

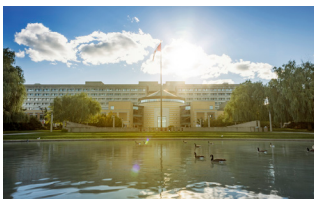


# PRESIDENT'S KUDOS REPORT

JUNE 2020



The [York Centre for Asian Research \(YCAR\)](#) recently received a \$500,000 donation from Canadian philanthropist, author and entrepreneur Vivienne Poy to create an endowment to support student engagement in Hakka research and scholarship. This is the first Hakka Studies initiative outside of Asia.



The University committed \$2 million to the York University Emergency Bursary for students who needed urgent financial aid to cover the unexpected costs due to the pandemic. With support from alumni, faculty, staff, the York University Alumni Board, members of York's Board of Governors and other donors, more than \$120,000 has been raised to provide further funds for students. Two special matching funds from the Pierre Lassonde Family Foundation and the Victor Dahdaleh Foundation totalled \$300,000.



[Celia Popovic](#), associate professor in the Faculty of Education and the founding director of the University's Teaching Commons, has been awarded the Distinguished Educational Developer Career Award for 2019 for her leadership role in creating a national framework for the accreditation of educational development programming in Canada.



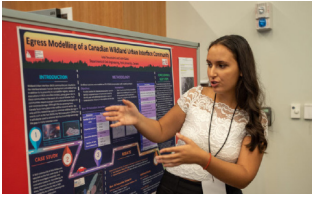
The [Rob and Cheryl McEwen Graduate Study & Research Building](#) was selected as one of the nine winning projects of the 13th annual Canadian Green Building Awards, a program of *Sustainable Architecture & Building (SAB) Magazine*. The award recognizes excellence in the design and execution of Canadian residential and non-residential buildings of all types, and was based on criteria of sustainable design, architectural excellence and technical innovation.



A first-of-its kind project in Canada, Nursing [Professor Irfan Aslam](#) is overseeing the use of a disinfection robot powered by AI to sanitize a healthcare facility.



The Airbus GEDC Diversity Award was awarded to [the Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom \(C4\) Project](#), an initiative that is led by Professors Danielle Robinson of the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD) and Franz Newland of the Lassonde School of Engineering, and brings together students from across the University to work in interdisciplinary teams to address real-life social challenges. Airbus launched the GEDC Diversity Award in 2012 to support increasing diversity among engineering professionals globally.



The Lassonde School of Engineering will welcome [57 undergraduate student researchers](#) for the 6th annual Lassonde Undergraduate Research Awards & Undergraduate Student Research Awards programs (LURA and USRA). The goal of the summer research programs is to provide undergraduate students experience in a professional research environment and inspire them to pursue careers in research.



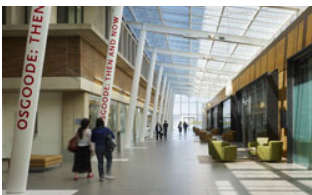
[Rooted & Rising](#) is a new Faculty of Education certificate program that will teach leadership and communication skills to those interested in championing the response to climate change and environmental issues.



[Professor Nazilla Khanlou and colleagues](#) received funding through the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) Knowledge Synthesis Grant: COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity in Mental Health and Substance Abuse - 2020 to undertake a project to review the literature on mental health supports for racialized women at risk of gender-based violence during the pandemic.



[Professor Linda Peake](#), director of the City Institute and a member of the Urban Studies program and the graduate programs in Geography, Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies and Development Studies, is the 2020 winner of the Canadian Association of Geographers Award (CAG) for Scholarly Distinction.



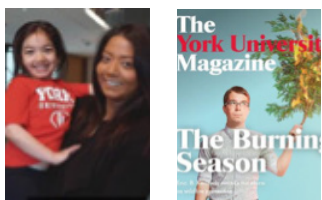
Osgoode Hall Law School's [Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic \(EJSC\)](#) announced a new partnership with leading Indigenous law firm Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP (OKT) for a pilot summer student fellowship. This summer, OKT will be sponsoring one EJSC student to work with both the firm and the clinic on Indigenous environmental justice, natural resource law matters and community-based work of the clinic.



Building on Toronto's foundational investments in Digital Main Street and ShopHERE, [an additional 50 students from the Schulich School of Business](#) will be helping local businesses develop and launch online platforms for their products and services to support recovery from the pandemic and success in the new economy. With new support from the governments of Canada and Ontario, York has doubled the number of Schulich students who will be selected for paid summer placements and work-integrated learning opportunities in York Region, Peel Region, Durham Region and Halton Region.



[Paruksheen Dhunjisha](#) (MBA '20) and her partner Michael Carrier launched the e-commerce site, [GiveAMask.ca](#). For every purchase, the company donates a mask to someone in need in Ontario.



Two initiatives created by York's Communications & Public Affairs division have been recognized in the CASE 2020 Circle of Excellence Awards, the international awards program that honours outstanding work by institutions whose talented staff members advance their institutions through innovative, inspiring, and creative ideas:

- a video created for Mother's Day 2019 won silver in the video category; and
- a photo of wildlife crisis management research professor Eric Kennedy used on the cover of *The York University Magazine* won bronze in photography.



Three Schulich masters students have landed Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence (VSAI), valued at \$17,500. The Vector Institute supports Ontario's growing AI community through a combination of activities, such as talent placement through internships, networking and AI community-building, and applied AI education. This year's recipients of the VSAI are:

- Amar Hassani (MMAI '21);
- Ricardo Luhm (MMAI '21); and
- Brigid Sterling (MMAI '21).



JD/MBA candidate [John Wu](#) is the co-founder of Codify Legal Publishing, a company that has developed a program to help policy experts, legal professionals and other interested stakeholders keep up with legislative changes related to COVID-19. Codify Legal Publishing sends a free weekly update covering bills and regulations from every province and territory in Canada to anyone who signs up for its publication.

## APPOINTMENTS



Faculty of Health [Professor Sean Hillier](#) has been appointed co-chair of the Indigenous Council at York.



[Professor Sharon Murphy](#) has been appointed interim dean of the Faculty of Education, effective July 1.