



OCTOBER 2004

Watch It!

High-achiever Michelle Dagnino takes on sexism in hip hop music

PLUS:

Casanova

Stem Cells

Inspector Banks

Glendon Hall Makeover



..... A psychologist sees an addiction.
..... A student sees an all-nighter.
..... A kinesiologist sees a miracle.

QUESTION EVERY ANGLE. STUDY EVERY ANGLE. RESEARCH EVERY ANGLE. WELCOME TO THE INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY. AT YORK, WE BREAK DOWN TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES AND BRING TOGETHER THINKERS FROM EVERY DISCIPLINE TO TACKLE REAL-WORLD ISSUES. PRESENTLY, RESEARCHERS FROM BIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND KINESIOLOGY ARE UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF MOTOR FUNCTION. HOW DO MUSCLES, THE BRAIN AND VISION WORK TOGETHER TO JUDGE THE WEIGHT, FORCE AND MOVEMENT OF SOMETHING LIKE A CUP OF COFFEE? THE ANSWER MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UPON AREAS LIKE PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND ALZHEIMER'S. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY, [VISIT YORKU.CA](http://YORKU.CA).



INSIDE YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY



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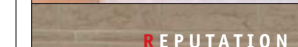


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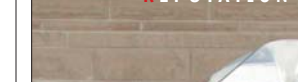
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Kind Words

EARLY THIS SUMMER I found myself in Halifax, home to The Citadel, the Bluenose II and 179 recipients of this magazine. I wasn't there to visit them, more's the pity, but to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education. The CCAE brings together people from more than 170 Canadian universities, colleges and other postsecondary institutions, all dedicated to spreading the word about those institutions for love and, indeed, money. The CCAE also hands out the Oscars of Canadian university communications and advancement, the CCAE "Prix d'Excellence" Awards. This year, I'm pleased to say, *YorkU* magazine won two silver awards, including one in the Best Magazine category.



This was no small accomplishment, we feel, because *YorkU* is so new. Only our first two issues qualified for the 2003-based competition. We began publishing this magazine, aimed at the broad university community, in September 2003 with, as you may recall, York-educated TV meteorologist Natasha Ramsahai on the cover. The following issue, which circulated on campus, featured York's top-ranked undergraduate students. Here's what the CCAE judges said, in their point-form fashion, in bestowing the silver for Best Magazine on YorkU's staff: "Engaging covers, full of energy. Wide audience appeal. Stories are very accessible and told for readers, not for administrators. As far as pushing the boundaries of university magazines, York is the forerunner."

The Ramsahai package also earned a silver in the Best Photograph category, for an inside shot by freelance photographer Edward Gajdel showing a smiling Ramsahai using an umbrella under a shower (fully dressed). Judges called it a "dynamic photo" with a "great sense of fun."

This was not the first time York publications have won awards at CCAE – one of YorkU's predecessors, the former alumni magazine *Profiles*, won gold twice in the mid-1990s. But things are popping on campus these days, reflecting the University's determination to get its message out in new and intriguing ways. York won another three CCAE awards, including a gold, for its nature-themed student recruitment program and materials. And in this issue, we look at York's splashy "subway domination" in downtown Toronto (see page 12), a reputational advertising and media relations campaign (have you noticed a lot of York voices in the media these days?).

There's a great team of professionals celebrating the cool things going on at York. But as they say, word of mouth is the best advertising. You're welcome to add your voice in enhancing York's reputation. Tell people about the University. Show them this magazine. Hey, like a lot of things at York, it's an award-winner. ■

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

YORKU

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY HORST HERGET

Higher thinking for higher education. BY LORNA R. MARSDEN

Dear Bob Rae

OUR NEW CHANCELLOR, Peter Cory, was recently quoted as saying: "Graduates of universities are always the ones who go on to be leaders of communities, provinces and countries. Everyone should have a chance to reach those goals." The review of postsecondary education in Ontario now in progress under the leadership of former premier Bob Rae presents us with a historic opportunity to lay down long-term foundations for higher education in Ontario. And for us at York, there's no more important issue than student access.

