

# YORKU

OCTOBER 2003

**Winning with the  
double cohort**

**Look here!  
The science of vision**

**Will Ferguson  
on naming a kid**

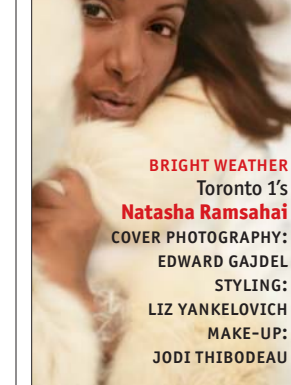
**Schulich's elegant  
new digs**



**COOL  
WEATHER**

**Chillin' with Forecaster  
Natasha Ramsahai**

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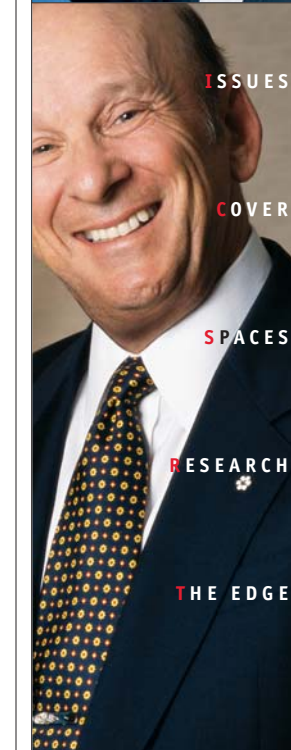
**BRIGHT WEATHER**  
Toronto 1's  
**Natasha Ramsahai**  
COVER PHOTOGRAPHY:  
EDWARD GAJDEL  
STYLING:  
LIZ YANKLOVICH  
MAKE-UP:  
JODI THIBODEAU

# YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY

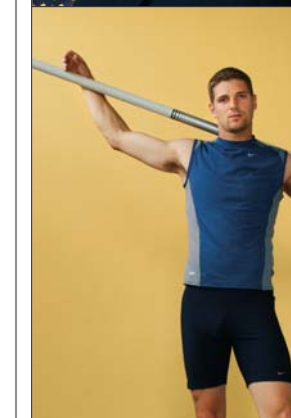


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# OCTOBER 2003

Behind the birth of a magazine. BY BERTON WOODWARD

# A New Page

**W**ELCOME TO YORK UNIVERSITY'S new magazine. The name pretty well says it all, I think – that's certainly the intention. This is the publication that will showcase the University to the world – from the campus to the wider York community and beyond. It will be seen by students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors, parents and influential people across the country. With this impressive audience, our hope is that everyone is able to find a story about this great University – or written by someone connected with it – that they enjoy reading.

*YorkU* is the successor to both *Profiles*, which was circulated to York alumni and friends, and *Universe*, an on-campus newsprint publication that went to students, faculty and staff. We think that the York community, while broad, has enough common interests that we can all talk together in one place – this one. The campus will see *YorkU* throughout the academic year. Three of the issues, including the one you are holding, will also go to alumni – a whopping press run of 160,000 copies.

We hope, too, that you like the look of *YorkU*. It's the result of an intensive creative and strategic process overseen by Steve Manley of Toronto's Overleaf Design, in close consultation with *YorkU* Art Director James Nixon. The result, I think, proves once again the unmatched power of magazines to deliver information in a vivid way.

So what do we have for you? If you haven't yet turned the page, there's an upfront section of news and notes called – surprise – *Universe*. Look there for everything from the latest research breakthroughs at York to what's going on around campus. Beyond, there are features



on intriguing alumni, an intriguing building, its equally intriguing benefactor, and intriguing research. The double cohort – so-called – gets a reference in no less than three places besides this one (two are easy to find; one will take a closer read). There's a series of York People, and a guest column by best-selling writer and York alum Will Ferguson.

Our own staffers had intriguing times producing this issue. Managing Editor Michael Todd visited York's Centre for Vision Research and found himself unexpectedly flummoxed by a simple test involving a computer mouse that you'll see in his story on page 22. Try it yourself. And Staff Writer Martha Tancock met philanthropist Seymour Schulich in an office filled, she says "with Wild West collectibles – spurs on the wall, a live cactus by the window and framed antique stocks signed by William Cody and Texas founder Sam Houston." Gold miner Schulich, she realized, "is a motherlode of good stories."

We hope to tell many good stories in *YorkU*, and feature many fine writers – well-known and not. We welcome submissions from everyone in the York community with a story to tell or an argument to make – from our academics, alums, students, everyone. And we encourage letters, story proposals, comment and scolding of every type about this magazine. The address is up top – just add .ca. ■

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

# YORKU

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**EDITOR** Berton Woodward  
bertonw@yorku.ca

**MANAGING EDITOR** Michael Todd  
mtodd@yorku.ca

**ART DIRECTOR** James Nixon  
jamien@yorku.ca

**STAFF WRITERS** Cathy Carlyle  
ccarlyle@yorku.ca

Martha Tancock  
mtancock@yorku.ca

**ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR** Cindy Wilce  
cindyw@yorku.ca

**COPY EDITOR** Marie Kopf  
mkopf@yorku.ca

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Billy Black, Cameron Browning, Geoff George, Edward Gajdel, Horst Herget, Lindsay Lozon, Rob MacDonald, Nancy Mercado, Corey Mihailiuk

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**CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**  
Richard Fisher

**PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR**  
Berton Woodward

Suite 280, York Lanes  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3  
Tel: 416-736-2100, ext. 22098  
Fax: 416-736-5681

**ADVERTISING**  
Tel: 416-736-5058  
E-mail: editor@yorku.ca

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY HORST HERGET

It has been like this ever since York's founding. BY LORNA R. MARSDEN

# Centre of Change

**B**ILL DAVIS ENTERED the Ontario legislature the year York University was founded, and he became education minister not long afterward. Every time I see him, he delights in the memories of the team that created York, determined to see a university that would respond to the needs and changes in higher education and in the Toronto community. He knew and they knew that embracing change would ensure the future of York University.

As Premier of Ontario, Bill Davis kept his eye on York University. Much of what has been achieved, from the 1959 founding with 75 students in Falconer Hall to today's 49,000 student scholars, was done with his help and the burning conviction of the York community that there was no choice but change.

Now, four decades later, the founders' drive to make a university education the great experience for students from all backgrounds is as strong as ever. York is a place where you are encouraged to spread your wings and carve out your path to your own unique success. The experience at York is a transfor-

## It's really only a one-and-

mational one – challenging, complex, engaging. I defy anyone to study at York and emerge from the experience unchanged or unchallenged.

Contrary to some of the media coverage, the University is accommodating all those who have accepted an offer of a place from York, including those from the now-famous but inappropriately named "double cohort." The truth is, of course, that the new intake at York is just 1.25 times larger than last year's. In other words, far from being a double cohort, it's really only a one-and-a-quarter cohort! Doesn't quite have the same ring to it, does it? And it certainly wouldn't sell as many newspapers.

That said, the double cohort has galvanized the University. York has been preparing for this year's intake for many years and has focused its resources to deliver the best possible results for our students. Dozens of impressive new faculty and staff have been hired to ensure that the standard of our teaching and research, and the quality of the student experience, is higher than ever. The new Schulich School of Business building is already open for business and the new Technology Enhanced

Dr. Lorna R. Marsden is York's president and vice-chancellor.



Learning (TEL) Building is pulsating with action, not to mention the state-of-the-art integrated Student Services Centre, which opens later this year.

I can honestly say that York has never in its history been at the epicentre of so much positive change. In research, too, York is pushing the boundaries of knowledge. We are at the forefront

## a-quarter cohort. Doesn't quite have the same ring to it, does it?

of space research in Canada, with most recently a team of York academics winning an international competition to provide new scientific measuring equipment for the Phoenix Scout Mission to Mars in 2007.

We are producing ground-breaking health research in the fields of infectious diseases (including SARS), bullying and vision, to name but a few. Whatever our research successes, they are characterized by a true spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration that sets us apart from other universities.

On the sporting side, York's teams have made their own change by adopting a new name – the York Lions. The lion was chosen as a symbol of pride (pun intended) and competition. Either as a spectator or a player, the York Lions are an experience you will not soon forget!

As we look forward to our 50th anniversary in 2009, my personal hope is that York will look back on everything it has achieved with pride – but not for too long. We need to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the future that belongs to York.

And so back to Bill Davis, Murray Ross and the famous men who conceived of York University as a forward-looking institution in the 1950s. They were right 44 years ago and even more so today. York is on the move! ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COREY MIHAILIUK

# UNIVERSE

FASHION SENSE:  
James Black and his 'do'

