

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

JUNE 2023



York University's Keele Campus welcomed more than 10,000 guests and over 400 volunteers from May 27 to June 2, when the University hosted [Congress 2023](#) in partnership with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The seven-day event – Canada's largest academic gathering – invited scholars, graduate students, policymakers and community members to identify and discuss the decisions we need to take today to build a better world for all, as part of the conference's theme "Reckonings and Re-imaginings." The event's success was thanks to the attendees, sponsors, organizers, volunteers, and the entire York University community who contributed to Congress 2023, including Academic Convenor Andrea Davis, Director of Congress 2023 Liz McMahan, and co-sponsors Provost & Vice-President Academic Lisa Philipps, and Vice-President Research and Innovation, Amir Asif.



In Spring 2023, Tamil Canadian, [Ramesh Venkatesa Perumal](#), achieved the distinction of being York's first PhD graduate in nursing. For a male in India in the 1980s to choose to be a nurse was highly unusual, but four decades and three continents later, Ramesh Venkatesa Perumal was completing York's program ahead of other candidates in his cohort. He has also mentored immigrants and nursing newcomers as the School's Internationally Educated Nurses coordinator.



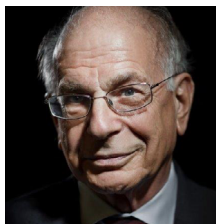
York University continues to strengthen its position as a leader in creating a more sustainable and inclusive world, ranking among the world's top 40 universities for advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as revealed in the [2023 Times Higher Education \(THE\) Impact Rankings](#). This year's Impact Rankings include tougher competition with more submissions, bringing the total number of ranked universities to more than 1,500. York has demonstrated strong global standing in the following categories:

- SDG 1 – No Poverty (21st in the world)
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities (25th in the world)
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities (12th in the world)

APPOINTMENTS



Dr. [Marcia Annisette](#) has been appointed the role of vice-provost academic, commencing on January 1, 2024. Dr. Annisette is a full professor and was the founding director of the Master of Accounting program at the Schulich School of Business, where she has recently provided leadership as associate dean, academic and, prior to that, associate dean, students. She also brings a wealth of experience in collegial governance as a member of the Senate, the Senate Executive Committee, and other roles. Vice-Provost Academic Lyndon Martin has agreed to extend his term in this role until December 31, 2023, at which point he will take up an appointment as senior advisor on strategic academic program initiatives for a period of eighteen months, until June 30, 2025.



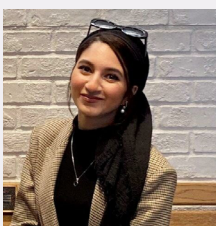
Spring Convocation at York University recognized ten changemakers with an honorary degree. [Honorary degree recipients](#) are recognized for their contributions to community building, their advocacy for social justice, and their philanthropy. As leaders, they offer words of encouragement, motivation and congratulations to graduands. Below are the honorary degree recipients in order of the Faculty ceremonies at which they were honoured:



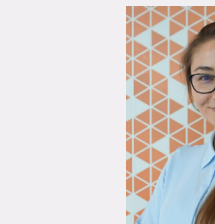
- Joan Andrew (LLD)
- Daniel Kahneman (DSc)
- Dr. Denis Mukwege (LLD)
- Dr. Cory Doctorow h.c. (LLD)
- Susur Lee (LLD)
- Ruth Lor Malloy (LLD)
- Shaun Loney (LLD)
- Nancy Archibald (LLD)
- Dr. Thomas Lee (LLD)
- The Honourable Michael Hopeton Tulloch (LLD)



Spring Convocation at York University recognized five instructors with a [President's University Wide Teaching Award](#). The purpose of the awards is to provide recognition for excellence in teaching, to encourage its pursuit, to publicize such excellence when achieved across the University and in the wider community, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement. The 2023 recipients are:



