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## FIFTY SHADES OF MEN

Men's studies researchers at Concordia look to uncover what it means to be a man in today's world.

By Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins



## THE ROOTS OF DISCOVERIES

Scott McCulloch takes a revealing trip through the unfamiliar world of research grant applications.

## POSITIVE INFLUENCE

Through TV and movie screens, healthy-living beverages, infrastructure standards and words from the pulpit, these five Concordia alumni wield the power to persuade.



## E-EVALUATING E-LEARNING

University experts gauge the future of technology-integrated teaching.

By Shaimaa El-Ghazaly

## CYBERCRIME FIGHTERS

Concordia's Computer Security Laboratory investigators are on the case to stop and track internet lawbreakers.

By Jake Brennan



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The 2013 Irving Layton Award for Creative Writing-winning story.

By Gleb Wilson

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[concordia.ca/magazine](http://concordia.ca/magazine)

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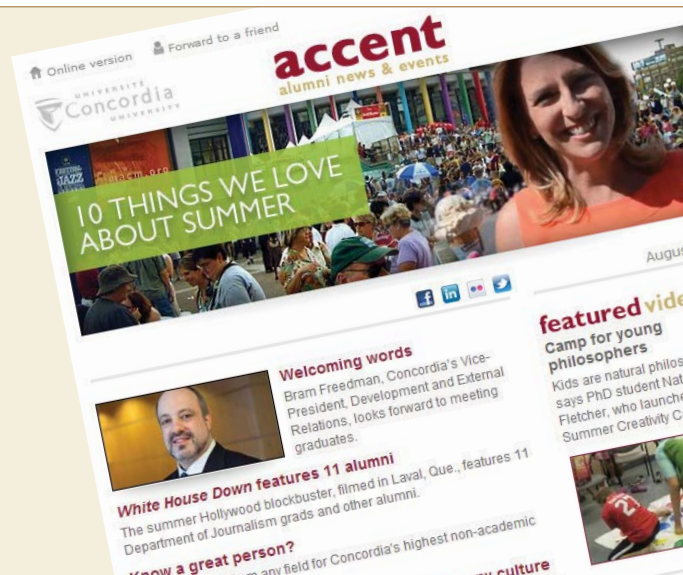


# accent

alumni-newsletter

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## SETTING AN EXAMPLE: Blending passions



“When I reflect upon my experience at Sir George Williams University in the late '60s and early '70s, one finance instructor stands out: John Tomaski. He was an eccentric dresser with a penchant for bright, flashy clothes — I often felt I needed sunglasses for his 8 a.m. classes!

Yet he was an incredible teacher with high expectations of his students. Like my other professors and the commerce program in general, his lessons were practical. They prepared me for the business world. Until retiring in 2012, I was president and chief executive officer at Simons Quirk & Décarie, an executive-recruiting business with offices in Toronto and Montreal.

That's why I feel it's important to give back to Concordia — both financially and in terms of time and effort.

Along with other Concordia University Alumni Association Toronto Chapter volunteers, I arrange our regular theatre nights. As an arts enthusiast, I have been overjoyed with their popularity.

I've also presented job-hunting seminars for alumni and Concordia students. The seminars' proceeds go back to the university. I'm consistently surprised by the high turnout: a recent seminar I gave at Concordia had to be moved off campus due to demand.

I believe the goals of such events are to strengthen ties between alumni and the university, encourage donations and provide participants with a positive and memorable experience.

I have gained a tremendous amount of satisfaction from my involvement with Concordia's alumni association. That I've been able to contribute in a way that draws on both my expertise and passion for the arts is wonderful.”

**Cass Simons, BComm 71**

Find out how you can join Cass Simons to volunteer or contribute to Concordia or help student recruitment:

Info: [concordia.ca/giving](http://concordia.ca/giving) | 514-848-2424, ext. 4856 | 1-888-777-3330, ext. 4856 | [alumni@concordia.ca](mailto:alumni@concordia.ca)





## Glad to be back

You may have noticed that it's been a while since this magazine's last issue — about five months, actually. I received several inquiries from alumni who noticed the gap. Gladly, we're alive and kicking — but with a few differences.

As of this publication, *Concordia University Magazine* will appear three times per year; it had been a quarterly. The good news is that we've added pages, so the total yearly content will remain about the same as before.

This transition is part of Concordia's collective belt-tightening due to budget cuts at Quebec universities. Yet we're also a victim of our own success: the university awards degrees to some 5,000 students each spring and fall. While we do have some attrition, the net effect is a considerable annual increase in our total base of graduates. When I first arrived at Concordia in the mid-1990s, we sent the magazine to roughly 55,000 alumni. Today that number is about 125,000 (plus donors, opinion leaders and media) out of a total of 177,000 graduates worldwide.

In order to get magazines to you folks, we mail them — and postage is our greatest expense. Fortunately we can benefit from economies of scale for our second biggest expenditure, printing. That's why we can increase the magazine's page count at relatively little added cost.

Filling those extra pages isn't difficult — there's never a shortage of interesting stuff to report on about the university or its grads. The magazine's greater page length also allows us to spread out and offer a cleaner look and extra features.

For instance, we've added a section that will regularly promote gifted Concordia students. The first

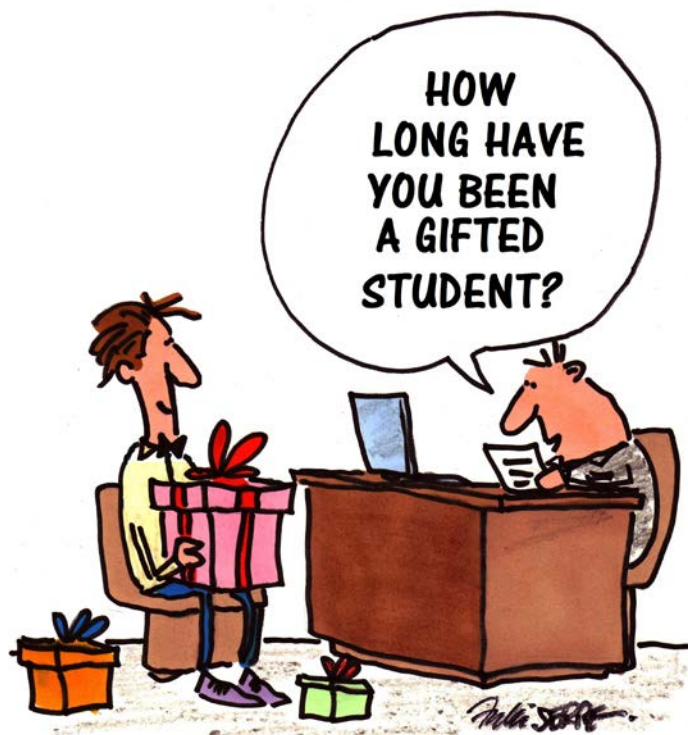
contribution is a short story that won the Department of English's Irving Layton Award for Creative Writing, written by Gleb Wilson, BA 13 (see page 32). In future, we'll include award-winning poetry and photography.

Speaking of awards, I'm proud to report that *Concordia University Magazine* recently won the 2012 bronze medal in the magazine category from the Canadian Council for Advancement of Education. That's a reflection of changes begun last year, under the initiative of Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins, BA 97, director of communications for Advancement and Alumni Relations (who shows his writing chops in "Fifty shades of men" on page 12), and the talented design of Christopher Alleyne, BA 09, lead creative at University Communications Services.

The top prizes went to our friends at McGill University and the University of Toronto; we're proud to be in the same league as those first-rate institutions. However, my bragging rights have to be muted: it happens that my McGill counterpart, Daniel McCabe, lives up the road from me, so while I edit the magazine that's number three in the country,

it's only number two on our street!

No problem. That's just extra motivation to continue to improve the publication — and become best on the block (and beyond). ■



## Concordia

*Concordia University Magazine* welcomes readers' comments. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, school(s), degree(s) and year(s) of graduation for alumni. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. No letter will be published without the full name of the correspondent.

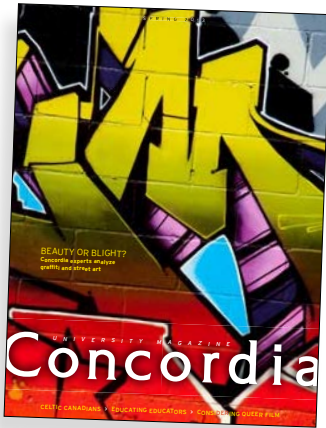
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## THANKING THE BIRKS

I was very touched by the short article on the Birks Family Foundation in the winter 2012-13 issue (Alumni news, page 38). I was a happy, lucky recipient of a small bursary from this foundation in, I believe, 1967. It was small, around \$100, but that meant a lot to me. The Birks family's kindness and generosity have inspired me to make an annual contribution, however small, to the university.

**Sandra Lambert,**  
**BA (psych.) 68**  
**Montreal**

## FINE ARTS ACCOLADES

Bravo for your informative coverage and consistent support of Concordia's stellar Faculty of Fine Arts (Faculty spotlight, spring 2013, page 36). I write to contribute information to the section "Awarding work":

Nadia Myre, MFA 02, has been nominated twice, in 2011 and in 2012, as a semifinalist to the Sobey Art Award long list. Adad Hannah, MFA 04, has been long-listed three times: 2008, 2009 and 2010. Myre was also one of 11 Canadian representatives at last summer's prestigious Sydney Biennale in Australia, along with two other Concordians: Khadija Baker, BFA 07, and Erin Manning, an associate professor of studio arts and film studies.

**Rhonda Meier, BFA (art hist.) 94, MA (art hist.) 99**  
**Montreal**

## IRISH MONTREAL MEMORIES

The article about the Irish in Montreal ("Celtic, Canadian and Concordian," spring 2013, page 22) brought back many memories, but one important area was overlooked:

St. Mary's Parish, close to Notre Dame and Visitation streets, was the centre for many shantytown Irish and the best boxers who laced up the gloves with their rivals from Griffintown. Hard times produced many

a boxer from Irish and Jewish backgrounds, who battled their way through the '30s and '40s.

St. Mary's was the originator of bingo games that kept the church afloat with more money brought in than was gathered from the church collection on Sunday. The basement was always filled on bingo night, and I was often dragooned into passing out the cards. At the beginning of the night, the smoke rose to the rafters but as the night dragged on it got lower and lower until the players were barely visible. I credit that with the fact that I never took up smoking.

The highlight of the year was the St. Patrick's Day Parade. My grandfather was grand marshal one year and my uncle Eddie twice. Eddie

was a tough fighter who held the Golden Gloves title in two weight classes at the same time and even made it to Madison Square Garden for two bouts.

Relations with the French boys from the east end of Montreal featured constant battles; I was 14 before I knew you could fight only one guy at a time! The streets around St. Mary's were a lot better, and the English and French got along fine. The end result was that each of my cousins — and I — ended up marrying a French girl or boy.

Eventually most of the original settlers moved away, and St. Mary's later became a French church.

Those were the days. ■

**Owen Prince, BA 52**  
**Kanata, Ont.**

## KEEP IN TOUCH

New job? Just moved? Just married? Or just want to let your former classmates know what you've been up to? Visit

[concordia.ca/alumni/keepintouch](http://concordia.ca/alumni/keepintouch)

Or mail or email us any information about yourself — don't be shy — you'd like to appear in Class Acts.

Please include: your name (including name at graduation); year(s) of graduation and degree(s) from Concordia, Loyola or Sir George, and other universities; street address, phone number(s) and email address; and any other relevant personal or business info.

By email: [records@concordia.ca](mailto:records@concordia.ca) Subject: **Class Acts**

By mail: Class Acts, Advancement and Alumni Relations,  
Concordia University, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.,  
FB 520, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

Search for the Concordia University Alumni Association group on LinkedIn.



THOMAS DAIGLE

THE CBC'S THOMAS DAIGLE  
PICTURED JUST OUTSIDE  
THE RED ZONE IN LAC-  
MÉGANTIC, QUE., IN JULY.

## CONCORDIA ALUMNI WITNESS AND REPORT ON LAC-MÉGANTIC TRAGEDY

The phone calls from producers and editors began early in the morning on Saturday, July 6. A train accident and explosion had devastated the town of Lac-Mégantic, Que., only hours before.

"I got a call at 6:30 a.m. saying that something was going on, but they weren't quite sure what it was," says Riley Sparks, a summer intern at the *Montreal Gazette* who studies photography at Concordia and has worked as a journalist for the student newspaper *The Link*. Sparks is one of more than 20 students and alumni who experienced the tragedy first-hand as reporters.

Sparks arrived at *The Gazette's* office at 9:30 a.m. He was quickly dispatched to the scene. "When I got there, probably at about one o'clock in the afternoon, I was absolutely amazed because the fire was still going," he says.

Another Concordian, CBC reporter Thomas Daigle, BA (journ.) 10, had just arrived in the small town of 6,000 residents. Like Sparks, he was surprised to see firefighters battling the flames. "There was still a real sense of immediacy," he says. "In fact, they had to evacuate a number of homes at that time because there was a danger of more explosions." When Daigle filed his first report for

CBC's *The National*, a massive plume of black smoke was visible behind him.

As Sparks got to work, *The Gazette* dispatched two more reporters, Christopher Curtis, a Concordia journalism student, and Laura Beeston, BA (journ. & women's studies) 13, to Lac-Mégantic. When they showed up around 8 p.m., the massive fire continued to burn. Flames shot into the sky 15 metres above the town. "It was huge," says Beeston.

Although they had been told they didn't need to file that day, they felt compelled to begin working. "I remember thinking, this is one of those rare moments in history where you're there, and the story needs to be told," Curtis says. "We just started talking to people and gathering some really compelling stuff about their lives, and this terrifying moment where they didn't know what was going on."

The journalists say they were amazed by how willing local people were to tell their stories. "Within the first hour after I got there, I spoke to a guy who'd been in a bar next to the site of the explosion, and he was talking about how, as far as he knew, he was the only one of all of his friends in the bar who was still alive," Sparks recalls.

Over the next few days, the world's media converged on the formerly bucolic town: dozens of press briefings were held, and thousands of reports were filed. For the journalists, the days passed in a blur. "We were getting up at 5 a.m. and going to bed at midnight," Beeston says. "Even when we were off, we were talking about what types of stories we should pursue."

Time and again the magnitude of the tragedy they were covering was made clear. "We were shooting pictures at the church when they rang the church bell 50 times for the 50 victims," Daigle says. "Maybe a few metres away from me, I saw a couple, clearly a mother and a father, kneeling by a cross, planting a picture of their son by the cross, kneeling and crying and praying. It was so difficult to see."

Curtis says he has wrestled with feelings of guilt brought on by the assignment, coupled with sadness for the victims. In spite of this, he remains convinced their story needs to be told. "You feel bad about it," he says. "But it's also important that people read about people just like them in a small town — how they've had their lives torn apart, and how they're dealing with it." ■

— Tom Peacock





EMILY GAN

MUTHUKUMARAN PACKIRISAMY HOLDS UP THE AMMONIA SENSOR.

### TINY AIRBORNE SENSOR TO FIGHT POLLUTION IN INDIA

Ammonia is one of the smallest chemical molecules — so it's fitting that a 20-gram gadget will be fighting ammonia air pollution in India. It also makes sense: ammonia is one of the most common Indian urban pollutants, but its size makes detection difficult, and it often accumulates in inaccessible places; therefore, "thinking small" could be the answer.

As a leading expert in BioMEMS, an application of micro-nanotechnologies in biology, Concordia Research Chair Muthukumaran Packirisamy knows all about working in miniature. He has built a thumbnail-sized sensor that is on its way to India, where it will be attached to a micro air vehicle and flown into areas where ammonia pollution is suspected. "Finding air pollutants, especially in big cities, is made easier with micro air vehicles equipped with sophisticated sensors like this," says Packirisamy, holding up the device. "They can help in mapping the problem."

Once in the sky, Packirisamy's sensor admits air through inlets. If the incoming air carries ammonia, the sensing technology will not only detect it but also measure its concentration. All this takes about 30 seconds, and perhaps the best part is that the sensor can wirelessly transmit results to a ground station, so data is available almost instantly.

The level of precision needed to fabricate and test such devices is enormous. Even the presence of dust can throw off the best-laid plans — which is why Packirisamy and his team make use of the faculty's specially designed clean rooms.

This latest research is the result of a fruitful collaboration between Packirisamy's Optical-Bio Microsystems Laboratory and partners in Bangalore, India: the National Design and Research Forum of the Institution of Engineers (India), Anna University's Foundation for Educational Excellence and Jain University.

When the current project wraps up, Packirisamy would like to develop sensors that can detect other pollutants. Starting with ammonia means, in his words, "starting with the most difficult one." ■

—Laurence Miall

 A graphic advertisement for Concordia University Magazine. At the top, the word "SUMMER" is written in a curved, orange font. Below it, a large, stylized illustration of a flock of birds in shades of red, orange, and yellow is shown in flight. The background is white with some faint, abstract patterns.
 

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## MAJOR INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH CREATION

Advanced contributions to academic knowledge may take place in science labs and between library stacks, but progressive universities are starting to realize that they can also occur in a sculptor's studio, at a composer's piano or in a choreographer's rehearsal space.

A new research project at Concordia has received \$2.95 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to explore this fresh approach, commonly known as research creation.

"The process of sculpting a material



DAVID WARD

LEAD RESEARCHER ERIN MANNING: "THE PROCESS OF SCULPTING A MATERIAL IS ITS OWN FORM OF KNOWLEDGE."

is its own form of knowledge, the exploration of movement in choreography is a form of thinking in its own right," says lead researcher Erin Manning, an associate professor in studio arts and film studies, the Concordia University Research Chair in Relational Art and Philosophy, and founder of the university's interdisciplinary SenseLab.

The project, titled *Immediations*, explores how arts-based research creates new forms of knowledge that cannot be conveyed by the standard written dissertation, and investigates innovative ways of evaluating knowledge produced outside of the mainstream research setting.

Manning and her colleagues argue that research-creation produces forms of knowledge that surpass the limits of language; their goal is to identify how

these forms can be evaluated, and determine what role they play in a contemporary university.

*Immediations* will be based out of SenseLab, a collaborative workspace for artists, academics, researchers, dancers and writers, located in the Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Integrated Complex. The grant will also be used to advance other research topics in SenseLab's mandate, support its *Inflexions* journal and the launch of a new book series at Open Humanities Press, and strengthen partnerships with artistic groups outside the university that could lead to student residencies and exhibition space.

The project formalizes an existing network of collaborators from 11 international universities, as well as 17 community partners, including art collectives and activist groups; *Immediations'* grant will fund major events in Australia, Europe and North America. ■

— Suzanne Bowness

## CN SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

A major gift from Canadian National Railway Company will advance business research at Concordia.

CN has donated \$500,000 to establish the CN Centre for Studies in Sustainable Supply Chain Management at the John Molson School of Business (JMSB). The gift will support JMSB students at the bachelor, master and doctoral levels. The centre will conduct research on sustainable supply chain management, explore new techniques to make supply chains more sustainable and conduct sustainable supply chain management projects.

Supply chain management improves the movement of goods to the benefit of the environment. Increasingly, supply chain managers face the added challenges of cutting greenhouse gas emissions, waste and energy requirements while maximizing safety and financial returns. Uniquely, the CN Centre for Studies in Sustainable Supply Chain Management will address both concerns in great depth.

Over a five-year period, the centre will receive \$100,000 annually for research, student awards and conferences with keynote speakers.

The centre's director, Ahmet Satir, will oversee research and core activities. The CN Centre for Studies in Sustainable Supply Chain Management will also benefit from an advisory board, including a representative from CN who will help shape the



KAREN PHILLIPS, VICE-PRESIDENT, PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, CN, AT THE GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT ON JUNE 19.

WARREN ZELMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

centre's activities and curriculum, mentor scholars and approve research projects.

Steve Harvey, dean of the John Molson School of Business, says: "The creation of the CN Centre for Studies in Sustainable Supply Chain Management will further deepen Concordia's world-class expertise in the field of sustainable enterprise."

Concordia and CN are natural partners in the field of sustainability. Concordia has fully incorporated sustainable development into its strategic framework with investments in several key initiatives. CN is committed to its Sustainability Action Plan, which seeks reductions in the environmental impact of its operations. ■

— Scott McCulloch

SUCCESSFUL CONCORDIA-GLOBE AND MAIL CONVERSATIONS WRAP UP, NOW ONLINE



RESEARCHER JENNIFER MCGRATH, MODERATOR ANDRÉ PICARD AND NEW YORK TIMES FOOD CRITIC MARK BITTMAN DISCUSS OBESITY ON MARCH 19, 2013.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Famed American author Truman Capote once said: “A conversation is a dialogue, not a monologue. That’s why there are so few good conversations: due to scarcity, two intelligent talkers seldom meet.”

Yet that was certainly not the case when Concordia teamed up with the *Globe and Mail* to offer a series of national conversations on aging well. The four events presented smart and engaging dialogues between the university’s top researchers and well-known thought leaders.

Moderated by the *Globe and Mail*’s André Picard and Sophie Cousineau, these lively talks brought to the forefront Concordia’s increasing focus on research into prevention, in order to help healthy people avoid injuries and developing diseases, as well as reduce the risk factors when managing an illness or injury. ■

To watch videos or listen to podcasts of each talk, visit [concordia.ca/talks](http://concordia.ca/talks)

— Christian Durand

SMALL PLANET  BIG THINKING

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 Where do writers go to find inspiration?  
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- March 12:** Lyn Heward and Louis Patrick Leroux on the **academics of circus**
- March 20:** Peter Carey and Josip Novakovich on the **writing of inspiration**
- March 25:** Jian Ghomeshi and Sandeep Bhagwati on the **music of creativity**

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CARSTEN WROSCH, PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR AND MEMBER OF THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND PHD CANDIDATE JOELLE JOBIN CO-AUTHORED THE STUDY ON STRESS AND OPTIMISM.

## NEW RESEARCH REVEALS OPTIMISTS ARE BETTER AT REGULATING STRESS

The connection between a “glass half-full” attitude and individuals’ biological response to stress may not come as a surprise, but science has failed to reliably associate the two — until now.

New research from Concordia’s Department of Psychology is deepening the understanding of how optimists and pessimists handle adversity by comparing them not to each other but to themselves. Results show that the “stress hormone” cortisol tends to be more stable in those with more positive personalities.

The study — recently published in the American Psychological Association’s *Health Psychology* journal — monitored cortisol levels of 135 older adults for six years. Participants were asked to report on the level of stress they perceived in their day-to-day lives, and identify themselves along a continuum as optimists or pessimists. Each person’s levels were then measured against their personal average.

Using this personal average was key to providing a real-world picture of how individuals respond. “For some people, going to the grocery store on a Saturday morning can be very stressful,” says Joelle Jobin, a PhD candidate in clinical psychology who co-authored the study with her supervisor Carsten Wrosch, a professor in the Department of Psychology, and Michael Scheier from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Penn. “That’s why we asked people how often they felt stressed or overwhelmed during the day, and compared them to their own averages.” In some cases, individuals become accustomed to the amount of stress they typically experience.

Jobin notes that pessimist participants tended to have a higher baseline than optimists; pessimists also had trouble with the biological regulation of their system when they encountered particularly stressful situations. ■

—Suzanne Bowness

## AUTHOR LAWRENCE HILL TO LAUNCH 2013 MASSEY LECTURES AT CONCORDIA

Canada’s best-known public lecture series is coming to Concordia for the first time.

*Blood: The Stuff of Life* is the tantalizing title of the 2013 Massey Lectures series, to be delivered by Canadian author Lawrence Hill at the Henry F. Hall Building’s D.B. Clarke Theatre on October 15.

Hill will present in four other Canadian cities; the five lectures will be broadcast by the CBC radio program *Ideas* and published by House of Anansi Press.

The former journalist is currently adapting his best-selling, award-winning novel *The Book of Negroes* (2007) into a six-part television miniseries. The printed *Blood: The Stuff of Life* will be his ninth book. Hill gave a standing-room-only talk at Concordia at the 2010 Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

For the 2013 Massey Lectures, Hill says he’ll examine how blood is “a bold and enduring determinant of identity, race, deprivation, athletic superiority and nationhood.”

