York University’s outstanding progress in sustainability earned it the distinction of being one of Canada’s Top 100 Greenest Employers for the 11th consecutive year. This announcement comes on the heels of York’s ambitious new sustainability goals, the appointment of the University’s first chief sustainability officer and a targeted plan to achieve net-zero sooner. Canada’s Greenest Employers 2023 competition, now in its 16th year, is designed to highlight employers in Canada that are leaders in creating a “culture of environmental awareness” through “exceptional sustainability initiatives,” a feat York University has not only embraced but is committed to as one of its core values. The winners are chosen annually by Mediacorp Canada Inc., the organizers of the annual Canada’s Top 100 Employers project.

York University’s growing area of strength in water research, strong local and global relationships, and commitment to positive change has resulted in the University being named academic lead in the United Nations’ (UN) new Water Academy. The first-of-its-kind Water Academy brings together public and private sector partners from around the world to establish an innovative water training and education resource. Announced by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at the UN 2023 Water Conference, held in New York City between March 22 and 24, the Water Academy is a global multi-sector collaboration.

The annual Research Festival at Glendon Campus was held from April 4 to 6, celebrating the research achievements of faculty and students. Hosted by the Research Office at Glendon, the three-day event aims to showcase the research achievements of the community through conferences, book launches, student exhibits, presentations, awards and more.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Chloë Brushwood Rose has been appointed a three-year term as vice-provost, teaching and learning, commencing on July 1. Brushwood Rose is a faculty member in Education and currently serves as graduate program director in gender, feminist and women’s studies at York. She has previously served as associate dean academic in Education and as Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy. At the core of all her administrative leadership and service activities is a commitment to strengthening the University’s openness to a greater diversity of perspectives, programs and students.
Representing every Faculty at the University, the 2023 Top 30 Alumni Under 30 are applying the skills, knowledge and learning experiences gained at York towards community service that benefits the public good. Included in the list are:

- Fikayo Aderojlu, BA ‘22, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LAPS)
- Batool Barodi, BSc ’19, Faculty of Science
- Bianca Bondi, MA ’19, Faculty of Health
- Victoria Canale, BSW ’20, LAPS; MSW ’21 Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Lucas DeLuca, MA ’19, Faculty of Health
- Trevor Fairlie, JD ’19, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Corey Fletcher, JD ’21, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Philip Geller, MFA ’22, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- Genevieve Giesbrecht, JD ’20, Osgoode Hall Law School
- Clarelle Gonsalves, BSc ’18, Faculty of Science
- Ying Gu, BES ’15, MES ’19, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC)
- Maseh Hadaf, BSc ’18, Faculty of Health
- Sheereen Harris, BSc ’16, Faculty of Health
- Robert Ingino, BEng ’18, Lassonde School of Engineering
- Shalini Iyer, BSc ’20, Faculty of Science; MSc ’22, Faculty of Health
- Sahar Jafrani, BA ’17, Faculty of Health
- Sahil Kesar, IBBA ’15, Schulich School of Business
- Ghazain Mazari, BA ’17, LAPS
- Kate Haiyun Mossop, MLCE ’21, Faculty of Education
- Theresa Nguyen, BEng ’20, Lassonde School of Engineering; BA ’20, LAPS
- Reni Odetoyinbo, BBA ’18, Schulich School of Business
- Tobi Owotomo, BA ’19, Faculty of Health
- Lela Pacitti-Sander, MES ’17, EUC
- Amirarsalan Rahimian, BSc ’21, Faculty of Health
- Gari Ravishankar, BHRM ’18, LAPS
- Raghavender Sahdev, MSC ’18, Lassonde School of Engineering
- Alyssa Segula, MBA ’22, Schulich School of Business
- Korina Thomas-Reynolds, IBA ’18, Glendon; BEd ’18 and MEd ’20 Faculty of Education
- Faridah Yagboyaju, IBBA ’22, Schulich School of Business
- Iris Yusupov, BA ’16, Glendon; MA ’18, Faculty of Health; MBA ’22, Schulich School of Business