- Professor Katherine Bischooping, Department of Social Science in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (Full-time tenured faculty with 10 or more years of full-time teaching experience)
- Professor Stephen Gennaro, Department of Communication Studies/Humanities in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (Contract and adjunct faculty)
- Professor Andrea Kalmin, Department of Social Science in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (Contract and adjunct faculty)
- Ms. Farwa Sajadi, Department of Biology in the Faculty of Science (Teaching assistant)
- Ms. Daphne Solis, Department of Mechanical Engineering in the Lassonde School of Engineering (Teaching assistant)





[Carl James](#), a professor and Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora in the Faculty of Education at York University, was honoured with a Distinguished Research Professorship during the 2023 Spring Convocation. A Distinguished Research Professor is a faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to the University through research and whose work is recognized within and outside of the University. James is widely recognized for his research contributions in the areas of intersectionality of race with ethnicity, gender, class and citizenship as they shape identification/identity; the ways in which accessible and equitable opportunities in education and employment account for the lived experiences of marginalized community members; and the complementary and contradictory nature of sports in the schooling and educational attainments of racialized students.



[Marcia Anisette](#), a professor at the Schulich School of Business, was honoured with a University Professorship during the 2023 Spring Convocation. A University Professor is a member of faculty recognized for extraordinary contributions to scholarship and teaching and participation in university life. She previously served as associate dean, students and director of Schulich's Master of Accounting program, and was previously the School's associate dean, academic. Anisette is noted for having made extraordinary contributions to the University through her service, teaching and research.



Three York University graduates received this year's [Governor General Gold Medals](#), which recognize the outstanding scholastic achievements of graduate students in Canada. The Governor General awards are considered the highest honour earned by exemplary Canadian scholars throughout every level of academia. The 2023 recipients are:

- Lawrence Garcia, MA in Cinema and Media Studies
- Kathleen Dogantzis, PhD in Biology
- Aaron Tucker, PhD in Cinema and Media Studies



Three undergraduate students at York University have been awarded the [Governor General's Silver Medal](#). The medal recognizes the outstanding scholastic achievements of undergraduate students in Canada and is considered the highest honour earned by exemplary Canadian scholars throughout every level of academia. The 2023 recipients are:

- Christine Cooling, BA Communication & Media Studies program
- Ali Reza Samani, Department of Psychology
- Ariana Zunino, honours BA in criminology

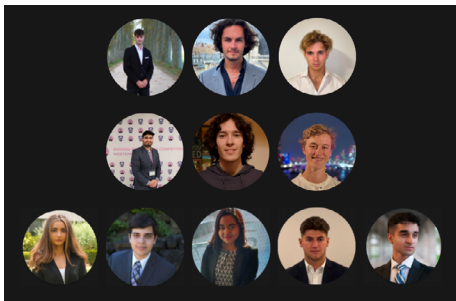




[Essete Makonnen Tesfaye](#), a new Faculty of Health graduate with a specialization in global eHealth, was awarded the Murray G. Ross prize in recognition of a catalogue of accomplishments over the course of her time at York. This award, established in 1962 in honour of York's first president, is presented annually to a graduating student for scholarship and outstanding contributions to undergraduate student life. In pursuit of a passion for a more holistic understanding of health and healthcare, Makonnen has garnered several awards prior to receiving the Murray G. Ross prize, including the Faculty of Health Gold Medal for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Leadership. In addition to being a President's Ambassador, she was a research assistant for Lora Appel, an assistant professor of health informatics and an adjunct researcher at Michael Garron Hospital.



[George Zhu](#) from York University's Department of Mechanical Engineering received a \$250,000 New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) grant to conduct innovative research that explores metal manufacturing for space equipment using 3D and 4D printing in space to satisfy the actual demands of materials needed. Zhu will collaborate with fellow Lassonde School of Engineering mechanical engineering professors Alidad Amirfazli, Cuiying Jian and Aleksander Czekanski, and engage with the diverse fields of mechanical engineering research at York, including space instrumentation and robotics, molecular dynamics, metals and alloy materials and fluid mechanics.



