

# PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

JUNE 2022



[Chimira Andres](#), a planetary geophysicist and PhD student in the Department of Earth and Space Science and Engineering at Lassonde School of Engineering, is a recipient of the 2022 Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Program. Andres was awarded a doctorate scholarship for her work on investigating ice on the red planet and how space glaciers “flow” on Mars. The scholarship is provided through Campus France, and Andres will be working with the Cotutelle Program for one year.



[Bridget Stutchbury](#), Distinguished Research Professor and graduate program director in biology in the Faculty of Science, is the recipient of the 2022 Elliott Coues Award presented by the American Ornithological Society (AOS). Every year, AOS presents a range of awards honouring members for their ornithological research, and their service to the society. Stutchbury has made innovative contributions to understanding the ecology and conservation of migratory and neotropical songbirds.



Master’s of Environmental Studies student, [Tamo Campos](#), is the co-director of *The Klabona Keepers*, which premiered at the 2022 Human Rights Watch Film Festival at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema on May 26. *The Klabona Keepers* is an intimate portrait of the dynamic Indigenous community that succeeded in protecting the Sacred Headwaters, known as the Klabona, northwest British Columbia, from industrial activities.



[Sundar Viswanathan](#), associate professor and jazz area coordinator in the Department of Music at the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, and his band *Avataar*, were presented with this year’s Jazz Album of the Year: Group at the 2022 JUNO Awards. The group received a JUNO for their album *Worldview*, which was released in October 2021.



York University advanced in the [2022 Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings](#) by Subject. The 2022 rankings released this year evaluate universities in five broad subject areas, and York ranked competitively in four of them among North America’s public universities:

- Arts & Humanities: No. 26
- Social Sciences and Management: No. 33
- Engineering & Technology: No. 71
- Natural Sciences: No. 90

York also moved up 50 spots to be ranked No. 63 among North America’s public universities in the 2022 QS World University Rankings released last year.



York University alumnus, [Ramraajh Sharvendiran](#) (BA'10), was named the new host of CBC Radio's *Ontario Morning*, effective May 24, 2022. While studying Communications at York, Sharvendiran joined the community radio station CHRY 105.5 FM, hosting and producing *Queer Currents* - a weekly queer and trans-focused program - for nearly a decade. He joined CBC Toronto as an intern in 2017 before moving to northern Manitoba to host and produce CBC's daily morning show, *North Country* and eventually made his way to Newfoundland and Labrador where he became the co-host of the *St. John's Morning Show*. Sharvendiran returns to his home province of Ontario for his new role.



York University [Athletics & Recreation](#) raised \$144,000 for athletic scholarships at the 19th annual Lions Cup presented by TD Insurance, which took place on June 1. More than 100 golfers took to the links at the Wyndance Golf Club in Uxbridge, Ont., and golfers came together for an important cause: student-athlete financial support.



York University's Wellness Initiative Fund provided a grant for new project designed by York University graduate student, [Brian G. Smith](#), that offers a break from pandemic-related angst. Smith, a master's candidate in interdisciplinary studies and an award-winning Second City alumnus, is the project director of a two-minute video titled "The ABCs of Anxiety." The video is a cartoon based on the drawings and "tragicomic" poem by Toronto illustrator and writer Sean Sinclair-Day. This project included 15 York graduate students from the film, music, digital marketing, and psychology departments.



Osgoode Hall Law School doctoral student, [Roojin Habibi](#), was selected as a 2022-2025 Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholar. Habibi's PhD dissertation on human rights principles for global health emergencies is helping to inform ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on a pandemic treaty. Established in 2001 as a memorial to former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Montreal-based foundation's three-year program is geared to developing engaged, future leaders by exposing scholars to the curriculum taught by foundation Fellows and mentors in settings outside traditional universities.



