

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022



[Sammie Dhillon](#) (MMGT '22 Candidate) is the recipient of the second edition of the Danone L.I.F.T. (Lead and Inspire Female Talent) Leadership Award, receiving a cash prize of \$3,000 and a mentorship opportunity with Caroline Duguay, Head of Communications from Danone Canada. L.I.F.T. is an employee resource group sponsored by Danone, which is committed to highlighting and supporting women's leadership in Canada and throughout North America.



A group of students from the [Schulich School of Business](#) won the coveted title at the 2022 Jeux du Commerce Central, the largest undergraduate business school competition in Central Canada. A team of 52 undergraduate students from Schulich competed and delivered a groundbreaking performance with 17 podium finishes across categories such as debate, finance, and business strategy, in addition to the coveted 'School of the Year' title. The team was led by Co-Captains Nain Mehta and Nathan Corbett (BBA candidates '22). Faculty Advisor Kevin Lyons (MBA '99) coached the students.



First-year Bachelor of Commerce in Information Technology student [Emmanuella Owusu](#) has been awarded the Melissa Grelo Entrance Award for Black and Indigenous Excellence. The award is granted to a woman entering the first year at the School of Information Technology or the Department of Economics, in York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. Melissa Grelo (BA, psychology and French) is a celebrated alumna, well-known for her work moderating CTV's *The Social* and her other successes in television broadcasting.



York University [Faculty of Science Professor Dawn Bazely](#) and [Faculty of Education Professor Don Dipppo](#) are among 30 recipients of the Minister of Colleges and Universities' Awards of Excellence. The awards, which were launched in 2020, recognize the leading work of Ontario's faculty and staff during the pandemic. Bazely is the recipient of the Minister's Award of Excellence in the Future Proofing category, while Dipppo is the recipient in the Equality of Opportunity category.



Top students from the [Schulich School of Business](#) and the [Lassonde School of Engineering](#) competed at TOGETHER 2022 — a unique seven-day entrepreneurship bootcamp and venture competition hosted by Schulich and Startup India that connects 100 teams of Canadian and Indian student entrepreneurs and innovators with 200 mentors and over 50 speakers, trainers, sponsors, and donors. Team [BhuGoal](#), consisting of Kartik Vij, Palak Bahl, Rajesh Kumar (MBA Candidate '23) and Anishka Marwah (MMKG Candidate '22), won first place.



Alumna [Emily Nield](#) (MBA '20) was awarded "Young Leader of the Year" by the Canadian Real Estate Forums. Emily helped develop Epic Investment Services' first climate change strategy, which aims to decarbonize the company's buildings while preparing them for the impacts of climate change. This strategy will be applied across the company's portfolio, which is comprised of 30+ million square feet of space in office, retail, industrial, and multi-family properties across the country.



York University's representative at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, China, is alumna [Cynthia Appiah](#) (BA '13). Cynthia has not only earned a spot on Canada's national bobsled team, but was also named to the Canadian Olympic Committee's "Glory from Anywhere" campaign with eight other Olympians. The campaign highlights the accomplishments of Team Canada athletes to showcase that all Canadians have the potential to inspire people, regardless of their background, upbringing, or socioeconomic status.



York's student virtual assistant, [SAVY](#), won the 2021 Gartner Eye on Innovation Award for Higher Education, a prestigious international award recognizing higher education institutions worldwide for their innovative use of technology to drive best-in-class initiatives. SAVY was the winner in the Student Experience category.



The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS) announced the [2020–21 recipients](#) of the LA&PS Awards for Distinction in Research and the Dean's Awards for Excellence in Teaching:

LA&PS Award for Distinction in Research: David Goldstein, Established Researcher category; Margaret Schotte, Emerging Researcher category.

Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching: Andrea Kalmin, Teaching Assistant category; Ryan James, Contract/Adjunct/CLA category; Tsvetanka Karagyozova, Tenured/Tenure Stream category.



York alumna [Jessica Parish](#) is a recipient of the European Union's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship. The two-year fellowship is presented by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 competition and will support Parish's research project, "Towards a Just Climate Future? Urban sustainability, financialization, and the global housing crisis."



A research project aimed to redress ideologies and systems of anti-Black racism in the University has culminated in a first-of-its-kind database for Black Canadian readings and films. The project, titled "[Teaching Against Anti-Black Racism and Toward Black Inclusion](#)," was conducted as part of the Dean's Award for Research Excellence (DARE) program for undergraduate students enrolled in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies.



English Professor [B.W. Powe](#) has earned a nomination for the prestigious 2022 Medium & Light Award, which recognizes the universal dimensions of the life and work of renowned Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan. The award winner will be announced during the 23rd Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association this summer.



Faculty, staff and students came together to support the [York Cares United Way Campaign](#) to raise funds to help vulnerable members of the community facing crisis. The 2021 campaign was a success, bringing in more than \$183,000.

The 2021 campaign committee, Division of Advancement's Caterina Elzbet and Nadia Dar, engaged many volunteers across the University and were assisted by the following staff: Stephen Childs, Karen Furlong, Tien Do-Ky, Alexandra Lucchesi, Ashley Goodfellow Craig, Vanessa Thompson, Ayesha Amanulla, Mario So Gao, Caitlin Drake Smith, Marion Frankian, Isabelle Montagnier, Johanne Roberge, Sue Bulof, Sharon Elliot, Vina Sandher, Lyna Truong, Donna Cope, Meaghan Morris, Mike Kasaboski, Scott Labron, Amal Awini, Farah Rafiq, and 30 executive assistants across the University who engaged their teams.

APPOINTMENTS



[Brad Strom](#) has been appointed York University's new Chief Information Officer, commencing February 21. He brings more than 25 years of executive management experience and over 16 years of digital strategy and information technology expertise to the role.



[Victoria Sigurdson](#) has been appointed Media Collections Librarian at the York University Libraries, commencing February 1. Sigurdson has dedicated her career to empowering teaching, learning and research communities through the development of responsive university library services and collections. She is a graduate of York University's Bachelor of Fine Arts (Studio) program and holds a master's degree in library and information studies from Dalhousie University.



[Vinitha Gengatharan](#), Executive Director, York International, has been appointed to the Canadian Bureau for International Education Board of Directors.



Biology Professor [Tamara Kelly](#) has been appointed the Faculty of Science's inaugural Pedagogical Innovation Chair in Science Education for a three-year term, which began in September 2021.