In late April, students from the Lassonde School of Engineering and the Schulich School of Business at York University pitched their business ideas as part of the [BEST Certificate's Entrepreneurship and Technology Ventures](#) course (ENTR4500). The ENTR4500 Pitch Presentations showcased a remarkable display of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. Among the standout presentations were the winning pitches from the following two teams:

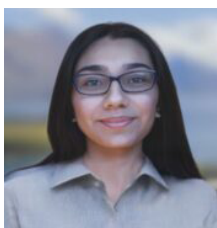
- Quest, BEST Impact Technology Award
- CogniSpace, BEST Impact Technology Award



Osgoode Hall Law School new graduate and member of Nipissing First Nation near North Bay, [Justin Thompson](#), was recently named a recipient of the \$10,000 John Wesley Beaver Memorial Award. John Wesley Beaver was a former chief of the Alderville First Nation in eastern Ontario who served as a fighter pilot in the Second World War and rose to become a high-ranking executive at Ontario Power Generation. The scholarship is offered annually by Ontario Power Generation through Indspire, a national Indigenous charity that invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. Thompson, who is the first in his immediate family to attend university, said the award also represents for him one more sign of hope that Indigenous youth and their communities can look forward to a brighter future after many generations of suffering under colonial oppression. His own great-grandmother, Agnes, was a residential school survivor.



President Rhonda Lenton established the [Robert Everett Exceptional Leadership in Student Governance Award](#) in 2018 to recognize and celebrate students and their impact on governance at York University. The award honours Robert Everett, a distinguished senior assistant secretary of York University who made extraordinary contributions to supporting University governance for nearly three decades. The University secretariat has announced that three students are recipients of this award for the 2022-23 academic year. The students are:



- Ana Kraljević, Glendon College/Collège universitaire Glendon, BA, bilingual (Hon.), double major in Canadian studies and études françaises/French studies
- Ariana Mah, Glendon College/Collège universitaire Glendon, BA, bilingual (Hon.), political science international bachelor of arts
- Yashna Manek, Faculty of Science, BA (Hon.), double major in mathematics for education and French studies



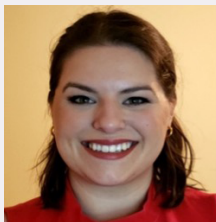
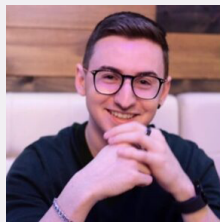
Professor [Philip Girard](#) is a co-recipient of the 2023 W. Wesley Pue Book Prize, awarded annually by the Canadian Law and Society Association (CLSA) for the best book on law and society published in the previous year in English or in French. This year's award, announced during the CLSA's annual meeting at Osgoode on May 27, honours *A History of Law in Canada Volume Two: Law for the New Dominion, 1867-1914*, co-written by Girard, Jim Phillips, a professor of law, history and criminology at the University of Toronto, and R. Blake Brown, a professor of history at St. Mary's University in Halifax. The book was published in 2022 by the University of Toronto Press and was designated as the 2022 members' book by the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History.



York University alum [Rosemary Sadlier](#), a founder of Black History Month in Canada, received an honorary degree from OCAD University on June 9. She was recognized for being at the forefront of countless initiatives aimed at educating the public on Black Canadian history. As a social justice advocate, researcher, writer, consultant and international speaker on Black history, anti-racism and women's issues, Sadlier served as the voluntary leader of the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) for 22 years.



Justice [Patrick Monahan](#) has become the third former dean of Osgoode Hall Law School to be appointed to the Court of Appeal for Ontario, joining Justice Lorne Sossin and Supernumerary Justice James MacPherson. An Osgoode graduate and, later, a faculty member for more than two decades, Monahan served as dean of the law school from 2003 to 2009. He went on to become provost and vice-president academic of York University from 2009 to 2012 and deputy attorney general for Ontario from 2012 to 2017. He was appointed to the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario in 2017.