York's success has been built over the past 45 years on access to an affordable, high-quality education. York University has always played a leading role in trumpeting the need for access to postsecondary education for all Ontario students. We continue to believe strongly that this principle must remain a



The former premier's

fundamental value underpinning tuition and financial assistance policies, not just at York but at all Ontario universities. This needs to be embedded in government policy.

In relation to student assistance, it is time for a major overhaul and simplification of the financial aid system in Ontario in coordination with the federal government. We are keen to participate in or support the endeavour to improve grants, scholarships, bursaries and loans. Great care must be taken that new tuition policy does not inadvertently introduce additional systemic biases against those least able to afford them.

For example, part-time students are today the norm, not the exception, as more and more students work at one or more jobs while studying. Yet they have no access to student loans in Ontario. We hope that the review of the Ontario Student Assistance Program will provide support for part-time students – many of whom might be able to finish their degrees faster with more help.

There is also a critical need to ensure that Ontario makes use of every research dollar available. York has been ranked as

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

one of Canada's fastest-growing research universities, with a 51-per-cent increase in total sponsored research income, and one

review is a historic opportunity to lay down long-term foundations

of the most internationally collaborative research institutions. Our unique interdisciplinary approach extends from the undergraduate level to our research culture. We see the undergraduate, graduate and research experience as a continuum, not compartments. Research knowledge is incorporated into teaching all our 50,000 students, and is fundamental to student learning.

To make all of this possible for our students, universities, like any other organization, need the ability to plan ahead. Yet in recent times, they have often not known their grant funding amounts in advance of the fiscal year. Strong universities need timely, stable and adequate funding. For more than a decade, the level of operating grants to universities has not covered even the inflationary pressures. Indeed, on a per capita basis, Ontario ranks 10th out of 10 among Canadian provinces in university funding. With the Rae review, we have a golden opportunity to redress that balance and give our students the higher education they need and deserve.

At York we hope to approach the Rae review together – faculty, students and administration – to make our case. Alumni can help as well. We'll be happy to hear your views. And we'll make sure Bob Rae hears them too. ■

UNIVERSE

PERFORMANCES

Take the 'B' Train

For Brubeck, that is.
Jazz legend Dave
and son Matt light up
Spring Convocation.



It was one of those magic musical moments, made all the more magical for occurring within the robed traditions of Spring Convocation. On piano: jazz legend Dave Brubeck. On cello: Matt Brubeck, Dave's son and a master's student in music composition at York. Dad had been invited to York to receive an honorary degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, so it seemed only natural that father and son would find time to do a little improvising. After receiving his doctor of letters, Dave chose to play his "convocation address", and Matt joined in.

The youngest Brubeck, Matt grew up immersed in music. Three of his five older siblings are professional musicians and his mother is a lyricist. A classically trained cellist with a master's degree from the Yale School of Music, Matt also plays keyboards and bass, arranges, and composes his own music. He has performed or recorded with top pop and rock musicians, including the Dixie Chicks, Sheryl Crow, Tom Waits, Sarah McLachlan and the Indigo Girls. He's also a longtime member of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra.

At convocation, the musical genius of father and son was evident, but perhaps the most memorable aspect of the performance was the sheer delight that both displayed as they moved through bouncy Take the 'A' Train and the lyrical For June. "It's always a lot of fun to play duets with my dad," said Matt. "We don't get to do it very often, so there are always a few surprises. This time Dave decided to play a tune we hadn't rehearsed, but that's what improvisation is all about." **M**

KEY NOTES: Dave Brubeck, left, and Matt

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN HYRNIUK

BOOKS

What They're Reading

York people reveal what's on the bedside table



LORNA R. MARSDEN,
York president and vice-chancellor:

A Whistling Woman

By A.S. Byatt
Vintage Books

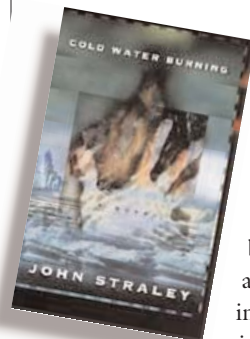
A Life in Science

By Lou Siminovitch
Privately published

"I'm seriously reading *A Whistling Woman* because I read everything of Byatt's. It is quite depressing. As Byatt gets older she becomes gloomier. So, to cheer myself up, I'm also reading

Lou Siminovitch's *A Life in Science*.

