

# PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023



## APPOINTMENTS

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Professor [Dan Palermo](#) was appointed to the role of interim deputy provost, Markham, as of July 1, 2023. Dr. Palermo previously served as vice dean at the Lassonde School of Engineering, where he oversaw all academic matters for the school. He is also a professor of structural engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering and serves as an associate editor for the Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering.



Professor [Alice MacLachlan](#) was appointed to the position of vice-provost and dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies for an initial period of five years, as of July 1, 2023. Dr. MacLachlan is an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, where she has been a faculty member since 2007. Dr. MacLachlan has served two terms as graduate program director for philosophy and is a full member of the graduate faculty at York.



[Christine Brooks-Cappadocia](#) was appointed to become assistant vice-president (AVP), Continuing Studies, as of Sept. 1, 2023. Brooks-Cappadocia has served as interim AVP since Feb. 1, 2023, and has held previous roles including executive director, programs and partnerships; director of professional education; and director of marketing and enrolment management in the School of Continuing Studies.

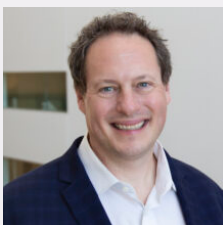


Professor [Trevor C.W. Farrow](#) was appointed as the dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, as of Sept. 1, 2023. Dr. Farrow is a full professor at the law school, where he is currently an associate dean of research and institutional relations. He has served several times as associate dean for Osgoode and is a full member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He is also the founding academic director of the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution at Osgoode, chair of the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, and former director of the York Centre for Public Policy and Law.

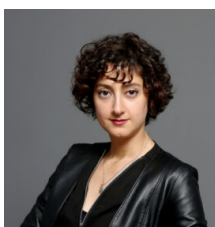
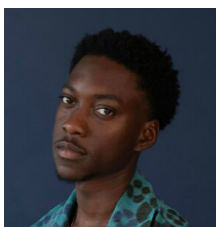
## REAPPOINTMENTS



[Sarah Bay-Cheng](#) accepted a second five-year term as dean of the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD), commencing on July 1, 2024. Dr. Bay-Cheng's accomplishments include spearheading the development and implementation of a strategic plan for AMPD and leading the collegial production of a forward-looking AMPD Equity Plan, with clear alignment to the University's Decolonization, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion goals.



[J.J. McMurtry](#) accepted a second five-year term as dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), commencing on July 1, 2024. Under his leadership, the Faculty increased international student enrolments at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and streamlined program delivery, eliminating an accumulated deficit in the Faculty budget and enabling reinvestment in academic priorities set out in a collegially developed Faculty Academic Plan.



The 46th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) features the work of several [alumni from the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design \(AMPD\)](#), contributing to AMPD's ongoing impact on the fine arts. Cinema & Media Arts alumni screenings at the 2023 festival included:

- Short Film: *Express*, directed by Ivan D. Ossa (BFA '21)
- Short Film: *Meteor*, directed by Atefeh Khademolreza (MFA '19).
- Feature Length, TIFF world premiere: *Swan Song*, directed by Chelsea McMullan (MFA '10) and shot by co-director of photography Tess Girard (BFA '05).
- Feature Length, TIFF world Premiere: *I Don't Know Who You Are*, co-written and directed by M. H. Murray (BFA '15).

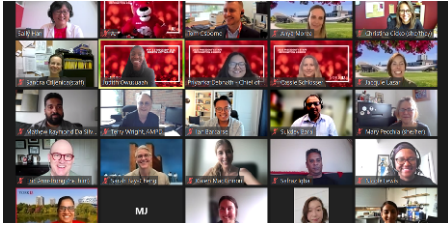
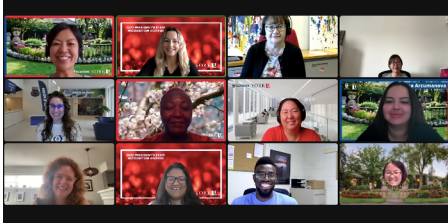
Theatre alumni Amrit Kaur (BFA '15) is among this year's cohort of TIFF Rising Stars, appearing in the feature length film, *The Queen of My Dreams*, directed by Fawzia Mirza.



[Schulich ExecEd](#), an extension of the Schulich School of Business at York University, is partnering with the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) to launch leadership and mentorship programs, workshops and speaking engagements. The joint venture was launched in May with the goal of strengthening the leadership capabilities of TIFF's management and senior teams. Throughout TIFF 2023 and into the upcoming year, these new programming and professional development offerings will aim to meet the current needs and strategic goals of the film organization by empowering its leaders with advanced training in areas such as strategy; resilience; leadership; management change and transformation; and diversity, equity and inclusion.



Third-year Osgoode Hall Law School student [Angela Dittrich](#) was awarded a Legal Leaders for Diversity Trust Fund Scholarship in recognition of both her academic excellence and her work to improve accessibility to legal education. Her brainchild, the Canadian Coalition for Law Students with Disabilities, has so far brought together students from all 23 law schools across Canada. Dittrich, who has herself been diagnosed as neurodivergent, is advocating for equitable policies and greater inclusivity within the legal profession and legal education. The CCLSD aims to address the challenges faced by law students with disabilities and lawyers in Canada and promote diversity and inclusion in the field.

