA 92, GrDip 99, have built a life and a community together.

As the co-founders of Chroma Musika, the opera singers and musicians have put on performances, organized seminars and recorded albums devoted to ancient Greek music and contemporary music from Canada and Europe.

They have employed scores of local musicians as a result and, what's more, given thousands of Quebec schoolchildren an opportunity to discover and make symphonic music through special concerts — many of them facilitated by the Concordia community.

These accomplishments earned them the Medal of the National Assembly of Quebec in May 2021.

More recently, Diamantis and Ilias decided to make a bequest to Concordia's Department of Music. When they agreed to a video interview to discuss their philanthropy, they requested that it take place at Oscar Peterson Concert Hall on Loyola Campus. Diamantis and Ilias know the stage well.

"Every time I come here, I feel such warmth and hospitality and fondly remember my student days. It's a magnificent place and I'm very honoured to have been a part of it for so long."

Another Concordia link that prompted the planned gift: the couple met at the university.

"I was auditioning to get into the music department in both violin and voice, and Maria was recommended to accompany me on the piano," recalls Ilias.

It was destiny, say the couple, and "kind of like an opera," too. Ultimately, says Ilias, a planned gift made intuitive sense.

"For myself, it was very, very important to be able to give back to the university that gave so much to me. It's the least I can do. It's gratifying to know that for as long as Concordia is around, one music student will receive a scholarship every year through this gift."

Diamantis says Concordia is like family. "Because we decided not to have children of our own, we just felt it would be important to give back and build a legacy in this way."

*"It's gratifying to know that for as long as Concordia is around, one music student will receive a scholarship every year through this gift."*

View the video interview at [concordia.ca/plannedgiving](https://concordia.ca/plannedgiving).

## STUDENT PROFILE

# Oreoluwa Albert Ajayi

## INFORMING INNOVATION THROUGH EXPERIENCE

**G**rowing up in Nigeria, a country that suffers from chronic power outages and unreliable infrastructure, Oreoluwa Albert Ajayi, BEng17, MSc 21 — who goes by the name Ore — was surrounded by people living in poverty. He understood early in life that he was fortunate to be part of a well-educated, middle-class family.

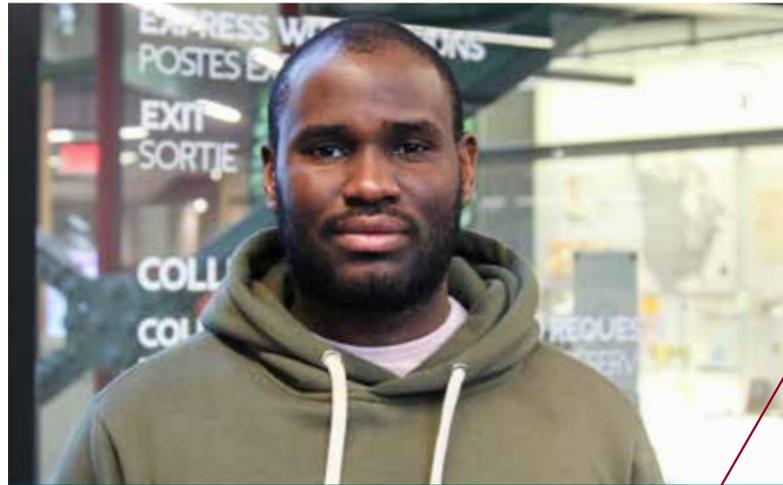
“My late father was a professor and my mother was a computer scientist; she ran an NGO and worked with the Catholic Church on social-justice initiatives,” Ajayi says about his upbringing.

That environment, combined with his desire to find purpose and a determination to succeed, compelled him to leave Nigeria for Canada in 2012 to study electrical engineering at Concordia.

“It felt like an environment conducive to learning,” Ajayi says. Seven years later, he was a Concordia valedictorian, exhorting the class of 2017 to “soar above all obstacles.”

