Glendon College won a Gold award at the 2023 Educational Advertising Awards competition with its Virtual Decision Tree App (VDT). The VDT is an original and creative marketing resource, which was designed in-house to provide an interactive and fun way of exploring Glendon’s campus and programs. It is set in a virtual Glendon Senate room, where “players” are invited to answer a series of questions about their academic profile, career objectives and campus life preferences. Once completed, the VDT generates a customized report identifying programs, certificates and activities most likely to match the answers submitted. This was made possible thanks to the Credit Transfer Institutional Grants funding envelope and the support of colleagues from both campuses.

APPOINTMENTS

As part of York’s commitment to become one of the most sustainable universities in Canada, we welcome Mike Layton as our first chief sustainability officer to lead the institution and strengthen its impact in creating a more sustainable and inclusive world. Layton is a proven champion of climate action and equality with almost two decades of experience leading change in public policy in senior roles both inside and outside government. At York, Layton will lead the Office of Sustainability to integrate sustainability projects across all levels of the campus by engaging the collective community to ensure that sustainability continues to be a critical part of York’s working, teaching, social and cultural spheres of campus.

Alice Pitt has been appointed as the interim vice-president of equity, people and culture for a term beginning April 1 to Dec. 31, 2023. A long-serving and dedicated member of the York community, Alice joined York as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education in 1995, where she demonstrated outstanding leadership and advocacy for accessible post-secondary education in various capacities including as associate dean (2002-07) and dean (2008-12) of the Faculty of Education.

Andrea Kosavic has been appointed as interim dean, York University Libraries (YUL), effective July 1, 2023, for a period of one year. Joy Kirchner, current YUL dean, will be retiring from her role following an administrative leave which will commence on June 30, 2023. We are grateful to Ms. Kosavic for stepping into this critical position while a comprehensive search is undertaken for the next permanent dean. Andrea Kosavic is presently associate dean, digital engagement and strategy at York University Libraries, a position she has held since 2016, and prior to which she served the University for 10 years as a digital initiatives librarian.
This month, York University launched its new Microlecture Series in Sustainable Living. Launched during SDG Week Canada, this first-of-its-kind series offers faculty, staff, students and members of the public the opportunity to learn about sustainability from six of York’s world-renowned experts. Recognized as a sustainability leader in post-secondary education, York designed the innovative series as a free, open access program featuring “microlectures” that focus on a diverse range of topics related to sustainability. The lectures feature the following York faculty:

- Shooka Karimpour, assistant professor, Lassonde School of Engineering
- Lina Brand-Correa, assistant professor, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change
- Usman Khan, associate professor, Lassonde School of Engineering
- Eric Kennedy, associate professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Yvonne Su, assistant professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Sapna Sharma, associate professor, Faculty of Science

Four Osgoode alumni are recipients of 2023 medals and awards from the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSO). At a special awards ceremony in May, graduates Reva Devins ’81 and Ena Chadha ’08 (LLM) will receive the Law Society Medal, Tami Moscoe ’96 will receive the J. Shirley Denison Award, and Courtney Harris ’02 will be presented with the Laura Legge Award. All recipients were announced in an LSO news release dated March 10, 2023.

Van Thien Pham (BEng ’23) and Essete Tesfaye (BA ’23) are finalists for the first global cohort of McCall MacBain Scholars at McGill University. The scholarships are the result of a $200-million gift in 2019 from John and Marcy McCall MacBain – the second-largest single donation in Canadian history. Designed to encourage purposeful leadership, the scholarships enable students to pursue a fully funded master’s or professional degree while participating in mentorship, coaching and a leadership development program.

In addition, the McCall MacBain Scholarships program also offered Regional Awards of $5,000 each to 38 more Canadian candidates who were among the top in their region. Biomedical science students Areeba Chaudhry and Aleeza Qayyum both earned Regional Awards, which are tenable at any public university in Canada.
The Toronto Star recently named Schulich School of Business alumnus Peyvand Melati (EMBA '18) one of Fourteen Canadian entrepreneurs to watch in 2023. Melati is the founder of QEA Tech, a company that focuses on reducing energy loss in buildings by using drones with high-definition visual and thermal cameras to spot building points that have cracks or moisture penetration. Melati pursued an EMBA for hard skills, and credits the Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA program with assisting him as an entrepreneur.

