

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

OCTOBER 2022



Three exceptional individuals were recognized with [Honorary Doctor of Laws](#) degrees during York University's fall convocation ceremonies.

While our honorary degree recipients are highly accomplished professionals in their respective professions, they each also embody an unwavering commitment to drive positive change in alignment with York University's vision and values of excellence, progressiveness, sustainability, social justice, and diversity and inclusivity.



The Fall 2022 honorary degree recipients are:

- Mark Tewksbury – Olympic champion, human rights activist, inclusion advocate
- Noah '40' Shebib – Grammy award winning producer, cultural leader, community advocate
- Sally Armstrong – journalist, author, human rights activist



[Hortense Valerie Anglin](#), 85, received thunderous applause and a standing ovation from guests and fellow graduands as she gently walked across the stage to receive her first degree and be congratulated by the platform party at York University's in-person fall convocation. Anglin was inspired by her 79-year-old younger sister, Osra Lindo, who received an undergrad degree after learning about York's pathway bridging program in a flyer she found at her local library. When her husband of over 50 years passed away in 2015, Anglin focused on getting back on track with her education which she had discontinued after high school, more than half a century ago. There was no turning back. And history repeated itself when she walked across the same York convocation stage as her sister in October 2018 and her granddaughter, Vanessa Joy Anglin, in June of that same year.



Department of History Professor Emeritus [Adrian Shubert](#) received the "Encomienda de la Orden de Isabel La Católica", a prestigious medal granted by His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain, for contributions to the field of Modern Spanish History. Shubert is a historian of Spain in the 18th through 20th centuries, and his articles and books have been published widely in both English and Spanish.



[Haleema Ahmed](#), a second-year student in the Faculty of Science, is part of the Prime Minister of Canada's Youth Council and provides input into government programs and initiatives. In between attending classes, studying, and volunteering, Ahmed is busy serving as a member of the Prime Minister's Youth Council, providing regular input on government programs and initiatives from a youth perspective. She and the council meet with senior government officials and federal agencies once a month to discuss issues of importance to them, their community and country.



A paper by a research group including York University Associate Professor [Zachary Spicer](#) that examines the impact of exogenous shocks on online voting has earned the award for "Best Paper" at the International E-Vote Conference in Austria. The paper "The Effect of Exogenous Shocks on the Administration of Online Voting: Evidence from Ontario, Canada", written by a research group that also includes faculty from McGill University, Toronto Metropolitan University, Brock University and Dalhousie University, focused its work on the impact of exogenous shocks – namely COVID-19 and a 2018 technical outage – on the course of online voting adoption in Ontario. More than 200 municipalities across Ontario are using online voting in the 2022 municipal election cycle, making the province a world leader in online voting adoption.



York University alumni and life partners [Hian Siang Chan and Paulina Lau](#), and their families, have created the Paulina Lau Scholars Program in honour of their strong personal and familial ties to the University. Chan, who is the CEO and the executive director of Singapore-based SP Chemicals Pte. Ltd., said their family is committed to creating positive global change and through this gift, they are hoping to encourage and support a similar ethos among York students to right the future.



Distinguished Research Professor in biology at the Faculty of Science, [Bridget Stutchbury](#), has been named one of five finalists in the Canadian Museum of Nature's Nature Inspiration Awards in the "Adult" category for her work on saving Canada's most vulnerable animals that are at risk of extinction. Stutchbury is among five Canadian environmentalists recognized for their passion for conserving nature, and their ability to inspire the public to value nature and contribute to its preservation. The winners of the 2022 Nature Inspiration Awards will be announced on November 14, during a gala at the museum, and will be shared online at nature.ca. This event will honor not only the winners of the Nature Inspiration Awards but also each of the finalists.



[Jennifer Holmes Weier](#), who completed her Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law degree in August 2022, won first place at the National Student and Thought Leadership Awards which recognizes excellence in research. The award was presented jointly by the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. Holmes Weier's research paper "Bursting the Ottawa Bubble: Government dispersal and localization in the context of a diversity strategy" was among several nominated from across Canada. The finalists presented their findings to a panel of judges who selected first, second and third prize winners.