Another reason Ajayi, who is currently pursuing his PhD at Concordia, chose electrical engineering goes back to a car accident when he was four years old.

At the time, Nigerian highways were stretched and overpopulated with trucks carrying goods because the railways and riverways were so poorly maintained. A transport truck veered from the opposite lane of the highway, forcing the car Ajayi, his mother and two other people were travelling in, to swerve into a ditch. One person was killed.



*“It was motivating to have support, and this alleviated a significant burden on my mental and physical state.”*

The experience inspired an interest in safer alternatives to truck transportation, especially by air. “I’m researching the applications of rule-based machine learning to complex transportation and energy systems,” he explains. “My objective is to contribute to the growing body of knowledge that will be vital to a clean-energy economy.”

The recipient of a Hydro-Québec Doctoral Scholarship, Ajayi has used the award to pursue his graduate-level studies during the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to take a class on equity, diversity and inclusion.

“It was motivating to have support, and this alleviated a significant burden on my mental and physical state,” he says. “I consider myself extremely privileged as a Canadian permanent resident to be afforded such opportunities.”

Ajayi, who launched Neuralvol, a deep-tech company he runs with a group of fellow Concordia alumni, hopes to help diminish the disproportionate socioeconomic consequences of climate change on underserved communities.

He also plans to provide mentoring and tutoring to international and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) students in STEM programs at Concordia and other Canadian universities.

DONOR PROFILE

## Carole Epstein Foundation

### ENCOURAGING TOMORROW'S LITERARY LEADERS



Carole Epstein lived her life with passion and self-reliance. Having attained success through different paths, she ultimately pursued and fulfilled her dream of becoming a published author of murder mysteries.

A wordsmith and voracious reader, Carole achieved her writing ambitions after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer at the age of 51. Self-taught, she participated in writing panels and seminars during her good weeks of treatments.

“Creative writing enhanced Carole’s life and sustained her strength of spirit during difficult times,” say those close to her. She loved an occasion to celebrate, and her book launches were wonderfully attended and highly sought-after events. Carole passed away in 2004, establishing the Carole Epstein Foundation (CEF) as her legacy.

Her foundation has since focused on supporting medical advancements and research into ovarian cancer at such world-renowned institutions as the MUHC and CHUM hospitals in Montreal, and Hebrew University in Israel.

“It is a privilege to finally celebrate Carole’s passion for creative writing,” says a representative of the Carole Epstein Foundation.

A recent gift from the foundation to Concordia will now harness Carole’s love of writing through financial aid for students in the university’s Department of English.

The new funding will support students pursuing degrees in creative writing. The Carole Epstein Bursary in Creative Writing will support an annual \$1,000 undergraduate bursary, while the Carole Epstein Graduate Scholarship in Creative Writing will support a master’s-level student with \$10,000 over two years.

“After reviewing several options at different universities, the CEF was drawn to the writing program at Concordia,” say the foundation’s representatives. “And we are pleased to have established these Carole Epstein awards at Concordia.”

*“It is a privilege to finally  
celebrate Carole’s passion  
for creative writing.”*

DONOR PROFILE

## Erin Hogg

### SETTING THE STAGE FOR CREATIVE TALENT



ERIN HOGG PICTURED WITH CATHERINE WILD (LEFT) AND TONY AWARD-WINNING SCENIC DESIGNER CHRISTINE JONES, BFA 89 (CENTRE)

For more than 40 years, labour and delivery nurse Erin Hogg was a mainstay of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, helping to deliver babies until her retirement in 2003. She now continues her legacy of public service in her beloved hometown through support of Concordia.

Hogg says she was first struck by the dynamism of the university's Faculty of Fine Arts when she became a member of the Fine Arts Advisory Committee. "I was drawn in, as it was evident that the talent of students from many different countries was encouraged."

Now, as president of Emaral Investments, Hogg, along with her daughters Martha and Alice, BFA 92, annually supports various faculty programs. And when former faculty dean Catherine Wild retired six years ago, they established the annual Wild Talks Lecture Series in her honour.

