The kindergarten to industry (k2i) academy at the Lassonde School of Engineering has been recognized for inspiring underrepresented youth in STEM through numerous initiatives since 2020. On behalf of Lassonde, Lisa Cole, director of programming, k2i academy, received a Minister’s Award of Excellence in the category of Equality of Opportunity. The Minister of Colleges and Universities’ Awards of Excellence celebrate the work of faculty, staff and graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and vision on campus, in the community and beyond. The Equality of Opportunity category acknowledges faculty and staff who have excelled at creating opportunities in post-secondary education for marginalized and underrepresented groups. The k2i team includes Lisa Cole, Michelle Tsui-Woods and Vanessa Ironside.

YSpace startup company, MinuteSkill, is attracting media attention as it prepares to launch its latest product, Cliq, later this month. MinuteSkill is a social learning app founded in 2021 that allows businesses or individuals to post short educational videos on everything from growth strategies and marketing tips to strategies for identifying the best business model. Their new product, Cliq, is a video tool that uses AI to automatically repurpose long-form content into shorter, shareable video clips, as well as social media posts, blogs and newsletters. Cliq will be rolled out in late February 2023.

Christine Brooks-Cappadocia has been appointed interim assistant vice-president, continuing studies, effective February 1, until the completion of the search for the next AVP has concluded. Christine previously served as the executive director, programs & partnerships, the director of professional education and director of marketing & enrolment management in the School of Continuing Studies.
A new bursary award for York University’s Markham Campus students will honour the contributions and legacy of Professor Alice Pitt who currently serves as senior advisor, Markham Academic Strategic Planning. Pitt has been a faculty member at York since 1995, serving the University in leadership roles such as vice-provost academic (2012-20), Faculty of Education dean (2008-12), and Faculty of Education associate dean (2002-07). The $25,000 donation from Pitt will create an endowed bursary to benefit continuing undergraduate students entering their final year in a Markham Campus program and experiencing financial hardship. Each year, one recipient will receive approximately $1,000 from the Alice Pitt Bursary. The award will be available through Student Financial Services once the campus opens in Spring 2024.

Following her Grammy Award win for “Best Instrumental Jazz Album”, acclaimed music composer, producer and educator Terri Lyne Carrington headed to York University as this year’s Oscar Peterson Artist-in-Residence at the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD). As part of her residency, she will offer masterclasses, public performances and workshops geared at mentoring students who will be the future of jazz. Carrington is now a four-time Grammy award winner and was the first woman to win a Grammy for Best Jazz Instrumental Album, which she won for the second time on February 5th. As an acclaimed musician, she has a track record for being a dedicated educator and an advocate for racial and gender justice. Carrington was last at York in June 2022, when she received an honorary doctorate during AMPD’s convocation.

Schulich School of Business Professor Moshe A. Milevsky was appointed Vice-Chair of the Investor Advisory Panel of the newly formed Self-Regulation Organization of Canada (SRO) this month. The SRO oversees investment dealers, mutual fund dealers and trading activity on Canada’s debt and equity marketplaces with the aim of protecting investors, providing efficient and consistent regulation, and building trust in financial regulation and the people managing their investments.

Four individuals affiliated with York University have been appointed to the Order of Canada: Justice Harry LaForme (LLD [Hons.] ’08, LLB ’77), philanthropist Pierre Lassonde (LLD [Hons.] ’14), Holocaust educator and filmmaker Eli Rubenstein (BA ’84) and environmentalist John Robert Lounds (MES ’81). The individuals from the York University community are among 99 new appointments to the Order of Canada. Since its creation in 1967, the Order of Canada has honoured more than 7,600 people whose service has shaped society, whose innovations have ignited imaginations, and whose compassion has united Canadian communities.

