

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

DECEMBER 2022



Professor [Sheila Embleton](#) in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies was acknowledged for her work and contributions by two important organizations. Embleton was awarded the Bernice Schrank Award from the Canadian Association of University Teachers on November 26 for her “outstanding contributions to the enforcement of academic staff workplace rights through grievance/arbitration.” That same day, she was also appointed by the Royal Society of Canada as president of the academy of arts and humanities, as well as RSC vice-president-designate. She has been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada since 2010. Embleton was recently announced as Interim President of Laurentian University, commencing January 1, 2023. We wish her all the best as she takes on this new responsibility.



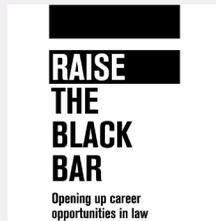
[Zahra Nader](#), a doctoral student in Gender, Feminist & Women’s studies in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, appeared as a civil society representative before the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in a recent debate on women, peace and security. Motivated by her own personal story of struggling to obtain access to education, Nader is committed to creating positive change for future generations of Afghan women who she hopes will not have to go through the same hardships. In August 2022, Nader and a group of women journalists from Afghanistan launched *Zan Times* – a non-profit newsroom in exile – to report on human rights violations in Afghanistan, mainly focusing on women, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and environmental issues. For her contributions to *Zan Times* and other publications, Nader was invited to the UNSC in October, an opportunity for UNSC and General Assembly states to share specific examples of how they are supporting women’s resilience in conflict-affected countries and their capacity to contribute to peace and security.



In recognition of 25 years of unwavering dedication to the academy, the Royal Society of Canada has named [Hédi Bouraoui](#), professor emeritus and writer in residence in the Department of French Studies at York University, Life Member of the Society. Bouraoui’s commitment to studying Franco Canadian, as well as Mediterranean cultures and enriching the reputation of Canada’s academic tradition is apparent in view of the breadth of his life’s work.



Associate Professor of Biology [Sandra Rehan](#), has a new carpenter bee named after her, *Ceratina rehanae*, for her life's work establishing small carpenter bees as a model system for behavioural genomics & biodiversity conservation.



[Raise the Black Bar](#) (RTBB) is a groundbreaking initiative involving Osgoode Hall Law School, the Osgoode chapter of the Black Law Students' Association and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). It officially launched during a ceremony at Osgoode on November 30, 2022. The program is open to all Black students across the TDSB's 110 secondary schools, with a focus on those in grades 10, 11 and 12. As the program ramps up, RTBB will give students the opportunity to participate in small group mentorship meetings with practicing Black legal professionals and Black law students.



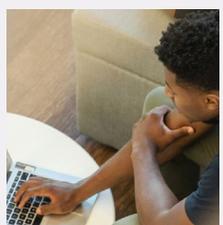
[Deniz Eralp](#) (MBA '18) is a Senior Systems Engineer at MDA and a Schulich Krembil Scholar. He is currently working on technologies for moon exploration that will be used by Canadian Space Agency and NASA as part of the Artemis program that is scheduled to take the first Canadian to the moon surface and back. The technologies Eralp is currently working on will be part of Canada's contribution to Gateway, a key element of Artemis, the NASA-led program to establish a sustainable presence on and around the Moon.



Osgoode Hall Law School Professor [Poonam Puri](#) has been recognized with the Peter Dey Governance Achievement Award from The Governance Professionals of Canada. The honour recognizes an individual who has positively affected governance and contributed to transforming the way that Canadian companies are governed.



Two recent graduates from Osgoode Hall Law School, [Barbara Brown and Jennah Khaled](#), will both serve Supreme Court of Canada justices through their upcoming 2023-24 clerkships. Brown and Khaled will both be serving as law clerks for the Supreme Court of Canada, beginning in August 2023. Khaled will be clerking for Justice Malcolm Rowe, while Brown will clerk for Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin, the Supreme Court's first Indigenous judge. Brown and Khaled are among a new cohort of Osgoode graduates who are currently clerking for top Canadian courts or who are slated to serve in 2023-24. Clerkships typically run for one-year terms, with an option to extend them to two years.



[The Schulich School of Business](#) is participating in the launch of a new program as part of a Tri-Business School Collective to create university pathways for Black high school students. The University Pathways Program, which is a collaboration between Schulich, the Ivey Business School at Western University and the Smith School of Business at Queen's University, gives students a greater understanding of academic options and opportunities for careers in business and other areas following graduation, while also supporting them financially to pursue an undergraduate business education. The program is set to start in January 2023.



[Deborah Barndt](#) received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connections grant for her project “Earth-to-Tables Legacies” to expand transnational arts-based research, exchange, and education on food sovereignty to Sinanche, Yucatan, Mexico. The project will hold an intergenerational and intercultural dialogue about food sovereignty through a workshop of collaborators exchanging knowledge and co-producing arts-based, transmedia educational materials and exploring themes central to food sovereignty. Project collaborators include the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change graduate students and multimedia artists, Alexandra Gelis and Chandra Maracle, and Environmental Studies PhD alumna, Lauren Baker as co-applicant.



