

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020



[Anaïs Dagrou](#), a recent graduate of political science at Glendon Campus, was among the recipients of the "Top 100 Black Women to Watch in 2020 in Canada" awards at the Canada International Black Women Event for her outstanding contribution to Toronto's Black and Francophone communities.



The [Financial Times](#) of London has ranked the Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA (EMBA) the number one EMBA program in Canada. This marks the 13th time that the Kellogg-Schulich EMBA program has been ranked first in Canada during the 14 years it has participated in the ranking.

In its MBA by Career Specialization Rankings 2021, [QS World University Rankings](#) placed the Schulich School of Business 17th globally in Finance, 21st in Operations Management and 22nd in Marketing. Schulich was also the top-ranked MBA program in Canada in the Marketing and Technology categories.



The [R. P. Bratty Family Foundation](#) made a \$10 million donation toward the construction of the Markham Centre Campus (MCC). To honour the contributions of the Bratty Family, the University is naming the new atrium at the MCC "The Bratty Family Atrium."

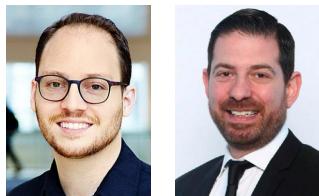


The Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) has awarded \$500,000 in funding to [two York researchers](#) for unique projects focused on mitigating the impact on the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding comes from CFI'S Exceptional Opportunities Fund for cutting edge research infrastructure. The two professors are:

- James Elder, Lassonde School of Engineering, for his project, "Agile AI-Powered Autonomous Robotics for COVID-19 Disinfection" and
- Sergey Krylov, Faculty of Science, for his project, "Development of Rapid and Accessible Diagnostics of COVID-19 using Small-molecule Probes Binding SARS-COV-2 Coat Proteins."



York's [ELLA Altitude](#), a program that helps women-led ventures scale their businesses with personalized assistance from industry leaders, has won the COVID-19 Support Award in the 2020 Canada Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards, presented in partnership with the Government of Canada's Trade Commissioner Service. The awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding contributors to Canada's entrepreneurial landscape through excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship.



Five faculty members received the Minister of Colleges and Universities' Awards of Excellence for their commitment to guiding the province of Ontario through the pandemic:

- Henriette Gezundhajt, Department of French Studies, leveraged her expertise in using the University's online learning platform, Moodle, to offer workshops and informal consultations to Francophone colleagues, helping to ensure a smooth transition to distance education;
- Dasantila Golemi-Kotra, Faculty of Science, has expertly guided Canadians looking to get through the pandemic safely, offering advice on how to effectively clean and sanitize homes and workplaces, and correctly use personal protective equipment;
- Steven Hoffman, Faculty of Health & Osgoode Hall Law School, has been appointed by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General to lead the development of a United Nations Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery;
- Murat Kristal, Schulich School of Business, along with colleagues at Schulich's Centre of Excellence - Big Data and Analytics Leadership, has developed an analytics dashboard that gives daily insights into the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Jianhong Wu, Faculty of Science, is leading the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, a national COVID-19 math modelling team, as it advises public health officials assessing the transmission risk of COVID-19 and the trajectory of potential future outbreaks.



Osgoode PhD candidate and Vanier Scholar [Jake Okechukwu Effoduh](#) has been selected as a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Frontier Risks. The Council will identify key future shocks for the next generation and propose policy opportunities that will build resiliency today in the face of these risks.



[Lions varsity student-athletes](#) raised \$1235 for the York Sport Council's third annual Halloween for Hunger campaign. The money will be donated to York Food Support Services, which has started the Curbside Food Hamper Distribution Program this year. With the money, the York Federation of Students will be able to create 50 food hampers to give to local community members.



The Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly has elected Osgoode Hall Law School Professor and York Research Chair in Pluralism and Public Law [Benjamin Berger](#), to the Board of Directors of the Justice Studies Centre of the Americas, an organization that provides technical support to OAS member states in their justice system reform processes.



[Zheng Hong \(George\) Zhu](#), Lassonde School of Engineering professor and the academic director of the Research Commons, has been inducted as a Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Astronautics - IAA Academician. The IAA is an independent organization of distinguished individuals elected by their peers for their outstanding contributions to astronautics and the exploration of space.



The [Schulich Charity Association](#) was recently named the 'Post-Secondary Challenge' award winner after coming in first place in fundraising for the CIBC Run for the Cure event.



[Dr. Shelia Harms](#), MD, a fourth-year PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education, is the recipient of the prestigious 2020 U21 Health Sciences Group (HSG) Teaching Excellence Award, which celebrates and rewards exceptional educational scholarship, particularly among research intensive universities, across the U21 HSG network.



Osgoode student [Jayashree Sivakumar](#) received this year's South Asian Bar Association Student Recognition Award for her outstanding academic achievements and contributions to Osgoode, South Asian Law Students' Association chapters and local communities.



The [Lassonde School of Engineering](#) was profiled in the UN 75 Sustainable Engineering in Action book, which marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) and details how engineering is tackling the most pressing challenges outlined in the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

APPOINTMENTS



[Maureen Armstrong](#) has been appointed Interim York University Ombudsperson. In addition to the day-to-day work of the ombudsperson, Maureen has a mandate to implement important reforms to the Office of the Ombudsperson to ensure it meets the needs of our community today and in the future.



[Brad Parkes](#) has been named York's next assistant vice-president of Facilities Services. He will lead the planning, development, maintenance and stewardship of York's campuses to advance teaching, learning and research.



Alumnus [Paul Jones](#) has been added to the Canada Basketball board of directors, the governing body of basketball in Canada.