YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S **KUDOS REPORT**

MAY 2022

At the June 2022 Convocation ceremonies, York will honour the following twelve distinguished individuals with honorary degrees:

- Frank Vettese, business and community leader
- Elder Duke Redbird, Ojibwe artist, poet, and scholar
- Dr. Steven Stein, clinical psychologist, business leader, and philanthropist
- Steven Lewis, health care system and services innovator and researcher
- Silken Laumann, Olympic athlete and health advocate
- Terri Lyne Carrington, musician, educator, and social activist
- Olive Senior, writer, educator, and editor
- Anna Porter, publisher and author
- David Miller, environmental activist, former Metro Councillor, former Toronto Councillor and former Mayor of Toronto, lawyer, and professor
- Neil Shubin, evolutionary biologist, paleontologist, and popular science writer
- Constance Backhouse, multi-disciplinary scholar, social activist, and cultural critic
- John Van Burek, translator of theatrical works and theatrical producer

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York University is strengthening its position as a leader in creating a more sustainable and inclusive world, ranking in the world's top 35 in the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings on advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The University placed 33rd out of 1,406 post-secondary institutions, moving up an impressive 34 spots from its position at 67th out of 1,117 post-secondary institutions in last year's rankings.

York University was selected for the 10th consecutive year as one of Canada's Greenest Employers. The competition, now in its 15th year, is designed to highlight employers in Canada that are leaders in creating a "culture of environmental awareness" through "exceptional sustainability initiatives."

Faculty members of Schulich School of Business at York University have been honoured with the annual student-run Seymour Schulich Teaching Excellence Awards. Of the 10 top-rated BBA and iBBA undergraduate program instructors, Alex Garber won first prize and Alex Fisher placed second. Also recognized in the top 10 undergraduate instructors are: Hila Koren Cohen, Marc Colasanti, Graeme Deans, Margaret Hastings, Ashley Konson, Dishan Ratnajothi, Althea Wishloff, and Julie Yan. In the graduate program category, Ashley Konson won first prize and Alla Volodina placed second. Also recognized in this category were Christopher Chan, Graeme Deans, Cameron Graham, Ashwin Joshi, Marisa Morriello, Andrea Stupino, Mike Valente, and Klaudia Watts.

Lisa Cole, director of programming at the Lassonde School of Engineering k2i academy (kindergarten to industry academy), has been named an Ally of the Canadian Black Scientist Network (CBSN). Allies of the CBSN are leaders who affirm their commitment to actively supporting, promoting, and enabling structural change to ensure the development, recruitment, and success of Black STEM researchers within their organizations.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies Teaching Award was presented to Professor Eric Mykhalovskiy, member of the Health, Science & Technology Studies, Socio-Legal Studies and Sociology graduate programs, for which he is also the graduate program director. Mykhalovskiy embodies the award's dedication to sustained excellence, commitment, and enthusiasm to teaching at the graduate level at York.

First-year York Psychology student Nicolina Bozzo made it to the top 5 competitors in the current season of *American Idol*.

Four faculty members from York University's Faculty of Health were recognized for their accomplishments in educational leadership and curricular innovation, teaching, research, and service on May 3 when the annual Dean's Awards were announced. This year's recipients are:

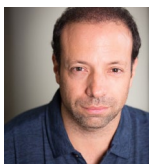
- Rachel da Silveira Gorman – Dean's Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership, Pedagogical, and/or Curricular Innovation
- Mary Desrocher – Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Mazen Hamadeh – Dean's Award for Excellence in Service & Engagement Impact Award
- Joseph Baker – Dean's Award for Excellence in Research

Eighteen students at York University's Glendon Campus were recognized for their leadership in academics, as well as their contributions to the community and to Glendon. The awards and recipients at the 2021–22 Glendon Student Engagement Awards include:

- Hiru Balasuriya and Stephen Teong – Margaret Wallace Leadership Award
- Brianna Carrasco and Raheela Popat – Convocation Award of Excellence for Student Leadership
- Cyrielle Ngeleka – Emerging Leader Award
- Ariana Mah – The Neal Stephenson Glendon Involvement Award
- Eden Minichiello, Josée Philips, Mae Shibasaki, and Robin Kirk – OSA Awards
- Katherine Mazzota, Marissa Buttigieg, Nadia Hayes, and Sophia Tracey – Outstanding Contribution Awards
- Victoria Matchet – Prix Molière
- Violette Daveau – Robert Wallace Award of Merit
- Drew Batchilder – Ian Bingham Memorial Award
- Taylor Johnson – John Proctor Award

In April 2022, Dean Alice J. Hovorka presented the Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change Dean's Awards to:

- Associate Professor Jin Haritaworn – Dean's Teaching Award
- Associate Professor and Planning Program Coordinator Luisa Sotomayor – Dean's Service Award
- Research Officer Rhoda Reyes – Dean's Staff Recognition Award
- Professor Ilan Kapoor – Dean's Research Excellence Award
- Professor and Director of The City Institute (CITY) Linda Peake – Dean's Research Excellence Award.



