



PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

MARCH 2020



Three York University alumni are among the 21 new appointees to the Order of Ontario, the province's highest official honour for individual excellence and achievement in any field:

- honorary alumna Jean Augustine (LLD '11), the first Black woman elected to the House of Commons and an important contributor to Canada's official multiculturalism policy and the Metro Toronto Anti-Drug Strategy;
- honorary alumna Salah Bachir (LLD '15), a successful entrepreneur and champion for the LGBTQ+ community, and the co-founder of the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research; and
- Mary Gordon (BA '84), an internationally recognized social entrepreneur, educator, author, child advocate and parenting expert.



Researchers [Mary Wiktorowicz](#) and [Sean Hillier](#) have been awarded \$2 million by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to support the development of the "One Health Network for the Global Governance of Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance (GGRID)," a transdisciplinary project focused on establishing Canada as a leader in the global governance of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.



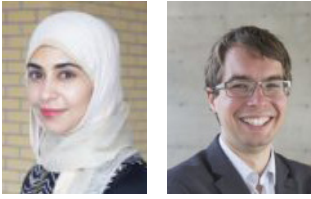
[Stephanie Martin](#), associate professor of music at the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design (AMPD), was presented the third annual AMPD Research Award for her achievements as a prominent composer, choral conductor and scholar, whose compositions are performed across Canada and internationally.



Osgoode Hall Law School student [Keneca Pingue-Giles](#) was named one of the Top 100 women's basketball players of the century by a committee of U SPORTS women's basketball coaches and partners.



The Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF) Home Made Visible (HMV) project, in partnership with York University Libraries and Charles Street Video, was awarded [the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation](#). The two-year project highlighted the personal histories of Indigenous, Black, and people of colour (IBPOC) communities in Canadian public memory through engagement with archives, research, artistic creations, and public programming.



Three Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies researchers will receive more than \$1.1 million in COVID-19 rapid research funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research over two years for research projects that could affect the response to and management of COVID-19 now and similar outbreaks of disease in the future. The three researchers are:

- Assistant Professor Aaida Mamuji, coordinator of the Disaster and Emergency Management (DEM) Program, who will receive \$499,121 to examine how Chinese diaspora communities in globalized urban centres are coping with COVID-19;
- Assistant Professor Eric Kennedy of the DEM program, who will receive \$428,816 to track how Canadians understand and perceive the outbreak; and
- Assistant Professor of sociology Cary Wu, who will receive \$176,256 to study issues of trust and how it hampers prevention and control measures.



The Entrepreneurial Leadership & Learning Alliance program (ELLA), an accelerator program supporting women entrepreneurs from York Region and the Greater Toronto Area, was unveiled at a launch event. ELLA provides women entrepreneurs one-on-one mentoring, hands-on workshops, leadership training and a community of experts, peers and supporters.



Master of Real Estate and Infrastructure (MREI) students John Van, Tracy Hui, Matthew Miklas and Adam Hawkswell from the Schulich School of Business took first place in the 2020 Developers' Den Case Competition, Canada's longest running and most prestigious international real estate case competition. Another Schulich team, which included students Anubhav Sharma, Nicholas DiCatri, and Preyaa Soni, finished second in the competition.



Five professors in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies have been awarded 2019 Connection Grants by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The grants are focused on increasing accessibility and use of social sciences and humanities research knowledge among academic and non-academic audiences. The five professors are:

- Alison Crosby, associate professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; [not pictured]
- Audrey Laurin-Lamothe, assistant professor in the Department of Social Science;
- Merouan Mekouar, associate professor in the Department of Social Sciences; [not pictured]
- Linda Peake, professor in the Department of Social Science; and
- Adrian Shubert, Professor and undergraduate program director for the Department of History.



Osgoode Hall Law School alumna Dianne Saxe is being recognized with a Law Society Medal for Outstanding Service. A pioneer in the field, Saxe is one of Canada's most respected environmental lawyers with more than 40 years of experience in writing, interpreting and litigating Ontario's energy, environment and climate laws.



Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies student athletes Jacob Janke, Rossini Sandjong, Gaetano Minto and Daniel Loggale have created [Tiny Strides](#), a non-profit that supports participation in sports among underprivileged youth through mentorship and funds for the cost of equipment and sport registration fees.



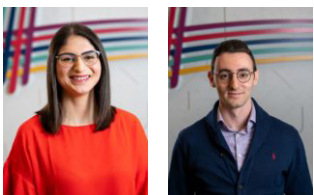
The Faculty of Health and the Faculty of Science launched an interdisciplinary undergraduate [Neuroscience program](#), which will give students access to renowned researchers and encourage collaboration among students, faculty members and community partners to investigate the development, structure and function of the nervous system.



[A York research team](#) led by Paul Ritvo, a professor in the school of Kinesiology and Health Science, was awarded a four-year, \$670,000 grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to investigate online behavioural interventions for major depressive disorders.



Osgoode Hall Law School students Jayne Cooke, Janice Philteos, Eric Turner and Vahini Sathiamoorthy, and researcher Peter Bennett-Koufie, won second place at [the Davies Canadian Corporate/Securities Law Moot Court Competition](#) at the Federal Court of Canada.



[Two students from the Lassonde School of Engineering](#) have received the Nascent Co-op/Internship Students of the Year Awards for making exceptional contributions to their respective co-op or internship employer, and for their involvement in the Lassonde community. This year's recipients are:

- Antonia Pennella, a third-year mechanical engineering student; and
- Aryeh Weinberger, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student.



[Sherena Hussain](#), assistant professor at Schulich's Brookfield Centre in Real Estate and Infrastructure and Academic Director of the Sustainable Infrastructure Fellowship Program, has been nominated for the 2020 Women Infrastructure Network (WIN) Emerging Leader Award, which celebrates the contributions of exceptional women in the Canadian infrastructure industry. Professor Hussain was the only academic selected among the 36 nominees in the Emerging Leader category.



Professor [Detlev Zwick](#) will serve as interim dean of the Schulich School as Dean Dezső J. Horváth steps down following more than three decades of outstanding leadership. Professor Zwick's appointment will take effect on July 1, 2020.



[David Phipps](#) and [Sarah Howe](#) will take on the roles of assistant vice-president, Research Strategy & Impact and assistant vice-president, Innovation & Research Partnerships, respectively, in the Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation.



[Osgoode Hall Law School Professor Giuseppina \(Pina\) D'Agostino](#), Founder and Director of IP Osgoode, has been appointed to the City of Vaughan's Smart City Task Force as a stakeholder representative.