Each year, top graduating students from the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University are awarded the [Bergeron Medal by the Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology](#) (BEST) program, which recognizes outstanding entrepreneurial achievement throughout their time at the School. This year, the award was presented to Nick Di Scipio and Megan Gran. Di Scipio, a mechanical engineering student, received his medal for a number of accomplishments, including completing both the BEST Certificate and BEST Co-op program. Gran, a space engineering student, has been an active participant in the BEST program throughout her degree, having engaged in various BEST initiatives and completed the BEST Certificate.



75 members from Toronto's Congolese community, and faculty members gathered at Glendon College on June 15th to celebrate honorary doctorate recipient Dr. [Denis Mukwege](#). Hosted by Glendon College Principal, Marco Fiola; Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute, Professor Gertrude Mianda; and Director Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health research, Professor James Orbinski; the evening featured a traditional Congolese dinner and music, as well as speeches and book signing. The event was a first of its kind for a few reasons, including: two Nobel Prize recipients at Glendon at once (Denis Mukwege and James Orbinski), and the first time Glendon College hosted Toronto's Congolese community, brought together to celebrate one of their own. Denis Mukwege is a world-renowned gynecologic surgeon who is the founder and medical director of Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo. He is a leading global campaigner against sexual violence as a weapon of war, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018.



The Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change (EUC) celebrated its inaugural [Changemakers Celebration](#), the first in-person event to commemorate the achievements of EUC educators since the program was formed in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The celebration marked the launch of the inaugural EUC Impact Report and lauded student researchers, volunteers and leaders. EUC recognized 50 graduate and 11 undergraduate students earning academic and research awards, including the EUC Research Award (EUCRA), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) awards, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) awards and many more. Award winners included:

- 2022 Dean's Changemaker Awards: William Anthony, Justin Chan, Thereza Eric, Samantha Navalta and Kaitlin Pal
- Dean's Teaching Award (faculty): Ilan Kapoor
- Dean's Teaching Award (graduate student): Nashwa Khan
- Dean's Staff Recognition Award: Joanne Huy
- Dean's Impact Leader Award: Nicki Hemmings



The President's Office (PO) Communications team and the Communications & Public Affairs Division (C&PA) at York University were recognized for best in class, receiving three [2023 CCAE Prix d'Excellence award\(s\)](#) (Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education). The winning PO team includes Krista Davidson, director of communications; Madeleine Laforest, social media and communications planning specialist; and Tina Dealwis, senior writer and communications specialist. Team members from C&PA included Robin Edmison, brand and marketing executive director; Jason Miller, digital marketing manager; Christie Lazo, digital specialist; and Sharon Ojelabi, social media specialist. The awards are:

- Gold: Best Use of Social Media for our #MeetYU campaign (this is one of the reputational campaigns C&PA leads for the Integrated Communication and Marketing Council).
- Silver: #YorkUConvo in the Creativity on a Shoestring Category.
- Bronze: The President's Annual Report Best Website



[Woldegebriel Assefa Woldegerima](#), assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the Faculty of Science, received nearly half a million dollars from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) to better predict and assess future outbreaks of mpox and other zoonotic threats. He will use epidemiological and geospatial models including mathematical and artificial intelligence-based models to study epidemiology, transmission dynamics and immunology and intervention strategies to forecast the effectiveness of prevention and control strategies for mpox and other zoonotic diseases in Canada and around the world.



Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Professors [Alison Halsall](#) and [Jonathan Warren](#) are nominees in this year's Eisner Awards at San Diego Comic-Con for their book *The LGBTQ+ Comics Studies Reader: Critical Openings, Future Directions*. The book is the first of its kind to honour work that emerged from and was influenced by the underground and alternative comix movements of the mid-1960s and examine its provocative current iterations and future directions.



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) awarded a \$412,000 grant to a research team, which includes Assistant Professor in Mathematics and Statistics [Iain Moyles](#) as co-principal investigator, that will analyze the influence of human behaviour in disease dynamics. Iain Moyles. Titled "Epidemiological modelling of behavioural impact on Mpox mitigation strategies," and led by Bouchra Nasri, an assistant professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the Université de Montréal's School of Public Health, the project is part of an investment of \$6.35M from the Government of Canada to support 13 teams across Canada that will carry out national and global health research projects on mpox and other zoonotic threats.