Tickets are available online at [Admission.com](http://Admission.com) and by phone at 1-855-790-1245.

—Fiona Downey



LAWRENCE HILL

NICOL DICKSON

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER NEW WAY TO IMPROVE INTERNAL CLOCK FUNCTION

Overnight flights across the Atlantic, graveyard shifts and stress-induced insomnia are all prime culprits in keeping us from a good night's sleep. Thanks to new research from Concordia and McGill University, however, these common sleep disturbances may one day be put to bed.

The rotation of the earth generates day and night. It also confers daily rhythms to all living beings. In mammals, something known as a "circadian clock" in the brain drives daily rhythms in sleep and wakefulness, feeding and metabolism, and many other essential

processes. But the inner workings of this brain clock are complex, and the molecular processes behind it have eluded scientists — until now.

In a new study published in the neuroscience journal *Neuron*, researchers have identified how a fundamental biological process called protein synthesis is controlled within the body's circadian clock — the internal mechanism that regulates one's daily rhythms. Their findings may help with the development of future treatments for disorders triggered by circadian clock dysfunction, including jet lag, shift-work disorders and chronic conditions like depression and Parkinson's disease.

"To understand and treat the causes and symptoms of circadian abnormalities, we have to take a closer look at the fundamental biological mechanisms that control our internal clocks," says study co-author Shimon Amir, professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology and director of the Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology.

To do so, Amir and co-author Nahum Sonenberg, a James McGill professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, at the Goodman Cancer Research Centre at McGill, studied how protein synthesis is controlled in the

brain clock. "We identified a repressor protein in the clock and found that by removing this protein, the brain clock function was surprisingly improved," explains Sonenberg.

Because all mammals have similar circadian clocks, the team used mice to conduct their experiments. They studied mice that lacked a specific protein known as 4E-BP1, which blocks the important function of protein synthesis. They found that these protein-lacking mice overcame disruptions to their circadian clocks more quickly.

"In modern society, with the frequency of trans-time-zone travel, we often deal with annoying jet lag problems, which usually require a couple of weeks of transition," says Ruifeng Cao, a postdoctoral fellow who works with Sonenberg and Amir. "However, by inducing a state like jet lag in the mice lacking that protein, we found they were able to adapt to time-zone changes in about half of the time required by regular mice."

The results indicate that the functioning of the clock has the potential to be improved by genetic manipulations, opening doors on new ways to treat circadian clock-related disorders. ■

—*Cynthia Lee and Cléa Desjardins*



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PATRICK BOIVIN IS CONCORDIA'S NEW DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND ATHLETICS.

## EX-HABS DIRECTOR PATRICK BOIVIN TO HEAD DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND ATHLETICS

A former member of the Montreal Canadiens management has exchanged his Habs jersey for the Stingers' maroon and gold. On August 14, Patrick Boivin was appointed director of Recreation and Athletics at Concordia.

"We're pleased to welcome Patrick to our team," says Lisa Ostiguy, deputy provost of Academic Affairs. "Athletics and recreation are key facets of the student life experience at Concordia. That is why we have hired an individual who has the knowledge and experience to leverage opportunities that will enhance this important area of student life."

Boivin — who holds a bachelor of commerce in finance and international business from HEC Montréal — spent three seasons with the Montreal Canadiens. As director of hockey operations, he oversaw daily team operations including budget management, league affairs, team services and internal business cooperation.

At Concordia, his duties will include leading the strategic development of the Department of Recreation and Athletics, including all varsity and intramural sports programs. Boivin's arrival coincides with major renovations to the Ed Meagher Arena: the beginning of a new, greener era for hockey and recreational sports at the university.

"This is an exciting change for me," says Boivin. "I look forward to working with people at Concordia to enhance the university's varsity sports teams, and find new ways to engage all our students, faculty and staff in recreational activities to support their health and well-being."

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Boivin is involved in a number of charitable organizations and sports events. As co-founder of the Marathon de Sport de Montréal for Special Olympics Québec, he helped raise more than \$100,000 for the Special Olympics.

Boivin is also a team captain for the 1,000-km Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie cycling race, which raises funds for projects that encourage young people to adopt healthy life habits, and he participates in the Sainte-Justine Winter Triathlon, an event that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for children, parents and professionals at the Sainte-Justine University Hospital Centre in Montreal. He is a member of the board of the Fondation du Collège Notre-Dame, helping the school achieve its educational objectives and develop new projects. ■

—Theresa Knowles

## IMPACT STAR NAMED MEN'S SOCCER COACH

Greg Sutton, former Montreal Impact star goalkeeper, is the new head coach of the Concordia Stingers men's soccer program. Sutton, 36, had been an assistant coach with the team since 2011 and served as interim head coach for the indoor season this past winter. "I think you'll see a high-tempo game from the Stingers," he says. "I want to put a lot of pressure on our opponents and play an exciting, attacking style of soccer."

Sutton will draw on his time as an assistant coach with the Université de Montréal Carabins in 2002 and 2003 and on his 14 years' experience as a professional soccer player. The Hamilton, Ont., native played for the Montreal Impact from 2001 to 2006 and from 2011 to 2012.

With high expectations for the future of the program and its players, Sutton will focus on team members' overarching experience: "When they graduate I want them to feel proud of the program they were a part of and what they accomplished. I want them to be better individuals on and off the field because being part of a university soccer program has given them important life skills." ■

—Recreation and Athletics,  
Jasmine Stuart



NEW STINGERS MEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH GREG SUTTON





FIFTY  
SHADES  
OF  
MEN



WARREN ZELMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR MARC LAFRANCE'S RESEARCH INCLUDES STUDYING HOW THE CHANGING ECONOMY HAS CAUSED A SHIFT IN MEN'S ROLES AND, THEREFORE, SELF-PERCEPTION.

## A growing number of Concordia researchers and students are examining what makes guys tick

By Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins

Popular literature would have us believe that men are from Mars and women are from Venus. The sexes are further polarized in television dramas such as *Mad Men* and *Game of Thrones*, where hyper-masculine leads enact outdated gender ideas to a modern audience whose concepts of masculinity are becoming increasingly diverse.

At the movies, cowboys and conquerors are now supersized. Hollywood hurls an increasing number of superheroes to the big screen — be it Batman, Thor, Captain America, G.I. Joe, Wolverine and Superman — whose brute force is pivotal in saving Earth and distressed damsels. Is it any surprise that since their 1960s debut, G.I. Joe figurines marketed to young boys have grown in muscle mass? American researchers found the toys now

exceed the muscularity of even the largest of human bodybuilders.

Could it be that the entertainment industry is manufacturing vicarious outlets for guys from the real world as they become decreasingly alpha? "Popular culture is presenting a fantasy of what it means to be a man as roles continue to be redefined," says Marc Lafrance, an assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Sociology and Anthropology who is an expert on media representations of men and masculinity.

Conversely, humiliating men is gaining traction in popular music — a domain that's no longer a "Man's Man's Man's World." Popular female singers such as Lady Gaga, Beyoncé and Christina Aguilera have recorded videos where men are tortured and killed — a pendulum

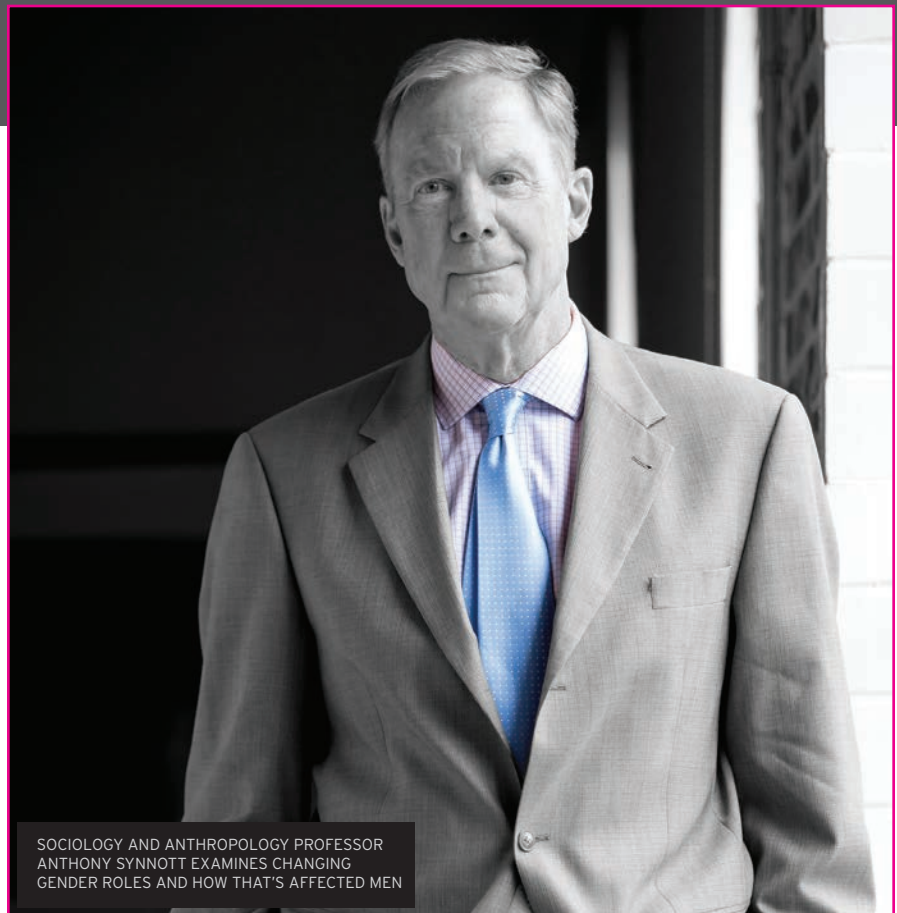
reversal to misogynistic scenarios once (still) commonplace in male rock. "Such revenge fantasies, where women are empowered and in control and men are disempowered and dominated, say bigger things about the shifting balance of power in society where gender norms are changing and men often appear in crisis," Lafrance says.

These mass media fantasies blur real-life gender ideals. A telling example comes from the classroom of Professor Anthony Synnott, former chair of Concordia's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Each semester, he begins class discussions by asking students to identify five male heroes. "Oftentimes they can't name one," he says. "They pick comic book characters such as Superman or Batman."

Gone are the days when heads of state or public figures were considered heroes or role models. Blame changing demographics, corruption in government, fragile economies, unemployment in traditionally male sectors and fast-changing social mores, but Western concepts of masculinity have splintered into 50 shades of men with no hard and fast models emerging.

Consider Statistics Canada's 2011 report that found 60,000 guys across the country were the principal caregivers of their children — a threefold increase from 1976. Chaps now represent 12 per cent of Canada's stay-at-home parents. And while women still make up 88 per cent of caregivers, these figures show that new gender roles are emerging. Such trends in social change have prompted a growing number of Concordia researchers to study what makes men tick.

Synnott is a pioneer in men's studies and wrote a major book on the topic, *Re-Thinking Men: Heroes, Villains and Victims* (Ashgate, 2009), which won the American Library Association's award for "Best Title." "Men's roles are defined by their epoch," says Synnott, who blogs about the Y chromosome for *Psychology Today* magazine. "In wartime, men were warriors. In times of peace, they strove



SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR ANTHONY SYNNOTT EXAMINES CHANGING GENDER ROLES AND HOW THAT'S AFFECTED MEN

WARREN ZELMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

earned their own money. "Until the women's movement, men had been the main providers for their families. In times of war, men were and continue to be the primary protectors of their countries. Men had also been rulers, in politics and economics, despite universal suffrage in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom."

90 per cent of workplace fatalities. "This presents a rather different picture of men as victims," says Synnott.

Students have found these facts illuminating. "Professor Synnott's class changed my views on gender substantially — I gained a lot of insight into the lives and motivations of the men around me," says Sarah Anstis, BFA 13.

## Oftentimes [students] can't name one [real-life male hero]. They pick comic book characters such as Superman or Batman.

to be peaceable. In our current post-industrial society, men often aspire to be the American ideal of the self-made man."

He says the advent of the birth control pill and the women's movement were crucial to refashioning gender roles: "The women's movement transformed our world for the better, but there has been a cost" — such as plummeting birth and rising divorce rates across Canada.

Roles continued to alter as more women entered the workforce and

Men face another disparity — grim death rates. In collecting data for his book, Synnott found men make up two thirds of accidental deaths. Men are disproportionately addicted to drugs or sent to prison. "Homeless people are most often men," he adds.

About 9,000 men die violent deaths in Canada each year. Canadian males constitute 99 per cent of military victims of war, 73 per cent of homicide victims, 77 per cent of suicide victims and over

### A CRISIS IN MASCULINITY?

Unemployed men turn to social deviance, substance abuse and public brawls, says Lafrance: "Historically, the biggest riots have always been led by disaffected men who felt emasculated."

As the patriarchal advantage began to diminish in Western society, the number of female breadwinners began to exceed the number of male breadwinners. Recent studies in Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. indicate that women are outnumbering men in university in just about every field.

In a recent analysis of students aged 18 to 24, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada found that women represented 28 per cent of university



scholars and men 18 per cent. At the same time, the high school dropout rate for male students has remained consistently higher in recent decades. A 2009-10 Statistics Canada report found 10.3 per cent of dropouts were young men, while 6.6 per cent were young women.

"Our global and changing economy is causing enormous shifts in men's roles," Lafrance says. "From blue collar to white collar, jobs that were typically held by men are gone and won't return. Yet what happens when men no longer earn solid wages that allow them upward mobility and to support their families? Society has to rethink what it means to be a man."

Lafrance began zeroing in on masculinity-related research as a PhD student at the University of Oxford in the early 2000s. "I was coming across a lot of dogma and a lot of rhetoric, but not enough systematic research on what it means to be a heterosexual man," he says. Lafrance credits feminism and the gay

## What happens when men no longer earn solid wages that allow them upward mobility and to support their families? Society has to rethink what it means to be a man.

rights movement with providing scholars of men and masculinity new ways of thinking about gender and sexuality: "These groups made us question the status quo and ask, 'What does it mean to be a woman? What does it mean to be a man?'" Lafrance hopes that Concordia considers opening a men's studies hub to complement the university's groundbreaking women's studies centre, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, which celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2013.

"There are now women's studies centres around the world and there's absolutely no reason why men's studies should not receive the same amount of attention," says Lafrance. "If we don't investigate both sides of the gender spectrum, we're not seeing the complete



GAD SAAD AT THE FERRARI MASERATI QUÉBEC DEALERSHIP IN MONTREAL. THE MARKETING PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH SHOWS CERTAIN MATERIAL ITEMS – SUCH AS FERRARIS – CAN ELEVATE MEN'S TESTOSTERONE LEVELS.

picture. Those of us who are examining men's issues have just started the thinking." Males require closer examination to benefit future generations — of men and

some academics, feminists and social constructivists," he says. "Yet there are attributed differences in the sexes across all cultures."

Investigating gender variances helps science progress, says Saad, quoting the late J.B.S. Haldane's four stages of acceptance: "One: This is worthless nonsense. Two: This is an interesting but perverse point of view. Three: This is true, but quite unimportant. Four: I always said so."

To support his theories, Saad merges psychological and biological evidence. In one peer-reviewed study, he found that increased length between men's second and fourth finger was linked to high levels of prenatal testosterone and risk taking. "In each of our studies, our goal is to find the physiological proof to back our concept," says Saad.

He's documented how sports cars and premium wares can trigger biological response in men. "A Rolex or luxury vehicle can cause a rise in testosterone," he says, noting he examines these issues in his interdisciplinary book, *The Consuming Instinct: What Juicy Burgers, Ferraris, Pornography, and Gift Giving Reveal about Human Nature* (Prometheus Books, 2011).

women, he adds: "Researchers are opening up a dialogue so that we can begin to think critically about men's relationships to themselves and others."

### MEN AND MARKETING

Differences between men and women form the premise to most of Gad Saad's research. As a professor at the John Molson School of Business and Concordia University Research Chair in Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences and Darwinian Consumption, he's examined how elevated testosterone levels foster risky behaviours in males and how menstrual cycles affect consumer habits among females.

"Two decades ago, the mere idea that men and women could be biologically different was considered abhorrent to

Saad argues that consumer behaviours in men and women are rooted in evolution and four Darwinian drives: survival (we prefer foods high in calories); reproduction (we use products as sexual signals); kin selection (we naturally exchange gifts with family members); and reciprocal altruism (we enjoy offering gifts to close friends). "We are a sexually reproducing species that uses products to impress and attract members of the opposite sex," he says.

### BLOKES AND BOOZE

Roisin O'Connor investigates what drives problematic drinking in young adults, specifically understanding unique risks for men. A professor in Concordia's Department of Psychology and director of

the Young Adult and Alcohol Research Lab, her Loyola Campus lab was built to mimic a bar. There she investigates how men aged 18 to 25 imbibe beer and other spirits to cope during situations of high anxiety.

"I'm looking at how young men might be drinking to reduce tension during the transitional years between school and the working world," she says. "I'm particularly interested in how people prone to anxiety, especially in social situations, are at risk of heavy alcohol use in later life."

She seeks clues that might explain why some men engage in binge drinking in youth, moderate as they age, while others continue in excess into adulthood. "Are they impulsive? What piece of the puzzle are we missing?" she asks.

To shed light on such questions, O'Connor recently launched the groundbreaking smart phone study on drinking patterns among undergraduates. Participants receive messages, Thursday through Saturday evenings, asking them to text information on their mood, location and what they might be drinking. "It's discreet and we can almost be there with them," says O'Connor.

Her goal is to better understand how dysfunctional drinking patterns emerge. "Drinking is such a complex behaviour that can cause so many problems," she says, noting her gender focus changed after she found evidence that young men seemed to be at particular risk for heavy drinking as a way to cope. "I expected young women

## Studying the male animal

A number of Concordia graduate students are examining subjects with a masculine focus



### MEN AND MASS VIOLENCE

From École Polytechnique in 1989 and Dawson College in 2006, both in Montreal, to Colorado's Columbine High School in 1999 and Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, most of North America's mass shootings have been committed by men.

Meriem Rebbani-Gosselin, BA 12, wants to understand why. "My research aims to look into these events as staged performances where conflicted ideas of power, masculinity and violence are played out," says Rebbani-Gosselin, whose research in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology is supervised by Professor Marc Lafrance.

School shootings and mass murders have been explored at great length by media, with journalists discovering

that most shooters were bullied as children or suffered from previous mental illness. Yet a grey zone exists that requires further examination — specifically the impact of sociocultural influences on men.

She is building on previous research to explore how imagined attacks on a frailty constructed masculine identity might have a devastating effect on some young men in contemporary Western cultures.

A perceived attack on a man's masculine identity may lead some to commit mass murder to achieve a sense of power, she theorizes. "Ultimately, the goal of this research is to bring some new ideas to the discussion of school shootings and mass murder and how they relate to social norms of masculinity."

might drink more during anxious periods, yet I found it is men who drink more heavily in an effort to reduce tension.”

While O’Connor’s research is funded by government agencies like the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, she occasionally encounters people who question why any investigation would segregate the sexes. “Yet front-line practitioners need such data to decide on best courses of treatment,” she says. “The key to appropriate intervention is knowing how and when to get involved.” ■

—Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins, BA 97,  
is director of communications for Concordia’s  
Advancement and Alumni Relations.



JOE DRESNER

THE RESEARCH OF PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR ROISIN O’CONNOR DELVES INTO WHAT DRIVES MEN’S DRINKING HABITS.



## BOYS AND THEIR BODIES

Male bodies are increasingly objectified in mass media, which might send young men running to gyms or fretting before mirrors, right? Not quite. Moss E. Norman, who led a study on boys and their bodies as a postdoctoral fellow at Concordia’s Simone de Beauvoir Institute, found most young men want to be average. “Not all boys aspire to have the lean, muscular or idealized male bodies that are commonplace in popular culture,” he says.

Published in the journal *Men and Masculinities*, his study garnered intelligence from focus groups and interviews with 32 boys conducted over a nine-month period. Participants aged 13 to 15 provided opinions about male

bodies, health, diet and physical activity. “Boys who took part in this study were staunchly critical of idealized male images,” says Norman, now a professor at the University of Manitoba. “They found it problematic, feminine or vain to be overly concerned with appearances. Sculpted bodies were seen as unnatural, the product of steroids or zealous weightlifting.”

A surprise from his research, says Norman, was how comfortable boys were in expressing, analyzing and comparing bodies — “their own, their peers’ and those ideals depicted by media. Although they felt pressure to be fit, they displayed a distant, disinterested and cool relationship to their bodies.”





## MANHOOD IN ADVERTISING

After making national headlines for his undergraduate research on how pornography can foster body dissatisfaction among heterosexual men, Casey J. Scheibling turned his attention to advertisers who manipulate male ideals: "Objects are advertised as enhancing masculinity."

He says men are increasingly marketed products that can modify or beautify their bodies — products once the purview of women. "A question that arises is whether or not this transition

in Western consumer culture is a result of rising gender equality or the blurring of the gender lines," asks Scheibling, BA 12, whose research is supervised by Lafrance.

While gender-driven shifts in marketing represent a break with gender stereotypes, he's found that modern advertisers favour old-school approaches in marketing. "Objects and products for men are fetishized to reinforce traditional masculinity," says Scheibling. "They are presented as powerful, heterosexual and anti-feminine."

## PUTTING THE ALPHA IN ATHLETICS

Are understandings of masculinity influenced by sports such as hockey, which encourages dominance over other players through mental and bodily strength? That's a question Cheryl A. MacDonald, MA 12, researched as part of her master's thesis.

She interviewed three dozen teenaged male players, as well as a coach, on how playing hockey might shape concepts of manhood. "Players appear to look to their families, their older teammates and their coaches to learn what it means to be a man," says MacDonald, who continues to examine

masculinity in sport as a PhD student with support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

She found evidence that hockey players adhere to stereotypical images of toughness, womanizing and a code of silence. "[Yet] masculinity is not manifested in unified and linear ways among these young men, some of whom do not even yet consider themselves men," says MacDonald, whose research is supervised by Lafrance and Synnott. "Many felt the need to behave in a manly way because they are hockey players, and to act manlier around their teammates than everyone else."



## MALE NUDITY ON SCREEN

Over the past three decades, Hollywood has increasingly dropped the towel on frontal male nudity. As part of his master's thesis, Timothy Eric Smith, MA 12, examined Hollywood comedies produced between 2006 and 2011. "Contemporary Hollywood 'dude flicks' have started to put the penis on screen," contends Smith, who completed his thesis under the direction of Professor Thomas Waugh of Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema.