Assistant Professor Duygu Biricik Gulseren’s Fall 2022 Occupational Health & Safety (HRM 3400) class created The OHS Project, which comprises case studies, news and academic articles, and podcast episodes, as a part of a semester-long experiential education effort dedicated to advancing workplace safety. The newly launched project aims to become an informational touchstone not just for future occupational health and safety students at York’s School of Human Resources Management, but for OHS researchers and educators around the world as well.
York University’s Faculty of Science recognized the academic, teaching and research excellence of students, faculty and staff during its annual Honours & Awards Ceremony held on January 30th. The awardees were:

- Professor Stephen Watson, chair of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Dean’s Special Recognition Award
- Hugo Chen, director of International Collaborations & Partnerships, Dean’s Special Recognition Award
- Professor Christopher Jang, Department of Biology, Excellence in Teaching Award in the Junior Tenure Stream Faculty category
- Professor Alireza Rafiee, Division of Natural Sciences, Excellence in Teaching Award in the Contract Faculty category
- Farwa Sajadi, graduate student, Richard Jarrell Excellence in Teaching at the Graduate Level Award
- Evangelia Tzamali, graduate student, Richard Jarrell Excellence in Teaching at the Graduate Level Award
- Professor Jude Kong, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Excellence in Research Award in the Early Career Researcher category
- Professor Neal Madras, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Excellence in Graduate Mentorship Award

The Hill Times’ list of Top 100 Best Books for 2022 included Geography Professor Patricia Wood’s book *Unstable Properties: Aboriginal Title and the Claim of British Columbia*, co-authored with York Geography PhD alumnus David Rossiter. The book investigates Aboriginal claims to Crown land and reframes the issue as a history of Crown attempts to solidify claims to Indigenous territory. The book puts critical human geography at the service of the goal of educating Canadians about the history of settler colonialism by demonstrating that understanding different conceptualizations of land and territorialization is a key element of meaningful reconciliation.

A legal team from Osgoode Hall Law School’s Community & Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP) is working to obtain Canadian citizenship for a Somali man, Abdirahaman Warssama, who was incarcerated in a maximum-security prison for more than five and a half years without charge under Canada’s controversial immigration detention system. By helping Warssama obtain citizenship, CLASP is hoping to help alleviate some of the suffering he endured at the hands of Canadian immigration authorities. 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 handles cases in the areas of immigration, criminal and administrative law, including refugee claims and PR applications, immigration detention hearings, summary conviction criminal charges, record suspensions, human rights cases and tenants’ rights disputes.
Recognized for his exceptional contributions to pediatric health care, York postdoctoral Fellow De-Lawrence Lamptey has been named Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital’s inaugural EMBARK scientist. The first program of its kind in Canada, EMBARK (Empowering Black Academics, Researchers and Knowledge creators) fills an important gap in amplifying diverse Black voices in disability research. Launched in partnership with the Black Research Network, an institutional strategic initiative at the University of Toronto, the EMBARK program addresses barriers that researchers from Black communities face in order to set them up for successful academic careers. Lamptey was selected from a competitive pool of qualified applicants from across Toronto and surrounding areas. The important work that he will perform at the hospital will support children and youth with medical complexity, illness and injury.

Professor Carys Craig of York University’s Osgoode Hall Law School will lead IP Osgoode as of January 2023 after being appointed director of the independent program that explores legal governance issues at the intersection of intellectual property (IP) and technology. As a faculty member at Osgoode since 2002, and a founding member of IP Osgoode, Craig brings to the role a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for teaching, researching, mentoring and mobilizing knowledge in the field of intellectual property law and technology.

Joy Kirchner, dean of York University libraries, will be retiring following an administrative leave. Kirchner joined York University as Dean in 2015 and was renewed for a second term in 2020. She has been a tireless advocate for York University Libraries throughout her time at the University, committed to aligning the Library’s expertise and services with the teaching, learning and research needs of students, faculty and researchers, especially throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and campus closures. She will remain in her role until June 30, 2023, and a search for her successor has commenced.