I also have three tenure files beside my bed in case anyone is waiting for the final signature."



DAVID MOTT, music professor and Karate black belt:

Cold Water Burning

By John Straley
Bantam

"When I read in bed I don't want to think, I want to dream! So the books at my bedside fall into three categories: travel, non-fiction adventure and mysteries. Currently, the book I'm devouring is a classic 'whodunit' by John Straley."



RESEARCH

Fast Results

A law prof's report aids abused women

The timing was "fortuitous" to say the least, remembers Janet Mosher. A day after the York law professor released a report calling for welfare-system changes to better protect abused women, the Ontario government announced more money for transitional housing and counselling for women fleeing domestic violence, better officer training and public education. Was there a connection? Even before the report came out April 5, she says, Premier Dalton McGuinty's office was planning policy changes around domestic violence and had met twice with Mosher and her research collaborators. "They had a pretty clear sense of what the key findings were," she says.

The media trumpeted the report's finding that many abused women return to abusive relationships because they can't afford to live on welfare. Of the 34 recommendations made in "Walking on Eggshells: Abused Women's Experiences of Ontario's Welfare System," raising welfare rates and revamping welfare fraud policies are the two most critical, says Mosher. Abusive partners often exploit get-tough policies on welfare fraud to trap women.

Weeks after releasing the report, Mosher was still being deluged with requests for copies at her Osgoode Hall Law School office. "We're really delighted that it got the kind of media play it did," she said. "We hope it will be used to keep up the pressure at all levels of government to change the welfare system." ■

ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN PRICE

UNIVERSE

INDEX

York is \$3.4 B

As part of the campaign for a subway to York, University officials are stressing the huge economic impact York has on the Greater Toronto Area – valued at \$3.4 billion in 2003. The calculation:



Portion of the University's 47,000 students whose families live in the GTA: **88%**

Estimated spending by those students: **\$268 million**

Spending by York University directly (payroll, goods, construction etc.): **\$547 million**



Impact, using standard multiplier, of that \$815-million total spending: **\$1.2 billion**

Number of York's 170,000 alumni living in the GTA: **130,000**



Annual premium those graduates earn over average incomes: **\$2.2 billion**

York's total 2003 contribution to the GTA economy: **\$3.4 billion**

MUSIC

Catch in the Throat

A York researcher swallows up Tuvan singing

It's a long journey from jazz trumpeter to Tuvan throat singer, but *khoomei* (as the ancient central Asian singing style is sometimes called) proved irresistible to Alexander Glenfield. "I guess you could say it grabbed me by the throat," jokes Glenfield, a York PhD music student. "Anyway, I heard it on the radio and couldn't get it out of my head." Good thing too, because Glenfield's jazz trumpet career was derailed by a jaw injury.

Tuvan throat singing is a music style that dates back to the 7th century with the Tuvan people, a nomadic group living just north of Mongolia in today's Russia. The music was associated with shamanism, but has moved into mainstream folk culture.

It consists of holding one note in the throat and playing with its many overtones. The sound could be described as otherworldly, Glenfield says. "There's a philosophy in Tuva that when alone on the steppe herding you would 'sing with nature'. The music reflects that. There's a song that imitates a babbling brook. It really does sound like it."

This summer Glenfield headed to Tuva's capital, Kyzyl, in southern Siberia to study and document the tradition, and assist with an upcoming book on throat singing by Tuvan musicologist Zoya Kyrgyz. "A lot of New Agers have taken an interest in Tuvan music in recent years, claiming it transports them to a higher plane," says Glenfield. "But, really, most of the songs are about horses and sheep." ■

PUBLIC SPEAKING

"The guy was a sponge. He was exposed to black culture day in and day out, in the streets and on radio. No previous generation of southern whites had been so inundated by the influence of black music, gestures, language and stories. The influence was pervasive, unavoidable."