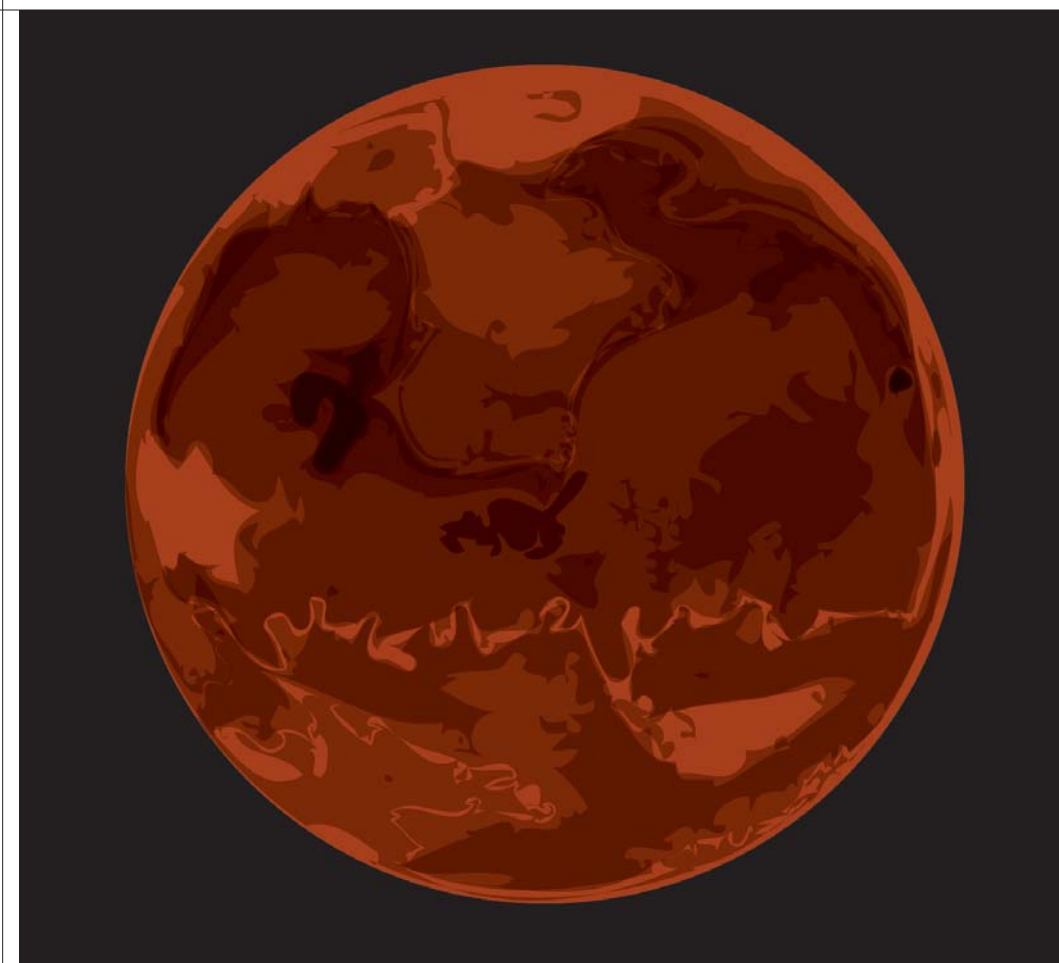
TRENDS

## Hair Apparent

Liberate your coif

**T**he Afro hairstyle is making a comeback, and sure enough, someone at York has researched it. Teenagers are teasing hair into bushy halos to look like rap, hip hop and basketball idols, to impress friends and "to annoy parents," says Women's Studies Program PhD student Katherine McKittrick, who analyzed the phenomenon of the original Afro in a master's research paper. Today's version, she notes, is devoid of the political dissidence that fuelled Angela Davis, a leader of the 1960s black liberation movement whose huge Afro became the movement's unofficial logo. "I think it's a very complicated symbol," says McKittrick. When it first appeared, the unisex hairstyle was a way to "reclaim what black hair means," a potent hallmark of black identity. But that faded as the Afro became more fashionable. Now, for her doctoral thesis, McKittrick is looking at what's happening in the salons. Black women, she notes, are still swayed by the dominant beauty culture. But these days they're styling their hair less to appear white and more to enhance their blackness, she suggests. "I think when black women dye their hair blonde, it brings out the natural beauty of their black or brown skin." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON



DISCOVERY

## Onward to Mars

York scientists are set for a red planet mission

**T**he red planet is a hot location to send space missions these days, but its colour contrasts with its climate. Daytime highs only reach -65 C, and nights dip to -120 C. But chilly temperatures never deterred York scientists from developing technology that will fly aboard NASA's \$450-million Phoenix Scout Mission in 2007.

The Phoenix team, a US-led international group chosen by NASA from among four finalists, will employ laser radar (lidar) developed by Allan Carswell, York professor emeritus and president of Optech Inc. Lidar, or "light detecting and ranging," is used to measure atmospheric pollution. "We'll be focusing on measuring the Martian atmosphere," says Carswell, leader of the Canadian component. "The total package is really trying to identify the potential for allowing life on Mars, by looking for where there's water, where there was water, or where there could be water."

Canadian and York participation in the team also includes the computer modeling (for mission planning and data analysis) of Professors Peter Taylor and Diane Michelangeli of York's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Science.

In a Mars double-whammy, York was also involved in rescue efforts for the Japanese Nozomi Mars Mission. "We have been responding to a Japanese request for assistance," said Professor Wayne Cannon, Department of Physics & Astronomy. Cannon's research group offered expertise on VLBI (Very Long Baseline Interferometry) as Nozomi did a final swingby of Earth in June to gain energy for its onward flight. "The intention was for the swingby to send Nozomi off on a correct trajectory to Mars and not have it go off somewhere else and get lost," said Cannon. Mission accomplished. ■

ILLUSTRATION BY CAMERON BROWNING

CIVICS

## Reach for the Top

THREE OF THE TORONTO MAYORALTY CANDIDATES SEEN AS KEY CONTENDERS IN THE NOVEMBER 10 ELECTION ARE YORK GRADS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, ALL THREE, ALONG WITH RIVALS DAVID MILLER AND TOM JAKOBEK, SUPPORT A SUBWAY TO YORK, A TOP UNIVERSITY CONCERN.

THE TRIO AND SOME OF THEIR POLICIES:

**Barbara Hall (LLB '78)**, HAS ALREADY BEEN MAYOR ONCE (1994-1997), BUT JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY. HALL'S A BIG BELIEVER IN SOCIAL JUSTICE. SHE'D LIKE A SUPPLY OF PERMANENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR

PEOPLE LEAVING THE SHELTER SYSTEM.



**John Nunziata (BA '77, LLB '80)**, HAS DECLARED WAR ON CRIME AND TAXES. "I HATE THEM - ESPECIALLY THE

GST," HE SAYS. NUNZIATA ARGUES THAT TAXES STAND IN THE WAY OF TORONTO'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.



**John Tory (LLB '78)**, ROGERS CABLE INC.

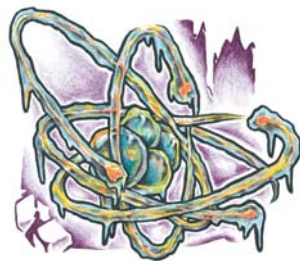
OUTGOING CO-CEO, PROMISES TO CRACK DOWN ON CRIME IF ELECTED. HE ALSO SPEAKS OF RESTORING TRUST IN GOVERNMENT, AND A NEW DEAL FOR CITIES. ■



DISCOVERY

# Chilling Out

Why the science of atoms is cool



**Y**ou're lost in the wilderness and all you have is your cell phone and your pocket global positioning system (GPS). How do you tell rescuers *precisely* where you are? "Cold" atoms might help.

Physics Professor A. Kumarakrishnan (Kumar), of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is studying the interaction of laser light with atoms. In fact, he captures and cools them. What's this got to do with GPS? For one thing, cold atoms are the basis of atomic clocks, which are used to set national primary time standards around the world. They help give GPS satellites their accuracy.

It used to be that these systems could pinpoint your location to within only several hundred metres. Now, thanks to research like his, they can tell your location to within 15 metres. Kumar explains that GPS receivers work by "talking" to three satellites at once and all satellites keep the same beat as defined by an atomic clock. The more precise the clock, the more accurate the GPS readings. ■

GIVING

# Match Maker

AS THEY SAY IN THE RETAIL WORLD, IT'S A LIMITED-TIME OFFER.

IF YOU ACT NOW, THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT WILL MATCH, DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR, ENDOWED DONATIONS TO UNIVERSITIES SUPPORTING STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.

THE ONTARIO STUDENT OPPORTUNITY TRUST FUND (OSOTF) WAS CREATED TO HELP STUDENTS GET A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE GOVERNMENT WILL MATCH GIFTS AND PLEDGES RECEIVED BY DEC. 31, 2005. PLEDGES CAN BE PAID UNTIL DEC. 31, 2011.

A PREVIOUS OSOTF ROUND GENERATED NEARLY \$60 MILLION FOR YORK, PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL \$2.5 MILLION EACH YEAR FOR BURSARIES AND AWARDS.

"WE WILL BE ASKING ALUMNI, VOLUNTEERS, FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS TO GIVE NOW TO SUPPORT THE STUDENTS OF THE FUTURE, AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS TIME-LIMITED OPPORTUNITY," SAYS PAUL MARCUS, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE YORK UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION. NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU GIVE, YOUR MONEY WILL DOUBLE THE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF FUTURE YORK STUDENTS. ■

FINANCE

# No-Fun Funds

Why labour-sponsored investments may not be so hot



**I**t sounds like such a bargain. Buy into a labour-sponsored investment fund for your RRSP and get a 30-per-cent tax credit. "If it weren't for the tax credit, I can't imagine why anyone would invest in LSIFs," says Yisong Tian, a finance professor at York University's Schulich School of Business. He and Scott Anderson, a professor at Ryerson University's School of Business Management, recently published a study of LSIFs that blames hefty management fees for poor performance. Investors are locked in for eight years if they don't want to lose the tax credit, but the researchers conclude that

the unusually high cost of the fees will likely exceed the value of the credit.

Not surprisingly, labour groups are unhappy with Tian and Anderson's findings about the funds, which have grown in popularity as ethical investments. But Barclays Global Investors Canada Ltd. awarded the two \$10,000 for excellence in Canadian capital market research. And banking institutions, government policymakers and regulators are paying attention to their recommendations. Such as: eliminate the tax credit and force LSIFs to compete on a level playing field with other investments. ■

