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 Blagrave, 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.


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**.