

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

MAY 2018



York University has been named one of [Canada's Greenest Employers](#) for the sixth consecutive time. The University has embarked on several environmentally friendly initiatives that alter the footprint of campus buildings, including five green roofs, a solar-powered electric vehicle charging station, and the LEED Gold certified Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence.



A team from Osgoode won the [Ontario Trial Lawyers Association Cup](#), a simulated trial that covers all aspects of a real court case. The team also won the Bergeron Clifford Award for Best Team, and individual members Karolina Iron and Alexander DeParde respectively won the Bonn Law Award for Best Cross-Examination and the H. Bruce T. Hillyer Award for Best Closing.



The [Kellogg-Schulich Executive MBA](#) program has been ranked 6th in the world in the category of Joint Programs in the recently released QS Global EMBA Rankings. The program also ranked 3rd in the world in Career Outcomes and 1st in the world in Diversity. The EMBA program received scores of 100% in both the Managerial Work Experience and C-Suite Experience sub-categories, and received top marks in the academic and employer surveys, with a score of 96.8% in the Academic Reputation category and a score of 95.4% in the Employer Reputation category.



Professor [Deanne Williams](#) is the recipient of a Killam Research Fellowship for her project, "The Girl on Stage in Early Modern England."



The [Indigenous Friends App](#), a social network designed by York students to connect and support Indigenous youth, will receive a \$210,000 grant to expand to several colleges and universities over the next three years through a Youth Opportunities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The project was led by PhD candidate Alejandro Mayoral-Banos, who amplified it through Innovation York and partnered with the IP Osgoode Innovation Clinic to establish the non-profit Indigenous Friends Association.



Alumna and Lions football player [Christopher Smith](#) (BA '17) has been drafted by the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the 2018 Canadian Football League entry draft.



A team of space technology researchers from Lassonde School has been selected to be part of the [Canadian Space Agency's CubeSat Project](#). The students will design, build, launch and operate their own research satellite, which will be sent to the International Space Station in 2020 and then ejected into orbit to collect data on snow and ice coverage in Northern Canada. The team will be led by Professor George Zhu, York's Research Chair in Space Technology, who has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to support the project.



Together with his industry partner, Panaxium, Lassonde professor [Hossein Kassiri](#) received an NSERC Engage Grant for his project "Development and Characterization of an implantable system-on-a-chip for long-term ambulatory EEG monitoring." Kassiri's overall solution will overcome the limitations of current instrumentation and allow for widespread use of long-term EEG, resulting in better diagnosis and management of neurological conditions and leading to improved patient outcomes.



Three former student-athletes won medals at the 2018 Commonwealth Games:

- Melissa Humana-Paredes - Beach Volleyball - gold medal
- Pierce Lepage - Decathlon - silver medal
- Brittany Crew - Shot Put - bronze medal



York will lead an [international research collaboration](#) to calculate how well countries are managing their natural resources and meeting their United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



The 2017 [York Research Leaders](#) were announced, recognizing leadership in their fields and a commitment to advancing innovative research projects across the vast spectrum of disciplines for the social, economic, cultural, environmental and other well-being of society. This year's recipients include Professors Douglas Crawford and Sapna Sharma, who received the President's Research Excellence Award and the President's Emerging Leadership Award, respectively.



The Centre for Feminist Research awarded its 2016-17 Mary McEwan Memorial Award jointly to two York alumni, [Dr. Funké Aladejebi](#) and [Dr. Rebecca Hall](#). The annual award recognizes a PhD dissertation produced at York in the area of feminist scholarship.



Philippine Arts and Social Sciences in the Ontario Curriculum (PASSOC), a [collaborative project](#) between York University and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) to create curriculum content that reflects the cultural identity of Filipino students, officially launched in March.



Lions student-athlete [Kayden Johnson](#) was awarded the top prize at the Training Ground for Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The competition consists of various events that test speed, strength and endurance, including sprints, broad and triple jumps, and endurance and speed bikes.