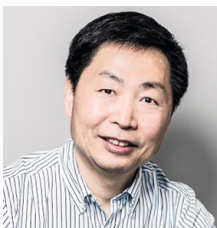


The York University [President's Staff Recognition Awards](#) are an occasion to honour community members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the University's success and actively advanced its vision, mission and core values. A new category, the Excellence in Decolonization, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (DEDI) Award was added this year. The 2022 award winners are:

- Deborah Hobson York Citizenship Award: Rosanna Chowdhury, experiential education coordinator
- Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (DEDI) Award: Centre for Human Rights, Equity & Inclusion (CHREI) Education Team: Lisa Brown, strategy and engagement specialist - Black Inclusion (on leave); Carolina Ruiz, senior advisor, DEDI, Education & Communications; and Christine Sinclair, senior advisor, DEDI, Education & Communications
- Gary Brewer Award: Tom Osborne, assistant director, Academic Scheduling
- Phyllis Clark Campus Service Award: Violet Cosby, custodian
- The President's Leadership Award: Jodi Tavares, executive director, Strategy & Administration
- Ronald Kent Medal: Patricia Cassan, administrative coordinator
- Harriet Lewis Team Award for Service Excellence: The Knowledge Mobilization Unit: David Phipps, AVP, Research Strategy & Impact; Michael Johnny, manager, Knowledge Mobilization; Krista Jensen, senior knowledge mobilization specialist; and Connie Tang, director, strategy and business development, Research Impact Canada
- President's Voice of York Award: Jlenya Sarra-DeMeo, graduate program administrator



[Mehwish Imran](#), a first-year BBA student at York's Schulich School of Business, is this year's winner of York University's annual free tuition contest. Imran sat down for a video-taped interview with York University's marketing team recently, which she initially thought was part of a recruitment initiative. Instead, she was thrilled to learn that her name had been randomly selected from 3,000 entries to win free first-year tuition, a win that she said will drive her to excel in her studies.



[George Zhu](#), a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at York University's Lassonde School of Engineering, has been inducted as a full member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) following his appointment as a corresponding member in 2020. Zhu's contributions to these areas include work in spacecraft dynamics and control, and space debris mitigation. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and 163 conference papers, and has supervised more than 100 highly qualified personnel. He also led the development and launch of two CubeSats funded by the Canadian Space Agency.



A York University-led program, the Global South Artificial Intelligence for Pandemic and Epidemic Preparedness and Response Network (AI4PEP), is helping bolster health care with artificial intelligence (AI) solutions throughout the Global South by providing more than \$5.8 million in funding for 16 projects in as many countries. Led by Assistant Professor [Jude Kong](#), the projects aim to combat infectious diseases, including polio surveillance in Ethiopia and helping Indigenous communities in the Philippines.





[SAVY](#), York's Student Virtual Assistant, reached a milestone at the end of July 2023, reaching 100,000 conversations. SAVY uses artificial intelligence to communicate with students through a chat interface. It provides students with help specific to their program, including: registrarial and financial services; academic advising referrals; important dates and deadlines; mental and physical health resources; career support; campus events and student life; and campus services.



York University is the first Canadian institution to earn the designation of a [“Best University for Commuters”](#) for its many sustainable travel options available to the community. The designation was awarded on Sept. 13 by Best Workplaces for Commuters, the North American authority for recognizing and assisting workplaces that provide exceptional commuter benefits to employees. With this designation, York joins universities such as Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and Yale, which have also been commended for options available to travellers.



York University continues to strengthen its global position as a leading research-intensive university as highlighted in the 20th edition of the [QS World University Rankings](#). This year, York climbed more than 100 spots, moving up to 353rd out of 1,500 universities — a 25 per cent improvement in the University's standing over the past eight years.



York alum [Cherissa Richards](#) is the recipient of a Dora Mavor Moore Award for the production *Red Velvet*. Richards was recognized for Outstanding Direction in the General Theatre Division. The Dora Mavor Moore Awards, produced and presented by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA), had 228 total nominations and 149 eligible productions registered.



[Louis Althaus and Brandon Jeffrey Jang](#), second-year students at Osgoode Hall Law School, spent three weeks in June testing their practical knowledge of frontline immigration law learned through the School's Community & Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP) to advocate for an at-risk migrant family facing expulsion. Guided by CLASP's veteran immigration lawyer, Subodh Bharati, the pair mobilized every legal strategy available to keep the family from being forcibly returned to Kazakhstan, where they faced potential persecution and death. Thanks in part to their hard work in winning a last-minute reprieve, the family's 14-year-old daughter, who was voted valedictorian by her Grade 8 classmates days before the deportation was to take effect, now has a chance of realizing her dream of becoming a doctor in Canada.



[Professor Emerita Ann Hutchison and Distinguished Research Professor and Professor Emeritus James Carley](#) will receive honorary doctorates from the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. As Fellows of York University, they have contributed much to the thriving and renowned scholarly world of Medieval Studies in Toronto and are models of interdisciplinary research.





[Alaa Ibrahim and Carly Magnacca](#), two York University doctoral scholars, are named recipients of the 2023-24 Autism Scholars Award. The community of scholars fostered by this awards program excel in the creation of new knowledge about child autism that positively increases the province's capacity for diagnosis and assessment of autism and leads to a strengthened treatment system. Each of them will receive a one-year award of \$20,000 to advance their research, which can lead to improved treatments and health-care policies. Ibrahim will begin her PhD in the Clinical Developmental Psychology program at York University in September. Her PhD research focuses on examining flourishing in autistic youth, a topic which aims to provide a better understanding of Canada's marginalized groups in terms of their flourishing and well-being, as well as inform intervention design for these populations. Magnacca will enter her first year of the PhD program in Clinical Developmental Psychology at York in the fall. Her research aims to better understand the experiences of autistic youth who previously received Intensive Behavioural Intervention and explore the impact of these intensive interventions to better inform policy and families' intervention decisions.