The Town of Penetanguishene is partnering with Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Professor [José Etcheverry](#) to develop a Climate Change Solutions Park in the Penetanguishene Ecology Garden at 144 Fox Street. This development will create an inspirational location for experiential learning, networking and innovation opportunities for local and visiting students, such as training in precision agriculture and local sustainable development strategies. It will also allow for the development of cutting-edge research and practical applications toward solving climate change.



Professor [John E. Moores](#), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Dept. of Earth and Space Science and Engineering at York University, has been named the new Science Advisor to Lisa Campbell, President of the Canadian Space Agency. Moores replaces Sarah Gallagher of Western University who was the first science advisor to the President, appointed in September 2018. He also currently serves as the Director of the Technologies for Exo-Planetary Science NSERC CREATE Program.



York University alumna, [Lilly Singh](#) (BA'10), received a Star at the Scarborough Walk of Fame. Singh has soared to success in the entertainment world building a multi-faceted career, which began at her childhood home in Scarborough where she started her groundbreaking YouTube channel in 2010. Today, with more than 14 million subscribers worldwide, Singh's channel served as a powerful launchpad for her career in Hollywood where she has now found success in film, TV and books. This year alone, Singh made her debut as a judge on the hit show *Canada's Got Talent*; starred in the Dreamworks animated comedy *The Bad Guys*, which topped the box office; and published her second book *Be A Triangle*, an instant Canadian bestseller. Upcoming, Singh will star in the new Disney+ series *The Muppets Mayhem*.



In October, [Thomas Baumgartner](#), chemistry professor in the Faculty of Science at York University, joined the renowned Research Center for Materials Science at Nagoya University in Japan as a visiting professor. Baumgartner will collaborate with researcher and organic chemistry Professor Shigehiro Yamaguchi on exploring organic fluorescent compounds for biosensing applications. The Research Center for Materials Science, founded by Nobel Laureate Ryoji Noyori, aims to create new and improved molecular materials, exploring their structural and functional properties as well as reaction mechanisms. It carries out creative studies on materials and their functions through international and interdisciplinary collaborations and shares its original research activities with a wide international scientific community.



Assistant Professor [Christine Le](#) in the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, has received the 2022 Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award to support her organic chemistry research program. The award will provide her with seed funding to develop reaction toolkits that pharmaceutical companies could use to create a variety of new fluorine-containing compounds that can then be tested for their medicinal properties. The Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award is given to outstanding new full-time faculty members beginning their academic careers at York University to encourage excellence in teaching and research that will enrich the learning environment and contribute to society.



York University Professor [Thomas Teo](#) in the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health, has won the 2022 Joseph B. Gittler Award for scholarly contributions to the philosophical foundations of psychological knowledge from the American Psychological Foundation. The award was established through a bequest from Joseph Gittler, PhD, who wished to recognize psychologists who are making and will continue to make scholarly contributions to the philosophical foundations of psychological knowledge. Applicants must demonstrate contributions to the philosophical foundations of psychology, particularly over the last five to 10 years.



York students, staff, faculty and alumni are making things right for local communities, the planet and the future through artistic expressions on display in front of the University's new campus, currently under construction in the heart of Markham. [Eight artworks](#) were selected to be part of the final exhibition, titled "Right The Future." Featured artists received an honorarium per selected image and were credited on-site as well as in all exhibit materials. The artists are:

- Lisa Cristinzo – a queer painter and installation artist and first-generation Canadian settler living in Tkaronto. She has a BFA from OCADU and an MFA from York University.
- Wendy Lu – a Hard of Hearing, Taiwan-born, Toronto-based multimedia artist who graduated with specialized honours from York University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts.
- Marissa Magneson – is a Cree-Métis artist, photographer, educator, and workshop facilitator. She has a BFA honours degree from York University and a master's degree in Canadian and Indigenous studies from Trent University. She is pursuing a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Education at York University.
- Sabeel Sadicote – is a self-taught artist who experiments with assorted media. She is an MBA candidate at the Schulich School of Business.
- Jasmine Swimmer – is an Afro-Indigenous multi-disciplinary artist specializing in digital art and animation. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from York University.
- Mark Terry – is a digital artist, documentary filmmaker and adjunct professor at York's Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change.
- Katelyn Truong – is a Toronto-based illustrator who graduated from OCAD University and is currently working toward a Bachelor of Education at York University.
- Julija Valdmanis – is a registered nurse currently enrolled in York University's Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner program. Valdmanis is a self-taught artist.



