

YORKU

FEBRUARY 2009



50th Anniversary
Special Issue

FIRST CLASS

From lawyer Clayton Ruby
to science student
Janaki Vallipuram,
five decades of excellence
and transformation

PLUS

York's Saga: Exclusive Book Excerpt
Finding Snow on Mars
Nino Ricci on His Big Lie

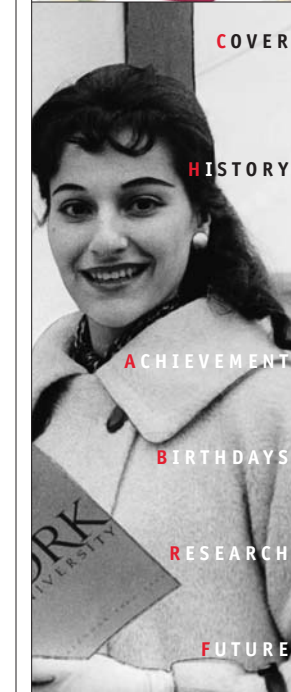
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YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY



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FEBRUARY 2009

The man in the picture. BY BERTON WOODWARD

History Speaks

We have an expanded audience for this issue of *YorkU*. Our York 50th anniversary special is circulating with *The Globe and Mail* throughout Ontario, so I'd like to welcome these readers to the celebration. As you might expect, we're offering plenty of history, some current research and a look to the future. Above all, we feature many of the fascinating people involved with York, from leading lawyer Clayton Ruby on our cover to acclaimed author Nino Ricci writing on our back page, with the space scientists who led the Mars weather mission in between.

One of my favourite projects for this issue was reworking a famous picture at York, showing founding president & vice-chancellor Murray Ross at his desk in an open field. The field was due to become York's new campus in the then Toronto suburb of North York. You will see the results of our photographic effort in the opening pages of the Universe section, overseen by art director James Nixon with the original desk generously supplied by longtime York official Sylvia Zingrone, who still uses it. But for background, I also needed to look up the original context for the picture. This was not hard to do, because the photo was published in the old Toronto *Telegram*, which closed in 1971. York's Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections now holds the full collection of 1.3 million Tely pictures, and York University Libraries has the back issues of the newspaper on microfilm.

The Ross picture appeared on the second-section front page on Saturday, Dec. 29, 1962, under the headline, "Toronto: Continent's No. 2 Cultural



Capital – Dr. Murray Ross Foresees Surging Renaissance". The accompanying full-page interview illustrates why the founding president's shadow still hangs long at York. Along with praising fast-growing and "culturally advanced" Toronto, he also talked about "the tremendous demand for part-time educational programs. In the future, far more people will attend evening colleges than day colleges." In fact, York's Atkinson College, specializing in adult and part-time education, had just opened that year and for a while in the 1960s actually outstripped the rest of the University in enrolments. Ross's vision still resonates: in this issue, we also introduce the new Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, opening in July, which recognizes that today's students seek the widest range of choice possible in their education, including when they pursue it.

Back in 1962, the far-sighted Ross thought Ontario's Grade 13 should be abolished, predicted that China was the nation to watch and defended the concept of the big university – "you get much better research facilities and research libraries." Ross was often controversial, not least to his peers, but he certainly knew how to start a university. ■

Send letters, submissions, comments and ideas to editor@yorku.ca.

YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY

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redefine THE POSSIBLE.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

WHY I'M LEAVING A LEGACY FOR YORK



Alumna and former president of the York University Alumni Association Joan Wood (BA '75) explains her reasons for leaving a legacy gift to York.

Why do I give to York? That's easy – it was a life-changing experience. For me, York was more than just classrooms. I was involved in many college and intramural sport activities. I even managed the Orange Snail coffee shop in Stong College. And my fellow Yorkies continue to be some of my best friends today. Even though I now live in Bermuda, I'm still a Yorkie through and through.

I spent 25 years working in the insurance industry so I know that by naming York University Foundation as the beneficiary of my life insurance policy I will help the University and its students better than I could in any other way. When planning for your estate, you don't have to be rich to make a big difference.

YORK TO THE POWER OF 50

York University is in the midst of our 50th anniversary fundraising campaign, *York to the Power of 50*. There has never been a better time to redefine the possible through gift plan-

Contact York University Foundation at
416-650-8210 or visit yorku.ca/foundation



LEADING EDGE

A clear vision is one of the many things we're celebrating. BY MAMDOUTH SHOUKRI

The Next 50 Years

This may sound like a strange thing to say as we celebrate York's 50th anniversary, but 50 years is a remarkably short period of time in the life of a university. I'm thinking here of Harvard University at 373 years, Oxford at over 800, or the grande dame of postsecondary institutions, the University of Bologna, which is heading for the millennium mark.

Fifty years is an important milestone and it's right to celebrate it. York at 50 is a celebration not of how long we've been around, but of how far we've come in such a short time. More than that, it's about the next 50 years and what we have yet to achieve together.

For months now, people have been poring over archival photos, movies and old course calendars, and generally thinking of how to best showcase York's fascinating history. You can see some of those images and videos – complete with beehive hairdos and mutton-chop sideburns – at York's 50th anniversary



clear vision of what it wanted to become.

In 1960, York's first president & vice-chancellor, Murray Ross, said: "No one in his right mind would today oppose the need for a high degree of specialization. But to have specialization and nothing else is to possess but half an education.... We

York at 50 is a great place

Web site, yorku50.ca.

We are fortunate to have many of the people who helped shape York still involved with the University – Presidents Emeriti Harry Arthurs, Ian Macdonald and Lorna R. Marsden, for example. I had a chance to see an interview with President Emeritus Macdonald recently, and he told an interesting story. When he became president in 1974, York was just 14 years old, and yet 10 of its 11 Faculties (all except Health) were already up and running, including the first Faculty of Environmental Studies and the first Faculty of Fine Arts in Canada, Atkinson College for mature and part-time students, Glendon with its unique blend of Canada's two linguistic cultures, and an innovative Faculty of Education.

York is a place that has always known where it wanted to go, and I believe this goes a long way to explaining how York has come as far as it has in such a relatively short time. How many people can trace an unbroken line from their youthful ambitions to where they end up at 50? This is a place founded with a

Mamdouh Shoukri is York's president and vice-chancellor.

**to be – old enough to know
what we want and young &
hungry enough to go after it.**

shall try to break down the barriers of specialization, to give to York University students a sense of the unity of knowledge."

I believe these words are truer today than they were when Murray Ross spoke

them. In those few lines are the seeds of our interdisciplinarity, our commitment to academic freedom and our drive to share the knowledge we create with the wider community.

York at 50 is a great place to be – old enough to know what we want and young and hungry enough to go after it, and I feel tremendously proud to be leading York at this time in its history. Our vision for the next 50 years is to become a comprehensive university serving the needs of society – a vision we can only achieve if we plan for it.

So while we celebrate the past, we must also make the plans, ask the questions, engage the community, to prepare for future growth. We need to work hard to find new and better ways of creating knowledge and mobilizing that knowledge for the benefit of society. And we need to reach out to the world, so that we can better serve our communities, both local and global. These will be York's greatest 50th birthday presents. ■

UNIVERSE

Where's My University?

So said the tongue-in-cheek caption on this picture, famous at York, when it was first published in the *Toronto Telegram* on Dec. 29, 1962. It shows founding president & vice-chancellor Murray Ross sitting at his own desk on the site at Keele Street and Steeles Avenue slated for the fledgling University's new campus, which would open in 1965. York's campus at Glendon had just 571 students in 1962.



It's Here – and Still Growing

So says Mamdouh Shoukri, York's seventh president & vice-chancellor, in the summer of 2008 as he sits at the same desk Murray Ross used in 1962. The desk is one of the few unaltered elements at a University that has undergone stunning expansion, physically and intellectually, in the 50 years since it was established on March 26, 1959. Today York has 52,000 students.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COREY MIHAILIUK

York by the Numbers

An eclectic accounting.
BY MICHAEL TODD

\$500

Tuition fee for York's inaugural 1960-1961 academic year

5

Number of Rhodes Scholarships awarded to York students since 1970. First winner: Ralph Lamoureux. Most recent: Irvin Studin (1999)

Over 80%

Grade average for more than half of York's incoming high-school class each year

218

Hectares of land on York campuses

19

Hectares which are woodlots

1970

Year in which the annual Red & Blue Bowl football game began (York's then-Yeomen vs. U of T Varsity Blues)

1979

Year in which York's rowing team began and ended

176

Countries York students come from

York's Own Brew

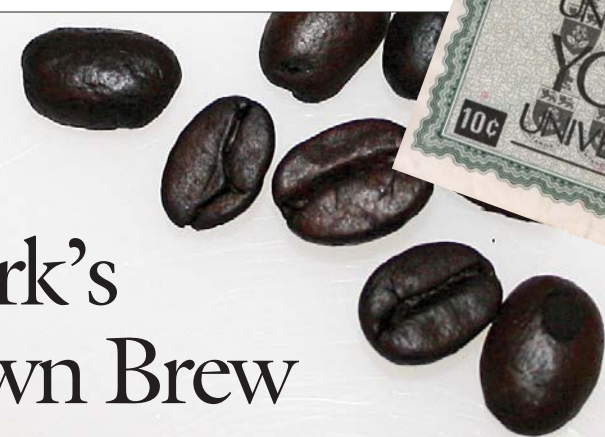
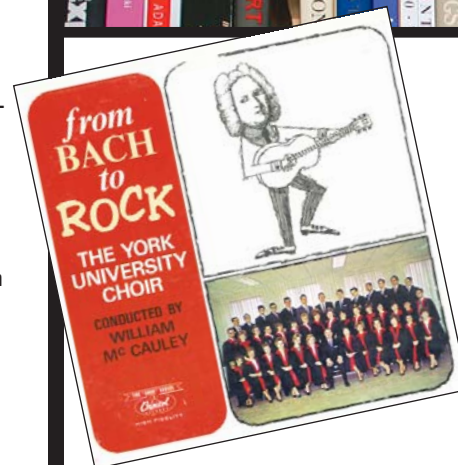
Since 2004, Timothy's Coffees of the World Inc. has been selling a special brew from York at more than 100 locations across the country – Las Nubes coffee, certified fair trade. This unusual marketing partnership was the brain-wave of environmental studies Professor Howard Daugherty. In 1998, Daugherty's friend Dr. Woody Fisher donated the 133-hectare Las Nubes Rainforest in Costa Rica to York. As director of York's Fisher Fund for Neotropical Conservation, which funds biodiversity research at Las Nubes, Daugherty was looking for a way to give nearby coffee growers an incentive to increase sustainable production, and to raise money for research. The coffee growers began implementing environmentally friendly agricultural methods, benefiting greatly from research conducted by York students and the Tropical Science Center of Costa Rica. Timothy's agreed to get involved, and a portion of each cup and bag sold now goes to York. ■

Volume Purchase

The University decided to start immediately on construction of a central library in 1968, including a general library area with space for 250,000 volumes and a research library with space for over a million volumes. Over the course of the summer, York University Libraries purchased the book stocks of two bookstores; the Ernest Starr second-hand bookstore in Boston and the Ducharme bookstore in Montreal. ■

Bach & Roll

In 1963 the York choir recorded its first album, *From Bach to Rock*, with Capital Records. The choir was under the direction of William McCauley, who was the longtime house music director for the O'Keefe Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto (now the Sony Centre). He served concurrently as York's music director from 1961 to 1969. ■

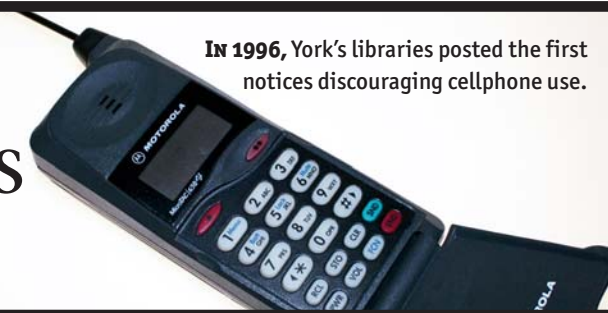


Virtual Monopoly

In 1974, scrip, often known to York students as “funny money” or “Monopoly money”, was introduced for residence students to pay for food. Rezzies were required to buy a certain amount of the paper, which could only be spent at York's cafeterias and food outlets. It was touted as a way for students to avoid carrying large amounts of cash on their persons. But a discount black market soon developed, becoming a place of exchange between scrip-rich students who ate hardly anything (often dancers, it seemed) and others (like phys-ed majors) who didn't have enough to make it through the year. The black market scrip was sold at up to 50 per cent discounts by students desperate to recoup some of their investment. Today, students pay with smart YU-cards. And while the appetite imbalances remain, rezzies no longer have to find ways to unload unused credit on their annual meal plans: above a certain level, they can carry it forward. ■

Ding-a-Lings

In 1996, York's libraries posted the first notices discouraging cellphone use.



Student Boom

In 1963, the 25-year Master Plan for York University predicted that by 1980, York University would have 19,800 students. Lesson: Never underestimate the baby boomers. York passed the 20,000 mark in 1973.