CAMPUS

# A Fast Moving Story

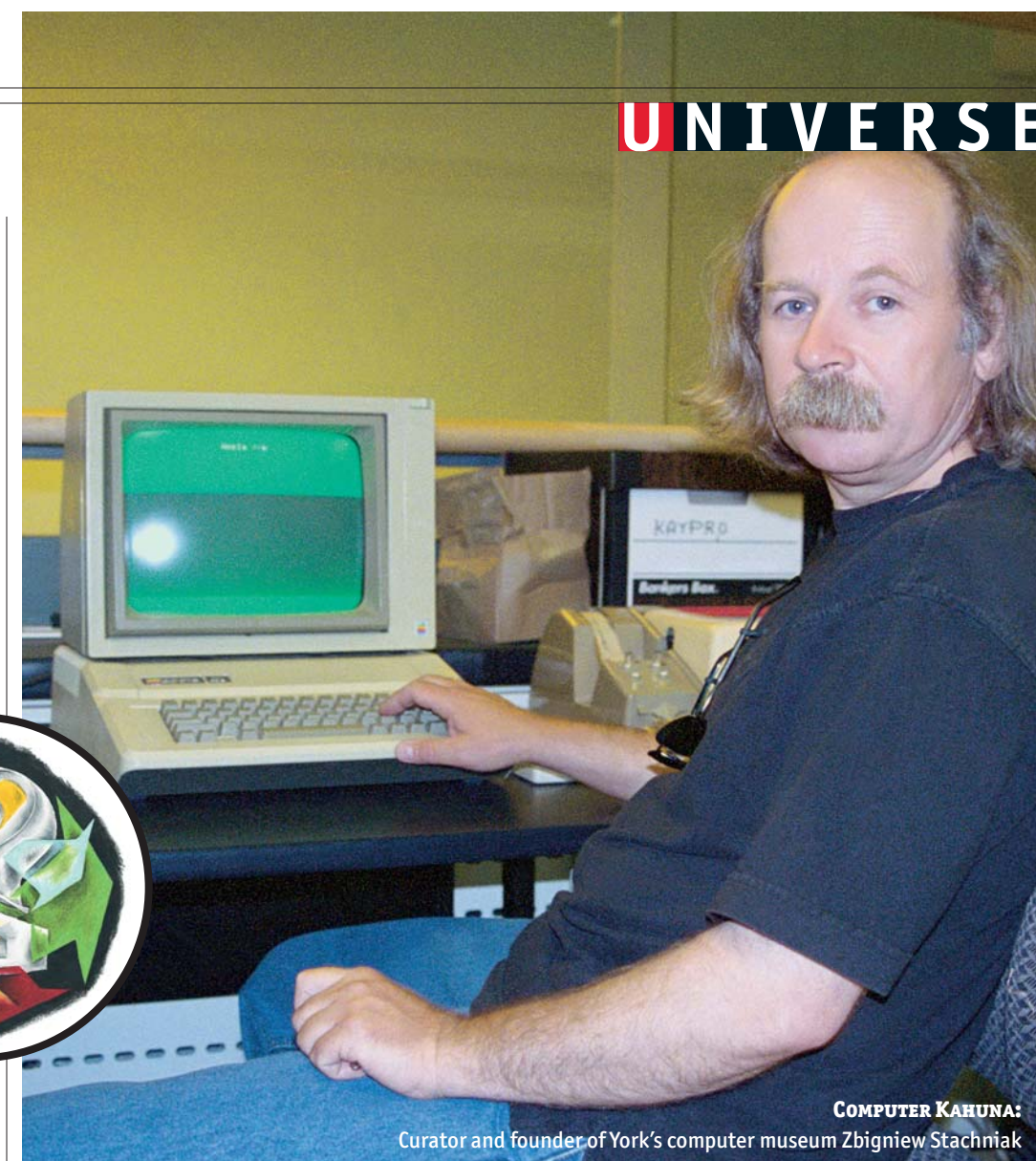
YORK IS ON THE MOVE, ALL RIGHT. MOVERS WERE BUSY THIS SUMMER RELOCATING SOME 550 STAFF AND FACULTY INTO TWO SPANKING NEW BUILDINGS ON YORK'S KEELE CAMPUS. THE OLD SCHULICH SCHOOL OF



BUSINESS IS BEING RENOVATED AFTER 300 OCCUPANTS MOVED INTO THE NEW SEYMOUR SCHULICH BUILDING. ANOTHER 250 SHIFTED FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS INTO THE NEW TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING (TEL) BUILDING. "THE BIG STORY," SAYS FACILITIES PLANNING DIRECTOR RICK HOWELL, "IS THAT YORK HAS SUCCEEDED IN COMPLETING TWO NEW BUILDINGS AND RELOCATING FACULTY AND STAFF IN TIME FOR THE DOUBLE COHORT." THIS IS THE FIRST OF THREE RIPPLES AS UNITS MOVE TO FILL VACATED SPACES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THOSE ON CAMPUS CAN WATCH THE YORK HOME PAGE AND YFILE FOR NEWS OF THE MOVES – AND NEW ADDRESSES. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NANCY MERCADO; ILLUSTRATION BY ROB MACDONALD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON; ILLUSTRATION BY ROB MACDONALD



COMPUTER KAHUNA: Curator and founder of York's computer museum Zbigniew Stachniak

TECHNOLOGY

# Welcome to the Machine

The world's first microcomputer sits in York's collection

**I**t's a mouthful: The York University Computer Museum and Centre for the History of Canadian Microcomputing Industry (YUCoM), but it's also a first on campus. YUCoM is a long name for a nascent museum – a small, but growing historical collection and research centre on the history of computing located in York's Department of Computer Science. YUCoM's mandate? To preserve, document and interpret the history of the information age in Canada, with special emphasis on the creation and the development of the Canadian microcomputing industry, says curator and founder Zbigniew Stachniak, York computer science professor.

So far he's got more than 150 hardware artifacts and the "MCM Collection" – named after Canadian company Micro Computer Machines Inc. of Toronto. MCM was among the first companies to fully recognize and act upon the immense potential of microprocessor technology for the development of a new generation of cost-effective computing systems. The MCM/70 computer, designed by MCM in the period between 1972 and 1973, is the earliest example of a microcomputer manufactured specifically for personal use. In other words, says Stachniak, the Canadian-built MCM/70 was the world's first personal microcomputer. And it's in York's collection. ■



## CAMPUS

## Bloomsday

How about some haiku to mark a blossoming Japanese tradition?

**W**eeks before the *sakura* bloom in Japan, the “watch” begins for the cherry trees’ blossoming. Flower-gazers stock up on *sake*, *bentos* (box lunches) and stake out a spot under a favourite tree for *hanami* – the annual flower-viewing picnic.

Could the same thing happen at York? Maybe. The University recently planted 250 sakura, a gift from the Japanese government’s Sakura Project to celebrate warm ties between Japan and Canada. The first tree was planted in late May by Takashi Koezuka, Japan’s consul general in Toronto, and Lorna R. Marsden, York president and vice-chancellor. York horticulturalists are placing groves of 30 along walkways, in college courtyards, beside buildings, near the new daycare centre — 150 trees this year, 100 next.

The sakura’s evanescent blossoms — symbol of fleeting beauty — have been celebrated by Japanese poets for centuries. Here is a sample (from the Japanese): *As the years stream by/My own life passes from me/Still I am renewed when I see the blossoms/My heart’s sorrows disappear.*

If you get the urge, we’ll look at your sakura-inspired haiku. Deep or humorous, the cleverer the better. Send to [editor@yorku.ca](mailto:editor@yorku.ca). ■

**T**he oddly-named “pokeweed”, *Phytolacca americana*, is native to shaded environments in the southern regions of Canada and the United States. It may one day prove to be an effective weapon against HIV. Kathi Hudak, a York biology professor, is one of a handful of scientists in the world currently studying the possible benefits of pokeweed, which contains a protein called pokeweed antiviral protein (PAP).

Although researchers have been aware of PAP’s antiviral potential since 1928, scientists such as Hudak are only now discovering how PAP targets and kills viruses.

Traditionally, scientists believed that the antiviral property of PAP was due to its toxicity, and that the protein would limit virus proliferation by destroying the host cell. Since the early 1990s, however, studies suggest that antiviral activity of PAP is separate from its toxicity, given that it is capable of limiting the spread of HIV without killing its host cell. In fact, PAP is already being used as a therapeutic drug against HIV in South Africa.

Hudak’s study of how PAP targets viruses is currently the only real one of its kind in Canada. In future, her findings may help in the manufacture more anti-viral medicines.

Pokeweed, which grows in rich pastures, waste places, gardens, open places in woodlands, and along fence rows also makes a good salad. Collect shoots when they are young and 5-6 inches in length. Cut them in the same way as asparagus, being careful not to take any part of the poisonous root or older stem. ■

## DISCOVERY

## Natural Acts

How an edible plant could help battle HIV



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CAMERON BROWNING

## STUDIES

## Dept. of Self-Interest

Drug companies’ tests give their own products glowing reviews

**I**t’s rather like marking your own exam. Drug tests sponsored by drug companies on their own products were found to be “more likely to produce results favouring the sponsor’s product,” says Joel Lexchin, an emergency room physician and Atkinson professor with York’s School of Health Policy and Management.

Lexchin recently published a study in the *British Medical Journal* confirming that drug testing sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry is more likely to produce results favouring the sponsor’s product than testing funded by other sources. He did an analysis of 30 research articles spanning 20 years and covering a wide range of diseases, drugs and drug classes. “These findings indicate a systemic bias in drug testing,” says Lexchin.

Most pharmacological or economic feasibility studies of new drugs are performed either in-house by drug companies or farmed out to external consultants who are paid by the companies. Some drug companies have been known to write their own research papers extolling the virtues of their drugs and pay medical doctors to put their names to the study, Lexchin asserts. Research funded by pharmaceutical companies that runs contrary to the drugs they manufacture is often squelched and never published, he says.

Now several major medical journals have decided to establish more rigorous criteria for accepting industry-sponsored research before they put it in print. (Drug companies currently fund almost half of all medical research.) “It’s a step in the right direction,” says Lexchin. “Pharmaceutical-sponsored clinical research has a big impact on how medicine gets practised.” ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NANCY MERCADO

## ISSUES

The double cohort is here, but is it really as *big* a deal as the experts predicted? BY MICHAEL TODD

# SIZE:XL

**D**OUBLE COHORT: WHAT A TERM to be known by! At least “baby boomers” had some big-bang resonance. “Generation X” – what could be more cool? But the DC, as they’ve quickly become known to government and education planners, sounds more like some kind of electrical current. Yet they may be one of the best things to happen to university campuses in years.

Ontario’s double cohort is, of course, the demographic blip caused mainly by the folding of two graduating years into one, through the elimination of Grade 13. In 2003, the final group of OAC students graduated together with the first group from the new four-year program that ends in Grade 12. This year, 100,000 students applied to Ontario universities, an increase of 46 per cent over last year. So really, it’s a one-and-a-half cohort – or call them the 1.5. Of those, the standard 71 per cent were accepted.

But even then, not all students who are accepted necessarily come to university, and not all who want to attend apply to Ontario universities. Some look elsewhere. Still, there’s no denying many more students are arriving at York this year and will in the years to come. But again, the surge isn’t double the number and the reasons aren’t just because of the folding of two years into one.