The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television announced the winners of the 2022 Canadian Screen Awards during Canadian Screen Week. Four alumni from York University's School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design received Canadian Screen Awards in five categories:

- Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu (BA '10 Theatre): Best Web Program or Series, Fiction – *21 Black Futures*
- Bill Halliday (BFA '00 Film and Video): Best Visual Effects – *Vikings – The Signal*
- Ari Posner (BFA '92 music): Best Original Music, Animation – *Let's Go Luna! – The Way of the Gaucho*
- Franco Nguyen (BFA '10 Film Production): Best Writing, Variety or Sketch Comedy – *TallBoyz – You're The Dads Now!*
- Franco Nguyen (BFA '10 Film Production): Best Performance, Sketch Comedy (Individual or Ensemble) – *TallBoyz*

Dr. Reena Shadaan, PhD in Environmental Studies alumna, received the 2020–2021 Mary McEwan Memorial Award from the Centre for Feminist Research. The Mary McEwan Memorial Award is presented annually to one PhD dissertation produced at York University in the area of feminist scholarshop.

Schulich alumnus Abhinav Singhvi (MBA '20) is one of the *Globe and Mail*'s Report on Business 2022 Best Executives. The 50 winners chosen for 2022 represent the best of Canadian leadership in five functional areas: Finance; Human Resources; Operations; Sales and Marketing; and Technology.

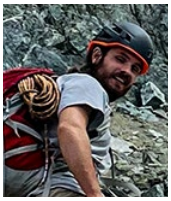
York University Professor Jane Heffernan, Department of Mathematics & Statistics in the Faculty of Science, has been elected as the next president of the Society for Mathematical Biology, the largest and only international society in its field. Her position commences in Summer 2022. Heffernan is an international leader in infectious disease modelling.

Pirathayini Srikantha, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science at the Lassonde School of Engineering, will receive the 2022 Ontario Professional Engineers Awards Engineering Medal in the Young Professional category. The Young Engineer Medal honours an outstanding Ontario engineer who has made exceptional achievements in their chosen field and has demonstrated excellence, not only in their career, but also through community and professional participation.

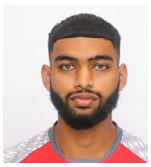
The Ontario government has awarded the 2021 David Walter Mundell Medal for excellence in legal writing to Osgoode Hall Law School Professor Philip Girard. Girard is one of Canada's preeminent legal historians. His extensive work, including many important books, has made a significant contribution to scholarship in Canadian legal history.

Two York University researchers have received research awards from the Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund. Professor Natalia Balyasnikova (Faculty of Education) is the principal investor on the "PhoneMe app: An innovative research approach to community literacy" project, and Professor Heidi Matthews (Osgoode Hall Law School) is the principal investigator on the "Community Science and Accountability for Canada's Colonial Genocide Past and Present" project.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada awarded funding to Liberal Arts & Professional Studies researchers Akolisa Ufodike and Andrea Emberly through the Race, Gender, and Diversity Initiative, which funds community-led research partnerships grounded in the lived experience of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups that analyze the causes of systemic racism and discrimination.



Joel Robertson-Taylor, who will enter his second year at Osgoode Law School in September, is one of 14 international law students selected for a 2022 Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics fellowship. The fellowships are provided to students and early-stage practitioners in law, business, journalism, design and technology, medicine, and seminary.



York University student–athletes were in the spotlight during the 54th Varsity Athletics Awards, held during the last week in April. The 2022 award winners include:

- Male Athlete of the Year: Dieu Merci Yuma, soccer
- Female Athlete of the Year: Leah Jones, track & field
- Outstanding Male Graduate Award: Dan Everton, volleyball
- Bryce M. Taylor Award: Ellen Donaldson, hockey
- Charles Saundercook Memorial Trophy: Kelsey McHolm, women's hockey
- 2022 Lions Legacy Award: Ellen Donaldson, women's hockey
- 2022 Lions Legacy Award: Dan Everton, men's volleyball
- 2022 Lions Legacy Award: Lauren Walter, Women's rugby
- Male Rookie of the Year: Jasraj Nijjar, volleyball
- Female Rookie of the Year: Kiara Leveridge, basketball
- Coach of the Year: Carmine Isacco, soccer
- Sport Council Award: Courtney Gardiner, women's hockey
- Student Therapist of the Year: Alexandria Boussey
- Roar Cup: Field Hockey Team

The York Centre for Asian Research celebrated its 20th anniversary of advancing the study of Asia and Asian diasporas with a presentation titled "Reimagining Chinese Diasporas Studies in a Transnational World." The presentation was given by transnational academic and scholar Shibao Guo, who over the past 20 years has developed research expertise in the areas of transnational migration, diaspora studies, Chinese immigrants in Canada, ethnic and race relations, and comparative and international education.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. David Peters has been appointed to the position of Dean, Faculty of Health for a five-year term, effective January 1, 2023.

Sheril Hook has been appointed Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning at York University Libraries, effective May 16, 2022.