

# PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018



Peter Constantinou, Professor in the School of Public Policy & Administration, fulfilled his childhood dream of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro with his daughter this summer, and they carried York's flag to the summit. He says, "I emphasize in my teaching that without the prospect of failure, there is no opportunity to learn and grow. A big part of this is walking the talk."



Four York Professors were inducted into the [Royal Society of Canada](#), and one was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists:

- Wenona Giles, Professor, Department of Anthropology, LA&PS
- Joan Judge, Professor, Department of History, LA&PS
- Paul Sych, Associate Professor, Department of Design, AMPD
- David Vaver, Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School
- and to the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists: John Moores, Assistant Professor of Space Engineering, Department of Earth & Space Science & Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering.



York launches the new [Black Canadian Studies Certificate](#) in September for the 2018-19 academic year through the Department of Humanities in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. Students enrolled in the certificate will study Black Canada through four humanities and fine arts approaches: cultural studies, history, literature and music.



A [York lab](#) is among 11 flagship laboratories launched by the Fields Centre for Quantitative Analysis and Modelling (Fields-CQAM) that aim to solve commercial problems using applied mathematics research. Based at York, the Mathematics for Public Health Lab (MfPH) will be run by director and York Mathematics Professor Jianhong Wu in collaboration with other investigators.



Two LA&PS researchers [Professors Carla Lipsig-Mummé and Andrea O'Reilly](#) have been shortlisted for the prestigious SSHRC Impact Awards. These awards recognize outstanding researchers and celebrate their achievements in research, research training, knowledge mobilization and outreach activities funded partially or completely by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



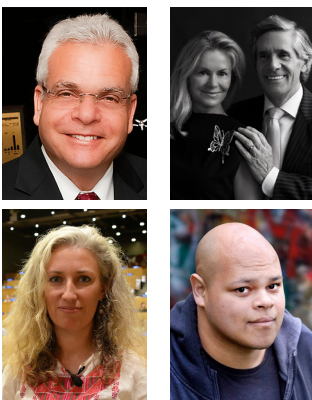
[A new logo and brand](#) were unveiled on August 22, 2018, which will take the Lions into the next era of athletics and recreation at York.



York University English Language Institute has been named 2018-19 World Language School of the Year (North America), the highest award for a language institution, by [iStudy Guide Magazine](#). The title is awarded based on student satisfaction, diversity and use of technology, among other criteria.

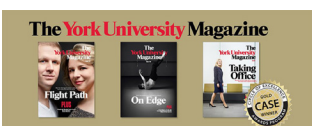


The Faculty of Education, in partnership with the Toronto District School Board, has created a new degree program, [Wabaan Indigenous Teacher Education](#), in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. Designed by Professor Susan Dion to address the persistent need for more Indigenous educators across Ontario, the program will be opening in 2019.



The [Bryden Alumni Awards](#) celebrate outstanding York alumni who have achieved the extraordinary and made remarkable contributions in their fields, communities and to the University. This year's winners, who will be celebrated in November, are:

- Paul Sanberg (BSc '76);
- Cheryl and Rob McEwen (MBA '78, LLD '05);
- Pernille Ironside (JD '99);
- and Jamil Jivani (BA '10).



*The York University Magazine* won an international gold award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in the [Digital Magazines](#) category of the Circle of Excellence competition. The publication also won a bronze for Best Magazine in the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCA) 2018 Prix d'Excellence competition.



With a \$3-million investment, made in partnership with Professor Emeritus Allan Carswell and the Carswell Family Foundation, York will share the wonders of the universe with students, youth in the community and the public through the creation of a the new [Allan I. Carswell Chair for the Public Understanding of Astronomy in the Faculty of Science](#).



The Economist has ranked the [Schulich School's Executive MBA program](#), run in partnership with Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, among the top 10 in the world, citing the opportunities it offers for personal development, educational experience and career development.