Pub Flub

It's 1969 and the Green Bush Inn, the first student-run pub on campus, serves its first drink. The temporary location is in the Central Plaza next to the Toronto Dominion Bank. The York Student Federation has a committee of students who want to preserve the original 139-year-old Green Bush Inn building from demolition and transfer it from its location on Steeles Avenue, west of Yonge Street, to the Keele campus. It never happens and the original inn is torn down. ■



UNIVERSE
Over \$3 billion

York's estimated total annual impact on the GTA economy

2,740

Undergraduate residence beds across 10 buildings on the Keele and Glendon campuses

7,000

Approximate number of books and periodicals contained in Glendon Hall in 1961

2.5 million

Approximate number of books now contained in York's eight libraries

Over 100 km

Total length of shelving in those libraries

1,156

Partial count of books and articles published by York faculty in 2008

2001

Year in which York's Spring Convocation had its Internet debut in streaming video

250

Approximate number of York's student clubs and organizations

200,000

Total of York graduates reached in 2007

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED



Rampant Destruction

In 1991, Vari Hall, the new entrance to the University combining lecture halls, classrooms and office space, was built. It replaced the Ross Building's notorious front ramp, which York's president of the time, legal scholar Harry Arthurs, was delighted to destroy. "It just symbolized everything that was functionally wrong with the Keele campus," Arthurs told *YorkU* in 2005. "First of all, it was built on an inhuman, unesthetic scale. It had no connection to the way people actually moved around the campus. It was virtually unusable in cold weather. All in all it was a bad idea." ■

Newton's Own

THREE CENTURIES ON, a direct descendant of Sir Isaac Newton's original apple tree was planted at York in 1999



Man Date

York's sculpture collection boasts works by some of the world's major artists, one being Alexander Calder. In 1967 the International Nickel Company of Canada gave York the Calder maquette for the work "Man", commissioned for Montreal's Expo '67. The sculpture can be found tucked away on the back patio entrance of the Joan & Martin Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts. It is a one-sixth scale model for the larger work. ■

Famous Canadian artists Jack Bush and Harold Town were each commissioned to design college banners at York – for Vanier and Founders colleges respectively. Montreal artist Guido Molinari was another well-known figure who contributed a banner design – for Atkinson – as York's nine colleges became established in the 1960s and '70s. The idea was that all the banners would hang in each college's dining hall, and so they did for a time. The banners were also hung at one point under the arch at the head of the Ross Building's old entrance ramp, just east of the Scott Religious Centre. While they made a brief debut, they were subsequently taken down because their "snapping" in the wind created too much noise. ■



Banner Years

Do you want a negative image? Actually, that's a good thing. If you're a researcher or just plain interested in Toronto history, you'll find plenty of them in the Toronto *Telegram* Photo Collection held by York's Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections. It contains 830,000 negatives and roughly 500,000 prints of photos taken for the newspaper from 1876 to 1971. From beauty contests to Elvis Presley, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to the Royal Family, the Tely's photographers documented it all. Here's Joni Mitchell hanging out in a Yorkville club in the 1960s. ■

Positives and Negatives



A YEAR AFTER YORK OPENED, the York Senate adopted a motion prohibiting students from belonging to a social fraternity or sorority. The Board of Governors and other authorities all concurred with the prohibition, and it lasted until 1989. York continues to deny such groups any recognition or official status on campus.



Fratricide

Mother Tongue

IN 2008, York became the first postsecondary institution in Canada to sanction graduate thesis work in Aboriginal languages – and in any language other than English or French.



Trash Talk

BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000, York increased the amount of organic material diverted from landfill, and composted, by a factor of 42.

Fully Armed

York's coat of arms was designed by war artist Eric Aldwinckle, who began working on it in 1960. The design was not finalized until 1968. In an early exchange of letters between Aldwinckle and Murray Ross, York's first president, Ross suggests that York's colours be "red and white [so that they are] rather different from the University of Toronto's blue." The heraldic colour red (gules), and white (argent) are the official colours of the University and are reflected throughout the arms. The lions come from the arms of the City of York, England. The white rose at the centre of the arms was originally a royal badge and one of several motifs used by the royal House of York in the 15th century. It is still associated with the University of York in England. ■



A look at York's five decades through five fascinating people, from leading lawyer Clayton Ruby to the class of 2009's Janaki Vallipuram.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

FirstClass

THEY ARE SEPARATED, in their time at York, by nearly 50 years. Clayton Ruby (BA '63), one of Canada's leading defence lawyers, was part of the very first York class that entered the University of Toronto's Falconer Hall in 1960 and moved to the Glendon campus the following year. Janaki Vallipuram, a top-ranked biochemistry student, expects to graduate in this 50th anniversary year and pursue a career in medical research. Each says something about the way York University has evolved. Ruby was a classic "redefine the possible" kind of student – he arrived thinking about poetry and sociology, and left heading for law. Vallipuram, a child of immigrants like so many at York today, is very focused on her goals – and thriving as York continues to broaden its opportunities for scientists.

In the pages that follow, we profile one York-educated person from each of the University's five decades, from Ruby to Vallipuram. Although not necessarily York's best-known grads – see page 36 for a reminder about them – these five fascinating people embody York's continuing commitment to excellence and their own determination to succeed.



Poetic Justice

Clayton Ruby started out well-versed in everything but law.

BY MICHAEL TODD

IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CLAYTON RUBY and his high-profile human rights, Aboriginal and criminal cases – or his championing of social justice issues in the courts – you’d be justified in concluding he intended to pursue a career in law, loved all things legal, and aced high school and university. You’d be wrong.

Ruby (BA ’63) says a career in law was the “last thing” on his mind while he was an undergrad in York’s starting class, which early on moved to the new Glendon campus. “I didn’t want to be a lawyer particularly,” he says. “But I wasn’t interested in the other professions.” High marks? “I was an indifferent student both in high school and at York. But I was always interested in ideas. I loved ideas.” At Glendon, Ruby devoted most of his time to the dream of becoming a poet. “I spent three years trying to be Dylan Thomas. Then I gave up. It was probably for the best – for me and poetry.”

Ruby’s journey to York was curiously roundabout. A high school teacher had recognized his desperation for ideas and put him onto several books. Ruby was enthralled by one in particular – *The Lonely Crowd* by Harvard sociologist David Riesman – and wrote to the author. Riesman replied that if he liked his book he should look up a friend in Toronto, one of the great sociologists, who was about to join York. That was Professor John Seeley, who became, says Ruby, “my mentor at Glendon. He opened up for me a world of ideas I hadn’t known existed. People like Seeley and Riesman weren’t to be categorized as ‘sociologists’ really. They were bigger than that. They combined philosophy, psychiatry, sociology – all sorts of elements. And the best thing about York was that you were assigned a tutor, and Jack Seeley was my tutor. Each week we talked about all sorts of issues – books, ideas, injustices, things you were reading. It was wonderful. He taught me how to think.”

Because his marks were mostly unremarkable, says Ruby, he couldn’t get into the University of Toronto’s law school on that basis. However, Dean George Tatham at Glendon persuaded the U of T law dean to accept Ruby. Even then, he left after first year. “That was unheard of. No one quit law school. I took a year off to work in the civil rights movement and spent some time with the Indian and Métis people in Saskatchewan. But I came back at the end of that year to finish my law degree.”

Ruby would later go on to get his master of laws from the University of California, Berkeley (1973) and write several legal textbooks en route to becoming one of Canada’s top defence lawyers. His legal trajectory has been to fight the good fight on behalf of those who often can’t. It’s led to taking on some high-profile clients, such as the surviving members of the Dionne quintuplets, the Church of Scientology, Guy Paul Morin and former MP Svend Robinson.

Ruby, whose life revolves around two graduates of York’s Osgoode Hall Law School – live-in partner Harriet Sachs and law partner Marlys Edwardh (both LLB ’74) – says he discovered there were things you could do with law that would make the world a better place. Law was also a way to channel the part of him that was an angry young man. “I was an angry kid growing up, and an angry kid at Glendon – and York was a great place for an angry kid who wanted to do things differently! And I think I’m still an angry kid,” says Ruby with a laugh. “But I like to think that now that anger gets used for social purposes.”



Rose Reisman has a crusader's
passion for healthy cooking.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

Kitchen Diva

L

LOOK OUT MARTHA STEWART. Move over Oprah Winfrey. Here comes Rose Reisman. Maybe you've heard of her – the cookbook author whose 1993 bestseller *Rose Reisman Brings Home Light Cooking* launched her as Canada's "healthy-eating evangelist" and an unstoppable entrepreneur. This York graduate with multiple degrees has hosted TV cooking shows, run a cooking school and still dishes out advice about everything from weight loss to fitness on TV and radio, in newspaper columns and as a public speaker. Through the sale of her 17 books, she has raised \$1 million for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and recently branched into corporate catering and home-delivered gourmet meals. Last fall, she launched RoseReisman.com, a Web site she hopes Canadians will turn to for expert advice, recipes and inspiration. It's her latest attempt to save us all from death by fat.

Obesity killed her father and her aunt in their 50s, and Reisman, now 55, worries she inherited the fat gene. But she lost her *grubba tuchus* (Yiddish for "big butt") long ago, and after a brush with dangerously high cholesterol as a young mother of four, she's figured out what it takes to be healthy. "I want people to feel as good as I do," says the woman who leaps out of bed every morning at 5am, works out in her personal gym and walks the dogs before meeting clients and visiting her 10,000-square-foot industrial kitchen in East York. With child obesity, diabetes, heart attacks and stroke on the rise, her crusade has never been more compelling.

Reisman (no relation to bookseller Heather) never planned such a career. But, at 13, she showed she had what it takes. The daughter of poor Polish immigrants lied about her age to earn spending money capping bottles of Brut on Fabergé's assembly line. And she shone in the high school drama club. "I loved it. I was good at it." She dreamed of a life on stage – until she auditioned and failed to get into York's acting program.

So, she would teach. To put herself through university in the '70s, Reisman lived at home and served drinks at the swank airport Hilton. She "dressed up" to go to York in miniskirt and go-go boots. Her social life centred on Central Square at York, where she would meet friends and her future husband, Sam Reisman (BA '74, MBA '77), for coffee. "York was like a large camp. You knew everybody."

Reisman earned a BA in sociology in 1975, a BEd from the University of Toronto the next year. While she taught junior high school, she added two more York degrees (BA '77 in fine arts, MFA '82) before quitting to produce dinner theatre, then start a family. Ever restless, the young mother and investment banker's wife enrolled in York's business school. "I wanted to understand my husband's world." For someone so arts oriented, getting her 1985 MBA was "extremely stressful" and Reisman discovered that cooking relaxed her. Soon she had the bright idea to write a cookbook. The rest is history.

Like the child actor she once was, Reisman still loves the recognition that comes with achievement. "I used to sit on a plane hoping the person next to me would ask me about my work so I could tell them all about it. Now I don't have to." In 2007, she won the Schulich School of Business Alumni Recognition Award for Outstanding Public Contribution, which came as a shock. "I just didn't think I deserved it. I was an average business student. But the nice thing was I realized you didn't have to be a business genius to make a difference. Passion matters more."



At the Centre of Now

Kaan Yigit is a top trendspotter for the digital age. BY MARTHA TANCOCK

MORE PEOPLE WATCHED “Saturday Night Live” comedian Tina Fey’s Sarah Palin on the Internet than on TV. That is “a defining pop culture moment,” Kaan Yigit told a reporter during the US election. The Toronto-based media consultant is often quoted in the business press – from CNN to *The Wall Street Journal* – because he’s made it his business to spot trends in how we watch TV, listen to radio and communicate with each other in this increasingly digital, wireless universe. Yigit (BA Hons. ’87, MBA ’96) recently coined the phrase “disconnect anxiety” to describe how stranded and helpless we feel when parted from our BlackBerrys and cell-phones. When he found out movie downloaders thought stealing from rich studios was OK, he dubbed it the “Robin Hood effect”. The president of Solutions Research Group likes to stay ahead of the curve and is so good at it that entertainment giants like Disney, Time Warner and ABC are turning to him for a glimpse of what the future holds. “My passion is the intersection of media, technology, communications and culture,” he says.

Those interests coalesced at York in the ’80s. Yigit was 17 when he and his mother waved goodbye to Istanbul, Turkey, to join his brother in Toronto. He’d been educated in English but had trouble finding his social compass in this new country – until he heard that Radio York was looking for volunteers. Soon he was host of a jazz show and part of an eclectic, creative bunch of people. “Radio York gave me a sense of belonging and purpose. It gave me community. It gave me a voice. I wanted to do the same for others.” And he did, in a big way. He and Mel Broitman spearheaded Radio York’s application that transformed the closed-circuit campus station into CHRY 105.5 FM, giving voice to North York’s diverse community. “It’s one of my great moments of pride,” says Yigit.

His project complete, this ideas man went on to do policy research for the provincial government, then joined Decima Research. While he learned to conduct audience surveys, he studied for an MBA at York’s Schulich School of Business. One day he went in to talk about the exciting new Internet with boss Allan Gregg and his partner Jake Gold, and they contracted him to create a Web site for The Tragically Hip, the band they managed. It took him a year. Tasting independence, he began doing research for the new specialty TV channels starting up and before long had a small staff and office. Then he took a risk and launched his first subscriber-based study, “In the Name of Cool”, providing major record companies with reports on popular music trends among youth. “Cool” morphed into “Fast Forward”, which plotted entertainment-consumption trends among all age groups.