Currently a professor in the printmaking stream of Concordia's Department of Studio Arts, Wild says Hogg has been "one of several people who have been consistently generous to the faculty. I got to know Erin in particular because she came to almost all our events and her intellectual curiosity and genuine interest in others stood out."

The Wild Talks Lecture Series hosted a landmark event with the late filmmaker Jean-Marc Vallée in

*"I hope the Wild Talks Lecture Series will inspire others to donate and support Concordia, because in the end, you get back more than you give."*

November 2021. Past headliners include James Tupper, BFA 92, star of *Big Little Lies*, which was directed by Vallée and won eight Emmy Awards and four Golden Globes, as well as Tony Award winner Christine Jones, BFA 89, scenic designer for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which played on Broadway and in London.

"I'm particularly interested in liaising universities with the public," says Hogg. "The Jean-Marc Vallée event was important. I like to see the public interested in what's going on at universities, and realize that institutions of higher learning — like Concordia — are a wonderful resource."

"I hope the Wild Talks Lecture Series will inspire others to donate and support Concordia, because in the end, you get back more than you give."

# Concordians did it first!

In business, the arts, engineering, public service and beyond, Concordians are accomplishing great things. Read on to learn what our university — and alumni — achieved first over the past year.

Montreal rapper **Naya Ali**, BA 11, received the SOCAN Foundation's inaugural Black Canadian Music Award.

**Eunice Bélidor**, BFA 12, became the first Black curator at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts when she was named the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky curator of Quebec and Canadian contemporary art (1945 to today).

Former Stingers women's hockey player **Monelle Hébert**, BA 00, is the first female motorcycle officer in the history of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal.



**MAYA JOHNSON**, BA 06, BECAME THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO HELM THE ANCHOR DESK OF CTV MONTREAL.

Concordia celebrated its inaugural **Gina Cody School Day** on March 18, 2021, honouring the generosity and achievements of its namesake. Renamed in 2018, the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science was the first university engineering faculty in Canada to be named after a woman.

**MANDY GULL-MASTY**, BA 06, BA 08, WAS ELECTED THE FIRST FEMALE GRAND CHIEF OF THE CREE NATION GOVERNMENT IN QUEBEC.



ÉTIENNE CANTIN-BELLEMARE, BENG 10, AND HIS TEAM ARE THE FIRST TO USE GLASS POWDER IN BRIDGE DESIGN — NOT JUST A FIRST IN MONTREAL, BUT ALSO IN THE WORLD. HE IS THE LEAD DESIGNER OF THE DARWIN BRIDGES ON MONTREAL'S NUNS' ISLAND.



PHOTO: THIERRY DU BOIS

Our first-ever **John Molson School Day** on November 18, 2021, saw hundreds of students, alumni, faculty and staff show their pride for our business school, recognized as one of the top schools of its kind in the world.

Concordia launched a **new minor in science journalism** — a first in Canada. Students in any Bachelor of Science program can now expand their communication skills through hands-on reporting and multimedia courses.

Concordia's John Molson School of Business is one of the first institutions to participate in a first-of-its-kind **program launched by Mitacs**. The Mitacs Business Strategy Internship covers half of the student's \$10,000 stipend for a four-month internship.

**Akshay Kumar Rathore** is the university's youngest academic to hold the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' highest honour of Fellow. He is an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.



**SHAYA ISHAQ**, INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN THE FIBRES & MATERIAL PRACTICES PROGRAM, IS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FROM CONCORDIA'S BLACK PERSPECTIVES OFFICE.



PHOTO: LISA GRAVES

Discover more of what Concordia achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world: [concordia.ca/concordiafirsts](https://concordia.ca/concordiafirsts)

DONOR PROFILE

## Ian Selvarajah

### OPENING DOORS FOR OTHERS



When a tsunami struck Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004, Ian Selvarajah, BComm 07, watched the devastation unfold on television and knew he had to be there to offer support.

“There was something in me then that told me this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help out,” he says.

