A nighttime photograph of a building, likely a university building, with several tall, illuminated columns and a dome on top. The columns are lit with blue and white lights, and the dome is lit with a red light. The building is set against a dark blue night sky.

THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE

UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONTRÉAL 2020
REPORT

Université 
de Montréal
et du monde.



BEHIND AND ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE PANDEMIC

The UdeM community has been fighting the COVID-19 pandemic on all fronts. We have adapted teaching and research methods to the new reality, offered expertise where it's needed and kept decision-makers and the general public informed through the media and our own outlets.

Online

The COVID-19 crisis hit UdeM hard, but we quickly rallied and in just a few days were able to get classes running online. The hardest part was yet to come, however: helping our teaching staff and students adjust to the sudden shift in their routine and overcome the obstacles it entailed. This task was handled by our extraordinary teams of support staff, educators and IT specialists. They are the unheralded essential workers of 2020.



Educators to the rescue

The Centre for University Teaching provided invaluable support to our teaching staff, who had to adapt thousands of courses this year. Educational consultants were rushed to the various faculties, more than 500 training courses were offered and our pandemic info site received more than 150,000 visits.

In the field

UdeM's health-care professionals are out on the front lines caring for patients of all ages and working behind the scenes managing public health. But their "war effort" doesn't stop there. Our health faculty members have been working tirelessly to train the next generation of workers, who are badly needed at all levels.



Getting COVID-19 off the streets

In spring 2020, **Marie-Ève Goyer**, a family physician and associate clinical professor, converted two floors of the former Royal Victoria Hospital into a temporary shelter for homeless people with COVID-19.

In labs

Research at UdeM didn't stop in 2020. Safety protocols were introduced quickly so that researchers in all fields could contribute to the fight against COVID-19, in what has been an unprecedented scientific effort.



Racing to discover new treatments

With over 130 researchers and 100 drug-discovery projects on the go, the Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC) is second to none in Canada. Now IRIC has taken on the challenge of finding antiviral drugs to fight against COVID-19. This initiative is being carried out with Génome Québec, Mila - Quebec AI Institute and McMaster University.

In the media

How do you fight something you can't see? People need to know what to do to combat COVID-19, and UdeM experts have stepped up to provide answers. Sometimes they've reassured us, other times they've given cause for concern, but they've always been truthful and frank. Above all, they've reminded us that science is our best weapon against the virus.



In the spotlight because of the crisis

After making headlines in the media as stars in their respective fields, microbiologist and infectious-diseases specialist **Caroline Quach-Thanh**, biostatistician **Benoît Mâsse** and microbiologist **Karl Weiss** were named "People of the Year" by *L'actualité* news-magazine.