The Lassonde School of Engineering’s kindergarten to industry (k2i) academy has received $463,800 from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism to create a unique micro-credentialed, Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) educational program for Black youth in grades 7 to 12. Part of k2i’s Bringing STEM to Life in Schools stream, the SHSM program will work with some of the largest and most diverse school boards in the Greater Toronto Area to implement a tailored initiative designed to reach more than 1,500 Black youth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Tony DeBono, a York alumnus with a PhD in clinical-developmental psychology, was appointed as the registrar and executive director of the College of Psychologists of Ontario, effective February 27, 2023. He has held a variety of clinical and leadership roles in academic health science, including chief of interprofessional practice and bioethics ethics consultant at Hamilton Health Sciences and on various hospital ethics committees. He is currently working on transformational initiatives at The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre.

York University’s Lassonde School of Engineering has announced the results of its 2022 Innovation Awards, which acknowledge extraordinary research achievements, innovation and knowledge translation activities, and dedication to both science and engineering research at the Lassonde School of Engineering. The awards recognize research carried out in the last three years and each nominee must be a full-time or contract faculty member at Lassonde. Faculty are eligible to receive an award in each category only once every 10 years. This year’s recipients are:

- Associate Professor Ali Sadeghi-Naini, Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Innovation Award (Early Researcher)
- Professor James Elder, Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Innovation Award (Established Researcher)
- Associate Professor Garrett Melenka, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Graduate Mentorship Award
- Associate Professor Usman Khan, Department of Civil Engineering, Public Engagement Award

Anishinaabe Professor Maya Chacaby and Continuing Ed Director Katie Ablett are offering the six-week program, Indigenous Cultural Competency and Trauma-Informed Training, for a second time this winter, with over 100 participants signed up, and another cohort being offered later this spring. This is a concrete example of academic leadership and collaboration involving First Nation communities. The program is funded in part by the Donner Canadian Foundation.
York University has gained four new and three renewed Canada Research Chairs (CRC). Professors Antony Chum, Arash Habibi Lashkari, Kohitij Kar and Liya Ma received new CRC appointments and Professors Christopher Caputo, Raymond W.M. Kwong and Regina Rini had their CRCs renewed. The announcement of the Canada Research Chair appointments was made by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, François-Philippe Champagne, during his announcement on November 22, 2022 of an investment of more than $139 million to support 176 new and renewed Canada Research Chairs across 46 institutions in Canada.

York University Assistant Professor Agnès Berthelot-Raffard, Faculty of Health, has been selected as the Senior Muriel Gold Visiting Professor at McGill University’s Institute of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, Faculty of Arts. During her research stay from March 13 to July 31, 2023, Berthelot-Raffard will work on a monograph on the interconnection between racial domination and epistemic injustices from a Black feminist perspective. As a political philosopher working in disability, Black health and ethics, Berthelot-Raffard’s book will highlight Black women’s experience in the health-care system and the barriers they face. Berthelot-Raffard holds the first Canadian academic position in Black disability studies and is leading research funded by the Public Health Agency to explore social determinants of racialized students’ mental health and equity at universities.

Three York alumnae are among a list of 50 Canadian business people, artists, academics and activists recognized as emerging leaders in their pursuit to make the world a better place. Published in The Globe and Mail, the 2023 Changemakers list showcases those who endeavor to inspire and revolutionize their fields of expertise. The three York alumnae highlighted in this year’s Changemakers list are:

- Shukri Abdulle (BBA ’18), scrum master and productivity manager at Bimbo Canada (formerly Canada Bread Company)
- Eva Lau (MBA ’05), co-founder of Two Small Fish venture capital fund
- Teresa Marques (MA ’03), president of the Rideau Hall Foundation
ELLA was chosen as a successful applicant of the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem Fund. The funding will help ELLA expand upon services developed as part of the 2018 project. ELLA Canada will provide a 360-degree, online and in-person support to women entrepreneurs at all stages in their entrepreneurial journey, from ideation to scaling. ELLA Express is a self-paced program designed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools to launch or grow their businesses. The ELLEvate program then provides access to business coaching, mentorship, workshops and co-development conversations. The ELLA Altitude program will support national and international scale-up and will be open to late-stage entrepreneurs, graduates of York's other programs or referrals by regional hub partners.