Dr. [Jane Goodyer](#), Dean of the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University, received an Honorary Doctor of Technology degree from Coventry University in the U.K. in recognition of her significant contributions to engineering education and unwavering dedication to promoting women in engineering. Dean Goodyer, who leads York's engineering community, has championed accessible STEM education and outreach programs, particularly through Lassonde's k2i (kindergarten to industry) academy.



[Jamie Robinson](#), assistant professor in the Department of Theatre, directed the Canadian Stage Company's 40th anniversary production of *Dream in High Park* with Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which opened on July 21. *Dream in High Park* is one of Canada's largest and longest running outdoor professional theatre events, taking place at the picturesque High Park Amphitheatre, and welcoming over 30,000 audience members to the park each year.



[Duygu Gulseren](#), assistant professor in the School of Human Resources Management, is the Chair-elect of the Canadian Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology (CSIOP). The Canadian Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology is an official section of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Its members include faculty from Psychology Departments and Business Schools, consultants from various organizations, and students from numerous universities. CSIOP is an organization whose mission is to further the welfare of people by helping organizations effectively manage their human resources, scientifically investigating human behaviour and cognition at work, and helping individuals realize their work goals, including helping them maximize job satisfaction and minimize work stress.



Fifty high school students had the rare opportunity to learn from Juno-winning and internationally recognized jazz and gospel artists at York University's School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD), thanks to a \$40,000 donation from the Nick Nurse Foundation (NNF). The donation supported bursaries for equity-deserving students, classes, workshops and guest artist visits to the newly renamed Nick Nurse Foundation Summer Jazz & Groove Lab. Participants worked closely with artists including [AMPD faculty members](#) Professor Sundar Viswanathan, Professor Karen Burke and Lorne Lofsky during the week-long intensive program, which culminated in a public performance.





Five individuals with connections to York University are among the 85 new appointments to the [Order of Canada](#), announced in June by Governor General of Canada Mary Simon. The new member list includes one Officer (O.C.) and four Members (C.M.). The Order of Canada is one of the highest honours awarded to civilians in Canada. Created in 1967, it recognizes people whose service shapes society, whose innovations ignite imaginations and whose compassion unites communities. The York affiliated new members include:

Officer:

- The Honourable Robert James Sharpe, donor

Members:

- John Anthony Lederer, alumni, donor
- Daniel Levy, former student
- Susan Swan, former faculty, donor
- Robert J. Foster, donor
- Wendy Ruth Eisen, donor



[Collette Murray](#), a dance studies PhD student, who also completed bachelor's and master's degrees at York University, was recognized by the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) for Outstanding Leadership in Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She has won multiple awards in recognition of her work to advance the importance of cultural arts and anti-racism work in dance in Ontario and for significant contributions to collaboratively work with culturally diverse communities and creating access to arts and culture in Toronto.



A research publication co-authored by Schulich School of Business Professor [Abi Sriharan](#) was recently named Article of the Year by the *Medical Care Research and Review*, an influential, peer-reviewed journal that is central to health-care and medical research. Produced in collaboration with co-authors from Canada, the U.K. and the U.S., the article, "Public Health and Health Sector Crisis Leadership During Pandemics," examines global crisis leadership amidst pandemics, a topic underscored by the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research findings shed light on the political, structural and cultural dynamics that influence health-care policy decisions.



Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Professors [Alison Halsall](#) and [Jonathan Warren](#) areceived the 2023 Eisner Award for Best Academic/Scholarly Work for *The LGBTQ+ Comics Studies Reader: Critical Openings, Future Directions*. The book honours 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.



A new gift from [Desjardins](#) to York University's Innovation York will expand two critical accelerator programs that provide training and support in entrepreneurship and help promote innovation. The funding will continue both Desjardins', and York's commitment to fostering positive change for diverse local communities and uniquely global perspectives. The gift supports two initiatives at York, with an infusion over five years to GENIAL (Glendon Entrepreneuriat et Innovation A L'International) and over two years to ELLA (Entrepreneurial Leadership & Learning Alliance). In recognition of this contribution and commitment, Desjardin CEO and President, Guy Cormier, visited the Schulich Executive Learning Centre on York's Keele Campus on Sept. 12 to give a public talk on his professional journey.



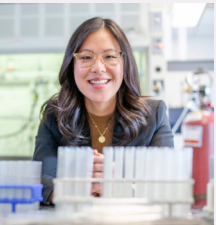
Recent nursing graduate [Leo Macawile](#) is the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Roya Haghiri-Vijeh Scholarship from the Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario. The award supports a student enrolled in an undergraduate program at a recognized School of Nursing who has demonstrated commitment to education and advocacy that supports equity in health care for recipients and/or providers who identify as 2S/LGBTQIA+ migrants. Macawile is the President of the Nursing Students Association of York University (NSAY). He has initiated Canada's first and largest student-led Filipino Nurses Recognition Month, and has spearheaded other various events that have promoted Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Action.



This summer, a [team of graduate students](#) from Professor Jinjun Shan's research group at the Lassonde School of Engineering participated in the 2023 International Conference of Unmanned Aircraft Systems UAV competition in Warsaw, Poland. The competition challenged teams to program a UAV to autonomously navigate an obstacle course and identify defects in course infrastructure. After successfully placing in the top five teams, they competed in Poland and achieved an impressive fourth-place finish among the international competitors.