In fact, for York, the double cohort has really turned into something less than even the 1.5 figure. Some students deferred making a choice to enter at this time, and the actual number coming in – about 10,000 – is up only 25 per cent over last year. The impact, though, will continue. While entry point of the double cohort is spread over three years – 2002, 2003, 2004 – the students themselves remain on campus for three, four, five years or longer.

And university populations will rise over the next decade because of social and economic pressures as well as demographics.

## What’s Up?

### THIS YEAR OVER LAST:

- u **Up 25%: FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AT YORK**
- u **Up 13%: THE TOTAL YORK OVERALL UNDERGRADUATE CLASS**
- u **Up 12%: THE UNIVERSITY’S TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION**
- u **Up 85%: STUDENTS ENTERING YORK WITH AN AVERAGE OF 90% OR BETTER**

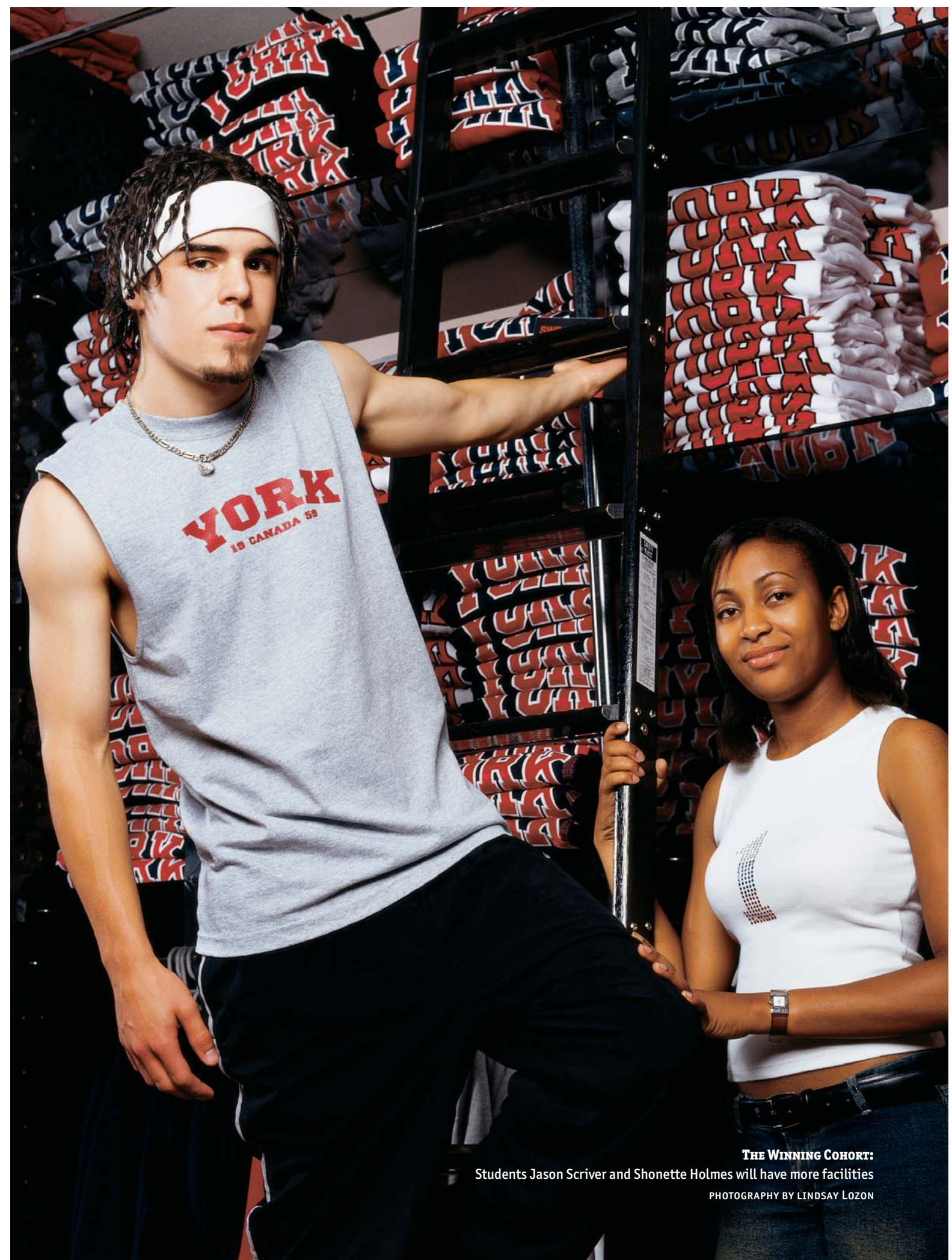
“The double cohort will still be with us two years from now. That’s probably the peak,” says Sheila Embleton, York’s VP academic. “But York won’t be getting smaller. It’s the influence of social trends like immigration, higher university participation rate and the fact that professions that didn’t require a university degree now will.”

Although Embleton says university crystal-ball gazers were initially as shocked as anyone about the perceived crunch the cohort might represent, there turned out to be silver linings. Many of York’s new facilities – the Student Services Centre, the Seymour Schulich Building, the Technology Enhanced Learning Building, the William Small Centre and the Computer Science &

Engineering Building – wouldn’t have materialized as quickly without the double cohort’s impetus. “The double cohort really opened up a lot of opportunities for us – we needed to build buildings but we also got to create the kind of buildings we needed,” says Embleton. “Just because you grow doesn’t mean you have to replicate the way you’ve grown in the past.”

Another case in point is the General Academic Building, which will be completed in 2005. Along with more classroom space, it will house long-needed and dedicated rehearsal studios for York’s music and dance departments.

The bottom line? York avoided turning down any applications from qualified double cohort students because of space. In addition, the University has created 25 per cent more residence space for first-year students, expanded its library and beefed up its orientation programs this year. The Student Centre has added a new level to the Food Court, and rapid transit links to York have improved significantly during the last two years in anticipation of increased traffic. “Growth is good,” says Embleton. “Choices open up. But you’re always going to have unknowns.” ■



**THE WINNING COHORT:**  
Students Jason Scriver and Shonette Holmes will have more facilities  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON



COVER

The outlook is educated  
when Natasha Ramsahai talks  
about the weather. BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD GAJDEL

# Natasha Reigns

**N**ATASHA RAMSAHAI WAS FACING SOUTH, perched on a cement bench outside CBC headquarters. It was noon on a typical Toronto summer day – hot, humid and hazy – and her eight-hour shift as weather forecaster on CBC Radio’s popular “Metro Morning” show was over. You would never have guessed, judging by her dozen or so weather reports and her breezy banter with host Andy Barrie, that she woke up with a debilitating case of lockjaw; she could talk, but not eat, and she was starving. Today, she told listeners, take your umbrellas; there will be rain this evening. (There was.) Now, off duty, the York-trained meteorologist (MSc ’01) was chattering about a new job, moving downtown, her wedding plans. Life couldn’t be much better.

The reports were true, she said. She’d accepted a job at Toronto 1, a brand new news and entertainment TV station aiming to tap into the ethnically diverse GTA market, and due to be launched in mid-September. But she was quick to quash speculation that she might host a local multicultural variety show. “Absolutely not,” she said good-naturedly. She would be doing *weather*.

“If I’m not forecasting, I’m not happy,” says Ramsahai. At 28, she’s an anomaly, bringing intelli-

gence and education to a job so often used as a stepping stone into “more serious” broadcasting careers. There’s no doubt that she has the talent for both. Scientific credibility aside (she did her York master’s thesis on weather changes in the Mackenzie River basin), she’s “a natural” as a broadcaster, says Barrie. He could throw her curve balls like, “Are you a fan of the Stones, Natasha?” and she wouldn’t miss a beat. “Not really, but I am interested in the giant hailstone that fell in Arkansas this morning.”

She’s a hit with audiences, too. One day on “Metro Morning,” Barrie said goodbye to a Jamaican guest and segued to Ramsahai for the weather report. “I feel like doing a Trinidadian accent to go with the flow.” Go for it, said Barrie. Ramsahai, who speaks unaccented Canadian, launched into the island patois of the mother and grandparents who raised her. Listeners loved it. Suddenly the chipper voice was a real person with a family. CBC was sorry to lose her, says Susan Marjetti, programming manager for 99.1 CBC Radio Toronto. “Natasha is more than a meteorologist. She is a great performer. She is herself on the air and that’s what you’re always looking for – people who are comfortable behind the microphone.”

You could say that Ramsahai – and her fans – have York to thank for her career path. While she was studying at the University, one of her professors found her a



job as a behind-the-scenes meteorologist at The Weather Network. She was so good at briefing the announcers that they encouraged her to apply for an on-air position. It wasn't the first time she'd worked on air – she'd hosted a campus radio music show for a couple of years – but it was the first time she realized the possibility of combining her passion for weather with her on-air talent.

Where does her enthusiasm for giant hailstones,



**'It's important to keep kids interested in science, that they see not all scientists are over 60, they're not all men and they still go to clubs!'**

killer floods and tornado alleys come from? *Poltergeist*. Ramsahai remembers a seminal moment in the 1982 Steven Spielberg movie when someone said you could figure out how far away a storm was by counting the seconds between lightning and thunder. Ramsahai was about eight at the time. Then she learned about global warming and recycling at school and vowed she would "do something related to the Earth." By her final year in environmental science at the University of Toronto at Scarborough, she was specializing in climate change and setting her sights on a forecasting career. When she inquired about York's certificate program in meteorology, an adviser suggested a master's degree in earth and space science instead. "Why not?" thought Ramsahai, and asked her mother for advice.

Ramsahai is the first in her family to earn a master's. She took longer than usual to finish both her university degrees because she was juggling two, sometimes three, part-time reception jobs to pay for her tuition, books, car and clothes. "Money is a big issue, I don't care what people say." She still lives at home.

But not for long. "Did I tell you that we're moving into a condo over there?" Ramsahai gestured toward the empty sky

above the Toronto Convention Centre across the street. Her mother, a home-care coordinator in North York, has bought a condo near Queen's Quay and is leaving Scarborough for good this fall, with Ramsahai in tow.