York University has advanced to the top five in the 2023 [Maclean's University Rankings](#) in the comprehensive category, moving up one spot from last year. Universities in the comprehensive category have a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. Over the last ten years, York has also advanced an impressive 19 spots on the national reputation ranking, this year moving up one spot to 17 in Canada. Noteworthy achievements include York's Schulich School of Business, which ranked seventh in Canada; and the Faculty of Education's sixth place spot.



The Council for Advancement for Support of Education (CASE) District II announced the '[Best Of' Award Winners](#) recognizing excellence in communications and marketing in the mid-Atlantic district. Across three offices, President's Office, Alumni Relations and Communications & Public Affairs York University was recognized with 25 awards. The initiatives spanned all communication disciplines. Just a few of the initiatives include: writing/ publications (2021 President Annual Report/ The York University Magazine); media relations (87 year old completes Masters during pandemic); marketing (Markham Campus); alumni relations (Top 30 under 30); digital programs (People of YU); advertising (Right The Future), videos/social (Holiday video) and the Pan-university website optimization project. Case District II is the largest of the 8 districts with 700 institutional members. This brings York into second place in Ontario, closely behind the number of awards granted to U of T.

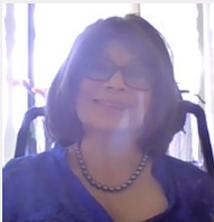


[Tianpei Liao](#), a third-year Software Engineering student at Lassonde, spent the summer working under the direction of Professor Jinjun Shan and his team of graduate students as part of the Lassonde Undergraduate Summer Research program. Their work in the safe landing of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) earned them the Best Project Demonstration Award at the Computing Conference 2022. Their research paper titled “Autonomous Vision-based UAV Landing with Collision Avoidance using Deep Learning” explores methods to avoid collision and thereby implement safe landing for UAVs.



The annual [President's Staff Recognition Awards](#) are an opportunity for community members to join President and Vice-Chancellor Rhonda Lenton in celebrating the efforts of staff who have demonstrated extraordinary effort in contributing to the success of York University.

This year's recipients and nominees are:



- Gary Brewer Award - Winner: David Kwok, associate director, entrepreneurship
- Deborah Hobson York Citizenship Award - Winner: Mavis Griffin, undergraduate program assistant, Department of Equity Studies
- Phyllis Clark Campus Service Award - Winner: Graham Bell, custodian – day shift team leader, Keele Campus
- President's Voice of York Award - Winner: Judith Hawley, graduate program assistant, Social & Political Thought Program (no image available)
- The President's Leadership Award - Winner: Joanie Cameron Pritchett, director, Centre for Sexual Violence Response, Support & Education
- Ronald Kent Medal - Winner: Fiona Fernandes, graduate program assistant, Interdisciplinary Studies Program
- Harriet Lewis Team Award for Service Excellence - Winner: The Teaching Commons:



- Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier, director
- Lisa Endersby, educational developer
- Mandy Frake-Mistak, educational developer
- Yelin Su, educational developer
- Brian Nairn, educational developer
- Robin Sutherland-Harris, educational developer
- Robert Winkler, instructional designer
- Mary Lynn Belmonte, administrative assistant
- Natasha May, educational developer
- Ameera Ali, educational developer, equity, diversity and inclusion
- Katharina Pabst, educational developer



York University Lions Men's Hockey Head Coach [Russ Herrington](#) was named the next head coach of Canada's National Para Hockey Team. The announcement marks a promotion for Herrington, who acted as an assistant coach for Team Canada's sledge program since 2017. Among the highlights of Herrington's tenure as an assistant came earlier this year when he helped guide the squad to a silver medal at the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games. He also steered the team to three consecutive medals at the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) World Para Ice Hockey Championships (gold: 2017; silver: 2019, 2021). The Toronto native will remain the Lions bench boss, a role he has occupied since 2017 after two years as an assistant on the staff of Chris Dennis.



