



# PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

MAY 2020



In this year's [Times Higher Education \(THE\) Impact Rankings](#), York University placed 33rd out of 767 universities from around the world, and achieved a top 100 spot in 15 of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, a substantial gain over last year's rankings.



Alumna [Lilly Singh](#)'s NBC late-night talk show, "A Little Late with Lilly Singh," has been renewed for a second season.



[The 2020 York University Research Leaders](#) were announced. The recognized researchers have demonstrated a deep commitment to the University's mission and vision through their visionary research, leadership and mentorship. This year's President's Research Award winners are:

- Professor Christopher Perry, School of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, Faculty of Health - President's Emerging Research Leadership (PERLA) Award 2020;
- Theodore Noseworthy, Schulich School of Business - President's Emerging Research Leadership (PERLA) Award 2020;
- Debra Pepler, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health - President's Research Impact (PRIA) Award 2020; and
- Eric Hessels, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science - President's Research Excellence (PREA) Award 2020.

## **school of continuing studies**

After launching a Continuing Studies Emergency Benefit to support those who have lost their jobs or are facing financial difficulty due to the pandemic, the School of Continuing Studies received a \$10,000 donation from [Gautham Kolluri](#), founder and director of CIP Study Abroad, to help an additional seven individuals access continuing studies.



[Jessica Gahtan](#) (BBA '16) is part of a team that is using 3D printers to produce face shields and masks to distribute to clinics and hospitals in need of supplies. The model is so successful that it has already been replicated by groups across Canada.



[Hina Tabassum](#), Assistant Professor from the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, is receiving a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding service as a reviewer of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' communications journal, *IEEE Transactions on Communications*.



Osgoode Hall Law School Professor Roxanne Mykitiuk and Faculty of Health Professor Iris Epstein have been awarded [the York Academic Innovation Fund \(AIF\) grant](#) for their project, "A multidisciplinary experiential-education resource to support the communication needs of students with disabilities and instructors in placement."



[Innovation York](#) and the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) are offering a fifth round of the Artificial Intelligence Industry Partnership Fund program to support artificial intelligence (AI) collaborative research projects for York researchers and industry partners.



The [Faculty of Science](#) has launched the \$50,000 York Science Summer Student Success Fund to provide up to 1,000 students with a \$50 discount when purchasing required or recommended textbooks.



Dean of Libraries [Joy Kirchner](#) spearheaded the production of a COVID-19 research guide that offers a number of recommendations on main sources to consider when conducting research on COVID-19. The guide will be accessible to researchers inside and outside of the University, including collaborators and partners across the globe.



[Fifty Schulich students](#) will help local businesses develop and launch online platforms for their products and services as part of the City of Toronto's Digital Main Street (DMS) ShopHERE program, an initiative that is supporting businesses recover from the pandemic and thrive in a new economy.



Faculty of Environmental Studies Assistant Professor Lisa Myers won the [Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts \(TFVA\) 2020 Artist Prize Finalist Award](#), and alumna and renowned artist Anique Jordan took top honors as the recipient of the 2020 TFVA Artist Prize.

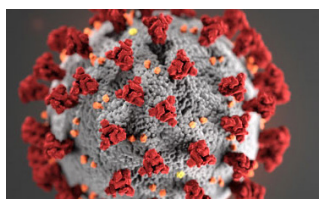


The Lassonde School of Engineering announced the results of its [2020 Research Innovation Awards](#):

- Innovation Award - Early Researcher: Professor John Lam, Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science;
- Innovation Award - Established Researcher: Professor Alex Czekanski, Department of Mechanical Engineering; and
- Graduate Mentorship Award: Professor Ebrahim Ghafar-Zadeh, Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science.



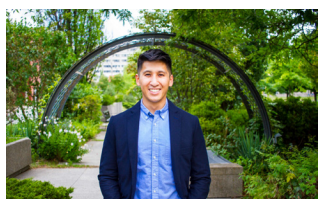
[Mahad Shahzad](#), a fourth-year BBA student at Schulich, launched the non-profit organization Chatting to Wellness, a service that matches volunteers with seniors who are feeling isolated and lonely. Initially an in-person service with once-a-week visits, the organization now provides an online platform accessible to seniors across Canada in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.



The University originally announced a \$250,000 research fund and call for proposals to support immediate term COVID-19 research projects, but has [increased the fund](#) by \$50,000 to support the further development of additional high-potential projects due to an impressive response from York researchers.



[David Hood](#), a professor in the School of Kinesiology & Health Studies, is a finalist for the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies' 2019 Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship.



[Kam Phung](#), a Schulich School of Business PhD candidate in Organization Studies, has been named one of this year's Top 25 Storytellers by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in its annual research communications challenge. In his video submission, Phung tells the story of Uber's entry into Toronto and the impact on taxi driving.



[Freya Björg Olafson](#), an assistant professor in the Department of Dance in the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD), has been selected as a winner of the National Art Gallery of Canada's 2020 Sobey Art Award. Considered the pre-eminent prize for Canadian artists 40 and under, the award celebrates and provides financial support for young artists.



Four students in the [School of Nursing](#) were named recipients of scholarships by the Registered Nurses Foundation of Ontario (RNFOO):

- Sandra Agbanti;
- Samantha Johnson;
- Rodolfo D. Lastimoso Jr.; and
- Lalezar Tüner.



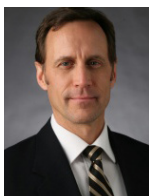
Following a formulation recommended by the World Health Organization, staff in the [Faculty of Science](#) have produced hundreds of litres of hand sanitizer for York campuses to use during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Osgoode awarded 13 [Dean's Gold Key Awards](#), which are given to students graduating from the JD program who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the law school. This year's recipients are:

- Ovais Ahmad
- Marco Castelli
- Christopher Dias
- Ashley Jung
- Karen Mann
- Sara Omar
- Sabrina Shillingford.
- Connor Campbell
- Samantha Craig-Curnow
- Genevieve Gisbrecht
- Robert MacKenzie
- Michael McNeely
- Vahini Sathiamoorthy

## APPOINTMENTS



[Professor Jeffrey D. Schall](#) was appointed the inaugural scientific director of the York Visual Neurophysiology Centre.