York University's [Risk and Insurance Studies Centre](#) received a \$11M grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Alliance (NSERC), to develop better ways of managing risk and protecting Canadians from increasing threats, such as pandemics, climate catastrophes and financial crises. Professor Edward Furman of the Faculty of Science leads the team at the Risk and Insurance Studies Centre (RISC) that will use the grant over five years for a new program called New Order of Risk Management (NORM): Theory and Applications in the Era of Systemic Risk. NORM looks to address an acute need for a fundamental transformation in how people think about and manage that risk.



[Seven York University students](#) were among the nearly 100 participants from 13 universities across Canada to compete at the first-ever officially sanctioned model European Union (EU) in Ottawa from May 5 to 7. The two-day policy negotiation simulation invited undergraduate students from across the country with an interest in international and transatlantic relations. Department of Politics Associate Professor Heather MacRae nominated students from both the Keele and Glendon campuses for the simulation. Travelling with MacRae to Carlton University, which hosted the event, were Karmen Galamb, Lily Tureski, Colin Maitland, Phoung Tran-Vo, David Miranda, Anna Huusko and Juliette Castillo Martinez – many of whom recently completed the Debates in Contemporary European Union Politics (AP/GLBL 4517) senior undergraduate course, or other similar politics courses.



[Gabriel Appiah-Kubi](#), Lions receiver and social sciences student at York University, was drafted to the Edmonton Elks for the upcoming Canadian Football League (CFL) season. In addition to Appiah-Kubi's many noteworthy achievements, he most recently made waves at the inaugural New Era 2023 CFL invitational combine in March, where he placed first in three different events, tied for second in a fourth, and secured his spot at the following national CFL combine.



York University recognized the contributions of its employees who have worked at the University for 25 years or more during an Employee Service Recognition event on May 16. Interim Vice-President, Equity, People & Culture, Alice Pitt, presented long-serving employees with 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service with a commemorative gift during the reception, which was held on the second floor of the Second Student Centre. See the full list of recipients [here](#). The honorees included two employees who were recognized for over 50 years of service:

- Fred Lazar, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Paul E Lovejoy, Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies



The [Lassonde School of Engineering](#) received a \$250,000 bursary from Kenaidan Contracting that will go towards supporting undergraduate students enrolled in the Civil Engineering program. The Dr. Istvan Fogarasi Kenaidan Contracting Bursary will be available to all Lassonde students in the Civil Engineering program starting Fall 2023. Recipients must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons; residents of Ontario; and demonstrate financial need. Preference will be to provide 50 per cent of the awards in any year to a female-identifying student.



[Mike Rose](#), management information coordinator in the Department of Student Recruitment and Admissions, received an Award of Excellence from the Ontario University Registrars' Association. He was recognized for supporting the registrarial community at York University for over 30 years and playing a pivotal role in supporting the admission of Ontario high school students. He ensures that the 101 admissions process is seamless, consistently meets timelines, and addresses the different needs required of York's 100+ programs.



The *Financial Times of London*, the historic daily business newspaper and premier rankings publisher for executive education programs worldwide, has named [Schulich ExecEd](#) the 30th best program of its kind in the world. This year's Financial Times ranking serves as a new highwater mark for Schulich ExecEd, which has steadily climbed Financial Times' rankings for the last few years, reaching rank 32 in 2022. Not only did Schulich ExecEd climb two ranks higher this year, it also defended its prior-attained status as the second-best executive education program throughout Canada.



York University Board of Governors member, [Loretta Lam](#), is a top 75 finalist in the 15th Annual Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards, presented by Western Union. Lam is a highly recognized marketing industry leader known for her foresight and passion for marketing, multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion. With three decades of professional experience, Lam held management and consultant positions at leading multinational firms Hill & Knowlton Canada and Ogilvy Asia before she founded Focus Communications Inc., an award-winning Canadian agency, offering strategic counsel and services on multicultural marketing, diversity communications, brand building and cross-cultural training to client corporations in North America.