The outstanding achievements of 70 York University faculty members were recognized on April 12 during the 2023 Research Awards Celebration. The annual event, hosted by the Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation, celebrates the research contributions from York’s community of changemakers over the last year. The recipients of this year’s President’s Research Awards are:

- Karen Burke, associate professor, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design, who was recognized with the President’s Research Impact Award (PRIA).
- Jude Kong, assistant professor, Faculty of Science, and Taïen-Ng Chan, assistant professor, School of the Arts, Performance, Media & Design, who were recognized with the President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award (PERLA).
- Linda Peake, professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, who was recognized with the President’s Research Excellence Award (PREA).
Yvonne Su, an assistant professor in the Department of Equity Studies in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, provided expert testimony at the refugee hearing for a gay Venezuelan man seeking asylum in the United States. Su is an expert on forced migration. Since 2019, her research has focused on LGBTQ+ asylum seekers from Venezuela, where, as in many countries, a confluence of politics, religion and culture makes living an openly gay life dangerous. As one of the first migration experts to research these high-risk and hard-to-reach groups, Su’s data set of experiences of violence is rare and necessary for informing policy. Su’s testimony lasted 20 minutes, but the hearing itself went on for five or six hours. Afterward, the judge decided in favour of the asylum seeker.

York University alum Rosemarie Powell (MES ’15) will be honoured at the 2023 Harry Jerome Awards for her long-serving work in advancing social, economic and environmental justice. The Harry Jerome Awards recognize excellence in the African Canadian community. Powell will be presented with the Leadership Award on April 29 during the 41st Black Business and Professional Association Annual Harry Jerome Awards Gala. Powell is executive director of the Toronto Community Benefits Network, a non-profit community-labour coalition through which she advocates for disadvantaged communities and equity-deserving groups in the City of Toronto.

Professor Emeritus Pat Armstrong is this year’s Hall Foundation Laureate for her outstanding contributions to the health ideals of equity, fairness, justice and efficiency. She will deliver the prestigious Hall Lecture in May at the 2023 Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) Annual Conference. CAHSPR is a multidisciplinary association dedicated to improving health and health care by advancing the quality, relevance and application of research on health services and health policy.

Ramesh Venkatesa Perumal, a sessional assistant professor in the Faculty of Health, became the first doctoral graduate of York’s School of Nursing program on February 21, when he successfully defended his dissertation, “Impact of social support and mentoring on career advancement of internationally educated nurses.” Venkatesa Perumal’s significant accomplishment is only the latest in an ongoing journey around nursing, which he has long considered his calling. He began his doctoral work in September 2018, and was one among several others positioned to be the inaugural doctoral candidates in the new PhD in Nursing program. In February of this year, he became the first to complete the program.

Four students from York University’s Faculty of Education have joined educational developers at the Teaching Commons (TC) to create a new way of working together in partnership. The students, including teaching candidates Zainab Chaudhry, Theodora Dobbs and Lauren Wilson, and undergraduate educational studies major Corina Vitantonio, have just completed year-long placements with the TC. They work closely with educational developers Matthew Dunleavy, Lisa Endersby, and Lianne Fisher to think about how students can operate as partners, rather than as clients, in post-secondary education. Their work will form the foundation for future Student as Partners opportunities at the TC, and serve as a guide for future collaborations between students and staff or students and faculty.
On March 20, as a part of Climate Change Research Month, the 58th CENTRAL Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research and the One WATER World Water Day Conference, York University hosted a screening of Omiwatari. The film showcased Associate Professor of Biology Sapna Sharma’s study of ice coverage of Japanese lakes throughout history to reveal pre- and post-industrial climate trends. Filmmaker and multimedia artist Zeesy Powers was attending a Royal Canadian Institute for Science lecture when she first heard about Sharma’s research on omiwatari. Three years later, Sharma agreed to take part in a documentary on her work. Sharma provided the initial funding to get to Nagano. One year later, Powers was able to secure funding from the Canada Council for the Arts to complete it.