ROB BOWMAN, York musicologist, on Elvis Presley, in the *Toronto Star*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

RESEARCH

Getting Along Swimmingly

A cutting-edge bot features state-of-the-art eyes

AQUA – a self-propelled \$450,000 robot the size of a suitcase – walks down to the ocean on its legs, wades in and starts swimming with its six bright-yellow flippers. It looks rather like a high-tech, titanium sea turtle. Except for the cable out back connecting it to a land operator, you'd swear it had a mind of its own. And in a way it does, thanks to a super-sophisticated 3-D vision system designed by York scientists.

Its "eyes" (more sophisticated than ones on recent Mars exploration vehicles) were the work of a York research team led by computer science Professor Michael Jenkin. "AQUA's ability to walk and swim makes it unique as a research vehicle," Jenkin says.

The underwater bot was developed by a consortium of researchers from York, McGill and Dalhousie. Reps from all three universities were on hand this past winter to watch its ocean-going debut in Barbados – which went swimmingly, according to Jenkin.

"AQUA is a great non-invasive way to study marine environments – especially coral reefs," he says. AQUA uses cameras to map the sea floor, not high-powered sonar which can disturb fish and kill sea mammals. For now, AQUA's vision and navigation systems are controlled by an operator from shore through a fibre-optic tether, but the bot should be out on its own within a year. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF MICHAEL JENKIN

ILLUSTRATION BY MARIE HOLLAIN; PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF YORK UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, RAY STEVENSON FONDOS



STUDIES

Truly Grand

Grandparents have plenty of influence on kids, says a new report

There are a few wrinkles in the idea that modern grandparents have minimal influence in the lives of their grandchildren. In fact, the opposite appears to be true, according to a recently published study by Rachel Schlesinger, a York social science professor. Schlesinger surveyed 92 York undergrads (from one of her own classes) to determine whether grandparents played a role in nurturing their grandchildren when young and, later, into adulthood.

"One of my teaching areas is aging," says Schlesinger. "And the myth about aging is that older people are rigid, can't stand noise and only suffer losses. But among many York students, our study showed there was a great deal of interaction between the generations. My classes are strongly multicultural – from 26 different ethnic backgrounds. And in those households we found grandparents often played an important role relating to grandchildren, and not just caring for them."

Schlesinger notes that today there are often three and four generations living in some families. In the past, many grandparents had died by the time grandchildren reached adulthood. "The fastest growing demographic group is 85-100," says Schlesinger, "but it's a recent phenomenon."

Schlesinger also found that grandparents frequently offered financial and emotional support to their adult grandchildren. "Students will move in with their grandparents. It gives them independence and lessens the load financially, and the grandparents get someone to look after them. It's called reciprocity." ■

