

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

APRIL 2022



TOP 30
ALUMNI
UNDER 30

Representing every faculty at the University, the [2022 Top 30 Alumni Under 30](#) are applying the education, skills, and experiences they received at York to meaningful careers and community service endeavours, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to the public good. Included in the list are:

- Banin Abdul Khaliq, BA '16, Faculty of Health
- Tarnem Afify, BSc '21, Faculty of Science
- Suzanna Alsayed, BA '16, BA '17, Glendon College; MDEM '19, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies/Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Sayjon Ariyaratnam, BA '16, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies; JD '20/MBA '20, Osgoode Hall Law School/Schulich School of Business/ Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Myra Arshad, BBA '18, Schulich School of Business
- Karissa Barbro, BA '14, Glendon College
- Elijah Bawuah, BA '18, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies; MES '21, Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change/ Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Jonathan Clodman, BA '19/BEEd '19, Faculty of Health/Faculty of Education; MEd '20, Faculty of Education/ Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Kaleb Dahlgren, BCom '21, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Bri Darboh, BA '15, MA '18, Faculty of Health/Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Emily Durham, BHRM '17, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Basma Elbahnasawy, BA '18, Lassonde School of Engineering
- Ali El-Shayeb, iBBA '18, Schulich School of Business
- Vito Giovannetti, BBA '14, Schulich School of Business
- Victoria Granova, BBA '15, Schulich School of Business
- Yaakov Green, BSc '17, Faculty of Science
- Rizvana Hredita, BAS '16, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Melissa Humana-Paredes, BA '17, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Fatou Jammeh, iBA '15, Glendon College
- Alamgir Khandwala, BAS '17, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Sarah Laframboise, BSc '18, Faculty of Science
- Taylor Lyons, BA '18, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Farkhunda Muhtaj, BSc '19, Faculty of Health; BEd '21, Faculty of Education
- Osman Naqvi, MMgt '17, Schulich School of Business/ Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Gabriela Osio Vanden, BFA '16, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- Jason Robinson, BA '17, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies; MES '19, Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change/Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Anna-Kay Russell du Toit, iBA '15, Glendon College
- Mahad Shahzad, BBA '20, Schulich School of Business
- Jonelle Sills, BFA '16/BEEd '16, School of the Arts, Performance & Design/Faculty of Education
- Emily Wright, BA '17, Glendon College



York Lions soccer alum [Mark-Anthony Kaye](#) and Team Canada qualified for the 1st World Cup since 1986. Kaye, who spent two seasons as a member of the Lions men's soccer program, has played 33 games for the Canadian men's national team, including 13 over the last year in World Cup qualifying.



[Anmol Kaur](#) (BA'22), an International Studies student at Glendon Campus, is one of 20 Canadians chosen as a McCall MacBain Scholar, a recipient of an intensive leadership-based scholarship that supports master's and professional studies. With the scholarship, Kaur plans to study law at McGill to advocate for vulnerable populations. Kaur is the second consecutive York University student to earn the McCall MacBain Scholarship.



Lassonde School of Engineering Professor [Jinjun Shan](#), who is the department chair of Earth and Space Science and Engineering, has been elected as a 2021 Fellow of the American Astronautical Society (AAS). The AAS selects members to become Fellows in recognition of their significant scientific, engineering, academic and management contributions to AAS and the space industry.



[Tiana Putric](#), a fourth-year Disaster & Emergency Management student in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, has been awarded the Fulbright Canada Killam Fellowship, a bi-national exchange for exceptional undergraduate students in Canada and the United States. Putric is one of 16 Canadian students chosen to participate in the prestigious program, which aims to promote Canada-U.S. relations.



[Professor Carl E. James](#), Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora, is one of five recipients of the 2022 Killam Prize. Professor James was awarded with the honour for his research on identity, race, class, gender, immigration, and creating more equitable societies. The Killam Prizes honour eminent Canadian researchers in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, and engineering.



[Four York University student-athletes](#) have been recognized by Ontario University Athletics (OUA) with awards and honours.

- York University Lions men's basketball guard Prince Kamunga has been named an OUA second team all-star after his team-leading offensive campaign put him amongst the best in the conference.
- Two members of the York University Lions women's basketball team have been named award winners and all-stars. Lauren Golding has been named a second team all-star, and Kiara Leveridge received the rookie of the year award.
- After a successful first year in the league, York University Lions men's hockey defender Conner Senken has earned a place on the OUA's 2021-22 all-rookie team.