But Yigit’s most ambitious project to date is his “Diversity in Canada” study. Based on 3,000 interviews conducted in nine languages, it revealed the buying and media habits of this country’s growing and diverse immigrant population – long overlooked by traditional market studies. It was groundbreaking and became the basis for a 2006 *Toronto Star* series on the new Canada. “The diversity I encountered at York was both challenging and enriching,” says Yigit. “Twenty-five years later it informs how I do business, what I do and how I look at the world. For every idea, I know there are multiple viewpoints.”

The working titles of his current research projects – “Prime Time is Anytime” and “Go With the Flow” – capture the blending of life and work and the openness with which we share our lives in this borderless age of social networking. Yigit is watching it all unfold. “I think of the work I do as looking through an evolutionary lens.”

Karen Murray uses kid-lit to help empower children as readers – and global citizens.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

Teaching Big Ideas



BEDTIME READING FOR KAREN MURRAY (BEd '98) may be poems by Maya Angelou but is just as likely to be children's books like *Winston of Churchill: One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming*. As a student achievement officer with the Ontario Ministry of Education, the award-winning primary-school teacher devours all the latest kid-lit. "If I recommend a book, I've read it."

She recommends a lot. For the past two years, as she has worked with teams of teachers from across Toronto on strategies to improve children's reading, writing and math skills, she takes the time to suggest books children from diverse cultural backgrounds can relate to. As she learned in York's pioneering Urban Diversity Program in the 1990s, "every kid comes with their own backpack of knowledge and we have to dig into that backpack to engage them emotionally." Through books, teachers can talk about "big ideas", like friendship, fairness, perseverance, bravery, overcoming adversity and injustice, protecting the environment. Such stories help children understand themselves and the world. "It's amazing what conversations I've had with kids after reading these books," Murray says. "These books lead to kids asking, 'How can I be engaged?' That's where we want kids to go – to be good global citizens." The books can also be empowering. "For the kids I work with, learning about somebody who's made a difference gives you a road map, gives you courage."

It did for her. This daughter of Guyanese immigrants remembers how, when she was in Grade 5, her teacher gave her a copy of Alex Haley's *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* and introduced her to other books written by African-Americans. "We had this wonderful dialogue," she says of a relationship that still endures. "Mr. England did plant the seed; that's how important teachers are."

After Murray earned a BA in cognitive psychology from McMaster University, she found a job integrating visually impaired children into schools. You missed your calling, her colleagues told her, and she enrolled in York's Faculty of Education, keen to take the Urban Diversity Program and learn effective ways to teach children from different cultures. "That was the most transforming time for me," says Murray. Program founder Patrick Solomon, who died this fall, "infused me with a love of equity, a love of diversity, a love of learning and the whole idea of being a change agent and making sure there is equity of outcome for all kids." Now Murray's back doing a master's thesis on education and equity.

From the day she started teaching, this change agent has remained involved in Toronto's Jane-Finch neighbourhood, where she grew up. Every Saturday morning for 10 years, she's been training adult volunteers to help children read at Oakdale Community Centre – and has won awards from Toronto and York for her efforts. "You hear about violence and crime but there are so many other wonderful and positive things that happen there." Who could have guessed, for instance, that more high-school students than adults are turning up to volunteer these days? Coming to complete 40 hours of community service required to earn their diploma, these reluctant teenagers swagger in like gangsta rappers – then melt under the spell of "an itty bitty child" leaning into them, sounding out words. "It's amazing," Murray says. "In the end, they don't think it is not cool anymore. They make the best reading buddies."

Bent on a medical career, straight-A student Janaki Vallipuram is already researching genes and autism.

BY DAVID FULLER

Common Threads



NOT MANY PEOPLE would say they got goosebumps when they first attended a science class, but it happened to top biochemistry student Janaki Vallipuram. Someone whose outside interests include the violin and Indian classical dance is no stranger to elation, but as she settled into her seat at the start of term, Vallipuram admits she was just as excited about Charles Darwin and evolution. For her, it's all a part of the challenge of lateral thinking and sorting out life's big picture as she works toward graduation in York's 50th anniversary year and a career in medical research. "Everything ties in, in its own weird way," she says. "I like finding common threads and solving problems."

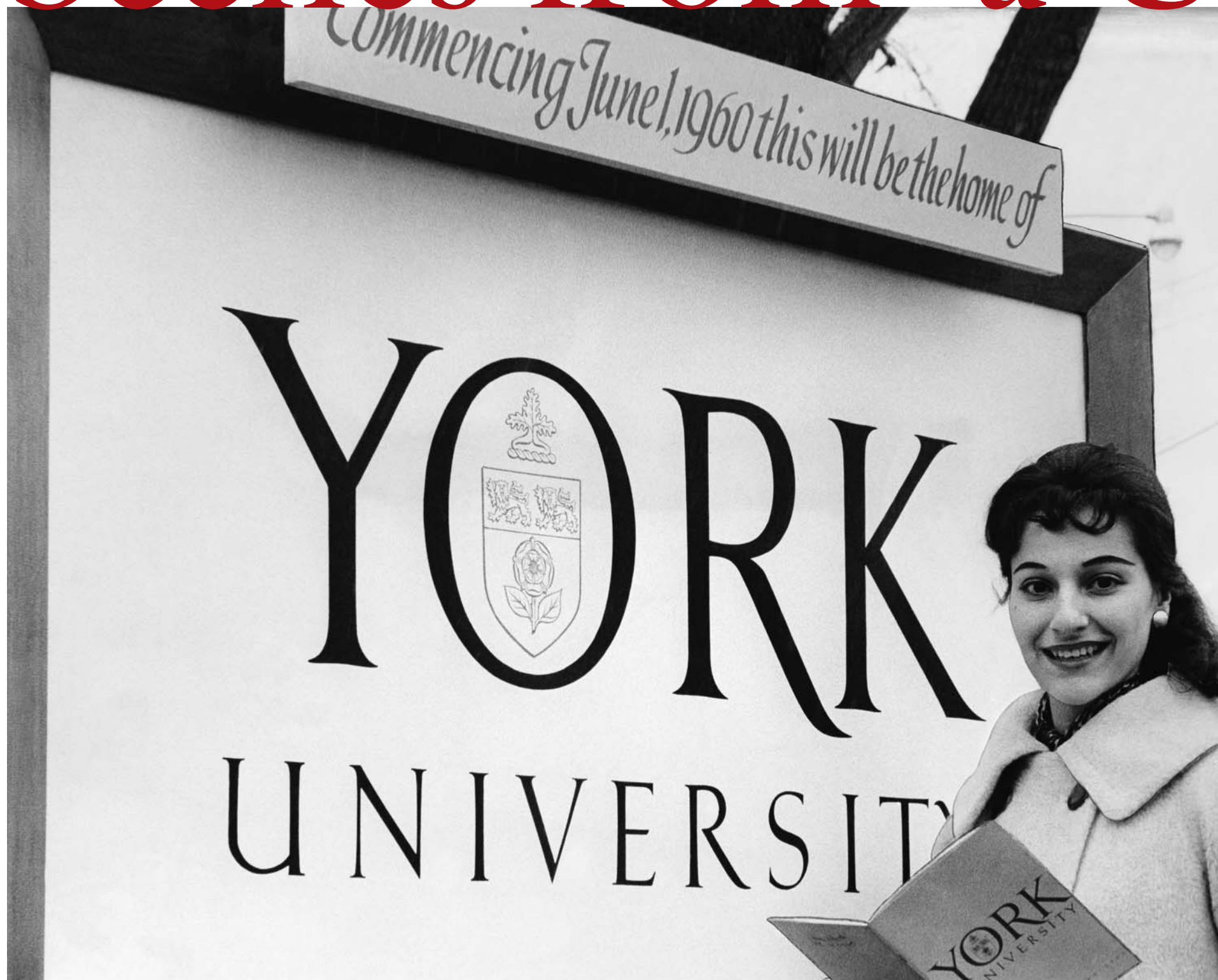
Her drive to discover new things – and maintain an A+ average – has served Vallipuram well during her four years in York's Faculty of Science & Engineering. It landed her a place in the research lab of neuroscientist Dorota Crawford of York's School of Kinesiology & Health Science in the Faculty of Health. There Vallipuram is using state-of-the-art equipment to investigate a protein linked to a genetic defect that causes autism. It's all thanks to York's emphasis on exposing more undergraduates to fundamental research. "I'm lucky that I have that opportunity to really participate in the research and not just do the busy work," she says.

More than anything, Vallipuram credits her parents with nurturing her penchant for hard work. Sri Lankan immigrants who came to Canada before she was born, her mother and father focused on the effort she and her brother put into their school work instead of on high marks. "They praised the hard work as opposed to results and, because of that, I put my whole effort into what I do," she explains. It has paid off. After winning a Governor General's Academic Medal in her graduating year of high school, Vallipuram came to York with several scholarships and proceeded to thrive on an interdisciplinary mix of courses in biology, chemistry, math and physics as well as computer science, kinesiology, philosophy and Canadian literature. She has also received two science awards and a continuing scholarship.

Vallipuram's compassion led her to look at a career in medicine. During a trip to India to visit family, she was struck by the difference between the picture of the country presented in Bollywood movies and the reality. "It was a lot more underdeveloped than I thought it would be and that was one of the things that got me thinking about health especially," says the member of the Doctors Without Borders Club at York. "That really etched in me the importance of good health care and got me interested in this whole field."

As much as Vallipuram is a member of the millennial generation – she became a teenager in 2000 – she says she rarely uses Facebook or even e-mail (it takes her a day or two to reply). "I prefer to meet my friends in person," she says. When she graduates, she plans to take her first summer off in years while she considers the offers she is sure to receive to do graduate work at York or attend medical school. With her taste for discovery, it's a sure bet Vallipuram will be getting many more goosebumps. ■

Scenes from a University



In excerpts from his new book, a veteran York historian chronicles the early days.

BY MICHEL HORN

In York University: The Way Must Be Tried, an authorized history just published as part of York's 50th birthday celebrations, York Professor Emeritus Michiel Horn tells the story of the University's early years in engaging detail. Given complete independence and unfettered access to York records, the veteran historian interviewed more than 250 people to record the saga of an institution first bruited as a north Toronto adult education centre in 1955 and approved as a university by the Ontario legislature four years later. He chronicles the struggles of founding president Murray Ross, a former University of Toronto vice-president and social work professor, as the new institution took shape, first at the University of Toronto's Falconer Hall, then at the Glendon and Keele campuses, and follows the University's evolution in detail – amid both triumphs and considerable dissension – through 1985. A final chapter brings the story up to the present. In the excerpts that follow, Horn describes York today, marks some key moments in its early development and samples student life in the 1960s, some of it intoxicating.

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONS ARE SEDATE but oddly engaging, a curious blend of medieval and modern, of tradition and expectation. One such event took place on the Keele campus of York University on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007. Dressed in gowns and hoods of many colours, wearing mortarboards and floppy berets on their heads, a parade of women and men filed into the Tribute Communities Recital Hall of the recently completed Accolade East Building. They had come to attend the installation of York University's seventh president & vice-chancellor, Mamdouh Shoukri.

The mood was very much upbeat. The new president, who had left a vice-president's position at McMaster University to assume the new challenge, came highly recommended. He was clearly affable and mixed easily with the guests, who seemed more than ready to share his hopes and dreams for York. The position he was assuming was anything but a sinecure. In 2006-2007 York enrolled almost 52,000 students in eleven Faculties on two campuses, making it the third largest university in Canada. More than 3,100 full- and part-time faculty and professional librarians, some 2,300 teaching and research assistants, and roughly 3,500 full-time and casual non-academic staff were on the University payroll. The total budget was well over \$600 million.

York had become a multiversity, no doubt about that. Yet, if a single term were to be used to describe the York ethos, it was one that linked the institution's present to its past: interdisciplinarity, the commitment of faculty members and students to make an effort to look and reach across disciplinary boundaries in their teaching, learning and research. The general-education requirement, adopted in York's very early days, was at the heart of this commitment. Over the years, it had inspired or influenced many of the scholars, scientists, writers and creative

If a single term were to be used to describe the York ethos, it was one that linked the institution's present to its past: interdisciplinarity.

artists who had worked at York, as well as many of its alumni, more than 200,000 in number. Individually and collectively, these men and women established and sustained York's reputation across Canada and around the world.

What a difference half a century can make!

AS HE ARRANGED HIS MOVE from the University of Toronto's Simcoe Hall to Falconer Hall in early 1960, Murray Ross faced several daunting tasks. One was assembling a faculty and staff for York. Scarcely less urgent was finding students willing to take a chance on the new institution. Next in line was preparing the Glendon estate for the move that would take place before the fall of 1961. The new University also had to develop its own curriculum, to plan for the opening of its faculty of part-time studies, and to secure land that would serve York as a campus on which it could eventually expand. According to the affiliation agreement with the University of Toronto, formally signed on June 30, 1960, the affiliation would last for at least four and up to eight years. During that time, York courses would be essentially the same as those offered by the older university, and York graduates would receive University of Toronto degrees. York employees and students had access to the University of Toronto's library, laboratory and athletic facilities. The arrangement gave the fledgling University a

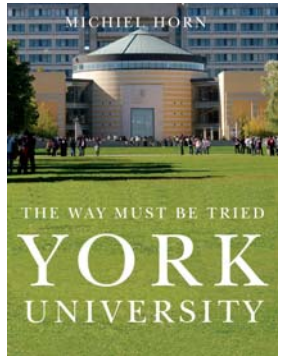
stature it would otherwise have lacked, making it easier to attract both faculty members and students.

