

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

OCTOBER 2018



Professor Doug Van Nort, Canada Research Chair in Digital Performance, was recognized with the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) [Junior Teaching Award](#) for his contributions to teaching excellence, including the development of innovative courses that explore sound, performance & telematics. He has also played an important role in the development of AMPD's Digital Media graduate program.



A team of York students won first place in the [2018 Innovative Design for Accessibility \(IDeA\) competition](#), which challenges university students from across Canada to develop innovative solutions to accessibility barriers for people with disabilities. Team members Ali Sayed, Robert Ingino, Rui Amoah and Rijul Aggarwal created a classroom simulation for visually impaired children, which they will present at the 2018 Canadian Innovation Exchange (CIX).



Six recent graduates of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) have been named recipients of the [FGS Thesis and Dissertation Prize](#), which celebrates exceptional master's and PhD theses. The recipients are:

- Lesley Chan, MA, Film - *The Urge to Run a Lap*
- Manfred Becker, PhD Communication and Culture - *The Frankenbite: Ethics and Reality in the Post-Production of Factual Programming*
- Brock Harpur, PhD Biology - *Population Genomics Approaches to Understanding the Genetics and Evolution of Social Insects*
- Lana Forman, MA Music - *The Positivistic Mysticism of Alexander Scriabin: An Analysis of the Three Études, Op. 65.* (Not pictured.)
- Julia Gauberg, MA Biology - *The Barrier Properties of the Skin of Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic Vertebrates.*
- Bryan Nelson, PhD Social and Political Thought - *Democracy Against: The Antimonies of Politics.* (Not pictured.)



York University alumnus [Rob Wildeboer](#) (LLB/MBA '85), Executive Chairman and Co-Founder of Martinrea International Inc., has been named the recipient of the 2017 Hennick Medal for Career Achievement, which is awarded annually to a business and law graduate who has earned widespread recognition in the business and legal communities



Regenesys York officially opened the [Cycle York Bike Centre](#), a campus space that will help promote health and sustainability on our Keele Campus through initiatives such as bicycle rentals, safety workshops, and organized group rides.



Faculty of Science alumna [Dr. Pamela Ohashi](#) is the winner of the Canadian Cancer Society's Robert L. Noble Prize for outstanding achievements in basic biomedical cancer research. Dr. Ohashi is a world-renowned leader in cancer immunology whose work has shaped the medical community's understanding of how the immune system reacts to tumours.



History professor [Rachel Koopmans'](#) groundbreaking work on the stained glass windows at Canterbury Cathedral has been the subject of media attention in England, with articles on her discoveries featuring in The Times and on BBC News.



Faculty of Education professors Nombuso Dlamini and Uzo Anucha are co-leading the [Youth in Politics](#) Project, an experiential education pilot project in high schools across Ontario that aims to build students' capacity for civic action.



York University has partnered with Canadian commerce platform Shopify to offer a visionary education opportunity called [Dev Degree](#). The unique program embeds students directly into development teams at Shopify through a paid internship that culminates with a unique honours Bachelor of Computer Science (BSc Hons.) degree.



AMPD alumna [Amanda Boulos](#) (BFA Hons.'13) was named the national winner of the 2018 RBC Canadian Painting Competition. Boulos received a prize of \$25,000 and her oil-on-panel painting *In the Morning* (2017) will join the RBC Corporate Art Collection. As part of the prize, Boulos has also been awarded a residency at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.



Osgoode JD student and Paralympian [Jeff Adams](#) will be inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his athletic achievements, his advocacy for accessibility, and his support for organizations that promote equality for people with disabilities.



York alumnus and honorary degree recipient [Jay S. Hennick](#) (BA '78, LL.D '11) has been chosen to receive the 2019 International Horatio Alger Award from the Horatio Alger Association of Canada in honour of his philanthropic efforts and his success as an international business leader.



The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, a national non-profit organization based at Osgoode Hall Law School, has launched the [Community-Based Justice Research Project](#) in partnership with researchers in Kenya, Sierra Leone and South Africa. The project is a three-year initiative to assess the costs, benefits and opportunities for increasing access to community-based justice services and is funded by the International Development Research Centre with support from Open Society Foundations.