[Schulich ExecEd](#), an extension of the Schulich School of Business, has partnered with the government of Guyana to build up their health-care system. The partnership aims to develop capacity for training hospital leadership in Guyana, through a program designed to teach management and leadership skills to senior leaders and executive heads across the health sector. It will be delivered to participants from all administrative regions. In November, York University and Schulich ExecEd representatives travelled to Guyana for a meeting to launch the program officially, including Rami Mayer, Executive Director of Schulich ExecEd; Dr. Frank Anthony, Guyana Health Minister; Dr. Narendra Singh, York University Board of Governors member, founder and president of Giving Health To Kids, and former chief of staff at Humber River Hospital; Robert Lynn, associate director of Schulich ExecEd; Dr. Susan Loeff, program director of the Schulich ExecEd – Guyana Masters Certificate in Hospital Leadership Program; Jeff MacInnis, facilitator for the Schulich ExecEd–Guyana Masters Certificate in Hospital Leadership Program; and Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, chairman of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation and advisor to Guyana’s Minister of Health; and Aruna Faria, administrative manager, Ministry of Health.



Distinguished research professor of sociology, Professor Emerita [Pat Armstrong](#), has received the Research Canada Leadership in Advocacy Award for her outstanding commitment to patient advocacy and the advancement of health care research. Notably, she spent this past year amplifying the voice of long-term care facility workers, caregivers and patients while studying the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on these facilities. Research Canada is a national alliance dedicated to increasing investments in health research through collaborative advocacy and engaging government, academia, industry, and non-profit sectors to build support for long-term health research funding.



York University celebrated the official groundbreaking for the new [Joan and Martin Goldfarb Gallery](#) of York University (GGYU). Thanks to an original gift of \$5 million, and a new commitment of \$1 million from Joan and Martin Goldfarb, the GGYU is poised to be an integral point of connection, where we celebrate local and international artists and audiences. Designed by renowned architectural firm Hariri Pontarini, this exquisite new gallery will be a focal point in the heart of Keele Campus, and in the broader community of York Region.



[Dr. Allan Carswell](#), a renowned physicist, former York University professor and changemaking philanthropist, was recently named the Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award – presented to Dr. Carswell in November 2022, recognizes “an individual or family that has demonstrated outstanding civic and philanthropic leadership through a proven record of exceptional generosity and financial support.”

Carswell and his wife Helen established the Carswell Family Foundation with the objective of supporting the education and health-care sectors to make a difference in the lives of others. In the 1990s, Helen was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and recently passed away. Helen and her family benefited enormously from the day programs offered by the Alzheimer Society of York Region.

On July 1, York University Associate Professor [Mattias Hoben](#) was awarded the Helen Carswell Chair in Dementia Care within the Faculty of Health’s School of Health Policy and Management for a five-year term.



The Associated Medical Services History of Medicine and Healthcare program has announced its newest postdoctoral fellowship recipient, York University’s [Efrat Gold](#). Gold’s fellowship begins in January 2023 with York University’s Faculty of Health. Selected by an expert review panel, she is one of five research grant and fellowship recipients named this year. These talented scholars will broaden the history of medicine research and curate lessons to positively shape Canadian healthcare. Gold’s project, titled “Archiving Patient-Led Mad Activism in Canada, 1970s-2020,” aims to create a new source of open access archival data and accompanying teaching materials rooted in revisiting past mental health philosophies through patient-led initiatives.



[Zack Goldford](#) graduated not just at the top of the Law & Society (LASO) program in 2019, but with the highest academic standing at York University across all Faculties. For that, he won the prestigious Governor General’s Academic Medal – now he surpasses another milestone: Supreme Court clerkship. The Judicial Law Clerk program at the Supreme Court of Canada is highly competitive. Only a handful of Canadians are successful. Goldford is one of just 27 people that will receive such an appointment for the 2023-24 year. During his clerkship at the Supreme Court of Canada, Goldford will work for Justice Nicholas Kasirer, until then, Goldford will continue articling at a large law firm in Toronto.



The [Young Indigenous Women’s Utopia Girls Group](#) (YIWU) uses ceremony, culture and artistic activism to combat gender-based and colonial violence. On November 24, the group debuted its newest book, exhibited its art and launched a series of workshops at York. Throughout the 2021-22 academic year, YIWU worked with the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC) alumnus Zachary Mandamin to create an edited collection of their essays and photographs. The collection became the backbone of Mandamin’s undergraduate thesis, which debuted at the book launch. The EUC also kicked off the inaugural artists in residency program alongside their special guests from YIWU.

