

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020



York University announced that the doors to the [Markham Centre Campus](#) will open in 2023. The state-of-the-art campus will offer innovative academic programs in high demand areas with a rich array of experiential education activities, and will facilitate multisector partnerships to take on pressing research problems to build inclusive and resilient communities.

SSHRC = CRSH

[Thirty-seven York researchers](#) have been awarded more than \$1.5 million in funding through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Development Grants program, which supports initial stages of research and enables the development of new research questions. Funding is provided to individuals or teams for projects of up to two years.



The recipients of the [2019 President's Staff Recognition Awards](#) were announced. The Awards recognize and celebrate the excellence of our dedicated staff members and the impact they are making at the University and beyond:

- The Ronald Kent Medal: Michele Millard, coordinator, Centre for Refugee Studies;
- The Deborah Hobson York Citizenship Award: Yassin Handouleh, assessor, Transfer Credit and Degree Audit, Academic and Student Financial Services, Glendon;
- The President's Leadership Award: Tuan Nguyen, manager, Library Information Systems, Library, Digital Systems & Initiatives;
- The President's Voice of York Award: Madeline Salzarulo, Undergraduate Program Assistant, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science;
- The Phyllis Clark Campus Service Award: Tom Hodgson, manager, Physical Resources, Health & Safety, Research Support, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Healthm;
- The Gary Brewer Emerging Leader Award: Julie Hard, manager, International Relations, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Health; and
- The Harriet Lewis Team Award for Service Excellence: Gosford Fire Emergency Response Team.



Professor [Janet Walker](#) of Osgoode Hall Law School and Professor [Sergey Krylov](#) of the Department of Chemistry in the Faculty of Science have been selected to receive the title of Distinguished Research Professor. The title is given to active faculty members of the academy in recognition of sustained and outstanding scholarly achievements in research, and is awarded for life.



Professor [Robert Myers](#), from the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, has been honoured with a University Professorship. The award is conferred upon long-serving tenured faculty members who have made extraordinary contributions to the University as colleagues, teachers and scholars.



Six faculty members have been elected to The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) as part of the Class of 2020. Recognition by the RSC is the highest honour an individual can achieve in the Arts, Social Sciences and Sciences:

- Molly Ladd-Taylor, Department of History, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS);
- William Wicken, Department of History, LA&PS;
- John Greyson, Department of Cinema & Media Studies, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design;
- Faculty of Science Dean Rui Wang, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science;
- Mark Terry, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change and Research Associate, Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research; and
- Benjamin Berger, Osgoode Hall Law School (elected to the College of New Scholars).



York University has been named one of [Canada's Greenest Employers](#) for the eighth consecutive year in recognition of our unique environmental initiatives and programs, success rate in reducing our environmental footprint and engaging York employees in these environmental efforts.



Construction crews began work on the [School of Continuing Studies'](#) new, self-funded building at the Keele Campus. The building will mark the first time the school's professional and language program students, instructors and staff will be united in one location. To celebrate this milestone for the University community, the school has launched a [virtual ground-breaking website](#).



Faculty of Health Professor [Laurie Wilcox](#) was elected as president of the board of directors of the Vision Sciences Society (VSS), a non-profit membership organization of scientists who are interested in the functional aspects of vision.



Four PhD students have been awarded the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for 2020. Valued at \$50,000 per year for three years during doctoral studies, the Vanier scholarship is awarded by the Government of Canada to doctoral students whose work displays excellence in three equally weighted selection criteria: academic excellence, research potential and leadership. The four students are:

- Cameron Butler, Anthropology - Thesis: "Fertilizing Settler Bodies: Tracing Global Phosphorus Transfers through the Fraser Valley, BC";
- Rajat Nayyar, Theatre - Thesis: "Women's Vocality, Radical Sociality: Re-Imagining Power, Folklore & Audiovisual Ethnography in Rural North India";
- Laura Keane, Mathematics and Statistics - Thesis: "Hybrid mathematical modelling, analysis, and simulation to improve design and operation of lithium-ion batteries"; and
- Balikisu Osman, Environmental Studies - Thesis: Analyzing climate risks and management responses for food security in northern Ghana."