Innovation York announced the winners of the first round of the National Research Council Canada-Industry Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) funded, Artificial Intelligence Industry Partnership Fund. [Five projects](#) were selected from the 23 applications that were received (only four can be named):

- Dapasoft and York Mathematics and Statistics Professors Steven Wang and Hongmei Zhu for their project "Improving Patient Gridlock conditions in Emergency Department ED using Machine Learning or other AI Technology";
- Nuco and Schulich School of Business Professor Henry Kim for "Applying Deep Neural Networks for Blockchain Interoperability";
- Samco and York Mathematics and Statistics Professor Michael Chen for "Optimization of Industrial Machinery through Artificial Intelligence";
- and uBioDiscovery and York Mathematics and Statistics Professors Steven Wang and Xin Gao and Biology Professor Gary Sweeney for "Using AI to identify personalized linkage patterns between microbiome profiles and lifestyle parameters".



Lassonde School of Engineering graduate students Abdullah Sawas, Abdullah Abuolaim and Mahmoud Afifi, under the supervision of Professor Manos Papagelis, received the best paper award at the 19th [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Conference](#) on Mobile Data Management. The group's paper is titled "Tensor Methods for Group Pattern Discovery of Pedestrian Trajectories."



The International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) awarded a Certificate of Merit to Professor [Colin Coates](#), coordinator of the Canadian Studies program at Glendon Campus for his important and diverse contributions in both French and English to historical and interdisciplinary scholarship on Canada, intervening in the fields of environmental history and francophone Canada studies.



Athletics and Recreation and the School of Kinesiology and Health Science will welcome four student-athletes, one coach and, for the first time in school history, a team as inductees into the [York University Sport Hall of Fame's](#) class of 2018. This year's inductees are:

- Mark Bellai, basketball player;
- Craig Cavanagh, track and field athlete;
- Tammy Holt, field hockey player;
- Cheryl Phillips, rugby player;
- Eric Bojesen, tennis coach;
- and the 1969-70 men's hockey team.



Dozens of Grade 11 students from the Toronto area took part in a newly-expanded [Summer Student Research and Mentorship Program](#) at Lassonde School of Engineering. The expanded program this year is supported by a \$160,000 donation from the Carswell Family Foundation, continued support from the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, and a donation from computer engineering alumnus Abdullah Merei (BASC '09; MBA '15).

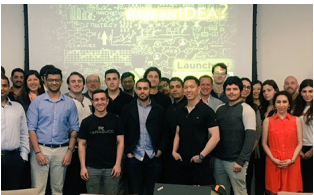


Kinesiology student [Syed Hassan](#) won the first-place award at the Summer Undergraduate Research Conference.



Four Osgoode Hall Law School alumni are among *Canadian Lawyer's* [Top 25 Most Influential](#) in the justice system and legal profession in Canada for 2018:

- Esi Codjoe LLM '12;
- Brian Greenspan LLB '71;
- Naiomi Metallic LLM '16;
- and Rachel Notley LLB '90.



York's entrepreneurship program, LaunchYU, awarded [five startups](#) from the 2018 cohort of its AccelerateUP program with \$3,000 in development funds:

- Blade Filters, which creates activated carbon air filters that encompass a replaceable carbon cartridge that is exchanged once the carbon becomes exhausted;
- Candy Cutlery, the first brand to create environmentally friendly edible utensils for the food service industry;
- Nugget, a talent discovery platform that helps employers create and launch task-based assessments to find the right candidate fit, solving personalized recruitment at scale;
- Ohh Foods, which innovates healthier snacking alternatives with "free from" attributes. All snacks manufactured by Ohh Foods are free from the eight most common food allergens in Canada;
- RedPine Music, which is changing the way artists and venues book concerts as artists booking with RedPine crowdfund shows.



Undergraduate student [Aleria McKay](#) was the first Indigenous contestant to win a Miss Teenage Ontario title, and is using the platform to raise awareness of Indigenous youth suicide rates and to advocate for increased mental health services.



Professor [Michael Jenkin](#) will lead the 'interactive autonomy' theme in the new NSERC Canadian Robotics Network (NCRN), which received \$5.5 million in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) as part of the \$78-million Strategic Partnership Grant (SPG).



The [Canadian Association for Graduate Studies](#) (CAGS) announced that York's Faculty of Graduate Studies is the winner of the 2018 Award for Excellence and Innovation in Enhancing the Graduate Student Experience (GSE). Specifically, CAGS seeks to recognize the outstanding achievements of the [Wellness Consultation](#) Service, which provides graduate students at York University with access to specialized mental health resources, consultation, and counselling services.



Faculty of Education PhD candidate [Kyo Maclear](#) was named winner of the Trillium Book Award for her memoir *Birds Art Life*. Maclear is a children's and youth literature and film scholar who also received a prestigious Vanier Graduate Scholarship in 2015.