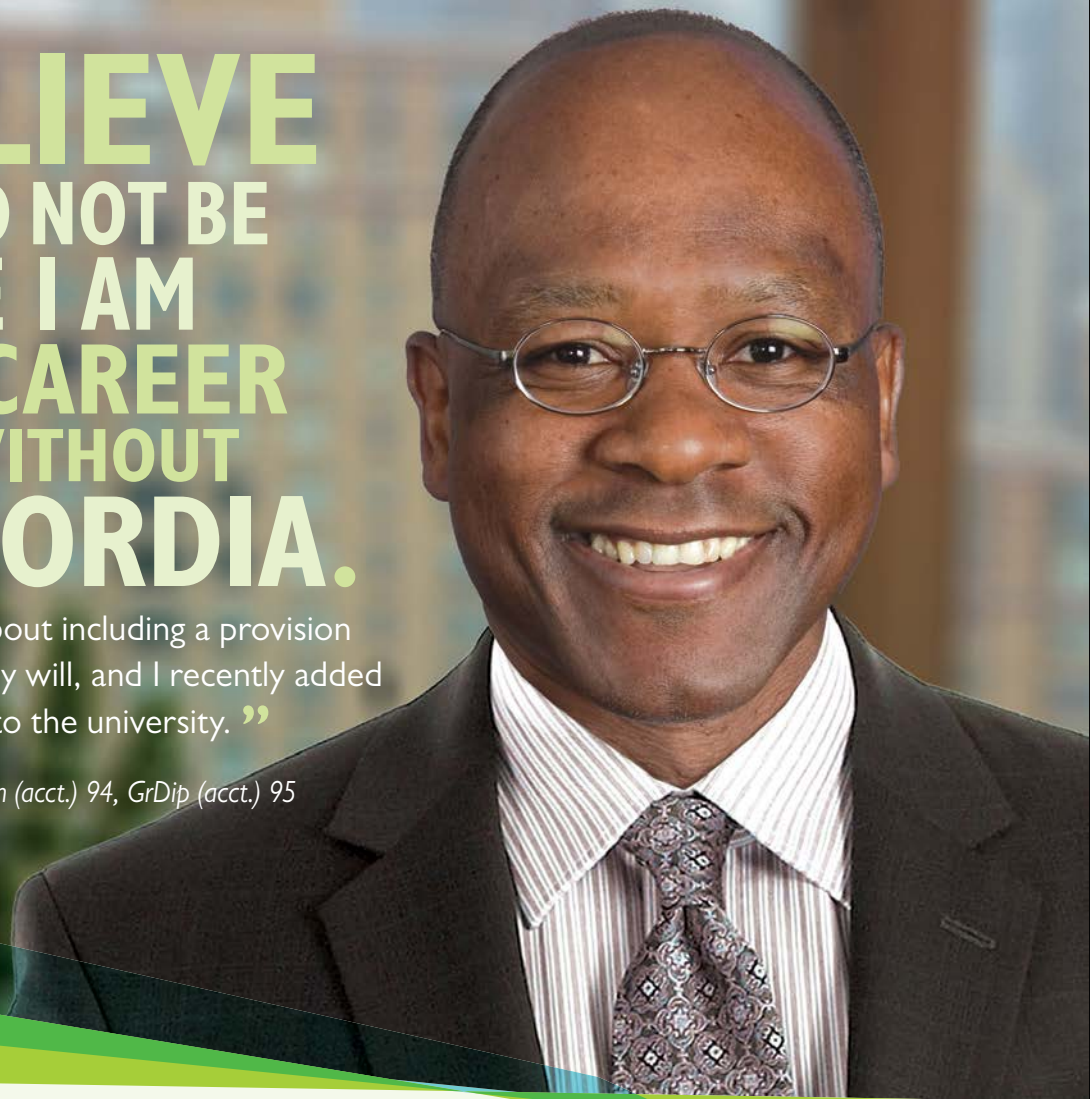
Showing male nudity has allowed actors, directors and producers to break new ground and push boundaries. Smith says full frontal has crossed over to TV. "By presenting the penis in mainstream North American cinema [and television], particularly in comedies, directors are forcing their audiences to deal with their insecurities about full-frontal male nudity," he says.

**censored**

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IN MY CAREER  
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– Andrew Forbes, BComm (acct.) 94, GrDip (acct.) 95



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# POSITIVE INFLUENCE

## MEET FIVE CONCORDIA ALUMNI WHOSE WORK HAS FAR-REACHING IMPACT.

Most people have some sway on those around them, including family, friends, co-workers, clients and so on. Yet a select few — including a number of Concordia alumni — hold positions where their decisions and actions can ripple outward to stimulate or inspire the actions and beliefs of hundreds or even thousands.

We asked five such graduates how they arrived at where they are, how they influence others and who their own mentors were.



## LIVE FROM D.C.: JOYCE NAPIER

Throughout her long career, Radio-Canada's Washington, D.C., correspondent Joyce Napier, BA '81, has covered a considerable number of significant world events, including both the death and beatification of Pope John Paul II and United States President Barack Obama's 2008 election campaign and victory. She also interviewed convicted Canadian serial killer Karla Homolka two hours after her release from prison in 2005.

Prior to Napier's D.C. post, she was Radio-Canada's Jerusalem correspondent. She takes pride in sharing her years of experience with the next generation of journalists.

The technology has changed a lot, but the way we do journalism has remained the same for 100 years.

### **Describe your work and career path.**

I always wanted to be a reporter, from when I was 13. I wanted to be like Albert Camus, who won a Nobel Prize for literature, but before that was a journalist. It was very fashionable when I was young to be this tormented existentialist. I thought it would be very cool to be what the French call a *chroniqueur*, somebody who tells the story of his or her time.

That was the inspiration. But how you get there in journalism is how you get there in other businesses: hard work and not giving up. And boy, I got a lot of rejection when I was a young graduate. There has to be some crazy belief that the rejections don't matter, and you are going to do what you want to do — and what you have to do. I started as a freelancer. I was in print for almost 10 years, and then I was at Canadian Press, then *La Presse* and then I went to CBC.

### **Do you think about your legacy, the mark you leave on others?**

I think what's important, and we do this in Washington, is to address the students and young journalists coming

up. I always try to make time for that. What we leave as a broader legacy is the truest story that we can write. I think that's the best we can do: be true. Be true to the place that you're covering. Don't try to make the story prettier or worse than it is.

### **What influence did Concordia and your professors play in your progress?**

My journalism professors at Concordia, Lindsay Crysler and Enn Raudsepp, were the guys who opened the door. All of a sudden it became possible. I could at least hope that I could get there. That's why they are so important to me.

### **Do you consider yourself a mentor?**

I do. I think that is a duty we have: to spend time with that next generation.

The technology has changed a lot, but the way we do journalism — what, when, where, why, how — has remained the same for 100 years. So what I can teach them goes beyond time and progress. It's like love. Now you can go online, but it's still the thing as before that makes your heart beat.

### **How do you foresee your profession evolving?**

The future for our business is uncertain but not dire. It's changing fast. I think new technology is amazing. When I was a freelancer, you could freelance for radio or print, so your horizon was bright but there was not that much out there. Now the sky's the limit, but it's scary because it's diluted.

If there are five bright kids who want to start their own website on whatever, they could do it and be very successful. It's infinite what you can do.

— Simona Rabinovitch



COURTESY OF RADIO-CANADA

VETERAN JOURNALIST JOYCE NAPIER IS NOW RADIO-CANADA'S WASHINGTON, D.C., CORRESPONDENT. "TELEVISION IS A FABULOUS MEDIUM IF YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE IT, HOW TO PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, THE SOUND, THE PICTURES AND THE WORDS. IT'S LIKE HAVING THREE TOOLS AS OPPOSED TO ONLY ONE."

## LEAP OF FAITH: BISHOP TOM DOWD

**B**ishop Tom Dowd, BComm 92, was ordained a Catholic priest in 2001. A decade later, he was named auxiliary bishop to Montreal Archbishop Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte. At the time, CBC dubbed him the “Facebooking Father,” and today Bishop Dowd also ministers via blog ([bishopdowd.net](http://bishopdowd.net)) and Twitter, helping anchor the church firmly in the digital age.

### **Describe your work and career path.**

I am the assistant or associate to the archbishop; in corporate terms, vice-president to his president/CEO. My core function is episcopal vicar to the

English-speaking faithful of Montreal, about 200,000 Catholics in 34 parishes. I act as liaison and support for a host of autonomous groups founded by the laity that want to have a relationship with the diocesan structure.

I like to tell people I had a mid-life crisis at 24. I held a degree in international business and was manager of a global, software-testing unit at Ericsson Canada. Achieving my dream so young had me wondering if that would be enough, career-wise. That’s when the call of God became louder, and I took a leap of faith. If you want to be bored, don’t go into the priesthood. It’s an adventure every day.

25 groups as a student. One of Concordia’s unwritten rules was that the faculty encouraged student life by having flexibility about due dates for assignments and so on. They knew practical involvement enriched education. That was a great encouragement.

### **Your profession faces increasing challenges. How do you foresee it evolving?**

The church — our whole society — faces many challenges. It’s not that we’re living a crisis of faith; I think we’re living a crisis of hope. I think a lot of people still have faith, but they’re not quite sure how that belief can be put into practice in a concrete way.

**If you want to be bored, don’t go into the priesthood. It’s an adventure every day.**



COURTESY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MONTREAL

BISHOP TOM DOWD BECAME CANADA’S YOUNGEST BISHOP IN 2011, AND HE HAS HIS OWN WEBSITE AT [BISHOPDOWD.NET](http://BISHOPDOWD.NET).

### **Do you think about your legacy, the mark you leave on others?**

The most important aspects of my spirituality are the themes of hope and unity, reflected in my episcopal coat of arms: green is the colour of hope, and the translation of the Latin motto on my coat of arms is, “To be of one heart and soul.” Ultimately, my intention is to be a positive influence, provide compassion for the sick and assistance to the poor, and work for social justice.

### **What role did Concordia and your professors have on your progress?**

I’m grateful to the entire faculty. Associate dean for undergraduates Rolland Wills was a mentor to me, especially when I was in the student association. I was involved with some

What we need to do is find a way to articulate a new narrative, for the individual and society. Can a society actually have a *projet de société*? Can we work together, build something together? There’s a constant effort that needs to be made to identify people’s interests and values and see how they can be harmonized for the sake of the common good.

Religion acts as an organizing factor, something I think can make a very positive contribution. It’s a factor of hope, not just of faith.

— Beverly Akerman

## POV FILMMAKER: DANIEL CROSS

Daniel Cross, BFA 91, MFA 98, is an associate professor and the chair of Concordia's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema. He is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker. He's president and founder of EyeSteelFilm ([eyesteelfilm.com](http://eyesteelfilm.com)), which *Realscreen* magazine has listed among the world's top 100 non-fiction production companies. His earliest films cemented a reputation for concern with the homeless. The company's recent films include the acclaimed *Last Train Home* (2009), *Inside Lara Roxx* (2011) and *Atanasoff, the Father of the Computer* (2013). One of Cross's current projects is on Montreal's crumbling Turcot Interchange highway system.

### **Describe your career path.**

I make theatrical documentary cinema, documentaries that use the language and aesthetics of cinema; social issue point-of-view (POV) documentaries that break down mediated stereotypes; films about people not justly represented in corporate media; cinema verité rather than experts or talking heads.

At the age of 26, I applied to Concordia and King's College [in Halifax]. The King's College advisor reviewed my transcript and said, "Your transcript does not confirm you can read or write... I suggest you apply to physics." I walked out before he finished his next sentence. Concordia accepted me as a mature student in cinema-film production. With boyhood dreams of playing for the Canadiens and filmmaking desires fuelled by the NFB [National Film Board of Canada] in Montreal, I immediately accepted.

### **Do you think about your legacy, the mark you leave on others?**

When you're successful in getting a film budget, it could be \$200,000, which is relatively well financed considering



CONCORDIA PROFESSOR AND FILMMAKER DANIEL CROSS RECEIVED THE INAUGURAL MENTOR AWARD FROM THE CANADIAN FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION IN 2006.

I'm working with homeless people [such as in *The Street: A Film With the Homeless* (1997) and *S.P.I.T.: Squeegee Punks in Traffic* (2002)]. Therefore, I ensure that my filmmaking process has a positive impact on the subjects' day-to-day realities. As a filmmaker, I get involved in the realities both in front of and behind the camera. I do not see this as an ethical dilemma. When I get involved, I make a better film. I created **HomelessNation.org** [a website by and for the street community] as an activist project. I believe self-expression builds self-esteem.

### **What role did Concordia and your professors have on your progress?**

My mentor was cinema professor Thomas Waugh. He was my academic advisor when I came to Concordia. Because of him, I was able to enrol in the History of Film course, which exposed me to the world of cinema, showing me the kind of films I wanted to make. There was also NFB camera operator, cinematographer and director Martin Duckworth, also a part-time Concordia

professor. He helped me get extra film stock to complete my first films. By the end of my second year at Concordia, I had my films in festivals.

### **Your profession faces increasing challenges. How do you foresee it evolving?**

TV is our major financial outlet. The rise of fact-based entertainment and reality TV means there's less space on TV for POV documentaries. On the other hand, equipment is cheaper than ever, so films cost less to make and, with the web, they're more and more accessible. The problem is that web distribution hasn't really been monetized yet.

One of the good things about teaching at university is working with young people. Students are arriving with a new literacy in media; that seems to be innate in all young people. Now the challenge is for me — us — to keep up.

— Beverly Akerman



## BUILDING BETTER WORKPLACES: GINA CODY

Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, is executive chair of CCI Group ([ccigroupinc.ca](http://ccigroupinc.ca)), an engineering firm that employs 150 across Canada. The Toronto-headquartered company was named one of Canada's Best Managed Companies in 2013 and was among Canada's Best Workplaces for 2010-2012. Cody won an Award of Merit from the Canadian Standards Association and is an Officer of the Order of Honour of the Professional Engineers of Ontario. The Concordia University Alumni Association named her Alumna of the Year in 2011.

### *Describe your work and career path.*

We're a national company covering all aspects of engineering and building science: construction, restoration and rehabilitation of buildings. For new projects, we look at the soil for environmental and geotechnical investigation, at quality control during construction. For financial institutions or investors purchasing large portfolios,

we also do a lot of assessment on existing buildings: environmental, structural, mechanical, electrical. We also prepare programs for restoration.

From childhood, I knew I would be an engineer. From about the age of 10 I knew how to repair the TV—the one with the tubes—because I couldn't bear when it wasn't working. If a chair broke, or the door, I fixed it.

I'm very methodical in my planning, whether it's about my family or my company: when it was time to get the company to the next level, work on the bottom line or grow the company nationally. The company becomes your baby. Right now, we're growing our Montreal office. We have five people overseeing the



VINCENZO PIETROPAOLO

GINA CODY IS PRESIDENT OF CCI GROUP IN TORONTO. SHE ALSO TEACHES VOLUNTARILY AT THE CANADIAN CONDOMINIUM INSTITUTE AND HELPS WRITE GUIDELINES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF ONTARIO AND DEVELOP CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY STANDARDS.

restoration of the Olympic Village, which will take at least two years.

### *Do you think about your legacy, the mark you leave on others?*

I've hired lots of young engineers, and many have been with me for 25 years. You need to teach them, to keep them under your wing. I've been sister, mother and supervisor to many of them.

Concordia has a strong industry approach, rather than being too theoretical, and produces very good graduates for the engineering profession.

### *Do you consider yourself a mentor?*

Yes, absolutely. The younger engineers rely on me. And some of my best clients are my ex-employees.

**My brother had just finished civil engineering at Concordia and introduced me to Professor Cedric Marsh. Cedric made me feel so comfortable I decided to move my studies to Concordia the same day.**

### *What role did Concordia and your professors have on your progress?*

I arrived in Montreal from Iran in 1979 to do my MEng at McGill University. My brother had just finished civil engineering at Concordia and he introduced me to [Building Studies] Professor Cedric Marsh. Cedric made me feel so comfortable I decided to move my studies to Concordia the same day. Professor Marsh's work with industry was intriguing; I did my MEng and PhD with him. Sadly, Professor Marsh passed away last year.

Now I'm trying to encourage my daughter to do her PhD at Concordia; she's currently at Carnegie Mellon [in Pittsburgh, Penn.] in engineering.

### *Your profession faces increasing challenges. How do you foresee it evolving?*

One problem in our society is that engineering isn't seen as a helping profession. Women particularly have a passion to contribute to society. CCI has a higher percentage of women than most engineering firms, 20 to 25 per cent. Women need more role models. But the real challenge is keeping up to date with new technology, materials and techniques. To do that, I stay involved with professional associations. And I remind people anything that's growing fast needs oversight.

—Beverly Akerman

## ENERGY GURU: RAY JOLICOEUR

Positive energy, healthy living and inspiring others to do great things is part of the lifestyle that Ray Jolicoeur, BAdmin 90, infuses into the popular GURU energy drink ([guruenergy.com](http://guruenergy.com)). From sponsoring Montreal music event *Piknic Électronik* to volunteering as honorary chairman of the GURU Business Creation prize for the Montreal region in the Quebec Entrepreneurship Contest event in 2011, the successful brand's co-founder and VP marketing embodies the GURU lifestyle.

### *Describe your work and career path.*

I started the GURU energy drink company with some friends back in 1998. It's been a fun ride! After Concordia, I studied international business in the United States for one summer, then I started at Kraft Foods and spent a couple of years there marketing salad dressing and mayo.

A few years later, I went into marketing for Corby Distilleries. Then, out of a casual cultural conversation with my good friend, François Bazinet, a business plan evolved: we discovered energy drinks, and eventually launched one. We had a product that was made from natural ingredients and an inspiring name that represented a lifestyle that reflects what we believe: that eating and drinking healthy is a good thing. So, being true to our values, we created a product that reflects who we are.

### *Do you think about your legacy, the mark you leave on others?*

Our mission for the brand is that GURU gives good energy for people to make great things. So if we can help them do that with not only our drink but our general message, that's what GURU's there for. I'm not sure I'd use the word "legacy," but we're really happy our

That's what marketing research is:  
to look at data and make a story out of it.

brand fits into the lifestyle of active people who like to get things done!

### *What role did Concordia and your professors have on your progress?*

I use a lot of the skills I acquired at Concordia studying marketing and international business, whether for production scheduling or advertising plans or all kinds of business strategy moves. Certainly there were a number of teachers, like marketing professor Michel LaRoche. Professor Michel Bergier, a marketing research professor, had a great impact on me. His was a very demanding class; he was a hard-nosed math guy who had a passion for communicating numbers in a way that would mean something to people, and that's what marketing research is: to look at data and make a story out of it.

### *Do you consider yourself a mentor?*

I think that's a question you'd have to ask my employees. My goal is certainly to coach them when I can, and help them in their career paths and decisions.

But you can learn from them as much as they can learn from you. That's the beauty of having your own business; you get to work alongside talented people who put their passion into what you've created, and eventually it takes on its own life.

I'm always looking for mentors, because there's always something you can learn from other people. GURU is a lot about that: to keep on learning and gathering wisdom. ■

—*Simona Rabinovitch*

For longer versions of these interviews, visit [magazine.concordia.ca](http://magazine.concordia.ca).



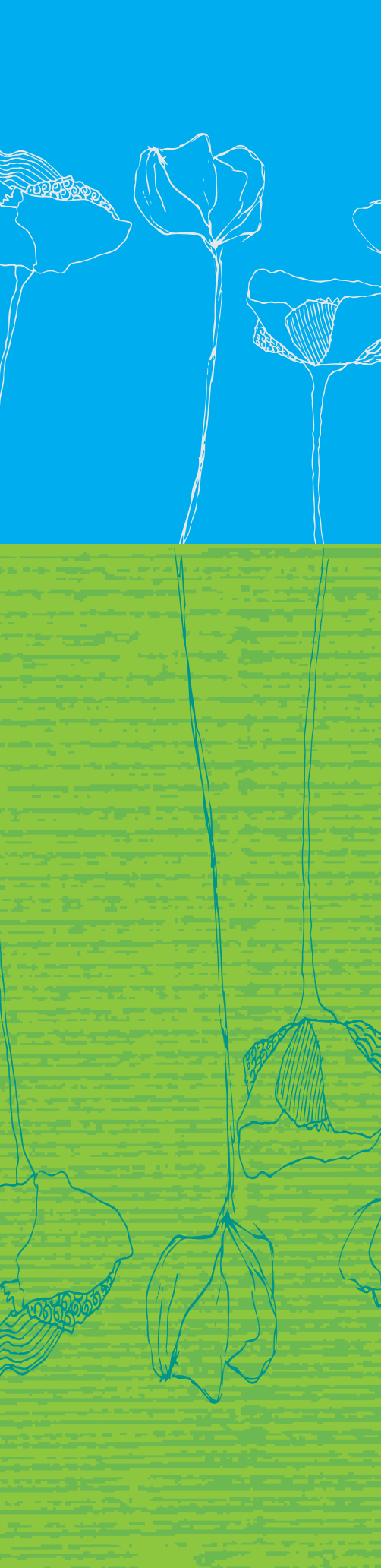
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

GURU ENERGY DRINK CO-FOUNDER AND VP MARKETING RAY JOLICOEUR. HE CREDITS HIS INTEREST IN MARKETING IN PART TO HIS CONCORDIA PROFESSORS AS WELL AS THE 1963 BOOK *CONFESSIONS OF AN ADVERTISING MAN* BY DAVID OGILVY. "TODAY IT MIGHT BE MORE TRENDY TO LOOK AT MARKETING THROUGH THE LENS OF *MAD MEN*, BUT BACK WHEN I READ THE BOOK IT WASN'T THE CASE."



# THE ROOTS OF DISCOVERIES





Applying for a research grant is not for the faint of heart, as **Scott McCulloch** learned. The writer took a first-hand look at what it takes to secure a coveted grant, and discovered that successfully doing so can bring far-reaching rewards – to the researchers, the university and society.

**M**ore than 20 years ago, Concordia cast me into the world of journalism. I have covered everything from the mothballing of Margaret Thatcher’s Cold War bunker to world launches of elite cars in Detroit, a city now gone bust. I have dined with royalty. I have interviewed Fords and Vanderbilts, sheikhs and Swiss bankers. Yet my latest assignment – walking through the A to Z of Concordia’s research grant process – has thrown me more than a few interesting curves.

I sat down with Justin Powlowski, interim director of Concordia’s Office of Research, and Dominique Michaud, BA 82, associate director of Research Development. They took me through the research grant application process with aplomb. “Ideas,” says Michaud. “It all begins with ideas.” Indeed, and the cleverer the better. “Universities are judged by the quality of their research,” adds Powlowski. “Many researchers are really driven to improve society. Ultimately, that is what it is all about.”

Discovery towards a better world – what more noble a journey? My own begins with questions. How do ideas grow into full-fledged research programs? Programs cost money and, depending on their sophistication, can require major resources.

I phone William Bukowski, a psychology professor and director of the Concordia Centre for Research in Human Development. Bukowski says his research has been funded since 1983 – a good sign that I am talking with someone who knows how to successfully navigate the process. “Concordia has been very good at helping researchers get started with seed money,” says Bukowski, who has been both a grant applicant and adjudicator. “But some studies are vastly more expensive than others.”

Like an angel investor, the university will kick in as much as \$15,000 to get qualifying research projects off the ground. Ambitious programs with, say, laboratories and sophisticated equipment, inevitably require more major

sources of funding. Enter Canada's federal funding agencies: SSHRC — often pronounced "shirk" — the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; NSERC — known as "n-serc" — the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada; and CIHR, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Quebec has similar funding bodies. And there are numerous international foundations and institutions, as well as generous individual donors, that underwrite worthy research projects.

"Let's say we look at SSHRC," says Michaud. "A researcher can get up to \$100,000 per year for five years in the Insight Program. That's half a million dollars towards his or her research."

government's flagship program, which awarded Concordia 10 such chairs in the past two years, has been credited with everything from reducing brain drain to attracting top-notch researchers from abroad.

### THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

After my immersion at Concordia's Office of Research, I peruse the NSERC website. It makes for dry reading.

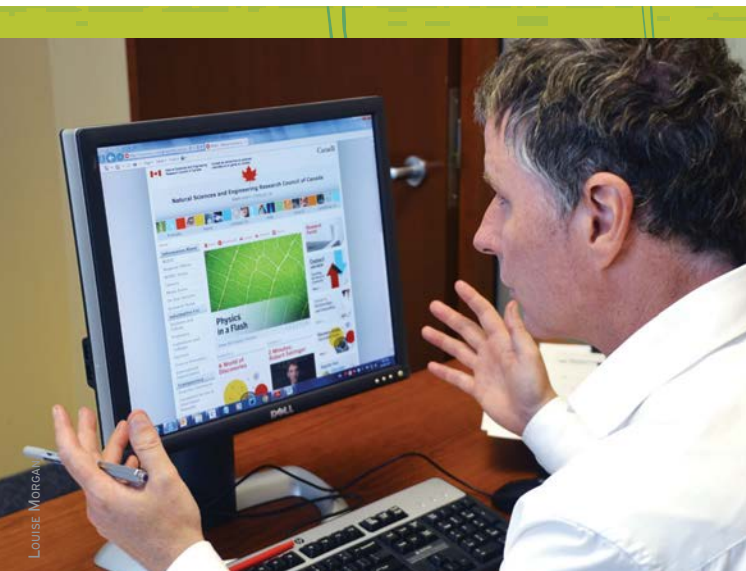
I say a silent prayer for applicants who must complete the funding body's forms, many written in sleep-inducing bureaucratese.