[Laurence Butet-Roch](#) (PhD candidate in Environmental Studies) received a Susan Mann Dissertation Award for her research studying visual narratives of environmental contamination and systemic environmental racism. Her research considers how to visually bear witness to environmental injustices, especially industrial contamination, without further rendering certain communities and habitats expendable and pollutable.



A research study led by chemistry Professor [Christine Le](#), titled "Synthesis of Carbamoyl Fluorides Using a Difluorophosgene Surrogate Derived from Difluorocarbene and Pyridine N-Oxides," was honoured with the 2023 Outstanding Publication of the Year Award from *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*. The award recognizes a paper from the previous year that demonstrates creativity and impact in the field of organic chemistry, with a focus on early-career researchers.



Edward Cruz, the first graduate of the thesis MScN program at York University, and York alumn, Archana Medhekar (LLM '22), were listed as two of the [Top 25 Canadian Immigrants of 2023](#). Cruz, an associate professor at the University of Windsor's Faculty of Nursing, has a personal mission to help other internationally educated nurses (IENs) get their credentials. He is co-chair of the Partners in Integration and Education of IENs, supports IEN bridging initiatives by the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, and is on the project steering committee of CARE Centre for IENs. He is also chair of the National Nursing Assessment Service's education review advisory committee and co-chair for the National Newcomer Navigation Network's IEN Community of Practice working group. Medhekar was recognized for her work done through her Toronto-based firm, Archana Medhekar Professional Corporation, where she provides legal services to people from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds facing barriers to access to justice. As a certified family law specialist and mediator-arbitrator, she sees the law as "an instrument for social change" and is a well-known advocate for vulnerable women and children facing domestic violence.





[Darren Singh](#), a candidate for the Master of Management in Artificial Intelligence (MMAI) at York University's Schulich School of Business, was named a winner of this year's Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence (VSAI). Valued at \$17,500, the merit-based VSAs are bestowed upon top candidates pursuing studies in either Vector-recognized master's programs, which provide students with the AI skills and competencies sought by employers, or individual AI study paths in Ontario.



Following a highly competitive selection process, York University postdoctoral Fellows [Chiara Camponeschi and Ashlee Christofferson](#) have been named among this year's recipients of the prestigious Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships. Awarded by the Government of Canada, the Banting Fellowship is valued at \$70,000 per year for two years and supports postdoctoral researchers who will positively contribute to the country's economic, social and research-based growth. Camponeschi is a postdoctoral Fellow conducting research at the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research. Her project, "Turning Moments of Crisis Into Moments of Care," aims to rethink the approach to resilience and recovery in this age of systemic crises. Christofferson is a postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Politics. Her proposed research aims to increase our understanding of how intersectionality can be applied in both policy and practice, with a unique focus on non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



[Parissa Safai](#), a professor in York University's School of Kinesiology and Health Science, Faculty of Health, has been elected to serve as president of the International Sociology of Sport Association (ISSA), effective Jan. 1, 2024, for a four-year term. Established in 1965, ISSA is an international scholarly organization in the field of the sociology of sport. ISSA is affiliated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), collaborates with the International Sociology Association by leading Research Committee 27 (Sociology of Sport) and is responsible for producing the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* journal.



Two students beginning their post-secondary studies at York University's Lassonde School of Engineering - [Mitchell Clapperton and Jasmine Gherman](#) - have been awarded the prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship. Clapperton will study electrical engineering, while Gherman will focus on computer programming. The scholarship, which is Canada's largest for undergraduate education in STEM fields, recognizes academic excellence, leadership, creativity and financial need. Clapperton will receive a \$120,000 scholarship, while Gherman will receive \$100,000. Both students aim to use their education to make a positive impact in their fields and society as a whole.



[Nicholas Bragagnolo](#), a PhD student in the Department of Chemistry's Audette Lab at York University, won the 2023 Etter Student Lecturer Award from the American Crystallographic Association (ACA), which represents those working in the branch of science concerned with the structure and properties of crystals. The ACA houses 14 scientific interest groups (SIG), each representing a specific crystallographic discipline or area of interest. Among them is the Canadian Division SIG, which had the opportunity to invite one student to present a lecture at an ACA conference and receive an award. Bragagnolo presented a 20-minute lecture titled "Solution characterization of the dynamic conjugative entry exclusion protein TraG," as part of a session about the future of light sources, and won the Etter Student Lecturer Award. He also received honourable mentions for a three-minute thesis presentation.

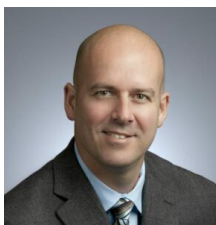
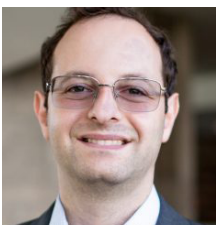


The [Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship](#), presented by the Government of Canada, aims to support first-rate doctoral students studying social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health. This year, seven York University students have been named Vanier Scholars, earning them \$50,000 annually for up to three years to support their research projects. The 2023 Vanier Scholars are:

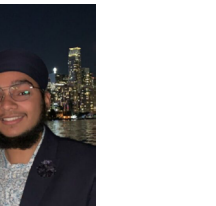
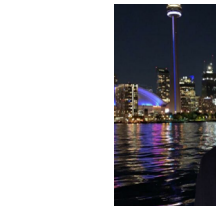
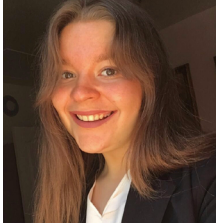
- Marissa Magneson (Cree-Métis, citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario), Faculty of Education
- Greg Procknow, critical disability studies
- Cole Swanson, environmental studies
- Areej Alshammiry, sociology
- Jordan Krywonos, physics and astronomy
- Austin Martins-Robalino, civil engineering
- Anna Waisman, clinical psychology



Professor and York University Research Chair [Chun Peng](#) received \$780,000 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to fund a new project associated with her ongoing research into pre-eclampsia, a pregnancy disorder with a profound impact on maternal and fetal health. The grant funds a project titled “NLRC5 isoforms in placental development and pathogenesis of pre-eclampsia,” part of Peng’s long-term research goal to better understand pre-eclampsia, which is the leading direct cause of maternal and fetal death in the world, with over 75,000 pregnant women and 500,000 infants dying from it each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



[Two faculty members](#) from York University’s Schulich School of Business received awards at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management held in Boston earlier this month, where more than 10,000 academy members from around the world gathered to explore the theme “Putting the Worker Front and Centre.” Maxim Voronov, a professor of organization studies and sustainability at Schulich, won Best Article for his co-authored paper titled “Commercializing the Practice of Voyeurism: How Organizations Leverage Authenticity and Transgression to Create Value,” which was published in the *Academy of Management Journal* in July of last year. Schulich Professor Geoffrey Kistruck, RBC Chair in Social Innovation and Impact, won the Kauffman Best Paper Award in Entrepreneurial Cognition for his co-authored paper titled “Reframing Entrepreneurship: A Field Experiment on the Relative Efficacy of Reflexive vs. Habitual Framing for Entrepreneurial Education.”



11 recipients were honoured with the [Robert J. Tiffin Student Leadership Award](#), which annually recognizes students whose leadership has contributed to the growth, development and vitality of the University. Now in its 11th year, the award was created in honour of Robert J. Tiffin, who served as York University's vice-president, students, from 2005 to 2012. This year's recipients include:

- Ariana Mah, Political Science, Glendon College
- Alita Gideon, master of science, kinesiology and health science
- Amireza Nikzadfar Goli, honours bachelor of science, kinesiology and health science
- Ana Kraljević, bilingual honours bachelor of arts and bachelor of education
- Arman Sadr, bachelor of science, biomedical science
- Christina Da Costa, honours specialized bachelor of arts, Indigenous studies
- Kaye Trishia Canoy, honours bachelor of arts, psychology and linguistics
- Mohamed Elsayed Elghobashy, bachelor of science, kinesiology and health science
- Mustafa Abdulkadhim, honours bachelor of science, biomedical science
- Nathi Mbuso Zamisa, master of arts, social and political thought
- Prabhjee Singh, honours bachelor of science, computer science



[Wendy Taylor](#), professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, was elected president of the board of trustees of the Institute of Particle Physics. The Institute of Particle Physics promotes Canadian excellence in particle physics research and advanced education.



[Danielle Washington](#), the first student in York University's PhD in Nursing program to be awarded the Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral (CGS-D) Award, was honoured for her research, titled "Exploring the Mental Well-Being of Black Women Living in Poverty and at Risk of Intimate Partner Violence." The CGS-D is one of the two listed awards within the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Doctoral Research Award program and includes \$35,000 of funding to support students pursuing a doctorate in a health-related field in Canada.





York University's Schulich School of Business announced last week that Schulich Professor [Olaf Weber](#) has been appointed as the inaugural holder of the new CIBC Chair in Sustainable Finance. The research Chair was established last year as the result of CIBC's commitment to enable a more sustainable future, working in partnership with stakeholders and clients. As the inaugural CIBC Chair in Sustainable Finance, Weber will pursue pioneering research that generates actionable solutions within the global finance sector. Weber has had a distinguished career in the field of sustainable finance, marked by cutting-edge research on the intersection of business and financial institutions' sustainability.



[Prateeksha Pathak](#) (Geography PhD student) has received a YCAR Language Award to learn Dari and Pashtu over the summer to assist in her research fieldwork examining the material memory of wars in Afghanistan and the homemaking strategies of Afghan refugees in Canada. Pathak's research interests include material culture, visual arts, memory studies, geographies of violence and South Asian studies.



During the 2023 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting in Los Angeles earlier this month, [Basileus Zeno](#), a sessional assistant professor in the Department of Politics in York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), received the Best 2022 APSA Paper award from the association's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Politics Section. Zeno presented his paper, "The Shifting Rhetorics of the Syrian Uprising: Politics of Sectarianization," at APSA's annual event in Montreal last fall.



[Four York University professors](#) are among the latest Fellows to be elected to the ranks of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), one of the country's highest honours in the arts, social sciences and sciences, in recognition of their career achievements and their positive contributions to public life. The new RSC Fellows elected from York University are:

- Joshua Fogel, professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Sara Horowitz, professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Ali Kazimi, professor, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- Debra Pepler, professor, Faculty of Health



More than 30 projects led by [York University researchers](#) in the social sciences and humanities were awarded a combined total of \$15,541,343 in federal funding from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants. The breakdown of the grants are:

- Partnership Grants: Four York-led projects received a combined total of almost \$10 million (\$9,978,586) in funding. To view all Partnership Grant recipients, click [here](#).
- Partnership Development Grants: Eight York-led projects received a combined total of more than \$1.5 million (\$1,514,498) in funding. To view all Partnership Development Grant recipients, click [here](#).
- Insight Grants: 21 York-led projects received a combined total of more than \$4 million (\$4,048,259) in funding. To view all Insight Grant recipients, click [here](#).