Then next July, Ramsahai and fiancé Michael Whing, a maître d' at Toronto's tony Granite Club, will move into a



downtown loft. Whing, a body builder, has taught her how to work out. She has taught him how to identify towering cumulus and nimbostratus cloud formations. The two bike downtown on weekends, anticipating the day they can walk to dance and comedy clubs, restaurants and the Air Canada Centre, home of the Raptors, Ramsahai's favourite team. ("The game is so go, go, go, kind of like me.") She is, she says, "a very city girl. I don't see myself in Kansas in an old beat-up truck chasing tornados. Maybe if it were in Houston..." To her, the weather is never boring. "I love it. As a forecaster, you get to see what's developing before everybody else. It's almost like a little power trip."

At Toronto 1, Ramsahai is delivering reports on the morning news show

"Toronto Today," using advanced weather graphics and animation software – a key reason she took the job – to inform and educate her audience. "Whenever I run into people, they always ask, why did this happen?" Now she can tell them. The software will be good for school visits, too. "It's important to keep kids interested in science, especially girls

who don't think science is cool or fashionable. It's important that they see that not all scientists are over 60, they're not all men and they still go to clubs!"

These days, Ramsahai's preoccupied with wedding plans. She's getting married next June in a church before about 180 guests. She will be in white, her bridesmaids in periwinkle, her maid of honour in lilac. But the range of pastels has nothing on the multicultural pastiche of the bridal party, all first-generation



Canadians. There's Ramsahai with roots in India and Trinidad, Whing, whose parents are Chinese Jamaican and African Jamaican, and their friends whose families immigrated from four continents. "Look how multicultural our party is," says the bride-to-be. "It's so Canadian!"

She's calling for blue skies. ■



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- THE -  
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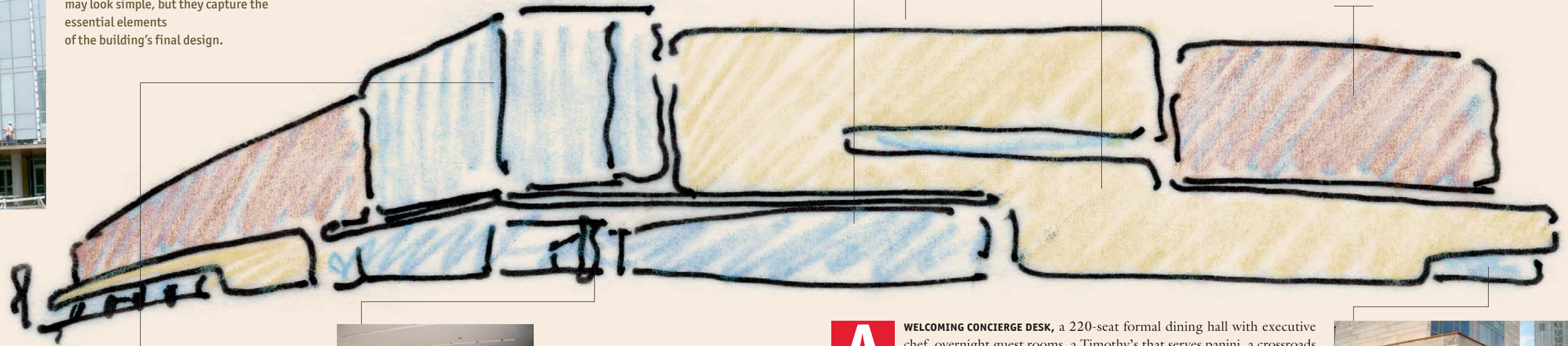


Now that the new Seymour Schulich Building has opened its doors, business schools may never be the same. BY MICHAEL TODD

# Taking Care of BUSINESS

**VISUALIZE THIS:**

Initial sketches by architect Michael Boxer (here and on page 21) may look simple, but they capture the essential elements of the building's final design.



**IT'S IN THE DETAILS:**

Softly curved details in the glass facades were inspired by the smooth sanded corners of the architect's original models



**DRAMATIC ENTRANCE:**

When complete the lobby will also house student services



**IT'S A MATERIAL WORLD:**

It contains: 40,000 tonnes of concrete; nearly a hectare of energy-efficient glass; 900,000 kg of hand-cut, sandblasted limestone from Ontario's Algonquin Region on its walls; enough heavy-gauge copper flashing on the outside to gild the CN Tower top to bottom; 335,000 square feet of space, equivalent to 20 NHL hockey rinks.

**EAR CANDY:**

A 300-seat auditorium can get your message across or handle special events.

**TO MARKET, TO MARKET:**

The CIBC-sponsored "marketplace" is the heart of the building. All passageways and building entry and exit flow through the school's airy cavernous centre, featuring a three-storey foyer, adjoining courtyard, café, oversize presentation screen, and cantilevered staircase of sculptured concrete.

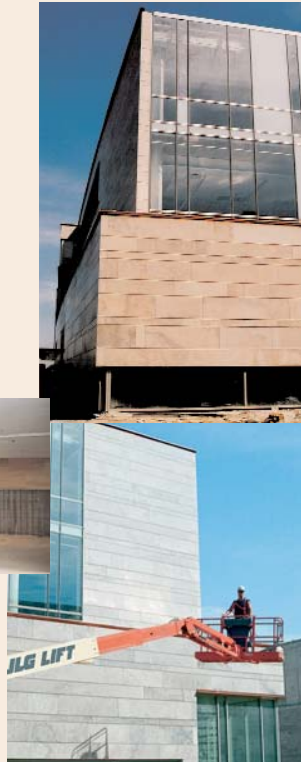
**LET THERE BE LIGHT:**

Offices have opaque glass walls designed to let natural daylight into corridors. Built-in furniture maximizes space. Each office has a door and most have windows that open.



**CHOW, BABY:**

A 220-seat formal dining hall has an executive chef and a two-storey kitchen.



**A**

**WELCOMING CONCIERGE DESK**, a 220-seat formal dining hall with executive chef, overnight guest rooms, a Timothy's that serves panini, a crossroads "marketplace" with a big video screen, natural light everywhere and windows that open in almost every office. This is a business school?

Indeed. Welcome to the new home of York's Schulich School of Business – the answer, say its planners, to what Canada needs to compete with the best in the world. Named for its prime benefactor, the new Seymour Schulich Building has a cool, clean look its architects have dubbed "Nordic Humanism." The planning team, including

*Continued on page 21*



**THIRST QUENCHERS:**

Two student pubs and an upscale Timothy's coffee shop.

PHILANTHROPY

# Heart of Gold

How mining tycoon Seymour Schulich became York's biggest benefactor.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK



GRAND VISION: Schulich holds architect's hand-made model of the school

BUILDING PHOTOGRAPHS BY LINDSAY LOZON; SCHULICH PHOTOGRAPH BY COREY MIHAILUK

SEYMOUR SCHULICH DOESN'T LOOK like a cowboy. But beneath his blue suit beats the heart of a frontiersman – a risk taker and entrepreneur. The ex-Montrealer who grew up on the wrong side of Decarie Boulevard placed his chips on Nevada gold and made a fortune. Last year, *Canadian Business* ranked him the 78th richest Canadian, worth an estimated \$357 million. But at 63, Schulich is hardly ready to retire the spurs hanging on his office wall. Stetson at the ready, he's still scanning the horizon for chances to turn gold into good.

Lucky for York. Since 1995, Schulich has donated \$24 million to the Schulich School of Business, the largest cumulative gift from any single donor to a Canadian business school. York's most magnanimous benefactor has also donated valuable time and expertise to York's governing and fundraising bodies, most recently giving \$7 million (and bringing in other donors) to help erect the school's sleek new home, the Seymour Schulich Building. Now, he's lobbying Toronto's mayoral candidates to commit to a subway to York's Keele

campus – entirely financed by developers buying air space above the stations. "That would make York a truly great institution – an umbilical cord linking it to the city." It's that kind of determination that has made Schulich, son of a poor New York emigrant dress designer, such a can-do force in the community. Schulich's talent for playing the stock market surfaced early. Not sure what he wanted to be, the chemistry grad landed a job with Shell Oil Company in 1961 and discovered he loved business. He quit to enrol in a new master's of

business administration program at McGill University and applied to a New York stockbrokerage for a \$2,000 scholarship to pay for it. He made do on half the money by living at home and invested the rest. Two years later, MBA in hand, he left for Europe with \$5,000 in his pocket at a time when you could travel Europe on \$5 a day. "I was always interested in the stock market," he says, "but I didn't figure out that I could make a living at it."

Happily for him, he figured wrong. He joined the fledgling Beutel, Goodman and Company and helped turn it into one of Canada's largest pension fund management firms. In 1978, he and a partner ventured into the virgin financial territory of gold royalties – a concept he pioneered – and turned their Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation into the largest resource royalty company in the world. Last year, he engineered a merger that gave Franco-Nevada a 30 per cent share of world gold giant Newmont Mining Corporation.

Though he's jetting all over the world as president of Newmont's merchant banking division, Schulich – inspired by hero Andrew Carnegie – is spending as much time these days giving his wealth away as making it. He has also lavished money on hospitals, heart clinics, university libraries and promising young entrepreneurs. And the honours are flying in – the Order of Canada, an honorary degree from York and (soon) another from alma mater McGill University.

In private life, the poker-loving multi-millionaire values frugality and stability. He has lived in the same Willowdale home he and his wife Tanna bought 26 years ago, and he goes around the house turning out lights. He drives a nine-year-old Lincoln to work.

But though he's just bought a fraction of a jet, he's not flying off into the sunset. He's focused on doing the tough work of what he calls "catalytic and constructive" philanthropy – and spurring others to do the same. "We don't expect everything we do to shoot the lights out," he says, "but in philanthropy we haven't had a failure yet." ■

## SPEAKS VOLUMES:

There's a wired library with Internet hookups at every desk. Users are encouraged to bring food and drink into the library while they hit the books.



## SUITE SUCCESS

After a hard day's study, execs can kick back and relax in the 12-storey on-site residence with 60 guest suites.

Continued from page 19

experts from York, Schulich and outside, took the novel approach of asking consumers (students, profs, execs, librarians) what they thought a world-class business school should look and feel like.