Sean Hillier, associate professor and York Research Chair in Indigenous Health Policy & One Health, was appointed to the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics. The Panel on Research Ethics (PRE) is composed of 12 members drawn from across the country to represent a wide spectrum of expertise and experience in the ethics of human research, such as research involving Indigenous peoples, ethics and ethics review, research administration, research in the health, natural and social sciences, humanities and engineering, law, as well as a lay perspective. Working in collaboration with and drawing support from expert groups, the Panel will add to the substantial base of ethics knowledge and ability that already exists in Canada.

Terry Sachlos, an assistant professor at the Lassonde School of Engineering, is the first principal investigator at the School to receive a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Sachlos received a $730,575 project grant from CIHR to support his bone marrow transplant research, which opened the door to the further growth of biomedical research at the school.

Two York professors have each received $100,000 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Associate Professor Leeat Granek, of the Faculty of Health, received the grant to research the accessibility of pediatric palliative care for Canadian children and families. Associate Professor Fuminori Toyasaki, from the School of Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies received the grant to further his research on vaccine supply management through the Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies, which operates within the CIHR.

York's Department of Communication & Media Studies in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies recently hosted its annual Student Awards Ceremony for staff, faculty, family and friends to celebrate the notable achievements of students throughout 2022. This year’s awards and winners include:

- Viki Posidis, Dalton Kehoe Scholarship
- Breton Severin, Eric Koch Award
- Francesca Cuda, Jerry Durlak Prize
- Maria Cedrone, Penny Jolliffe Scholarship
- Christine Cooling, Reva Orlicky Memorial
- Phuc Nguyen, York International Exchange Award
- Wendy Joyce Millen, Arthur Siegel Award
Osgoode Indigenous student group’s Moose Hide Campaign aims to end domestic violence. The Osgoode Indigenous Students’ Association’s contribution to the Moose Hide Campaign is unique in that it emphasizes the role Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys can play against violence directed at women and children. “The idea is to get men and boys together talking about this issue and raising awareness for it and doing their part,” says Levi Marshall, a third-year student at Osgoode Hall at York University and one of the campaign organizers at the law school.

From the Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change’s Ecological Footprint Initiative, Eric Miller and Katie Kish were awarded a grant by Shared Value Solutions to develop a Métis-focused Ecological Footprint Calculator for the Métis Nation of Ontario. The calculator helps Métis individuals and households estimate their Ecological Footprint, advises them on ways to conserve it, and provides comparisons to other members of the community and the average Ontarian.

Elizabeth Clare, assistant professor in York University’s Faculty of Science, recently demonstrated the possibility of assessing the range of animal species inhabiting a given locale using environmental DNA sampled from the air – a breakthrough that placed her among Gizmodo Science Fair 2023 winners. The research paper from Clare’s team, “Measuring biodiversity from DNA in the air,” represents a significant leap forward in the applicability of environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling.

Sponsored by Ontario’s Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Minister’s Awards of Excellence highlight the incredible work of professors, instructors, staff and graduate students on campus, in the community and beyond. Since it was announced on February 7, 2023 that the 2021-22 winners had been finalized, several York University faculty and initiatives have received recognition for their exceptional work. The winners are:

- Faculty of Health’s School of Nursing Assistant professors Kristine Pedernal and Andria Phillips, Future-proofing Ontario’s Students Award
- Department of Chemistry Assistant Professor Kyle Belozerov and Associate Professor Derek Jackson, Future-proofing Ontario’s students Award
- Lassonde School of Engineering’s kindergarten to industry (k2i) academy, Equality of Opportunity Award

Osgoode Hall Law School and Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, one of Canada’s leading law firms, have jointly announced a $1.2-million Davies Fellows Award that is designed to break down barriers to legal education. The new bursary is created with donations from Osgoode alumni at Davies with matching funds from the law school. Every year, the bursary will help support one first-year student in the law school’s juris doctor (JD) program who has demonstrated financial need and exceptional promise.
York-based research duo, Sheila Colla and MES alumna Kennedy Halvorson, received new funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada to undertake knowledge mobilization and develop a priority area sampling framework for parasites and pathogens in native bees in Canada, with a focus on at-risk species. The project will create a platform for a nation-wide sampling protocol in priority areas and conservation hotspots to assess baseline wild bee parasite and pathogen levels.

