



PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

MARCH 2021



Osgoode Hall Law School Professor Poonam Puri and alumna Susan Kyle [not pictured] have each been awarded the Law Society Medal for their outstanding career achievements and contributions to their communities and to the legal profession.



York University is one of six founding partners of a new global UNESCO network, [Education for Sustainable Development and Societal Transformations](#), which will foster sustainable development and peace through research, policy development and implementation that focuses on teacher education.



A fundraising drive named "25K in 25 Days" that supports [The Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora](#) at York has received more than \$200,000 in donations.

Relatedly, York received a \$1.2 million donation from the [RBC Foundation](#) as part of RBC Future Launch, directly supporting the work of the Jean Augustine Chair, held by education Professor Carl James.



The [ELLA \(Entrepreneurial Leadership & Learning Alliance\) accelerator program](#) launched Ascend 2021, a five-month accelerator program designed to help 17 women entrepreneurs scale their businesses at a fast-tracked pace.



[Three major research projects](#) led by York researchers have received more than \$9 million in research infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation:

- Distinguished Research Professor Eric Hessels has been awarded \$3,360,000 for the project Tabletop Probe of PeV-scale new physics;
- Professor and York Research Chair Derek Wilson has been awarded almost \$2.1 million as principal investigator of the project Technology-Enhanced Drug Development and Manufacturing (TEndev): MirrorLab; and
- Professor George Zhu has been awarded almost \$3.6 million for the project Intelligent Additive Manufacturing Technology for Space Exploration.





Osgoode Hall Law School has announced that it will commit \$1 to \$1.5 million toward a student relief plan that will assist Juris Doctor students who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.



Three students were recognized with TLN Teletatino Awards from the [Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean](#) for their outstanding work on the experiences of the Latin American diaspora in Canada. The 2020 recipients are:

- PhD student Tamara Toledo, Department of Visual Art and Art History;
- MFA film student Jean Pierre Marchant, Department of Cinema and Media Arts; and
- An honorable mention was also awarded to PhD student Asheda Dwyer, Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought.



The University launched its new [Service Excellence program](#), which will enhance our ability to provide higher quality and more efficient services to our students and community members, and support the priorities set out in *Building a Better Future: York University Academic Plan 2020-2025*.



Osgoode Hall Law School JD student [Maryam Hassam](#) was recognized with the Osler Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship for her commitment to being a leader for diversity, equity and inclusion within the law school, the legal profession and the broader non-law community.



[Marcia Salmon](#), a digital scholarship metadata librarian at York University Libraries, created a webliography – a list of electronic documents, websites, or other resources – published in the *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet* (2020) to serve as a guide for consumers to identify reliable organizations that provide information on influenza pandemics.



Osgoode Hall Law School JD students [Joshua White](#) and [William Lewer](#) won awards for best cross-examination and best closing, respectively, at the 2021 Ontario Trial Lawyers Association Cup.



Four Lassonde School of Engineering geomatics graduate students placed in the top five at this year's Graduate Student Poster Session organized by the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors:

- First Prize: Sowmya Natesan, Ph.D. student, Dept. of Earth & Space Science & Engineering;
- Third Prize: Sudha Vana, Ph.D. student, Dept. of Earth & Space Science & Engineering;
- Fourth Prize: Nacer Naciri, Ph.D. student, Dept. of Earth & Space Science & Engineering;
- Fifth Prize: Agata Szeremeta, M.Sc. student, Dept. of Earth & Space Science & Engineering.

APPOINTMENTS



Felicia Mings will join the Art Gallery of York University as the gallery's new curator on April 21, 2021.



Wendy Miller has been appointed Assistant Vice-President Finance and Chief Financial Officer, effective April 5, 2021. As a senior member of the leadership team in the Division of Finance and Administration, Miller will support strategic and operational decision making for the Finance portfolio, and work to advance York's vision for service excellence.



Osgoode Hall Law School Professor Signa Daum Shanks was appointed to the Independent Advisory Board for Supreme Court of Canada Judicial Appointments.



Vice-President Advancement Jeff O'Hagan was selected to become Vice-President, University Advancement at Western University.