



PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021



In 2023, York University will host the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, the largest academic gathering in Canada. [Dr. Andrea Davis](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities, was appointed as academic convenor for Congress 2023.



The Schulich School of Business was [ranked 10th in the world](#) and #1 in Canada in marketing research published from 2015–2020 in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, the world's leading academic journal on consumer research. It was also [ranked 4th in the world](#) and #1 in Canada in an annual global survey conducted by *Corporate Knights*, one of the world's largest circulation magazines with an explicit focus on responsible business.



CIFAL York launched its first event, Pre-COP26: Multi-level Joint Action for Climate, Nature and People, a knowledge-exchange dialogue on strengthening multilevel action for climate, nature and people. CIFAL centres provide innovative training throughout the world and serve as hubs for the exchange of knowledge among government officials, the private sector, academia and civil society. CIFAL York is led by professors [Idil Boran and Ali Asgary](#).



YSpace held one of its flagship events, the YSpace Technology Accelerator Demo Day, on October 6. The top three startups in the accelerator program were awarded \$30,000 in prize money between them. The \$15,000 first-place prize was awarded to [Karolina Valente and Christine Whiteside](#) of VoxCell BioInnovation. This biotech startup is disrupting the drug development industry and the field of oncology research by creating 3D vascularized cancer tissue models with its unique 3D bioprinter.



Lassonde School of Engineering students [Julia Paglia and Ignacio Isola](#) were presented with the Nascent Co-op/Internship Students of the Year Award in recognition of their exceptional contributions to their co-op employers and involvement in the Lassonde community.



Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change contract faculty member [Mark Terry](#)'s documentary film, *The Changing Face of Iceland*, was screened at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, on November 4. The film examines the impacts of climate change on Iceland.



At 87 years young, [Varathaledchumy Shanmuganathan](#) walked the virtual stage and became York University's oldest graduate. Shanmuganathan collected her master's degree in political science amongst a sea of 4,000 students, some young enough to be her grandchildren.



[Tracey Taylor-O'Reilly](#), Assistant Vice-President of Continuing Studies, has been named one of this year's top 100 most powerful women in Canada by the Women's Executive Network. Launched in 2003, the Top 100 Awards celebrate the accomplishments of Canada's female executive talent as well as their organizations and networks.



[Sheila Colla](#), Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, received the 2021 C. Gordon Hewitt Award for scientists with outstanding contributions to entomology in Canada. The award recognizes her notable achievements in the field of entomological research, conservation, education and outreach in Canada and beyond.



Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA student [Akriti Bhatnagar](#) was selected as the 2021 recipient of the Franklin and Sasarman Simard Scholarship, which acknowledges a student who has a strong duty of respect and service towards individuals and local communities while embracing a global cultural context; promotes equality in matters of gender, race and creed; and displays resilience and perseverance through lifelong learning.



[Andil Gosine](#), Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, received the Duke University Press Scholars of Color First Book Award for his book, *Nature's Wild: Love, Sex, and Law in the Caribbean* (October 2021). In *Nature's Wild*, Gosine engages with questions of humanism, queer theory and animality to examine and revise understandings of queer desire in the Caribbean.



[Salar Pashtoonyar](#), an MFA student at York, won a bronze medal at the 48th Student Academy Awards Competition in the Narrative (International Film Schools) category for his film *Bad Omen*.



[Mathieu Poirier](#), Assistant Professor of Social Epidemiology in the Faculty of Health, will serve as the new Associate Director at the Global Strategy Lab, where he previously worked as an Investigator and Research Director of Global Legal Epidemiology.



[Sandra Rehan](#), Associate Professor in the Faculty of Science, was awarded the prestigious E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship for her work in bee genomics, molecular ecology and behavioural genetics.



[Frankie Billingsley](#), Associate Registrar and Director, Student Records and Scheduling, realized a lifelong dream when she travelled to Tokyo to be an umpire for women's softball at the Olympic Games.



[Jude Kong](#), Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Science, was named as a Black hero of operational research by the Operational Research Society.