

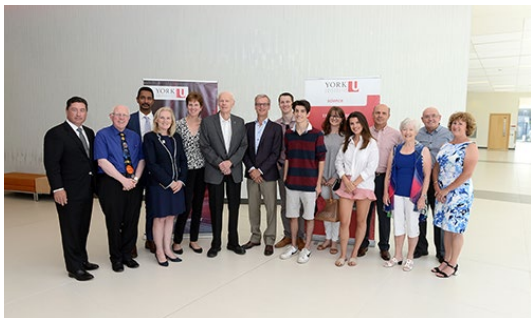
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Dean's Round-up: August 2018

Faculty Highlights



Thanks to a \$1.5 M gift from the Carswell Family Foundation, matched by York University for a total of \$3 M, the Faculty of Science has created a new [Carswell Chair for the Public Understanding of Astronomy](#). Congratulations to **Paul Delaney** (Physics & Astronomy) for being appointed as the inaugural Chair holder.



More than 50 students participated in the 2018 Faculty of Science [Summer Undergraduate Research Conference](#) on August 7. Congratulations to all of the participants and award winners.



The Faculty announced the recruitment of three new science communicators in residence for 2018-19: **Molly Segal**, **BD Colen** and **Dan Falk**. Read the announcement in [yFile](#).

Welcome to our new administrative leaders:

- **Rene Fournier** appointed as Chair of the Department of Chemistry, succeeding Don Hastie
- **Don Hastie** appointed as Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs, succeeding Esaias J Janse van Rensburg
- **Esaias J Janse van Rensburg** appointed as Interim-Dean, succeeding Ray Jayawardhana
- **Michael Scheid** appointed as Special Advisor to the Dean on Markham Campus Development
- **Jennifer Steeves** appointed as Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Education, succeeding Sylvie Morin

Welcome to our new faculty members:

- **Conor Douglas**, Assistant Professor (Science and Technology Studies)
- **Ozzy Mermut**, Assistant Professor (Physics and Astronomy)
- **Iain Moyles**, Assistant Professor (Mathematics and Statistics)
- **Stephanie Pugliese**, Assistant Lecturer (Division of Natural Science)
- **Andrew Skelton**, Assistant Lecturer (Mathematics and Statistics)
- **Niko Troje**, Professor (Biology)
- **Joel Zylberberg**, Assistant Professor (Physics and Astronomy)

Welcome to our new administrative staff members:

- **Nalini Doodnauth**, Undergraduate Program Secretary, Department of Biology
- **Li Min Eng**, Student Recruitment & Program Advisor, International and Distance, Academic Services
- **Ruby Mahboob**, Faculty Secretary, Mathematics and Statistics
- **Felicia Mercier**, Science Recruiting Coordinator, Academic Services
(Starting Sept 17)
- **Uzma Muzamal**, Laboratory Technician, Department of Biology
- **Ashley Nahornick**, Educational Development Specialist, Office of the Dean

- **Cora Reist**, Manager, Science Engagement Programs, Academic Services
- **Maria Stea**, Senior Development Officer, Office of the Dean
- **Kimberly Tran**, Manager, Science Engagement Programs, Academic Services

Congratulations

Congratulations to our newly-promoted colleagues:

- **Helene Mialet** (Science & Technology Studies), promoted to associate professor
- **Alexey Kuznetsov** (Mathematics & Statistics), promoted to full professor
- **Jane Heffernan** (Mathematics & Statistics), promoted to full professor
- **Jean-Paul Paluzzi** (Biology), promoted to associate professor
- **Emanuel Rosonina** (Biology), promoted to associate professor
- **Jennifer Chen** (Chemistry), promoted to associate professor

Alumnus [Paul Sanberg](#) received the York Bryden Alumni Award for Outstanding Contribution.

Patrick Hall (Physics & Astronomy) was awarded a \$25,000 NSERC Engage grant to work with Medical Confidence, a company in the GTA, to use astrophysical computing experience to incorporate an Analytical Business Intelligence module into their healthcare navigation service.

Other News

Hélène Mialet (Science & Technology Studies) published “Anthropologie numérique ou anthropologie de la trace” in: Bernard Stiegler, ed., *La Vérité du numérique: Recherche et enseignement supérieur à l'ère des technologies numériques* (Paris: FYP éditions, 2018) 189-203.

Amro Zayed (Biology) and his team published [Conservation Genomics of the Declining North American Bumblebee *Bombus terricola* Reveals Inbreeding and Selection on Immune Genes](#) in *Frontiers in Genetics*.

Marshall McCall (Physics & Astronomy) joined a [ParkBus](#) excursion to Sibbald Point Provincial Park on August 12 to elaborate on the Perseid meteor shower that everyone had come to observe and some of the other sights of the night

sky.

Research Highlight

[Better late than never: a synthesis of strategic land retirement and restoration in California](#) – *Ecosphere*

- Drylands including deserts and semi-arid grasslands are challenging ecosystems. Drought, groundwater depletion, agriculture, and energy development initiatives are major issues. **Christopher Lortie** (Biology) and collaborators at The Nature Conservancy used scientific synthesis in the form of a systematic review to examine the extent that evidence can inform decisions for retiring lands in California. That found that retiring lands has value, and with some simple rules-of-thumb backed by evidence, there is an opportunity to protect and develop habitat for species in drylands.

Media

Amro Zayed (Biology) spoke to [Reuters](#) about new research conducted by his team that found that inbreeding and disease may be causing the decline of yellow-banded bumble bees.

Paul Delaney (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to *CTV News*, *AM640*, *CJAD* and *CHML* about the Parker Solar Probe launch, as well as other topics including the Hayabusa2 spacecraft, exoplanet Kelt-9b, observing Mars, ISS air leak, gravity waves and Earth's possible destruction.

Derek Wilson (Chemistry) and lab manager **Cristina Lento** published [Advanced bioanalytical technologies accelerate drug development in the new age of protein therapeutics](#) in *Laboratory Focus*.

Upcoming Events

October 17: Science Communication Workshop, presented by Science Communicator in Residence Molly Segal (details TBA)