What brought the first students to York? Douglas Rutherford, one of eight University of Toronto Schools (UTS) graduates to register, said that York seemed just a little different, and that attracted him. More to the point, however: "You were on the U of T campus and would get a U of T degree, and you would also have small classes. There really was no downside." Clayton (Clay) Ruby came for a different reason. While still in Grade 13 he had got to know John Seeley and, impressed with the sociologist's insights, decided to register at the University where he was going to be teaching. Seeley became a lifelong friend.

Rick Salutin, who also became a friend of Seeley's, had actually registered in University College. He recalled that he "began the year at U of T in Honours English but switched to York, just up the street in Falconer Hall, when some English prof told me to buzz off; he had no time to look at something I'd written." Dale Taylor, a UTS graduate, had planned to go to Trinity College but was intrigued by York's ads and went to talk with Ross, who lived a few blocks away. "He sold me on York University." Ross convinced him that, rather than be a nobody at Trinity in his freshman year, he could make a mark at York from the outset.

Looking back on the early days of York, George Rust-D'Eye, who registered in 1961, wrote: "Many of the members of the academic community, both in the first year at Falconer Hall and then at Glendon, were there out of a feeling of reaction to what was perceived as the assembly-line anonymity created by the larger established universities." The opportunity to help create something new and important was exciting. "Aside from the traditions and practices common to all universities, here there was no established way of doing things. There were no long-established faculty or student organizations or practices. But there was tremendous potential for the establishment and development of a unique intellectual environment."

Soon after York University opened its doors, Ross had made an official announcement that, in the long run, the institution would consist of a liberal arts college, a large multi-faculty university and an evening division. Before the spring of 1962, however, neither Ross nor anyone else anticipated that York's growth would be particularly rapid. Ross's book *The New University* (1961), a collection of speeches that



York's Story

A timeline of key events. BY MICHAEL TODD

1955 Businessmen associated with the YMCA discuss ways to increase adult education in north Toronto

1957 A meeting at Toronto's Granite Club agrees the university should emphasize liberal arts and be non-sectarian

1958 Moffat Woodside, U of T acting president, proposes the name "York University"

1959 A Private Members Bill, "Petition for the Incorporation of York University", is introduced by York West MPP H.L. Rowntree in the Ontario legislature

1959 The York University Act gains royal assent on March 26, 1959

1959 U of T vice-president Murray Ross is named founding president & vice-chancellor of York

1959 Affiliation with the U of T is announced for a period of "not less than four years and not more than eight years"

1960 Classes begin in U of T's Falconer Hall with 76 students registered

1960 The U of T grants York use of its 85-acre Glendon Hall estate on Bayview Avenue starting next year

1961 Faculty and staff move to Glendon and its new academic building, York Hall, built in only six months

1961 The Atkinson Charitable Foundation helps establish Joseph E. Atkinson College, the first university college in Ontario devoted to evening degree studies for adults

1961 Planning begins for a large main campus at a separate location with professional schools

1962 Ontario grants York 475 acres of land, later 600, held by the federal and provincial governments at Keele Street and Steeles Avenue

1962 Atkinson College opens

1962 The first class of 43 students graduates at U of T's Convocation Hall

1963 Undergraduate enrolment tops 1,000 - approximately 500 day students and 600 evening/part time

1964 Sod-turning held for Natural Sciences Building, later the Farquharson Life Sciences Building, the first structure at the Keele site

1964 Five-year affiliation with U of T ends. At a ceremonial dinner, U of T hands over the deed for the Glendon estate

1964 Classes begin at Keele. There are 1,458 day students and 2,389 evening students at the two campuses

1965 Former diplomat Escott Reid becomes first principal of new, bilingual Glendon College

1966 Farquharson Life Sciences Building, Steacie Science Library, Behavioural Sciences Building and Tait McKenzie Physical Education Centre open at Keele

1966 First convocation of York graduates receiving York diplomas is held at Keele's Burton Auditorium

1967 York establishes the Faculty of Fine Arts, the first of its kind in Canada

was in large part a blueprint for York, stressed the benefits of teaching and learning in the intimate setting provided by a liberal arts college. Ross also expressed reservations about large universities. Growth was inevitable, he wrote, but it must be slow and guided growth if “proper standards and integrity” were to be maintained.

These were not Ross’s views alone. His preface acknowledges a particular debt of gratitude to John Seeley “for reading, and commenting on, many of these speeches in their original form.” Interviewed in 2003, Seeley recalled that Ross, in inducing him to join the faculty of York, had assured him that it would be limited to 4,000 students at most, to be distributed over two campuses, and that the tutorial system would be continued even as the University grew. In the course of 1962, however, he learned that, by 1970, the new campus at Keele and Steeles would be the home of an institution with a student body almost twice as large as had been planned to that point, with further increases anticipated in the future. He took this as evidence, Seeley said, not only that Ross was breaking his word but also that the University was entering far too hastily upon a new path.

Why had the projected number suddenly gone up? The answer lies in a report commissioned by the Committee of Presidents of the Universities of Ontario and submitted to it in May 1962. Chaired by John Deutsch, vice-principal (academic)

of Queen’s University, the committee warned the presidents that enrolment would grow more rapidly than they had thought or were ready for. Not only would the baby boomers begin to show up in 1964, with their number growing rapidly after that – this was known, of course – but the participation rate, the proportion of university-age young people entering the institutions, was already increasing at a greater pace than the universities had been anticipating, especially because young women were registering in unprecedented numbers, and would continue to increase.

DURING 1965 AND 1966, York’s focus shifted from its first to its second campus. The move to the new location on Keele Street, south of Steeles Avenue, began in August 1965. But planning for the move had begun three years earlier, when the University acquired the land it wanted for expansion in the long run, expansion that was hastened by the appearance of the 1962 Deutsch Report.

The acreage that York obtained in North York had been farmed from the early decades of the 19th century into the middle of the 20th. Four of the five settlers on the land that is now the Keele campus were of Pennsylvania Dutch origin, Mennonites attracted by the promise of free land in Upper Canada. The Fisher, Stong, Kaiser and Hoover families settled

on several lots between what are now Steeles and Finch avenues; the English-born John Boynton settled south of them. The still-extant Stong House on Steeles, built by Jacob Stong on land bought from his father, Daniel, dates from 1859-1860. The farm stayed in the hands of the Stong family until 1952, when a speculator bought the land and then sold it to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It in turn made the property available to York, along with land once owned by two branches of the Kaiser family.

In the fall of 1962, with the campus now in York’s possession, the board asked University Planners, Architects and Consulting Engineers (UPACE), a joint venture by three Toronto firms, Gordon S. Adamson and Associates, John B. Parkin Associates, and Shore and Moffatt and Partners, to develop a master plan and design the first four buildings. Thomas Haworth, the architect-planner of the Glendon campus, continued to serve as architectural consultant and adviser to the board, and Hideo Sasaki, head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University, became a special consultant to UPACE. (This should put to rest the persistent myth, which I started hearing soon after I came to York in 1968, that the campus was designed by California-based planners ignorant of the Ontario climate.)

Among the early arrivals were members of the Psychology

Department. Kurt Danziger, who joined the department in 1965, came directly from South Africa. Accustomed to Cape Town’s mild climate, he found the Keele campus, especially in mid-winter, a severe shock to the system: “It was Siberia!” Neil Agnew, who left a clinical-research position in Saskatoon to

Accustomed to Cape Town’s mild climate, he found the Keele campus, especially in mid-winter, a severe shock to the system: ‘It was Siberia!’

become a professor of psychology and take charge of Psychological (today Counselling) Services on the Keele campus, was understandably less shocked. The psychologist Sandra Pyke, who arrived from Saskatoon in 1966, said: “When we moved

1968

- York establishes the Faculty of Environmental Studies
- The position of “University Orator” is created
- The Faculty of Arts & Science is divided into the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science
- Total enrolment tops 10,000
- After protests, students are granted closer and cheaper parking at Keele
- Osgoode Hall Law School becomes part of York University

1969

- Ross announces his retirement, effective June 30, 1970
- The new Humanities & Social Science Building is renamed the Murray G. Ross Building
- York University Bookstore opens in Central Square with 21,000 titles

1970

- Student newspaper *Excalibur* denounces the “Americanization” of York
- Economist David Slater becomes president
- Scott Library opens

1971

- Faculty of Fine Arts establishes Departments of Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts
- Art Gallery of York University opens
- Osgoode sets up innovative Parkdale community legal clinic

1972

- York establishes the Faculty of Education
- Slater resigns as president after an intense internal struggle over budget cuts. Two acting presidents follow

1973

- Economist and senior civil servant H. Ian Macdonald becomes president
- Finch subway station opens, improving transit to York
- Total enrolment tops 20,000

1974

- York Youth Connection offers its first summer program of arts for youngsters in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood
- York Women’s Centre opens
- Macdonald establishes a status of women office and later adjusts salary gaps based on gender

1975

- York University Faculty Association recognized as a bargaining unit
- Metropolitan Toronto Track & Field Centre opens on the Keele campus

1976

- Committee on Race and Ethnic Relations established
- Women’s Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts offers its first courses

1979

- Ian Macdonald finishes his term and an acting president is appointed
- Legal scholar Harry Arthurs becomes president
- York University Development Corporation (YUDC) established

1982

- Total enrolment tops 30,000
- National Tennis Centre opens on the Keele campus
- Faculty of Science becomes Faculty of Pure & Applied Science

1983

- York Federation of Students takes over from the Council of the York Student Federation
- Centre for Film and Theatre opens
- Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science becomes the new full name of CRESS, ground-breaking space research unit established in 1965

1984

- York University tops 40,000
- Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science becomes the new full name of CRESS, ground-breaking space research unit established in 1965

1985

- YUDC sells nine hectares of Keele campus land for \$45 million to developer Bramalea Ltd. The project falls through, and 10 years later York reacquires the land for \$5.5 million

1987

- Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science becomes the new full name of CRESS, ground-breaking space research unit established in 1965

1989

- Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science becomes the new full name of CRESS, ground-breaking space research unit established in 1965

1990

- Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science becomes the new full name of CRESS, ground-breaking space research unit established in 1965

down here I thought we had moved to the banana belt.”

The early students often saw themselves as pioneers, not only because the campus was brand new, but also because they were the first in their families to attend university. In that category were Jackie Robinson and Sandra Noble Goss, graduates of Downsview High School who later called themselves

‘I was so innocent,’ Mitchinson remembered, ‘that I thought the pot I smelled in McLaughlin Residence was incense.’

“suburban Toronto working-class kids” and said that they knew of no classmates whose parents had gone to university. (This pattern has continued, especially at the Keele campus, as Esther Greenglass, a member of the Psychology Department since 1968, noted.) What struck Robinson and Goss about the

campus was “the vastness of it, and the cold in the winter.” There was construction everywhere. “I constantly had muddy shoes,” Robinson recalled.

It was easy for them to take the Keele bus north, but, because it did not enter the campus, they faced a long walk along St. Lawrence (now York) Boulevard to the few buildings that had opened. Well into the 1970s the Toronto Transit Commission resisted pressure to increase the frequency of service and reroute the Keele bus through the campus, so that hitchhikers standing along St. Lawrence Boulevard remained a feature of life at York for years.

Wendy Mitchinson, who came to York because its first-year general education program gave her time to make up her mind what to study and because York gave her a bigger scholarship than the University of Toronto, lived at home in Thornhill for two years, then entered McLaughlin College Residence when it opened in 1968. Until people agreed on some basic rules, residence life was rather chaotic, she recalled, but she liked being on campus. She never regretted going to York, where several of her history professors were “truly memorable”. She singled out Jack Granatstein, whom she described as “a wonderful lecturer who led me to go into history”, Paul Stevens and Peter Oliver, and, at the graduate level, Ramsay Cook. “Besides, I fell in love at York. That colours my attitude.” She

married fine-arts student Rex Lingwood, who actually “liked that York was a construction site.” “There was a real energy there as a result,” Mitchinson added.

A key event in student social life took place when the 1969 session began. On Sept. 11, the Green Bush Inn, the first student-run pub on campus, served its first drink. (Glendon students had to wait until 1970, when the Café de la Terrasse in the basement of Glendon Hall got a licence.) The presence of a pub, made possible by the decision of the provincial government to lower the drinking age to 18, significantly enhanced campus social life. There were also six coffee houses spread around the campus by September 1969, but for many students, coffee, especially at night, did not match the attractions of beer.

Lots of students drank on campus before the fall of 1969, of course, but the practice was largely confined to residence rooms. So was another indulgence, the smoking of marijuana. How widespread it was is impossible to ascertain, but the scent of burning marijuana was a regular feature of residence life. Not everyone recognized it. “I was so innocent,” Mitchinson remembered, “that I thought the pot I smelled in McLaughlin Residence was incense.” (From my own experience as a don in Wood Residence in the late 1960s and early 1970s, I would say that marijuana use was fairly common but not a significant problem. Heavy drinking and “dropping acid”, the use of LSD,

were. Several times I was pressed into service in the middle of the night to drive a student experiencing a “bad trip” to the emergency department of Sunnybrook Hospital.)