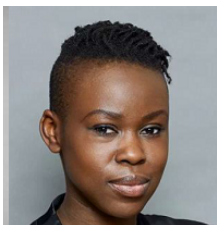
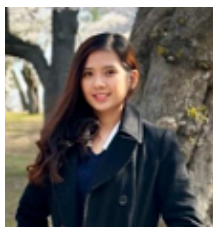


A new [engineering facility](#) to develop innovative nanomaterials at York University is part of the latest round of research infrastructure projects to receive support from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF), announced by the federal government in August. Reza Rizvi, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering, will oversee the facility alongside co-principal investigators Stephanie Gora, an assistant professor of civil engineering, and Marina Freire-Gormaly, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering. The JELF investment, totalling \$138,585, will enable the York engineers to utilize cutting-edge scientific techniques and conduct the precise analysis needed to develop innovative nanomaterials that address energy and environmental challenges, like climate change, clean energy generation and storage, e-waste, and water treatment and monitoring. The project is titled “Infrastructure for Innovative Nanomaterials for Energy and Environment.”

Three other York researchers also received funding: Shooka Karimpour, an assistant professor of civil engineering at Lassonde, for “Infrastructure for High-Definition Microplastic Detection (HD-MPD) and Identity Analysis” (\$126,254); and Adeyemi Oludapo Olusola and Joshua Thienpoint, assistant professors in the Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change, for “Landscapes in Transition: Environmental Sensitivities Due to Climate Change” (\$198,161).



Four York University researchers have been awarded [2023 Connection Grants](#) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for various knowledge mobilization projects, ranging in topic from local Indigenous history education to youth affected by conflict in Africa to corporate social responsibility and sustainability. Connection Grants support events, workshops and outreach activities that often lead to longer-term research projects and enable scholarly exchanges with academic and non-academic partners, and collaboration between the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The York recipients for this latest round of funding include Jennifer Bonnell, Alan Corbiere and Annie Bunting, professors in the Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, and Barnali Choudhury, a professor at Osgoode Hall Law School. Bonnell and Corbiere’s project, “Changing the Narrative: Connecting Indigenous and Settler Histories at Black Creek Pioneer Village,” received \$43,911. Bunting’s project, “Youth and Gender Violence – Health and Gender Justice,” received \$25,000. Choudhury’s project, “Sustainability impacts of Canadian companies,” received \$17,776.



[Ria Ducusin, Lakshmi Aysola and Jane Lumumba](#) have received the inaugural Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC) Dissertation Field Research Award. The award is designed to support EUC PhD students whose dissertation research requires an extended absence from Toronto. Ducusin’s PhD research in Geography (supervised by Philip Kelly) is titled “Political Ecologies of Flood Disasters in Urban Coastal Environments: A Case Study of Philippine Localities” and will examine how ecological conditions and socio-political relations create and shape flooding in urbanizing and industrializing coastal cities in the Philippines. Aysola’s PhD research in Environmental Studies (supervised by Cate Sandilands) is titled “Embodied Ecologies, Environmental Thought, and Multi-Modal Perception as Praxis” and will involve intensive Butoh dance practice in Japan to formulate and theorize embodied experience for ecological thought. Lumumba’s PhD research in Environmental Studies (supervised by Roger Keil) is titled “Informal Public Transportation Networks and the Decarbonization Transition” and will involve interviews with informal networks in the matutu transportation industry in Nairobi, Kenya.



At the [Faculty of Science](#)'s annual undergraduate summer research conference, students received awards in recognition of oral and poster presentations they gave on their summer projects. More than 60 students from the Faculties of Science, Health, and Environmental & Urban Change attended and presented at the conference. The following science students received awards for their oral presentations:

- Hannah Le, a third-year chemistry student, won first place for the project "Value-Added Vat Orange 3 Dyes for Functional Materials Development."
- Chiara Di Scipio, a third-year biology student, won second place for the project "Investigating the signaling cascade of a CAPA neuropeptide in the Malpighian tubules of the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*."
- Isaac Kogan, a first-year biology student, won third place for the project "Using Machine Learning to Interpret LFIA Results."

The following science students received awards for their poster presentations:

- Jessica Latimer, a fourth-year chemistry student, won first place for the project "Practical Accuracy Assessment of Equilibrium Dissociation Constants."
- Sarah Powell, a fourth-year physics student, won second place for the project "Theoretical particle physics on quantum computers."
- Yash Shrestha, a second-year biology student, won third place for the project "Exploration of altered synaptic pruning in an autism model mouse."

Within the Faculty of Health, the following students received awards:

- Patrick Hewan, a psychology student, won best oral presentation for the project "Microstructural integrity of the Locus Coeruleus is related to decision-making in older adults."
- Mira Bhattacharya, a second-year cognitive science student, won best poster presentation for the project "Neuronal Correlates of Flexible Decision Making."



Recent York University graduate [Anthony Kosick](#) has been honoured with the prestigious 2023 Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) Award. Reflecting on his journey, Kosick acknowledges the unwavering support and opportunities provided by the Faculty of Education, which have played a pivotal role in shaping him as both a teacher and an individual. From the outset, he was determined to make a meaningful change in society through education, and his time at York University helped him lay the foundation for his pedagogical and practical approach.