Alumnus [Patrick Kriss](#) (BA '03), owner of Alo Restaurant, was named Outstanding Chef in the 2018 Canada's Best 100 restaurants list. Alo was also named Best Restaurant in Canada for the second year in a row.



[Tinashe Mafukidze](#), who serves as Senior Manager, Operations, Innovation & Strategic Partnerships at YouthREX at York University, was named a finalist for RBC's Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards.



School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design alumnus [Mitchell Marcus](#) was named a finalist for the Toronto Arts Foundation's Roy Thompson Hall Award of Recognition prize for significant contributions to Toronto's musical life.

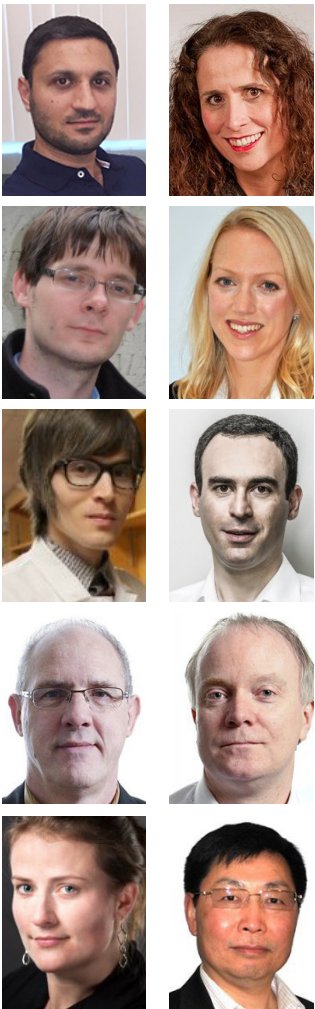


The Lions [men's hockey team](#) hosted its year-end banquet to celebrate the past season and distribute team awards. Recipients included:

- Shayne Rover - inaugural Mark Cross Heart of a Lion Award
- Jesse Messier - inaugural Bill Maguire Yeoman's Service Award
- Colton Vannucci - Dave Chambers Most Outstanding Player Award
- Derek Sheppard - Graham Wise Lasting Legacy Award
- Scott Feser - Guy Burry That's a Lion Award
- Andrew Doyle - David Kosoy Best Teammate Award
- Nicolas Crescenzi - Bob Hedley Unsung Hero Award
- Dexter Bricker - Bill Purcell Community Leadership Award
- Alex Mowbray - Ian Macdonald Academic Excellence Award.



Osgoode's Price International Media Law Moot team won all three of its preliminary matches in the International Round of the [Price Media Law Moot Court Competition](#), which was held at the University of Oxford, and advanced to the quarter-finals. Team members are Nirvana Misir, Vuk Simeunovic, Brent Mendiola, Amanda Byrd, and Aravind Pillai.

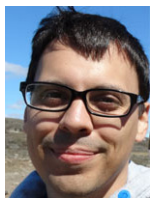


Ten professors have received prestigious research awards through the [Canadian Foundation for Innovation's](#) John R. Evans Leaders Fund. The infrastructure funding, which will enable the researchers to pursue their projects, represents an investment of \$1.3M in total. The recipients are:

- Ali Abdul-Sater, Faculty of Health
- Caitlin Fisher, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- John Gales, Lassonde School of Engineering
- Lyndsay Hayhurst, Faculty of Health
- Ryan Hili, Faculty of Science
- Ali Hooshyar, Lassonde School of Engineering
- John McDermott, Faculty of Science
- Gary Sweeney, Faculty of Science
- Cora Young, Faculty of Science
- Zheng Hong (George) Zhu, Lassonde School of Engineering



Alumna [Sandi Rinaldo](#) (BFA '73) will receive the Radio Television Digital News Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for Network Programming, which recognizes an outstanding journalist who has distinguished herself through exemplary service and continued excellence during the course of her career.



