

Student Associations and Alumni Relations

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Section 20

20.1 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The **Concordia Student Union (CSU)** represents all undergraduate students, both full-time and part-time. Besides organizing many events and activities, the CSU ensures student representation on University decision-making bodies, both those that legislate on academic and administrative matters and those concerned with the cultural and social life of the community. There are student members of the Board of Governors, Senate, the Faculty Councils, and the Concordia Council on Student Life, which is directly concerned with all issues pertaining to student life including the provision of student services. The CSU also offers services for its members such as a Housing and Job Bank, and Advocacy and Legal Information Services. There is a CSU office on each campus. The Sir George Williams office is in Room H 711 of the Henry F. Hall Building. The Loyola office is in the Loyola Campus Centre, SC 115. CSU's telephone number is 514-848-2424, ext. 7474; email: office@csu.qc.ca; website: csu.qc.ca.

Powers and responsibilities are divided between three bodies: the Executive, the Council of Representatives, and the Judicial Board. The Executive is headed by an elected president. The Council of Representatives consists of students elected from the undergraduate student population with seats reserved for the four Faculties and Independent students. The Judicial Board is an appointed body charged with assuring the constitutionality of any new legislation or resolution of conflicts.

Students in the four Faculties are also represented by their own associations: the **Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA)**, the **Commerce and Administration Students' Association (CASA)**, the **Engineering and Computer Science Students' Association (ECA)**, and the **Fine Arts Student Alliance (FASA)**.

There are over 150 student clubs and associations. They may be associated with a department or discipline, such as the Psychology Students' Association, or pursue a special interest like the Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program. Each has its own program of activities funded by student fees. In addition, there are a number of independent groups on campus that provide a variety of ways for students to engage in campus and community life.

Amongst these are student media including the television station *CUTV*, the radio station *CJLO*, and two student newspapers, *The Link* and *The Concordian*. These media outlets operate independently of the student associations. Both newspapers are incorporated, with separate, wholly autonomous Boards of Directors.

20.2 GRADUATE STUDENTS

All graduate students are members of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). It is concerned with graduate student representation on the Board of Governors, Senate, the School of Graduate Studies, the Faculty Councils, and the Concordia Council on Student Life, and initiates a wide range of activities for graduate students and the University community as a whole, including social occasions and lectures. GSA's offices are at 2030 Mackay St.; telephone: 514-848-2424, ext. 7900; email: gsa@alcor.concordia.ca; website: gsaconcordia.ca.

20.3 ALUMNI RELATIONS

Concordia now boasts 180,000 alumni worldwide. Advancement and Alumni Relations is charged with maintaining and nurturing a lasting and significant relationship between alumni and their alma mater.

The **Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA)** was created in 1983 to "encourage the fellowship of graduates from Loyola, Sir George Williams, and Concordia University through social, educational, and cultural activities" and to "preserve and promote the interests of Concordia University through alumni involvement in its future and governance." Graduates and attendees (who have completed 30 credits) of Concordia and of the founding institutions of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University are automatically CUAA members.

Benefits and Services – Current Students: The CUAA collaborates with Concordia's Advancement and Alumni Relations to offer students and alumni various programs and services. Even before graduation, students can take advantage of numerous services, events, and activities, including funding for student projects, the Backpack-to-Briefcase Workshops, Career Panels, the Annual International Students Holiday Dinner and Coffee Breaks during exam periods. Other services include the Mentor Program which matches students with Concordia alumni who dispense both professional and practical advice based on their personal experiences, the award-winning Dinner for Eight program, and the Job Shadowing program which provides students with the opportunity to visit professionals at their place of work.

Benefits and Services – Alumni: With a complimentary Alumni ID card, alumni gain access to Concordia libraries, career and placement services and discounts on tuition fees at the Centre for Continuing Education. Alumni are also eligible for discounts at preferred hotels, Budget Rent-A-Car, VIA Rail, the Centaur Theatre, the VA Art Supply Store, the downtown YMCA, Nautilus Plus and Campus Recreation. Alumni receive the *Concordia University Magazine* and *Accent*, the monthly alumni e-newsletter. They can obtain the Concordia University BMO MasterCard, reduced rates on home and auto insurance with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, reduced rates on health and dental insurance with Manulife Financial, and discounts at Groupe Gabriel on car purchases and service appointments. Advancement and Alumni Relations also offers photography services and diploma frame sales at gowning and convocation. Alumni can explore the world on organized trips with fellow alumni from their alma mater as well as from other North American universities with the Concordia University Alumni Travel Program.

Events: The CUAA sponsors programs and events year-round that are organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends are invited to Concordia's Homecoming, a series of activities including reunions, chapter and networking events, educational lectures/seminars, campus tours and the Homecoming Football Game.

The annual Alumni Recognition Awards Banquet honours outstanding volunteer contributions from the University's alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends.

Staying Connected: The CUAA alumni social media groups on LinkedIn and Facebook facilitate networking and socializing among alumni after graduation. The Alumni Relations Twitter feed (@ConcordiaAlumni) serves up daily news about alumni and their alma mater. Alumni can also register for their free Email Forwarding for Life email address or re-connect with lost friends and classmates through the Find-a-Friend Program.

Choose Concordians: This unique program encourages Concordia alumni to support their alma mater by hiring fellow Concordians. It also creates a link between employers, on-campus recruiters and Concordia's career centres in order to boost employment and internship opportunities for Concordia graduates and students.

Alumni Chapters

Canadian and International Chapters: The CUAA is committed to developing and supporting a worldwide network of alumni chapters. There are active alumni groups in Beijing, Boston, Calgary, California, Dubai, Edmonton, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Jordan, London, Mexico, Mississauga, Netherlands, New York, North Carolina, Ottawa, Qatar, Shanghai, Texas, Toronto, Turkey, Vancouver, Washington, D.C., Washington State and Winnipeg.

Montreal Chapters: There are Faculty-based chapters for the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science and the John Molson School of Business, in addition to alumni volunteer opportunities in the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Garnet Key Society also has an affinity-based chapter.

For the latest information on alumni chapters, benefits, and events, visit alumni.concordia.ca or contact Advancement and Alumni Relations, 1250 Guy St., Room FB 520, 514-848-2424, ext. 4856, fax: 514-848-2826, or email: alumni@concordia.ca.