Early in 1969, *Excalibur*, the Keele campus student newspaper, argued in an editorial for the legalization of marijuana, on the grounds that it was hypocritical not to do so since it was no more dangerous than alcohol, tobacco or sex. Although the drug was illegal, there was no clear-cut policy on its use at York, so that academic administrators dealt with cases on an ad hoc basis. This led to inconsistencies and did nothing to improve the attitude of students towards “the administration”, in any case too easily seen as slightly malevolent. Finally, it must be noted that, when the federal government appointed a Commission of Inquiry into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs in 1969, Gerald LeDain, dean of York’s Osgoode Hall Law School, became its chairman. ■

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Copies of *York University: The Way Must Be Tried* may be purchased in person and online from the York University Bookstore, bookstore.yorku.ca; from York’s 50th anniversary site, yorku50.ca; and from major bookstores.

1991
York University Student Centre and York Lanes shopping and office centre open

1992
Vari Hall, York’s new entranceway, opens

1995
Philanthropist Seymour Schulich makes an initial donation of \$15 million to York, which renames the Faculty of Administrative Studies the Schulich School of Business

1996
Downsview subway station opens, the closest to York

1997
Lorna R. Marsden becomes York’s sixth president and vice-chancellor

1998
York and Seneca College start joint degree/diploma programs at Seneca’s new building at Keele

1998
Dr. Woody Fisher donates the 133-hectare Las Nubes Rainforest in Costa Rica to York

2000
An 11-week strike by teaching assistants and contract faculty is settled

2000
The first students in new nursing degree program graduate

2001
Atkinson College renamed Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies

2002
High-tech Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Building opens

2002
Green-roofed Computer Science Building opens

2002
York adopts a new logo and brand identity

2002
The York University Foundation is established

2003
Business school moves into new \$102-million Seymour Schulich Building

2003
Faculty of Pure & Applied Science becomes Faculty of Science & Engineering

2003
Tennis Canada’s Rexall Centre at York University opens

2004
Total enrolment tops 50,000

2005
Tribute Communities builds medium-density housing on lands south of Keele campus

2006
Astronaut and York grad Steve MacLean e-mails Marsden from space shuttle

2006
York chosen as new home for Archives of Ontario

2006
York opens twin Accolade buildings, with major fine arts facilities

2007
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies approved to replace Faculty of Arts and Atkinson Faculty in 2009

2007
Mamdouh Shoukri becomes York’s seventh president and vice-chancellor

2008
York proposes establishment of a medical school

2008
Faculty of Health, the first new Faculty in 34 years, starts operation

ACHIEVEMENT

FAMOUS FACES

A selection of York faculty and grads who've become household names.

BY BETH ZABLOSKI

IRVING ABELLA

York history professor since 1968
Co-authored *None Is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933-1948*, a searing account of Canada's exclusionary immigration policy

LOUISE ARBOUR

Professor at York's Osgoode Hall Law School, 1974-1987
Served on the Supreme Court of Canada, then as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2004-2008

MARGARET ATWOOD

York English professor, 1971-1972
Renowned author of more than 35 books

ISABEL BASSETT

MA '73, English
Broadcast journalist and former chair & CEO of TVOntario

ED BROADBENT

York political science professor, 1965-1968
Former leader of the federal NDP

BARBARA BUDD

BA '74, theatre
Co-host of CBC Radio's "As It Happens" since 1993

RAMSAY COOK

York history professor, 1969-1996
Influential historian who re-established the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*

ERNIE EVES

LLB '70, Osgoode
Ontario premier, 2002-2003, and former finance minister

IVAN FECAN

BA '01, film & video
President & CEO of CTVglobemedia and CEO of CTV

JIM FLAHERTY

LLB '73, Osgoode
Federal minister of finance from 2006

JIAN GHOMESHI

BA '95, political science and history
Musician, commentator and host of CBC Radio's daily arts show "Q"

JACK GRANATSTEIN

York history professor, 1966-1995
Author of over 60 books and former head of the Canadian War Museum

EDWARD GREENSPAN

LLB '68, Osgoode
Leading criminal defence lawyer who represented publishing tycoon Conrad Black

BARBARA HALL

LLB '78, Osgoode
Toronto mayor, 1994-1997, and head of the Ontario Human Rights Commission since 2005

CHANTAL HÉBERT

BA '76, political science (Glendon)
Toronto Star political affairs writer and panellist on CBC's "The National"

EDMUND HO

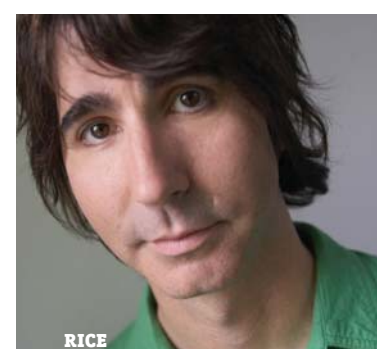
BBA '78, Schulich
Chief executive of Macau since it became a special administrative region of China in 1999

PAUL HOFFERT

York fine arts professor since 1984
Composer and co-founder of the 1970s rock band Lighthouse

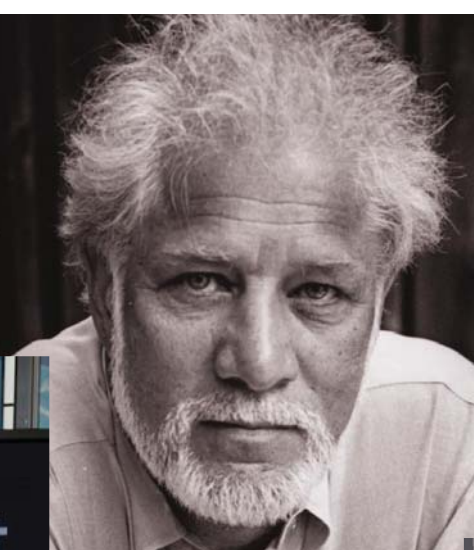
JEFF JOHNSON

BA Spec. Hons. '02, kinesiology
Toronto Argonauts running back since 2002



RICE

ONDAATJE



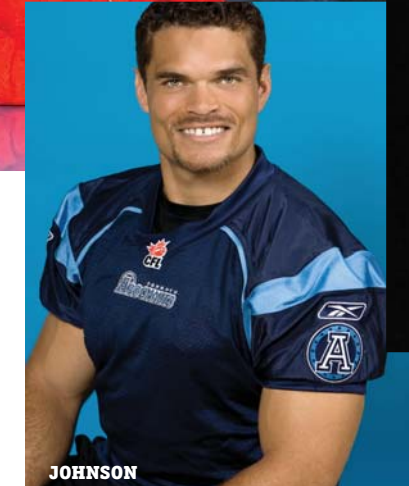
FLAHERTY



RINALDO



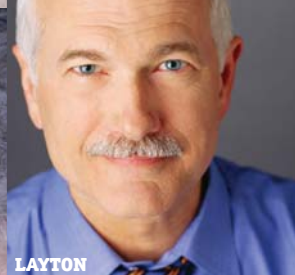
TODD



JOHNSON



ATWOOD



LAYTON



MCADAMS

JAMES LAXER

York political science professor since 1987
1969 co-founder of the Waffle, a leftist faction that tried to take control of the NDP

IRVING LAYTON

York creative writing professor, 1969-1978
Poet who published more than 40 volumes before he died in 2006

JACK LAYTON

MA '72 and PhD '83, political science
NDP leader since 2003 and one-time professor in York's Faculty of Environmental Studies

STEVE MACLEAN

BSc Spec. Hons. '77 and PhD '83, physics
President of the Canadian Space Agency since September 2008 and first Yorkie to walk in space

JAMES MAVOR MOORE

York theatre professor, 1970-1984
Actor, critic and prolific writer for TV, radio and stage who died in 2006

RACHEL MCADAMS

BFA Spec. Hons. '01, theatre
Hollywood star of *Wedding Crashers*, *Mean Girls* and *The Notebook* and co-founder of GreenIsSexy.org

JOHN MCNEE

BA Spec. Hons. '73, history and English (Glendon)
Canada's ambassador to the UN since 2006

MICHAEL ONDAATJE

York English professor at Glendon since 1971, no longer teaching
Acclaimed novelist whose book *The English Patient* became an Oscar-winning film

OSCAR PETERSON

York adjunct professor of music in the 1980s and '90s and chancellor, 1991-1994
Called the greatest jazz pianist of all time when he died in 2007

NINO RICCI

BA Spec. Hons. '81, English
Author who has twice won the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction

SPENCER RICE

BA '87, English (Glendon) and BFA Spec. Hons. '93, film & video
Co-star of "Kenny vs. Spenny", popular comedic reality TV series

SANDIE RINALDO

BA Spec. Hons. '73, dance
Weekend anchor for "CTV News" and co-host of "W-Five"

PETER ROBINSON

PhD '84, English
Internationally bestselling author who has so far written 19 Inspector Banks novels

JOHN SEWELL

York professor of law, political science and social science, 1989-1991
Mayor of Toronto, 1978-1980

JOHN SOPINKA

York law professor, 1974-1982
Supreme Court of Canada justice from 1988 until his death in 1997

GREG SORBARA

BA '78, Canadian studies (Glendon) and LLB '81, Osgoode
Influential former Ontario finance minister and MPP for Vaughan

PAULA TODD

BA '82, English and LLB '88, Osgoode
Host of "The Verdict with Paula Todd", covering legal issues, on CTV Newsnet

JOHN TORY

LLB '78, Osgoode
Leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservative party since 2004

MARGARET VISSER

Former York classics professor
Bestselling author who helped establish the art of narrative non-fiction

MIRIAM WADDINGTON

York English professor, 1964-1983
Acclaimed poet whose "Jacques Cartier in Toronto" was excerpted on Canada's \$100 note after she died in 2004 ■

BIRTHDAYS

A Celebration Calendar

Highlights of York's year of special anniversary events

F

rom lectures and symposia to performances and exhibits, a series of events will help York celebrate its 50th anniversary. They will reach a crescendo around York's March 26 birthday, including a major symposium featuring globally known thinkers and a black-tie gala concert, and will continue throughout 2009. Below are some of the highlights of events open to the public. To see a full listing, including final information on times and locations, visit York's 50th anniversary Web site, yorku50.ca.

COLLEGE MASTERS' PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

JANUARY TO NOVEMBER

The masters of York's nine colleges present an evening lecture series highlighting the diverse research conducted by York faculty. Dates, topics and lecturers:

JAN. 20: IMPRESSIONISM AND SOCIETY History and humanities Prof. Emeritus Arthur Haberman

FEB. 24: THE WAR ON TERROR IN THE FIRST CENTURY Classical studies Senior Scholar Paul Swarney

MARCH 11: DEALING WITH DUALISM: LANGUAGE, CULTURE & IDENTITY IN CANADA Glendon Principal Kenneth McRoberts

APRIL 2: MONUMENTAL PASSIONS AND MODERNISM Canada Research Chair in Performance & Culture Christopher Innes

MAY 6: PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABILITY AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANKIND Environmental studies Prof. Emeritus David Bell

SEPT. 17: MAKING HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORK FOR YOU Human resources management Prof. Monica Belcourt

SEPT. 24: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: ITS ROLE IN DIABETES PREVENTION AND TREATMENT Kinesiology & health science Prof. Michael Riddell

OCT. 19: HOW THE INTERNET IS CHANGING CANADA Communications & culture Prof. Emeritus Fred Fletcher

NOV. 5: AUTONOMOUS ROBOTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY Computer science & engineering Prof. Michael Jenkin

THE EVOLUTION OF GOSPEL MUSIC

FEB. 6 TO 7

The **YORK UNIVERSITY GOSPEL CHOIR**, the Juno Award-winning **TORONTO MASS CHOIR** and others from Toronto's music scene will take the stage under the direction of Prof. Karen Burke and music producer Corey Butler.

THE AENEID: A COMPENDIUM OF SCENES FROM VIRGIL

MARCH 3

The performance will include an opera, oratorio, cantata and ballet, as well as original musical compositions and scenes, featuring faculty, students and professional musicians and artists associated with York's Faculty of Fine Arts.

50TH ANNIVERSARY INTRAMURAL REUNION

MARCH 7

York Sport & Recreation will welcome hundreds of York alumni back to the

Keele campus as they compete for the love of the game in the 50th anniversary intramural reunion. Sporting competitions will take place all day, with volleyball tournaments at the Tait McKenzie Centre and broomball tournaments at Canlan Ice Sports. A reception will follow.

WEEK OF THE FRANCOPHONIE AT GLENDON

MARCH 18 TO 20

Highlights of this celebration of the Francophonie in Ontario include **CINÉ-FRANCO** screenings of French-language films (into April); A **GLENDON THEATRE** production of *Les Quatre Morts de Marie* by Carole Fréchette; **L'OPÉRA FRANÇAISE**, a one-day festival of 19th-century opera inspired by classics of French literature, including *La Traviata*; and a **GLENDON GALLERY** exhibition of emerging Francophone artists.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

MARCH 19

York University professors will open this evening event with a presentation on anti-racist activism. This will be followed by a talk by Prof. Sara Ahmed, an interna-

tionally renowned scholar currently holding a Visiting Chair in Women's Studies at Rutgers University, on "Happiness, Race and Empire". A reception will follow.