Environmental Studies alumnus and current research fellow with the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, [Andrew Medeiros](#) was recently awarded a partnership grant from the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Program. Built into this grant is significant funding for graduate and undergraduate student projects, equipment and research funding. Medeiros has established a strategic partnership with the Nunavut Research Institute, and intends to bring the majority of that student funding to York.



Lassonde [Professor Hossein Kassiri](#) received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' 2017 Jack Kilby Award for Outstanding Student Paper for his work on brain-implantable medical devices and neurological disorders. He is the first academic from a Canadian university to win the award.



Zucara Therapeutics has secured US\$3.9M in funding from the Helmsley Charitable Trust to advance their diabetes drug candidate to clinical trials. The Zucara team includes Professor [Michael Riddell](#), Professor and Graduate Program Director in the School of Kinesiology and Health Sciences at York, and part of the funding will support preclinical activities with Dr. Riddell at the University.



Two York community members are among the seven individuals who will receive a [Key to the City](#) for the important impact they have made on the City of Toronto:

- Susan Gapka - advocate for affordable housing, education, mental health, social justice, and community safety in the LGBTQ2S community;
- Judy Matthews - civic leader and philanthropist who supports a wide variety of Toronto-based educational programs, cultural organizations and city-building initiatives.



Lassonde [Professor Emeritus Gary Jarvis](#) will receive the 2018 J. Tuzo Wilson Medal from the Canadian Geophysical Union, awarded annually to recognize scientists who make outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge in a geophysical research area. Professor Jarvis has been recognized for his research achievements, his dedication to mentorship, and for raising Canada's profile internationally in the field of geophysics.



Psychology [Professor Michael Friendly](#), an internationally renowned leader in the development of graphical methods for statistics, has been elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.



The School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design recognized more than forty [Visual Art & Art History students](#) at an award ceremony celebrating their talent and creativity. Over \$6,600 in prizes were awarded to students' exceptional projects in drawing, painting, photo, print making, sculpture, time-based art and art history, as selected by faculty from each area of expertise. Among the winners were:

- Alison Romero-McBride, who received the Willowdale Group of Artists Award and won the opportunity to hold a solo exhibition in the Gales Gallery next year;
- Zac Bonin, who received the Susan Roberts Excellence in Drawing award;
- Rob Warner, who received the Sculpture Honorarium;
- Laura Sbrizzi, who received the Jeannie Thib Print Media Award;
- Esther Kim, who received the Sculpture Media Award (pictured);
- Tyler Matheson, who received the Senior Panting Media Award, plus a \$250 Toronto Image Works gift certificate for his photo based works;
- Christina Chiarelli, who received the Senior Time Based Media Award;
- and Sara Amoosoltani, who received the Outstanding Art History Essay Award.



Department of Geography PhD candidate [Yolanda Weima](#) has been named among the Top 25 finalists in the 2018 SSHRC Storytellers Award for her video on her research into human migration and its impacts. The contest challenges postsecondary students to demonstrate, in three minutes or 300 words, how their SSHRC-funded research is making a difference in the lives of Canadians.



Three faculty members from the School of Nursing have received 2018 Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing Awards. These awards celebrate distinction in nursing education and scholarship, highlighting the outstanding achievement and dedication of nursing students, faculty, researchers and other key leaders:

- Dr. Claire Mallette - COUPN-AMS Quality Compassionate Caring Award
- Dr. Shelley Walkerley - Excellence in Teaching Award
- Gemma Percival - Clinical Instructor Award

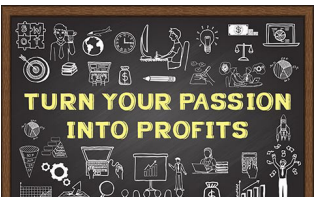


Six Osgoode students have been selected for prestigious Hennick Centre business law internships this summer. The paid work placements are a joint initiative of Osgoode and the Schulich School of Business and will provide students with full-time workplace exposure to the client side of legal practice. The recipients and their respective internship locations are:

- Madison Black (JD '20) - Mount Sinai Hospital
- Arjin Choi (JD '19) - Ontario Securities Commission
- Aleeza Freedman (JD '19) - Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Rishi Nageshar (JD '19) - Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Ontario
- Ronen Nehmad (JD/MBA '20) - World Bank Group (Washington, DC)
- Jorgen Wong (JD '20) - FirstService Residential Ontario



Faculty of Health Professor Sherry Grace has been awarded the Michael L. Pollock Established Investigator Award from the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation for advancing cardiac rehabilitation through her research and scholarly contributions.



