

# YORK U ALUMNI NEWS



## Celebrating International Women's Day

Each year, on March 8, York University joins communities around the world in celebrating International Women's Day, and the many contributions women have made locally and globally to advance gender equity. This year's International Women's Day theme, #BreakTheBias, serves to acknowledge the struggles, barriers and work yet to be done in creating a more resilient, equitable and sustainable future for us all. The stories included in this newsletter feature alumnae who are working to do just that.

[Read President and Vice-Chancellor Rhonda Lenton and Vice-President Equity, People & Culture Sheila Cote-Meek's full statement.](#)



## Statement from President Lenton on the conflict in Ukraine

York University condemns these acts of aggression in the strongest possible terms, and stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine in their ongoing struggle for freedom and self-determination. [Read President Lenton's full statement.](#)



## Kicking into high gear

Soccer player and educator Farkhunda Muhtaj (BSc '19, BEd '21) is making a difference as a humanitarian and sports activist. After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, Muhtaj went to work providing humanitarian support wherever possible for Afghan refugees. [Find out how she's using sport to help 220 Afghan refugees integrate into life in Portugal.](#)



## Alumni spotlight: Canisia Lubrin (BA '11)

Award-winning writer and poet, alumna Canisia Lubrin is set to release her debut work of fiction, *Code Noir* in 2023. In a recent Q&A she discussed her passions, the important role that curiosity plays in her life and how her inspiration has changed over the years. [Read the full Q&A with Lubrin.](#)



## What does it mean to be vulnerable?

York Sociology Professor Dagmar Soennecken, is part of the VULNER Project, a global team of researchers examining the meaning of vulnerability in the context of migrants who need special assistance and protection. [Learn more about their recent report "Vulnerability in the Canadian Protection Regime".](#)



## Going for gold

The York University Magazine scooped up five Canadian Online Publishing Awards (COPA) – a recognition of outstanding achievement in Canada's digital media landscape – at an online ceremony streamed coast-to-coast on Feb. 10. [Learn more about the Magazine's winning story entries.](#)



## Nominate an outstanding alumni for the York U Alumni Awards!

Every year, the York U Alumni Awards recognize alumni who have achieved the extraordinary and are working to right the future by creating positive change in their fields. Sound like someone you know? [Nominations are open until Mar. 31.](#)



## Introducing the York U Indigenous Alumni Network

The network provides diverse engagement opportunities for Indigenous alumni to support fellow alumni and new and returning students across York's Indigenous community and serve as alumni ambassadors.

[Meet the network's members and find out how you can get involved.](#)

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## ALUMNI BENEFITS



### Explore the Ontario Science Centre

Learn about the boundaries of the human body and check out a real-life rain forest during the Ontario Science Centre's extended March Break hours!

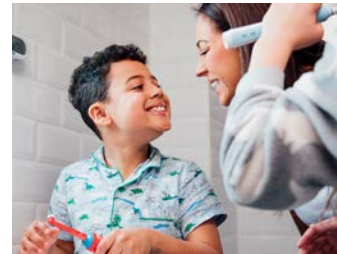
[Learn more.](#)



### Download the Alumni Perks app

Take your digital alumni card with you everywhere! Access exclusive alumni discounts entertainment, travel and insurance, and enter sweepstakes all from your mobile device!

[Learn more.](#)



### Save on insurance with last year's rates!

Give yourself permission to take a deep breath and just focus on you. Manulife Alumni Health & Dental Insurance can be there to help you out. Apply before Mar. 31 to save.

[Learn more.](#)

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## ALUMNI EVENTS



**Mar. 16 | 12pm ET | Scholars' Hub | Do clear skies mean clean air? Pandemic lockdowns and their influence on air quality**

The dramatic impact of pandemic lockdowns on personal behaviours and economies has led to changes in air quality. Faculty of Science Professor Cora Young will describe some of the overall changes observed globally during lockdowns.



**Mar. 16 | 2pm ET | Canadian Arm-Chair Travel | The Yukon advantage: How and why the Yukon is a great place for archaeology**

Join retired Yukon archaeologist Greg Hare as he provides an overview of archaeological research in the territory, highlighting some of the most significant sites and discoveries and explores the evolution of the discipline.



**Mar. 21 | 12pm ET | Transforming project management trends for engineers**

This free webinar will cover soft skills required for engineering management; adapting to new project management tools and methodologies; innovation and creativity in project management; and diversity and collaboration.



**Mar. 24 | 5pm ET | Ernest C. Mercier Lecture in Entrepreneurial Science: Bracing for the entrepreneurial thrillride**

Schulich alumnus Dan Tzotzis (BBA '02, MBA '10), co-founder of AWAKE Chocolate, will share his perspective on what to expect as a new entrepreneur and some of the lessons he has picked up to help manage through the roller coaster ride of an entrepreneur's life.



**Mar. 30 | 12pm ET | Scholars' Hub | Populism, legality and the politics of diversity in Canada**

Glendon College Professor, Emily Laxer will discuss the role of right-wing populism in shaping the contemporary politics of diversity in Canada. Drawing examples from federal and provincial politics – especially Québec's – this talk will show how populist challenges to the rule of law pose a considerable threat to minority rights.



**Apr. 1 | 7pm ET | A toast to Pro Tem: A 60th anniversary celebration**

Celebrate six decades of Glendon's bilingual student newspaper with a panel of notable Pro Tem alumni followed by a social mixer to connect and reminisce.

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