Rehan Rashid, a mechanical engineering student at York University’s Lassonde School of Engineering, has set his sights on becoming an astronaut, and the Paulina Lau Scholars Program helped to pave his way. He has made progress toward his dream with two NASA internships in 2022 and another slated for summer 2023. Rashid credits the Paulina Lau Scholars Program for significantly helping him, allowing him to drop his part-time job and focus on his studies and axel at his Nasa internship. The Paulina Lau Scholars Program, an endowed award, was created to benefit undergraduate and graduate students travelling overseas to engage in coursework, research or internships. This scholarship program was established by York alums and life partners Hian Siang Chan and Paulina Lau and their family to inspire future generations of students to right the future.

At the International Economic Development Council Leadership Summit in February 2023, co-hosted by Development Counsellors International and Jorgenson Consulting, Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change alumna, Alia Abbas (MA in Geography 2017) was recognized as one of the Top 40 under 40 for demonstrating strong leadership, commitment and innovation every day in the workplace.

The 41st annual Ontario Japanese Speech Contest, where six York undergraduates secured podium positions, was held at the University of Toronto on March 4, 2023 and marked the first time that the event returned in person since 2020. In total, eight students from the Japanese Studies Program, in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics (DLLL) at the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), competed in front of a large crowd that was undeterred by the inclement weather earlier that day. Three York students will advance to the national contest. Those eight students collectively qualified for three competition categories: beginner, intermediate, and advanced level speech. Of the eight students, the six who were awarded for their speeches were:

- Risha Pelchat (AP/JP2010), Grand prize (Advanced first)
- Ava-karie Hislop (AP/JP2000), Intermediate first
- Arman Ahmed (AP/JP1000), Shinkikai-Sagamihara City Award (Beginners first)
- Chengsi Ma (AP/JP2000), Intermediate second
- Maximos Yao (AP/JP1000), Beginners second
- Afia Fobi (AP/JP2000), Intermediate third

Arts, Media, Performance and Design alumna Lenka Lichtenberg (MA ’93) won a 2023 Juno Awards. Lenka Lichtenberg’s album “Thieves of Dreams,” released in 2022, won the Juno Award in the global music album of the year category.
Teaching stream faculty from York's Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, showcased their innovations in teaching and learning during the American Economics Association's (AEA's) annual meeting, held in January 2023. The AEA annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Allied Social Sciences Associations and is the most prestigious economics conference of the year. York faculty, including Gordana Colby, Karen Bernhardt-Walther, and Tsvetanka Karagyozova, represented 10 per cent of the presentations, and discussed their work and teaching strategies with other interested economists during the three-hour Committee on Economic Education poster session.

Osgoode Alumna Shalene Curtis-Micallef (LLB ’95) has been appointed by the Government of Canada as the new deputy minister of justice and deputy attorney general of Canada. Curtis-Micallef has served as associate deputy minister of the department of justice since September 1, 2021. She started her career with the department of justice in the tax law services portfolio as a tax litigation counsel. In 2008, she was appointed as deputy executive director and senior counsel.

The 2022-2023 Faculty of Graduate Studies’ (FGS) Teaching Award recipient is Associate Professor Anne MacLennan, recognized for her outstanding instruction in the history, communication and culture, and interdisciplinary studies graduate programs. The award – bestowed annually on a member of the Faculty – recognizes the teaching and supervisory excellence, as well as the scholarly, professional and curricula development achievements of graduate program instructors at York University.

In February 2023, the Department of English presented its annual English Awards at the first in-person reception since before the pandemic. The reception was held in the Schulich Executive Learning Centre dining room. Each year the department offers seven prizes and scholarships, as well as recognition for outstanding essays written in courses offered at the 1000, 2000, 3000 and 4000 levels. The winners are:

- Sebastian Fess, The Avie Bennett Prize in Canadian Literature
- Adrian Grek, The Brian Hepworth Memorial Prize
- Jelem Cuary and Jordan Gionet, The Department of English Retirees’ Scholarship
- Zoe Kavouris, The Elizabeth Sabiston Prize
- Robert Candoni, The June McMaster-Harrison Memorial Prize
- Tiger Thompson-Davidson, The H.K. Girling Literature Prize
- Caio Popovic, The Matthew Ahern Memorial Prize
- Abbie Mauno and Kaila Gallacher, The Lucille Herbert Memorial Scholarship
- John Batista, The Stephanie Stavro Scholarship in English