Researchers at York University aim to co-develop a Bicycles for Development Transnational Collective website to mobilize and amplify the efforts of those working in the bicycles for development field. The team is led by Faculty of Health Associate Professor Lyndsay Hayhurst, and includes Faculty of Health graduate students Jessica Nachman, Natan Levi, Julia Ferreira Gomes, undergraduate student Isra Iqbal, Development Studies student Tayler Sinclair and former MA student Keiron Cobb. Together, the Bicycles for Development research team has co-created a digital platform to host resources, events and discussions for interested researchers, organizations, practitioners and advocates.

A real estate startup founded by Schulich alums has recently closed $2.1 million CAD in pre-seed funding to fuel its North American expansion and product development plans. Launched in 2019, RealSage was founded by Arunabh Dastidar (MBA ’19), Gaurav Madani (MBA ’19), and Zain Nathoo (BBA ’14). The company currently tackles the modern-day challenges of rental managers by enabling them to leverage their data and systems in innovative ways.

Twenty graduating BFA students from the Department of Dance in York’s School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design performed in Colossus at the Meridian Arts Centre, alongside dancers from Toronto Metropolitan University from March 22 to 26. Created by renowned Australian contemporary choreographer Stephanie Lake, Colossus has been touring to pre-professional training institutions around the world since its global premiere in Brisbane in 2018. Described as a tribute to collective humanity and the range of emotions inspired by existing alongside others, Colossus explores the delicate balance between intimacy and explosive expressivity and asks important questions about who individuals are within a collective.

The Graduate Business Council (GBC) at Schulich hosted the final round of the 2022-2023 Dean’s Cup case competition on March 17. The Dean’s Cup is an annual case competition at Schulich involving student teams from all graduate programs who compete over four rounds to win the coveted title. The finale was sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and the event was attended by Schulich Dean, Detlev Zwicky, Associate Deans, Kevin Tasa and Ashwin Joshi, together with a number of Schulich professors and instructors, previous GBC Case Directors, past winners of Dean’s Cup as well as industry professionals. The top five teams worked through a live case, developing a competitive strategy for RBC to attract newcomers in Canada and the winning team, Case Masters, led by first-year MBA student Kunj Shah, impressed the judges as well as the audience.
Professor Anna Agathangelou is the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award for Feminist Theory and Gender Studies from the International Studies Association. The International Studies Association is one of the oldest interdisciplinary associations dedicated to understanding international, transnational and global affairs. Founded in 1959, its more than 7,000 members span the globe – comprising academics, practitioners, policy experts, private sector workers and independent researchers, among others. The Association has long served as a central hub for the exchange of ideas and for networking and programmatic initiatives among those involved in the study, teaching and practice of International Studies.

Assistant Professor Trevor VandenBoer of the Faculty of Science, and former York postdoctoral researcher Leigh Crilley, have developed groundbreaking equipment to measure indoor air quality for pollution. Air pollution in outside environments is something that has long been studied and measured. Indoor air quality, however, is something that has not been examined as closely, largely because there has been no easy way to measure it. However, the total reactive nitrogen (tNr) instrument, developed by VandenBoer and Crilley, uses an oven to measure a variety of chemicals that make up indoor air pollution and is the size of a small bookcase on wheels. In the future, it could be navigated through the doorways of homes and businesses to measure air quality in a kitchen, bedroom or basement by existing professionals with training similar to energy auditors.

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) named Tim Whiten, professor emeritus at York’s School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design and founding member of the visual arts program, winner of this year’s Gershon Iskowitz Prize. As the most recent Gershon Iskowitz artist at the AGO, Whiten will receive a $75,000 cash prize and have his works featured in a solo exhibit hosted at the gallery throughout 2025. The prize, created and funded by the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation, has been awarded via the AGO every year since 1986 to “a professional Canadian visual artist who has achieved maturity… and who is on the verge of using their creative energy to produce a significant body of work, or to continue their research.” The Gershon Iskowitz Prize jury commended Whiten for the innate quality of his work to go beyond mere physical presentation and offer an ethereal experience to his audience.