Yet it is all part of the research grant journey. Michaud assures me that grant applicants have support; Concordia

tracking system that "addresses all that should be addressed" in the interest of quality control. The Office of Research is a well-oiled machine for processing funding applications.

I ask Michaud what she likes best about her job. "Hearing about researchers' work and getting them the best possible funding," she says without hesitation. Ironically, this is also her most challenging work.

The funding odyssey is complex. Arlene Segal, a research facilitator at the John Molson School of Business, makes it easier. Her job: target opportunities and get researchers funded. "One of the things we do very quickly is meet professors and get to know what their



LOUISE MORGAN



JOE DRESDNER

SCOTT MCCULLOCH, PICTURED ABOVE IN EACH PHOTO, VISITS RESEARCHERS TO GET RESEARCH GRANT INSIGHT: (FROM LEFT) SIMON BACON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE SCIENCE; WILLIAM BUKOWSKI, DIRECTOR OF THE CONCORDIA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT; AND DOMINIQUE MICHAUD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT.

After which, Michaud says, word spreads among students keen to work with principal researchers. "Graduate students are attracted by the funding success of Concordia and its researchers, but much more by the reputation of a scholar."

So status has its privileges, particularly when funds for Canada Research Chairs are granted. The federal

research facilitators are on hand to troubleshoot and provide feedback on proposals. When applicants' questions arise, facilitators' answers follow. There is a supervisory review, too. Faculty administrators are called on to help when a research proposal needs special facilities or other university contributions. Michaud highlights an application

research is about." Why? As few as one in four research proposals get funded; successful awardees must be persuasive. "One of the first pieces of information I convey is that a grant application is not like writing an academic publication," says Segal. "The point is to get funded."

That can pay other dividends. "Although undergraduates are attracted

by great teachers, individual professors attract graduate students through the strength of their research,” says Powlowski.

And strong research builds track records, the quality of which is scrutinized in grant applications. Herein lies the chicken-and-egg scenario: track records are built on exceptional research, yet exceptional research can depend on grants. “That’s tough for young people because the review committee has to make a bit more of a bet,” says Bukowski. SSHRC’s Insight Development Program, which offers small two-year grants of up to \$75,000, recognizes this unique predicament of “emerging scholars.”

there are two ways to not succeed: a proposal can be rejected outright for quality reasons, or be recommended but not actually funded.

### WINNING CONDITIONS

So what goes into a winning proposal?

I track down Simon Bacon, an associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science, and pick his brain. “What normally happens is that for every grant you submit, you rarely get it the first time,” explains Bacon, who has four CIHR grants to his credit. “It is kind of a philosophy CIHR has. You send the application. You get feedback. You make it better and resubmit it.”

CIHR, I discover, supports more than

that pertain to “populations with disease,” his bleak yet fascinating field of research. He will summarize his idea, pen some rough methodology and a few lines about what he intends to discover. His team will meet. They will discuss goals.

It may take a year before an application is submitted, first through Concordia’s Office of Research then, ultimately, to a panel of experts who ensure proposals — if approved — meet top standards. “It is a time-consuming and stressful process,” says Bukowski. “It is also one of the most creative processes in our jobs.”

For Bacon, who is currently applying to three funders, it offers the promise



JOE DRESINGER



AN ZEMPEL

Despite this, my gut tells me whiz-bang proposals should boil oceans. Bukowski is more rational: “The first thing people should think about when writing a grant proposal is, ‘Why should someone pay for this?’” Only proposals recommended by a peer-review panel — experts familiar with the research subject matter — have a crack at funding. A recommendation is good but does not necessarily engender success. Alas,

14,000 researchers and researchers in training on a billion-dollar budget. That is a lot of knowledge. For Bacon, research grants are more about quality than quantity. “Can I answer this question better than anyone else?” he asks rhetorically. “And do I have the expertise to do it?” If he does, Bacon will put together a team — psychologists, doctors, biostatisticians, perhaps even a methodologist — to answer questions

of societal rewards. “For example, we’re trying to understand how physical activity, which we know keeps you alive for longer, might be related to keeping you alive longer but in a better state.”

### SOCIETAL BENEFITS

I ask Michaud if faculty members are encouraged to apply for grants.

“Yes, there is an expectation to develop research, and in order to develop



You can have a very strong research program in, say, the humanities, which won't require a lot of money but can be prestigious.

research, you ask for funding.” Monies, that is, for discoveries that will “have some eventual benefit for Canadian or Quebec society,” adds Segal. Quebec-based researchers, Michaud notes, have access to both federal and provincial funding agencies “to get their research program to completion.”

Concordia’s annual sponsored research income is around \$40 million. It is a strong figure for a university without a med school, especially when measured against similar research-intensive Canadian institutions. Medical-doctoral universities garner the lion’s share of research funds because healthcare is an expensive business. “Dollar figures are not always indicative of quality,” stresses Michaud. “You can have a very strong research program in, say, the humanities, which won’t require a lot of money but can be prestigious.”

Powlowski adds that total funding income is but one indicator — an easily measured one — of an institution’s research quality. He cautions: “We always

## THE KEY TO GRANT APPLICATION SUCCESS

William Bukowski is no stranger to research grants, either as applicant or adjudicator.

A Department of Psychology professor and director of the Centre for Research in Human Development, Bukowski believes one of the keys to a successful grant application is clarity. “A winning grant is one that has been presented clearly,” he says. That means the review committee not only understands the researcher’s question but also if and how it will be answered.

“The most frustrating thing for the reviewer is when you look at someone’s grant proposal and they’ve identified something really important — an interesting set of ideas — but you can’t figure it out. You don’t know what they’re doing.”

Also, adjudicators want to feel confident the goals are feasible. “Can the committee look at a project and say this person can get the job done?”

That, says Bukowski, is where the applicant’s history comes into play. Has he or she published research papers in high-quality journals? Is the research of interest to others? “The quality of the track record is important because the committee can ask: ‘We have invested in this person before, did the investment pay off?’ ”

Creativity counts, too. Proposed research must add in a substantial way to an existing body of knowledge or break new ground — no points for gilding lilies. “Review panels don’t want to fund something that is essentially known already,” Bukowski says. “They want to fund something that is creative and different.”

need to keep an eye on what the outputs of our research are.”

I certainly agree. I look to the Department of Biology, where recent Concordia-led research shows how liver acid can kill several types of cancer cells. I check out the Department of Psychology, where researchers have linked exposure to second-hand smoke to the uptake of smoking in teens. These investigations clearly resonate beyond the lab.

With a recent grant from Consortium en innovation numérique du Québec and the non-profit organization Mitacs, researchers in the Department of Studio Arts and Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering have advanced the field of 3D animation, a market expected to triple in value to \$10 billion by 2018, according to MarketsandMarkets, an India-based consultancy. Grants undoubtedly have an impact.

Researchers and the grants that support them make Concordia an institution of discoverers — innovators whose ideas can have far-reaching

implications and societal benefits. To convince adjudicators that a project is worth supporting, grant applicants must demonstrate that their research builds on current projects, what they have already accomplished and what is going on in their research domain altogether. “The grant review process is far from perfect but generally works well,” says Bukowski.

Here are more outputs. Concordia’s research adds \$177 million to Quebec’s economy, according to SECOR, a consulting firm. Meanwhile, Higher Education Strategy Associates ranks Concordia ninth in Canada in arts, social sciences and humanities in terms of research impact and productivity.

Yes, applying for a research grant is challenging. Landing one is tougher. Improving the world through discovery? Powlowski believes that is increasingly a Concordia mainstay. Now I see why. ■

*Scott McCulloch, BA (journ.) 90, is senior advisor, communications, for Concordia’s Advancement and Alumni Relations.*



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# FICTION:

## Irving Layton Award for Creative Writing

Each year, Concordia's Department of English hands out prizes for excellence in the studies of English literature and creative writing. Those include the Irving Layton Awards for Creative Writing, which are worth \$500 each and given to undergraduate students for works of poetry and fiction.

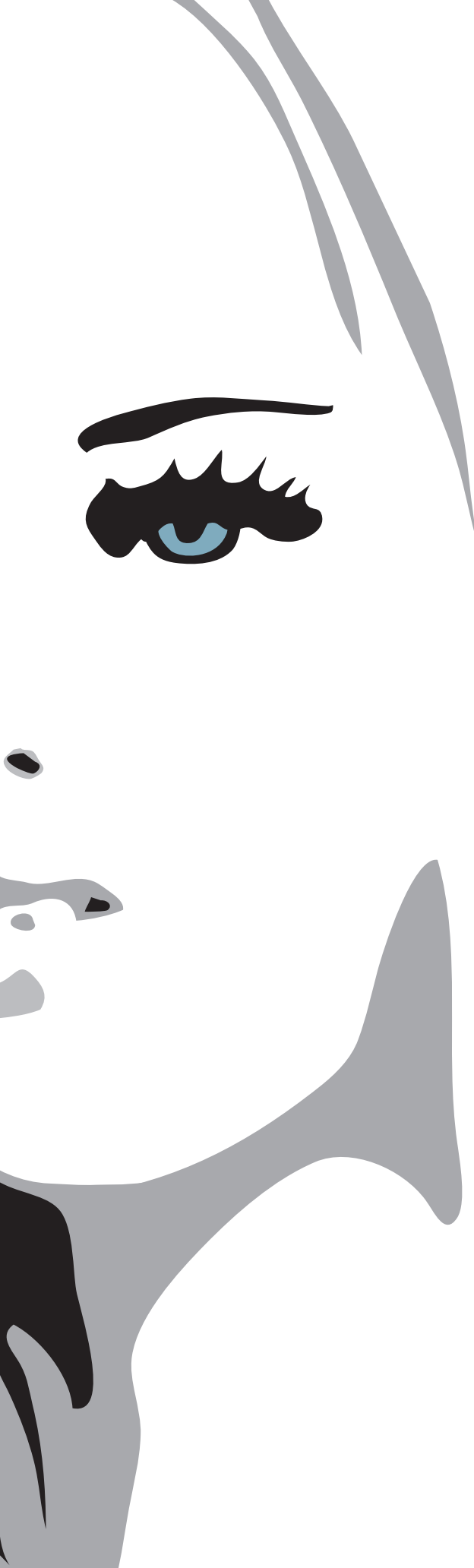
To qualify for the fiction award, students must submit a single story of no more than 5,000 words.

The 2013 Irving Layton Award for Creative Writing for fiction went to Gleb Wilson, who graduated with a BA in English literature and creative writing in June. The Brooklyn, N.Y., native came to Montreal and Concordia when he was 18. He's now busy working, playing music and, fortunately, writing.

Here is the award-winning short story.







## Kakoyete Zerkalo

By Gleb Wilson

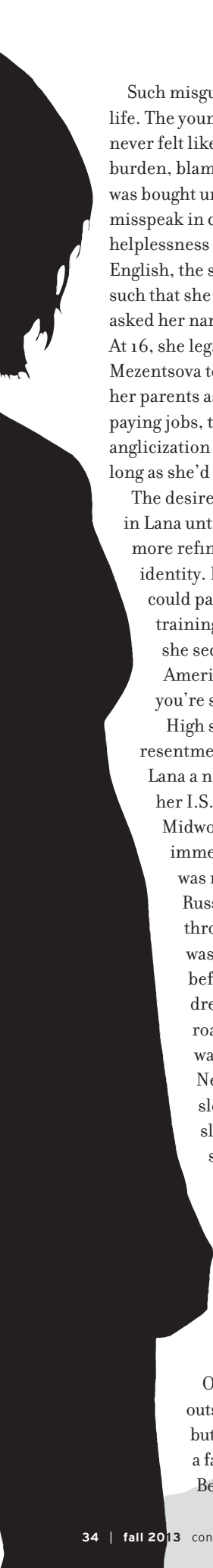
Yes, Lana's mother is proud of her. But perhaps not in the same way an American mother would be proud, Lana thinks. Real Americans do everything so intently and so organically; everything Lana does is just a sideshow, but to her mother it looks like a crowning achievement. The pride, Lana thinks, comes cheap.

Lana is a promoter for dubstep and house shows. She works for Zvook Entertainment, whose offices are based in Brighton Beach. Lana has to attend most of the shows she promotes, and at these shows, she pretends to enjoy the music more than she actually does, or drinks until she doesn't care. When asked how she got into promoting dubstep, Lana would say she can't remember.

"It happened naturally," she'd say in a soft but decidedly spiteful tone. "If you're into house or hip hop or whatever, you just follow it, and eventually if you're real about your shit, you become a part of it."

Lana has given that response or something like it countless times. She has always enjoyed talking about her experience and credibility, no matter the interest or pursuit in question. And though she won't go out of her way to smoke just to tell a story, Lana gravitates towards telling tales of her life when she's smoking outside a venue, or around the corner on a curb. Her constantly calculating demeanor creates a stillness, what she hopes is a mystery which could elicit a visit from a passerby or someone exiting whatever Lana is taking a break from. Lana wants to be approached, though she never acts like she cares, punctuating her wisdom and apathy with carefully timed inhalations and ash flicks now part of a routine written in muscle memory.

Lana used to like smoking Black and Milds because they were classier than cigarettes. She didn't necessarily believe this, but it was a good reason to give if anyone ever asked her why she smoked Black and Milds. In reality, Lana chose the cheap cigarillos because they were different and set her apart. In Lana's mind, this kind of individuality equalled uniqueness and wisdom. If you did something most people wouldn't normally do, it meant you were smart enough to see through the blinds that deterred most. It meant you had secrets to share, or to keep.



Such misguided and arbitrary calculations filled Lana's life. The youngest in a family of Russian immigrants, Lana never felt like she fit in. She carried her heritage like a burden, blaming her Russian ancestry for the fact that she was bought unfashionable, outdated clothing. She would misspeak in class and immediately get transported to the helplessness of a family function where no one speaks English, the same mental space of straddling two worlds such that she belongs in neither. When she was 12, Lana asked her name to be shortened from Svetlana to Lana. At 16, she legally changed her name from Svetlana Mezentsova to Lana Mezents. Justifying this decision to her parents as a necessary step to getting hired for higher-paying jobs, this measure was in truth a step towards an anglicization that Lana had secretly been wanting for as long as she'd had an American identity.

The desire to fit in by homogenization was dormant in Lana until she hit middle school and encountered a more refined ability to define the self and to articulate identity. Lana took pride in elements of her life that could pass as "more American," like her years of ballet training. (She wasn't passionate about ballet, like she secretly was about chess, but it was a normal, American complaint under which to hide; "Ugh, you're so lucky your mom never made you do ballet.")

High school had fully brought out Lana's resentment of her roots. A new school meant for Lana a new identity, despite the fact that many of her I.S. 239 classmates were continuing on to Midwood High School with her and would recognize immediate change. But Lana didn't care. She was no longer content to simply observe her Russianness, a creature which she learned through approximating, American eyes. Lana was no longer content to simply let it define her before she could get a word in. Her reality — her dream and her true identity as she perceived it — roamed the halls of her high school. And as Lana walked home through the wet grey cold along Neptune Avenue after school, that dream would slowly fade. As she trampled through slush, slightly ducking under pigeons and seagulls suddenly in flight, as she made her way up the stairs of her building to her family's communal apartment, smelling some combination of old furniture, borscht and burning radiators, and as she struggled to communicate with her parents and grandparents, Lana felt something inside of her which made her posture poor and her days long and uncertain.

Once in high school, Lana was smoking outside of a club downtown. She was underage, but her older friend Olga had supplied her with a fake ID. Lana's parents believed her to be in Bensonhurst, and the excitement of having snuck

into Manhattan was difficult to contain. Yet Lana maintained a decided indifference, leaning against the outside wall of the club and feeling the bass thump against her back through the brick.

A group of three — two boys and a girl — approached Lana.

"Hey, you have a smoke?" one of the boys said. The group stopped in front of Lana rather than sending one ambassador to bum one for the walk; they intended to stay and talk. With subdued excitement, Lana gave the boy a cigarette ("Sure"), then offered all three of them smokes. The group wasn't Russian; it was generic and American. Carefully, and with immense skill and understanding of those first predictable minutes of initial conversation, Lana engaged her audience with her opinions. The quartet traded gossip and badmouthed the same parts of the city (though Lana was mostly following their lead). It was working.

"So you're from Brighton Beach?" the girl asked.

"Yeah," Lana replied. "It sucks."

"Wow that's so far. That's like a really Russian neighborhood, right?"

"Yeah it is."

"Are you Russian?" one of the boys asked.

"Yeah," said Lana.

"Cool," he said, nodding.

"But I'm not like... Stalin gulag Russian," Lana added.

After a pause, the girl said, "What?"

To cover her failed joke, Lana laughed, but a silence lingered afterwards.

"I mean I'm not Russian Russian. Like, I dunno, some kids just never even like learn to speak English or anything. I don't just do that. I do normal things, too. Not just... family... things."

"Hmm..." the American girl replied, ushering in another short silence. Lana smoked and attempted to regain her composure.

"Know any good places to go after this?" Lana asked.

"I don't think so..." one of the boys said absent-mindedly, checking his cell phone.

"I hear there's something at Gallery or whatever," said Lana to a sustained silence, as if she hadn't spoken. Though they initially mentioned an interest in exchanging numbers, the trio walked away soon after that moment, leaving Lana feeling more alone than before they had come. She went home early and tried to sleep.

Years later, Lana would develop a cocaine addiction which would jar her from being able to hold a job in promoting. She would go on to work at JFK International Airport behind the counter of a Cinnabon stand. She would develop bags under her eyes and accept the everyday. One day she would see the boy who asked her for a cigarette, now a man in a suit with a briefcase and no discernible identity. She would not recognize him, but she would watch him walking straight, and she would try to imagine his destination and his purpose. She would long for him and the reliable nothingness he had become, the reliable nothingness he had always been. ■



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# e-evaluating e-learning

After playing host to an e-learning conference, Concordia professors consider the future of online education.

By Shaimaa El-Ghazaly

“Where my reason, imagination or interest were not engaged, I would not or I could not learn.” Winston Churchill wrote of his educational experience in 1930. Yet more than eight decades later, the former British prime minister’s words remain as relevant as ever.

Today’s students — immersed as they are in the information age — pose new challenges for educators. The key to keeping them absorbed may lie in assimilating new classroom technologies and digital platforms with more traditional methods. As Concordia President Alan Shepard said in his installation speech in October 2012, “Universities that hope to thrive in the 21st century will want to engage with new technology for teaching and learning in the same serious way we have long embraced technology for research and creative expression.”

That sentiment was embodied by a major conference hosted by Concordia last spring called e.SCAPE: Knowledge, Teaching, Technology. Through various workshops, lectures and demonstrations, e.SCAPE explored new approaches to instruction and trends in higher education, and covered everything from developing an online course to using blended learning techniques to incorporating video games to keep students engrossed. The conference was in line with Concordia’s 2012-2016 Academic Plan, which prioritizes the creation of innovative and dynamic offerings in the undergraduate curriculum.

“Technology is making us rethink pedagogy,” says Ollivier Dyens, BFA 86, Concordia’s former vice-provost of Teaching and Learning, who headed the conference’s programming committee. “There’s no doubt that it adds a dynamic element to the learning process.”

Still, Saul Carliner, an associate professor in Concordia’s Department of Education and e-learning fellow for the Centre for Teaching and Learning Services, insists discussions around e-learning should focus on keeping pedagogy first in mind and technology second. “We’re trying to give people a sense of what they can do with technology and teaching, while at the same time use that as a means of having a broader conversation about injecting innovation and creativity into our general pedagogy, whether it’s technology based or more traditional,” says Carliner, who also participated at e.SCAPE.

While Carliner and Dyens prefer the term “technology-integrated teaching,” e-learning is still widely used to refer to educational technology such as email, audio, video, PowerPoint, application software and an array of information and communication tools. E-learning models include self-paced, fully online courses; those in which the students and the instructor are online at the same time; and flipped classrooms,





where the lecture is recorded and posted online and the class time is dedicated to discussion and solving problems.

### FACE-TO-FACE ADVANTAGES

The concept of distance education is decades old — those of a certain age will remember correspondence courses, done by mail. No doubt, the internet has improved the speed, ease and, especially, quality of distance courses, and today most Canadian post-secondary institutions offer online options; Athabasca University and Télé-Université du Québec only offer online programs.

Some universities — although not yet Concordia — have introduced Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), mainly free and not-for-credit courses intended for a large number of participants. In 2014, McGill University plans to offer

A 2010 analysis by the United States' Department of Education found that K to 12 students "performed modestly better, on average, than those learning the same material through traditional face-to-face instruction," and that "instruction combining online and face-to-face elements had a larger advantage relative to purely face-to-face instruction."

A 2003 study by Mickey Shachar and

## Technology is making us rethink pedagogy. It adds a dynamic element to the learning process.

MOOCs, joining institutions such as Boston's Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While e-learning may be trending upward, how effective is it compared to traditional classroom-based learning?

Yoram Neumann of Touro (now Trident) University International in Cypress, Calif., found that final grades of students enrolled in distance programs were higher than those enrolled in traditional face-to-face programs.

The Concordia academics interviewed for this story agree that traditional classroom teaching and learning will still play an important role in higher education; there's something irreplaceable about interpersonal interaction, especially for the 18-to-22-year-old undergraduate student. A full university education includes social development earned through making friends, getting to know professors, networking and participating in extracurricular activities, all essential for a student's growth.

"Technology complements teaching. We do teach classes entirely online, but it's a small part of what we do," Carliner explains. "It's not predicted that e-learning will become the majority of what we do. It's not even close to that." He adds that Concordia is "a physical institution, we're not the virtual Concordia space. What we are is in these buildings."

#### TAKING IT ONLINE

In fall 2011, Anne Wade, manager and information specialist at Concordia's Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance ([doe.concordia.ca/csip](http://doe.concordia.ca/csip)), and Joanne Locke, interim dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and an associate professor in the Department of Education, set about creating an online version of their Introduction to Library and Research Practices course that would allow them to accept students from across and beyond the university. "We wanted a greater outreach, a larger scope, because our sections were at capacity, and we believe this is an important undergraduate course," Wade explains. KnowledgeOne ([knowledgeone.ca](http://knowledgeone.ca)) is the university's exclusive online course provider under the eConcordia brand ([econcordia.com](http://econcordia.com)). Patrick Devey, BSc 98, GrDip 00, MA 02, PhD 09, KnowledgeOne's chief learning officer, has helped design and develop online course material for many professors, including Locke and Wade. "We work with the university hand in hand to provide expertise and resources it might not have in-house," says Devey. He adds that almost every professor he's dealt with has enjoyed the transition to an online experience.

PATRICK DEVEY IS CHIEF LEARNING OFFICER OF CONCORDIA'S E-LEARNING PROVIDER KNOWLEDGEONE. HE SAYS THAT WHILE MOST PROFESSORS ENJOY MOVING THEIR COURSES ONLINE, HE POINTS OUT THAT INSTRUCTORS NEED TO EXERCISE PATIENCE DURING THE COURSE-DESIGN PROCESS SINCE MOST ARE ENTERING AN UNFAMILIAR FIELD.



JOE DRESNER

While shifting from in-class to online courses, professors have to learn to potentially deal with larger class sizes and less control over how students interact with course materials. Aside from scheduled assessments, students in online classes decide when they want to access course content and what pace they want to go through material. "Many professors realize that in addition to changing their teaching style, there is an added managerial role that comes with

feedback from the instructor. She admits that at first she was nervous using the new technology yet now appreciates that it allows an immediate connection with students.

Wade adds professors must be aware that setting up an effective online course requires a major time investment up front: "You're not simply digitizing the course materials but are adapting them so that you can have interactive content, making it interesting by moving from

It's a small part of what we do.  
We're not the virtual Concordia space.  
What we are is in these buildings.

online teaching: managing the teaching assistants, making sure that the marking is fair for everyone, and making sure that all the students who are having difficulty are being responded to," Devey says.

Locke offers support for her online students with a web conferencing platform for e-learning that allows students to ask questions in a live, online setting and receive immediate

one medium to another."