ARCHIVES

Solidarity, Forever

York gets a treasure trove of labour history

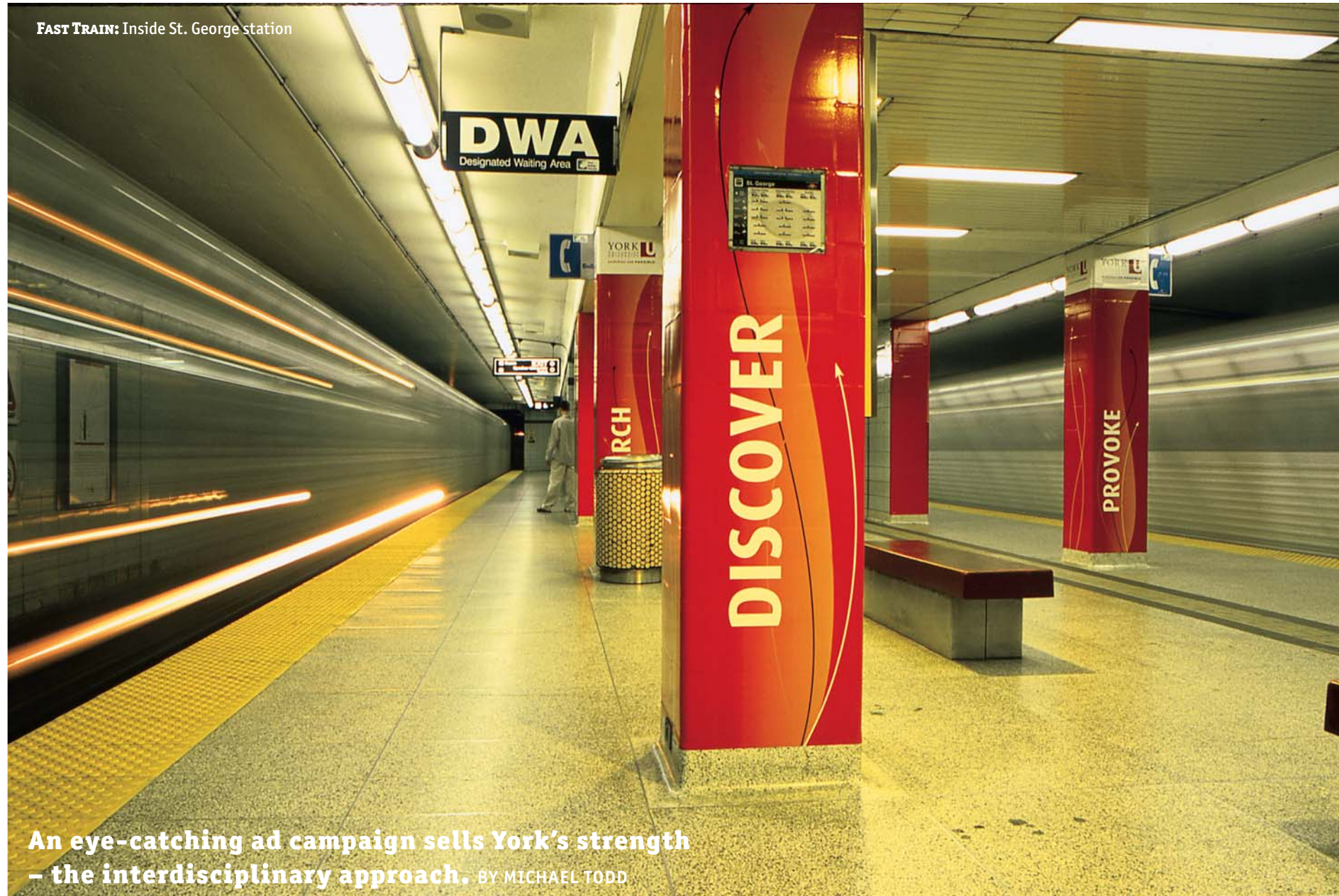
It's a gift that's a labour of love – or perhaps a love of labour. York is home to memorabilia and documents detailing an important epoch in Canada's labour history from the 1930s onwards – materials that were collected over nearly 70 years by Ray Stevenson, a Toronto trade union organizer and peace activist who passed away this summer.

This trove, housed in York Libraries' Archives and Special Collections, includes union meeting minutes, books, magazines, files, correspondence with former prime ministers, and documents detailing the activities of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union and the United Steelworkers of America, among other items. It was acquired from Stevenson between 1998 and 2000 with the help of alumnus Joe Grogan (BA '72), a retired Humber College teacher and labour studies specialist who says Stevenson was "a walking labour history resource."

The collection totals more than eight metres of textual records, photographs (1,350 of them) and audio and visual recordings documenting Stevenson's career, plus papers of the Communist Party of Canada. "Over the years York has acquired and made accessible a large number of archival resources on Canadian labour history," says Suzanne Dubeau, assistant head of archives and special collections. "The Stevenson archive fits in well." One caveat: you'll have to wait until Jan. 1, 2006, to look at the secret minutes of the Communist party. ■



STRIKE RELIEF, 1958: Stevenson is at left



An eye-catching ad campaign sells York's strength – the interdisciplinary approach. BY MICHAEL TODD

Going Underground

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

HOW DO YOU REACH 11 million people with your branding message in a single day? Use “station domination” of Toronto’s busy St. George subway station and make sure the media all know about it, that’s how. For a month this spring, York covered St. George’s floors, stairs, walls, columns – pretty much all of its flat space – with clever ads and bold banners reinforcing York’s interdisciplinary message. Pillars shouted out, “Discover,” “Transform,” “Challenge.” Walls asked, “Where will this journey take you?” Stairs said, “For the interdisciplinary university go north.” The resulting TV and radio coverage of the eye-catching launch gave York lots of extra (and free) publicity and profile, notes Richard Fisher, York’s chief communications officer. There were also magazine and newspaper ads, including a strip on the front page of *The Globe and Mail*.

