

Dean's Round-up: October 2023

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



The Science Recruitment team, in collaboration with faculty and student ambassadors across all departments, participated in the Ontario Universities Fair over the weekend of October 21-22. The event was attended by more than 86,000 visitors, mostly Grade 11 and 12 students and their families. The team was excited to connect with future York students visiting the Science booth and invited them to York's Fall Campus Day on November 18.



The Science Engagement Programs (SEP) team is once again collaborating with the [Skills for Change](#), Black Community Access Program to deliver a series of online and in-person STEM workshops for black high school youth. In October, SEP instructors engaged youth in digital literacy topics, including Introduction to Python, Micro:Bit Satellite, and Wearable Tech: Halloween Edition, where students learned about circuits to create an LED crown. These sessions served as an introduction to technology and science, as well as a mentorship and networking opportunity for youth. Sessions in November are focusing on digital literacy and biomedical sciences.

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD student **Nina Garrett** (Biology) received the Bat Conservation International award for best student talk at the North American Society for Bat Research conference.

Bill Kim (Chemistry) received the Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award to support his cutting-edge genomics biological chemistry and genome editing research program.

MORE NEWS

The Faculty of Science and the Asian Business and Management Program (ABMP) recently wrapped up a novel in-person program called [Jumpstart Your Future: A Career Bootcamp for Undergrads](#), uniquely tailored to international students' needs, specifically undergraduates from Shanghai University, China. Thirteen students visited York in late summer 2023, staying in residence to immerse themselves in experience, which included classroom instruction, experiential site visits, and a capstone project.

Members of the Office of International Collaborations and Partnerships, and the Global Leaders of York Science, represented the Faculty of Science at the Global Learning Fair at the Keele campus. They also led a Science tour for a group of students from Saltus Grammar School in Bermuda.

The **Allan I. Carswell Observatory** hosted its Haunted Hydrogen Halloween event on October 31, which was attended by members of the public and their families, as well as students and faculty. As well, the Observatory wrapped up its 2023 Astronomer in

Residence Program with a “Stars over Killarney” event, which focused on connecting aspects of astronomy to the Killarney Park experience of the visitors. The program included seven residents in 2023; it is jointly run by the York Observatory and Killarney Park. [Read the resident blogs.](#)

Director of International Collaborations & Partnerships **Hugo Chen** participated in the Canada China Business Council's 45th Annual General Meeting held in Beijing, a landmark event that convened over 420 leaders post-COVID-zero travel restrictions and featured speakers such as former prime minister Jean Chrétien.

Amenda Chow (Mathematics & Statistics) presented “Some surprising gadgets for teaching small and large math classrooms” at the University of Toronto. The talk focused on examples of how to incorporate demonstrations and experiments into lectures with the aid of inexpensive and readily available gadgets to engage learners.

Professor Emeritus **Paul Delaney** (Physics & Astronomy) presented at an Astro Night Outreach Event at L3HARRIS on the topic of “Exoplanets,” and at the University of Toronto Senior College on the topic of “Evolution of Space Telescopes.”

As a part of the Scientific Planning Committee of the [Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy](#) (the national conference of the [BioCanRx](#) - Canada's immunotherapy network), **Conor Douglas** (Science, Technology & Society) organized and hosted the panel “International and Alternative Models for Access to Immunotherapies, and Prospects for the Canadian Healthcare System.” He also chaired the keynote panel “Meeting Future Challenges: Is Canada Ready for the New Wave of Treatments?” as a part of the [Market Access Summit](#).

Xin Gao (Mathematics & Statistics) was invited to discuss “Estimator of Agreement with covariate adjustment” at the International biometric Society Journal Club.

Science International Recruiting Coordinator **Mingming Li** and undergraduate student **Ziping Wu** represented York Science at the 2023 SuOn Academy University Fair.

Robin Metcalfe (NATS) was the Astronomer in Residence at Killarney Provincial Park. She is also the project partner for York's Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom (C4), representing the Royal Astronomical Society Mississauga Branch; their challenge question is: “How can we identify and tackle the real challenges of light pollution to our general health, wildlife, energy usage and science, whilst addressing the genuine needs for safety and security in our communities, in a way that engages all community stakeholder voices?”

Iain Moyles (Mathematics & Statistics) presented “Mathematics are everywhere” as part of the Field's Institute Ask a Mathematician program. He presented to a class of grade 9 students at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School.

Kelly Ramsay (Mathematics & Statistics) is the academic mentor for HALLIVE 6 International, which some York students are a part of.

Professor Emeritus **Saber Saleuddin** (Biology) co-edited the book [Frontiers in Invertebrate Physiology, Volume 3: Annelida and Echinodermata](#).

Huaiping Zhu (Mathematics & Statistics) was invited to join *One Health*, the official journal of the International Federation for Tropical Medicine, as co-editor-in-chief.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Ada Chan (Mathematics & Statistics) and Bill Martin published [Quantum isomorphism of graphs from association schemes](#) in the *Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series B*.

PhD student **Farnaz Mansouri-Noori** (Biology), former postdoc **Andreas Pircher** (Biology), Danielle Bilodeau, former MSc student **Lidia Siniavskaia** (Biology), **Jörg Grigull** (Mathematics & Statistics), Olivia S. Rissland and **Mark A. Bayfield** (Biology) published [The LARP1 homolog Slr1p controls the stability and expression of proto-5'TOP mRNAs in fission yeast](#) in *Cell Reports*.

Kelly Ramsay (Mathematics & Statistics) and Shojaeddin Chenouri published [Robust nonparametric multiple changepoint detection for multivariate variability](#) in *Econometrics and Statistics*.

For a full list of publications from the Faculty of Science, see our [website](#).

MEDIA

Professor Emeritus **Paul Delaney** (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to *CTV News* and *AM900 CHML* about OSIRIS-REx soil analysis, as well as *Newstalk 1010* about homes on the Moon and *AM900 CHML* about the Orionid meteor shower.

Jane Heffernan (Mathematics & Statistics) spoke to [Global News](#) about respiratory illness season and vaccination recommendations.

Patricia Lakin-Thomas (Biology) was interviewed by [City News](#) and *AM900 CHML* about our semi-annual time changes and the negative health effects when clocks change.

EVENTS

Dec 11: Faculty of Science Holiday Party & Reception, 2-4pm in Schulich Executive Dining Hall. [Please RSVP by December 1](#).

Dec 12: EdSci Book Club – Grading for Growth, 11am-12pm on Zoom. [For more details and to register.](#)

Dec 21: Bethune College Holiday Open House, 12-2pm in BC203 Norman's. [Please RSVP.](#)

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.



Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS), located in South China, is known for its global-minded faculty and students and its research on international languages, literature, culture, trade and strategic studies. The University has three campuses: the North Campus at the foot of the Baiyun Mountain, the South Campus in Guangzhou Higher Education Mega Center, and Dalang Campus. The University has 25 faculties offering 72 programs in literature, economics, management, law, engineering, science, education and art for bachelor, master and doctoral degrees and post-doctoral research. With 26 foreign languages available, GDUFS offers the greatest variety of foreign language programs in South China.