



REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

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INTRODUCTION

- Among the trends resonating with universities is the way in which cities and urban growth is connected to universities, innovation and entrepreneurship. I spoke on this topic earlier this month at the second edition of CityAge, a conference on cities and the innovation economy. My talk was part of a panel entitled “The Innovation City: A look at the partnerships and trends re-shaping cities in the innovation economy.” Among the key issues – how does a city remain central to a connected global economy and what role do universities and the private sector play in driving smart investment in urban growth? I expect these are themes we will return to in the coming months.
- We have confirmation that Michael Sabia, CEO of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, has accepted to serve as Honorary President of Acfas 2014 (Concordia will host the 82nd Acfas Congress in May 2014).
- Concordia’s Research Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics Building has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification status by the Canada Green Building Council. The centre is now the third facility to be recognized as a high-performance green building based on long-standing sustainable practices that include design, construction and operation. Last fall, the PERFORM Centre was granted Gold status and the John Molson School of Business was honoured with Silver status.
- For the sixteenth consecutive year, Concordia retains its place as the leader in energy efficiency among Quebec’s six largest universities. According to a Government of Quebec 2011-12 report, the university consumed 22 per cent less than the second- and third-placing institutions.
- Kudos to the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) MBA program, which ranked second in the world in the 2013 Global Green MBA Survey conducted by Corporate Knights magazine. The school was also awarded the best overall standing in the Student Initiatives category. The Corporate Knights survey evaluates how effectively MBA programs incorporate sustainability into the business education experience.

TEACHING, RESEARCH, INNOVATION

Curriculum Innovation

- The Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs, has launched a call for proposals for Curriculum Innovation (2013-14). Under the leadership of Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning Catherine Bolton, this project supports innovation in academic programming and student learning experiences.

Research Funding Highlights

- Vanier Doctoral Fellowships 2013-14 were awarded to two Concordia students – Stephanie Hobbis, a doctoral student in Social and Cultural Analysis, and Rachel Jekanowski, a doctoral student in Film and Moving Images. These prestigious and highly competitive awards are valued at \$50,000 per year for three years. Recipients are selected based on a combination of academic excellence, research potential and leadership.
- Doug Van Nort, a scientist and professional electroacoustic musician, was awarded a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, valued at \$70,000 per year for two years. There are only 70 Banting fellowships awarded nationally every year. Van Nort's research interest is in digitally-mediated performance and the creation of large-scale events for public involvement, incorporating expertise in artificial intelligence, signal processing, acoustics and psychoacoustics, as well as philosophical questions around the processes underlying the formation of shared meaning. This is Concordia's fifth Banting award in the three years of the competition's existence.
- Viviane Namaste, professor with the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and University Research Chair in HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health (Tier 3), has received a grant of \$156,922 over four years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Infection and Immunity Institute).
- PERFORM is currently hosting 16 different research projects in various stages of implementation (including four new studies initiated since August 2013). PERFORM has partnered with the JMSB Executive MBA program to deliver a tailored executive wellness module to EMBA students based on the latest in workplace wellness research.
- In August 2013, PERFORM signed a five-year agreement with McGill's School of Physical and Occupational Therapy that permits PERFORM to supervise physiotherapy interns with two currently serving clinical internships in the Athletic Therapy Clinic.

ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS (AAR)

Annual Giving

- The Shuffle, Concordia's annual fundraising 6.5 km walkathon in support of scholarships and bursaries, was held on Friday, September 27, 2013. More than 700 shufflers raised \$55,000 (and counting) in student support.
- The 2013-14 Annual Giving Campaign's first appeal, which highlighted research at Concordia and was signed by Graham Carr, vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies, was mailed to 20,000 alumni and parents in mid-September.

Alumni Relations

- Alumni Relations organized Homecoming 2013, October 3-6, to welcome back graduates. The headline event was the Resolute Forest Products Lecture, given by Concordia grad and journalist Maziar Bahari, BA 93, on October 4.
- Homecoming also featured class reunions for Arts and Science, Fine Arts, Engineering and Computer Science and John Molson School of Business on October 5, which culminated with the President's Homecoming Dinner attended by 150 alumni. A casual brunch to meet Benoit-Antoine Bacon, BA 95, Concordia's provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs, closed festivities on October 6.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Arena Renovation Update

- Construction continues for the \$7.75 million renovation and upgrade project. While the project delivery was delayed by two weeks due to the construction strike, completion of the project is expected by the third week of October. Project costs are within the approved budget and plans are underway for an opening ceremony.

Student Information Systems (SIS) Project

- The SIS project continues to be on track according to the project plan. A Change Impact Assessment is being conducted to identify and classify impacts on processes, people and technology, and a training plan is being prepared. It is estimated that about 2,000 people will need training (excluding students). Currently, the overall project is under budget by approximately \$3 million, with no high priority issues to report at this time.

Grey Nuns East Residence Renovation

- Construction work progresses as planned for the \$15.36 million renovation. The 355 new residence beds, the renovated cafeteria and kitchen, and the 590 new study seats for the general student population will be completed in April 2014.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Collective bargaining continues to be a priority.
- We reached agreements-in-principle with seven unions.
- Productive conversations continue with other unions.

OTHER GOOD NEWS

- **Celebrating 30 years of research:** Concordia's Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology (CSBN) is celebrating 30 years of investigating behaviour and the brain. Created in 1983 by four professors from the Department of Psychology who specialized in neuroscience, the centre has sought to develop an integrated research and training environment that brings behavioural and scientific approaches to the study of addiction, motivation and reward.
- **Concordia celebrates National Seniors Day:** Eighty-four-year-old singer-actress Geraldine Doucet and eight other hard-working retirees were recognized at a special event held at Concordia on October 1, National Seniors Day. The university partnered with Seniors Action Quebec to organize an interactive presentation featuring Doucet as well as Daphne Nahmiash, Clarence Bayne, Ura Greenbaum, Catherine Gilbert, Belva Thomas, Ved Vohra, Patricia McGurnaghan-Pitre and Harold Greenspon. The videos were produced by Communication Studies students in the Mobile Media Lab, working with Professor Kim Sawchuk.
- **Woman of Distinction:** Linda Kay, associate professor and former chair of the Department of Journalism, has been named 2013's Woman of Distinction in Communications by the Montreal Women's Y Foundation. Kay's 20-year career as a journalist — she was the Chicago Tribune's first female sports writer — led to her appointment at Concordia in 2001. She accepted the award on September 30.

- **Inauguration of new exhibition space:** The FOFA Gallery unveiled its sixth distinct exhibition space called the FOFA Gallery Image Grid on October 5. Located on the west wall of the courtyard, a grid of hardware has been installed to allow the university to feature large-scale digital print works. The first work chosen by director Jake Moore for presentation on the grid is *Curtain, Arles* from the series, *The Book Of Things II* by Celia Perrin Sidarous. Celia is pursuing an MFA at Concordia with a concentration in Photography.
- **Stingers:** Keegan Treloar, a third-year kicker with the Concordia Stingers was named the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) football conference's Special Teams Player of the Week for his outstanding performance in his team's tough 53-52 overtime loss to the McGill Redmen on September 28. His 50-yard field goal early in the first quarter is the longest in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport conference this year. The 50-yarder set a Concordia record. Treloar has a 90-per-cent success rate – tops in the RSEQ and second in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS).