JUNE

Congratulations to the 6,281 graduates who crossed the stage at Spring Convocation ceremonies this June.

Aidan Moir, MA graduate in Communication and Culture, received the Governor General’s Gold Academic Medal at Convocation, as the graduate student with the highest academic standing.

Five faculty members were recipients of the President’s University-Wide Teaching Awards (PUWTA) at Convocation. York faculty Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt and Tamara Kelly, contract faculty member Isha DeCoito, and teaching assistants Yael Machtinger and Rehanna Siew-Sarju, were all honoured for excellence in teaching.

Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) announced in June that 39 York U researchers have been awarded more than $5.1M in NSERC grants, while five graduate students have received a total of $455,000 in funding for scholarships and fellowships.

Winners of this year’s Autism Scholars Awards, given annually to a student at the master’s and doctoral level, both hail from York U. Doctoral student Michelle Viecili and master’s student Azin Taheri will receive $20,000 and $18,000 respectively through Ontario’s Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to conduct research on autism.

Janusz Kozinski, founding dean of the Lassonde School of Engineering, was inducted on June 24 as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Three York grads took home Toronto’s most prestigious awards in theatre, dance and opera productions at 35th annual Dora Mavor Moore Awards: Sultans of the Street, written by Anusree Roy (BFA ’06), won Outstanding New Play in the Theatre for Young Audiences Division, which starred Colin Doyle (BFA ’01), with lighting design by Michelle Ramsay (BFA ’97).
JULY

Distinguished Research Professor Marcia Rioux appointed a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her scholarship in the field of social justice and for her advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Alumnus Steve Orsini (MES ’86) will head the Ontario Public Service as secretary of the cabinet and clerk of the executive council. Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne appointed Orsini to the new position effective July 9, when he succeeded Peter Wallace.

Two York students won major academic prizes for their work in Canadian studies. History student, Catherine Timms, won the Odessa Prize for the best essay completed by a fourth-year student on a topic related to the study of Canada. The Barbara Godard Prize for the Best Dissertation on the Study of Canada was awarded to Monique Giroux (MA ’08, PhD ’13).

A new way of engaging prospective students in on-campus events through social media has garnered the University two prestigious awards. The Fall Campus Day Insta-Print Photo Booth was awarded a Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAE) Prix D’Excellence and a Council for the Advancement & Support of Education (CASE) Circle of Excellence Award.

Lassonde digital media program grad Ahmad Aseeri named 2014 recipient of the Bergeron Medal of Distinction. An international student, Aseeri won the award for academic achievement and entrepreneurial talent.

“This is my time” campaign won silver for Best Student Recruitment Initiative in 2014 Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAE) Prix D’Excellence Awards.

Four York professors awarded Ontario Early Researcher Awards valued at $140,000: Nursing professor Mary Fox, Biology professor Mark Bayfield, Dance professor Russ Patrick Alcedo, and Professor Farah Ahmad of the School of Health Policy and Management.
History and Geography professor William Jenkins’ book *Between Raid and Rebellion* received three awards this year: the Clio Prize, the Joseph Brant Award and the James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize.

Postdoctoral fellow Amar Vutha awarded one of 10 new prestigious Society in Science—Branco Weiss Fellowships worldwide.

Grad psychology students Sabrina Lemire-Rodger and Galina Goren took first and second spots respectively for prestigious graduate student neuroscience award for their posters presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS) in July.

Lions track and field star Khamica Bingham finished in seventh place in the 100m at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. Bingham, of Brampton, Ont., became the first Canadian woman since 2006 to reach the 100m final, with a personal-best time of 11.32 seconds in the semifinals.

**AUGUST**

Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) one of six arts organizations nominated for annual Premier’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

Environmental studies professor Peter Victor received 2014 Kenneth Boulding Award for his influential research and a long history of contributions to the field of ecological economics.

PhD students Alexandra Terrana, Oded Haas and Vanessa Fleet named recipients of Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, each receiving $50,000 annually for up to three years.

Lions women’s volleyball team members Cadence Currie and Abby Ganzhorn teamed up to win the under-18 gold medal at the Ontario provincial beach volleyball championships.

Carla Lipsig-Mummé, professor of work and labour studies in LAPS, has received more than $2.5M over seven years through the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grants program.
September

York U’s library system ranked 8th in Canada and 45th in North America in recent Association of Research Libraries (ARL) ranking. The rankings are based on total expenditures, though the complete list also tabulates salaries and wages of professional staff, total library-materials expenditures, and the number of professional and support staff.

English Professor Priscila Uppal (BA Hons. ’97, PhD ’04) elected a Fellow to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC).

Three York professors named inaugural members of The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, Canada’s first national system of multidisciplinary recognition for the emerging generation of Canada’s intellectual leadership: Professors Alidad Amirfazli, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering; Sarah Flicker, Faculty of Environmental Studies; and Shayna Rosenbaum, Dept. of Psychology, Faculty of Health.

First-year students Betty Seifu and Sherry Bo-Yee Wong awarded prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarships for their academic excellence, leadership in school and community life, and entrepreneurial talent. Seifu, who is entering the Lassonde School of Engineering, was awarded an engineering-focused scholarship valued at $80,000. Wong has been admitted to the Faculty of Science for a bachelor of science specialized honours in biochemistry, with a scholarship valued at $60,000.

Global survey by eFinancialCareers.com ranked Schulich’s MBA program among top 30 in the world for landing a career in investment banking -- the only Canadian business school to make the ranking.

Susan McGrath, professor in the School of Social Work in LAPS, selected by SSHRC as one of three finalists for a prestigious SSHRC Impact Award.


Dance Professor Patrick Alcedo recognized by the Fulbright Association with a prestigious Selma Jeanne Cohen Award for Dance and Dance Studies.

Creative Writing Program alumna Jennifer LoveGrove (Hons. ’97) named to the long list for prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize for her debut novel, *Watch How We Walk*, published by ECW Press.