[Schulich's Executive Education program](#) ranked 32nd in the world and second in Canada in the 23rd edition of the Financial Times rankings of the world's leading providers of customized and open-enrollment executive education programs. The executive education rankings include 50 of the top schools providing both custom and open courses.



Geomatics engineering student Amirhossein Nourbakhshrezaei and civil engineering students Artem Solovey and Adonai Garcia were members of a [Lassonde graduate student team](#) that placed second in the 2022 Esri Canada Centres of Excellence (ECCE) App Challenge. The ECCE App Challenge is an annual competition held by Esri Canada aimed at promoting innovation and creativity within the Esri Canada GIS Centres of Excellence. This year's theme was Natural Disasters or Emergency Preparedness. The Lassonde team designed *YorkU Soteria*, an app designed to work with official emergency authorities to keep its users safe and informed during and after a major emergency takes place.



York University faculty and staff were recognized for their support of students with disabilities at the fourth annual [Student Accessibility Services End-of-Year Celebration](#). The celebration focused on the theme of interconnectedness, and 15 recipients were awarded for their collaboration, student focus, care and innovation. The 2021-22 award recipients are:



- Fahad Anser, master's of biology candidate, Faculty of Science
- Administrative Coordinator Ellis Lau, School of Information Technology, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS)
- Michael Jodah Kenny, PhD candidate, Faculty of Education
- Associate Professor Christopher Paul Chan, School of Human Resource Management, LA&PS
- Associate Professor Jeffrey G. Hewitt, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Course Director Tom Hooper, Department of Social Science, LA&PS
- Faculty Member Krista Hunt, School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, LA&PS
- Associate Professor Emeritus Neita Israelite, Faculty of Education
- Assistant Professor Palma Paciocco, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Faculty Member Krista Phillips, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health
- Faculty Member Hope Shamonda, School of Administrative Studies, LA&PS
- Associate Professor John Simoulidis, Department of Social Science, LA&PS
- Assistant Professor Yvonne Su, Department of Equity Studies, LA&PS
- Faculty Member Sadia Zafar, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health
- Faculty Member Selma Zecevic, Department of Humanities, LA&PS



The student-run [Future of Marketing magazine](#), curated by Schulich graduate students, announced five Master of Marketing (MMKG) '22 candidates as the new managing editors of the magazine for summer 2022: Ayesha Bajwa, Tiffany Ho, Margaret McConkey, Mohini Mohandas and Eric Stanley. The magazine is the largest digital publication on the topic, with more than 1.4 million pages read.



During the pandemic, York University assistant professor of nursing, [Brenda Oraziatti](#), wrote and directed five video clinical nursing simulation games that provide nursing students with the practical experience they weren't able to get in person due to cancelled placements and practicums. The videos were funded by a York Academic Innovation Fund grant and a Virtue-WIL grant from Colleges & Institutes Canada.



Faculty of Education Professor, [Sharon Murphy](#), was honoured with a 2022 University Professorship for her outstanding research contributions to the University. The honour was recognized and celebrated during Spring Convocation. A University Professor is a member of faculty recognized for extraordinary participation and contribution to university life, as well as scholarship and teaching success. The award is conferred upon long-serving tenured faculty members who have made extraordinary contributions to the University as colleagues, teachers and scholars.



Osgoode Hall Law School Professor [Valerio De Stefano](#) has been awarded a prestigious Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Innovation, Law and Society. The Tier 2 CRC is valued at \$600,000 over five years. This is the law school's second Canada Research Chair. Professor Deborah McGregor, who is cross appointed with the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice.



Osgoode Hall Law School's Chief Law Librarian, [Yemisi Dina](#), was awarded the Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service Award by members of the Chicago-based American Association of Law Libraries for her exceptional service to one of its 14 special interest sections. As chair of the special interest section's Africa Interest Group, Dina organizes and creates educational programs at annual meetings for members focusing on foreign, comparative and international law topics related to Africa.



