

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

APRIL 2021



York University has released its first-ever list of [Top 30 Changemakers](#) Under 30, shining a spotlight on remarkable young alumni who are making a difference in their communities, the country, and around the world. Included in the list are:

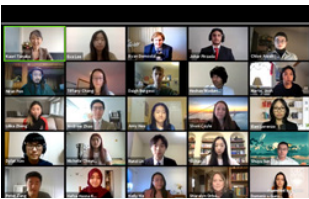
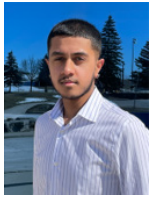
- Ajith Thiyagalingam, BA '15, JD '18, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Alexandra Lutchman, BA '14, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Aurangzeb Khandwala, BA '18, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Bailey Francis, BA '19, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Basia Pozin, BBA '17, Schulich School of Business
- Bo Cheng, BSC '17, MMAI '20, Science, Schulich School of Business
- Christine Edith Ntomba Dikongué, BA '14, Glendon
- Dani Roche, BDES '13, School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- David (Xiaoyu) Wang, MSCM '20, Schulich School of Business
- David Marrello, BBA '15, Schulich School of Business
- Deanna Lentini, BSC '16, Health
- Eunice Kays, BA '17, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Farzia Khan, BA '17, Lassonde School of Engineering
- Giancarlo Sessa, BBA '19, Schulich School of Business
- Iman Mohamed, BA '14, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Isabella Akaliza, BA '20, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Jillian Lynch, BA '19, Health
- Krystal Abotossaway, BHRM '13, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Larissa Crawford, BA '18, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Luke Reece, BA '15, School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- Maneesha Gupta, JD '17, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Matthew Ravida, BCOM '18, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Mikhaela Gray Beerman, BA '14, MED '18, Glendon, Education
- Miranda Baksh, BES '17, MES '19, Environmental & Urban Change
- Nicole Doray, IBA '17, MES '19, Glendon, Environmental & Urban Change
- Prakash Amarasooriya, BSC '15, Health
- Rana Nasrazadani, BA '20, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Rowena Tam, BA '17, School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- Shant Joshi, BFA '17, School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- Shaquille Omari, BA '15, Liberal Arts & Professional Studies



York University [Professor Huaiping Zhu](#) has received \$2.5 million in federal funding to build a new network of researchers and collaborators who will bring a “One Health” approach to disease modelling in order to better predict, prevent, and respond to emerging infectious diseases.



[Three teams from the Schulich School of Business](#) made it to the top 10 in the national finals of the L'Oréal Brandstorm case competition, with one team earning second place. The second-place team members consisted of Anne Villeneuve (BBA '22), Ananthen Karunakaran (BBA '22), and Hugo Pinto (BBA '22).



[Three students from the Japanese Studies Program in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies](#) earned first-place prizes during the Canadian National Japanese Language Speech Contest. Heshan Wadumasethrige, Peter Wenxiang Zang, and Lilika Zheng earned the top spots in the Beginner, Intermediate, and Open categories during the contest. These three students were also the first-prize winners in their respective categories at the 2021 Ontario Japanese Speech Contest.



York University PhD student [Giovanni Hernández-Carranza](#) from the Department of Sociology and undergraduate student [Enzo Flores Montoya](#) from the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics were named the recipients of the 2020 Michael Baptista Essay Prize from the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean.



On behalf of Osgoode Hall Law School's [Environmental Justice & Sustainability Clinic](#), Professors Dayna Nadine Scott and Estair Van Wagner have been awarded \$225,000 in funding from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to develop practical guidance for working with Indigenous Governing Authorities as partner jurisdictions to assess major projects under the Impact Assessment Act.



York University Professor [Joel Katz](#), Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology and Canada Research Chair in Health Psychology, was the recipient of the Senior Investigator Award by the Health Psychology/Behavioural Medicine section of the Canadian Psychological Association. The annual award recognizes exceptional researchers who have supported and contributed to health psychology and behavioural medicine in Canada.



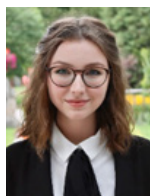
Canadian poet and York University alumna [Canisia Lubrin](#) was named one of two winners of the Windham-Campbell Literature Prize in poetry. In addition to a citation and award, winners of the prizes receive an unrestricted grant of US\$165,000 to support their writing.



[Franz Newland](#), Associate Professor, Teaching, and Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Earth and Space Science & Engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious St. Lawrence Section Outstanding Teaching Award from the American Society for Engineering Education.



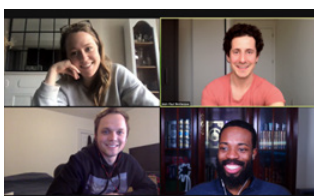
[Four York University Lions](#) student-athletes have been selected as the recipients of the 2021 Lions Legacy Awards. Men's hockey player Kaleb Dahlgren, women's hockey standout Lauren Dubie, women's soccer player Teni Odetoynbo, and track and field athlete Monique Simon-Tucker were presented with the awards, which are given to graduating student-athletes who have made outstanding contributions to varsity sport at York.



York University graduate [Amanda Sears](#) (BA '20) was among 20 Canadians chosen as inaugural McCall MacBain Scholars, recipients of the country's first comprehensive leadership-based scholarship that supports master's and professional studies. York graduates Christina Hoang, Betty Nwaogwugwu, and Kaitlyn Smoke were also offered McCall MacBain Finalist Awards, and Berta Kaisr was offered a McCall MacBain Regional Award.



[Zhen Ming \(Jack\) Jiang](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, has been awarded the CS-Can | Info-Can Outstanding Early-Career Computer Science Researcher Prize for excellence in research.



[Osgoode Hall Law students](#) Jessie Armour, Joshua Harriott, and Thomas Prentice won the Client Advocate Category at the International Academy of Dispute Resolution International Law School Mediation Tournament. They also garnered additional awards: first for Individual Mediator for Joshua Harriott, and first for Individual Client-Advocate Pair for Jessie Armour and Joshua Harriott.



[Joan Judge](#), Professor of History at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, was named a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow in the field of East Asian Studies.



[Dr. Peter Park](#), Associate Professor, Lassonde School of Engineering, was part of a team that was awarded with \$11 million in funding from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council for their “CLUE: City Logistics for the Urban Economy” initiative, which will help fill major knowledge gaps about the Canadian urban freight system.



[Teams from Osgoode Hall Law School](#) placed first and second out of a field of 26 teams from Canada and the United States in the annual Hockey Arbitration Competition of Canada. The winning team members were Jordan Kazan Baigrie and Jeremy Wright and the semi-finalists were Nolan Cattell and Vaughan Rawes.

Appointments



[E. Louise Spencer](#) has been appointed acting Vice-President, Advancement.