With a consumer-driven, service-oriented mentality in place, the building's joint-venture design partners, Hariri Pontarini Architects and Robbie/Young+Wright Architects, set out to physically redefine the Schulich school for the new century. Visionaries wanted something beyond a concrete box – a space that would set the benchmark for how business education would be delivered in the 21st century. "The goal was a building that would be student and faculty friendly and reflect the realities of the marketplace," says James McKellar, who, with Schulich Dean Dezső Horváth, was a leader in conceptualizing the project from the ground up. It probably helped that McKellar, a professor of real property at Schulich, also has graduate degrees in architecture and city planning. "We did our homework," says McKellar. "We visited all the top-tier business schools in the US and Canada because that's where the competition is. We looked at all the best executive education centres. In fact we ended up researching more than 60 business schools."

McKellar and his team decided that

technology wasn't as critical as first thought (although the building has more than its share of high-end electronica). "We realized that technology should be in the background, in a support role. It's short-lived, it's replaceable."

Instead, planners felt it was most important to get the classrooms right, since they can't easily be changed. "Lecture halls had to be the optimum size and layout. The best configuration turned out to be a horseshoe with tiers, holding a max of 75 students," says McKellar. Planners also focused on having many different kinds of teaching spaces. "We're not just talking about classrooms," says McKellar. "What was needed was lots of meeting rooms and workrooms because there's a tremendous emphasis at Schulich on the 'soft' skills, particularly on teamwork and group interaction."

York is betting that the new building will be an enormous advantage when it comes to attracting top students and faculty – groups that are consumer-savvy when it comes to what separates world-class business schools from second-tier competitors. To McKellar, the new premises make a statement about Schulich's excellence

"This is a building that says who we are without our having to say a word. The kind of place people can't wait to come to each morning, whether to work, to learn or just share a latte." ■

## RESEARCH

How do your eyes tell your hand to pick up a cup of coffee or move a cursor? York's Centre for Vision Research is doing eye-opening studies. **BY MICHAEL TODD**

**H**OW DO WE PICK UP a cup of coffee? That's what Lauren Sergio wants to know. Or turn a doorknob, point a cursor, play a video game. These simple things rely on our brains analyzing hugely complex vision and motor control signals. To Sergio, a scientist at York's Centre for Vision Research (CVR), "it's all about input and output." Input comes in through your eyes and output goes through your brain putting muscles in motion.

Consider this: *no one* has any idea how that cup of coffee makes it from the table to your mouth. Visual input – seeing that large mocha cappuccino steaming away on your desk – somehow gets translated into the delicate, precise bio-mechanical motion of your elbow, wrist and then fingers, closing around the cup at just the right place in time and space with the perfect amount of force. Misjudge the weight, hold a Styrofoam cup too tightly and you'll crush it. Not enough force and you'll drop it.

How do visual and bio-mechanical systems interact? How do brain, muscles and vision work together to get a task done? These are just some of the puzzles on which the CVR's 132 researchers – in disciplines ranging from biology, physics and computer science to robotics and kinesiology – try to shed some light.

"We know movement and vision are connected, but in between – what happens in the brain – remains a mystery," says Sergio, a psychology professor in York's School of Kinesiology and Health Science. Her work could have important ramifications for areas like robotics (using human data to help program a robotic arm), gerontological studies (eye-hand coordination deteriorates as we grow older) and treatment of trauma patients who have suffered brain or spinal injuries.

It was Sergio's interest in sports, dating to her childhood in Glastonbury, Connecticut, that led her to wonder how people actually played them, and that led from an academic interest in physiology to systems neuroscience. Her areas of focus are reaching movements, eye-hand coordination and the neural basis for motor dysfunction. Now she and other CVR researchers are trying to map the brain's functions in relation to vision and motion.

### Looking Good

The Centre for Vision Research is a classic example of York's interdisciplinary approach. Some key facts:

- The CVR has 132 researchers, including 23 York faculty and 16 outside scientists, who work in 35 labs on and off campus.
- CVR scientists working jointly on projects can come from many different disciplines, ranging from medicine to psychology and computer science.
- The CVR does collaborative research with Canadian universities and many international institutions, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oxford University and Israel's Technion.

They are also looking at the impairment of those functions, through such afflictions as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or a spinal injury. The resulting lack of coordination of movement in reaching or walking, Sergio notes, is similar to an infant's struggles. The adult may be trying to relearn lost activity. Babies are establishing those neuro-motor connections, learning and relearning them through trial and error until they become automatic functions. Often those are movements that we take for granted – until we lose them.

How we move depends on what we see, so Sergio is examining what happens in the brain when someone reaches for an object – say a computer mouse – to make another object move, such as a cursor. Her research records what errors people make as they learn to coordinate progressively harder tasks in York's sensorimotor neuroscience lab. She maps brain activity specifically through motor behaviour (moving an arm while looking at a visual target on a computer screen) and tracking the associated activity in the brain's visual cortex.

**TRY THIS EXPERIMENT:** Place your computer mouse *horizontally* on your mouse pad. Now move the mouse, still horizontal, trying to get the cursor to go to a target such as the File button on your upper left screen.

How did you do? Impossible? That's because your brain has just gone insane, says Sergio. Your brain has learned one thing to the point of doing it automatically. It's mapped a vision and movement path. "If you rotate the mouse you have to completely relearn the movement," says Sergio. "This is a very basic level of motor learning: matching the motor commands to our muscles to get a particular outcome. But children, certain brain-damaged patients – including dementia – and non-human primates have more difficulty with these things."

If you're having problems, don't despair. Sergio says most adults can learn to deal with the mouse's new orientation in about 15 minutes. "Voila," she says. "Our humanity exemplified by a rotated computer mouse!" Brief pause. "Well, OK, maybe that's a bit grandiose, but I think it's still a neat demo of our unique sensory-motor adaptability."

As for that mocha cappuccino: "We haven't figured out the mystery behind picking up a cup of coffee. But we're working on it." ■

# Visionary Science

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NANCY MERCADO

## THE EDGE

When he entered Around Alone, the world's toughest sailing race, Derek Hatfield didn't know how close he'd come to losing his boat – and his life. BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILLY BLACK

# Hell at Sea

**T**HE SOUTHERN OCEAN is one of the most forbidding places on earth. The Sea of Sorrow, as it is nicknamed, holds the distinction of having the spot that is the farthest from land on the planet. No sailor takes it lightly. The sea runs huge because there is no land to block the wind that howls from west to east circling Antarctica. Here you are truly alone.

Derek Hatfield certainly wasn't taking it lightly as he attempted to sail through this maelstrom, 50 km east of Cape Horn off the southern tip of South America. The 1985 York graduate was thirsty, hungry and worn out from months at sea, racing around the world alone in his 40-foot boat, the Spirit of Canada. On that hellish morning of March 7, 2003, the winds were ratcheting up to hurricane fury, gusting to 60 knots, or 110 km/h.

It was obvious that Hatfield was in trouble. Waves the size of small apartment buildings were twisting themselves into sheer green walls – some as high as seven storeys. The air temperature was near freezing. To make matters worse, in his fatigue Hatfield had forgotten to snap on his lifeline. He had been battling some of the worst weather imaginable for more than 48 hours, and had finally gone below to grab a can of Boost, the high-energy meal supplement that had been his only source of food for the last two days. He was below only a few minutes. When he reappeared in the cockpit he saw the wave that, as he would recount later, “had my name on it” – the one that would pulverize his craft, reduce his \$100,000 carbon-fibre mast to matchsticks, and nearly take his life.

“It wasn't a giant wave that got me. It was a smaller one – only about 25 feet, but the difference is this wave was vertical, just like a wall and it was breaking on the boat, which is the worst thing that can happen. You can ride out big seas, but you don't want waves breaking over you.”

On his return to the cockpit, he recalls, he had just sat down. “I look over my shoulder and there's this monster wave. It flashes through my mind that this is a problem. The wave stands the boat on its bow and rolls it over all in one fell swoop. I go across the cockpit down to the other side against the lifelines and then underneath the water. I hear gurgling and this big bang as the mast goes. Finally the boat flops back up again. This all takes about 12 to 15 seconds. It seemed like forever. The lifelines kind of scooped me up and kept me on deck. I climbed back into the cockpit. I could see the rigging was gone — everything was gone over the side.”

The good news was Hatfield was still alive and on board, and his boat was floating. The bad news was that his 20-metre mast, plus much of the rigging and sails, had disappeared. There was now no choice but to fire up Spirit of Canada's single diesel engine and head – at five km/h – for the shore of Argentina 60 km away. It took 18 hours.

“I was never scared,” he says. “I didn't even call for assistance. I cut loose all the sails and rigging. The adrenalin was kicking in and I was just doing what I had to do.”

**THE AROUND ALONE RACE**, in which Hatfield placed third in the 40-foot boat class for 2003, began in 1982 under a different name, but has always been a solo race around the world. Sailors do it in five legs: Newport, Rhode Island, to New York City and on to Torbay, England (3,060 nm); Torbay to Cape Town, South Africa (6,880 nm); Cape Town to Tauranga, New Zealand (7,125 nm); Tauranga to Salvador, Brazil (7,850 nm); and Salvador back to Newport (4,015 nm). Race basics have remained the same – solitary sailing, arduous weather and seas, mandatory stopovers, and the pressure of intense competition. The race itself lasts seven months and takes place every four years, which is about the same amount of time Hatfield spent planning, building his boat and fundraising for his epic journey.

## THE EDGE

This year's race started on Sept. 15, 2002, with a fleet of 13 sailors and one other Canadian aside from Hatfield (Markham's John Dennis). On average, 40 per cent of the fleet fails to finish, although this year's drop-outs were closer to half that. Dennis was one of the casualties, which makes Hatfield one of only two Canadians to have completed the Around Alone. He joins Nova Scotian John Hughes, who was 28 when he finished the race in 1987. Hatfield, now 51, was 50 when he sailed back into Newport.

To set his achievement in perspective, consider that only about 100 people have single-handedly circumnavigated the earth, while more than 400 have flown into space and nearly 1,700 have reached the summit of Mount Everest. "Racing solo around the world could be compared to climbing Everest," says Hatfield. "If you attempt it solo, the risk is much higher than if you do it as a team."

For Hatfield, the race marked a number of firsts, even if he didn't win. It was his longest time at sea, the greatest distance he'd ever travelled by boat, the first time he'd crossed the equator, his first de-masting, and his first time sailing around the world. Hatfield has sailed across the ocean before (he was overall winner in the 1996 Legend Cup Transatlantic Race), and he's one of the most seasoned offshore sailors in Canada, logging more than 40,000 nautical miles since he took up sailing as a kid in his home province of New Brunswick.

But back then, it was a hobby. At 19, Hatfield joined the RCMP in New Brunswick and found himself gravitating toward the financial end of law enforcement because of his work in the drug and organized crime squads. He regularly dealt with fraud and money laundering. "I was in fraud when I came to Toronto," he says. "The RCMP had a program where they paid you to take a degree. I ended up at Atkinson College and did my bachelor of administrative studies part-time. It took me 11 years but it was a leg up."

His York degree changed his life. That leg up led him to a new job as a securities watchdog at the Toronto Stock Exchange and after that, to a six-figure salary in a brokerage firm.

But somehow family life and the big bucks of Bay Street weren't enough. "I needed to live outside the box," says Hatfield. "I don't think it was a mid-life crisis exactly, but I needed to do something else. There's definitely an element of selfishness to this – you have to be very focused on the goal and your boat and winning. And I'm very competitive. That trait has its strengths and weaknesses. It doesn't leave much room



**SEA SON:** "IT WASN'T A GIANT WAVE THAT GOT ME. IT WAS A SMALLER ONE – ONLY ABOUT 25 FEET."

for others in your life who don't share your vision. I have a failed marriage to attest to it."

**S**AILING AROUND THE WORLD doesn't come cheap. Hatfield spent as much time trying to round up sponsors and money as he did building his boat and planning the trip's logistics. For the 2003 Around Alone, he began beating the bushes in 1996, although he never got major corporate sponsorship. But he did secure amazing grassroots support, he says, from many private individuals. For instance, he raised \$150,000 by painting people's names on the side of his boat. "It wasn't just dollars either," says Hatfield. "There were countless volunteer hours involved."

When he was de-masted, Decoma International, a Markham auto parts firm, and its boss, Al Power, pitched in money for repairs, as did Andrew Pindar, chairman of a British graphics firm sponsoring the only woman in the Around Alone race, Emma Richards. Fellow sailor and York University Foundation employee Jim Allen also helped out by organizing silent auctions and \$150-a-plate fundraising dinners on Hatfield's behalf. Says Allen: "Our goal was \$25,000 but we raised \$46,000. Derek's reaction was 'Holy f—!', and he's a guy who *never* swears."

There's a saying about long-distance events – that it's not over till it's over. But for personalities like Derek Hatfield, maybe it's not over even then. He had no sooner put a water-logged sneaker ashore in his current hometown of Halifax this past spring than he began beating the bushes for corporate sponsors for the next around-alone race in 2006, which will be renamed 5-Oceans. This time he wants to sail a 60-foot boat instead of a 40-footer. Why? Size matters in sailing. Bigger boats are faster – but they are also much more expensive. "I could self-fund the first 40-foot program," says Hatfield. "That cost about \$800,000. But a 60-foot package, you're looking at close to \$3 million. Cheaper if you buy a used boat."

A \$3 million price tag is beyond even Hatfield's budget, so he's now embarked on a whirlwind tour doing promotional talks, interviews and motivational speeches. He even has a book in the works about his ordeal at sea. "May be out by December," he says. It's all designed to raise enough money to keep him financially afloat through his next adventure.

"This time I'll be sailing with the big guys," he says. "Sixty feet is the *premier* class. If you really want to win, if you want to be with the movers and shakers you've got to go *big*." And, as Hatfield has shown, dream big, too. ■

# YORK PEOPLE

## Lesli Bisgould

Lawyer, animal rights advocate

### Pet Peeves

**PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS. Animals don't. Osgoode grad Lesli Bisgould would like to change that. "There are cruelty against animal laws, but animals don't have the same kind of protection as people. Animals are seen as *things*, property," says Bisgould (LLB '90).**

Technically, to call herself an "animal rights lawyer" is an oxymoron since, under the law, there are no animal "rights" to defend. Nevertheless, she's the only lawyer of her kind in Canada. Bisgould really sees herself as a spokesperson – trying to change people's ideas and attitudes toward the rights of animals.

"It's not my job to tell people *what* to think; it's to stimulate them *to* think." She does dozens of talks on rights issues every year and plans to take her campaign to university campuses and schools – including Osgoode. "Most law students don't know that they can specialize in this area." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE



## Milton Harris

Industrialist, donor, crusader for tolerance

# Turning Point

**WHEN DID PUBLIC** opinion in the English-speaking world begin to turn against Adolf Hitler? Conventional wisdom says it was following Germany's invasion of Czechoslovakia in March 1939. But Toronto steel industrialist Milton Harris believes it was after Kristallnacht in November 1938, when Nazis smashed Jewish businesses, carpeting the streets with broken glass, and arrested 30,000 Jews. "I believe disillusionment began with Kristallnacht, when the evil nature of the Nazi government became very clear," he says. Harris has given York's History Department \$200,000 to do the research. A prominent Jewish leader who has battled anti-Semitism in Canada, and an avid amateur historian, Harris is "deeply read on the subject, so I'm aware of where the gaps are." He recently created scholarships to send four Western Canadian students to Glendon College to enhance their understanding of French Canada. At 76, he is still crusading for tolerance. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

## John Zubyck

Track star, potential Olympian

# Raising the Bar

**JOHN ZUBYCK WAS** getting high pretty regularly as far back as grade school. In fact, he'd hardly put his colouring books away before he wrapped his hands around a fibreglass pole and headed for the pit. He's never looked back since. "That was Grade 6, I think," says Zubyck, a fourth-year kinesiology and health sciences student.

Zubyck now ranks first in the country in pole vault at the inter-university level and was the only vaulter at the March national championships to break the 5.0 metre mark (his winning jump was 5.05 m). His future plans include finishing off his York degree this fall. Long term? "I'd like to make it to the 2008 Summer Olympics. Other than that I wouldn't mind getting my teaching degree and coaching." Given his success so far, you can bet his chances for doing that are...high. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HORST HERGET

## News:

### Just say YES

Secrets of success unveiled at the York Excellence Series

**W**ANT TO LEARN the secrets of a successful career? Meet some of York's most accomplished alumni professionals as they share their stories, tips and advice at the York Excellence Series. Designed for busy people, these sessions are just one hour long and take place after work at One Dundas Street West, Suite 2602 (at Yonge). Cost is \$10 per session. Space is limited, so telephone Connie at 416-650-8159 to reserve your seat.

**HELEN SINCLAIR**

**OCT. 9, 5:30 TO 6:30PM**

Helen Sinclair is a banker's banker. She is the founder and chief executive officer of BankWorks Trading. From 1989 to 1996 she was president of the Canadian Bankers Association. Before that, she held several senior positions with the Bank of Nova Scotia.

In addition, she is a director of the Toronto-Dominion Bank and other major companies, and serves on the Board of Governors of York University. Her public policy activities include membership on the boards of the C.D. Howe Institute and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

Sinclair holds a BA (Hon-

ours) in economics from York's Glendon College and an MA in economics from the University of Toronto. She is also a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School.

**PAULA TODD**

**OCT. 21, 5 TO 6PM**

This is Paula Todd's eighth season as co-host of "Studio 2," TV Ontario's popular flagship current events program. She also hosts and co-produces "Person 2 Person with Paula Todd," an intimate biography program about human behaviour, which won the Tema Center Memorial Trust Media Award in 2003.

Todd came to "Studio 2" from the *Toronto Star*, where she worked as a reporter, feature writer, Queen's Park correspondent and editorial writer. Also a lawyer, she has worked extensively as a national magazine writer and columnist. She was nominated for a National Magazine Award in 2003.

Born in Hamilton, Todd earned her BA from York

(where she served as co-editor of *excalibur*) and her LLB from York's Osgoode Hall Law School. She is currently writing a book about the exceptional courage of ordinary people.

**SANDRA LEVY**

**NOV. 4, 5:30 TO 6:30PM**

Sandra Levy is director of corporate affairs and donations at Magna International Inc. She was a member of the Canadian Olympic Field Hockey Team and competed in the 1988 and 1992 Olympics. A

lawyer by training, she is a member of numerous sport, community and corporate boards.

She completed her undergraduate and law degrees at York and Osgoode Hall Law School.



**AWARD WINNER**  
Paula Todd of TVO's *Studio 2*

### It's U 2

**I**T BEGAN AS A VOLUNTEER student-pride organization. But within a year, York is U has become something more like, York is all of us. The enormous success of events like Multicultural Week (honoured by the Washington-based Council for Advancement and Support of Education, or CASE) has cemented the fledgling organization's reputation. York is U is now the official Student Alumni Program of York University, with a mandate to establish in students a lifelong connection to York. Here are some of its plans.

**CRICKET CHALLENGE, OCT. 4-5**

Four to six cricket teams (representing different Common-

wealth countries) will battle it out over a weekend. A sample of York's renowned multiculturalism, this tournament will be the first in a planned annual event each October.

**HALLOWEEN BASH, OCT. 30**

People can dress up as their favourite monsters, celebrities or heroes at the annual Halloween Bash during Thursday pub night at the Underground. During the day, a haunted house will move around campus.

**FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVE, NOV. 10-21**

This event is a York outreach program for the Jane-Finch community. Working with food banks in the area, York is U plans to host the drive this year. For information, see [www.yorku.ca/yorkisu](http://www.yorku.ca/yorkisu).

### Nominations, Please

For the Bruce Bryden Alumni Recognition Awards

**Y**ou can nominate someone for The Bruce Bryden Alumni Recognition Awards, which are presented each spring to alumni – and to one non-graduate friend of the University – who have made a significant contribution to York University.

Here are the categories and what they recognize:

**Contribution (alumni):** Dedication to the advancement of York University through commitment and contributions.

**Achievement (alumni):** True distinction in professional life or in any field of endeavour.

**Leadership (alumni):** True pioneering spirit in professional life or in any field of endeavour.

**Contribution (friend of York University):** Longstanding dedication to the advancement of York University through generosity and commitment.

If you'd like to nominate someone, please contact Michelle Miller, Manager, alumni programs and events, at 416-736-2100 ext. 22083.

## Update Your Alumni Record

**Y O R K  
ALUMNI**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*previous surname*

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*faculty*

\_\_\_\_\_ *year of graduation*

\_\_\_\_\_ *college*

\_\_\_\_\_ *major(s)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Student no. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- May we announce where you are living and working in York publications?
- Is there anything you want to tell us about your current activities? Please enclose a letter or send e-mail. You're also welcome to include a photo for possible publication.

- Please send me a new Alumni Identification Card.
- I am interested in information on Alumni Services.

### Occupational Information

Company \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Position title \_\_\_\_\_

**COPY AND RETURN TO:**  
Alumni Office  
PRB 1092  
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e-mail: [alumni@yorku.ca](mailto:alumni@yorku.ca)  
Toll Free: 1-866-876-2228  
[www.yorku.ca/alumni](http://www.yorku.ca/alumni)



# ALUMNI

## Class Notes:

**1948**

**Lawson, Donald M.** (LLB) is a retired judge from the Ontario Superior Court.

**Bartlett, Rev. Theodore S.** (MBA) resides in Ajax, ON, and is the reverend at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

**1971**

**Daigle, Edward** (BA Winters) is a retired teacher and is co-founder and partner in Port Perry Players dinner and summer theatres in Ontario.

**Keane, J. Roger** (BA '70 Glendon, MA) is senior VP with Retrocom/Bellporte Black Investment Management Ltd. in Mississauga, ON.

**1974**

**Campbell, William H.** (BA '72 Stong, MES) is president of Customer Based Marketing in Clover, SC.

**Lawrenson, Irena** (BA Stong) is an Ontario Provincial Police Inspector.

**1975**

**Grayson, Jon E.** (BA Founders) is the district manager for Griffin Industries, Inc. in Cold Spring, KY.

**Koven, Charlotte** (BA Vanier) is the principal at Temple Sinai School. She has 2 daughters: Rachel, at York; and Sarah, at UBC.

**Louch, Jon F.** (BA Winters) is national sales manager for Balmer Studios in Toronto.

**1976**

**Livingston, Jackie** (BA Winters) is a primary teacher at St. Patrick Public School in Cobalt, ON. She is married and has two children, Emma, 15, and Andrew, 12.

**Wilkerson, Elaine** (MA Spec. Hons. Stong) is the director of planning for the City of Glendale, CA.

**1977**

**Fee, Colleen** (LLB) is the founding



**1999**  
**Chris Huismans** member of the BC-based international literary venture, Fresh-Wet-Talents.com.

**1978**

**Achermann, Hans M.** (MBA) is a member of executive management at Elektrizitats-Gesellschaft in Switzerland.

**Baryckyj, Myron** (BA McLaughlin) is a claims specialist for Canada Life in Toronto.

**1979**

**Fawcett, B. Jane** (BA Hons McLaughlin, BEd) is vice-principal at Bayshore Public School in Nepean, ON.

**Flawn, David** (BA Hons Founders) lives in Boston.

**1982**

**Gervais, Michael** (BA Founders) is regional manager for the National Bank in Barrie, ON.

**1987**

**Jenkinson, Joan** (BA Calumet) is the director of programming operations at Vision TV, One: The Body, Mind & Spirit Channel.

**Kailuweit, Kai Peter** (BA Bethune) works at Dresdner Bank in Guatemala.

**1988**

**McMillan, Susan** (BAS '86 Atkinson, MBA) is chief secretary for the Salvation Army in South America West and is second-in-command for the Army's work in Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. She has been promoted to the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

**1990**

**Khaja, Majid** (BAS Atkinson) is an accountant for Shiseido Canada Inc. in Markham, ON.

**1991**

**Lefebvre, Stephane** (MA) is a recent recipient of the commemorative medal for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, awarded in recognition of a significant contribution to Canada.

**1992**

**Donald, Betsy** (MES) is assistant professor at Queen's University in the Dept. of Geography.

**Gallagher, Lynne P.** (BSW Atkinson) works for the Family Service Association of Toronto.

**Grot-Glowczycki, Yvonne** (BA Hons Atkinson) is a special education assistant for the North Vancouver School Board.

**Koch, Robert** (BA Hons '82 Winters, MA '84, PhD) is Chair of applied linguistics at Aachen University in Germany.

**2003**

**Richard Reid**



**1995**

**Harel, David** (BA Atkinson) works for Elbit in Israel.

**Syed, Kamran** (MBA) is a self-employed chartered accountant in Toronto.

**1996**

**Dumais, Martin** (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) is a psychoeducator for Cégep de Saint-Laurent in Montreal.

**Giardetti, Elda** (BA Glendon) is the sales and marketing representative in Ontario for Mississauga-based Rubbermaid Canada.

**1997**

**Jacob, Valerie** (BA Spec. Hons. Winters) is an art therapist in Pickering, ON.

**Nishi-Lince, Mary** (BA Stong) married Dr. D. Lince, a general surgeon, on Dec. 10, 2002, and they live in British Columbia.

**1999**

**Huismans, Chris** (BA Stong) is a Probation and Parole Officer for the Ministry of Public Safety and Security in Toronto.

**McAleese, Seann** (BA Hons '96 Calumet, LLB) is a lawyer at Hicks Morley in Toronto.

**Trikha, Rishi** (BA Atkinson) is completing an MA in playwriting at the Central School of Speech & Drama in London, England.

**2000**

**Rizi, Fabio F.** (BA '86 Atkinson, PhD) is pleased to announce that in May 2003 the University of Toronto Press published his book *Benedetto Croce and Italian Fascism*.

**2001**

**Hwang, Young Shin May** (BA Calumet) is the owner/president of the Great Canadian Bagel in Markham, ON.

**Koh, Kenny** (BA Atkinson) is a consultant for Moore Stephens in Singapore.

**Krisciunas-Utz, Lisa Marie** (BA Atkinson) married Andrew on Sept. 1, 2001.

**2003**

**Reid, Richard** (BES, Bed Bethune) is an elementary school teacher for the Durham District School Board in Pickering ON. ■



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YORK  
ALUMNI

Join us from February 12 -24, 2004 for a journey to some of the most spectacular natural settings in the world. Walk the trails of Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve; see the active Arenal volcano by night; sunbathe on the white sand beaches of Manuel Antonio. You will also visit York University's Las Nubes Rainforest Research & Conservation Project. Trip is courtesy of the York Alumni Office travel partner, Odyssey Learning Adventures.



redefine THE POSSIBLE.

To my Scottish father – plenty. BY WILL FERGUSON

# What's in a Name?

**T**HE SILENCE WAS deafening. “Patrick? *Patrick?*? You want to name him Patrick?” My father was upset. Very upset. “Well,” I replied weakly, my voice rapidly losing steam. “It was just an idea.”

“Patrick,” said Fayther, simply and forcefully, “is an *Irish* name.” He made it sound like an affliction. For my father, Scottish to the core, the very worst thing you could say about someone or something was that they had an “Irish” quality. Fayther, as my sister Margaret dubbed him, was a great mountain of a man, with a booming voice and a stare that could melt tar off a roof.

Now, my wife and I were expecting our first child any day, a baby boy, and we still hadn't chosen a name. My wife is from Japan and we had already selected our son's Japanese name: Genki, meaning “lively or full of life.” But after that we hit an impasse. The list grew more and more fanciful: Mortimer, Gilgamesh, Hewlett. But none of them had the right ring, and we finally settled on Patrick, which is a good strong name, even

## The way he reacted you'd

if it is a wee bit “green.”

The way Fayther reacted you'd have thought I was trying to name his grandson Paddy O'Leprechaun.

“Give him a proper Scottish name,” said Fayther. “Alexander or Duncan or Murdoch. Anything but Patrick.”

Names were always a sensitive issue around our house. As a teenager, I had my first big crush on a girl named May. I made the mistake of mentioning May's last name to Fayther. “Campbell?” he sputtered. “You're in love with a Campbell?” “But – but she's Scottish, Dad. I checked.”

“Do you know nothing of Scottish history? Do you not remember how the Clan Campbell betrayed the Macdonalds to the English?” Fayther began reciting a litany of lives ruined by the Campbells. This went on for weeks and weeks. Here's the odd part. For all his bite and bluster, my father was only half Scottish. His mother was from Norway, which makes *me* a quarter Viking. It gets even worse. Our dark family secret is this: I'm Irish. And so are all my siblings.

My grandfather on my mother's side was from Belfast, which means I have exactly as much Irish in me as I do Scottish.

Will Ferguson (BFA '90) is the author of *Why I Hate Canadians*.

But Fayther refused to accept this. He had four sons and he tried to name each one of them Angus. My mother, calm and cool, would counter with, “Fine, we'll name the boy Angus. Angus Paul.” This caused my dad to gnash his teeth and mutter darkly under his breath. Fayther hated the name Paul. “It's a feminine name. Effete. Weak. It's *English*.” And so, all four of the boys were spared the name Angus.

Fayther had toyed with the idea of converting our surname back to its Gaelic roots: MacFergus. Which is to say, I came within a hair's-breadth of being named “Angus MacFergus.” With a name like that, you can forget about getting a date on a Saturday night. With a name like that you pretty much have to grow a red beard and sit in a bog eating haggis and looking miserable.

“Angus MacFergus,” I said. “It sounds like a bull with a bagpipe.”

“It's a fine name,” said Fayther. “It has the scent of the Highlands about it.”

Mom, meanwhile, was whispering encouragements in my ear. “Name your baby Patrick,” she'd say, her voice smooth as honey. “Or maybe Paul.” Later that evening, exhausted and head still spinning, I turned to my wife and said, “What do you think about Angus? You know, for the baby.”

She frowned. “Angus,” she said. “It sounds like a cow.” As noted, my wife is from Japan. There are no hyphens in her identity. She is Japanese, plain and simple. Her parents were Japanese. Her grandparents were Japanese. Her great-grandparents, her great-great-grandparents and so on, all the way back into the mists of time. For my wife, Canada's mongrel mélange of cultures is endlessly fascinating.

At one point, she sat down with a calculator and figured out the exact percentages. “Our son will be 50 per cent Japanese, 12.5 per cent Scottish, 12.5 per cent Irish, 12.5 per cent Norwegian, 6.25 per cent Czech and 6.25 per cent miscellaneous.”

We looked at each other. “A mix like that,” I said, “you realize what it means?” She nodded. “He'll be 100 per cent Canadian.” Our son was born a few weeks later. We named him Alexander. ■



PHOTOGRAPHY BY INNER SPIRIT