

science



Dean's Round-up: September 2018

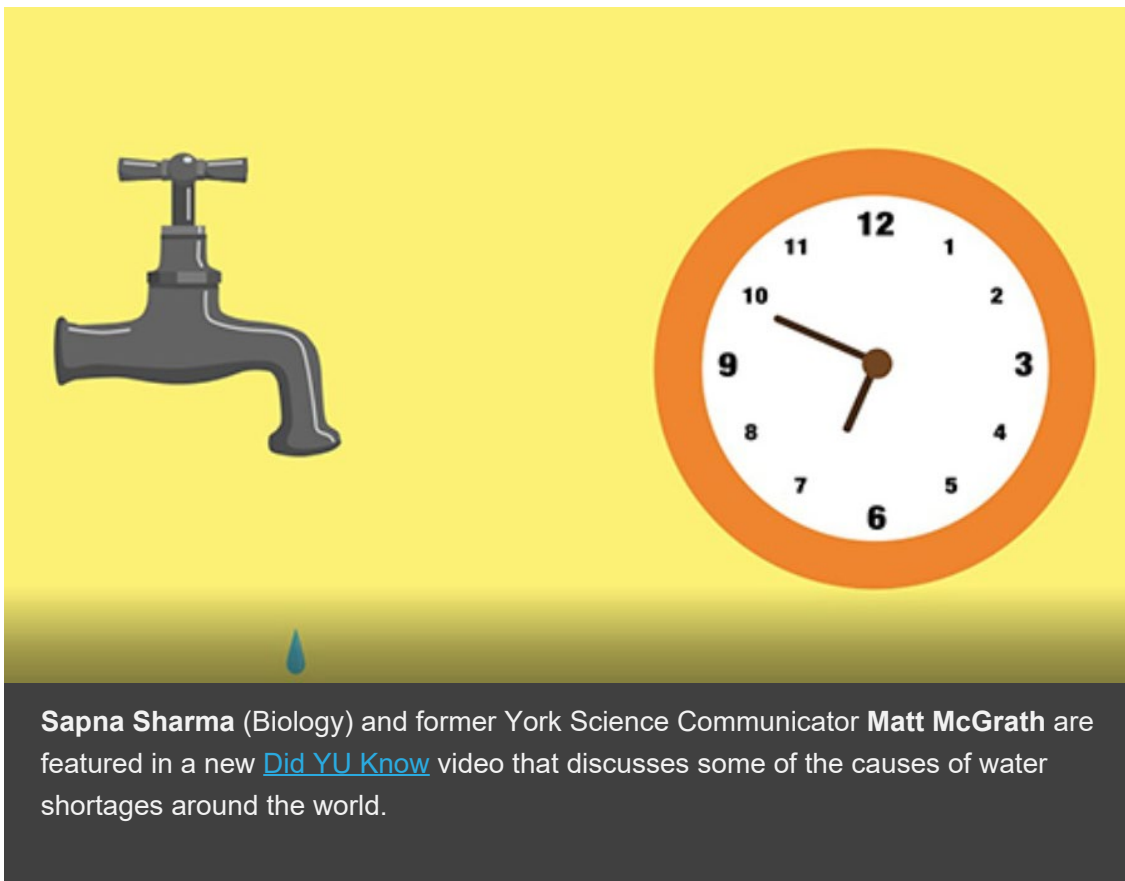
Faculty Highlights



Thank you to all of the Faculty of Science staff, faculty and students who participated in the 2018 Ontario Universities Fair.



File featured our [newest faculty members](#): **Conor Douglas** (Science and Technology Studies), **Ozzy Mermut** (Physics & Astronomy), **Iain Moyles** (Mathematics & Statistics), **Stephanie Pugliese Domenikos** (Science and Technology Studies), **Andrew Skelton** (Mathematics & Statistics), **Nikolaus Troje** (Biology) and **Joel Zylberberg** (Physics & Astronomy).



Congratulations

Alumna **Pamela Ohashi** (BSc 1982) received the [Robert L. Noble Award](#) from the Canadian Cancer Society for her research on the role of the immune system in the development and progression of cancer.

Master's student **Karam Dahyaleh** (supervised by **Gary Sweeney**, Biology) received the MITACS Globalink Research Award and conducted research at Seoul National University this past summer.

Recent MSc graduate **Julia Gauberg** (supervised by **Scott Kelly**, Biology) and PhD graduate **Brock Harpur** (supervised by **Amro Zayed**, Biology) received Thesis and Dissertation Prizes from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Other News

YFile's Innovatus issue highlighted the [Integrated Science program](#).

YFile profiled [Science Saturdays](#), which are offered by the Science Engagement Programs office in the Faculty of Science and begin October 13.

YFile featured research by **Chun Peng** (Biology) that showed that microRNA [miR-218-5p](#) is a key contributor to the development of preeclampsia, a complication of pregnancy.

Cora Young (Chemistry) presented a talk on Arctic pollution as part of the Toronto Public Library's "Our Fragile Planet" series.

The **Department of Physics and Astronomy** launched a new [website](#).

Kenton Kroker (Science and Technology Studies) delivered the [John Augustine Lecture](#), "How to be a Scientific Physician in Ontario, circa 1882," at the Lakehead Summer School 2018 for the Thunder Bay Medical Society. He also [presented](#) "Epidemic Encephalitis & the Emotional Reconfiguration of Interwar Britain" at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Paul Delaney (Physics & Astronomy) visited grade six classes at Gulfstream Public School to speak about our Solar System.

Christopher Lortie (Biology) was interviewed for a [2 Minutes, 3 Questions](#) video produced by the VPRI's office at York University.

Research Highlight

[An Unexpected "Step-Conjugated" Biphosphole via Unique P–P Bond Formation](#) - *Chem*

- **Thomas Baumgartner** (Chemistry) and his team report a unique type of phosphorus-based "step-conjugated" building block via an unexpected reaction. Because of the pyramidal geometry of the phosphorus centers, the molecular scaffold provides intriguing electronic communication throughout the three-dimensional structure in stepwise fashion, akin to a staircase. This fundamentally new type of step-conjugation will enable the development of organic electronics with enhanced efficiencies and ultimately a more widespread application in next-generation consumer electronics.

Media

PhD student **Brendan Boyd** (supervised by **Bridget Stutchbury**, Biology) answered “Why is bird poop white?” on CBC Radio’s [Quirks & Quarks](#).

Paul Delaney (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to CTV News, Sirius XM, AM640, 630CHED, AM1010 about Elon Musk and the tourist to the Moon mission. He also spoke to a number of the radio outlets (including some of the above) about Sunspot closure, light and gravity waves, 40 Eridani A and planet Vulcan, and the Pluto Planet debate.

Upcoming Events

October 4-27: Public lecture series “Biodiversity Conservation in the Twenty-first Century,” presented by the Faculty of Science, Ontario Nature and the Toronto Public Library <http://science.yorku.ca/tpl>

October 17: Science Communication Workshop, presented by Science Communicator in Residence Molly Segal. Lumbers 306, 10am-12 pm. RSVP at fscomms@yorku.ca

October 24: York Gairdner Lecture: Watching Proteins Dance Using Biophysics, presented by Dr. Lewis Kay. Senate Chamber, 1:30-2:30 pm.

November 13: York University Retirees Association (YURA) Showcase. Central Square, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. ****All of the proceeds go to support three undergraduates and graduate scholarships.****