50 YEARS IN THE FACULTY OF ARTS: A RETROSPECTIVE
MARCH 23 TO 27

To celebrate 50 years of Faculty of Arts excellence prior to the launch of the new Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies on July 1, there will be a visual timeline and gallery showcasing the Faculty's history. Submissions of photos, videos and memorabilia are welcome – see arts.yorku.ca.

50+50 SYMPOSIUM: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DISCUSSION ABOUT PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING
MARCH 27 TO 28

What have we learned in the last 50 years and how will it help us in the next 50? This is the question that will shape 50+50, the centrepiece of York's 50th anniversary celebration. To answer it, the University has invited some of the world's most distinguished thinkers and achievers to a public symposium in the Price Family Cinema in the Accolade East Building. Each speaker will be hosted – and probed – by a senior York scholar. Each will take questions from the audience and will engage in a roundtable with other speakers. Speakers include:

NICHOLAS NEGROPONTE, architect and computer scientist, on leave as director of the MIT Media Lab to promote One Laptop per Child, the global initiative he co-founded.

EDWARD O. WILSON, Harvard University biologist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, hailed as "the new Darwin" by writer Tom Wolfe and as one of America's 25 Most Influential People by *Time* magazine.

MARGARET ATWOOD, world-renowned author and Massey lecturer, whose books include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Blind Assassin* and *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth*.

ROSALIE ABELLA, justice of the Supreme Court of Canada,

human rights law expert and sole commissioner of the 1984 Royal Commission on Equality in Employment.

LLOYD AXWORTHY, president of the University of Winnipeg, former foreign affairs minister and a key architect of the global treaty banning landmines.

SHEILA WATT CLOUTIER, citizen advocate on Arctic climate change and international Inuit leader.

ARJUN APPADURAI, Bombay-born socio-cultural anthropologist, senior adviser for global initiatives at The New School in New York City and originator of the term "global cultural flows".

YORK IN CONCERT – BLACK-TIE GALA
MARCH 28

York University's 50th anniversary will be celebrated in grand style with a black-tie Gala Concert in the Tribute Communities Recital Hall in the Accolade East Building. Hosted by a series of prominent alumni emcees, performances will include the jazz stylings of well-known vocalist **MATT DUSK** (BFA Spec. Hons. '02), an opera aria by **VANIA CHAN** (BFA Spec. Hons. '08) and a humorous ballet by choreographer **SUSAN CASH** (BFA Spec. Hons. '78, MA '07). A special **COMPLAINTS CHOIR** choral work is being created by lyricist Bruce Harrott (BA '74) and composer Glenn Morley (BA '75), chronicling the myriad

of complaints York has accumulated over the past 50 years. The event script is being developed by television writer Shelley Scarrow Hurst (BFA '94). All participants, both onstage and backstage, will be York alumni or current students, with the exception of gala producer Phillip Silver, former dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

YORK'S COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
MAY 9

York will welcome its neighbours and alumni to the Keele and Glendon campuses to enjoy a variety of family-oriented, hands-



on activities and attractions, including a Science Rendezvous, poetry walks, exhibits, performances, concerts and fireworks.

CANADA AND THE WORLD: ASIAN IMAGININGS
MAY 13 TO JUNE 12

This exhibition explores transformation in connections to "mother country", to rapidly changing Asian societies and to Canadian life and society, through the work of contemporary Asian-Canadian artists working in various media, including painting, installation and photo- and time-based media.

KENAI DAN - YORK UNIVERSITY CHAIR'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 27

Held at the Copper Creek Golf Club in Kleinburg, Ont., this first-class tournament raises funds annually for graduate student scholarships at York. Since its inception, tournament proceeds, matched 2 for 1 by Ontario government grants, have totalled \$3 million and benefited over 200 students.

CELEBRATING HAYDN: CONCERTS
AUG. 6 & 7

Evening concerts connected with a four-day conference on Haydn will feature the **PENDERECKI STRING QUARTET**, based at Wilfrid Laurier University, and renowned pianist **MALCOLM BILSON** of Cornell University.

ART GALLERY MEETS THE SCIENCE FAIR: AMBIVALENT OBJECTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND SCIENCE
OCT. 5 TO 16

An exhibit of collaborations by students from the arts and sciences, these "ambivalent objects" will be displayed within a space that blurs the boundary of an art gallery and a science fair.

TIME WARP JAZZ ORCHESTRA
OCT. 6

A special evening concert combining the noted York jazz ensemble

Time Warp with a number of other well-known artists. The concert will be recorded for potential release on York's record label.

WOMEN'S STUDIES LECTURE: LIVING LE DEUXIÈME SEXE – EXPERIENCES IN TRANSLATION
OCT. 20

A new English translation of Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* will be published in November 2009, 60 years after the path-breaking feminist book first appeared. At the invitation of York's School of Women's Studies, the Paris-based translators, Sheila Malovany-Chevallier and Constance Borde, will speak about Simone de Beauvoir, their work and the history of the project.

CONTESTING URBAN GROWTH IN THE GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE
OCT. 23

This symposium will bring together York scholars and stakeholders in diverse sectors engaged in regional growth debates and policy-making in southern Ontario's Golden Horseshoe.

MOTHERING AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE: THE NATURAL, THE SOCIAL & THE BUILT
OCT. 23 TO 25

The environment is a topic that covers a diverse array of crucial mothering issues, from maternal health to environmental education. The three-day conference will involve some 250 international scholars, students, activists, environmental professionals, educators, artists and mothers.

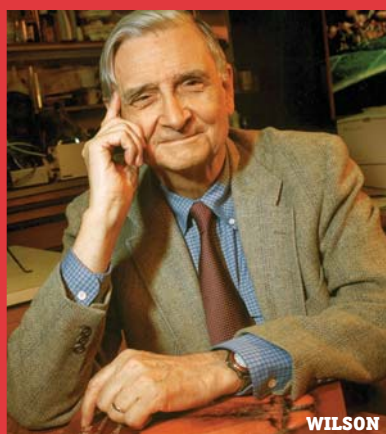
BODYWORKS SYMPOSIUM: INTERSECTIONS IN SPORT, ART AND CULTURE
NOV. 5 TO 6

The Bodyworks Symposium will actively create new alliances and exchanges between professionals in sports and the arts, research groups, policy-makers and the general public. ■

York University wishes to thank the following companies for their sponsorship of York's 50th anniversary activities.



GOSPEL CHOIR



WILSON



ATWOOD



NEGROPONTE



WATT CLOUTIER



ABELLA



AXWORTHY



PENDERECKI

Stylish Mementoes

A wide range of elegant and fun signature products help York celebrate its 50th

Design-oriented, environmentally friendly and affordable – with a fine shot of whimsy. Those were the creative goals for a broad collection of signature products York is offering to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

There are, for instance, pieces that replicate vintage photographs housed in York’s Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, including key chains, magnets and jewellery produced by Toronto-based BBJ; a selection of 100 per cent recycled Ecojot journals from Mirage Paper Co.; and notecards made from recycled paper that feature black-and-white images from York’s early days and colour photos of campus life today.

The collection also offers exclusive U50-branded products, including classic items such as clocks, travel mugs and vacuum flasks in glossy red and sleek stainless steel. Check out the transparent red ballpoint pen made from biodegradable corn plastic, the stainless steel travel mug featuring a built-in, reusable plunger filter, and the streamlined, red stainless-steel water bottle, all featuring the U50 anniversary logo.

There are also soft and stylish bamboo-fibre and organic cotton T-shirts from Toronto’s Me To We Style, a social enterprise committed to providing ethically manufactured, quality clothing. Me to We transfers 50 per cent of its profits to its charity partner, Free the Children. And there are fresh new design products such as “I Am not a Paper Cup”, a 21st-century take on the travel mug – a classic paper coffee cup reimaged in porcelain with a silicone lid.

Not to mention the wine and the coffee.

York has partnered with Lailey Vineyard Wines, a family-run vineyard and winery in Ontario’s Niagara Region, to offer two U50 VQA wines – a 2006 Cabernet Merlot and a 2007 Chardonnay. So drink up: \$3.69 from each bottle purchased via retail sale will go to the York to the Power of 50 campaign to benefit York students.

And throughout March, Timothy’s Coffees of the World will offer York’s Las Nubes sustainable coffee as the coffee of the month at 105 locations across Canada. As it has since 2004, Timothy’s will donate a portion of sales to York’s Fisher Fund for Neotropical Conservation, supporting research and conservation activities in the region of southern Costa Rica where York’s Las Nubes Rainforest reserve is located.

U50 products are available through the U50 Web site, yorku50.ca, and from the York University Bookstores, on the Keele and Glendon campuses or bookstore.yorku.ca. **M**



YORK⁵⁰

YORK TO THE POWER OF 50. Fifty years ago a dream began. A vision of bringing together researchers, teachers, students and partners from different disciplines to tackle real-world issues. This is the essence of our interdisciplinary approach. For fifty years now, York University has looked to the future and discovered answers along unconventional paths. As we look back on our first fifty years, we believe there is no limit to what can be accomplished in our next fifty. yorku50.ca

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The Snows of Mars

York's decades of involvement in space pay off with a groundbreaking mission to the red planet.

BY DAVID FULLER

A York science team made headlines around the planet this past September with a simple weather report. The bulletin, delivered by Professor Jim Whiteway of York's Department of Earth & Space Science & Engineering, was short, to the point and historic – it snows on Mars. “Nothing like this view has ever been seen,” Whiteway said at a NASA briefing as he described an image captured by a York-designed instrument on the Phoenix Mars Lander. But his use of that one wintry word quickly caught the attention of the world's media. “I didn't think to call it snow,” says Whiteway, a professor in York's Faculty of Science & Engineering, recalling how he was convinced by NASA staff to forgo his usual term “precipitation”.

The announcement was momentous for scientific reasons but also for York's long-established space program, a leader in Canada. The instrument, known as a lidar (laser radar) and developed by Professor Emeritus Allan Carswell, allowed the York team to “see” the streaks of white stuff falling from clouds about three to five kilometres above Mars' polar region. It was an event 40 years in the making for the team, which also included Professor Peter Taylor, late Professor Diane Michelangeli and York research associates and graduate students, as well as personnel from the Canadian Space Agency, Natural Resources Canada, MDA Corp., Optech Inc., Dalhousie University and the University of Alberta.

The story actually began in 1968, when Carswell, an expert on lasers at Montreal's RCA Victor Research Laboratory, accepted an invitation to join York's science faculty from Professor Ralph Nicholls, distinguished research scientist and founder of the University's Earth & Space Science Program. By 1974, Carswell's research led him to set up a technology spinoff company, Optech Inc., which is now a world leader in

MOMENTOUS: Artist's rendering of Phoenix lander on Mars with York-designed instruments

RESEARCH

applications of lidar technology. Among the students Carswell introduced to his techniques was Whiteway, who came back to York after six years in Wales to expand his work on Earth-based lidar systems into models that could fly in space.

When he arrived at Toronto's Pearson International Airport in 2003, Whiteway picked up a newspaper from the seat of his taxi and read about York's successful bid for a role in the Phoenix project. Within days he was immersed in an undertaking that would dominate his life for five years and lead to the launch of Phoenix on Aug. 4, 2007. Tragically, it was just a few weeks after the launch that his colleague Michelangeli, an expert in atmospheric computer modelling and the original team leader, died of cancer after having worked on many of the essential parameters for the mission. Taylor, meanwhile, was a former researcher at Environment Canada whose experience studying winds in the Arctic and other exotic locations made him a natural choice for the project. "I never thought I'd be doing weather on Mars," he says.

After hurtling through space for 10 months and making a tension-filled seven-minute descent, Phoenix landed on Mars' arctic plain on May 25, 2008, ready to start a three-month study of dirt, dust and, perhaps, water – the primary object of the \$450-million mission that could help answer the question of whether life had ever existed on Mars. The successful touchdown touched off a classic NASA celebration of the kind that Whiteway had planned to avoid when his big moment arrived. But on day three, when the lidar was switched on for the first time and began transmitting data, that all changed. "I was kind of joking with the team saying, 'No emotion, we're professionals'," Whiteway recalls, "but when the lidar worked, I was doing cartwheels around the room."

Carswell, who was present for the landing and the initial use of his lidar equipment, says he almost lunged at the computer screen when he first saw the results. The sense of relief was made doubly sweet, says Whiteway, by the fact that the sensitive equipment, which even NASA admitted was the most challenging and "high-tech" instrument on the mission, almost didn't make it to the launch pad in time. "We were having some problems – the deadline for launch was very firm and we were coming up against it." But he says the team drew on its years of experience preparing lidar for use on ships and airplanes in both the Arctic and the tropics to get it delivered on time. It was that kind of expertise that first drew the mission's principal investigator, Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, to call on Carswell and his team back in 1999 for an earlier

project that was cancelled after the loss of the Mars Polar Lander, and again when a revived project was mounted two years later – hence the name Phoenix.