Five York alumnae have been recognized for their leadership in driving impact, innovation and inspiration through their work and accomplishments in the Canadian tech industry and in the advancement of women as role models. Included in the 2023 Top 25 Women of Influence, a list curated by the women advocacy and support organization Women of Influence+, are alumnae Kristin Beardsley ('00 BA) and Paulette Senior ('90 BA). DMZ’s 2023 Women of the Year, recognizing female trailblazers driving innovation in the Canadian tech industry, included three York alumnae: Hanna Zaidi ('12 BA), Kashmera Self ('99 BA); and Suzanne Knight ('11 MBA).
York University Athletics & Recreation hosted its 54th annual Varsity Athletics Banquet on April 6. The event marked the return of the in-person banquet following the live-streamed iteration of the 53rd award ceremony in 2021. This year’s winners included:

- Jotam Chouhan, Women’s soccer player, Female Athlete of the Year
- Soji Olatoye, Men’s soccer player, Male Athlete of the Year
- Nia Fleming-Thompson, Women’s soccer player, Female Rookie of the Year
- Victor Lai, Men’s soccer player, Male Rookie of the Year
- Frankie St. Louis, Field hockey player Frankie St. Louis, Bryce M. Taylor Award (Outstanding Female Graduate)
- Xavier Pouliot, Men’s hockey player, Outstanding Male Graduate Award
- Zeeshan Minhas, Field Hockey Coach, Coach of the Year
- Prince Kamunga, Basketball player, Charles Saundercook Memorial Trophy

Most Valuable Players:

- Women’s Basketball: Lauren Golding
- Men’s Basketball: Somto Dimanochie
- Women’s Cross Country: Laura Peters
- Men’s Cross Country: Abdullahi Abdullahi
- Field Hockey: Frankie St. Louis
- Football: Matt Dean
- Women’s Hockey: Brooke Anderson
- Men’s Hockey: Xavier Pouliot
- Women’s Rugby: Erin Preston
- Women’s Soccer: Jotam Chouhan
- Men’s Soccer: Joe Mac
- Women’s Tennis: Tamara Janev
- Men’s Tennis: Max Tokarev
- Women’s Track & Field: Ella Foster
- Men’s Track & Field: Jeremy Elliott
- Women’s Volleyball: Christina Piccinin
- Men’s Volleyball: Andrew Tauhid
- Women’s Wrestling: Willow Morton
- Men’s Wrestling: Sabit Bin Mair

A new online application from a team led by Sean Rehaag, associate professor at Osgoode Hall Law School and director of its Refugee Law Lab, is designed to equip lawyers with critical legal data needed to improve their odds of winning refugee protections for migrants at risk. The Refugee Law Lab Portal, which launched on March 27, provides readily available legal analytics derived from all Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) decisions and judicial reviews of IRB judgments by the Federal Court. The aim of the project is to maintain the portal’s legal data so that lawyers can create “targeted” legal arguments, just as a doctor would use targeted medications to treat a patient’s unique symptom profile.
York University’s Lassonde School of Engineering welcomed the 2022 cohort of Lassonde Scholars on March 6 during a reception to celebrate their accomplishments. The newest recipients of the Lassonde Scholarship were joined by Pierre and Julie Lassonde of the Lassonde Family Foundation and Dean Jane Goodyer. The 14 students join a community of more than 100 Lassonde Scholars who demonstrate academic excellence, creative thinking and community leadership. The 2022 Lassonde Scholarship recipients are:

- Shahen Alexanian, computer science
- Jatin Chhabra, mechanical engineering
- Lucas Chua, electrical engineering, and Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology (BEST)
- Shannon Fernando, atmospheric science, and certificate in meteorology
- Connor Humphries, space engineering
- Kiet Le, computer engineering
- Wan Ning Ma, computer science
- Pratish Patel, mechanical engineering
- Yisroel Rosenberg, civil engineering
- Fatema Roshni, mechanical engineering
- Glendon Stewart, computer engineering
- Misheel Tuguldur, computer science
- Kristin Villena, computer science
- Dominique Wanandi, civil engineering

A virtual tool developed by York University Osgoode Hall professor Stephanie Ben-Isha has helped expand experiential learning. COVID-19 might have spurred interest in improving virtual learning experiences, but Ben-Isha says that her desire to build better tools for teaching started long before the pandemic. To facilitate learning in the contract law course “Teaching and Learning Law,” she developed an audiovisual technology that anticipates potential responses to questions and pushes students to come up with questions themselves, providing automatic feedback. Ben-Isha developed the technology in partnership with Western University law professor David Sandomierski and a team of software developers. The virtual learning tool is now part of the Ontario government’s eCampus Ontario site for open access.