York’s ongoing reputation campaign is designed to position the University as a different kind of academic institution, offering a modern, interdisciplinary approach to study and research. May was chosen as launch month because it’s a time when recent high-school graduates are considering their choices for higher education. St. George got the subway nod because it’s the highest-traffic stop where such campaigns are feasible, and it’s the transfer point for heading north to York.

Of course, it’s not easy capturing the distinctiveness of something as big and varied as York, acknowledges Fisher, a branding specialist who came to York in early 2003 after 18 years with advertising agencies in London, New York and Toronto. But York’s interdisciplinary approach seemed like the right place to start. “This campaign is about being in a culture where we question, innovate and break down traditional boundaries,” he says. “York brings together thinkers from all disciplines, and also allows students to combine majors in completely different fields. This is an important part of the York experience.

“A lot of university ad campaigns throw up a picture of a building with some students and slap on a slogan or the name of the institution. But that doesn’t tell you anything about it. What makes York tick is this interdisciplinary promise that’s supported academically.”

Who is the campaign’s target? “Our main audience is prospective students and their parents, but the reputation aspect of the campaign is also aimed at alumni and, indirectly, employers who hire York graduates.”

Still, it’s one thing to think up an ad concept and quite another to make that concept concrete in the audience’s mind. “It’s an old expression in advertising – show, don’t tell,” says Fisher. In one ad featuring a coffee cup (see page 2), display copy offers different ways people see a cup depending on who they are (“A psychologist sees an addiction”, “A kinesiologist sees a miracle”). The ad then illustrates how those diverse views can come together at York – thanks to its interdisciplinary culture.

Fisher says the new ads challenge the viewer to become a participant in the puzzle, not just a passive receptor. Ads and campaign materials were created by Toronto’s doug agency. “What has been developed is a great new look and feel for York,” says Doug Robinson, agency principal. “It’s a rallying cry for the University – something students, staff and faculty can feel proud of. The key insight we tapped into was York’s interdisciplinary approach. It’s the nugget that differentiates York from other academic institutions.” ■

High-achiever Michelle Dagnino challenges hip hop music's attitudes toward women. BY MARTHA TANCOCK

Where is the Love?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

I **T WAS LIKE WINNING** an Oscar. Law student Michelle Dagnino waltzed up to the podium at a gala dinner in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and accepted the YWCA's Young Woman of Distinction Award. At 23, she was the youngest of six women – among them Dr. Sheela Basrur, Ontario's chief medical officer of health and the voice of calm during the SARS crisis – singled out this year for their contributions to the city and to their sex. "It was amazing and humbling," remembers Dagnino. "You always hope to receive honours at the end of your career. You never expect to get it at the beginning." Before a crowd of 800 accomplished and influential women, she thanked her parents and mentors – then launched into a spirited appeal for funding for youth community groups, schools and debt-burdened students.

Dagnino was being her usual passionate social activist self. "I mean, how often do we have a captive audience?" That kind of attitude had impressed the Y's award judges. So had her A standing, a \$40,000 undergraduate Weston Scholarship, two York degrees – a BA in 2002 and an MA in 2003 in political science – and her pursuit of a third from York's Osgoode Hall Law School. Not to mention campaigning around the world against child labour, serving as a delegate to the United Nations special session on children and organizing anti-racism conferences, without missing an academic beat.

But her current project has captured everybody's imagination and stands out as one more example of Dagnino's feminist zeal to empower young women. "Where is the Love? The Commodification of Women in Hip Hop" may sound like the title of a master's thesis, but it's really a wake-up shout – in the form of an educational manual – to girls enthralled by pop music that demeans women, especially black women.