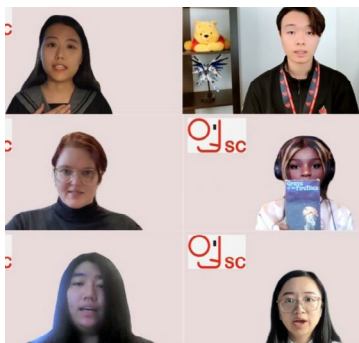
The dual degree [Master of Business Administration/Juris Doctor program](#) offered by York University’s Schulich School of Business with Osgoode Hall Law School was recently named among the top 10 business and law programs in North America by FIND MBA, a leading management education website. The Schulich/Osgoode program was ranked alongside other dual degree programs delivered by Harvard, Stanford, Wharton, Columbia, and Chicago.



A paper published in 2021 by [three York University researchers](#) in the Faculty of Health has been awarded the 2021 Quantitative Article of the Year award. The paper, “LGBTQ+ People’s Experiences of Barriers and Welcoming Factors when Accessing and Attending Intervention for Psychological Trauma,” co-authored by Dr. Leah Keating (PhD ’17), psychologist and former postdoctoral Fellow at York University; Dr. Robert T. Muller, psychologist and professor in the Faculty of Health; and York PhD student Cassy Wyers (MA ’21), investigates LGBTQ+ people’s experiences accessing mental health services, and documents the multiple barriers they encounter when seeking intervention for psychological trauma.



[Pouya Rezai](#), associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering, will be inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME) during its congress on June 7. The CSME Honours and Awards Committee selected Rezai as a 2022 CSME Fellow for his significant contributions to progressing the mechanical engineering profession and the breadth and excellence of his research, and that of his students, in mechanical engineering.



[Six York University students](#) enrolled in the Japanese Studies program in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguists at the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies were each presented with an award at the 40th Ontario Japanese Speech Contest on March 6:

- Grand Prize: Hyokyoung Han for “My political participation”
- Beginners first: Elvin Yam for “Not the end”
- Beginners second: Janel Acheampong for “Seita and Alex”
- Advanced second: Shirley Ho for “The food service industry’s new normal”
- Canon Special Prize: Keying Ren for “Is uniform unique?”
- Special Prize: Harmony Ro Newcombe for “My name is not Harmony”



[Alexandra Markwell and Vincci Li](#) are Top 25 finalists in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council’s 2022 Storytellers Challenge, which asks students to show how social sciences and humanities research inspires change. Markwell is a psychology student at the Faculty of Health and an incoming clinical development master’s student whose research submission for the 2022 Storytellers Challenge is *Responsive Parenting Programs: Empowering Parents to Support Children’s Language*. Li is a PhD candidate in York’s Social & Political Thought graduate program whose research submission for the 2022 Storytellers Challenge is *Crowdfunding for Our Lives*.



Associate Professor [Zulfikar Hirji](#) in the Department of Anthropology at the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies is one of four life stories featured in the contemporary hybrid opera-film, *BOUND*, presented by Against the Grain Theatre. Hirji immigrated to Canada from Uganda in the 1970s as a political refugee, only to face the barriers of racism in his new homeland. This is the first time Hirji has shared his personal story with a large audience.



[Mohamed Sesay](#), assistant professor in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies' Department of Social Science, is the winner of the International Studies Association's 2021 Lee Ann Fujii Book Award for his new book, *Domination Through Law: The Internationalization of Legal Norms in Postcolonial Africa*. The award recognizes a book published in the previous two calendar years that significantly advances issues of diversity, whether through topical focus or authorship.



Borderless Higher Education for Refugees: Lessons from the Dadaab Refugee Camps, co-edited by Professor Emerita and Senior Scholar [Wenona Giles](#) from York University's Department of Anthropology, earned the Jackie Kirk Outstanding Book Award from the Comparative and International Education Society. The Jackie Kirk Award recognizes a published book reflecting one or some of the varied areas of expertise represented in Kirk's areas of commitment, primarily gender and education and/or education in conflict.



Glendon alumnus [Amikley Fontaine](#) was honoured with the 2022 Ontario Francophonie Award for work through his Foundation Sylvénie Lindor. The awards honour francophones and francophiles who have made outstanding contributions to the development and vitality of Ontario's francophone community.



[Maryam Hassan](#), a graduating student of Osgoode Hall Law School's Juris Doctor program, is a recipient of the inaugural Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize presented by the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). Hassan is recognized for her work in addressing systemic racism within and beyond the criminal justice system to advocate for marginalized communities.



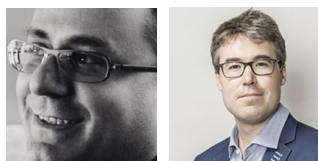
Professor [Roger Keil](#) received one of seven Urban Studies Foundation Awards for his research on pandemics and cities. The project, *The city after Covid-19: vulnerability and urban governance in Chicago, Toronto and Johannesburg*, examines the critical role of municipal institutions and their civil society partners in mobilizing resources to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and improve health and economic equity.



Faculty of Health Professor [Rebecca Pillai Riddell](#) will lead a revolutionary multi-million dollar research training initiative that will support a more diverse, inclusive, accessible, and transdisciplinary approach to mental health research and training. The Digital, Inclusive, Virtual, and Equitable Research Training in Mental Health Platform received \$2.55 million from the Canadian Institutes for Health through its Health Research Training Platform, an additional \$2.4 million from IBM Canada for in-kind computing, and \$500,000 in-kind support from non-governmental organization partners.



[Camille Turner](#), PhD in Environmental Studies graduate, received the prestigious Toronto Biennial of Art in Canada’s 2022 Artist Prize. Her work, *Nave*, reflects on Canada’s historical involvement with the trans-Atlantic slave trade and was created as part of Turner’s York U thesis portfolio.



The [2022 York University Research Awards](#) Celebration took place on April 19, recognizing the accomplishments of more than 70 researchers from across all schools and faculties. The recipients of the 2022 President’s Research Awards include:

- Seyed Moghadas, Professor, Faculty of Science; Agent-Based Modelling Laboratory
- John Moores, Tier 2 York Research Chair in Space Exploration; Associate Professor, Lassonde School of Engineering; Centre for Research in Earth and Space Science
- Amy Muise, Tier 2 York Research Chair in Relationships and Sexuality; Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health
- Zheng Hong (George) Zhu, Tier 1 York Research Chair in Space Technology; Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering



A team of [Schulich MBA students](#) were named the winners of Developers’ Den, Canada’s longest-running and most prestigious international real estate case competition. The team was made up of Janessa Choong (MBA ’23), Adrian Hartanto (MBA ’22), Jisung Kim (MBA ’22), and Ambrose Li (MBA ’22). The competition, co-hosted by Schulich’s Brookfield Centre in Real Estate & Infrastructure and the Schulich Real Property Alumni Association, provides future real estate leaders with an opportunity to apply their technical and creative thinking skills and receive valuable constructive feedback and insights from leading industry professionals.



[Alexandra Gelis](#), an award-winning artist, co-editor of the *Earth to Tables Legacies*, and PhD student in the Environmental Studies Graduate Program, is featured in ArtworxTO: Toronto’s Year of Public Art 2021–2022, as part of HOME(LAND): Terra Firma. Through contemporary artwork from local and international artists, the exhibition tackles the issues of bio-politics, environmental governance, borders, displacement, and erasure from a perspective of individual and community resilience.



In August, the [Lassonde School of Engineering](#) announced a new equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) funding initiative to promote a culture of EDI at the School while helping to remove systemic barriers for faculty, students, and staff in academia. The top six projects have been announced and include:

- Black Excellence Networking Event, led by the Student Welcome and Support Centre
- Recruitment Activities for NSERC CREATE: Smart – Autonomous Robotic Technology for Space Exploration, led by Prof. George Zhu, Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Lassonde Design Lab: Engineering, Technology, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, led by k2i Academy
- Indigeneity and Decolonization in a North American Context, led by assistant professor Jeff Harris, Mechanical Engineering, and Emma Posca, graduate record and enrolment coordinator, Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Success of first-generation university students, led by assistant professor Jeff Harris, Mechanical Engineering
- Recruitment Activities for NSERC CREATE: Training in Applied Biotechnology for Environmental Sustainability led by Satinder Brar, professor, Department of Civil Engineering