The 2022 recipients of the Nascent Co-op/Internship Students of the Year Award have been announced. This annual award, sponsored by Nascent Digital, recognizes two students for their achievements and outstanding contributions in their co-op/internship work term(s). The two winning students receive a certificate and a $500 award from the Lassonde Co-op/Internship Program to recognize their achievements. This year’s awards went to Yanni Wang, a third-year computer science student in the process of completing a 16-month internship at CIBC in the role of Test Analyst Co-op, which she began in the winter of 2022, and Mohaimen Hassan, a third-year software engineering student. Hassan began his co-op term as an Associate Software Engineer at Deloitte in September 2021 and worked there until the fall of 2022.
Five awards were given out in early March at Lassonde's annual BEST Startup Experience event to celebrate innovative startups created by students.

The BEST Startup Experience is designed to be part of an experiential learning opportunity for students to solve real-world problems in a team environment by creating projects related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This year, the event brought together over 300 undergraduate and graduate students to work in teams on more than 60 projects. Awards include:

- First place: Carbon Report (Alvin Chan, Arit Johar, Nitya Bhatt, Mike Shen and Tiffany Kwan)
- Second place: TranReality (Azwad Abid, Wachirawit Umpaipant, Madison Bardael, Elijah Paulsen, John Brown, Francis Joseph Fajardo)
- Third place & People's Choice winner: Handi Fuel, (Muhammad Qasim, Daoud Ali, Jia Xu, Tarek Jarab, Mohamed Nizar, Sayed Suliman, Tariq Qureshey, Manala Perera)
- Special Award prize: LinkAssist (Shaheer Saif, Soo Min Yi, Jenny Zhao, Camie Wong)
- Just Do It Award: Tiffin Time (Imam Khalid, Jason Yang, Shafin Mahmud, Tariq Syed, Masrur Rahman)

Distinguished Research Professor Sergey Krylov of the Faculty of Science received the Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to train the next generation of technologically advanced graduates. Krylov will lead a team of researchers and industry leaders in helping graduates meet the scientific and engineering challenges of tomorrow, as well as drive and support pharmaceutical drug discovery and vaccine development in Canada. The goal is to allow master’s and PhD students to graduate from York with the technical and managerial skills to take on leading positions in new entities, and the drive to capitalize on disruptive technologies that could impact Canada’s research and development in the pharmaceutical industry.

A paper co-authored by York University researchers that investigates how COVID-19 impacted the delivery of cardiac rehabilitation worldwide has earned the Best Global Heart Journal Paper Award for 2023 from the World Heart Federation. The award, which recognizes work that advances heart health and fights cardiovascular disease, will be presented at the World Heart Summit, May 19 to 21, to the team of researchers that includes York University Faculty of Health Adjunct Professor Gabriela Lima de Melo Ghisi (lead author), Professor Sherry Grace (senior author) and Adjunct Professor Susan Marzolini. The team studied the impacts of COVID-19 on cardiac rehabilitation around the world, with a focus on closures and the associated effects on patients and providers.
A silver medal finish at the 2023 National Public Administration Case Competition positions York University’s Glendon College as second in Canada for excellence in Canadian public administration programs. Organized by the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration, the annual competition asked students to modernize transactions through a Central Bank digital currency, provide an assessment of the challenges and outline what their advice would be for decision-makers. Teams presented their cases to a panel of judges, spending 30 minutes sharing their research, analysis and predicted outcomes. The team was coached by Glendon Associate Professor Francis Garon, director of the Graduate Program in Public & International Affairs, along with Glendon instructor Andrew Mackey, senior policy and issues advisor, Deputy Minister’s Office, Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. The team of students included: Ruben Barragan Garay, Alicia Gordy, Vanessa Fecteau, Klausky Mathurin, Mathis Nouvelle, Taheera Sarker and Perry Sutton.