Osgoode Professor [Estair Van Wagner](#) has been awarded the 2018 Distinguished Education Award for Emerging Faculty from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Academy of Environmental Law in recognition of her contributions to the field of environmental law education.



Faculty of Education alumna [Jennifer Solda](#) (BEd '18) was selected as one of the recipients of the 2018 Faculty Award Education Award from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. The annual award is presented to a graduating teacher candidate who has demonstrated a high degree of leadership and professional competence.



LA&PS Professor [Carla Lipsig-Mummé](#) received the prestigious SSHRC Impact Award in the Partnership Category for her extensive contributions to labour and the environment. Her current project, "Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change," which brings together 56 individual researchers and 25 partner organizations and unions in seven countries, has been recognized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Osgoode Hall Law School PhD candidate [Ian Stedman](#) has been awarded a prestigious Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence Law and Ethics with the Hospital for Sick Children's Centre for Computational Medicine. The fellowship, which is valued at \$40,000, will allow Stedman to explore the role that artificial intelligence can play in improving health incomes.



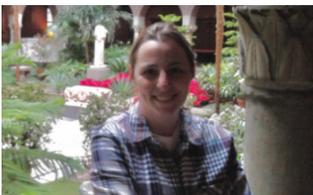
Music PhD candidate [Natasha Walsh](#) is one of eight recipients of the George Black Membership Scholarship presented by the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. The award, which goes to students researching and developing congregational song, includes a year's membership in the Hymn Society and an 18-month membership to the Southern Ontario Chapter of the Hymn Society.



School of Health Policy and Management Professor [Claudia Chaufan](#) was awarded the J. William Fulbright grant award to the West Bank. The grant funded Dr. Chaufan's recent trip to Birzeit University with the Community Health and Social Sciences Programs, where she engaged in research and curriculum development.



PhD candidate in Civil Engineering [Adrien Sparling](#) was featured on CBC Toronto news to demonstrate his research, which explores how to make masonry buildings more efficient and resilient through strategic wall reinforcements.



Lassonde PhD student [Athina Peidou](#) received the best student paper award in Geodesy for scientific merit and outstanding oral presentation of her paper entitled *GRACE-FO in differential mode*, which was presented at the Annual Canadian Geophysical Union 2018 meeting.



Lassonde Professor [Gerd Grau](#) has received an NSERC Engage Grant together with his industrial partner SolarGridEnergy Inc for their project *Printed solid-state lithium-ion battery for integration with solar panel*. The project aims to develop lower cost, lower weight, and higher performance batteries that can be directly integrated with solar panels.



LAPS students Erogu Otasowie and Cassandra Moniz have been named the 2017-18 recipients of the [Portuguese Gives You Wings award](#), which recognizes academic excellence in an elementary Portuguese-language course. Otasowie and Moniz will each receive a free trip to the Azores region of Portugal, courtesy of Azores Airlines.



York University researchers have received a [\\$1.1-million award](#) from the Academy of Korean Studies to establish an initiative that seeks to develop the study of Korea in Eastern Canada as well as globally. The project includes scholars at six other Canadian universities and two American institutions, as well as the following York faculty members:

- Professor Hyun Ok Park, Department of Sociology, LA&PS
- Professor Mihyon Jeon, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, LA&PS
- Professor Laam Hae, Department of Politics, LA&PS
- Professor Theresa Hyun, Department of Humanities, LA&PS
- Professor Hong Kal, Visual Art and Art History, AMPD
- Professor Ann H. Kim, Department of Sociology, LA&PS
- Professor Thomas R. Klassen, School of Public Policy and Administration, LA&PS
- Professor Ahrong Lee, Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, LA&PS



Paul Tsaparis (MBA '84) has been appointed the Chair of York University's volunteer Board of Governors. His appointment went into effect on July 1.



Five new members have been appointed to the York University [Board of Governors](#), effective July 1. The members are:

- Francesca Accinelli (BA '92)
- Maxwell Gotlieb (BA '72, LLB '75, LLM '97)
- Ilana Lazar, current Bachelor of Education student
- Anita Ramjattan (BA '03, MES '12), staff member and York PhD candidate
- Professor George Turlakis, Lassonde School of Engineering



Schulich Professor [Peter Macdonald](#) has been appointed co-director of the Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law at York University, which promotes and develops joint business and law scholarship and education.