Then an undergraduate student at the John Molson School of Business, Selvarajah developed his ideas for relief efforts into a project for his work term through Concordia’s Insitute for Co-operative Education. Soon, he was travelling to some of Sri Lanka’s most devastated areas, implementing projects while remotely raising funds in Canada. Within six months, his efforts helped rebuild a church, buy new fishing boats and launch a small microfinance program for local businesses.

“Staff at Concordia really stepped up. They saw this as something unique and wanted to support the initiative,” he says, and adds that support from the university helped him build skills early in his career to transform large and small organizations across the globe.

“I’ve been able to apply my skills — regardless of what it is I’m doing — by being able to see the big picture and think creatively to solve complex problems,” he says.

*“There was something in me then that told me this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help out.”*

To tackle the barriers preventing others from having similar opportunities, he created the Ian Selvarajah Bursary in Business Technology Management. Since 2020, his \$33,000 gift to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now. has helped offset costs for students in the Business Technology Management program who are in financial need.

“What drives me is having new experiences, pushing limits and opening doors for others. If someone like me can do it, so can you,” he says.

Selvarajah is himself no stranger to adversity. His family escaped Sri Lanka’s civil war when he was a child, arriving in Canada with little more than a small suitcase and the clothes on their backs.

“Growing up, I went to church with my family, so we were regularly coached on generosity and giving to those who are less fortunate,” he says.

Most recently, Selvarajah founded a charity called Someone Like Me to promote diversity in leadership roles. Inspired in part by his own experience seeing few BIPOC individuals in senior corporate leadership roles, the initiative provides mentorship to Concordia bursary recipients in addition to financial support.

“Mentorship, combined with financial support, will set these individuals up for success before they walk through the door of their first job.”

## STUDENT PROFILE

# Thomas Lundy

## LANDING THE 'DREAM JOB'



Thomas Lundy, GrDip 21, was preparing to embark on Concordia's Graduate Diploma in Journalism program when the COVID-19 pandemic forced students around the world to study and attend classes from home.

The switch to online studies was problematic for him.

"My computer could barely run the video-editing software we were using in the program. There was a whole depot of hardware at Concordia journalism school that would have helped, but we didn't have access to it anymore.

"I was really slammed by the pandemic."

Lundy, who finished his diploma during the third wave of the pandemic in the spring of 2021, credits the Philip Fisher Graduate Diploma Bursary for giving him the tools he needed to succeed. "I instantly was able to get a laptop that allowed me to do Zoom and have recording software and video editing running at the same time without my computer crashing. It made things 100 times easier."

The bursary also helped Lundy get his "dream job."

During the program, he secured an internship at *Canadian Geographic* magazine, where he is now assistant editor.

"Working there was my objective when I applied for the program, but I didn't actually expect to achieve it, literally!"

*"There is so much you need to learn to do before you even put pen to paper. The Concordia program had all of that."*

Like many in the journalism diploma program, Lundy arrived with experiences from outside the journalism world — in his case, a degree in marine zoology from Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. "I applied to Concordia because I wanted to write about science, but in a different way," says the Manchester native, who previously worked as a publishing assistant at an academic journal, as a technical writer and as an English teacher.

"I needed practical skills in journalism — not just writing, but visual media and technical software skills," says Lundy, whose professional life had carried him from the U.K. to Australia and Japan before he opted to study at Concordia. "There is so much you need to learn to do before you even put pen to paper. The Concordia program had all of that."

Lundy studied feature writing, research and visual media, but says learning how to interview was a breakthrough. "I was nervous about it but now I really enjoy it. Working at *Canadian Geographic* puts me in the fortunate position of being able to interview a lot of interesting people."

DONOR PROFILE

## Stylianos Perrakis

### FINANCING FUTURE SUCCESS



PHOTO: DAVID WARD

Stylianos Perrakis's decision to endow scholarships in finance at Concordia was born of pure gratitude. "I was approaching the mandatory retirement age for my previous position. Concordia offered me a job at age 62," he says. Perrakis — the RBC Distinguished Professor in Financial Derivatives at the John Molson School of Business — started teaching at Concordia in 2000 following a distinguished 30-year career at the University of Ottawa. "Concordia trusted me."