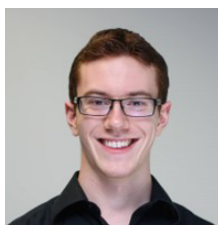


[Thomas Salisbury](#), professor in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, has begun his term as president of the Probability Section of the Statistical Society of Canada. The Probability Section was created in 205 and is focused on the interests of members working in probability and its applications to mathematics, biology, finance and many other areas.



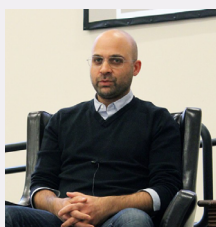
Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change research associate [Calvin Lakhan](#) was recognized as one of the 50 Under 50 Young and Aspiring Indo-Canadians in Toronto by Maneesh Media and the High Commission of India to Canada. Founded in 1999 in Jaipur, India, Maneesh Media has expanded its operations to Canada and the US. As a distinguished book publishing house, it specializes in capturing the intricacies of the Indian diaspora, weaving inspiring narratives that Connect Beyond Boundaries.





[Three Lassonde School of Engineering PhD candidates](#) in civil engineering have been recognized – two with awards and one with publication approval – for work in environmental research that promises to help right the future. The award-winners are:

- Gurpreet Kaur, third-year PhD candidate, was honoured with a Best Presentation Award for presenting her research focusing on microorganisms to degrade harmful contaminants in groundwater at the International In-Situ Thermal Treatment (i2t2) Symposium in Banff, Alta..
- Michael De Santi, second-year PhD candidate, received an award for outstanding presentation at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna, about his research focusing on developing the Safe Water Optimization Tool (SWOT) using machine learning methods.
- Rodrigo Alcaino Olivares, fourth-year PhD candidate, had an article, titled “Thermally assisted deformation of a rock column above Tomb KV42 in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt,” accepted for publication in the journal Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering.



The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) has named Osgoode Hall Law School Professor [Faisal Bhabha](#) as the recipient of its 2023 Touchstone Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of an individual or an organization who has excelled in promoting equality in the legal profession, the judiciary or the legal community in Canada. The award is one of six national CBA Awards of Excellence presented annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to the legal field and society. Bhabha received recognition for his outstanding achievements in the legal profession, legal academia, and volunteer service, all of which have positively impacted marginalized communities.



[Agata Stypka](#), student success coordinator in the Faculty of Health, received the Lynda Tam Guiding Light and Legacy Award from the Advising Community of Practice and Peer Leader Community of Practice. The award recognizes her unwavering commitment to students through her work in delivering excellence in student success and peer leadership programming. The annual award was established in honour of Lynda Tam, who served as the first assistant dean, students in the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD) where she had a profound impact on the student experience through shaping student services, advising, and peer mentoring programs. She was also a founding co-chair of the Peer Leader Community of Practice.



[Six York University graduands](#) have been awarded thesis and dissertation prizes by the Faculty of Graduate Studies for their outstanding scholarly work. The prizes are bestowed to celebrate exceptional master's and doctoral research work from the recent academic calendar year. The scholars of the Master's Thesis prize are:

- Abdul Basit (MAsc, civil engineering) for “Impact of Climate Change on Thermal Behaviour of Pavement Structures in Ontario.”
- Melodie Lao (MSc, chemistry) for “Developing an Automated Nitrous Acid (HONO) Platform to Detect Emerging Pollutants in a Commercial and Domestic Environment.”
- Anna Waisman (MA, psychology) for “Investigating the Role of Autobiographical Memory in Post-surgical Pain Up To One Year after Major Surgery.”

Doctoral Dissertation Prizes:

- Kathleen Dogantzis (PhD, biology) for “Understanding the Evolutionary Origin and Ancestral Complexity of Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Populations.”
- Dylan Ludwig (PhD, philosophy) for “The Functional Contributions of Consciousness.”
- Sara Pishdadian (PhD, psychology) for “Subjective and Objective Spatial Memory and Navigation Abilities in Aging and Amnesia.”



Fifteen York University researchers have been named new [York Research Chairs](#) (YRC), an internal program that mirrors the national Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program which recognizes world-leading researchers in a variety of fields. The new YRCs will conduct research ranging from human and computer vision to children's musical cultures to the impacts of climate change on lakes. The new YRCs are:



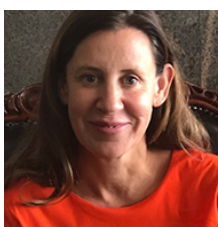
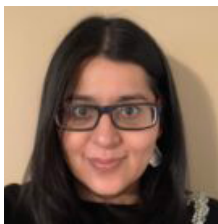
#### Tier 1 York Research Chairs:

- Robert Allison, Lassonde School of Engineering: York Research Chair in Stereoscopic Vision and Depth Perception
- James Elder, Faculty of Health and Lassonde School of Engineering: York Research Chair in Human and Computer Vision
- Jimmy Huang, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies: York Research Chair in Big Data Analytics
- Lauren Sergio, Faculty of Health: York Research Chair in Brain Health and Gender in Action
- Marie-Christine Pioffet, Glendon College: York Research Chair in Franco-Indigenous Relations in the Americas
- Poonam Puri, Osgoode Hall Law School: York Research Chair in Corporate Governance, Investor Protection and Financial Markets