It was a successful day on the golf course Wednesday, May 31 as York University [Athletics & Recreation](#) raised \$154,000 for athletic scholarships at the 20th annual Lions Cup, presented by TD Insurance. Nearly 100 golf enthusiasts convened at the Wyndance Golf Club in Uxbridge, Ont., coming together with a mission to extend financial assistance to student athletes. Notably, a number of York's current student athletes, who have similarly benefited from financial aid in their educational pursuits, actively interacted with the golfers. Organizers led a variety of events on the course, such as the accuracy challenge and the longest-drive competition, all the while embracing the opportunity to establish valuable connections with professionals in their respective fields of study.



Senior Scholar and Professor Emeritus [Juan Pascual-Leone](#) earned a Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Valencia in Spain for his pioneering work in cognitive development. As a renowned developmental psychologist, he founded the neo-Piagetian approach to cognitive development and put forward key predictions about developmental growth of mental attention and working memory.



Associate Professor in Astronomy [Adam Muzzin](#)'s successful application to use NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to explore the depths of the universe was one of 1,600 project proposals submitted. He was also one of only 11 out of 54 applying Canadian principal investigators to receive approval, and his is the second-largest successful Canadian program in terms of time granted – 44 hours – with the telescope.



Members of York University's [Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom \(C4\) team](#) were awarded the 2023 D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), which recognizes post-secondary collaborative teams for their innovative approaches to promoting student-centered teaching and learning. C4, launched in 2019, enables students to work on real-world challenges with social impact, promoting team-based collaboration, advanced research and design, critical and strategic thinking, and more. The award was bestowed on those associated with C4's innovative approach to pan-university interdisciplinary experiential education. The award winners included:

- Danielle Robinson, co-founder and academic co-lead of C4, as well as associate professor in the Department of Dance;
- Franz Newland, co-founder and co-lead of C4, as well as associate professor of Space Engineering;
- Rachele Campigotto, classroom coordinator assistant for C4 and contract faculty in the Faculty of Education;
- Dana Craig, Libraries liaison for C4 and director of student learning and academic success in the Libraries;
- Danielle Dobney, team culture strategist of C4 and assistant professor in Kinesiology and the Athletic Therapy Certificate program;
- Andrea Kalmin, curriculum lead, classroom coordinator for C4 and adjunct faculty in the Department of Social Science;
- Alice Kim, scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) research lead for C4 and interim assistant program head for Psychology at the University of Guelph-Humber; and
- Natasha May, Teaching Commons liaison for C4 and educational developer in York's Teaching Commons.



[Jinjun Shan](#), a professor and Chair of the Earth and Space Science and Engineering Department at York University's Lassonde School of Engineering, has been elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) in recognition of his outstanding work and research on space and autonomous systems. Each year, the CAE invites a small number of highly accomplished individuals demonstrating extraordinary contributions in engineering to become Fellows of their organization.



The Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) will host a special performance by York University PhD student [Erica Stocking](#) as part of MotherGinger Promenade, an exhibit running until December 2, 2023. The performance, which took place on June 10, charts a path through the emergence of fashion as a discipline within modernism in late 19th century Paris, its entanglement in rhythms and spaces of visibility, and the social and material conditions of movement. Inspired by early examples of public promenades (such as those on the Bois de Boulogne in Paris after its redevelopment as a social gathering point in the late 1800s) as spaces where economic, social and aesthetic interests come together in an event of looking and being seen, Stocking invites the audience to consider, "What is a closet and where can it take you?"