Faculty of Education Assistant Professor [Vidya Shah](#) was named Mentor of the Year as part of the 2022 Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) Leaders and Legends awards. The Mentor of the Year award honours an individual who has offered exceptional support, guidance and encouragement to members of the OISE community. Shah teaches in the Master of Leadership and Community Engagement program, as well as undergraduate and graduate level courses in education. She has worked in the Model Schools for Inner Cities Program in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and was an elementary classroom teacher in the TDSB.



[Aleksander Czekanski](#), associate professor of mechanical engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University, has been named president of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME) for the 2022-24 term. The CSME aims to advance the quality and scope of mechanical engineering in Canada and to co-operate with and aid all levels of government and their regulatory bodies on matters concerned with or involving the use of engineering technology. In addition, the society collaborates with universities and other educational institutions to advance the relevance and effectiveness of mechanical engineering education at all levels, among other objectives.



The 2023 QS MBA Careers by Specialization ranking placed York University's [Schulich School of Business](#) among the leading business schools in the world for MBA students wishing to pursue careers in finance, technology, and information management. Schulich placed:

- 13th globally in finance
- 25th globally in technology
- 29th globally in information management

Schulich was also the No. 1 ranked MBA program in Canada in finance, technology, marketing and information management.



The *Financial Times* of London ranked the [Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA](#) (EMBA) at York University as the #1 EMBA program in Canada. The 2022 *Financial Times* ranking marks the 14th time that the Kellogg-Schulich EMBA program has been ranked #1 in Canada. The Kellogg-Schulich EMBA program was ranked 30th globally and placed 10th among programs based in North America in this year's *Financial Times* ranking.



Four new [Provostial Fellows](#) have taken up their roles this year. The program is now in its second year running, with current fellowships in place until Spring 2023. As an initiative led by the provost, each of the Fellows will build capacity across the institution to advance the University Academic Plan and York University's Sustainable Development Goals Challenge. At the same time, the program offers tenured faculty an opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with University leadership. Here is a look at what the Fellows will be doing in Fall 2022 through to Spring 2023:

- Burkard Eberlein, Professor of Public Policy and Sustainability, Schulich School of Business – Changing transportation patterns to reduce York's carbon footprint
- Jen Gilbert, Professor, Faculty of Education – Ensuring LGBTQ2S+ students can access support to successfully launch careers
- Lalai Ameeriar, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS) – Diversifying and decolonizing curriculum at York
- Saskia Van Viegen, Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics, LA&PS – Supporting international student success after the pandemic



The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies has announced the recipients of its [Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) Program, and will award selected individuals with a funded, one-year postdoctoral research position. The program, now in its third year, supports postdoctoral training and awards \$50,000 to each recipient to conduct their proposed research project under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. Our current Postdoctoral Fellows and the department of their faculty supervisor are:

- Dr. Teddy Atim, Department of Social Science, Research project: "The legacies for wartime sexual violence in northern Uganda: Social reintegration of women survivors and children born of war in northern Uganda".
- Dr. Patrick Owuor, Department of Social Science, Research project: "An ethnographic study of human bio-banking in clinical trials in Eastern Africa".
- Dr. Kael Reid, Department of Humanities, Research project: "Teaching my Story in my Voice".
- Dr. Alicia Christina Edwards, Department of Humanities, Research project: "Re-locating Canada's Black Canadian Geographies and Heritage through Folk Monsters, Hauntings, Legend, and Horror."
- Dr. Blair Fix, Department of Politics, Research project: "Does Hierarchy Drive Income Inequality?"
- Dr. Gerson Scheidweiler, Department of Equity Studies, Research project: "Gendering Migration Policies: An Intersectional Response to Venezuelan Women Refugees in Brazil".

APPOINTMENTS



York University's Board of Governors appointed [Kathleen Taylor](#) as York's 14th chancellor to a three-year term, effective January 1, 2023. The appointment follows outgoing Chancellor Gregory Sorbara, who was first appointed in 2014 and is leaving the role after more than nine years of distinguished service to York. Throughout her global career, and across the many and varied positive contributions as a volunteer and board member, Taylor has demonstrated her commitment to supporting efforts that advance a thriving future for all. The first woman to serve as Chair of the board of a major bank in Canada, Taylor's appointment as York's new chancellor also marks the first time a woman will serve in the role.