Dagnino is a fan of hip hop and watches MuchMusic frequently. "Hip hop at its best is a social movement with a very powerful message," she says. But in 2002, she saw the video of Obie Trice's Gotta Have Teeth. The video shows a swaggering Trice, the male

prize on a mock dating show, reacting with disgust to female contestants, each plagued with distasteful problems like fishy odors or no teeth. “The video was absolutely outrageous. Trice was very insulting. To me, it was over the top.” Around the same time, she heard Jay Z’s song, 99 Problems But a Bitch Ain’t One. “It was playing into the stereotype, especially of young black women, of being nothing but accessories whose highest aspirations were to be back-up dancers on music videos.”

As project coordinator at the Youth Action Network in downtown Toronto, Dagnino decided to challenge the stereotypes – and the language. “You hear male hip hop artists calling out ‘Come over here, ho,’ or ‘Whatcha doin’ lookin’ at him? You my bitch,’” says Dagnino, and young girls are imitating them. “Artists may say that by adopting the language they are taking ownership of it and taking away its power,” she says, but

“When hip hop artists say ‘shut up, bitch,’ that’s what they mean.”

“12-, 13- and 14-year-olds calling each other ‘bitch’ has no social value. It’s just imitation.” Dagnino takes the lyrics at face value. “When hip hop artists say ‘shut up, bitch,’ that’s what they mean.”

Dagnino rallied volunteers to quiz groups of students at 20 high schools in Toronto and northern Ontario. Armed with pizza and pop, they asked the teens how many hours a day they watched hip hop videos, how much money they spent on CDs, whether they agreed with the lyrics. “Young men don’t see a problem with the lyrics and general images, and young women are actually trying to aspire to these roles,” says Dagnino. Based on the responses, she and her team are designing a teaching manual to be posted on YouthActionNetwork.org by December. Dagnino hopes teachers will use the manual, featuring articles, music and other resource materials, to spark classroom discussions and critique the media in general. “Hip hop is just a vehicle to get young people to think about broader issues. I’m not telling young people how to think, just that they should think.”

That same goal inspired her very first project. The only child of working class immigrants from Uruguay, Dagnino grew up brimming with confidence yet aware of her difference in the prim, mainly white confines of well-heeled Victoria, BC. “I grew up in a household of very strong Latina women who told me a woman could do whatever she wanted in the world.” When her adolescent girlfriends succumbed to eating disorders and obsessed about looking hot for boys, she was perplexed. “It was sad to see my intelligent, bright and active girlfriends go through a whole new rack of insecurities based on what other people, not just boys, thought of them.” So in Grade 10 she started *Aspire*, a mentorship program featuring weekly talks

by accomplished women from all walks of life. The late, Pulitzer-Prize-winning novelist Carol Shields agreed to be one of her first guests.