To ensure the quality of online courses, Concordia decided to hold final exams for its online courses in an invigilated environment, which could be a challenge given the size of some classes. Wade and Locke explain that they also designed their course to make it a comprehensive process; its final exam builds directly upon work done





ANNE WADE (LEFT) IS MANAGER AND INFORMATION SPECIALIST AT CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE, AND JOANNE LOCKE IS INTERIM DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE. ENROLMENT FOR THEIR ONLINE COURSE DOUBLED AFTER THEY REMOVED ITS LIMIT.

LINDA RUTENBERG

throughout the semester.

It's perhaps no surprise that online learning is becoming more popular — it offers students the chance to tap into top-quality education from anywhere, at any time. For the fall 2013 semester, eConcordia expects to reach 35,000 enrolments — up from 12,375 six years ago. Devey predicts further growth. "Students are increasingly interested in this mode of learning. They like the flexibility," he says. "And it's becoming more and more accepted by the academic community as a viable alternate to classroom-based instruction."

As for Wade and Locke's course, they reached the maximum number of 100 students the first semester it was offered. That limit was removed in winter 2012 and resulted in 197 enrolments; in winter 2013, some 212 students registered and 201 completed it, which Locke says is a significantly high retention rate.

For future semesters, both professors agree they will place more emphasis on interaction with students using various tools, such as a discussion board and web conferencing sessions.

#### POSITIVE IMPACT

As Concordia moves forward, it aims to stay on top of e-learning trends. During his opening remarks at the e.SCAPE conference, Concordia President Alan Shepard underscored that as long as it is done with caution, the impact of integrating new technologies is sure to be positive: "Concordia has been a leader in revitalizing the relationship between technology and higher education. We are taking the best of the university experience and focusing it with new tools that broaden how people think, teach and learn."

Champions of e-learning at Concordia say that maintaining the university's

role as a primary investigator in technology-integrated teaching is going to be a dynamic process, one that both students and professors have much to gain from. "What I love is the challenge of how to go about it effectively because it's a completely different teaching experience," Wade says about developing her online course. "It's enriching as a faculty member, as a teacher, to find ways to always be engaged." ■

— *Shaimaa El-Ghazaly is a student in Concordia's Department of Journalism.*

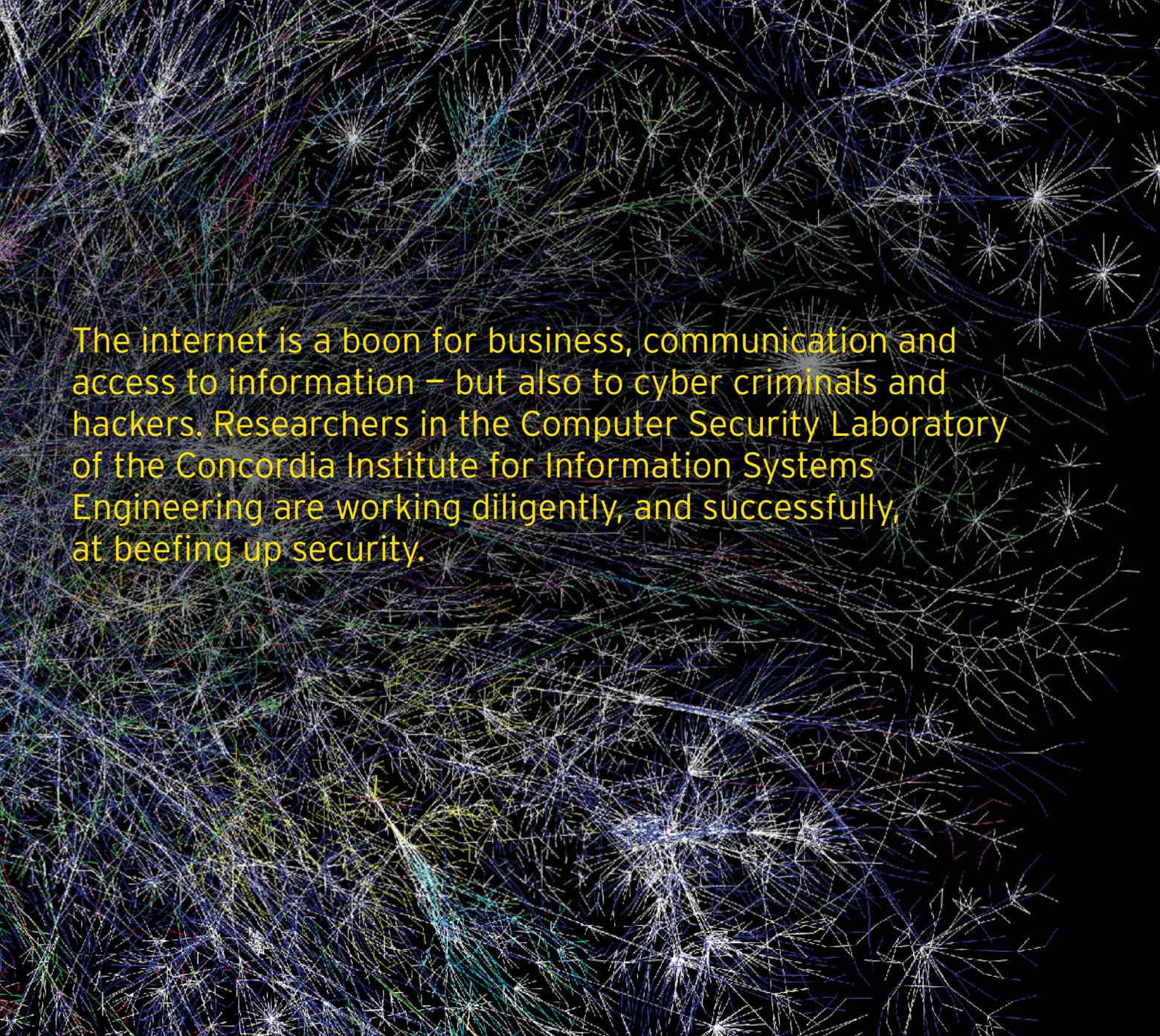




# CYBERCRIME \_ FIGHTERS

By Jake Brennan





The internet is a boon for business, communication and access to information – but also to cyber criminals and hackers. Researchers in the Computer Security Laboratory of the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering are working diligently, and successfully, at beefing up security.

In the late 1960s, a small group of American researchers developed a system to share information remotely via a network of computers. The individuals knew and could trust each other and therefore weren't very concerned with security issues. Twenty-five years later, when the network – now known as the internet – was commercialized, suddenly anyone with a modem could join.

Fast forward to today: the internet now features 340 billion websites and traffic of 300 billion emails daily, allowing users to instantly communicate, access

information and do business in ways inconceivable just a few years back. The explosion changed the game – and escalated opportunities for nefarious activity.

Cybercrime, estimated in 2011 at \$114 billion globally, now costs most businesses more than conventional, physical crime. The United States Department of Defense regularly wards off cyber-attacks from viruses and other malware being created at nearly one new piece per second. In 2011, former CIA director Leon Panetta warned, "The next

Pearl Harbour we confront could very well be a cyber-attack."

Since 2002, faculty and researchers at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (CIISE), housed in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, have been on the case to tackle such security and theft issues and threats. These include professional hacking gangs stealing identities, governments attacking their enemies or spying on their own citizens, and friends and ourselves divulging too much on social media.





CHRISTIAN FLEURY

MOHAMMAD MANNAN IN CONCORDIA'S COMPUTER SECURITY LABORATORY. THE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CONDUCTS RESEARCH ON AUTHENTICATION AND PASSWORDS.

### CONCORDIA'S EXPERTISE

Mourad Debbabi, who became the CIISE's first hired faculty member in 2002 and then its director from 2007 to 2013, recalls receiving a recruitment email while sitting in Panasonic's Atlanta, Ga., research department, where he worked. "It is very rare to have an opportunity to create a department, rather than join one," he explains. "I was also charmed by the fact that it would be research intensive and interdisciplinary around information and systems engineering. I thought, 'This is an opportunity not to be missed.'"

Students agreed. With few other institutions offering graduate programs in information and systems engineering, enrolment in CIISE's PhD, two masters and two graduate-certificate programs was up to full capacity at 100 entrants per year a few cycles after its founding.

Eleven years later, the 19 full-time faculty — computer scientists and electrical and mechanical engineers — work in three primary research areas. One of them, the Computer

Security Laboratory (CSL), is home to six professors and more than 60 graduate students. This makes the CSL the country's largest concentration of information systems security researchers. Rachida Dssouli, a professor and CIISE's founding and current director, says it also has "the highest impact in terms of reputation,

**If I send you an email, I think I'm just sending you an email, as if it's a letter. But all these emails are just sitting in a server, so they're absolutely not private.**

research grants attracted, industrial collaborations and publications" of any comparable lab in Canada. "It constitutes not only a signature area for the university but helped put Concordia on the world map. The CSL is a brand name now."

The CSL's expertise and unique setup have brought in more than \$4.2 million in external research funding in the past six years alone. Its researchers include those looking to detect and prevent

malfeasance, as well as faculty such as Benjamin C.M. Fung, a former assistant professor who specializes in data mining, hoping to track down bad guys. (See the sidebar on page 40, "Forensics: Tools to bring criminals to justice.")

Part of the magnetic attraction for money and students is the CSL's integral role in the National Cyber-Forensics and Training Alliance Canada (NCFTA). The non-profit organization brings together academic institutions, government and law enforcement, and private companies to share resources, intelligence and expertise to stop emerging cybercrime threats and mitigate existing ones. Since it started in 2008,

NCFTA has been headquartered at the CSL, ensuring Concordia scholars work on the latest, most relevant topics — a fast-moving target in the cyber world.

Debbabi's many research interests include network security, cyber-forensics and malicious code detection. "To design less vulnerable systems, you need to detect problems as they occur, prevent them, and also perform more in-depth detection research after the fact — forensics," he explains.

## DETECTION: ROOTING OUT ATTACKERS

As president of NCFTA, Debbabi can access information feeds that monitor a wide variety of malfeasance — malicious Internet Protocols (IPs) and domains, reconnaissance and intrusion attempts, and dedicated denial-of-service (DDOS) attacks, a major threat with an interesting local connection.

Back in 2000, a high-school student from Montreal's West Island made history. Like most hackers of the era, Michael Calce — internet alias: Mafiaboy — was a young man who wanted to show off to other hackers. He had figured out how to control computers remotely by installing viruses via the internet, to link these compromised machines together into powerful networks called "botnets," and to instruct the linked computers to send packets of information to a receiving server simultaneously, thereby overloading that server and crashing it. Testing his method in February 2000, in the space of a week he took down the websites of Yahoo, eBay, E\*Trade, Amazon and Dell, plus CNN and its 1,200 auxiliary sites. The stunts caused an estimated \$1.7 billion in damage and sent the stock market for a ride by demonstrating that in the dot-com boom, the new emperor, online commerce, was not just exposing a little midriff; completely unprotected from unsavoury elements, it was stark naked.

Hacker groups worldwide took note: Calce had perfected the DDOS attack, a powerful cyber weapon that renders one's opponent inoperable. Anything online — military, banks, utilities — could be compromised by hacktivist groups like today's Anonymous or even by governments. It is widely believed that Russian hackers protested Estonia's decision to move a Soviet war memorial by unleashing just such an attack in 2007. The Estonian government, media and financial institutions' sites all went down, virtually incapacitating a country which, like Canada, is one of the planet's most wired.

As the CSL's Mohammad Mannan says, early hacker groups running botnets "were flashy and showing off — 'look, I infected millions of machines

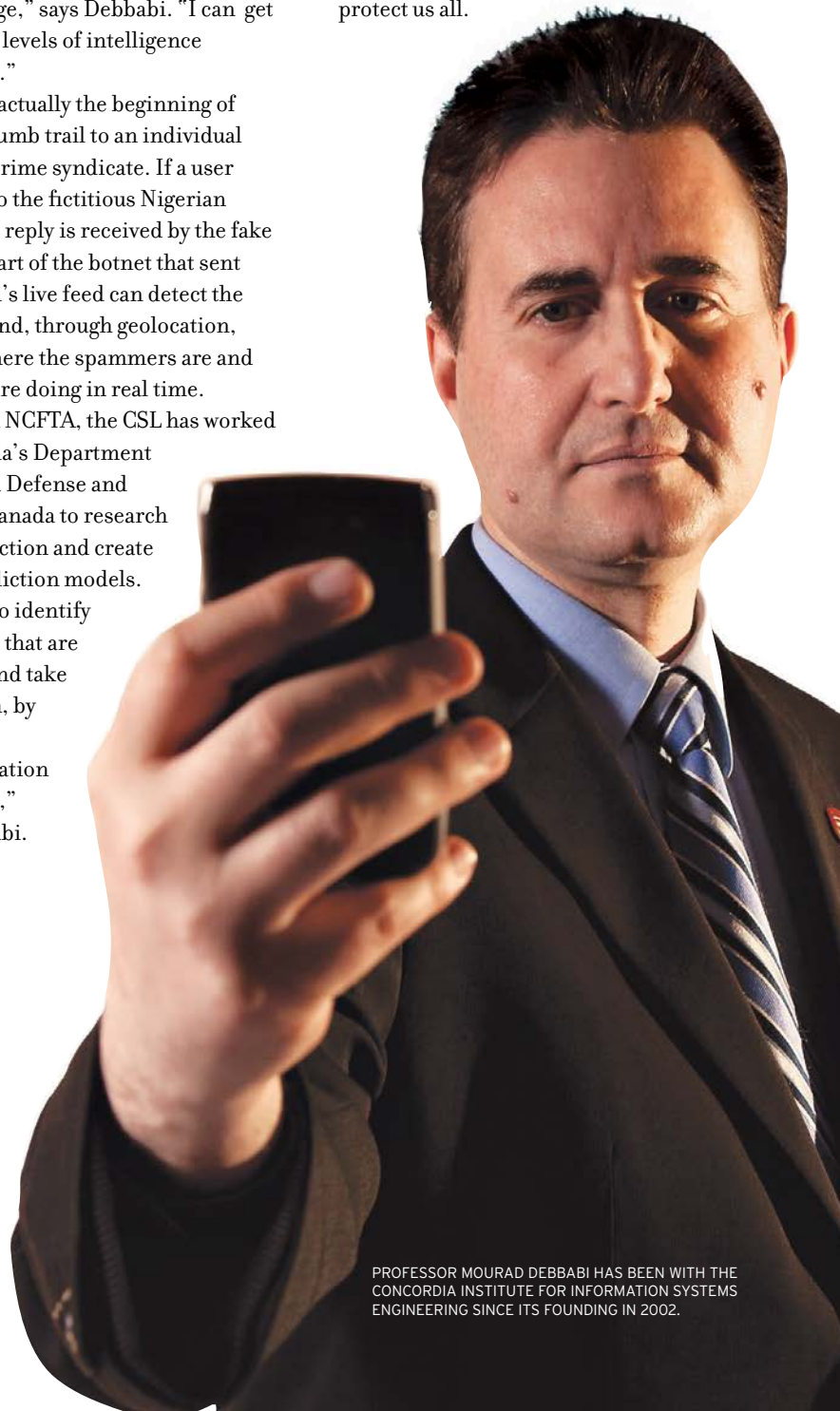
in 15 minutes!' " Yet as the technology matured, professional gangs monetized it. They shrunk botnets to avoid detection, and now rent them out by the hour to groups attempting DDOS attacks and phishing schemes, who spam to sell real or counterfeit products or spread propaganda, adds Debbabi.

Most users automatically delete any spam that slips through the email service's spam filter — an ad for cheap Viagra, or an ungrammatical help request from a "Nigerian prince" trying to move his money overseas. "But for me, it's huge," says Debbabi. "I can get significant levels of intelligence from spam."

Spam is actually the beginning of a bread-crum trail to an individual hacker or crime syndicate. If a user responds to the fictitious Nigerian prince, the reply is received by the fake IP that is part of the botnet that sent it. Debbabi's live feed can detect the response and, through geolocation, identify where the spammers are and what they are doing in real time.

Through NCFTA, the CSL has worked with Canada's Department of National Defense and Ericsson Canada to research attack detection and create attack prediction models. "We need to identify the servers that are phishing and take them down, by deriving the information from spam," says Debbabi.

With so many working credit card numbers available that hacker groups sell them to fraudsters for as low as \$1 each, and a full ID — date of birth, social insurance number, driver's licence and photo — for only \$5, this is a societal problem. Yet Canada lags behind the U.S. in information sharing for cybercrime mitigation purposes, says Debbabi. That's why this summer the CSL increased its capacity to become a U.S.-style data hub for information that carries little privacy value — spam and viruses — but can help protect us all.



PROFESSOR MOURAD DEBBABI HAS BEEN WITH THE CONCORDIA INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 2002.

## PREVENTION: PLAYING DEFENSE

It is no surprise the first major cyber war was launched from Russia, home to much cyber criminality. Mannan suggests that, like tax havens, botnet location is merely a case of lowest legal resistance. "The attackers are dynamic. If they have, in the Russian or now the Chinese legal system, better opportunities to hide, they will exploit that system."

With our information under constant threat from hackers, we need armour. The assistant professor holds a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Discovery Grant to improve the security and privacy of high-impact applications, such as email and online banking, "to benefit society and average citizens."

A major means to thwart threats is improved passwords. Because truly secure passwords are too hard to remember — imagine memorizing X@h6y3i89B9\*4no3!k — many users

employ simpler ones that include real words and reuse them on multiple accounts. "I can't really blame people," says Mannan. "We are pattern-based animals."

Mannan has devised a few password-generation techniques to circumvent these problems. With his master's degree student, Adam Skillen, Mannan recently released Myphrase, software that generates a "passphrase": six words long. To ensure the words themselves are familiar to the user, a 1,024-word dictionary is devised from the user's

I think those who post everything on Facebook now will learn and advise their children differently.

own writing, such as sent emails. But, as a compromise between security and memorability, "I do not let you choose which words, or their order, because I know what you will do — make a coherent phrase that is more easily hacked," says

Mannan. The generated passphrase can be a random sequence of words, like "purple monkey dishwasher move seem wish," or, by using a part-of-speech engine and sentence templates, the connected discourse option gives the passphrase the slightly more memorable ring of semantic sense: "They traced again and loudly radiant."

For the less linguistically inclined, Mannan's object-based password (ObPwd) requires a user to select any file from his or her computer or an online location. The software will generate a strong password from the binary code underlying that file. Rather than memorizing a password, all the user has to do is remember where he has stored the file.

Both ObPwd and Myphrase have proven robust to attacks. The greatest risk to the average user, says Mannan, is actually the user her- or himself.

Since companies like Google and Facebook don't want to exclude potential

# FORENSICS: \_TOOLS TO BRING CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE\_

While citizens may be wary of their government snooping online into their affairs, there are many cases where governments, or at least law enforcement, should and must intervene.

For example, forensic detectives used to need to spend months poring over emails, chat logs and text messages to amass evidence against child pornographers. In an age when keyboards have replaced pens,

police hoped to identify suspects not by their written script, but their writing style. That's why Benjamin C.M. Fung, formerly a Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering assistant professor who specialized in data mining, and his former PhD student, Farkhund Iqbal, MSc 06, PhD 11, partnered with Mourad Debbabi and the National Cyber-Forensics and Training Alliance Canada to develop digital authorship identification software.

Police can use an IP address to determine the physical address from which electronic communications were sent. But what if several people live there? To determine who has authored a particular, felonious message from a pool of known authors, Fung and Iqbal's software first identifies the features and patterns found in other messages known to be written by the suspect. Repeated grammatical mistakes, punctuation patterns, commonly used



customers, they suggest but don't enforce using strong passwords. Worse, through social media, people unwittingly reveal password and security-question information — your date and place of birth, siblings' names, high school and so on. "If I have access to your Facebook account, I can customize the attack," says Mannan. "You think, 'Who will guess that my password is my wife's name when there are so many possibilities?'" But hackers' powerful computer algorithms render random guessing attacks quickly, and targeted attacks quicker.

"Even by not using Facebook, your privacy may be leaked," says Mannan. Tagging friends in a photo confirms their identity, like a photo ID. We are effectively spying on each other.

Our failure to account for both computers' computational power and the transparency of online communication is what Mannan calls our "mental model problem" with digital technology. "If I send you an email, I think I'm just sending you an email, as if it's a letter. But all these emails are just sitting in a server, so they're absolutely not private."

One possible solution would be to pass more stringent privacy laws. However, Mannan points out, "Government is an interested party. If we disallow Facebook to collect all this information, then the government also has no access to it [through a court order], so there is a conflict."

And the conflict exists at all levels. While President Obama hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping in June for a friendly yet face-saving summit to discuss the problem of Chinese cyber-espionage stealing U.S. state and corporate secrets, Stuxnet, the U.S.-Israeli cyber worm allegedly deployed in 2010 with Obama's blessing to cripple Iran's nuclear centrifuges, was hailed as a low-cost, 21st-century warfare solution. At all levels, "Everyone is targeting and exploiting everyone else," says Mannan.

The combination of its traceless transparency and the government's interest make surveillance a given, with most people believing that they're law-abiding citizens and have nothing to hide. Yet Mannan asks, "Why do you lock your door when you're home? Would

you accept a web cam in your home so that the whole world can see?" He believes attitudes towards discretion will eventually change. "Most people just don't understand the privacy implications of online services. I think those who post everything on Facebook now will learn and advise their children differently."

## THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Gangs and governments will always do battle, in the virtual world as in the physical. While great progress has been made on virus and Wi-Fi security, email, a longstanding communications medium and the basis for business today, is still not secure, Mannan warns. "I am a very optimistic person — I believe there must be usable solutions out there. As academics, we have to do what is best for citizens. These are difficult problems, but they're not insoluble." ■

—*Jake Brennan is a Montreal writer.*

words, and spacing between paragraphs are all examples — thousands of unconscious writing habits. Then, they filter out any of these features also found in the emails of other suspects. The combination of remaining features is unique to the author of the messages being analyzed. For example, while all suspects may always type "%" instead of "per cent," only one will type "%," habitually use commas instead of periods and think "none" takes a plural verb. Fung calls this combination the suspect's Writeprint.

They tested their software on Enron's real email data set — 200,000 emails from 158 users — that was made public when the American company went bankrupt in 2001 after its corporate fraud scandal. Fung and Iqbal achieved an authorship accuracy of 80 to 90 per cent, a rate highly valuable to law enforcement, which is already using the tool. And analysis that used to take months now takes mere hours. The next stage of

research will be to apply the data-mining method to the even shorter texts of instant messaging, chat rooms and social media.

This summer, Fung co-published with his PhD student, Gaby Dagher, a time-saving variant. "Out of all the types of available data in cybercrime investigation, text data is the most common medium used by scammers, identity thieves and child exploitation criminals," says Fung. "But this type of data is also the most challenging to analyze." So, when a suspect's computer is seized, months may pass before sufficient information to press charges can be extracted from documents and messages in the hard drive.

As Dagher explains, "In a normal search engine, a user enters some keywords and results can vary — widely." Fung and Dagher's search engine, in contrast, captures the suspects' vocabulary — learns their slang — and then uses it to improve the speed and accuracy of the search

results. The researchers' new methods automatically identify the criminal topics discussed in the textual conversation, show which participants are most active with respect to the identified criminal topics, and then provide a visualization of the social networks among the participants. What took months now takes mere hours.

The search engine can even help uncover hidden topics. Dagher recalls a recent case where the hard drive of a suspect arrested for sexual harassment was found also to contain thousands of stolen credit card numbers.

Dagher, a self-described "theoretical guy" who normally works on data mining, encryption and the security of storing information through cloud computing, admits, "Getting real data from real cases from the law enforcement agencies and helping them catch these people is very satisfying."

# Applied education, applicable research

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND PRACTICAL RESEARCH KEEP JMSB STUDENTS AND FACULTY CONNECTED TO BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY**

BY YURI MYTKO

A strong connection to industry can set a business school apart. At Concordia's John Molson School of Business (JMSB), maintaining and fostering corporate links are institutional imperatives and also an important part of the culture.

"Offering programs that are well grounded in practice and theory is very important for us," says JMSB Dean Steve Harvey. "We have a number of study programs that meet the needs of local businesses, enabling students to receive training that prepares them for the job market."

Establishing mutually beneficial alliances with the business community helps make students immediately employable in their fields because they have the opportunity to develop the specific skills that employers are looking for.

