

Dean's Round-up: September 2020

Faculty Highlights



Dean Rui Wang issued a welcome message to students for the 2020-2021 academic year. To view the video, [click here](#).



Student enrolment (FFTE) for the Summer 2020 term [increased by 32.3%](#), versus enrolment for Summer 2019.

Congratulations

Dasantila Golemi-Kotra (Biology) and **Jianhong Wu** (Mathematics & Statistics) each won a Minister's Award of Excellence from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities for their achievement and contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Paula Wilson (Biology) was recognized with a [University Wide Teaching Award](#).

The Royal Entomological Society's award for the [best paper published in Insect Conservation and Diversity](#) during 2018/2019 was awarded to **Laurence Packer** (Biology), and graduate students **Spencer Monckton, Thomas Onuferko, and Rafael Ferrari**.

Graduate student **Alyssa Murdoch** (Biology) won the [2020 Larkin Award](#) as the top PhD student studying fisheries in Canada. Alyssa is supervised by **Sapna Sharma**.

Other News

YFile published its Fall 2020 “[New Faces](#)” feature profiling **new faculty members** to the Faculty of Science.

Jianhong Wu (Mathematics & Statistics) was invited to join the COVID-19 Vaccine Modelling Task Group, for the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Faculty of Science alumnus Samer Bishay (Physics & Astronomy, BSc '98), was named an [RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award Winner](#) for 2020. After graduating from York, Bishay went on to work for the Canadian Space Agency before founding Iristel Inc.

The Department of Biology created virtual welcome videos for [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) students.

The Centre for Disease Modelling launched the second distinguished lecture series on “[Modelling and Control of Infectious Diseases.](#)” a bi-weekly online event focussed on modeling and control of COVID-19.

Michael Chen (Mathematics & Statistics) was recently invited to serve as a board member of the Devhaus Corporation, a high tech company focusing on Education AI.

Dawn Bazely (Biology) participated in an online panel of Black and Indigenous ECR Ecologists & Natural Historians on “How to Make Ecology Less White.” Bazely moderated on behalf of the Faculty of Science. A recording is available [here](#).

Jesse Rogerson (Science & Technology Studies) gave a talk on the Observatory's Teletube live online broadcast on Sept. 30, on the topic of "Ancient Sites and Solar Alignment." A recording is available [here](#).

Research Highlights

Alessandro Filazzola, Octavia Mahdiyan, Arnab Shuvo, Carolyn Ewins, Luke Moslenko, Tanzil Sadid, Kevin Blagrove, and Mohammad Arshad Imrit, and faculty members **Roberto Quinlan** and **Sapna Sharma** (Biology), published, "[A database of chlorophyll and water chemistry in freshwater lakes](#)," in Nature's *scientific data* journal. The university issued a [press release](#) on this research, which garnered media coverage (see "Media" section, below). It was also [featured in Yfile](#).

Former Postdoctoral Fellow **Ian Mallov**, graduate student **Fiona Jeeva**, and faculty member **Chris Caputo** (Chemistry) published, "[An edible genipin-based sensor for biogenic amine detection](#)," in *Chemical Technology and Biotechnology*. This research was [featured in YFile](#).

Nicholas Bragagnolo, Christina Rodriguez, Naveed Samari-Kermani (graduate students) **Alice Fours** (undergraduate) **Mahboubeh Korouzhdehi** (DURA recipient) and **Rachel Lysenko** (undergraduate), and faculty member **Gerald Audette** (Chemistry) published, "[Protein Dynamics in F-like Bacterial Conjugation](#)," in *Biomedicines*.

Postdoctoral researchers **Colin R. Bridges, Andryj M. Borys, Vanessa A. Béland, Joshua R. Gaffen**, and faculty member **Thomas Baumgartner** (Chemistry) published, "[Phosphoryl- and phosphonium-bridged viologens as stable two- and three-electron acceptors for organic electrodes](#)," in *Chemical Science*.

Media

Postdoctoral researcher **Alessandro Filazzola** (Biology) was [interviewed on CTV](#) regarding the Freshwater Lakes Quality Database research undertaken by himself and colleagues in Sapna Sharma's lab. This research was also [covered in UPI](#).

Jane Heffernan (Mathematics & Statistics) was featured in a [Globe and Mail article](#) about the rise in Ontario COVID-19 cases.

Amro Zayed (Biology) was featured on [The Weather Network](#) discussing the prevalence of wasps at the end of summer.

Cora Young (Chemistry) was interviewed on [CBC Fresh Air](#) on "How does smoke from California wildfires make its way to Ontario's skies?"

Dawn Bazely (Biology) was interviewed on [AM980 News](#) regarding her virtual biology field course.

Dasantila Golemi-Kotra (Biology) offered media commentary on COVID and the federal election in [iPolitics](#) and discussed why you should wear a mask in her interview on [CBC Ontario Morning](#). She also authored a piece in [The Conversation](#) on common questions regarding COVID and kids.

Joel Zylberberg's (Physics & Astronomy) research on retinal prosthetics was [featured in YFile](#).

Elaina Hyde (Physics & Astronomy), was featured in a [media advisory](#) issued by the university in advance of the Mars Opposition.

Chris Caputo's (Chemistry) tattoo chemistry research was highlighted in [Québec Science Magazine](#).