York University Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Sustainable Organomain Group Materials, Thomas Baumgartner, has been selected as a 2023 Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada, an honour that recognizes the merits of members who have made outstanding contributions to chemistry. Baumgartner, who joined York’s Department of Chemistry in 2017, has pursued ongoing research focused on the design of novel materials that can be used to lower humanity’s carbon footprint and will provide knowledge crucial to the development of essential next-generation technologies for a sustainable future.

Kanishka Sikri, a York PhD candidate studying race- and sex-based violence, will receive a Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada (SWAAC) 2023 Graduate Award of Merit. Kanishka founded Lottet, a consulting firm that works with community, corporate, and government clients around the many forms of violence, from its racialized arm to its gendered leg to its ecological face and its epistemic shape. The firm has made an enduring commitment to addressing, preventing, confronting, and ultimately eliminating violence in society. Four Graduate Student Award of Merit awards, in the amount of $4,000, are awarded annually to the women graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the University or general community while maintaining exemplary academic records.

York students from the Japanese Studies Program in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies garnered top prizes at the 34th Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest (NJSC). NJSC contestants, who are the first-prize winners in each category of the year’s respective provincial Japanese speech contests, travelled from all across the country to compete together. This year, 25 contestants at four different levels of proficiency faced off at the national contest, which took place at the Toronto branch of the Japan Foundation on March 26. The three York students who finished in prize-winning positions were:

- Beginners third: Arman Ahmed (AP/JP1000)

York student and Glendon Spanish Language Assistant Elizabeth Jefferies-Joseph-Oyerinde participated in the 2023 Model Senate Simulation in Ottawa as a senate speaker. Representing colleges and universities across the country, this group of passionate students took charge of the Red Chamber and got a taste of what it was like to work as a Canadian senator during the event’s 2023 edition, held on March 10 and 11. For the first time, Model Senate supported both virtual and in-person participation at the Senate of Canada Building in Ottawa. Seventy-four students gathered in Canada’s capital for the occasion, while 14 participated online. Two students also shared the newly introduced role of Model Speaker of the Senate.
Two dozen third-year Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies students were recognized for their academic improvement and commitment to excellence. The Aspiration Award was created in 2017 to help increase graduation rates by acknowledging third-year students who have demonstrated academic improvement between their first and second years of study and face financial need. The 2022-2023 recipients include:

- Abdul Muqet Ansari, BA (Specialized Honours) in cognitive science
- Vanessa Crystal Bajnauth, BA (Honours) in law and society
- Jason Carneiro, BA, undecided major
- Shinelle Destiny Sincere Grant, BHRM, human resources management
- Orien King Qin Huang, BCom (Specialized Honours) in commerce (management)
- Sarah Nael Humidan, BCom (Specialized Honours) in commerce (accounting)
- Charos Khusheva, BA (Honours) in human rights and equity studies
- Matthew Mei, BCom (Specialized Honours) in commerce (management)
- Fatima Mirza, BA, interdisciplinary social science
- Aman Hussein Mohammed, BA (Honours) in political science
- Sarah Noor, BHRM, human resources management
- Huda Hashi Nur, BA (Honours) double major in international development studies and English
- Richard Mai-Dinh Huy Pham, BA (Specialized Honours) in English
- Natalie Christine Royer, BA (Specialized Honours) in speech and language sciences
- Sebastian John Cordeiro Sanginesi, BA, humanities
- Abdullah Syed, BA (Specialized Honours) in information technology
- Hajira Taimoor, BA (Honours) in business and society (global economy stream, social economy stream)
- Tianchai Viboonmethakorn, BCom (Specialized Honours) in information technology (business systems analysis)
- Justin Michael Walcott, BA, undecided major

York University’s high-quality academic programming continues to position the institution as a leader in post-secondary education and drive positive change to right the future, both nationally and internationally, according to the 2023 QS World University Rankings by Subject report. York ranks among the top 100 in the world for three subject areas: English language and literature, philosophy, and for the first time, performing arts. York University’s School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD) is internationally recognized as an incubator for performing arts innovation. The QS rankings demonstrate that AMPD is a global example of how performance programs, such as dance, music and theatre, can connect all forms of arts, media and design to create positive change.

The Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration and the Institute of Public Administration in Canada awarded the 2023 Pierre DeCelles Award to Professor Naomi Couto, graduate program director, Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Program, School of Public Policy & Administration, at York University. Professor Couto is a long-time instructor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at the School of Public Policy and Administration at York University, with a record of excellence and innovation in the classroom. Her contribution to the quality of education as graduate program director and now as director has been outstanding, encompassing expanding course offerings, establishing a new program in municipal government, nurturing student and alumni associations, establishing links with public sector organizations, and mentoring individual students.
Longstanding York University community benefactors, Mark and Gail Appel, have announced a donation of $750,000 to support programs that foster deeper understandings of Jewish history and life, combat antisemitism and deter other forms of racism. Their gift will support important collaborations between the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies and the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, and contribute to the advancement of decolonization, equity, diversity and inclusion at the University.

**York Dances 2023: Convergence** features new choreographic works of 27 third-year BFA majors performed by students engaged in all levels of York’s programs in dance. In addition to steering their own creative processes, students led every facet of the production of Convergence, including costumes, lighting design, poster design and front of house. Supported by faculty and students, including guest artist and student Maxine Heppner, and current work-studies technicians, the show celebrates togetherness, individuality and the positive power of community.

**Arash Habibi Lashkari**, Canada Research Chair in Cybersecurity and associate professor at the School of Information Technology and Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, was a key contributor to the recent Council of Canadian Academies report *Vulnerable Connections* by the Expert Panel on Public Safety in the Digital Age. Sponsored by Public Safety Canada, *Vulnerable Connections* examines how harmful and criminal activities have evolved as a result of digital technologies, the resulting challenges this causes for policymakers and law enforcement, and possible opportunities in regulation, prevention and investigation of cyber-enabled harm.

**Three professors** will lead or join two programs launched by the global research organization, the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), to delve into pressing, challenging questions facing science and humanity now and into the future. Professor Hélène Mialet of the Department of Science Technology and Society is the principal investigator and co-director leading CIFAR’s Future Flourishing program, to which York’s Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Professor Kristin Andrews, of the Department of Philosophy, was named a new Fellow. Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change Professor Roger Keil was also named a Fellow of CIFAR’s Humanity’s Urban Future program. Successful programs were required to submit bold, new ideas that have the potential to be transformative in tackling complex questions affecting the world. Mialet, Andrews and Keil join a community of Fellows, Nobel laureates and some 400 researchers from around the globe.

Schulich School of Business is proud to announce that Sahana Vijayakumar (MBA Candidate ’25) has been selected as the 2023 recipient of the Goldberg Leadership Award of Excellence. The award, valued at $40,000, covers tuition and living expenses for one year and can be renewed annually. Established by Schulich alumni Richard Goldberg (MBA ’86) and Yvonne Goldberg (MBA ’86) in 2016, the Goldberg Leadership Award of Excellence will support an incoming MBA student, who has demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding leadership qualities, innovative thinking, and community involvement.
Fourteen Osgoode students have been honoured with the 2023 Dean’s Gold Key Awards for their exceptional contributions to the law school. The awards, which were presented at a special event on March 22, are given every year to graduating students who have demonstrated remarkable leadership, commitment and enthusiasm through their participation in extra-curricular activities, peer mentorship, law school or university governance, clinical education, the Osgoode Hall Law Journal or other endeavours. The recipients were:

- Natalie Bravo
- William Brown
- Annika Butler
- Courtney Cameron
- Aya Fahmi
- Rotem Fellus
- Viktor Hohlacov
- Annie Hu
- Mona Karimi
- Frank Nasca
- Jaylene Olson
- Melissa Paglialunga
- Bunisha Samuels
- Christina Tassopoulos