According to Mai-Gee Hum, director of JMSB's Career Management Services, that is precisely why industry partners have continued to hire JMSB graduates despite the economic instability of recent years. "Last year, nearly 77 per cent of JMSB graduate students and 72 per cent of undergraduate students were gainfully employed three months after graduation," she says.

Partnerships also help students expand their career networks. "The most important thing I learned in business school is the importance of relationships," says Simon Ainsworth, a current MBA student. As the organizer responsible for cases, marketing and volunteers for the 2013 John Molson MBA International Case Competition

Committee, Ainsworth had the opportunity to make some key contacts in the Montreal business community. "This is not something that can be taught on a blackboard."

## LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Corporate partnering facilitates work-integrated learning activities such as co-operative education and internships that provide students with a more dynamic learning experience, steeped in relevance and consistent with Concordia's commitment to experiential learning.

business case competitions held worldwide," says Bastien.

The school's Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program (KWPMP) exemplifies the notion of learning through doing. The undergraduate students who participate in the program manage a real fund of \$1.5 million and are guided by a team of senior investment management and management consulting professionals.

KWPMP's director Reena Atanasiadis, BComm 87, MBA 95, believes the program compels learners to reflect on their subject matter in a way that in-class learning cannot. "Our students

**Our Co-op program is one of the most comprehensive available. I've met with students in cities as far away as Vancouver and Los Angeles who have heard of the Co-op.**

"Our Co-op program is one of the biggest and most comprehensive available to university students," says JMSB's undergraduate recruiter Olivier Bastien, BA 08. "I've met with students in cities as far away as Vancouver and Los Angeles who have heard of the Co-op." More than 740 JMSB students participate in the program and hundreds more choose to complement in-class learning by taking part in some of the many practice-based initiatives offered by the business school.

"When people are looking to study business in university, they know Concordia will put them in live business situations, whether it is during paid Co-op work terms, our stock trading lab or

are measured just like investment professionals in the real world. Their stock and bond picks are compared to global market performance. What gets measured, gets done," she says. "And when our students are measured, they stand up to real-world criteria."

By all accounts, students are drawn to business schools whose offerings go beyond traditional classroom-based teaching and help bridge the gap between theory and experience. This is perhaps why so many of them are engaged in activities connected to entrepreneurship.

A good number of JMSB students are involved in Enactus, a worldwide organization that challenges university



THE VICTORIOUS ENACTUS CONCORDIA TEAM THAT WON THE 2012 FORCES AVENIR PROJET PAR EXCELLENCE AWARD.



ANNUAL GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPOSITION



KENNETH WOODS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STUDENT JULIAN TSANG PRESENTING TO THE INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS WHO SIT ON THE PROGRAM'S CLIENT COMMITTEE.

## ANNUAL GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPOSITION

On November 7, JMSB will host its fifth Annual Graduate Research Exposition. The event showcases the latest research findings and talent of the school's MSc and PhD students. Using a poster format, the exposition provides participants with a forum to present their original research to the academic and business communities. The posters and presentations are then judged by a panel of professors and executives from Montreal's business community.

For details, visit [johnmolson.concordia.ca/agre](http://johnmolson.concordia.ca/agre).

students to develop entrepreneurial approaches to real-world issues by developing and carrying out projects in their communities. Students then present their plans at provincial, regional, national and international competitions. "It's about social entrepreneurship," says Ron Abaira, MBA 95, a Department of Management lecturer who has been the Concordia team's faculty advisor since 2009.

Last fall, the Enactus Concordia team won the prestigious 2012 Forces AVENIR Projet par excellence award, in the Business and Economy category, for a proposal they developed that provides support to entrepreneurs in the greater Montreal area.

### BUSINESS RESEARCH PROVIDES REAL VALUE FOR INDUSTRY

Exploring today's burning business issues allow JMSB researchers to develop productive business-

community partnerships. A recent example is the new CN Centre for Studies in Sustainable Supply Chain Management, funded by Canadian National Railway Company. (See the news story on page 7.) "The centre will allow researchers to focus on developing innovative approaches to tackling sustainability issues in the efficient management of industrial supply chains," says Harjeet Bhabra, JMSB's associate dean of research and research programs.

Generating research that can be used for practical business planning purposes at the industry level, along with corporate and non-profit partnering for work-applied learning, strengthens Concordia's ties to the community. "JMSB is known to be at the crossroads of practice, research and knowledge transfer," says Harvey. "It is part of our DNA and this now has a wider reach than ever before." ■



## Pioneering innovation: Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology

BY JULIE GEDEON, BA 89,  
BA 01, MA 09

Imagine adding a powder to water to learn immediately whether a river is contaminated with heavy metals. Or picture a pill that inhibits your genetic disposition to cancer or diabetes.

Such outcomes are among the goals of researchers at Concordia's new Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology, housed in the Faculty of Arts and Science. "Biology is about discovery — finding out how living organisms work," says Nawwaf Kharma, the centre's co-director and an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "Synthetic biology uses the available information about all or part of a biological system to design, build and verify a mechanism to resolve a specific problem."

A toxic, heavy metal, for example, could be made to trigger a fluorescent glow in *E. coli* if there's too much of the metal within a body of water. "We have to determine and test the necessary genetic modifications or additions to the sensing bacteria for this to occur," Kharma says.

The centre is the first of its kind in Canada. It brings together researchers from the fields of biology, computer science, engineering and physics to



RESEARCHERS AT CONCORDIA'S RESEARCH CENTRE FOR STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS WILL FOCUS ON APPLIED BIOLOGY BY USING INFORMATION DERIVED FROM BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.

collaborate at the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics. "By taking the structured approaches of engineering, computer science and physics, we're introducing greater coherence and predictability," says co-director Vincent Martin, the Canada Research Chair in Microbial Genomics and Engineering and an associate professor in the Department of Biology. "It means starting out with an objective and design in mind, developing a prototype and testing it."

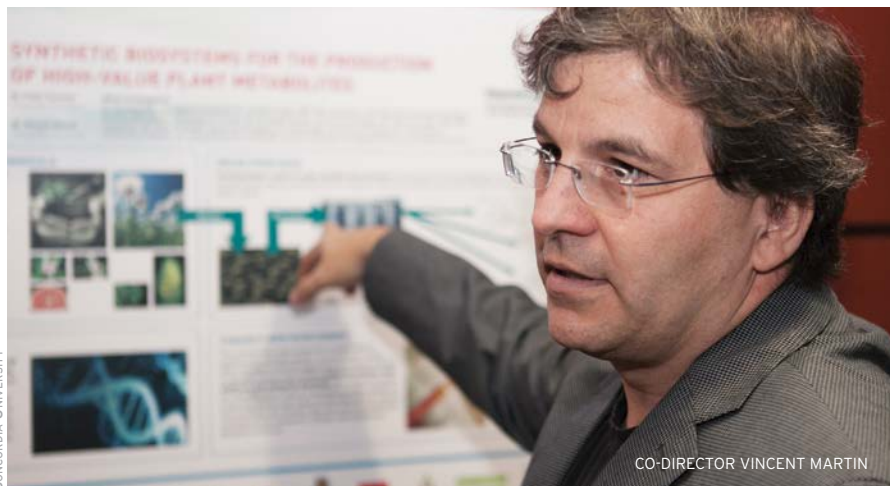
The centre's dedication to applied biology puts its focus on solving real issues rather than exploring more general scientific questions, such as how a protein works. Projects already range from engineering organisms that can produce biofuels at higher yields to using the knowledge derived from studying leaves

to improving solar-powered cells.

Martin's research involves sequencing the DNA of plants with known medicinal benefits. He wants to determine whether the plants' metabolites can be made in baker's yeast so they can be produced in the large numbers required for pharmaceutical use. "A central aspect of synthetic biology is to design a system that will predict how well a project like mine will work," Martin says. "It's why a lot of my current research depends on computational modelling to establish the direction and probable outcomes."

With Canada reliant on other countries for painkilling opiates, such as codeine and morphine, the centre's research can open important doors. "And we're really only on the ground floor in Canada in terms of developing cellular and gene therapies," Martin adds. The centre gives students an opportunity to witness how various disciplines can intertwine. Its cohesive approach should also make it easier to attract funding, especially with its immense potential for innovation.

"Living organisms do stuff that we can only dream of inventing, such as the ability to detect miniscule concentrations of a scent, or to multiply by the millions overnight," Kharma says. "So why not latch onto these well-understood capabilities and use them to solve problems?"



CO-DIRECTOR VINCENT MARTIN

# Pilot project to steer sustainability and science courses

BY LIZ CROMPTON, BA 87

“This will be the catalyst that will take our sustainability initiatives to the next level.”

That’s how Brian Lewis, former dean of Concordia’s Faculty of Arts and Science and dean of the School of Extended Learning, describes the new three-year Sustainability Action Pilot

Students come from all over Canada to Concordia. Imagine that they change their mindset because of what they learn about sustainability, then go home and influence their communities. That’s powerful.

Project launched in fall 2012. The concept for the project derived from a group of students who pitched to Lewis a plan — which he calls “exceptional” — to co-fund and co-manage the academic initiative with the faculty.

The Sustainability Action Pilot Project aims to enhance the focus on sustainability in curricula across the faculty’s various departments in a strategic, coordinated fashion. “Sustainability is a holistic issue, and it has to be approached in a holistic way,” Lewis says.

The idea for the project originated with Jeffrey Riley, BSc 11, chief executive officer of the Sustainability Action Fund. The organization, which is student-run and -funded and supports student-initiated sustainability projects, is contributing half of the pilot project’s cost.

“I began thinking last summer about ways to make a real impact at the university. It’s one thing to make buildings green, but to teach students through the curriculum — that’s where it really begins,” says Riley, who earned a degree in environmental science. “Students come from all over Canada to Concordia. Imagine that they change their mindset because of what they learn about sustainability, then go home and influence

their communities. That’s powerful.”

Riley found a willing partner in Lewis. Over the past few years, the faculty has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability. Recent ventures include the Loyola Sustainability Research Centre, the Minor in Sustainability Studies and the renamed Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability. The interdisciplinary college has been working

Other goals include promoting cross- and multi-departmental initiatives and creating opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience in curriculum planning, workshop presentations and outreach activities.

“This project is exciting because it was originated by, and continues to be driven by, the needs and desires of our students for curricular content that helps to make sense of the very real challenges facing our little planet,” says Rosemarie Schade, principal of the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability. Schade hopes the project will lead to new courses and new approaches within existing courses that connect sustainability to other course content in meaningful ways.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT JEFFREY RILEY (LEFT) AND BRIAN LEWIS, FORMER DEAN OF CONCORDIA’S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EXTENDED LEARNING, WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE THE SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PILOT PROJECT A REALITY.

closely with the students to develop the project and will be integral to its implementation.

The first step, Riley says, is to assess existing course outlines to determine the level of sustainability focus, components or concepts already being taught. The second step will be to encourage and enhance the delivery of sustainability content through such means as workshops and reading lists for interested faculty members.

And so, while the faculty has recently made important contributions to integrating a sustainability attitude, Lewis sees the Sustainability Action Pilot Project as a significant stride forward. “This transcends what we have done so far,” he says. “It fills the function of better informing us on where we’re going and where we should be going in this critical area.” ■



For news on the full slate of recent and future Concordia Advancement and Alumni Relations events in Montreal, across Canada and the world over, visit [concordia.ca/alumni](http://concordia.ca/alumni)



## 1 Alumni Recognition Awards

### AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

It was a night to celebrate success as 150 people gathered for the 22nd Alumni Recognition Awards held at Montreal's Sofitel Hotel on May 21. Eight distinguished individuals were recognized by the Concordia University Alumni Association for their various contributions to academia and society. The event was organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations and featured Global Montreal reporter Jamie Orchard, BA 91, as master of ceremonies. Concordia President Alan Shepard was on hand to congratulate recipients.

The recipients (pictured, from left) are: **Walter S. Tomenson Jr.**, BA 68, Alumnus of the Year; **Julien Brisebois**, EMBA 07, MBA Alumnus of the Year; **Eric Moses Gashirabake**, Outstanding Student Award; **Nancy Curran**, Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award; **Peter Hall**, Honorary Life Membership; **Martin Pugh**, Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching; and **Brian Edwards**, BComm 71, Humberto Santos Award of Merit. **1** The late Robert Barnes, BA 68, received the Benoît Pelland Distinguished Service Award.

—George Menexis

### SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS

Steve Avram, BEng (mech.) 71, MEng 85, was elected president of the Association of Alumni of Sir George Williams University at its 76th Annual General Meeting on May 22. Avram is director of Facilities Management Services at John Abbott College in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Que. He steps in for outgoing president Mardy Weigensberg, BComm 74.

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS FINE ARTS PRIZE

Thanks to her inventive mix of traditional storytelling and creative

animation, Alisi Telengut, BFA 13, took home the 2013 Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) Prize for her short film, *Tears of Inge*. The \$1,000 CUAA Prize is awarded to a graduating student whose work is showcased at the Graduating Students Exhibition. This year's winner was announced during the show's vernissage at Concordia's FOFA Gallery on June 10, also convocation day for the Faculty of Fine Arts.

*Tears of Inge* is "a remarkable project of under-the-camera work," said Jake Moore, BFA 93, MFA 06, FOFA Gallery director, referring to the painted frame-by-frame technique used in Telengut's piece. The film tells a traditional Mongolian nomadic story about human animal interdependency, narrated by Telengut's grandmother. The CUAA Prize follows several other honours over the past year for the young filmmaker, who graduated from the film animation program.

CUAA Prize-committee and board members Eli Chalupovitsch, BComm 75, Anca Ivanov, BComm 02, and Jeff



## 2 Fine Arts Prize





WARREN ZELMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

**3 Peter Mansbridge**

Lawy, BSc 01, MBA 08, praised all the exhibitors for their tremendous work. Pictured at the vernissage (from left):

**Eli Chalupovitsch**, CUA A Prize winner **Alisi Telengut** and **Catherine Wild**, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts. **2**

—Renée Dunk

### PETER MANSBRIDGE DELIVERS READER'S DIGEST LECTURE

**Peter Mansbridge** **3**, CBC News' chief correspondent, recently celebrated 25 years as anchor of the broadcaster's nightly news program, *The National*. Yet he admitted to the 400 people who filled Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre on May 31 that it took three foreign-born individuals to help him find the elusive response to the question, "What is a Canadian?"

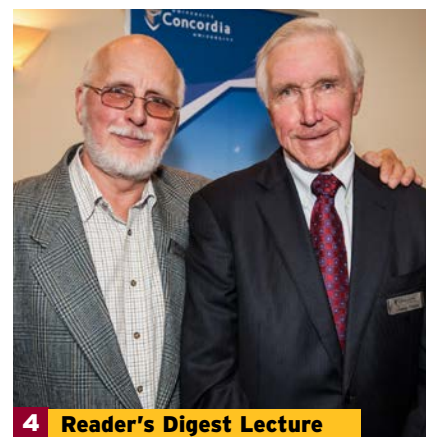
Mansbridge was on hand for the sixth annual Reader's Digest Lecture, which is supported by the Reader's Digest Foundation of Canada and Concordia's Department of Journalism. The iconic newscaster warmly recounted experiences from his tenure at *The National*.

In the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Mansbridge met an eight-year-old Sri Lankan girl. When she saw Mansbridge's Canadian-flag lapel pin, she pointed and said, "Canada good." He learned that the girl had just been vaccinated by three volunteer

Canadian nurses at a local makeshift hospital. The Vancouver women had come to the ravaged country at their own expense. "For the rest of the girl's life, she'll always associate Canada with good because of those nurses," Mansbridge said.

In 2010, Mansbridge was in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, for the 65th anniversary of the city's liberation from German occupation by Canadian troops. As thousands lined the streets to watch the Canadian Second World War veterans march by, he noticed a young woman holding her four-year-old son. "I asked why she was there, and she replied, 'Because I want my son to know what a Canadian is,'" Mansbridge said. "For most of my career, that's what I was trying to answer. Yet she knew. Canadians are 'those guys who saved us.'"

A few years earlier, he was in Afghanistan to report on the Canadian Forces. He met a woman with the Canadian International Development Agency who was teaching young Afghans about their new constitution. The woman was born in Afghanistan but fled with her family to Canada when the Taliban came to power in the 1990s. "She explained to me, 'I wanted to go back to tell them what's possible when you live in a free society,'" he said. "This was a young woman in love with



**4 Reader's Digest Lecture**

her new country and wanted to tell her old country the secret to their future."

Prior to the lecture, the Department of Journalism teamed up with Advancement and Alumni Relations to host a reunion to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the department's graduate diploma program. Founders **Enn Raudsepp** and **Lindsay Cryslér** **4** recounted that when they started the diploma program, the goal was to integrate both the theoretical and the practical aspects of journalism. "We have people of all ages, of all backgrounds from all over the world," said outgoing department chair Linda Kay, MA 01. "It's an intense boot-camp-like atmosphere because they know they have to give it their all for a year."


—Rachel Lau



JOE DRESNER

## 5 Donor Student Awards Celebration

### FROM CONCORDIA TO HARVARD

As a MuchMusic VJ, CBC reporter, Harvard University grad and app creator, **Jennifer Hollett** , BA (journ. & comm. studies) '97, returned to speak about her unusual journey, emphasizing how important it was for her to practise the skills she learned in class.

The speech was made at the Donor Student Awards Celebration in April, organized by Advancement and Alumni Relations to recognize donors and celebrate student success and philanthropy. The ceremony, a spring tradition at Concordia, brings together talented and deserving students to thank donors who create awards from which students benefit. "It's not just about studying, debating ideas and theory," Hollett said. "It's equally about practice. Going out there, figuring it out, trying it on for size and maybe making some mistakes along the way."

Hollett spoke fondly about her time as a DJ for CRSG, Concordia's radio station, as well as a journalist for *The Concordian*. These extracurricular activities helped her win both

the Canadian Women's Press Club Scholarship and Nick Auf der Maur Memorial Scholarship. More importantly, she said, the scholarships helped her land her first journalism job with Sony Music.

After that, Hollett worked at CTV, MuchMusic and CBC before heading for graduate studies at Harvard in Boston. In 2012, Hollett created an iPhone app that helped verify claims made in commercials for the upcoming American election. "Concordia got you to Harvard," her father once told her. This, she says, is very true and her return to Canada — and Concordia — has allowed her to revisit everything she has learned at the hallowed university.

"Thank you to the donors and supporters for believing in students like me," she said smiling. "Thank you to the students, all the young faces out there for your hard work as well as your inspiration. And just a larger thanks to all at Concordia for teaching me at such an early age to just get out there and figure it out." ■

—Rachel Lau

# POP Symposium

The POP Symposium & Concordia University's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema present:

**SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2013  
**4 P.M.**

J.A. DE SÈVE CINEMA  
J.W. McConnell Building  
1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

**A MASTER CLASS WITH LEGENDARY L.A. DIRECTOR ALLISON ANDERS**  
(*Border Radio, Gas Food Lodging, Grace Of My Heart, Mi Vida Loca, Strutter*)

**THIS EVENT IS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

— — —  
**PLUS**

Film POP presents the Canadian premiere of Allison Anders's

**STRUTTER**  
FOLLOWED BY A Q+A  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2013  
7 P.M.

\$10 adv. / \$12 door  
PHI Centre

Part of



International Music Festival  
September 25-29, 2013  
**POP MONTREAL.COM**

## Alumni Recognition Awards

### Call for Nominations

*Send your submission by November 30, 2013*

All graduates, faculty members and staff, students and friends of Concordia University and its founding institutions, Sir George Williams University and Loyola College, are invited to nominate candidates for the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) Alumni Recognition Awards, the highest honour bestowed by the association. The CUAA urges you to submit nominations for individuals who deserve to be recognized for their outstanding achievements, exceptional service to the advancement of Concordia or continued service to their community. Award recipients will be honoured at a special event in spring 2014. The awards are:

#### Humberto Santos Award of Merit

This prestigious honour is awarded to an alumnus/a who has made a lifetime contribution of exceptional leadership and service to the university and community.

#### Alumnus/a of the Year Award

Awarded to an alumnus/a who has demonstrated professional excellence and community leadership.

#### Benoit Pelland Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to an alumnus/a who has demonstrated a long-term commitment of outstanding service to the alumni association and university.

#### Honorary Life Membership

Awarded to a non-graduate who has made a long-term commitment of outstanding service to the alumni association and/or university.

#### Outstanding Student Award

Awarded to a Concordia student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and contributions to student life.

#### Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching

Awarded to a member of Concordia's teaching staff who has proven to provide superior knowledge, teaching ability and availability to students.

#### MBA Alumnus/a of the Year Award

Awarded by the John Molson School of Business Alumni Chapter to an MBA alumnus/a with outstanding professional achievements and who has shown dedication to both the community at large and the university.

#### Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award

Awarded to a Concordia University faculty member or staff who has made an exceptional contribution to the alumni association or to the university community.

For a nomination form, visit [concordia.ca/alumni](http://concordia.ca/alumni) or contact Nancy Wada: 514-848-2424, ext. 3882; [nancy.wada@concordia.ca](mailto:nancy.wada@concordia.ca).

## 17th Annual Concordia Used Book Fair

**October 7-8, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.**

**J.W. McConnell Building Atrium  
1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal**

**Get great deals on used books and help  
raise funds for the Student Emergency  
and Food Fund and the Concordia  
University Used Book Fair Scholarship.**



## NOTICE

### Concordia Sports Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

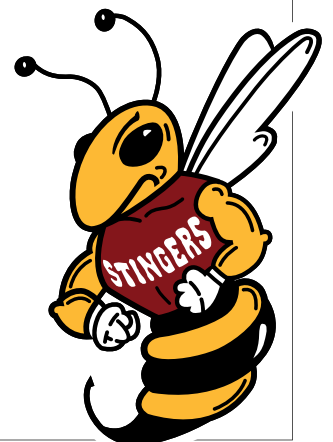
The deadline for nominations to be considered for the 2014 induction ceremony is

**December 31, 2013**

Nominations should be accompanied by as much supporting documentation as possible, because it is the documentation – not the number of times a name is put forward or endorsed – that is considered at the time of selection. Nominations do not expire if they are not selected in the year in which they are made.

Visit [athletics.concordia.ca/halloffame](http://athletics.concordia.ca/halloffame) for a nomination form or call 514-848-2424, ext. 3852, for more information.

**GO STINGERS!**





Alumni with more than one degree from Concordia, Sir George Williams and/or Loyola are listed under their earliest graduation year.

**70 Robert (Bob) Philip,** BA 70, MA 86, was honoured with the Austin-Matthews Award by Canadian Interuniversity Sport in Toronto in June. The award pays tribute to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution

to interuniversity sport, as demonstrated by long-term commitment and leadership as a coach, director, chairperson and/or executive committee member at the local, provincial and/or national levels. Bob is senior advisor to the vice-president of students at the University of British Columbia.