The Economist

The Economist magazine ranked the Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA ninth in the world and first Canada in its latest EMBA ranking. The Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA program has consistently been rated among the top 10 in the world by the Economist in each of the four EMBA rankings it has conducted.

The Kellogg-Schulich EMBA program was also ranked third in the world in the category of Joint Programs in the [2020 QS Global EMBA Rankings](#).



Three professors have earned Massey College appointments for the 2020-21 academic year:

- York-Massey Fellowship (2020-21) - Carmela Murdocca: Murdocca will use this fellowship to work on her book manuscript titled "Testimony, Racial Violence and Redress." She will also begin the research project 'Colonial and Racial Genealogies of Socio-Legal Personhood.' [Not pictured]
- York-Massey Visiting Scholarship (2020-21) - Mark Winfield: A major focus of Winfield's research over the 2020-21 period will be examining the impact of the emergence of populist governments in Canada, United States, European Union and elsewhere on climate change mitigation and low-carbon sustainable energy transition policies.
- York-Massey Visiting Scholarship (2020-21) - Deborah Britzman: Britzman's sabbatical residency will be spent working on three books: Anticipating Education: Selected Papers on pedagogy with psychoanalysis; Mental Health for Educators with Aziz Guzel; and When History Returns: Psychoanalytic Studies for Humane Learning.



Recent Kinesiology and Health Science alumnus [Aly Fawzy](#) is the recipient of the Murray G. Ross Award, one of the highest honours for a graduating student which recognizes outstanding academic excellence and notable contributions to the University.



[Mandy Frake-Mistak](#), an educational developer for York University's Teaching Commons, joined the 2020 cohort of International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSoTL) Fellows. She is one of three Canadians and nine scholars from around the world to receive the honour, which recognizes leaders who have made exemplary contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning at the local, national, regional and/or international levels.



Three York PhD graduates and three recent undergraduate alumni are this year's recipients of the Governor General's Gold and Silver Medals, respectively. The medals are the most prestigious recognition presented to students.

The Gold Medal recipients are:

- Siobhan Angus, art history and visual culture;
- Athina Peidou, earth and space science and engineering; and
- Stephanie Raposo, social and personality psychology.

The Silver Medal recipients are:

- Megan Schwegel, biology program, Glendon Campus;
- James Addis, economics, mathematics and music, Glendon Campus; and
- Lance Morrison, Indigenous studies.



The Schulich School of Business announced the establishment of the [Centre of Excellence in Health Management and Leadership](#), made possible by a \$5-million donation from the Krembil Foundation and Schulich graduate Robert Krembil (MBA '71, Hon LLD '00). The Centre will become a leading global hub of industry outreach, education and research at Schulich, combining academic excellence in degree programs and executive training together with scholarship support and collaborative research in the health sector.



The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS) has announced details of the [LA&PS Bridging Program](#), a new program for internationally educated professionals (IEPs) funded through a contract agreement with the Canadian federal government valued at \$1,095,706 over the next three years. The partnership will provide IEPs with access to English language support, and will place an emphasis on building communication competencies and increasing familiarity with the Canadian professional setting.



A team of Schulich Master of Management (MMGT) students has won the first-ever Bob Elhart Prize for their entrepreneurial idea BARE. Shreya Ramesh, Puneet Gill, Aneetinder Saini and Vibhuti Handa were inspired by the closure of salons and spas during the early stages of the pandemic. The team decided upon a reusable applicator and cotton wax strips with organic wax at a highly affordable price.



Eight emerging and four established researchers will join the York Research Chairs (YRC) program, York University's internal counterpart to the national Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program, which recognizes outstanding researchers:

Tier 1 York Research Chairs

- Ilijas Farah, York Research Chair in Foundations of Operator Algebras, Faculty of Science;
- Stephen Gaetz, York Research Chair in Homelessness and Research Impact, Faculty of Education;
- Obiora Okafor, York Research Chair in International and Transnational Legal Studies - Osgoode Hall Law School (Renewal); and
- Laurie Wilcox, York Research Chair in 3D Vision, Faculty of Health.