Following its fourth annual Workshop on Critical Social Science Perspectives in Global Health Research, York University's [Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research](#) awarded five researchers \$5,000 seed grants to further develop grant proposals and research programs that carry out critical global health research. All winners of the grants this year embody the critical social science perspectives in global health research that is representative of Dahdaleh's research themes: planetary health, global health and humanitarianism, as well as global health foresighting. The recipients – largely representing the School of Global Health – and their projects are:

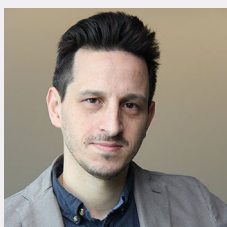
- Syed Imran Ali, research Fellow in global health and humanitarianism, and Stephanie Gora, assistant professor in civil engineering, will explore community-based participatory water quality monitoring for safe water optimization in the Canadian North.
- Chloe Clifford Astbury, postdoctoral researcher in the School of Global Health, will pursue mining, health and environmental change by using systems mapping to understand relationships in complex systems.
- Godfred Boateng, assistant professor, director of the Global and Environmental Health Lab, and faculty Fellow at the Dahdaleh Institute, is studying Black anxiety with an exploratory and intervention look at Black families with children in and out of the criminal justice system in Canada.
- Ahmad Firas Khalid, faculty Fellow in the Faculty of Health, will use experiential simulation-based learning to increase students' ability to analyze increasingly complex global health challenges through a mixed methods study.
- Gerson Luiz Scheidweiler Ferreira, a postdoctoral Fellow at Dahdaleh will examine how to break barriers to sexual and reproductive health by empowering Venezuelan refugee women in Brazil's resettlement process.



An international team of researchers, including York University Assistant Professor [Elizabeth Clare](#), has found that data in the form of environmental DNA (eDNA) is being collected globally by ambient air quality monitoring stations. The discovery is a game-changer for global efforts to protect and promote biodiversity.



[Dennis N. York](#), associate director of digital and experiential education at the York University School of Continuing Studies, was the recent recipient of the We Rise Together Award in Innovation from the Duolingo English Test for the School's animated instructional video series, "Not So Far From Home: Canadian Culture Series".



A new website and travelling exhibit that explores the past and present of Canada's Portuguese diaspora was developed by York University faculty member [Gilberto Fernandes](#). Fernandes is currently a research associate at the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies and was recruited by the Portuguese Embassy in Canada to create the project. The website, titled "Movimento Perpétuo: The Portuguese Diaspora in Canada," was officially launched on June 1, coinciding with the beginning of Portuguese Heritage Month in Canada and the upcoming 70th anniversaries of the establishment of Portugal Canada diplomatic relations (1952) and the beginning of Portuguese mass migration to Canada (1953).



The [Science Engagement Programs](#) (SEP) team partnered with Main Street Markham to host the Faculty of Science's 15th Science Rendezvous, which included more than 50 volunteers, 2,000 participants, and internal and external collaborators. The Mayor of Markham Frank Scarpitti declared May 13, 2023 as Science Rendezvous Day and presented the certificate to Biology Professor Robert Tsushima, one of the original organizers of Science Rendezvous.



[Carl James](#), a professor and Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora in the Faculty of Education at York University, received funding for "Bridging the gap in regenerative medicine for African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities," a project that will promote greater equity in regenerative medicine research and clinical practice. With Dr. Istvan Mucsi of University Health Network, James will lead a team that received a collective \$1 million from Medicine by Design (MBD), a strategic hub for regenerative medicine research at the University of Toronto. The project sprung from a series of workshops organized by MBD's Convergent Working Group, which aspires to gather diverse perspectives across the field of medicine.



[Karen Valihora](#), graduate program director and associate professor in the Department of English, purchased *The Picton Gazette*, a Prince Edward County historic weekly with the intent of continuing its community-building legacy. *The Picton Gazette*, first published as the Hallowell Free Press in 1830, had been owned by Jean Morrison, and her husband, since 1977. After her husband passed away in 1978, she became one of the only female newspaper publishers in Canada. Morrison remained in her role until she passed away at the age of 97 in 2019. Since that time, the *Gazette* has been managed by the Morrison adult children and a dedicated staff, until they decided to sell in 2022.