York University faculty at the Lassonde School of Engineering are leading innovative solutions for cleaner water and a more sustainable world. As one example, Satinder Kaur Brar, professor and James & Joanne Love Chair in Environmental Engineering, and Pouya Rezai, associate professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, are collaborating on a project, “Microplastics in Sewage Sludge Exploration and Detection (MISSED).” Led by Brar, the interdisciplinary project includes partners from York, other Canadian and international universities, and organizations in the public and private sectors. Well-positioned to have both a national and international impact, it strives to enhance the efficiency of wastewater systems and treatment processes (UN SDG 11) and lessen the effect microplastics have on the environment (UN SDG 6).

Michelle Tsui-Woods, associate director of the kindergarten to industry (k2i) academy at York University’s Lassonde School of Engineering, has been appointed as a board member of the Science Teachers’ Association of Ontario (STAO), a provincial organization aimed at supporting science and STEM educators. Tsui-Wood’s appointment to the STAO board will support the work that STAO does to engage and inspire STEM educators across Ontario. Her experience, leadership and expertise will provide a unique perspective for STAO as they build upon their successes and create new programs.

Shirley Ann Brown, professor emerita of Art History and Humanities, has a major role in a documentary about the First World War memorial window in St. Bartholomew’s Anglican Church in Ottawa, *In the Company of Angels*. 
York University’s Department of Social Science in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies hosted its annual Student Awards ceremony to celebrate the notable achievements of students in various disciplines within social science. The event, held on March 15, brought together staff, faculty, family and friends. This year, 36 awards were announced and presented to undergraduate students, including:

- Gordon Lowther Scholarship: Gundega Daugavietis
- Otto Friedman Memorial Scholarship: Priya Basra
- Otto Friedman Memorial Scholarship: Liam Ryan
- The Department of Social Science Award: Jesuran Prakashkumar
- Ellen Baar Award in Social Science: Ariana Zunino
- Lillian Lerman Book Prize: Kiyanna Malcolm
- Lillian Lerman Book Prize: Maria Gullusc
- Esiri Dafiewhare Scholarship: Zakirah Allain
- The Stevenson Scholarship in African Studies: Heather Tasker
- Joshua Yasay Memorial Scholarship: Favour Aina
- Criminology Honours Scholarship: Ariana Zunino
- Criminology 1650 Book Prize: Olivia Tassone
- The Law and Society Honours Seminar Prize: Nashane Ralph
- Jane Banfield Book Prize: Jonathan Garcia Barahona
- Jane Banfield Book Prize: Elizabeth Hamilton
- Jane Banfield Book Prize: Allegra Van Klink-Wylie
- The Law and Society Prize: Rida Shah
- The C. Jane Banfield Scholarship in the Social Sciences: Avneet Lubana
- The Business & Society Honours Award: Chi-Yun Lee
- Neil Reimer Scholarship: Julie Wilson
- Work and Labour Studies Student Achievement Prize: Nguyet Dao
- Health and Society Founders Prize 2000 Level: Amen Okungbowa
- Health and Society Founders Prize 3000 & 4000 Level: Jennifer Santin
- The Gina Feldberg Prize: Amanda Cowen
- International Development Studies Honours Award: Sabrina de Losada Casab
- The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Honours Award: Sabrina de Losada Casab
- Sarah Akhtar Memorial Undergraduate Award in International Development Studies: Kyung in Lee
- Sarah Akhtar Memorial Graduate Award in Development Studies: Eyram Agbe
- Sarah Akhtar Memorial Graduate Award in Development Studies: Malaly Bakhtbolland
- Interdisciplinary Social Science Award: Noel Mirzoyev
- Interdisciplinary Social Science Award: Riya Bhatla
- Marion Miller Urban Studies Award (3000 Level): Micah Meredith
- Marion Miller Urban Studies Award (4000 Level): Jordan Lopez
- The Social Science 3700 Urban Studies Prize: Steven Lum
- Frances Frisken Urban Studies Prize: Bruno De Marinis
- Mohamed Naim Malik Scholarship: Emily Lim