Innovation York launched the Passion to Profit Program, a joint collaboration between LaunchYU and Back 2 Basickz, which seeks to help individuals residing in the Jane and Finch community obtain the skills and knowledge needed to become successful entrepreneurs. Participants will also receive continued support once they have entered the market with their business idea.



Faculty of Health professor Kerry Kawakami will be honoured by the American Psychological Association for her significant contributions to the field of psychology. Professor Kawakami is the first woman of Asian descent to serve as editor of any American Psychological Association journal.



Alumna Bessie Cheng won the Ontario Arts Foundation's 2018 Ellen Ross Stuart Opening Doors Award.



[Ling Chen](#) (BBA '12, MBA Candidate '18) and her team won the Oxford Properties Group Smart Retail Hackathon, which challenges participants to use data and technology to propose innovative ideas to shape the future of smart shopping.



This year's [Seymour Schulich Teaching Excellence Awards](#) recipients were recognized for their outstanding teaching and learning:

- Farrokh Zandi - First place, Graduate Program TEA Winner
- Karen Chiykowski - Second place, Graduate Program TEA Winner
- Alla Volodina - First place, Undergraduate Program TEA Winner
- Greg Chiykowski - Second place, Undergraduate Program TEA Winner

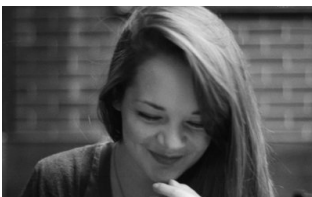


For the first time, a [Schulich team](#) made it into the top 10 finalists for the Harvard Global Case Competition, competing in Boston earlier this month. The Schulich team consists of graduate students:

- Catherine Sim
- Abhilash Shashidharan
- Swapnil Sarode
- Karen Punnett
- Grishma Saheba.



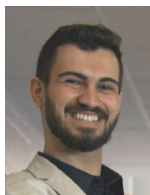
MFA candidate [Fazila Amiri](#) won a Hot Docs Lindalee Tracey Award, which honours emerging filmmakers with a passion for documentary and socially conscious storytelling.



Alumna [Jamie Miller's](#) *Prince's Tale* won the prize for Best Canadian Short Documentary at Hot Docs for its striking portrait of a burn survivor who channels his pain into art.



[Rebecca Kazdan](#) is the recipient of the Prix Molière, an annual award recognizes a student whose outstanding achievements in theatre at Glendon significantly contribute to the cultural vitality our community.



Glendon student [Haman Mamdouhi](#) is among the 3 finalists for the Prix RelèveTO in the category of young entrepreneurs. Mamdouhi is looking to use technology to break down language barriers in hospitals and health centres.



York and the U.S. Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory jointly appointed physicist [Deborah Harris](#) as a professor at York and a senior scientist at Fermilab, where she will lead York's participation in the Fermilab-hosted Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment.



Schulich alumna and former member of York's Board of Governors [Susan Black](#) (PhD '00) was appointed to serve as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of The Conference Board of Canada, a leader in evidence-based, not-for-profit applied research.



[Professor Giuseppina D'Agostino](#), Founder and Director of IP Osgoode, was appointed to serve as one of seven citizen members of Vaughan Mayor's Smart City Advisory Task Force.



Osgoode alumna and child welfare advocate [Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond](#) has been appointed director of the University of British Columbia's new Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre.