Dean's Round-up: November 2021

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

The Faculty hosted a virtual Graduation Reception for Science students graduating in the fall. Vera Pavri (Science & Technology Studies) was the MC, and guest speakers included Elain Hyde (Physics & Astronomy), Derek Wilson (Chemistry) and alumna Pamela Ohashi. Thank you to everyone who participated in making the event a success.

The 2022 Observatory Calendar is available for purchase. Enjoy wonderful imagery all year round while supporting the Observatory’s activities. Many of the images arise from the 1-metre telescope. See https://observatory.info.yorku.ca/ for details.

Pedagogy and Curriculum Help is Available! Do you have questions about dynamic pedagogy, curriculum ideas, adding flexibility to labs, or adding flexibility to courses? Ashley Nahornick (Educational Development Specialist) is here to answer your questions. She can also review your e-class, provide ideas, and answer your questions. Reach out at ashleynk@yorku.ca

CONGRATULATIONS
Sandra Rehan (Biology) received the NSERC E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship for her research on wild bees using bee genomics, molecular ecology and behavioural genetics.

Tamara Kelly (Biology), Paula Wilson (Biology), and Amenda Chow and Pamela Sargent (Mathematics & Statistics) received grants from the Indigeneity in Teaching & Learning Fund (ITLF), provided by the Office of the Vice Provost Academic.

MSc Student KC Galang (Biology, supervised by Amro Zayed) received the Entomological Society of Canada’s President Prize for best student talk in the area of Social Insects; her talk was entitled “The molecular basis of altruistic and selfish aggression in honey bees.”

MORE NEWS

Elaina Hyde (Physics & Astronomy) was the MC for the annual Allan I Carswell Scholars Luncheon, and host of the astronomy session for the Faculty’s Take Our Kids to Work Day.

Jude Kong (Mathematics & Statistics) was profiled by the American Museum of Natural History. As well, the Africa-Canada Artificial Intelligence and Data Innovation Consortium (ACADIC), which he directs, was profiled cited in an article by the International Development Research Centre. Additionally, he was a panelist at Fort McMurray’s Annual Technology Conference and Hackathon, and at the second Nigerian Stakeholder Forum on a Pan-Nigerian strategy and policies for AI; and gave presentations at St. Andrew Elementary School (Oakville) and Bell High School (Ottawa-Carleton District School) under the Ask a Mathematician program organized by the Field Institute.

Stephen Watson (Mathematics & Statistics) and Hugo Chen, Director of International Relations & Partnerships, presented at the China Canada Education Cooperation Forum.

York Science hosted Semi-Annual International Partnership Meetings with Sunway University (Malaysia), Hebei Normal University (China) and Hohai University (China). Dean Wang, Hugo Chen and Helen Balderama (York International) reviewed the achievements since the last meeting and exchanged new ideas for future collaborations in the pathway articulation agreements, STEM Leadership Training, and Science Summer Transition Program 2022.
In collaboration with Bethune College and CPA Ontario, the Faculty hosted a virtual webinar titled “Explore Careers in Business and Science” on Nov 10.

York Science hosted an International Coffee Chat with Northeastern University (China) on Nov 27, with more than 20 people attending.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Postdoc Leigh R. Crilley, Research Assistant Yashar E. Iranpoura and Cora J. Young (Chemistry) published Importance of meteorology and chemistry in determining air pollutant levels during COVID-19 lockdown in Indian cities in Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts. See the media release.

PhD student Maryam Yousefi-Taemeh, PhD student Jie Lin, Demian R Ifa (Chemistry), Wayne Parrott, and Nik Kovinich (Biology) published Metabolomics Differences of Glycine max QTLs Resistant to Soybean Looper in Metabolites.


PhD student Wen Yi Song and Wendy Taylor (Physics & Astronomy) published Pair production of magnetic monopoles and stable high-electric-charge objects in proton-proton and heavy-ion collisions in Journal of Physics G: Nuclear and Particle Physics.

MEDIA

Research by Cora Young (Chemistry) and her team on air pollution during COVID-19 lockdowns was profiled in a CBC Doc, and covered by The Star and many media outlets in India.

Jesse Rogerson (Physics & Astronomy) spoke about the DART Mission with CP24, CTV News, 105.9, and SiriusXM; about the partial lunar eclipse with CTV News; and about Russian anti-satellites, space junk, decadal survey, long range plan, and exoplanets with SiriusXM.
Paul Delaney (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to AM640, AM900, Newstalk 1010, SiriusXM and CJBQ Belleville about a number of topics including the Laika spaceflight anniversary, crew-3, Perseverance, the lunar eclipse, space debris, the Russian ASAT, the DART launch, and space tourism.

Roberto Quinlan (Biology) was quoted in an article in The Spec about a controversy in the City of Hamilton involving a local pond that contains at-risk aquatic species being dredged.

Research by Sapna Sharma (Biology) and her team that found Northern lakes are warming six times faster in the past 25 years continued to receive media coverage by The Washington Post, The Weather Network, The Star, and other outlets.

Dasantila Golemi Kotra (Biology) spoke to CBC Radio syndicates about the new COVID-19 variant and what we need to know. She was also quoted in an Excalibur article about Pfizer's experimental antiviral pill.

Alex Mills (Biology) spoke to BarrieToday.com about a rare gull seen recently in Barrie that is common on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and Alaska but almost unheard of in Ontario.

Elaina Hyde (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to CTV News about the Geminids meteor shower and a shift in Earth's rotation. She also spoke to 900 CHML about solar flares.

Sandra Rehan (Biology) spoke to 105.9 The Region about how her NSERC E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship is expanding her research to help conserve and increase diverse bee populations in cities.

Jane Heffernan (Mathematics & Statistics) spoke to the National Post about herd immunity for COVID-19.

PhD student Spencer Monckton (Biology, supervised by Laurence Packer) spoke to CBC Radio's Quirks & Quarks about why are mosquitoes larger in spring than in the fall.

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**EVENTS**

**Dec 9:** First informal graduate/post-doc chat on experiences in teaching & learning. 2-3pm on Zoom.
Dec 14: First bi-monthly chat with other Faculty/Instructors to discuss experiences in teaching and learning. 12pm-1pm on Zoom.

Dec 14: Live training workshop on Panopto, by Robert Denault. 2:30 pm on Zoom.

Dec 15: Creating fair and predictable assessments in large enrollment classes, presented by Dr. Sharonna Greenberg. 1 pm on Zoom.

Dec 15: FSc Holiday Party. 3 pm on Zoom.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION PROFILE

The Faculty of Science has established multiple partnerships with various international institutions. In order to better inform the York Science community of these international partner institutions, we will provide a brief profile of each of them in our Dean’s Round-up.

Sup’Biotech
Sup’Biotech is a private engineering school located in the Paris metropolitan area, specializing in the diverse fields of the Biotechnology sector. Sup’Biotech is part of IONIS Education Group, comprised of 26 schools across France. At Sup’Biotech, classes are available in French or English through the Bachelor Program. The Undergraduate Program is entirely taught in English. Sup’Biotech’s pedagogy is a multidisciplinary balance between scientific and engineering qualifications, management skills, industrial know-how, as well as knowledge of both domestic and international biotechnology markets. Professors come from diverse training and educational backgrounds, such as universities, research centers and the industry. Students are prepared for a wide range of responsibilities in various biotechnological and international companies working in the fields of Health, Cosmetics, the Environment, Pharmaceuticals, Bioinformatics and Food Process. The school has more than 870 students enrolled and partnerships with 103 international institutions.

View their promotional YouTube video.