

PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

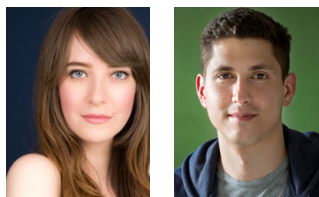
FEBRUARY 2019



School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design alumna [Wendy Lu](#), a hard-of-hearing designer and multimedia artist, has been chosen as the first artist to have her work displayed at the Ralph Thornton Saulter Street Stairwell Gallery in 2019.



Faculty of Environmental Studies alumna [Charmaine Lurch](#) (MES '15) was awarded a Chalmers Arts Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council. The grant, which is valued at \$48,500, supports professional artists' investigations of their own artistic process.



School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design MFA students [Madeleine Sims-Fewer](#) and [Dusty Mancinelli](#) won the Grand Jury Prize in the Narrative Shorts category for their short film "Woman in Stall" at the 25th Slamdance Film Festival.



[Two researchers](#) in the Faculty of Education have been awarded Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants:

- Professor Lisa Farley received \$60,734 to further her research for "A Multi-Site Study on Teacher Conceptualizations of Childhood: Memories, Artefacts, and Cultural Trope";
- and Lana Parker, a member with the Institute for Research & Digital Learning (IRDL) has received \$47,846 for her investigation of "What is the Role of Literacy Education in a PostTruth Era?" [not pictured].



York alumnus [Gord Ash](#) (BA '75) was announced as one of the 2019 Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame inductees in recognition of his longtime leadership and his contributions to the sport.



[Team Schulich](#) placed second overall in the 2019 MBA Games, and won first place in the Spirit category in recognition of their hard work, inclusiveness, and positivity. The MBA Games, an annual competition for business school students from across Canada, feature 19 other Canadian business schools and 13 different competitive events.



[Two York film students](#) have been nominated for Canadian Screen Awards. The nominees are:

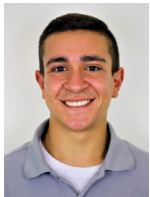
- Elisa Paloschi (MFA '20)) [pictured] for "Driving with Selvi" - Best Direction in a Documentary and the Donald Brittain Award
- Lisa Jackson (MFA '16) for
 - "Biidaaban: First Light VR") [pictured] - Best Immersive Experience in the Fiction category and "1491" - Best History or Documentary Series.



Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies student and athlete [Daniel Gogarty](#) officially signed with York 9 Football Club, a professional soccer club, and will play in the inaugural Canadian Premier League season on York University's Alumni Field.



Lassonde alumnus [Nima Shahbazi](#) (PhD '18) is a member of the computer science team that won the \$1 million Zillow Competition Prize for improving the Zestimate home valuation algorithm. Dr. Shahbazi's team beat more than 3800 teams from 91 countries and improved on the benchmark model by more than 13 percent.



Schulich student and LaunchYU-supported entrepreneur [Giancarlo Sessa](#) (BBA '19) was featured on BNN Bloomberg to showcase his innovative startup, Blade Filters, which aims to create reusable, sustainable, and cost-effective carbon air filters.



Faculty of Health professor [Ruth Rodney](#) was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to fund her research on gender-based violence in Guyana. Rodney's research is part of a collaborative project with a team at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; she serves as the team leader for the qualitative research component.



A team of students from Osgoode Hall Law School won first place in the Americas round of the [Price International Media Law Moot](#), as well as honours for Best Memorial (runner-up) and Best Oralist - Matt McLean (runner-up). Members of the team include students Alana Robert, James Shields, Matthew McLean, John Justin, and Bailey Fox, and coaches Professor Jamie Cameron and Professor Bruce Ryder. In April, the team will travel to Oxford University to compete in the international round.



Mechanical Engineering professor [Pouya Rezai](#) was awarded an Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) grant and a Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) grant, together totalling \$175K in support of his environmental contamination monitoring research & biotechnology prototype development. A portion of the grants will go toward funding multiple graduate and undergraduate students at the Lassonde School of Engineering to assist with the proposed research.



Social Science professor [Nga Dao](#) was the only Canadian chosen for an international project studying river deltas in South & Southeast Asia. Dao will lead the team's efforts to create sustainable impact through gender-sensitive learning and knowledge co-creation.