Tier 2 York Research Chairs

- Ali Abdul-Sater, York Research Chair in the Regulatory Mechanisms of Inflammation, Faculty of Health;
- Sheila Colla, York Research Chair in Interdisciplinary Conservation Science, Faculty of Environmental Studies;
- Mike Daly, York Research Chair in Planetary Science, Lassonde School of Engineering (Renewal);
- Sarah Flicker, York Research Chair in Community-Based Participatory Research, Faculty of Environmental Studies;
- Eve Haque, York Research Chair in Linguistic Diversity and Community Vitality, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies;
- Ali Sadeghi-Naini, York Research Chair in Quantitative Imaging and Smart Biomarkers, Lassonde School of Engineering;
- Valérie A. M. Schoof, York Research Chair in Primate Behavioural Endocrinology, Glendon Campus; and
- Marlis Schweitzer, York Research Chair in Theatre and Performance History, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design.



The Rob and Cheryl McEwen Graduate Study & Research Building has been named a recipient of the [Ontario Association of Architects \(OAA\) 2020 Design Excellence Awards](#), which recognize building projects that demonstrate architectural excellence, creativity and sustainable design.



[Anna St. Onge](#), Director of Digital Scholarship Infrastructure with York University Libraries, has been recognized by the Archives Association of Ontario with the James J. Talman award for her innovative work in bringing archival theories and methodologies to digital scholarship and for her continuing efforts to put challenging ideas and beliefs into action.



Four exceptional faculty members who have demonstrated enthusiasm and innovative approaches to teaching have been named the recipients of the President's University-Wide Teaching Awards (PUWTA). This year's recipients are:

- Full-time tenured faculty with 10 or more years of full-time teaching experience Category: Professor Paula Wilson, Faculty of Science;
- Full-time faculty with less than 10 years teaching experience category: Michael Boni, Faculty of Health;
- Contract faculty category: Lee Frew, Department of English, Glendon Campus; and
- Teaching assistant category: Roger Carrick, Lassonde School of Engineering.



A team of five Lassonde School of Engineering students was selected as one of 40 finalists in the global hackathon SpaceApps, run by NASA, for its work in developing a COVID-19 Preparedness Index Calculator to limit fatalities and mitigate economic fallout. Out of the 40 teams, the Lassonde team went on to become one of eight honourable mention winners, placing in the top 14 of the 2,000 participating teams. The team members that took part in the hackathon are:

- Adrian Fagarasanu, third-year undergraduate student, Computer Science;
- Megan Gran, third-year undergraduate student, Space Engineering;
- Sogand Talebi, first-year master's student, Earth & Atmospheric Science;
- Dennis Nevelev, second-year undergraduate student, Computer Science; and
- Ibrahim Yusuf, third-year undergraduate student, Electrical Engineering.



York's Centre for Feminist Research announced [Sheila Jennings](#) to be the recipient of the 2018-19 Mary McEwan Memorial Award. Named in honour of Dr. Mary McEwan, a feminist psychiatrist, this annual award of \$1,000 is awarded to one PhD dissertation produced each academic year at York in the area of feminist scholarship.



Three students are recipients of the Robert Everett Exceptional Leadership in Student Governance Awards. Named in honour of a distinguished senior assistant secretary of the University, the Awards recognize and celebrate students and their impact on governance at York. The student recipients are:

- Kimiko Clark, undergraduate, Multidisciplinary Studies (Environmental and Health Studies), Glendon Campus; [Not pictured]
- Michelle Cobblah, undergraduate, Economics and International Development Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies; student senator;
- and, Moboluwaajide (Bo) Joseph, undergraduate, Communications and Creative Writing, Glendon Campus.



Dahabo Ibrahim, a master's student in education at York University's campus in Dadaab, Kenya, is the inaugural recipient of the Centre for Refugee Studies' (CRS) Anthony Richmond Scholarship, which recognizes promising graduate student research on the intersections of forced migration and environmental changes, such as climate change, flooding, drought, forest fires and land or sanitary degradation.