Perrakis says that some of his most important work has happened at Concordia. A specialist in the financial product derivatives, he has been working on a theory that challenges beliefs established by Nobel Prize-winning scholars in the 1970s. "Derivatives, which represent billions of dollars in daily trade, are used to manage risk and speculation," he says. "The accepted belief is that markets evaluate their value correctly."

The scholar openly challenges this axiom on the basis that the derivatives market is not a level playing field. "A small group of very large firms — like Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan — arbitrate between themselves to realize virtually riskless profits. They have cornered part of the derivatives market. Smaller companies cannot compete." Perrakis co-published a paper and made a presentation about his research to the Royal Society of Canada in 2021. "It has created a battle."

In addition to his academic work, Perrakis, who grew up in Greece, is about to publish a biography of a heroine of the Second World War resistance in Greece. That follows his 2006 memoir, *The Ghosts of Plaka Beach: A True Story of Murder and Retribution in Wartime Greece*, in which he recounts the story of an uncle who was murdered by communists in occupied Greece. "I am working harder today than I did when I was trying to get tenure!"

*"I figure that a young man or woman with merit will benefit from this money — and that's good."*

Perrakis endowed the Phyllis Sternberg Perrakis Memorial Graduate Scholarship and Undergraduate Scholarship for Honours in Finance Students in memory of his late wife. The couple met when they were graduate students at the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1960s.

"Everything good happened after I came to Concordia," says the scholar, who was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2007 and appointed a member of the Provost's Circle of Distinction at Concordia in 2009.

"I figure that a young man or woman with merit will benefit from this money — and that's good. What those students do will benefit everybody."

## STUDENT PROFILE

# Tanea Hynes

## CAPTURING LITTLE-KNOWN REALITIES

Photographer Tanea Hynes found her muse thousands of feet underground at a summer job driving a 300-tonne dump truck at an iron-ore mine in her native Labrador.

“Working in the mine was totally eye-opening. Before that, I was in the Flickr world, creating heavily photoshopped fantasy images, which is basically a fake reality,” says the master’s candidate in Concordia’s Department of Studio Arts, who was recently awarded the Hitting the High Notes Fellowship.

“I grew up with the mine. My father worked there, but I had really no idea of what it looked like or what the job entailed. It was a complete mystery.”

In 2021, Hynes self-published *Workhorse*, a book of photographs of the heavy machinery and daily life in a mining town that includes her own reflections and research. “I grapple with the history and politics of resource extraction, isolation, capitalism and the impact of these things on the individual.”

*Workhorse* includes photos of the Labrador landscape — “so cold and so dry, it’s like a desert” — from a service station in the warm light of dusk and painted company houses in a frozen landscape to giant dump trucks and rocks in a red river of runoff from the mines. “Places like this exist all over North America but nobody knows about them,” says Hynes.



*“I probably wouldn’t have pursued an MFA without that super-generous funding.”*

Her work on mining, she says, is inspired by both anger and awe. “It’s a destructive industry and there’s no way around that. But I can’t knock it. My entire life has been built around mining. It put food on the table.” Hynes will continue photographing the mining world while working toward her MFA thesis at Concordia. “The project is always expanding.”

Hynes credits the Hitting the High Notes Fellowship for allowing her to pursue her studies in photography, during which she will continue to express the little-known realities of mining. “I probably wouldn’t have pursued an MFA without that super-generous funding. It’s hard as an artist to justify undertaking that kind of debt.”

The photographer is relishing the opportunity to spend three years in graduate school developing and refining her skills. “It allows me to expand my visual palette. Being able to let my visions and dreams expand is something that I wouldn’t be able to get outside of the very structured experience of an MFA.”

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— **DEVANSHI DOSHI** / Graduate

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