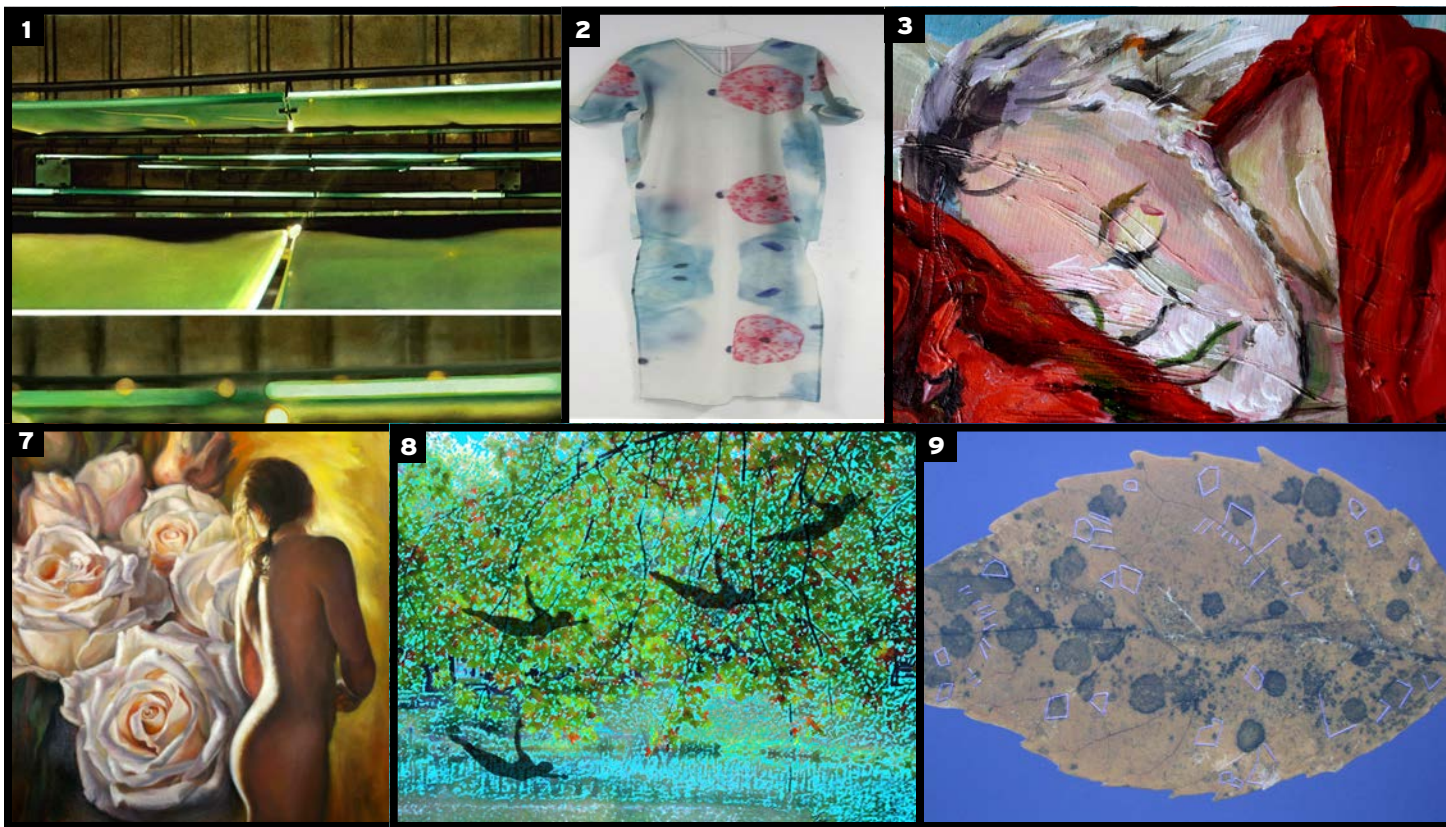
**72 Christine Lengvari,** BSc, was recently appointed to the newly created Advisory Board of Manulife Bank and Trust. She is president and

CEO of Lengvari Financial Inc., a Montreal life insurance brokerage specializing in retirement and estate planning. Among her many community activities, Christine supports Concordia's John Molson School of Business as chair of the Client Committee of the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program and is mentor for the Women in Business Club.

**76 Marc Courtois,** BA, was named chairman of the board of NAV Canada in

February. Marc is a former managing director, Quebec, for RBC Dominion Securities Inc. (now known as RBC Capital Markets) and has been chairman of Canada Post Corporation since 2007.

**81 Gino Martel,** BComm, was recently named a partner of Mergers and Acquisitions at BCF LLP law firm in Montreal. Gino was previously a senior partner at Norton Rose.



**1 Jackie Rae Wloski,** BA 71, continues her painting series based on the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts staircase. The series' four paintings are being shown at the Campbell Framing Gallery in Montreal. 1) *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Staircase #3 & #4.*

**2 Julianna Joos,** BA (art ed.) 75, holds a master's degree from Université du Québec à Montréal and teaches in the fine arts department of Montreal's Dawson College. Julianna held a show called "The Human Body Exhibition" at Galerie d'art Warren G. Flowers in Montreal from April 26 to May 9. [julianna.juoo.net](http://julianna.juoo.net) 2) *Polka-dot Dress*

**3 Diane Collet,** BFA 76, MA 03, **Claire Venne,** BFA 06, and **Claudine Ascher,** BFA 83, MA 06, held an exhibit called "I Sleep" at Salle d'exposition de l'entrepôt in Lachine, Que., from March 1 to April 7. The series of works revolved around dreams. 3) *Cardinalis* by Claire Venne

**4 Rochelle Mayer,** BComm 83, BFA (studio art) 10, held a solo exhibit of her paintings depicting people in public spaces in the Stairwell Art Gallery of the Unitarian Church of Montreal from March 1 to May 2. [rochellemayer.ca](http://rochellemayer.ca) 4) *La dame en rose*

**5 Nadine Faraj,** BFA 03, studied life drawing and anatomy at École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. She held an exhibit called "Miel salé" at Galerie Joyce Yahouda in Montreal from May 11 to June 8. [nadinefaraj.blogspot.com](http://nadinefaraj.blogspot.com) 5) *Conception*

**6 Linda Hopley,** BFA 94, will participate in the 18th annual open studio tour, called "La Tournée des 20" ([tournees20.com](http://tournees20.com)), in the Eastern Townships, Que., from September 21 to October 14. [kenlinda.com/linda](http://kenlinda.com/linda) 6) *Urban Vines*

**Gino Yanire**, BA (rec. and leis. studies), lives in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, Que. He is a philanthropic development counsellor, responsible for donor relations, for Maison Michel-Sarrazin Foundation in Quebec City.

**84 John Zeppetelli**, BFA (cinema), became director of Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal in August. Zeppetelli is an award-winning filmmaker and had been curator at DHC/ART

Foundation for Contemporary Art in Montreal since 2006.

**85 Ursula Gabrielle Edler von Skopczynski**, BA (German & psych.), is a project manager and senior interior designer in Toronto.

**Ronda Gail Stoller Wunsch**, BA (soc. welfare), MA (PP&PA) 87, writes, "I have combined my love for children and helping people by working part-time in a Jewish pre-school and part-time for myself as a

yoga teacher and non-profit consultant, among other things. I have two teenaged children and live in Toronto, which is actually a nice place to live, if you can afford it."

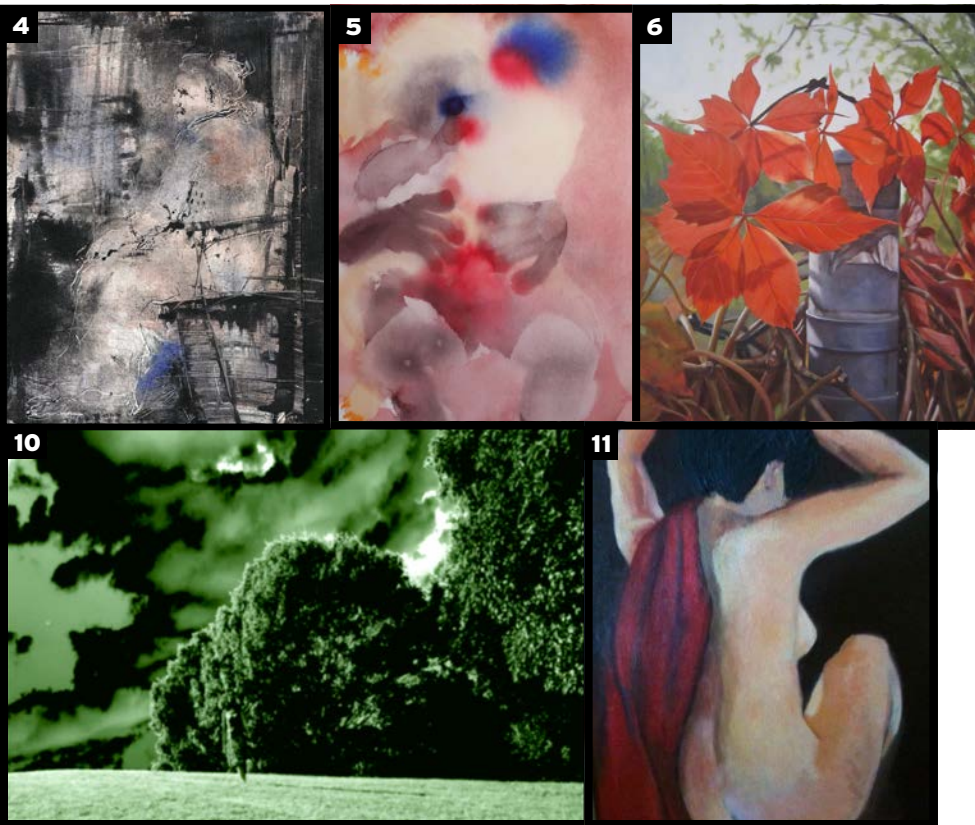
**Christian Wilisch**, BSc (chem.), earned a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1991. He was recently appointed director of the newly created plastics technology campus in Weißenburg, Germany, run jointly by the Degendorf

Institute of Technology and the University of Applied Sciences, Ansbach. Christian lives in Ansbach, Germany, with his wife **Catherine Ross**, BA (comm. studies) 86. They have five children.

## 25TH REUNION

**88 Heather Joan Marinos**, MA (hist.), recently published *Casualties of the (Recession) Depression* (Lexi Communications). In her own evocative and mince-no-words style, Heather argues that American economic activity has not returned to close to normal levels. Through a writer's lens, the reader can catch a glimpse of some of the poignant moments in the lives of the people most affected by this economic downturn of the middle class. Heather lives in the eclectic South Florida village of Coconut Grove, with her husband, **Nick Marinos**, BEng 83, MEng 87. [heatherjoanmarinos.com](http://heatherjoanmarinos.com), [heatherfromthegrove.wordpress.com](http://heatherfromthegrove.wordpress.com)

**90 Sharon Hunter**, BA (comm. studies) 90, is communications advisor of Student Services for Concordia's University Communications Services. Sharon was recently appointed to the 2013-2014 international executive board of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). She has more than 20 years' experience as a marketing communications consultant with a focus on business-to-business services and training. The IABC comprises nearly 13,000 business communication professionals in more than 80 countries.



**7 Homeira Mortazavi**, BFA (studio art) 94, MA (art ed.) 03, participated in a duo exhibition of paintings called "Wings of Color" at Gallery The Rendez-Vous in Montreal from April 3 to 17. *7) The Dream*

**8 Frederique Roy**, BFA (art ed.) 97, MFA 99, held her first solo art show, "Voyage Intérieur/Inner Voyage," at Art neuf gallery in Montreal from January 22 to February 24. The exhibition centred on the desire to fly and included mixed media and digital composites printed on paper. *8) Libre vole/Hang-glider*

**9 Raymonde Jodoin**, BFA 83, held an exhibit called "Feuilles" at Centre d'exposition du Vieux Presbytère de Saint-Bruno, Que., from July 28 to August 18. [raymondejodoin.com](http://raymondejodoin.com) *9) Chêne 2*

**10 Annie Briard**, BFA 08, presented "Wanderings," a solo exhibition of her moving-image and interactive works, at Black & Yellow Gallery in Vancouver from July 26 to August 8. [anniebriard.com](http://anniebriard.com) *10) Perceptual Moment #8*

**11 Pierre Bibeau**, BFA 88, exhibited in the show "Tomber des Nus 7<sup>e</sup> édition - tracé collectif" on April 20-21 in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Que. *11) Huile nue de dos*



**Bernard Lucht**, BA 66, was named a Member of the Order of Canada in June “for his contributions to public broadcasting as a radio producer and for his commitment to providing a forum for intellectual discourse and debate.” Bernie is executive producer of *Ideas*, CBC Radio’s program of contemporary thought.



**Monique Nadeau-Saumier**, MFA 89, received an honorary doctorate from Bishop’s University in Lennoxville, Que., on June 1. Monique is former executive director of the Eastern Townships Research Centre and an avid promoter of regional cultural heritage. She holds a BFA from Bishop’s, a master’s degree in museum studies from Université de Montréal and a PhD in art history from Université du Québec à Montréal.



**Linda Kay**, MA (media studies) 01, was named a 2013 Woman of Distinction in the Communications category by the Women’s Y Foundation. Linda, an associate professor in Concordia’s Department of Journalism, was honoured for her pioneering work in the field of journalism. She will be honoured at the 20th edition of the Women of Distinction Awards Benefit Evening at Palais des congrès de Montréal on September 30.



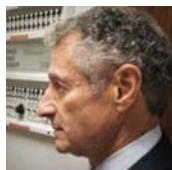
### Concordia Hon Docs

Concordia University bestowed seven honorary doctorates during its spring 2013 convocation ceremonies from June 10 to 12 at Place des Arts. The distinguished recipients joined more than 5,000 students from across Concordia’s four faculties and School of Graduate Studies.

**Joyce Zemans**, LLD 13 (Faculty of Fine Arts), was honoured for her invaluable work in art history and cultural policy in Canada and internationally. An art historian, she is currently the director of the MBA Program in Arts and Media Administration at York University’s Schulich School of Business and former director of the Canada Council for the Arts. She is a member of the advisory boards of the Toronto Arts Council, Theatre Museum Canada, and Concordia’s Gail and Stephen Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art.



**Leonard Kleinrock**, LLD 13 (Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science), is distinguished professor of computer science at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the developer of the mathematical theory of packet networks and coordinator of the transmission of the first message to pass over the internet.



He was recognized for helping to establish the underpinnings of this revolutionary communications medium and for training a successive generation of leading computer-networking experts.

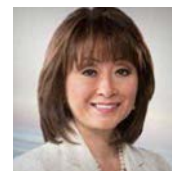
**Deepa Mehta**, LLD 13 (Faculty of Arts and Science), is an Oscar-nominated screenwriter and director. Her award-winning films, including *Midnight’s Children* and *Water*, have been distributed in more than 50 countries and screened at major international film festivals. She was honoured for her artful explorations of universal themes, most notably women’s struggle for equality.



**Lt. Gen. Roméo A. Dallaire (ret.)**, LLD 13 (Faculty of Arts and Science), was honoured for his tireless advocacy for peace, human rights and the prevention of war crimes. He is a member of the United Nations Secretary General’s Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention, Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Concordia-based Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies and former commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda. He is also author of the Governor General’s Literary Award-winning *Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, as well as *They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children: The Global Quest to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers*.



**Mutsumi Takahashi**, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13 (Faculty of Arts and Science), is co-anchor of CTV Montreal News at noon and 6 p.m. She is also co-chair of the Best Care for Life Campaign at the McGill University Health Centre. She was recognized for her investigative acumen and professional style of journalism, community engagement and tireless devotion to communicating the value of education.



**Christiane Germain**, LLD 13 (John Molson School of Business), is co-president and co-founder of the Groupe Germain Hospitalité, in charge of operations for all hotels under the Le Germain Boutique-Hotels banner and the ALT Hotel banner. She was recognized for her dedication to not-for-profit community organizations and for the distinctive mark she’s made on the hotel and restaurant industry in Canada.



**Françoise Bertrand**, LLD 13 (John Molson School of Business), is chief executive officer of the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec, former president and CEO of the Société de radio-télévision du Québec (now called Télé-Québec), and chair of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. She was recognized for her leadership in the business community and in the area of corporate governance.





**91 Matthew Friedman,** BA (hist.), MA (hist.) 04, earned a PhD in history from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., in May. His dissertation, *Signal to Noise: Music and the Eclipse of Modernism*, explores the relationship between postwar sound culture and the avant-garde critique of modernism in the 1950s and 1960s. Matt married Molly Giblin in March 2011. They currently live, work and teach in New York.

**95 Afsaneh Hojabri,** BA (anthro.), is a Montreal freelance researcher, blogger and writer. Her debut book, *A Sip, A Bite, A Mouthful: A Memoir of Food and Growing Up in Shiraz*, tells about growing up in 1960s Iran through memories of food and cuisine, customs, passions and rituals. [asipabiteamouthful.com](http://asipabiteamouthful.com)

**Gwen Tolbart,** BA (journ.), is weather anchor and reporter for Fox 5 TV station in Washington, D.C. Gwen was awarded the 2013 Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association Award for Outstanding Weathercast with her entry, "Tracking Hurricane Sandy."

**97 Armen Papazian,** MA (PP & PA), is founding chairman and CEO of Keipr, a boutique project management and consulting firm. He is also a board member and founding CEO of the International Space Development Hub, a Dubai-based consortium of private businesses and foundations working together to create a unique platform that aims to channel innovations and investments into space exploration globally ([isdhub.com](http://isdhub.com)).

## 15TH REUNION

**98 Natasha Gargiulo,** BA (comm. studies), is co-host of the morning show

for Virgin Radio in Montreal. Prior to that, she had been part of Virgin's afternoon drive show. Natasha has also worked as an entertainment reporter for Global TV and Entertainment Tonight Canada, among other assignments. Her ET Canada highlights include interviewing George Clooney and Mathew McConaughey.

**99 Jessica Harman,** BA (creative writing), lives in Haverhill, Mass. Her first collection of short stories, *Wild Stabs at Love, or Something Like It*, examines love as an imaginary place in the mind as well as a real but tentative agreement between two people. It is available for free in various electronic formats from Philistine Press. Search for "Wild Stabs" at [smashwords.com](http://smashwords.com).

**David Swartz,** BA (phil. & Eng.), lives in Toronto. "After Concordia, I went on to study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Toronto, where I earned a master's degree and was a PhD candidate between 2002 and 2006. Since then I've been working as a freelance writer and visual artist. [davidswartzart.com](http://davidswartzart.com)

**00 Michael Armitage,** BEng (creat. writing), is senior producer of *Dragons' Den*, CBC TV's popular program. The show won a 2013 Canadian Screen Award for Best Reality Program.

**01 Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo,** MA (trans.), holds a BA from Cornell University in Ithica, N.Y. She has worked as a freelance translator in Montreal while continuing to paint in her Lachine Canal studio. Kathryn's translations of two Quebec novels, *Zippo: Once Upon a Time in the Egg* by Mathieu Blais and Joël Casséus, and *The Poacher's Faith* by artist Marc Séguin, were published



**Tony Ciorra,** BComm 86 (left), and his son **David** (right), had the opportunity to skate with David's favourite player, Montreal Canadiens defenceman **P.K. Subban**, at the Bell Centre fan event on February 24.



**Vladimir Pavlicik,** GrDip (DSA) 80, GrDip (comm. studies) 93, is associate director of Campus Recreation at Concordia. He was in Kazan, Russia, for the Universiade, the 27th World University Summer Games, held from July 6 to 17. Vlad (pictured in the front row, second from right) managed the Canadian men's soccer team. The team advanced to the quarter-finals after tying Brazil 1-1 on July 10.



**France Rolland**, BFA (theatre perf.) 92, was a cast member for the play *Bliss*, directed by Steven McCarthy and performed at Montreal's Théâtre Aux Écuries in March. *Bliss*, written by Olivier Choinière and translated by Caryl Churchill, is about a powerless individual who exacts retribution. France, pictured (at right) with Trent Pardy and Jean-Robert Bourdage, has appeared in a number of Montreal productions over the past decade.

this spring by Exile Editions and were launched at the Blue Metropolis festival in April.

**04 Abbas Akhavan**, BFA (art hist. & studio art), is a Toronto-based artist. Abbas was one of five winners of the 2014 Abraaj Group Art Prize, which is annually awarded in Dubai to five artists from the Middle East and North Africa on the basis of proposals for new artworks. He was featured in *Canadian Art* magazine's online news ([canadianart.ca/news](http://canadianart.ca/news)).

**06 Xania Keane**, BA (comm. studies & jour.) 06, recently returned to her hometown of Montreal after five years on the road. As one half of the award-winning synth-pop duo Trike, Xania lived, recorded and toured Canada and 16 European countries, playing more than 250 shows. She has just completed her self-titled solo album, *Xania*, which recounts her nomadic memories of bliss, danger and

heartbreak to create a mix of hip hop, folk and sincere lyrics. Xania wrote, performed and produced the album that also features guest appearances by other Montreal musicians and DJs, as well as techno-guitarist Robin Sukroso from Berlin and DJ Miss Hawaii from Japan. [iamxania.com](http://iamxania.com)

**10 Lindsay McIntyre**, MFA (film), was one of seven recipients of the 2013 Canada Council for the Arts Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Awards. The \$15,000 annual awards recognize mid-career artists in the seven disciplines and arts practices funded by the Canada Council. Lindsay is a filmmaker and contemporary puppeteer from Edmonton. She holds a BFA from the University of Alberta and also studied at the Kent Institute of Art and Design in England and at the New School in New York City. ■



Tobi Elliott

**Maureen Marovitch**, BA (comm. studies) 01, is creative director of Picture This Productions in Montreal. The production company's latest documentary, *Watchers of the North*, is a six-part miniseries that premiered on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network on September 4. Each half-hour episode chronicles the adventures and lives of one of Canada's most intriguing and least known military units, the Canadian Rangers, which is made up largely of Aboriginal men and women. Maureen wrote *Watchers of the North*, and its production team included associate producer **Bruno Dequen**, BFA (film studies) 03, MFA (film studies) 09, and series producer **David Finch**, BA (sci. & human affairs) 92. Pictured are crew members filming Canadian Ranger Loisa Alookey on site in Nunavut in 2012.



Montreal-based artist **Raymonde Jodoin**, BFA 83, designed the cover for the recently released *A Healthy Life on a Healthy Planet: We, as Individuals, Have the Power to Make It Happen* (Kindle Edition) by Danielle Méthot.

## Call for alumni chapter volunteers

The Concordia University Alumni Association is seeking volunteers for the executive committee of the Toronto chapter and to lead the Edmonton and London, England, chapters. It's a meaningful way to network and give back to your alma mater.

For more information, please contact Lina Uberti, alumni officer, Geographic Chapters, at [lina.uberti@concordia.ca](mailto:lina.uberti@concordia.ca).







Montreal entrepreneur and charity fundraiser **Paul Desbaillets**, BFA (design art) 03 (right), received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his outstanding community contributions.

**Tyrone Benskin**, attendee 81, Member of Parliament for the Jeanne-Le Ber riding, presented the award to Paul on February 16.

## Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology 30th Anniversary Celebration and Scientific Workshop

October 3-4, 2013

### KEYNOTE PUBLIC ADDRESS

#### Environmental epigenetics: How childhood experiences regulate your genes

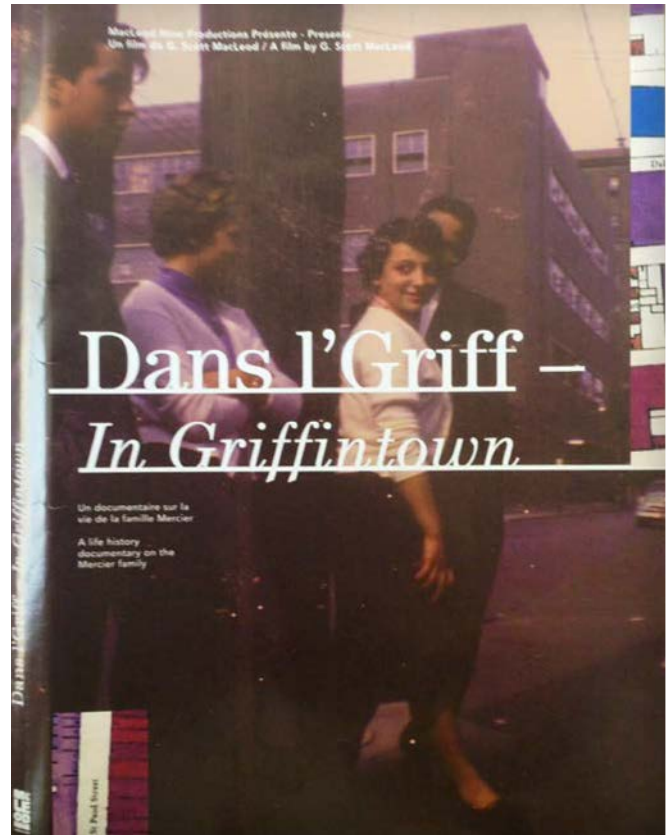
By Professor Michael Meaney, McGill University

What influences our behaviour – nature (genetics) or nurture (environment)? Research in neuroscience has shown that humans develop through the interaction of both genetic and environmental influences. In this lecture, noted scientist Michael Meaney, BA 75, MA 77, PhD 81, will summarize recent studies showing how environment can modify the DNA and structure and activity of the genome: that is, how childhood experiences affect genes.

This Homecoming 2013 talk will be the keynote public address of the Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology's 30th anniversary celebration and scientific workshop. Meaney is associate director of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute Research Centre and James McGill Professor in the departments of Psychiatry and Neurology and Neurosurgery at McGill University.

For more information:  
**csbn.info@concordia.ca**  
514-848-2424, ext. 7557

**csbn.concordia.ca**



Montreal artist, musician and filmmaker **Scott MacLeod**, BFA 03, explores the city's historic Griffintown neighbourhood in his short documentary, *Dans l'Griff/In Griffintown* (\$20, through [ingriffintown.com](http://ingriffintown.com)). Using interviews with long-time denizens the Mercier family, archival photos and MacLeod's stylistic pencil drawings, the film elegantly depicts the once-flourishing, now dwindling, community of working-class Irish and French Canadians.

## WANTED: CJLO ALUMNI

Were you or someone you know ever a DJ, volunteer or general member of radio stations CJLO, CFLI or CRSG?

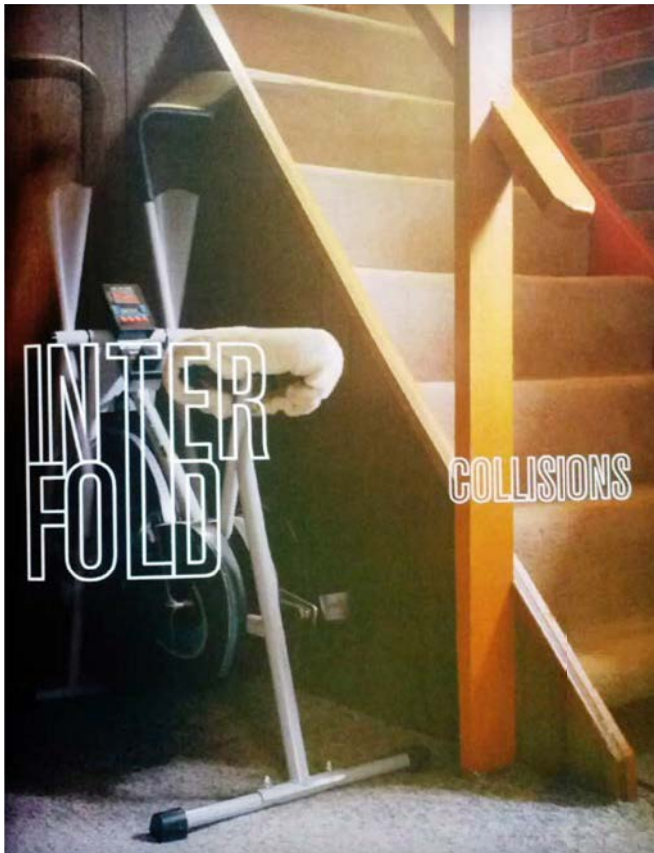


October 2013 marks a triple anniversary for CJLO: five years on the AM band (1690), 10 years online and 15 years as a station. To celebrate, they're planning several events, including a special anniversary concert, an alumni reunion party and an open house, and they'd love to see you there.

They're also putting together a yearbook of stories, posters and photos of CJLO's first 15 years.

To submit yearbook materials or for further information regarding our upcoming events, email [anniversary@cjlo.com](mailto:anniversary@cjlo.com). Sarah Robinson, CJLO Promotions, [cjlo.com](http://cjlo.com)





While they were still students in Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, **Ali Moenck**, BFA (fibres) 12, and **Bella Giancotta**, BFA (art history & studio art) 13, created *Interfold*, an art magazine that publishes student art and writing and provides a venue for community exchange. Each issue of the bi-annual publication is centred on a theme; the motif for spring 2013 was collisions. Visit [interfoldmagazine.com](http://interfoldmagazine.com) for news and to view past issues.



**Chloë Bellande**, BA (Spanish) 07, headed to the Cannes Film Festival's Short Film Corner in May to present her second feature, *Lynched Series: While the Village Sleeps*. Chloë wrote, directed and produced the indie thriller. The movie has already earned accolades, including the Best International Screenplay award at the 2012 Rhode Island International Film Festival.



LES FILMS SEVILLE

*Sarah préfère la course*, the first feature film from Quebec City native **Chloé Robichaud**, BFA (film) 10, competed in the Un Certain Regard category at the Cannes Film Festival in May. The film's story revolves around Sarah, a track star whose financial difficulties threaten to derail her dream of accepting a spot on the McGill University track team. Fellow Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema graduates involved with the production were producer **Fanny-Laure Malo**, BFA 10; director of photography **Jessica Lee Gagné**, BFA 12; artistic director **Bruno-Pierre Houle**, BFA 10; and first assistant director **Catherine Kirouac**, BFA 12. Another film studies graduate, **Alice Black**, BFA 93, was among the festival's jury members.

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**Paul Staniszewski**, BA 47,  
April 13, Windsor, Ont. He was 87.

**Donald Thomas McGillis**,  
BSc 49, Feb. 22, Pointe-Claire,  
Que. He was 84.

**Ethel Sarwer-Foner**, BA 50,  
Mar. 13, Montreal. She was 87.

**Thomas Walkden**, BComm 50,  
Dec. 12, Victoria, B.C. He was 95.

**Dr. William H. Bentham**,  
BSc 51, Aug. 28, Stony Lake,  
Ont. He was 83.

**Dr. Guy Pridham**, BA 53,  
Mar. 27, Montreal.

**Joyce Annie Marshall**,  
BComm 53, Feb. 17, Bourne,  
Mass. She was 91.

**Anthony Peltzner**, BA 54,  
May 5, Calgary, Alta. He was 90.

**Maurice Desjardins**, BA 54,  
Apr. 16, Stuart, Fla. He was 79.

**Stanley Matulis**, BSc 54,  
June 28, Montreal.

**Clifford L. Fisher**, BA 57,  
Mar. 17, Montreal. He was 85.

**Daniel Ungerson**, BA 57,  
May 24, North Vancouver, B.C.  
He was 90.

**John Baran**, BSc 60, May 3,  
Montreal. He was 84.

**Roger E. Baker**, BA 61, June 23,  
Montreal. He was 60.

**Richard V. Lacisz**, BComm 61,  
May 7, Montreal. He was 83.

**Luc-Claude Henrico**, BComm  
62, Mar. 9, Pointe-Claire, Que.

**Allan G. Marjerison**, BSc 63,  
GrDip 94, MA 00, June 20,  
Montreal. He was 98.

**John Michael Altimas**,  
BA 66, Feb. 20, Maui, Hawaii.  
He was 71.

**Stephen P. Klemchuk**, BA 66,  
Mar. 1, Markham, Ont. He was 68.

**Dr. Peter N. McCracken**,  
BSc 66, June 24, Edmonton.

**Dennis W. Harrold**, BA 67,  
Mar. 17, Sidney, B.C. He was 100.

**Erich Rannu**, BComm 67,  
April 4, Toronto. He was 92.

**Connie Freda Johnston**, BA 68,  
June 12, Ottawa. She was 73.

**Brian Martin Murphy**, BA 70,  
June, Orange, Mass.

**Stephanie Brenda Bruker**,  
BA 70, Mar. 21, New York City,  
N.Y. She was 66.

**Edward Joseph Ballway**,  
BA 71, May 22, Fayetteville, N.Y.  
He was 63.

**Gregory Matthew Diab**,  
BComm 71, Montreal. He was 64.

**Dr. Timothy Head**, BSc 71, Mar.  
22, Mansonville, Que. He was 64.

**Lindorf H. Mayers**, BA 71, MA  
91, Jan. 26, Montreal. He was 77.

**Yvette Girard-Olsen**, BFA 73,  
BA 73, BA 79, Feb. 13, Montreal.  
She was 100.

**David Peter Ludgate**, BComm  
73, May 12, Montreal.

**Douglas Dawson**, BComm 75,  
April 14, Victoria, B.C. He was 74.

**Bruce Baker**, BEng 76, June 6,  
Montreal. He was 60.

**Bruce R.J. Haggerman**, BA 76,  
Mar. 3, Vancouver. He was 58.

**Constance Helme Moore**, MA  
76, May 9, Montreal. She was 82.

**Gregory A. Olpherts**, MSc 76,  
Apr. 27, Montreal. He was 86.

**Charlotte Werheimer**, BA 77,  
Mar. 21, Montreal. She was 78.

**Dr. Robert A. Graham**, BA 78,  
Apr. 28, Montreal. He was 81.

**Panayotis Georgakakos**,  
BA 78, GrDip 82, Feb. 25,  
Montreal. He was 67.

**Pasquale Buffone**, BComm 79,  
GrDip 84, Apr. 6, Montreal.  
He was 56.

**Marie Pereira**, MA 79, BA  
83, GrDip 97, MA 99, April 13,  
Montreal. She was 87.

**Christopher Ciastek**, BSc 80,  
May 22, Rawdon, Que.  
He was 56.

**Judith Ann Hacking**, BA 80,  
Mar. 5, Montreal. She was 63.

**Gerald Mulcahy**, BComm 81,  
May 14, Ottawa. He was 62.

**Jocelyne Lemyre**, BA 82,  
July 2, Montreal. She was 53.

**Ian H. Alexander**, BA 83, MA  
87, Apr. 3, Montreal. He was 56.

**Peter B. Strapps**, BComm 84,  
Feb. 24, Wasaga Beach, Ont.  
He was 52.

**Olga Dery**, BA 86, Mar. 21,  
Montreal.

**André Gingras**, BA 88, Feb. 17,  
Breda, Netherlands. He was 46.

**Joan Yep-Lawley**, BA 88,  
Mar. 2, Montreal. She was 79.

**Cheryl Patricia Stroud**, GrDip  
89, June 21, Sherbrooke, Que.  
She was 66.

**Heather Wallace Hutchinson**,  
BFA 93, 2013, Val-David, Que.  
She was 82.

**Cynthia Grant-Houston**,  
BA 95, May 30, Montreal.  
She was 40.

**Olivier Tsai**, BFA 95, GrDip 03,  
Mar. 27, Montreal. He was 41.

**Laurie T. Milliken**, BA 96,  
June 5, Montreal. She was 62.

**Mary Preston**, BA 98, Jan. 6,  
Montreal. She was 81.

**Mark Warren Robinson**, BA 00,  
June 9, Montreal. He was 38.

**Jerome Williams**, BA 04,  
Sept. 13, 2012, Lattes, France.  
He was 32.

**Saad Syed**, BA 07, Aug. 5,  
Montreal. He was 32. Saad  
was an English teacher and  
an active member of the  
Montreal West Island Pakistani  
community.

## Survivors, geeks, pigeon peas and musical talents

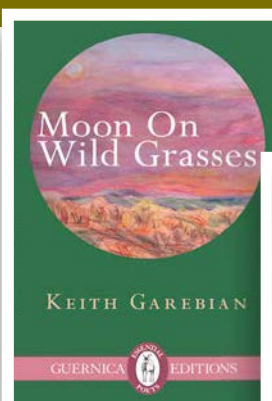
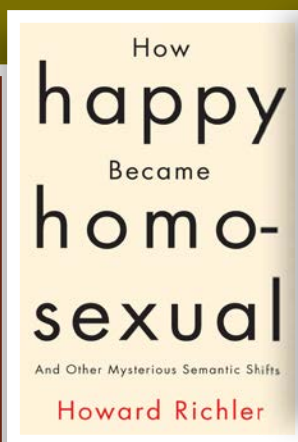
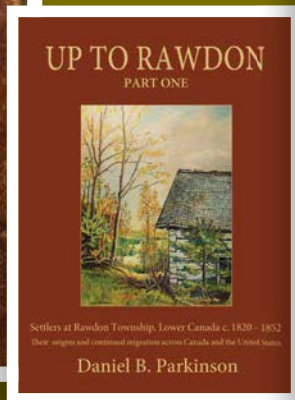
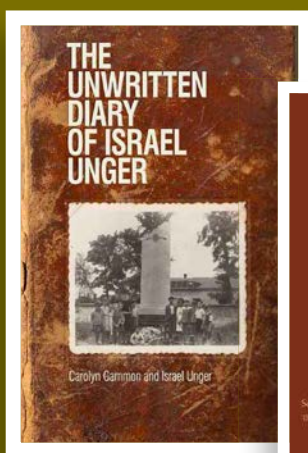
In 1938, when **Israel Unger**, BSc 58, was born, his hometown of Tarnow, Poland, had a Jewish population of 25,000. By the end of the Holocaust six years later, only nine Jews had survived, including Unger and his family. They eventually made their way to Montreal,

University Press, \$24.99). He lives in Fredericton.

**Daniel B. Parkinson**, BA 69, has turned his series of essays on his and other families' settlement in Rawdon, a small town in southwestern Quebec, into a two-part book, **Up to Rawdon** (Daniel B. Parkinson, \$65

69, entertainingly looks at the evolution of words, which he contends are transforming quicker than ever. For instance, over the last 20 years, a "geek" has gone from a nerd to an expert; Richler predicts the word will eventually become a verb. This is the Montreal writer's seventh book on language.

band **Blues Delight**, led by vocalist and guitarist **Vincent Beaulne**, BFA 86, and featuring Department of Music lecturer **Dave Turner** on sax, delivers solid, old-school and country-tinged blues. Beaulne also composed and produced the 12 tracks on the CD, the band's third.



where Unger attended Sir George Williams University and rose to become an outstanding academic. He was one of 50 Holocaust survivors honoured by the Government of Canada in 1998 in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in 1999 was named Dean Emeritus by the University of New Brunswick. With the assistance of German-based writer and educator **Carolyn Gammon**, MA 89, he tells his remarkable story in **The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger** (Wilfrid Laurier

for both volumes, through **uptorawdon.com**). Part One tells about the first settler and the first clergyman's influence on the Lanaudière town, while Part Two focuses on Rawdon's development between 1820 and 1852. Parkinson lives in Toronto.

How did the word "bully" transform from an expression of love, like "sweetheart" and "darling," to its modern definition of a mean-spirited tormenter? In **How Happy Became Homosexual, and Other Mysterious Semantic Shifts** (Ronsdale Press, \$19.95). **Howard Richler**, BA

The concise verse in **Moon on Wild Grasses** (Guernica Editions, \$15), the fifth book of poetry by **Keith Garebian**, MA 71, covers a wide range of themes that combine the pictorial with the passionate and capture moments from nature, experience, the self, love, death and grief. The much-published Garebian is a biographer, poet and award-winning freelance arts critic and lives in Mississauga, Ont.

On **Working on It** (\$9.99 on iTunes and through **bluesdelight.com**), Montreal

**Life on the Home Front: Montreal 1939-1945** (Véhicule Press, \$20), by **Patricia Burns**, BA 75, presents a vivid portrait of Second World War-era Montreal. Burns's book, her third, examines the period when family members were sent to war and women to work for the first time, and anti-war sentiment was prominent. Yet simultaneously, the metropolis's vibrant nightlife earned it the title of "Sin City." Montreal native Burns taught for 32 years and is now retired.



What would you do if you only had one week to live? In ***Dying to Go Viral*** (Fitzhenry and Whiteside, \$12.95), the latest young adult fiction by **Sylvia McNicoll**, BA 78, 14-year old Jade dies after hitching her skateboard to a car. But she encounters her dead mother and begs for the chance to return to earth. A one week do-over is all she can have. But after discov-

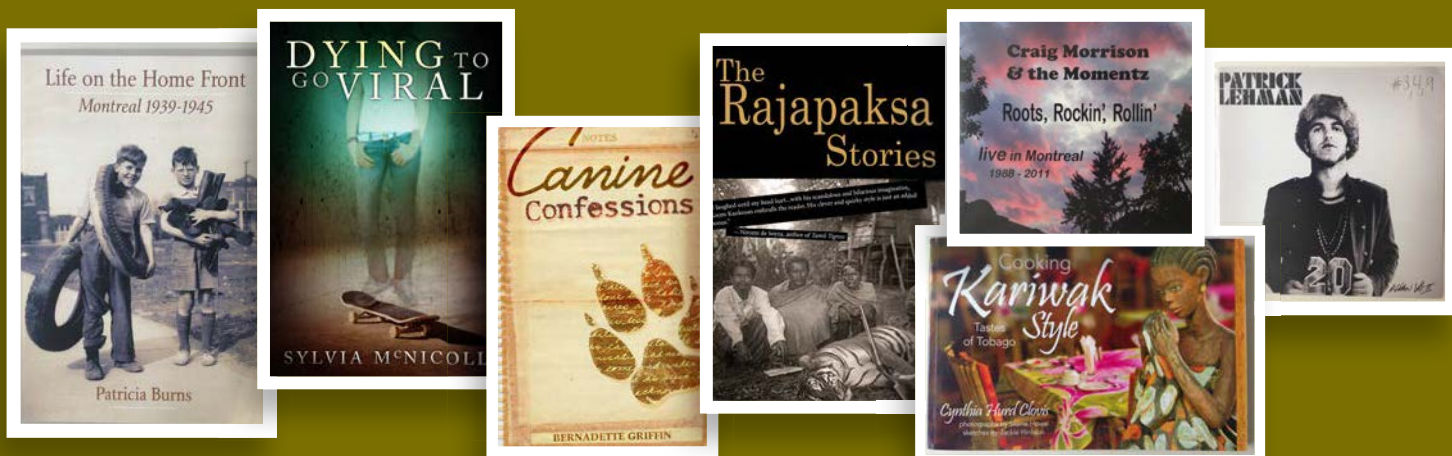
interactions with humans. Griffin is a Montreal translator and author of *Scenes of Childhood* (2007), a fictionalized memoir of short stories inspired by her Quebec City youth.

The latest CD from Montreal-based ethnomusicologist, teacher, author and musician **Craig Morrison**, PhD 00, is ***Roots, Rockin', Rollin': live in Montreal 1988-2011***

The Toronto-based writer **Koom Kankesan**, BA 02, has published his second book, ***The Rajapaksa Stories*** (Lyricalmyrical Press, \$14.95), a collection of wildly satirical tales focusing on Mahinda Rajapaksa, president of Sri Lanka. Kankesan creatively places Rajapaksa and his family in absurd situations that represent some of the fantastical stories told by the govern-

Caribbean-flavoured delicacies — including Pigeon Peas and Rice, Beef with Bay Leaf, and Coconut Milk and Kariwak Honey Cake — that have made Kariwak Village Restaurant a must-try when visiting the island.

The music of **Patrick Lehman**, BFA 09, is easy on the ears but more difficult to classify: Lehman, who received classical



ering a love of life that she's never known, will she be able to let go? The prolific Burlington, Ont., resident's previous book was *crush. candy. corpse* (2012).

**Bernadette Griffin**, BA 90, recently published her first novel — at the age of 75. ***Canine Confessions*** (Laskin Publishing, \$17.77), set in 1970s Montreal, has an unusual narrator: Daisy, a female cocker spaniel. Daisy touchingly and often humorously recounts the story of her life and her

(\$15, available through **[craigmorrison.com](http://craigmorrison.com)**), supported in part by a Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association grant. The CD features live versions of original material and covers of rock'n'roll classics by Morrison and his band the Momentz. Morrison also recently released *Dreamland Blues*, an all-acoustic solo album (voice and guitar) with mostly original songs, plus blues and pop tunes from the 1920s. He is a part-time instructor at Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts.

ment — although these are far from the official versions; for example, the president travels into space and shares a joint with Toronto mayor Rob Ford.

**Cynthia Hurd-Clovis**, BA 72, has owned and managed the Kariwak Village Restaurant in Crown Point, Tobago, for more than 30 years. Her beloved recipes are now accessible in ***Cooking Kariwak Style: Tastes of Tobago*** (First Choice Books, \$15, available through **[kariwak.com](http://kariwak.com)**). Hurd-Clovis shares

vocal training, elegantly mixes soul, R&B, blues, rock, doo-wop, classical and gospel, with inspirations ranging from Stevie Wonder to the Rolling Stones, to create a sound all his own. ***Electric Soul Kitchen, Vol. II*** (\$9.99, available through **[patricklehmanmusic.com](http://patricklehmanmusic.com)**) is the third album by the Montreal-based musician. The CD's single "Stop Pretending" was a hit in the Netherlands.

— George Menexis and  
Mona Noonoo

## Lessons learned

BY EMILY SOUTHWOOD,  
BA 02

I sat restlessly in Concordia English professor Mary Di Michele's office watching a sunny, slushy day pass by on Bishop St. I couldn't wait to get out there. We were reviewing her notes on my poetry portfolio when she asked what I was up to for summer. I would be a cruise ship hostess in northern Europe, I explained.

"Travel — good!" she said. "Go and live; that's where you'll find things to write about."

Yes, yes, I thought. Live voraciously; write diligently — I'm on it. Okay, at least the first part. I was 21, primed for adventure. During my BA in honours English and creative writing, I persuaded my parents to allow me to spend two semesters travelling South America. Over summers, I clocked into odd jobs — the ones a poetry degree qualifies you for and, hopefully one day, qualify you to write poetry. I made my way as horseback trail guide, diner waitress, Ecuadorian ESL teacher, leader of on-board Frank Sinatra sing-alongs. By 2002, I sat clad in cap and gown, unknowingly a few seats down from my future husband: Robert Vroom, BA (comm. studies). We'd meet a year later through mutual friends.

In 2006, I left Montreal for Vancouver to pursue an MFA in creative non-fiction at the University of British Columbia. True to Mary's advice, I often called on my adventures for writing fodder. Meanwhile, Robbie and I stayed together long distance. He was in Los Angeles garnering a master's in cinematography at the American Film Institute.

I would have heartily preferred he film a show about deep-sea fishing, home renovation, vapid housewives — anything.

After graduating, we got engaged and settled in L.A. — the better for Robbie to break into the movie industry. Soon, he landed a job filming a reality TV show.

"That's great! About what?" I asked. "It's called *Webdreams*," he stuttered. "I'll be following porn stars in every aspect of their lives."

"So you'll be filming buxom, bronzed women in all manner of acrobatic undress?" "Pretty much."

"Perfect!" I exclaimed, "All in the name of research — bring it on!"

Just kidding, that wasn't my response. I'd like to say I welcomed my fiancé's foray into XXX as potential material as eagerly as I'd traversed Peru. But I would have heartily preferred he film a show about deep-sea fishing, home renovation,

vapid housewives — anything.

I'd never been a fan of pornography. Suffice it to say, I knew how my gender was referred to in skin flicks and I preferred something more along the lines of "goddess divine." Nonetheless, we had sizeable student debt to contend with. That, coupled with my aversion to being a bossy wife, meant that I said: Okay, honey, take the job.

The next eight months found me often wishing I could go back and savour my words. At one point, during a lively dinner discussion about how starlets pass their "best before" date at 23, Robbie smiled slyly and said: "I bet you'll write about this one day." "Yeah, I'll get right on that," I replied with an eye roll.

As it turned out, he was right. My memoir, *Prude: Lessons I Learned When My Fiancé Filmed Porn* (Seal Press), comes out this fall. Robbie's stint in the porn industry ultimately challenged my perspectives and strengthened our relationship. Most of all, we learned to communicate about a tricky topic that's easy for couples to evade.

Recently, we left L.A. for Vancouver, where Robbie shot another reality show, this one about cops in the Downtown Eastside. Who knew the Valley could sound glamorous by comparison? Then, as fate would have it, the filming of his first movie, *Three Night Stand*, returned us to Montreal. Our latest adventure has been starting a family here. As for my next writing project, I'm thinking something fictional might be nice. Nonetheless, I'll still aim to follow the advice — go forth and seek new experiences — even if I do seem to be travelling in reverse. ■

Emily Southwood ([emilysouthwood.com](http://emilysouthwood.com)) has written for The Huffington Post, The Globe and Mail and Elle Canada.



EMILY SOUTHWOOD'S FIRST BOOK, *PRUDE: LESSONS I LEARNED WHEN MY FIANCÉ FILMED PORN*, WILL BE RELEASED THIS FALL.

ROBERT VROOM

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