With celebrations over, the York team carried on charting Mars' air pressure, temperature and cloud formations for the next five months, much of it while living on Mars time, which adds an extra 40 minutes to each day. "If you work until midnight on the first Monday," Whiteway explains, "by the following week, you're up until 5am." The sleep deprivation caused by the time change and long hours only intensified the group's fears that Martian dust devils and freezing temperatures could still throw the lidar's precision parts out of alignment. The first observation of snow came on Aug. 15 but it wasn't until early September, on the 99th sol, or Martian day, that a second set of results confirmed it was snowing. The projected end of Phoenix's three-month mission had just passed. Yet that's when things got interesting, says Taylor, who went to Tucson for the final month of the mission. "The most interesting meteorology happened in the last 30 to 40 days," he says. During this time, the team started seeing more dust devils

as the winds and cloud cover increased and temperatures began to plummet to as low as -95 C. Meanwhile, the University of Arizona team working Phoenix's digging claw and soil analyzers were able to confirm that Mars' polar surface consisted of water ice and not frozen carbon dioxide.

On Nov. 2, when Phoenix's solar-powered batteries failed and it stopped communicating with two satellites orbiting high above the planet, its performance had surpassed expectations. The scientists had confirmed that, even if it's a frozen sheet the size of the Mediterranean and covered in dirt, there is water on Mars and some of it falls from the sky. "That, to me, is profound," says Whiteway. "It's not that long ago that with Mars, the question was 'what happened to the water?' We know now."

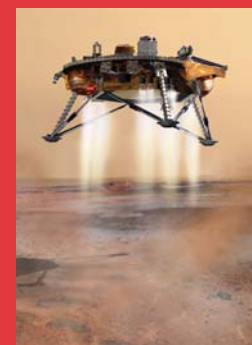
With the mission officially concluded – although some optimists hold out a faint hope that Phoenix, like its namesake, will rise again at the end of the year-long Martian winter – the York crew, along with teams from the US, the UK, Denmark and Switzerland, began analyzing the data for journal articles and a series of conferences in 2009. But, some may ask, was discovering snow and ice on a distant planet worth the trouble and expense? "I'm biased," says Whiteway, "but when you're going somewhere and you find something that changes the conception of the evolution of that planet and our solar system, I think that's money well spent." ■



SUCCESS: Phoenix on Mars

'When the lidar worked, I was doing cartwheels around the room.'

ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF NASA



INNOVATION FOR TOMORROW

York University celebrates 50 years of research excellence

York brings together researchers from across disciplines to tackle real-world issues. They've explored space and the solar system, helped Canada understand its unique history, and developed internationally-recognized excellence in business and law.

York continues to seek innovative solutions to scientific and societal challenges. Our researchers are finding water on Mars and creating programs to stop children's bullying. They're developing models to predict the spread of infectious diseases, decoding the brain's mysteries, and discovering treatments to prevent strokes, heart disease, and autism. They're helping us to better understand citizenship and environmental sustainability in a global society.

Here's to 50 more years of knowledge that makes a difference.



To learn more about York's innovative approach to research, visit www.research.yorku.ca

YORK U
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A new Faculty offering broad choice and flexibility will replace York's venerable Arts and Atkinson units.

BY DAVID FULLER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

Many grads and students won't have noticed yet, but big changes are afoot at York – the biggest, in fact, in its history. Come July, the Faculty of Arts, part of the University since its inception, and the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, with roots in part-time education going back to 1962, will be no more. In their place, the new Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS) will be launched on July 1, 2009, culminating an evolutionary process that has occupied a legion of faculty and staff for the past two years. LA&PS, comprising about half the University, will help make York more flexible, more interdisciplinary and more reflective of today's lifestyles. But the question on most people's minds probably is, "What does this mean for me?"

The answer is both "everything" and "nothing". The new Faculty, encompassing the humanities, social sciences and related professional studies, was approved in 2007 in recognition of a need for more clarity – many subjects were taught in both Faculties – a desire to bring everyone together, and the opportunity to make more courses available at more times. For Arts and Atkinson grads, the school they knew is evolving into a new, even more interdisciplinary entity, but not at the expense of tradition. For professors, there will be easier opportunities for research collaboration across disciplines – and the chance to work with all of one's colleagues in the same Faculty. And for students, the new Faculty will cater to 21st-century lifestyles by offering more choices at times that make sense to them, in programs that are among the best in Canada.

For example, in a popular subject like English, previously offered in both Arts and Atkinson, there will now be one program with a wider range of courses and one set of requirements, eliminating a long-standing source of confusion. In the 1970s, when York introduced innovations that gave rise to parallel programs for full-time day students and part-time night students, the duplication made sense. But times have changed and the success of the Atkinson model of flexible study programs for working people will now be adopted by all York Faculties to accommodate a new generation of students who, for instance, might work nights and study part time in the day, during fall, winter and summer.

"If you take a look at what happens now," says Vice-President Academic & Provost Sheila Embleton, whose office has guided the transition, "you have all different combinations of part-time, full-time, direct entry and mature students, and they change as they go through their programs. They don't want to have to keep flipping from Faculty to Faculty as

their situation changes." The LA&PS transition will also allow York to harmonize its undergraduate and graduate curricula and course requirements, making transfers and applications to graduate school smoother for both students and their teachers.

This change is the largest in a series of restructuring efforts on the Keele campus that has seen many former Arts and Atkinson programs, such as math and psychology, consolidated elsewhere. Math courses are now all grouped in the Faculty of Science & Engineering and psychology is a significant component of the Faculty of Health, which was established in 2006. "We've been doing lots of these realignments, putting like with like," says Embleton. Students already in a given Arts or Atkinson program will have the option of completing it (by 2016) or transferring to the newer version, says Ross Rudolph, senior adviser to Embleton and a professor of political science in the Faculty of Arts. Those who switch, particularly part-time students from Atkinson, says Rudolph, will find a rich range of course offerings available year-round.

For grads wondering how the change will affect their degree, the answer is it won't, but that's only part of the story. A BA from Arts or Atkinson will still read the same and no changes are contemplated. What will change, says James Allan, York's director, alumni, is the range of alumni programs – and networking – available to grads who are part of the new LA&PS community. "We're not talking about changing history," says Allan. "They are still our grads, and they are still Arts grads and Atkinson grads." But alumni activities organized by LA&PS will bring together both groups, creating more opportunities to connect. At the same time, the Alumni Office is happy to help grads form chapters relating to, say, a specific Arts or Atkinson program or unit, to maintain the camaraderie that a particular group shared.

Furthering tradition, the Atkinson name and ethos have been retained in the Atkinson Centre for Mature & Part-time Students (ACMAPS), a pan-University centre launched in 2007 with a mandate to raise awareness of the issues that affect mature and part-time students. In cooperation with all Faculties and the Office of the Vice-President Academic & Provost, ACMAPS will work to ensure that all students can access the best programs and courses that York offers.

At root, York is bolstering a strength it has always had, staying one step ahead of its institutional peers. "The idea of a university that only teaches Monday to Friday, 9 to 5, September to May, is dead," observes Allan. Long live the University that's always there. ■

The Next Innovation

YORK TO THE POWER OF 50

York to the Power of 50, York's 50th anniversary fundraising campaign, has reached \$170 million toward its \$200 million goal.

Our supporters are making an exponential difference by giving to enhance York's unique brand of learning and discovery. Here are just a few examples of how donors are helping.

EMPOWER⁵⁰ Chairs and Professorships



The Jean Augustine Chair in the Faculty of Education will study issues affecting schooling in urban environments to improve teaching methods and student outcomes. Fundraising continues from supporters across the country.

CREATE⁵⁰ Infrastructure



The successful \$10 million fundraising campaign for The Accolade Project helped create studio and performance space, enhanced programming and other benefits for York's Faculty of Fine Arts.

INNOVATE⁵⁰ Pioneering Programs and Research



The Sherman Health Science Research Centre is being made possible by a \$5 million gift from Honey and Barry Sherman. The centre will boost York's leading research into areas such as how the brain functions and the effects of osteoarthritis on knee and hip joints.

TRANSFORM⁵⁰ Student Awards and Scholarships



The Lillian Wright Maternal-Child Health Scholars Program supports undergraduate and graduate students in the critical field of maternal-infant health and early child development. The program was made possible by a \$2 million gift from the Lillian and Don Wright Foundation.

You can make an exponential difference, too, by making a donation to York University during our 50th anniversary year and the York to the Power of 50 fundraising campaign.

Give today
416-650-8210
contact@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca or visit yorku.ca/foundation



OLYMPIAN SPRINTER MOLLY KILLINGBECK (BA '86) likes to say: "I didn't discover running, running discovered me." As a shy 13-year-old immigrant from Jamaica, she played sports to make friends. Not until she saw high school track competitors qualify for the Commonwealth Games did she say to herself: "If they can do it, so can I." Within a year, she'd made the national track team, spurning American scholarships to enrol at York and train at Toronto's new Track & Field Centre. Over the next six years, the part-time sociology student peaked as a world-class sprinter and won her greatest glory – Olympic silver in the women's 4x400-metre relay at the 1984 Los Angeles Games. It was the first Olympic medal won by a York student.

Four years later at Seoul, Killingbeck dropped the baton – and ruined her Canadian team's shot at Olympic gold. "It was disastrous," remembers the still-aerodynamic five-foot-seven-inch bullet. She switched to coaching, turned Windsor and York varsity runners into champs – and primed Canada's men's 4x100-metre relay team for their gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Now, after detouring into sports administration and raising son Quinn, the 50-year-old elite athlete is vying to return trackside to coach the national team's sprinters and hurdlers – her sights fixed again on the world's top prizes. "If you drop the baton, pick it up and keep going," she tells her proteges. "Nothing is impossible." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KC ARMSTRONG

Molly Killingbeck
Coach, Olympic sprinter

First Medallist

YORK PEOPLE

JEREMY GREENBERG IS A SPIRITUAL MAN. Maybe not in the religious sense, but certainly when it comes to his alma mater. As a student, Greenberg (BA '03) was instrumental in founding york is U – now the official student alumni program of York University. Originally an all-student effort, york is U is a diverse, non-political organization providing campus-wide events and programs designed to instill spirit, pride and a lifelong connection to York among students. It has received international recognition for its work and grown to become the largest student organization at York.

Greenberg, who has a degree in political science, has been affiliated with York in one way or another since 1998 (until recently, he served as coordinator of student leadership programs). During his student life he held four positions at the student newspaper *Excalibur*, including editor-in-chief. His decade at York, he says, was "some of the best times of my life. I have a lot of wonderful memories."

An outgoing, often passionate advocate for his projects, Greenberg says it was his desire to serve others that motivated him at York. "I wanted to make a meaningful contribution toward improving our community. That's what got me started. The thrill of helping others and making a positive impact got me hooked." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

Jeremy Greenberg
Booster extraordinaire

First Spirit



Harold Levy

Lawyer-journalist

First Words

IT'S THE KIND OF VINDICATION an old newspaper man and lawyer like Harold Levy (BA '64, LLB '68) loves. Levy, co-founder at the original Glendon campus of York's first student newspaper, *Pro Tem*, (along with John Corvese) and editor for 1962-1963, was a longtime reporter at the *Toronto Star*. There he played a key role as an investigative journalist in breaking the story – more than 40 stories, in fact – behind the child death fiasco involving Ontario pathologist Dr. Charles Smith. This fall, a public inquiry recommended sweeping changes in the medical system that led to wrongful prosecutions of the children's parents and caregivers.

Levy also helped expose government and police wrongdoing that resulted in the death of Ontario native protester Dudley George. And

shortly before his retirement in 2006, he wrote an award-winning investigative series on the lack of protection for homeowners caught in mortgage fraud, which led to changes in provincial legislation. That brought another kind of vindication: the provincial government appointed him to the board of Ontario's Tarion Warranty Corp. to help protect the interests of purchasers of new homes.

Levy learned his legal craft at Osgoode Hall Law School and his newspaper craft at Glendon. "Those were heady days at Glendon and at *Pro Tem*. We were truly able to fulfill our dreams and start a tradition of spunky, insightful journalism, while having a really good time," he says. "We chose *Pro Tem's* name meaning 'for the time being'. It was supposed to be temporary but it stuck!" ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

Many Ways to Give

Three exemplary donors use a variety of avenues to support York

York alumni find many ways to give back to their alma mater. Here are three inspiring examples:

Ken Skolnik (BA '70) characterizes his monthly giving to York as "simply returning the favour". Skolnik was a mature student of 27 when he began his BA in English and history. "One of the proudest moments of my life was when I received my letter from York saying that I had passed the entrance exams. I still remember the way the paper felt. I must have levitated."

York was a very young university, and Skolnik recalls a palatable excitement on campus. "You knew you were on the ground floor of something wonderful." He remembers engaging classrooms where ideas were challenged and professors debated.

Skolnik, a retired school teacher, recently increased his monthly donation to the York University Foundation from \$10 to \$20 a month and challenges others to discover this convenient way of giving. "\$10 a month, what is that – three, four cups of coffee? It's a start toward giving back to what York gave you. And you won't even miss it. I recommend monthly giving to everyone."

Since becoming York's first women's

studies graduate, **Rev. Louise Mahood** (BA Hons. '84) has established the Louise H. Mahood Bursary Fund within the School of Women's Studies. She has arranged for her books and personal papers to benefit York's libraries, and, most recently, she named the School of Women's Studies as the beneficiary on her life insurance policy. "My vocation is not a vow of poverty, but it is not a vow of prosperity either," she says. "The life insurance policy option allows me to meet my earthly needs and create a legacy after I die."