Chemistry professor and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair [Christopher Caputo](#) received the prestigious Polanyi Prize in Chemistry for his groundbreaking work on removing precious metals from manufacturing processes.



[Three Lassonde professors](#) were chosen for the Canadian Space Agency's new program, Flights and Fieldwork for the Advancement of Science and Technology, which supports the development of space science and technologies in Canadian post-secondary institutions. The recipients, who will receive a total of \$600K in funding, are:

- Professor Sunil Bisnath - "Reflected Global Navigation Satellite System Signals"
- Professor John Moores - "Mars Atmospheric Panoramic Camera and Laser Experiment"
- Professor Gordon Shepherd - "In-flight Assessment of the Spatial Heterodyne Spectroscopy Instrument"



Cinema and Media Arts professor [Ali Kazimi](#) was named a winner of the 2019 Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts for his distinguished body of work as a documentary filmmaker and media artist. The awards ceremony will be held in March and will be followed by a public viewing of an exhibition of the winners' works.



York Lions sports medicine and sports injury clinic manager [Andrea Prieur](#) has been named Team Canada's chief therapist for the 2019 International University Sports Federation Summer Games. This is the third time Prieur will serve as chief therapist for Team Canada's athletes at the FISU Summer Games.



Six Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies professors received [awards for teaching and research](#) during an annual award ceremony. The recipients are:

- Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching
 - Patrice Allen - History PhD Candidate - Teaching Assistant category
 - Dagmara Woronko - Social Science and Communication Studies - Contract Faculty category
 - Professor Carolyn Podruchny - History - Tenured Faculty category
 - Professor Chris Robinson - Administrative Studies - honourable mention, Tenured Faculty category
- LA&PS Awards for Distinction in Research, Creativity or Scholarship
 - Professor Jennifer Korosi - Geography - Emerging Researcher category
 - Professor Miriam Smith - Social Science - Established Researcher category



Biology professor [Carol Bucking](#) received the 2019 Robert G. Boutilier New Investigator Award from the Canadian Society of Zoologists for her outstanding contributions to the field. Bucking studies environmental influences on fish species' digestive physiology.

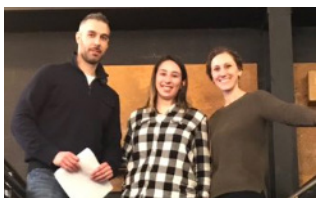


York alumnus [Paul Nguyen](#) (BA '04) won a 2018 Canada's Volunteer Award in the Ontario Community Leader category for his website Jane-Finch.com, which seeks to promote community uplift and advance awareness of systematic barriers and socio-economic challenges for local youth.



York University celebrated its green heroes during the annual [President's Sustainability Leadership Awards](#) reception. The recipients were:

- Adam Lake, an undergraduate student and sustainability advocate;
- leading Canadian authority on co-operatives, fair trade and sustainability Professor Darryl Reed, the et al. co-op, and Green Campus Co-op;
- Campus Services & Business Operations Energy Management Team (Brad Cochrane, Gary Gazo, Steve Prince and Bogdan Stralagea), who successfully applied for \$14.5 million in grant funding to support energy conservation projects at York.



Two Faculty of Health PhD candidates received provincial research awards at the Ontario Exercise Physiology Conference:

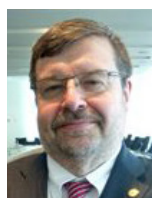
- Catherine Bellissimo won the top OEP 2019 Student Award, which recognizes outstanding research conducted by a graduate student within the field of exercise physiology.
- Patrick Turnbull won the American Journal of Physiology Cell Award, which recognizes outstanding research by a student in the field of cell and molecular physiology. Turnbull has also received a travel award from the American Society of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology to present his research at the international Experimental Biology meeting in Orlando, Florida this April.



APPOINTMENTS



School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design alumna [Santee Smith](#) (MA '04) was appointed Chancellor of McMaster University.



Robert Haché, York University's Vice President of Research and Innovation, has been selected to become [Laurentian University's 11th president and vice-chancellor](#).



Faculty of Environmental Studies alumnus [Pino Di Mascio](#) (MES '95) was appointed Director of Planning at Sidewalk Labs, an urban innovation organization focused on city-building and digital infrastructure.



[Chris Russel](#) has been appointed as York University's inaugural Chief Information Security Officer.