#### Tier 2 York Research Chairs:

- Jacob Beck, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies: York Research Chair in Philosophy of Visual Perception
- Gene Cheung, Lassonde School of Engineering: York Research Chair in Graph Signal Processing
- Andrea Emberly, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies: York Research Chair in Children's Musical Cultures
- Sapna Sharma, Faculty of Science: York Research Chair in Global Change Biology
- Sue Winton, Faculty of Education: York Research Chair in Policy Analysis for Democracy
- Hina Tabassum, Lassonde School of Engineering: York Research Chair in 5G/6G-enabled Wireless Mobility and Sensing Applications
- Taien Ng-Chan, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design: York Research Chair in Marginal & Emergent Media
- Denielle Elliott, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies: York Research Chair in Injured Minds
- Cary Wu, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies: York Research Chair in Political Sociology of Health





[Eight graduate students](#) from three Faculties at York University are recipients of Philippine Studies Group (PSG) funding for research, fieldwork and language acquisition. PSG at the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR), brings together faculty and students with an interest in the Philippines, Filipinx migration and diaspora, as well as Philippine studies. PSG's activities throughout 2023, including this latest round of student funding, are made possible by the support of the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto. The recipients of the award are:

- Myla Chawla, a doctoral candidate in political science
- Ria Jhoanna Ducusin, doctoral student in geography, and graduate associate with YCAR
- Romeo Joe Quintero, doctoral student in human geography
- Dani Magsumbol, doctoral candidate in the Department of Politics
- Nikki Mary Pagaling, master's candidate in geography
- Antoniel Roca, doctoral candidate in ethnomusicology
- Kad Marino and Geneviève Minville each received a language subsidy grant to further their Tagalog studies.



At the Lassonde School of Engineering's annual [Research Awards Celebration](#), four faculty members were honoured with Lassonde Innovation Awards, for their excellence in research, knowledge translation and student mentoring carried out in the last three years. The Lassonde Innovation Awards (LIA) were part of a celebration that further honoured a total of 60 faculty members who were recognized for their positive contributions to Lassonde and beyond. The 2023 award winners were:

- Innovation Award (Early Career Researcher): Hina Tabassum, assistant professor, Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
- Innovation Award (Established Researcher): Jinjun Shan, professor, Department of Earth & Space Science & Engineering
- Graduate Mentorship Award: Sunil Bisnath, professor, Department of Earth & Space Science & Engineering
- Public Engagement Award: Solomon Boakye-Yiadom, associate professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering



[Rachel Pellegrino](#) (BA'23) won the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) award as the top undergraduate Geography student at York University. The award recognizes outstanding students graduating in Geography honours/major programs at universities or colleges across Canada. Winners receive a complimentary membership in the CAG for the following year and, in addition, their names are announced at the Annual General Meeting and published in the CAG newsletter and website.





[Brandie Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes](#), both York University alumni and former York Lions, are set to represent Canada in beach volleyball at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Wilkerson, a former indoor volleyball player at York, made history as the first Black woman to represent Canada in beach volleyball at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where she achieved a quarterfinal finish with then partner Heather Bansley. Humana-Paredes has also made history as part of Canada's first ever world champions in beach volleyball, a victory that secured a spot at Tokyo 2020. Since teaming up together, Wilkerson and Humana-Paredes have been steadily climbing the rankings, securing victories in various tournaments, including taking the Gold at the 2023 Beach Pro Tour Elite 16 in Montreal. Besides their athletic pursuits, Wilkerson is dedicated to increasing BIPOC representation in volleyball through Project Worthy, a scholarship program.



[Matthias Hoben](#), a professor in the Faculty of Health at York University, was recently appointed as the Helen Carswell Chair in Dementia Care. This chair, established by Allan Carswell in honor of his late wife, Helen, who battled Alzheimer's disease, focuses on improving dementia care. Hoben, who has a background in nursing, is dedicated to enhancing the quality of care and life for older adults and their caregivers.



York University's Faculty of Health Professor [David Hood](#) has received a \$1 million+ grant over five years from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) to investigate the role of lysosomes in clearing out bad mitochondria from muscles. The research aims to understand why lysosomes might not be degrading mitochondria properly, whether exercise can improve lysosome function, and if there are differences between biological sex and age groups in this process. Hood, a pioneer in exercise physiology and mitochondria studies in Canada, will conduct microscopic studies, animal research, and human tissue analysis in collaboration with the University of Florida.



York University Professor [Megan Davies](#)' national exhibit, "COVID in the House of Old," will tour four GTA locations. The exhibit, starting at York University on Sept. 14, highlights the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Canadian residential care homes. The exhibit aims to remember those affected by the pandemic and invites visitors to share their experiences. York University graduate and undergraduate students played a crucial role in the exhibit's creation.



Two Osgoode Hall Law School alumni, [Sloane Litchen and Jacob Posen](#), recently received the 2023 Canadian General Counsel Awards. Litchen, the senior vice-president and general counsel for Sun Life Canada, was co-recipient of the Blakes Judy L. Wilson Diversity Award, which is awarded to a law department with an innovative approach to promoting diversity and inclusion within their organization or across the industry. Posen, the general counsel of private infrastructure at CBRE Investment Management, received the Sun Life Tomorrow's Leader Award, recognizing his leadership and legal capabilities. The awards were presented at the 18th annual Canadian General Counsel Awards gala in Toronto.



[Colleen Swords](#) (L.L.B. '75), a York University Osgoode Hall Law School alumna, has been appointed as a member of the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency for a five-year term. This agency, along with the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, was established to ensure the safety and protection of Canadian values, rights, and freedoms.