A major renovation to the [York Lions Stadium](#) will transform it into the cornerstone of a new vision for athletic and recreation facilities on campus by spring of 2021. The \$8.2 million upgrade includes the installation of a seasonal dome and a new FIFA Quality Pro - 2 Star and World Rugby - 22 Certified artificial turf surface expanded to meet the size standards required to play sports such as soccer and football. The installation of the air-supported dome enclosure, which will be one the largest in Ontario, will convert the existing stadium structure into a multi-use facility that can be used year-round.



The Faculty of Education has announced the recipients of this year's [Don Galbraith Pre-Service Teacher Award of Excellence](#) presented by the Science Teacher Association of Ontario (STAO):

- Intermediate/Senior Award recipient: Saya Szparlo (Entry: Exploring Sustainability through School Gardens in Ontario - Grade 9 unit plan);
- Junior/ Intermediate Award recipient: Caleb Wesley (Entry: The thirteen moons: The lunar cycle significance for Indigenous nations -Grade 6 lesson plan); and
- Primary/ Junior Award recipient: Dorothea Bailey-Leung (Entry: Sustainable Energy and STEAM design thinking - Grade 6 culminating task).

The following teacher candidates were also recognized as nominees:

- Yasmine Abdelaal (Entry: Integrating Multicultural Content in Science: Meet the Elements (Grade 9) and Molecular Genetics - Grade 12 biology); and
- Rawan Ibrahem (Entry: Investigating the impact of electricity production on Indigenous communities and the environment - Grade 6).



After a successful pilot test, the [C4: The Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom course](#) will begin its second year at York. The course is open to all York students at the end of their degrees, and enables students from different faculties to work in multidisciplinary teams focused on solving pressing, real-world challenges posed by organizations operating in both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds - and to get credit for their work.



York University's Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning Alliance program for women business owners - [ELLA](#) - has received \$281,600 in top-up funding from the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) Ecosystem Fund through FedDev Ontario that will go toward a new Fractional Executive Program, enabling participants in ELLA's Altitude program to accelerate company growth.



Assistant Professor [Skye Fitzpatrick](#) was selected as the winner of the 2019 Canadian Psychological Association's Best Article Award in *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science* (CJBS) for her paper that examines therapeutic strategies for reducing body image distress in individuals with eating disorders.



Ten students were recently honoured with the Robert J. Tiffin Student Leadership Award, which recognizes students' contributions to the growth, development and vitality of the University community through their leadership, enthusiasm and dedication:

- Issa Abdi Jamaa
- Kelly Fung
- Crystal Heidari
- Jc Elijah Madayag-Bawuah
- Emily Secnik
- Aly Fawzy
- Elizabeth German
- Moboluwajidide (Bo) Joseph
- Theresa Nguyen
- Mark Subekti Tan



In partnership with the Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Ontario, the Schulich School of Business has announced the creation of the new [CPA Ontario Centre in Digital Financial Information](#). Funded by CPA Ontario, this three-year project will address emerging and topical issues that are deeply relevant to the accounting profession, as well as academic and industry audiences.



The University launched its [new website](#) with a modern design, enhanced functionality and an improved user experience. As part of the new pan-University web optimization strategy, the website underwent [a major refresh](#) to significantly improve the experience for visitors and infuse elements of York's new visual system and brand.



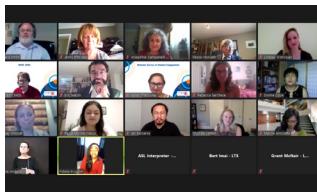
Lassonde PhD candidate and teaching assistant in Mechanical Engineering, [Minha R. Ha](#), has been awarded the 2020 Engineering Education Award from the Canadian Engineering Education Association (CEEA). This annual award is presented to a student who demonstrates unmatched leadership with a commitment to innovating engineering education, while making significant contributions to the field through their own research.



Kim Tran, a recent graduate of the Faculty of Education's concurrent bachelor of education program, was selected as one of the recipients of the 2020 Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) Faculty of Education Award for this past school year. Valued at \$1,000, the annual award is presented to one graduating intermediate, senior or technological education teacher candidate at each Faculty of Education who has demonstrated political or social activism that promotes the professional nature of teaching, and shows leadership by supporting and advocating for fellow teacher candidates.