Following the highly successful launch of its one-of-a-kind York Science Communicator in Residence program last year, the Faculty of Science has selected [three impressive science communicators](#) for 2018-19:

- Molly Segal;
- B.D. Colen;
- and Dan Falk.



[Six York professors](#) received Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Connection grants. The grants, which are valued at up to \$25,000 each, support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives related to the professors' research. The recipients are:

- Susan McGrath, professor, LA&PS - Connecting Emerging Scholars and Practitioners to Foster Critical Reflections and Innovation on Migration Research, ongoing to March 31, 2019;
- Richard Saunders, professor, LA&PS - Resource Nationalism in Southern Africa: Emerging Challenges and New Opportunities, September 22 to 26;
- Marlis Schweitzer (with co-applicant Banting postdoctoral Fellow Heather Fitzsimmons Frey), professor, AMP&D - Playing with History: A Performance-Based Historiography Symposium, October 11 and 12;
- Jamie Cameron, professor, Osgoode Hall Law School - Defamation Law and the Internet, May 3;
- Joseph DeSouza, professor, Faculty of Health - First International Symposium for Dance and Well-Being: Advancing Research, Policy and Practice, May 24 to 26;
- and Philip Girard, professor, Osgoode Hall Law School - Beyond Harvard; Transplanting Legal Education International Conference, June 5 and 6.





Nine York community members were appointed to the [Order of Canada](#), which recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation:

- Cindy Blackstock, O.C. (LLD [Hon.] '17 - Osgoode) for her leadership as a champion of Indigenous children and for her efforts to build a culture of reconciliation;
- Hedi Bouraoui, C.M., a longtime York faculty member and esteemed poet, novelist and essayist;
- Roberta Bondar, C.C., O.Ont. (DSc [Hon.] '92 - Glendon) for her contributions to society's awareness of environmental sustainability and her pioneering work in space medicine research;
- Barry Callaghan, C.M., professor emeritus of English at York. He was recognized for his contributions, as a publisher and writer, to the promotion of Canadian literature in Canada and abroad;
- Wendy Craig, O.C., O.Ont., (MA '89, PhD '93), a Bryden Award recipient and York alumna recognized for her seminal research on bullying and its impact on youth, and for her groundbreaking work in linking basic research, public policy and community action to address the issue;
- Agnes Di Leonardi, C.M., (BBA '82) for her leadership in the automotive industry and her commitment to mentoring and supporting Canadian women leaders through her work with the International Women's Forum of Canada;
- Sheila Fraser O.C., (LLD [Hon.] '10 - Faculty of LA&PS), for her dedication to enhancing the accountability of governmental institutions and to promoting Indigenous rights across Canada;
- Ted (Edward) H. Garrard, C.M., (BA '80, MA '81), who was recognized for his leadership in the charitable sector as an innovator who has developed giving strategies in the fields of health care and education;
- and Beverley McLachlin, P.C., C.C., (LLD [Hon.] '99 - Osgoode), for her impact on Canada's legal landscape, notably as the longest-serving chief justice of Canada, and the first woman in the role.



Japanese-to-English translator and humanities Professor [Ted Goossen](#) is the recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, an honour celebrating his achievements in promoting Japanese culture on a global scale.



Schulich Professor [Dirk Matten](#) received the prestigious Academy of Management Review (AMR) "Paper of the Decade" award for his paper entitled, "'Implicit' and 'Explicit' CSR: A Conceptual Framework for a Comparative Understanding of Corporate Social Responsibility", co-authored with Jeremy Moon (Copenhagen Business School).



[Junjie Kang](#) and [Peng Li](#), two PhD students at the Lassonde School of Engineering, are among the only five Canadians to ever receive the highly prestigious COSPAR Outstanding Paper Award for Young Scientists. Both were named recipients of the 2018 Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) award for their papers published in COSPAR's journal, *Advances in Space Research*.



Shayan Nandi, who begins studies in biomedical science in the Faculty of Science this fall, was selected by a random draw from 13,000 entries as the winner of the [Open Your Mind First-Year Free Tuition Contest](#).



Alumna [Cynthia Beretta](#) is among the winners of the Canadian Grocer's 2018 Star Women Award.