[Ernest Leung](#), a master's student of the Joint Graduate Program in communication and culture at York University and Toronto Metropolitan University, is the inaugural recipient of the Global Hong Kong Essay and Creative Project Award. Leung received the award for his paper, "Humour and Political Resistance: Dayo Wong's Stand-Up Comedy in Hong Kong," which will be published by the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) in "New Voices on Global Hong Kong," a special occasional paper or creative project series at YCAR.



Masters of Environmental Studies alumna, [Jamilla Mohamud](#), received the Canadian Institute of Planners President's Award for Young Planners. This award recognizes a young Canadian planner (under the age of 35) for outstanding professional success, vision, leadership, and service to the profession. Mohamud is an urban planner with Urban Strategies in Toronto and a founding member of the Black Planners and Urbanists Association (BPUA), leading the development of the BPUA's submission to Ontario's Housing Affordability Taskforce. She was also selected to represent BPUA on the OPPI Anti-Black Racism in Planning Task Force.



Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Professor [Andil Gosine](#)'s exhibit, *everything Slackens in a Wreck*, is running at the Ford Foundation Gallery in New York City from June 1 to August 20. The exhibit features seven York University community members, including exhibiting artist and BFA and MFA alumna Margaret Chen, artistry from master of environmental studies graduate and incoming PhD candidate in environmental studies Amber Williams-King, and a film edited by masters in cinema and media studies student Kathrin Mentler. Environmental studies PhD student Aitak Sorahitalab, master of environmental studies student Kafia Abdulkader and sociology PhD student Elena Chou are featured in the exhibit's catalogue exploring reinventive spirit in times of crisis. The exhibiting work demonstrates a long, continuing history of survival and the particular contours of the four featured artists' lives and their necessary choices within the various spaces they inhabit in the Americas.





Three York University graduates received this year's [Governor General Gold Medals](#), which recognize the outstanding scholastic achievements of graduate students in Canada. The 2022 recipients are:

- Signy Lynch, PhD in Theatre & Performance Studies
- Ilana Shiff, Masters in Clinical Developmental Psychology
- Allison Taylor, PhD in Gender, Feminist & Women's Studies



Three undergraduate students at York University have earned the [Governor General's Silver Medal](#), an award that recognizes the outstanding scholastic achievements of undergraduate students in Canada. The 2022 recipients are:

- Samuel Isaac Dreyzin, Commerce, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS)
- Robert Alexander Khatib, Biology, Faculty of Science
- Rosie Giannone, Law & Society (BA), Art History minor, LA&PS



Five individuals who have considerably enhanced the quality of learning for York students are recipients of the [2022 President's University-wide Teaching Awards](#). The purpose of the awards is to provide significant recognition for excellence in teaching, to encourage its pursuit, to publicize such excellence when achieved across the University and in the wider community, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement. The 2022 recipients are:

- Michael Connor, Faculty of Health, Senior full-time category
- Susan D. Dion, Faculty of Education, Senior-full-time category
- Andrew Maxwell, Lassonde School of Engineering, Full-time faculty category
- Carolyn Steele, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), Contract and adjunct faculty category
- Janice Anderson, LA&PS, Teaching assistant category



## APPOINTMENTS



Professor [Cheryl van Daalen-Smith](#) has been appointed associate dean, academic, in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. She is cross-appointed to the Faculty of Health and the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies – specifically with graduate programs in: nursing; health; critical disability studies; gender, sexuality and women's studies; interdisciplinary studies; and with the children, childhood and youth undergraduate program. Van Daalen-Smith will transition into her new role through July 2022.



Professor [Jennifer Steeves](#) has been appointed associate vice-president research effective July 1 for a five-year term. Since March 1, Professor Steeves has served as interim associate vice-president research. Prior to this role, Professor Steeves made an impact at the University through several leadership positions including associate dean research and graduate education for the Faculty of Science, from 2018-21, and as the director of the York MRI Facility.