2022 Alumni Network of the year

MES @ York Planning Alumni Committee



Representing graduates of the Master in Environmental Science Planning program (MES-Planning), the [MES @ York Planning Alumni Committee](#) (MYPAC) was awarded Alumni Network of the Year for 2022 by the York University Alumni Board. MYPAC remains committed to creating positive change both in the York community and the world at large. The award selection committee was impressed by the multitude of initiatives launched by MYPAC, as well as its general dedication to Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change students, past and present. MYPAC's case competition, an event designed for MES-planning students, is an experiential initiative that connects students with alumni, professors and professionals in the field of urban planning. The York University Alumni Association would like to congratulate the entire MYPAC 2021-22 executive team:

- Chair: Patrycja Jankowski (BFA '13, MES '17)
- Vice-Chair: Jocelyn Cadieux (MES '20)
- Communications Lead: Paul Berkun-Drevnig
- Alumni Event Coordinator: Orli Schwartz (BES '14, MES '18)
- Treasurer: Adam Zendel (BA '08, MES '13)
- Secretary: Chinoye Sunny (MES '21)
- Sponsorship: Mallory Nievas (MES '19)
- York University Alumni Liaison: Ying Gu (BES '15, MES '19)
- 2nd Year MES Student Representative: Dasha Litviniuc, Peri Dworatzek, Amber Guidice
- 1st Year MES student Representatives: Elijah Leotaud, Rudia Nam
- YorkU Alumni Officer, Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change: Joanne Huy (BES '15)
- Faculty Liaison: Laura Taylor (MES '91)



Recently, a [group of researchers from Lassonde](#) Professor Pouya Rezaï's lab in the Department of Mechanical Engineering have designed and prototyped an affordable and simple microfluidic device for the on-site detection of microplastics. The team of researchers includes two postdoctoral fellows and former Lassonde PhD candidates Alireza Zabihhesari and Arezoo Khalili and one MSc student Mohammad-Javad Farshchi-Heydari. They fabricated the device with replica molding of two polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) layers onto 3D-printed master molds. Their manuscript is now available online and for the past few weeks it has been listed on Social Science Research Network's (SSRN) Top Ten download list for: Analytical Chemistry eJournal and ChemRN: Fluidics.



A select group of [students at Osgoode Hall Law School](#) can now add the Supreme Court of Canada to their resumes through their work on a case heard at the end of November. The eight students involved are working at Osgoode's Community & Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP), which has been granted intervenor status in *Earl Mason, et al v Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, et al* (SCC Case No. 39855). The case deals with the application of the reasonableness review to questions of statutory interpretation. CLASP is one of 17 clinical programs available to Osgoode students and exemplifies the law school's leadership in experiential legal education in Canada. CLASP intervened in two other Supreme Court of Canada cases in 2018.



Five York University PhD students were awarded the [Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship](#) for 2022. This prestigious scholarship, valued at \$50,000 per year for up to three years, is presented by the Government of Canada. The award is intended to support first-rate doctoral students who demonstrate both leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in the fields of social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, engineering and health. The selection criteria include academic excellence, research potential and leadership. The 2022 scholarship recipients are:

- Katherine Barron, Education: Language, Culture & Teaching
- Toby Finlay, Sociology
- Sarah Grace Grothaus, Computational Arts/EE and CS Departments
- Deanne Sowter, Law
- Alyssia Wilson, Clinical Developmental Psychology



[Two York University alumni](#) were appointed as two of three of Parliament's newest senators. Dr. Sharon Burey, a paediatrician and recognized leader for the health and well-being of children in Ontario, recently graduated with a Mini-MBA in Physician Business Leadership at York University; while Andrew Cardozo, a recognized expert on public policy, a columnist, and artist, holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science from York University. These outstanding leaders and mentors in their fields will make great contributions to the Senate of Canada.



For 22 years, [The York U Alumni Awards](#) have celebrated alumni who exemplify the values of York University, have made remarkable contributions to their fields, and changed the world for the better. The 2022 York U Alumni Awards recipients were recognized for their contributions in an event in November:

- Gregory Sam Sorbara (BA '78, LLB '81, LLD '13), Outstanding Contribution Award
- Dr. Eileen de Villa (MBA '03), Outstanding Achievement Award
- The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch (BA '89, LLB '89), Tentanda Via Award
- Larissa Crawford (BA '18), One to Watch Award



This fall, [Glendon College](#) launched its first ever Glendon Connect: Alumni Mentorship Program, an initiative that aims to provide networking opportunities for Glendon students with alumni leaders from a variety of fields and backgrounds. For eight weeks each semester, participating students have the opportunity to connect with a wide range of alumni mentors for coffee-chat style mentoring via Glendon's GLConnect platform. This open-networking approach allows students to connect with mentors who work in a variety of sectors, and encourages students to consider a multitude of personal and professional pathways, regardless of their program of study.