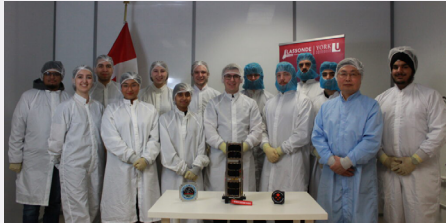


A selection committee from the President's Sustainability Council identified four projects that advance climate action at the University for the second round of funding from York's [Sustainability Innovation Fund](#) (SIF). The winning projects reflect various ways to utilize the campus as a living lab and address direct or indirect emissions through activities such as commuting, energy use, food consumption, waste management, behaviour change, awareness and engagement, and nature-based solutions. The four winning projects are:

- Living Learning Community – Sustainability, Project team: Aaron Brown and Melanie Howard, Residence Life, Division of Students
- York University Composting Centre, Project lead: John Simoulidis; Project team: Andrew Maxwell (Lassonde School of Engineering), Dean J.J. McMurtry (Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS)), Dean Alice Hovorka (Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change (EUC)), Tom Watt (Ancillary Services), Calvin Lakhani (EUC), Mark Winfield (EUC), Karl Karvonen (Facilities Services), Sabine Dreher (Glendon College), Nicolas Cabal (student), Ronon Smith (student), Sabrina de Losada Casab (student)
- Green Career Fair: Exploring Climate Careers to Achieve Net Zero, Project leads: Lauren Castelino, Joanne Huy and Rosanna Chowdury (EUC)
- Determining the merits of large battery electricity storage at York University, Project lead: Tim Hampton (EUC); Project team: Mark Winfield (EUC), Hany Farag (Lassonde), Steven Prince (Facilities Services)



YSpace Entrepreneur in Residence (EiR) [Daniel Bartek](#)'s beverage manufacturing company Ace Beverage Group has been acquired for \$165 million by the global brand Coby Spirit and Wine Limited/Pernod Ricard. YSpace's EiRs are all successful entrepreneurs who have experience building and growing their companies, who have specialized in different fields, such as sales, marketing, finance, analytics and more. They host bi-weekly office hours, acting as resources to provide advice and guidance to YSpace startups.



The [Educational Space Science and Engineering CubeSat Experiment](#) (ESSENCE) Satellite successfully launched from the Kennedy Space Center's launch complex on June 5, 2023. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of York University's team of undergraduate students who have been involved with this mission.



A total of 16 awards were given to teams of upper-year students based on their presentations at [Capstone Day](#), an annual showcase hosted by the York Capstone Network (YCN) and the Lassonde School of Engineering. Capstone Day offers upper-year students the chance to share capstone and pre-capstone projects focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with fellow students, faculty members and off-campus project partners. The full list of awards and project titles are:

- Engineering Capstone Prize: "Smart Nordic Walk" by ENG Team 21 – The Pole Walkers
- Honorable Mention: "Drone Range Extension (D.R.E.)" by Team 36a – Aerial-Electro-Claw
- CIVL GeoSolv Innovation & Sustainability Award: "Timber Pedestrian Bridge" by Team 7 – Sapling Solutions
- CSCE – CSCE National Capstone Design Competition Nominee: "Integrated Water Systems Design at Downsview Taxiway West District" by Team 2 – IRD Engineering
- CIVL: Student Choice Award: "Integrated Water Systems Design at Downsview Taxiway West District" by Team 2 – IRD Engineering
- Technology Impact Award (BEST Lab): "Modular Smart Home" by ENG Team 38 – Modular Smart Home
- Technology Impact Award (BEST Program for C4): "Nordic Walking Poles" by Team BE
- Office of Alumni Engagement, Alumni EDI Award: "DiaSol" by Team CA
- Office of Alumni Engagement, Alumni Engagement Award: "Sustainable 7" by Team AF
- YSPACE General Innovation Award: "Building Cents" led by Munzungu Nzeyedio, Team BC
- YSPACE Black Entrepreneurship Alliance Award: "Financial Education" led by Bobby Lewis, Team BI
- C4 Community Impact Award (Positive Change Initiative): "ECO6IX" by Team Cj and "YU Waste" by Team AD
- C4 Pivot Award: "The Pivoteers" by Team BB and "DiaSol" by Team CA
- C4 Partner Choice Award: "RydUp" by Team AB