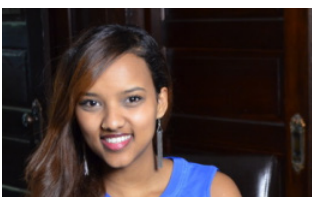
Lions' Women's Wrestling Team member [Alex Town](#) won the bronze medal in the Canada Cup, while teammate [Christelle Lans](#) took home gold in the Ontario Cup.



[The Faculty of Education](#) has launched the Equity in Education Hub, an online repository for research reports that will include identity-based student data. The growing collection will shine a light on the lived experiences and schooling realities in Kindergarten to Grade 12, largely in the Greater Toronto Area.



Professor [Marin Litoiu](#) is one of 18 professors nationwide to win the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's 2018 CREATE competition. Dr. Litoiu's interdisciplinary research, which focuses on Internet of Things applications, will receive \$1.65 million in funding.



Business & Society undergraduate student [Semhar Berhe](#) will take part in the Killam Fellowship Program, which allows undergraduate students from Canada and the United States to participate in a program of binational residential exchange. Semhar will study public policy at American University this fall.



[Five PhD students](#) have been awarded prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships to support their research projects:

- Ogamauh annag qwe miinwa Waasaunda qwe (Susan Bell Chiblow), Environmental Studies;
- Leigha Comer, Sociology;
- Rivka Green, Psychology;
- Natasha Henry, History;
- and Hannah Rackow, Theatre & Performance Studies (not pictured).



Beginning this fall, the [York Research Chairs \(YRC\) Program](#) will be expanding, with seven centrally supported Chairs available and there will also be up to two additional Chairs linked to the Vision: Science to Applications (VISTA) Canada First Research Excellence Fund program. This expansion of the YRC program places particular emphasis on York's outstanding emerging researchers who are within the first five years of their careers.



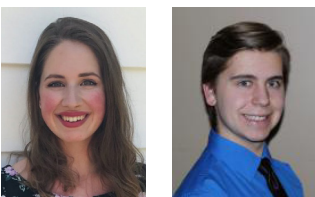
York has officially launched the [President's Ambassador Program](#), which offers opportunities for current students to serve as representatives of the University and to share their experiences as York students with fellow students, staff, faculty and alumni.



Osgoode PhD candidate [Jake Okechukwu Effoduh](#) is one of 90 environmentalists from Canada who recently received training from former U.S. vice-president and Nobel laureate Al Gore on mobilizing action around the issue of climate change.



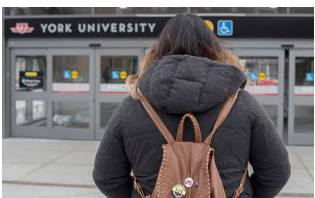
Social science professor [Kamala Kempadoo](#) is the 2018 recipient of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Lifetime Achievement Award for her influential research contributions to feminist gender, sexuality and labour studies.



Undergraduate students [Katrina Carver](#) and [Jack Wawrow](#) are among the 2018 Schulich Leaders, and have been awarded scholarships for the promise they show as innovators in STEM.

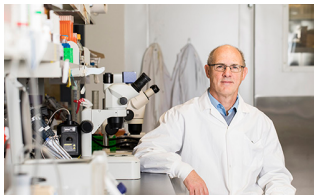


A \$200,000 investment from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Youth Opportunities Fund has been awarded to Business and Society student [Jamar Grandison](#) and his colleagues from Black Physicians of Tomorrow.



After the success of [the pilot program](#) in partnership with the FCJ Refugee Centre, 16 more students with precarious immigration status joined York this fall to pursue a degree.





Biology Professor [John McDermott](#), who is the McLaughlin Research Chair in the Faculty of Science, has received funding to explore how gene expression is controlled in the heart.



Professor Emeritus [Bryn Greer-Wootten](#) was presented the prestigious Karel Engliš Honorary Medal for Merit for his outstanding scholarly contributions in the social and economic sciences.



Amenda Chow (Mathematics & Statistics) received an award from the Academic Innovation Fund to develop an [experimental math space](#).



Graduate student [Sepideh Sharif](#) (supervised by Mike Organ, Chemistry) was awarded a prize for a poster she presented at the Chemical Society Conference in Edmonton.