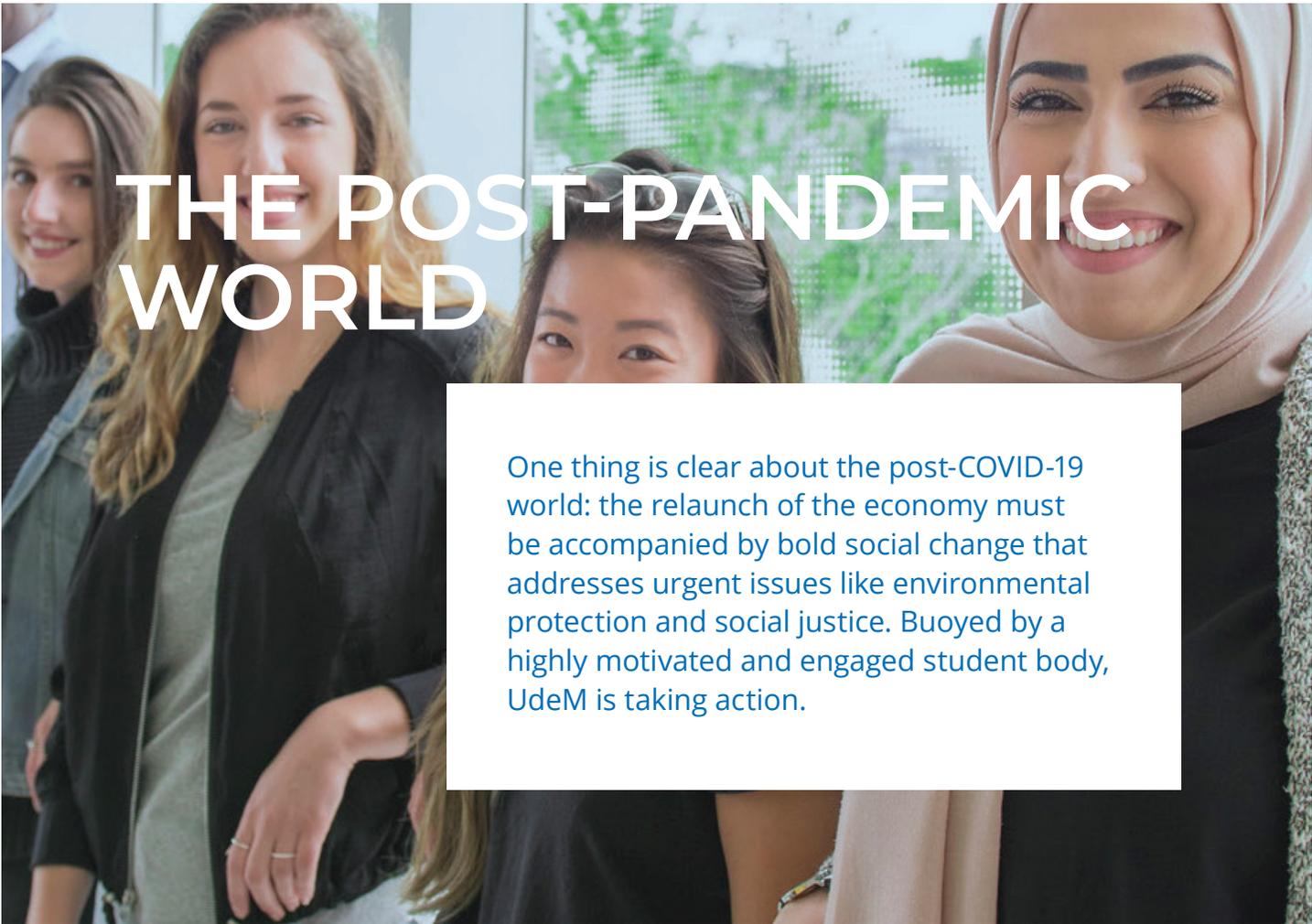
In hearts and minds

UdeM has also been active on the mental-health front, as social-distancing measures have posed a particular challenge for students. The University's mental-health clinic (Centre de santé et de consultation psychologique) has been very busy. University personnel have been trained to listen and provide guidance to people in distress. A number of other helpful measures have been implemented, such as allowing students to opt for pass/fail grades.



Let's get moving together!

Yoga, meditation, Zumba, strength-training: during the pandemic, UdeM's CEPSUM sports complex produced a series of fitness videos that have proved so popular they've been viewed nearly 100,000 times on YouTube.



THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

One thing is clear about the post-COVID-19 world: the relaunch of the economy must be accompanied by bold social change that addresses urgent issues like environmental protection and social justice. Buoyed by a highly motivated and engaged student body, UdeM is taking action.

A more just society

UdeM recently launched two action plans, *Diversity and Inclusion* and *Indigenous Peoples in the Community*, to ensure that the university community becomes more representative of our broader society. It's crucial to take an official stand because increasing diversity on campuses today will help shape the workforce of tomorrow.



Emerging inspiration

Law graduate **Moira-Uashteskun Bacon** chairs the Indigenous Law Committee, which aims to raise student awareness of the realities faced by First Nations peoples. As a member of the Pekuakamiulnu community in Mashteuiatsh, she travelled to Winnipeg in 2020 with five colleagues to represent UdeM at the Kawaskimhon Moot, a talking circle on Indigenous law.

A sustainable reopening

How can universities help with the transition to a more environmentally friendly economy? By including the topic of sustainable development in their study programs, by promoting scientific and social innovation, and by setting an example – those are a few ways. UdeM has been recognized as one of the world’s leading universities for biodiversity management by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.



The green line

The Darlington ecological corridor allows wildlife from Mount Royal to access the MIL campus and Montreal’s former hippodrome. This project, which was led by UdeM, received an award at the most recent gala held by the Conseil régional de l’environnement de Montréal.

A broader vision of health

These ideas are key to better health care: providing more precise, personalized treatments through artificial intelligence; adopting a more patient-centred approach to treatment; and having a more holistic understanding of health overall, one that includes humans, wildlife and the environment, to prevent new pandemics. By championing these ideas, UdeM researchers are helping shape the choices of tomorrow.



A valuable asset for Quebec

UdeM’s School of Public Health enables Quebec to maintain its expertise in this strategic field. It’s also the home of the largest group of public-health researchers in the French-speaking world.

Agents of change

Some 70,000 young adults from around the world have come to Montreal — as well as to Laval, Saint-Hyacinthe and Trois-Rivières — to learn and broaden their horizons. UdeM's greatest contribution to the future is supporting and challenging the next generation while giving them the inspiration and tools to drive development in all sectors of society.



Montreal after Paris, London, Singapore and Tokyo

After studying engineering in Paris and completing a series of internships around the world, **Rim Assouel** moved to Montreal to begin a PhD in artificial intelligence under the supervision of **Yoshua Bengio**.

AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

UdeM's activities extended far beyond the campus limits in 2020. On site and online, our university inspires ideas, broadens perspectives and provides solutions.



On the shores of the Saint Lawrence Estuary

To counter the shortage of veterinarians in Quebec's regions, UdeM has partnered with the Université du Québec à Rimouski to shift a portion of veterinary training to its campus. The initiative is still under assessment, but it could get started as early as 2022.



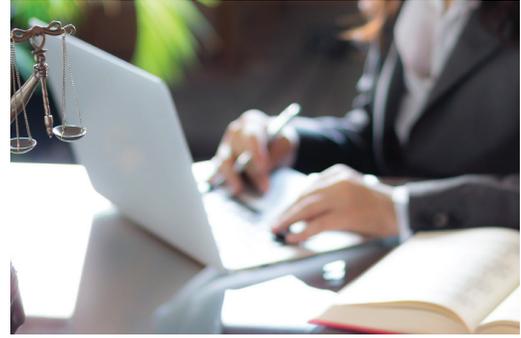
Share your pandemic experience

At the request of community organizations, a multidisciplinary research team was created to gain a better understanding of how the public-health crisis affected the residents of Parc-Extension and Côte-des-Neiges.



Prouder together

Inspired by a past UdeM initiative to help victims of bullying, a team working under Professor Robert-Paul Juster has developed a mobile app called +Fièr. It gives young members of the LGBTQ+ community and their families a safe space to connect and share their thoughts.



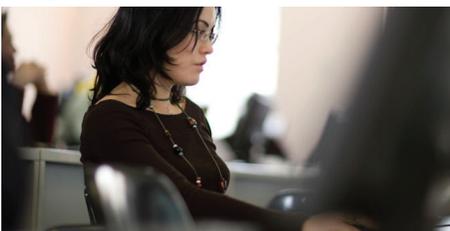
Remote justice

Online hearings, remote mediation and virtual court proceedings: the Cyberjustice Laboratory's innovations proved to be extremely helpful during the pandemic and were implemented in Quebec, Ontario and France.



Working toward sustainable cloud computing

Mila's artificial-intelligence specialists helped create CodeCarbon, a tool for tracking and reducing the IT industry's carbon footprint.



A treasure trove of information

More than 140,000 college students in Quebec and Ontario were able to find helpful information for their assignments on UdeM's Érudit platform, one of the world's largest disseminators of social-sciences and humanities publications in French.



Reaching for the stars

A little bit of UdeM is going into the James Webb Space Telescope, which NASA plans to launch this year. Professor René Doyon contributed to its design and UdeM astronomy students and researchers will be allowed to use the device for more than 200 hours.

UdeM is...

One of the top

100 universities
in the world

73rd in the *Times Higher Education*
ranking, which assesses more
than 1,500 universities worldwide

4th

for research in
Canada

(according to Research Infosource)



One of Canada's

top **100**
employers

(according to Mediacorp)

41st for its
graduates'

reputation with employers

according to the
2020 Global Employability ranking

70 000
students

including **8,500**
from other countries

and **6 500**
permanent residents

making UdeM one of the most
international universities in Canada

13,000
graduates in 2020
joining the
400,000
UdeM graduates
who are changing the world in all disciplines
and sectors of the economy

2,300
professors and researchers
2,300
lecturers
2,000
clinical professors

13
faculties and schools
that offer training in almost every field

2
affiliated schools
HEC Montréal and Polytechnique Montréal

2
world-class university
hospital centres
CHUM and CHU Sainte-Justine

27
affiliated health-care
establishments
and the widest range of health-care
training in the country

1
university veterinary
hospital centre
CHUV in Saint-Hyacinthe

These figures include UdeM's affiliated schools,
Polytechnique Montréal and HEC Montréal.

THE PEOPLE OF UDEM

The UdeM family is full of talented and inspiring people. Here are a few who made us proud in 2020.



UdeM graduate **Alexandra Bastiany** became Canada's first Black interventional cardiologist.



Graduate and lecturer **Yvette Mollen** was the first person to win UdeM's Guardian of an Indigenous Language Prize.



Carabins swimmer and social-work student **Marie-Lou Lapointe** finished the 2019–2020 season in the Top 8 Academic All-Canadians, a ranking of student-athletes who succeeded in sports and academics.



Recognized for her advances in cancer research, Professor **Anne-Marie Mes-Masson** was listed as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100.



Emeritus professor and author **Lise Gauvin** was awarded the Grande Médaille de la Francophonie by the Académie française for her exceptional contribution to the French language.



Carole Boulebsol, a PhD student in applied human sciences and an active thought leader in the community, was awarded a generous scholarship from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.



Professor **Joanne Liu** was named one of Canada's top 10 women in science for her remarkable contributions in the health-care field.



Rayane Zahal, a PhD student in neuropsychology who is actively involved in the fight against social inequality, was named Forces AVENIR's graduate-level personality of the year.



Aboubacar Sissoko, the former captain of the Carabins soccer team, was named the best male athlete in Canadian university sports.



Peter Jacobs and **Jacques Légaré**, who are professors in landscape architecture and demographics respectively, were named to the Order of Canada, the most prestigious distinction in the country.



Professor and artificial-intelligence pioneer **Yoshua Bengio** was elected as a fellow of the UK's Royal Society, a scientific academy whose past fellows include Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein.



Several other UdeM alumni have been appointed to the Order of Canada, including: **Monique Bégin** (Sociology 1965), **Claude Meunier** (Law 1973), **François Rolland** (Law 1974) and **Gérard Raymond Le Chêne** (Psychology 1970).



Éric Champagne, an UdeM graduate and prolific composer whose pieces have been played around the world, won the 2020 Composer of the Year Opus Award.



Airat Ichmouratov, a clarinetist, composer and UdeM graduate, won the 2020 Charles Biddle Award, which recognizes immigrants who contribute to the development of Quebec's arts-and-culture scene.



Professors **René Doyon** and **Pierre Noreau** were admitted to the Royal Society of Canada, joining the ranks of the country's most eminent intellectuals, scientists and artists.



In addition to being named Commander of the Order of Montreal, rector-emeritus **Guy Breton** was awarded the Prix du Mont-Royal for his efforts to protect the natural heritage of Montreal's mountain.



Isabelle Archambault and **Andrés Finzi**, who teach psychoeducation and virology respectively, were admitted to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.



Two psychology professors were awarded the Prix du Québec for their scientific contributions: **Mireille Cyr** and **Isabelle Peretz** won the Armand-Frappier Award.



19-year-old **Francis Clavette** started undergraduate studies in mathematics and computer science with an \$80,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship.

MAJOR DONATIONS

Numerous calls for financial assistance resounded across the UdeM community in 2020 and donors responded generously. These kind-hearted individuals offered a helping hand to students left struggling in the wake of the pandemic and, in doing so, they supported a new generation of research. Others left behind a lasting legacy that will open up new possibilities for all of society.

We're tremendously grateful to these inspiring partners, supporters of knowledge and friends of youth for what was an exceptional year for philanthropy.



\$19.35M

Fondation Courtois

to create two basic-research chairs in the Faculty of Arts and Science and two research chairs in the Faculty of Medicine, to purchase an electron cryomicroscope, and to support research in the Faculty of Arts and Science, particularly in the field of mathematics.

\$4M

Huawei Technologies Canada

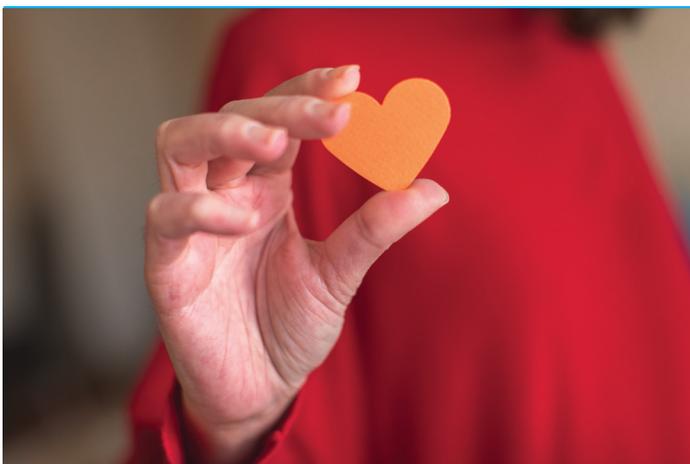
to support advanced research in artificial intelligence in the Department of Computer Science and Operations Research and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the Faculty of Arts and Science.



\$1.2M

Carsley Family Foundation

to create the Carsley-Rouleau Award for Social Engagement to recognize and encourage students in the Faculty of Medicine or Faculty of Nursing who are involved in social issues.



\$5M

Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation

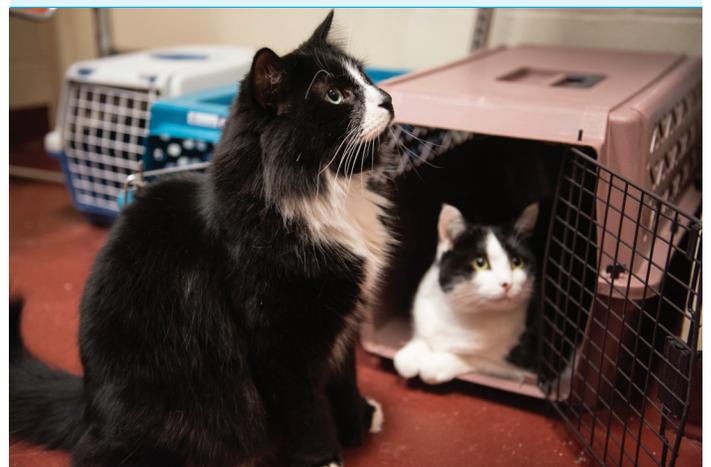
to support, among others, the SEUR project's immersion activities and the Faculty of Pharmacy's Centennial Fund.



\$1.55M

Succession Jacqueline Gandois Touchebeuf de Lussigny

to support the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's shelter for cats, dogs and small mammals.





LOOKING AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed just how well organizations can adapt, and Université de Montréal proved its strength in doing so. Our teaching and research activities continued with almost no interruptions. We owe this accomplishment to the hard work of our university community members, as well as to the leadership of incoming rector Daniel Jutras, who took up the job in June when the crisis was at its peak.

In 2020, UdeM demonstrated the full value of its contributions in a world that, now more than ever, depends on access to knowledge and a new generation of innovative thinkers who have benefited from top-quality training. Our community grows year after year. Join our ranks and be part of a multi-generational group of academics, graduates and donors who look to the future with confidence – because we know that our campuses today are the wellspring of the innovations of tomorrow.

Louis Roquet, Chancellor and Chair of the Board

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

From the 23 volunteers who sit on UdeM's board of directors to members of the management team, we are all firmly committed to the advancement of knowledge.

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