

science

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## Dean's Round-up: June 2018

### Faculty Highlights



The Faculty has opened nominations for the [Excellence in Teaching Awards](#).



Mr. James Temerty received an [honorary degree](#) at the Science & Engineering spring convocation ceremony.

### Congratulations

**Nantel Bergeron** (Mathematics & Statistics) was named a [Distinguished Research Professor](#).

**Patrick Ingram** (Mathematics & Statistics) received the [G. de B. Robinson Award](#) from the Canadian Mathematical Society.

Alumnus **Tom Rakocevic** (who completed an MSc with **Dawn Bazely**, Biology) won the MPP seat for Humber River/Black Creek.

### Other News

The **Department of Mathematics & Statistics** hosted the annual International Mathematical Modeling Challenge award ceremony for high school students who participated in the contest.

The **Department of Physics & Astronomy** hosted an [awards ceremony](#) for the York University Biophysics Contest for high school students.

Former Science Communicator in Residence **Matt McGrath** was profiled in the summer edition of the [York University Magazine](#).

The video “The Adventures of Number Town,” directed and produced by **Amenda Chow** (Mathematics & Statistics), will be shown at the 2018 [Bridges Conference](#) Short Film Festival in Stockholm.

**Laurence Packer** (Biology) presented the annual Coleman Lecture at the University of Agricultural Sciences (Bangalore, India). He was the first non-Indian to be invited.

**Paul Delaney** (Physics & Astronomy) presented “Planet Nine” and “Mars Opposition 2018” at the David Dunlop Observatory as part of their summer lecture series and open house, respectively. He also presented “Search for Life” as part of the Vaughan Library Speakers Hub organized by the Alumni Relations Office at York University.

**Hélène Mialet** (Science & Technology Studies) presented “Bodies in Balance: Tracking Type 1 Diabetes” at the Ecole Supérieure des Mines de Paris.

## Research Highlight

[Acellular pertussis vaccines effectiveness over time: A systematic review, meta-analysis and modeling study](#) – *PLOS One*

- **Jianhong Wu** (Mathematics & Statistics) and colleagues at Sanofi Pasteur estimated the absolute protection offered by acellular pertussis vaccines. The team found that vaccine efficacy is initially high and wanes over time. They also reported that absolute vaccine effectiveness in the boosted population is better than appreciated.

## Media

**Bridget Stutchbury** (Biology) co-authored an opinion piece in the [Toronto Star](#) titled "Indigenous partnerships hold the key to conserving Canada's boreal forests."

**Wendy Taylor** (Physics & Astronomy) explained on CBC Radio's [Quirks & Quarks](#) that the Higgs boson was not really hiding, it always existed.

Dean **Ray Jayawardhana** spoke to the [BBC](#) about the discovery of a new "sterile neutrino" particle.

**Sapna Sharma** (Biology) was quoted in a [Toronto Star](#) story about last year's record flooding in Ontario and Quebec.

**Paul Delaney** (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to various radio programs, including *AM640*, *CHML900* and *Sirius XM* about a Space Defense Force, planet observing this summer, Mars Curiosity organic molecule find, ISS Exp 55, space travel for humans, a Mars dust storm, ALMA planets discovery, and organic molecules on Enceladus. He also appeared on *CTV News* to speak about asteroid mining.

## Upcoming events

**July 25 to Aug 1:** [Mars Extravaganza](#), weeknights 9 pm to midnight, William Small Centre (top of arboretum).

**August 7:** Summer Undergraduate Research Conference, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm in the New Student Centre, 2nd Floor, Convention Centre.

**August 14-16:** [Astro Workshop](#) 2018: Professional Development for Teachers of Astronomy.