Mahood has also generously volunteered her time, working on the fundraising committee for the School of Women's Studies. "The school is vitally important for it ensures high-calibre academic research, as well as providing endless epiphanies for women studying women."

Brad Meslin (BA '80), managing director of CSP Associates Inc., an American private equity investment and advisory group, credits his political science degree with putting him on the path to career success. "York was one of those fork-in-the-road moments. Different paths presented themselves beginning at York and took me to where I am today."

After completing his York undergraduate degree, Meslin attended the presti-



LEGACY: Mahood

gious Fletcher School of International Affairs in Massachusetts. "I was surprised at how well York had prepared me for a rigorous international affairs graduate school in the US. I was way ahead of my peers."

Recently, Meslin established the Meslin Scholarships in Global Political Studies at York University. "I really value the world view and perspective a Canadian university can provide to students," he says. In establishing the scholarships, Meslin took advantage of one of several matching programs that multiply the impact of a donor's original gift.

For more information on ways to give, please contact the York University Foundation at 416-650-8210 or visit yorku.ca/foundation. ■

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Latest data on York to the Power of 50, York University's 50th anniversary fundraising campaign:

TARGET: \$200 million

CURRENT LEVEL: Over \$170 million

TIME SINCE LAUNCH: 27 months

PRIORITIES FOR SUPPORT: Pioneering research and programs; student awards and scholarships; Chairs and professorships; infrastructure.

ALUMNI⁵⁰

YORK TO THE POWER OF 50. Fifty years ago a dream began. A vision of bringing together researchers, teachers, students and partners from different disciplines to tackle real-world issues. This is the essence of our interdisciplinary approach. For the last fifty years, York University has produced outstanding leaders in every field. We are proud of our 200,000 alumni and believe there is no limit to what the next 200,000 can accomplish. yorku50.ca

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ALUMNI

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Finding their Voices

Four distinguished alumni strike a common note at the Bryden Awards

There was a common theme flowing through the 2008 Bryden Alumni Awards dinner, one of the most elegant events of the University year. It was how four different individuals found their voice during their time at York. The four were honoured on Nov. 13 for their leadership and accomplishments during a gala ceremony at the Design Exchange in downtown Toronto.

Presented by the Alumni Office and the York University Alumni Association, the evening opened with a screening of the animated short film *I Met The Walrus*, by York grad Jerry Levitan (BA '76, LLB '79). The film,

based on a 1969 audio recording of an interview Levitan did with Beatle John Lennon, was nominated for a 2008 Academy Award (see *YorkU*, Summer 2008).

CBC broadcaster Jian Ghomeshi (BA '95) took to the podium in his role as the evening's host. Musing about his memories as a political science major, Ghomeshi spoke about the importance of York's multicultural student body, describing it as a microcosm of the global community. He then introduced Bill Hatanaka (BA Hons. '77), Paul Axelrod (BA Hons. '72, PhD '80), Wendy Craig (MA '89, PhD '93) and Frank Cianciulli (BA '97), the 2008 Bryden Alumni Award recipients.

The Outstanding Contribution Award went to Hatanaka, group head of wealth management at TD Bank Financial Group, for his dedication to the advancement of the University in his role with the York University Foundation Board of Directors. An ardent ambassador for York, Hatanaka, a former football all-star and CFL Grey Cup champion, serves as co-chair of the University's York to the Power of 50 fundraising campaign. He also played an influential role in TD Bank's generous support of the University, including a \$1-million gift to establish the York University-TD Community Engagement Centre in the Jane-Finch community.

"York gave me the courage to follow what I believed in and what I enjoyed," said Hatanaka. He also spoke appreciatively of being able to pursue a career as a professional athlete while at the same time pursuing his passion for economics.

The Local Hero Award went to Axelrod, whose history at York stretches back 40 years and has seen him take on a multitude of roles at the University, from undergraduate student leader to professor to dean of the Faculty of Education.

Axelrod summed up his experience at York: "Y is for youthfulness. The University has retained an aura of youthfulness through a continuing

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GARY BEECHY

ALUMNI



MICROCOSM: Ghomeshi at the podium

process of reinvention. O is for openness – the University’s commitment to accessibility,” he said. “R is for risk – every one of my activities at York involved risk and all were rewarding. K is for knowledge – I came to York because I was interested in ideas and the pursuit of knowledge. I ended up being privileged enough to make that my career.”

A psychologist and researcher, Craig received the Redefine the Possible Award for her renowned expertise on bullying and her work in determining cyber-bullying as a growing problem for today’s youth.

Craig spoke about the

influence of her mentors, York Professors Doug McCann and Debra Pepler, and their role in helping her find her voice as an academic. “As a professor and researcher, I often reflect on how my professors at York recognized in me the scholar that I could be,” said Craig. Now a Queen’s University professor, she co-founded with Pepler a national organization that coordinates researchers at more than 21 universities and provides expertise on bullying to organizations across Canada. She also works with the World Health Organization on bullying issues.

The youngest of the group,

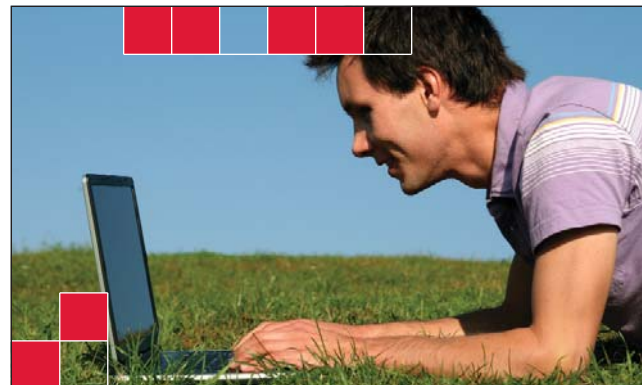
Cianciulli, 35, received the One-to-Watch Award for his professional and community accomplishments. Since graduating, Cianciulli has founded or co-founded numerous companies, including two conference providers, a staffing company and a voice over Internet (VoIP) organization. Cianciulli’s entrepreneurial activities earned him the Ernst & Young Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2006 and a place on Canada’s 2007 Top 40 Under 40 list.

Cianciulli paid tribute to his parents’ influence on his life and his choice to study at

York. “They offered me a car,” he joked, “so I came to York and it was at York that I found my voice.” He now gives back by serving on the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Advisory Board.

The evening wrapped with a closing speech by York President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri, who congratulated the recipients and thanked the event’s supporters, including lead sponsor Manulife Financial, reception sponsor MBNA and video sponsor Wellington West.

For more information about each award recipient, including video profiles, visit yorku.ca/brydenawards. ■



yorku.ca/alumni

- Share your news – submit a Class Note
- Learn about alumni events and special perks
- Get on the list and sign up for our alumni e-newsletter



For many people, a university is a family tradition. As York celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2009, there are more and more alumni who are planning to send their children – or grandchildren – to university. And so the Alumni Office has teamed up with the Office of Admissions Recruitment to offer front-of-the-line access to communications, events and benefits to York applicants who come from alumni families.

Launching in January 2009, the Alumni Families program is a new initiative designed to make sure that alumni can help their family members get the most out of applying to York. “We know that choosing a university is a major decision for any family,” says James Allan, director, alumni. “And alumni already get great perks from the University, on everything from theatre tickets to insurance and car rentals, so we thought our grads should get the best that York has to offer when it comes to admissions information and benefits.”

One of the most significant elements of the program is a



All in the Family

York launches a suite of perks for future students with alumni connections

scholarship specifically for the children, grandchildren or siblings of York graduates. Valued at \$6,000 per year and renewable for up to four years, the Harry W. Arthurs Entrance Scholarship is awarded to prospective students from alumni families who demonstrate scholarly excellence and a strong record of participation and leadership in extracurricular student life.

But the program is about more than special scholarships. It's about making sure that families have the best information to make smart decisions.

“Alumni have their own experiences of York – the professors they remember, the classes they took,” says Barbara Brown, senior director, admissions, communications & client services. “But as York is constantly growing and changing, we want to make sure that our applicants have the most up-to-date information about our world-class University. With the Alumni Families program, prospective students get the best of both worlds – the deeply personal family perspectives and front-of-the-line access to the latest developments.”

While the Alumni Families program is new, Allan acknowledges that there are already many alumni families at York. “I’ve met all sorts of students and grads whose parents are also York grads. So the tradition’s already well underway. We just want to give it a boost by providing our alumni and their families with these extra perks. Given how much our grads give back to the University already, it’s the least we can do.”

For more information on the Alumni Families program, visit yorku.ca/alumnifamilies. ■

Special Attention

Perks for Alumni Families:

- Special Web site at yorku.ca/alumnifamilies, with information for grads and future students
- Exclusive Harry W. Arthurs Entrance Scholarship for applicants who are children, grandchildren or siblings of York graduates, valued at \$24,000 over four years
- Private online chats for future students and alumni parents throughout the application process
- Exclusive Alumni Families reception and campus tour at York’s Spring Gala for future students on April 4, 2009
- Special acceptance package
- Unique welcome reception for alumni and new students at Parents’ Orientation in late summer

Class Notes will return in the Summer 2009 issue.

Upcoming Alumni Events

JAN. 24 Toronto: Career Workshop – “Who Am I?”

FEB. 7 Toronto: Sport York Family Day

MARCH 14 Toronto: Career Workshop – “Resume Building”

APRIL 8 Montreal: 50th-anniversary alumni reception

APRIL 18 Washington, DC: All Canadian Universities event

MAY 4 Vancouver: 50th-anniversary alumni reception

MAY 5 Calgary: 50th-anniversary alumni reception

DATES FORTHCOMING:

Alumni receptions in Ottawa, New York and Hong Kong

For information on these events and many more, visit yorku.ca/alumni.

I have to revise my famous York story about W.O. Mitchell. BY NINO RICCI

Lies & Misdemeanours

There is a story I often tell about being thrown out of a creative writing class in my first year at York by none other than W.O. Mitchell. I was 18 years old and fresh off the farm and there was a great deal I didn't know – who W.O. Mitchell was, for instance – but one thing I did know was that I wanted to be A Writer.

Mitchell, the author of *Who Has Seen the Wind*, had a technique he called Mitchell's Messy Method. For an hour or two every day we were supposed to write whatever came into our heads, with the idea of doing a sort of free-associative end run around our internal editors and so getting to the stuff that really mattered. In three weeks I managed to amass some 70 pages of

I sat too terrified to speak

Mitchellian mess, though a mere matter of hours after I'd handed them in I had a message from Mitchell's secretary saying Mitchell urgently needed to meet with me.

My thoughts, as a young man's thoughts will, ran in many directions. In Mitchell's office I sat too terrified to speak while Mitchell hemmed and hawed and thumbed grimly through my submission. "There's nothing there. It's just run-on. You can stay in my class if you want, but I'll probably fail you." I dropped his course the next day, and switched into Psych 101.

If I had stopped writing then, I would probably have buried this incident away and never mentioned it, except maybe in therapy. But I didn't stop, and since publishing my first novel I've told this story any number of times, usually in a forgiving tone intended to imply that my revenge has been complete.

Now, however, I must make the admission that the story is a lie.

Not that things didn't happen more or less as I recount them. The story is a lie, rather, because it suggests that it was somehow sheer pigheaded resolve that got me through. We all like stories of this sort, about people overcoming great odds to win the race or get the girl or save humankind; they feed the belief that by simple force of will we can conquer every obstacle to reach our dreams. But liking these stories doesn't necessarily make them true.

I have a different story about York which I was reminded of

Nino Ricci (BA Spec. Hons. '81) recently won his second Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction for *The Origin of Species*.

recently when I received an e-mail from another of my first-year professors, Sally Zerker, commending me on my new novel. The novel has a Darwinian theme, the seed of which was planted back in Zerker's classroom, where I was first introduced to *On the Origin of Species*.



I should mention that I was an emotional basket case in first year, for reasons that had only marginally to do with W.O. Mitchell's attempts to squash my life's hopes, and that as a result my studies were a struggle, kept afloat mainly by the drug-fuelled all-nighters I periodically managed to rouse myself for. At the end of the year, however, I went to collect my final paper from Professor Zerker and she unaccountably called me into her office. "What are your plans?" she said. "What are you hoping to make of yourself?" She was taking me so seriously I thought she had mistaken me for someone else.

"I dunno." I didn't dare mention my writing. "I was thinking of travelling."

"Well, fine, I suppose, just don't fritter your life away. You have something special. Don't waste it."

I could have wept.

This is the story I probably should have been telling all these years rather than my W.O. Mitchell one. There were several professors at York who were as seminal for me in their way, as almost literally life-saving, as Sally Zerker was – my humanities professor Elaine Newton was one – but also a long string of teachers going down through all my oddball high school English instructors right back to my Grade 1 teacher, Mrs. Collins, who kept me in during noon hour one day to read her *Green Eggs and Ham* while she ate her lunch. If not for this little army of formative influences to put against W.O. Mitchell, I would surely not have fared so well in the aftermath of him.

Maybe Mitchell was exactly what I needed at the time. In seeming to close a door, he showed me the windows. The crowning irony is that the final laugh is his, really, since a great deal of what I know about writing I learned in those few weeks that I lasted in his class. ■