York officially launched its [new Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change \(EUC\)](#). The new Faculty builds on existing academic and research excellence to become a leader in tackling environmental and social issues, and the climate crisis by bringing together the Faculty of Environmental Studies and the Department of Geography. EUC will prepare students to take on some of the most difficult challenges in the world today and empower them to be changemakers for a sustainable and just future.



The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) seeks input from first- and fourth-year undergraduates about their experiences at the University. The [Schulich School of Business](#) achieved 47.5 per cent participation rate, earning them the 2020 NSSE Champion Cup as they achieved a higher participation rate than any other faculty.



Postdoctoral fellow [Salman Hussain](#) of anthropology has been named one of this year's recipients of the prestigious Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship. Valued at \$70,000 per year for two years, the fellowship supports postdoctoral researchers who will positively contribute to the country's economic, social and research-based growth. In his research, Hussain seeks to investigate how law and medicine define a "third gender" in South Asia, and examines how the concept has been institutionalized in the case of hijras (transgender performers) in Pakistan.



[David Phipps](#), assistant vice-president, Research, Strategy & Impact, Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation, was awarded two honours for his exceptional work and leadership:

- the Walter Hitschfeld Award, the top research administration award in Canada, from the Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA); and
- Award for Excellence in Research Management Leadership, the foremost international award from the International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS).



York's [Glendon Campus](#) and the Lycée Français de Toronto (LFT) have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in French education, from preschool to university. The MOU will allow Glendon's French as a Second Language (FSL) education students and newly graduated, accredited teachers to participate in a work-integrated learning opportunity to gain training and experience in a French-language setting.



[Mohamed Duale](#), a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education, has been awarded the African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS) Dissertation Fellowship at Boston College for 2020-21. As one of the most competitive fellowships in the social sciences and humanities in the United States, the fellowship comes with a \$30,000 stipend and recognizes students who pursue innovative and interdisciplinary projects within the field of African and African



York launched a new [Graduate Diploma in Management](#) (GDM) that is designed to complement non-business degrees by providing a solid understanding of the core principles of modern management and the key skills required for managing an organization.



The York University Alumni Board has recognized four distinguished York students for their academic excellence and student leadership through this year's [Alumni Awards and Scholarships](#):

- Harry Arthurs Alumni Families Scholarship: Olivia Beltrano (BBA candidate '24);
- Golden GRADitude Award: Khadeja Elsibai (BPA '20);
- Golden GRADitude Award: Lance Morrison (BA '20); and
- Alumni Silver Jubilee Scholarship: Aly Fawzy (BSc '20).

APPOINTMENTS



Professor [Robert Savage](#) has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Education for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2021.



Professor [Carl E. James](#) was appointed the inaugural senior advisor on equity and representation to the University, as part of the Division of Equity, People and Culture. In this role, he will provide strategic advice, and work to guide the development of a University Equity Plan, while advising on matters of significance to racialized students, faculty and staff.



Professor [Andrea Davis](#) was appointed special advisor on Liberal Arts & Professional Studies' Anti-Black Racism Strategy, a position that was developed by LA&PS' Dean's Office as part of the Faculty's comprehensive response to combating anti-Black racism.



Professor [Steven Hoffman](#) has been appointed by the UN Deputy Secretary-General to lead the development of a United Nations Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery, which will engage researchers, implementers, funders and citizens around the world to identify priority knowledge needs and research areas for rebuilding after the pandemic and safeguarding progress towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



[Ran Lewin](#) was appointed to the newly created position of Assistant Vice-President Budgets and Asset Management, where he will be responsible for providing leadership and direction in the areas of budget and asset management to the Vice President Finance & Administration, Provost, University Executives as well as to the Board of Governors and other Board Committees.



[Terry Shields](#) has been appointed Assistant Vice-President Finance and Chief Financial Officer, effective September 21.



[Colin Coates](#) was appointed to serve as associate principal, research and graduate studies at Glendon Campus.



Professor [Rob Allison](#), a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, will lead York University's Centre for Vision Research (CVR) as its new director.



[Ena Chadha](#), an instructor at the Schulich School of Business, was recently appointed as the interim Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in recognition of her academic and professional accomplishments advocating for social justice.