Two students, Avril Vernetta and Geneviève François-Kermode, are recipients of the Gertrude Mianda Prize for Excellence in Essay Writing, awarded to undergraduate or graduate students at York’s Glendon Campus whose essay is judged by the Glendon Race Equity Caucus to be of excellent quality. Vernetta is a Sanctuary Scholar who is currently completing a BA in cognitive neuropsychology at Glendon Campus, as well as a BEd at the Keele Campus. Her essay “Migrants at the margin: On Sanctuary Students, Sanctuary Cities and Accessible pathways to Citizenship” examines how historically racist immigration policy in Canada has operated in ways that systematically and pervasively deny access to racialized migrants. François-Kermode is a fourth-year undergraduate student in the Gender and Women’s Studies program, as well as the Humanities in the Power, Diaspora and Race stream. Her essay was written for the course Race, Gender, Transitional Justice and the Politics of Memory, and focuses on the ways in which personal positionality, history and memory intersect.

Jacob Beck, associate professor and York Research Chair in Philosophy, won a US$60,000 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in recognition of the novel research carried out in his project “Minds without Language,” which closely examines the process of human thought. As stated in its press release on Jan. 10, the NEH launched the $28.1 million fund, aiding more than 200 humanities scholars across the globe, in order to support “humanities research at college campuses, conservation research, innovative digital resources, and infrastructure projects at cultural institutions.” The fellowship will provide him with time to research and write a book about pre-linguistic forms of perception and thought. He is one of two researchers at Canadian institutions, and among only four researchers based outside of the U.S., to have received NEH funding.
Oscar-nominated director Herbert Davis and film producer and York alumnus Vinay Virmani (BA 2008), attended a special screening and Q-and-A for the critically acclaimed *Black Ice* at York’s Tribute Communities Recital Hall on February 13. Debuting at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2022, *Black Ice* captured the attention of critics and casual moviegoers alike, earning Davis the TIFF People’s Choice Award in the documentary category that year. The film explores the sordid history of discrimination against Black hockey players in leagues across North America.

An award that celebrates individuals committed to improving diversity and representation in Canada’s commercial real estate industry has been awarded to Silas Jjuuko, a master’s student at York University’s Schulich School of Business. The Gary Whitelaw Strength in Diversity Award was established by BentallGreenOak (BGO) in June 2021, and honours Gary Whitelaw’s tireless efforts and commitment to creating opportunities for underrepresented communities and aims to create pathways for Black, Indigenous and female students in the commercial real estate industry. As a recipient of this award, Jjuuko will receive $25,000 to support his scholarly activities and research as a student enrolled in Schulich’s Master of Real Estate and Infrastructure program.

Andrew Dawson, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the Glendon Campus of York University, and Isabel Krakoff, PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology, were announced as the winners of the inaugural Alexis de Tocqueville Award for the best conference paper on democracy and public opinion, an award given by the World Association for Public Opinion Research. The paper “Political Trust and Democracy: The Critical Citizens Thesis Re-Examined” empirically assesses competing perspectives on the relationship between democracy and political trust.

For the first time, York was listed on ShanghaiRanking’s Academic Ranking of World Universities in the field of telecommunications engineering (top 10 in Canada and 101-150 globally) in the 2022 rankings. The University scored particularly well in measures of research influence and international collaboration. This accomplishment was driven by the work undertaken by researchers at the Lassonde School of Engineering in areas of machine learning and artificial intelligence, molecular communication and multi-band wireless networks. The dedication and innovation of many Lassonde researchers contributed to this telecommunications ranking, including Associate Professor Ping Wang, Associate Professor Andrew Eckford, and Assistant Professor Hina Tabassum.

Each year, the York University community engages in the York Cares United Way Campaign to raise funds to help vulnerable members of the community facing crisis, in support of social services and organizations in Peel, Toronto and York Region. The 2022 campaign, which ran from Nov. 1 to Dec. 9, succeeded in raising $132,305. The 2022 York Cares United Way Campaign Committee, Division of Advancement’s Barbara Antenos and Nadia Dar engaged many volunteers across the University and were assisted by the following staff: Susana Gajic-Brueya, Louise Spencer, Karen Furlong, Tien Do-Ky, Ashley Goodfellow Craig, Vanessa Thompson, Mario So Gao, James Hsieh, Kaizad Kabraji, Mohini Jaggan, Marion Frankian, Isabelle Montagnier, Johanne Roberge, Vina Sandher, Lyna Truong, Scott Labron, Amal Awni, Gillian Cameron, and 50 executive assistants across the University who engaged their teams.