[Dirk Matten](#), Professor of Strategy and Hewlett-Packard Chair in Social Responsibility at Schulich, was the only academic selected for this year's "Top 100 Corporate Social Responsibility Influence Leader" list.



[Antonnia \(Kiana\) Blake](#) was recognized at June Convocation as the recipient of the 2018 Murray G. Ross Award for excellence in scholarship and outstanding participation in undergraduate student life.



At Fall Convocation, York will honour five outstanding honorary degree recipients:

- Dr. Frances Shepherd, eminent medical oncologist;
- Dame Moya Greene, global business leader;
- Anna Maria Tremonti, award-winning journalist;
- Colleen Johnston, business and community leader;
- And Thandika Mkandawire, international leader in development studies.

and two Distinguished Research Professors:

- Professor Anne Russon, Dept. of Psychology, Glendon Campus;
- And Professor Nantel Bergeron, Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science.



Professor [Lisa Philipps](#) was appointed York's Provost & Vice-President Academic, effective July 1, 2018. Professor Philipps has served as Interim Provost since May 2017.



Dr. [Rui Wang](#) was appointed the inaugural Deputy Provost Markham of York's Markham Centre Campus.



Dean [Ananya Mukherjee-Reed](#) of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies was appointed Provost and Vice-Principal Academic at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus.



Professor [John Justin \(J.J.\) McMurtry](#) has been appointed Interim Dean of the Faculty of LA&PS.



Professor [Donald Ipperciel](#) was appointed the Chief Information Officer at York.



Professors [Dominique Scheffel-Dunand](#) and [Ian Roberge](#) were appointed Co-Interim Principals of Glendon Campus.



Dean [Ray Jayawardhana](#) of the Faculty of Science was appointed the Harold Tanner Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University.



Professor [EJ Janse van Rensburg](#) was appointed Interim Dean of the Faculty of Science.

---



Former Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice-President Graduate [Fahim Quadir](#) was appointed vice-provost and dean of the School of Graduate Studies at Queen's University.

---



Professor [Thomas Loebel](#) has been appointed Dean of our Faculty of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice-President Graduate.

---



Professor [Jane Goodyer](#) was appointed the new Dean of the Lassonde School of Engineering.

---



Professor [Alice J. Hovorka](#) was appointed the new Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies.

---



Dr. Lori Walls has been hired as York's new Director of Student Counselling & Development (SCD).

---



Professor [Gertrude Mianda](#) has been appointed director of the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas at York. In addition to continuing the Institute's ongoing work, Dr. Mianda aspires to expand membership to include members of the francophone community.



Vinitha Gengatharan was appointed the inaugural Executive Director of [York International](#).



[Eleonora Dimitrova](#) has been appointed director of the Law in Action Within Schools (LAWS) program, an innovative partnership between Osgoode Hall Law School, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and the Toronto District School Board.



The first holder of the Allan I. Carswell Chair for the Public Understanding of Astronomy in the Faculty of Science for a three-year term will be University Professor and Senior Lecturer [Paul Delaney](#).



[Three York professors](#) have earned Massey College appointments for the 2018-19 academic year:

- Jennifer Steele, associate professor, Psychology, Faculty of Health (York-Massey Fellowship);
- Gabrielle Slowey, associate professor, Politics, LA&PS (York-Massey Visiting Scholarship);
- and Joan Judge is a professor in the Department of History, LA&PS (York-Massey Visiting Scholarship).



[Tina Cook](#) has been named assistant coach of the York Lions' women's soccer program.



Alumnus [Thomas Kehoe](#) (MBA '94) was added to the Board of Directors of Raise Production Inc.



Pollution Probe appointed alumnus [Christopher Hilkene](#) (MES '96) as Chief Executive Officer, effective August 1, 2018.



Alumnus [Doug Downey](#) has been named Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance.



Alumna [Effie Triantafilopoulos](#) was named the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.



Alumna and environmental lawyer [Hannah Askew](#) was appointed Executive Director of Sierra Club BC.



[Janice Fukakusa](#) (MBA; LLD '16) has been named the new Chancellor of Ryerson University.



[Naomi Adelson](#), who was previously associate dean, research at the Faculty of LA&PS, was appointed as Ryerson University's first associate vice-president, research and innovation.



York honorary degree recipient [Steve Paikin](#) has been appointed for a second term as Chancellor of Laurentian University.