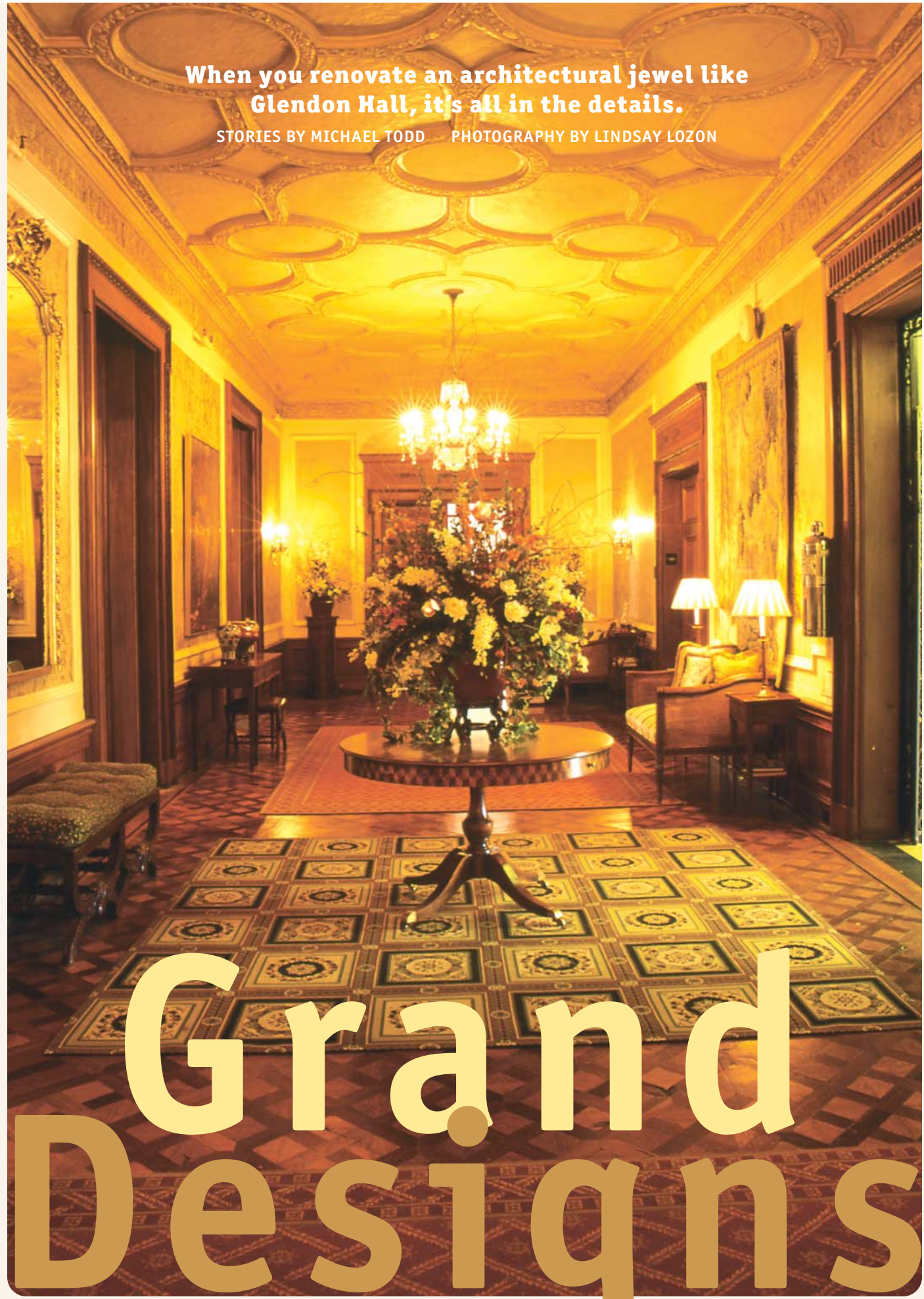
When her parents moved to Toronto – suburban Woodbridge, to be exact – Dagnino won seven scholarships, including the national Garfield Weston Scholarship worth \$10,000 annually over four years, and enrolled in political science at York. Sam Gindin’s lectures on social justice and political activism were an eye-opener. “The whole notion of being working class or studying the labour movement didn’t occur to me until I came to York.” Auto workers taking the class told her how lucky she was to be in university. She realized how much her parents had sacrificed to make a good life for her. “They came to Canada with no money in their pockets and no education and made a decent life for themselves – and a great life for their daughter. I would be able to go to university, have a profession and seek any career I wanted to. It was an amazing privilege.” She began wondering: “How do we give workers the chance to dream and do what they dream?”

A politicized Dagnino studied trade unions and the labour movement and even took Canadian Labour Congress workshops. The CLC connection led to a stint – while she was still doing her undergraduate degree – as the globe-trotting coordinator of an anti-child-labour campaign for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Based in Brussels, a 20-year-old Dagnino, fluent in English, Spanish and French and just finished third year, travelled from Argentina to Thailand consulting with union leaders, social workers and community activists. She stayed with it for 12 months. “As a Canadian, my first duty was to do this work in my own backyard,” she says. “I loved the work but decided to come back home, partially because I was young. I thought, ‘I have 40 years to do this. I want to finish my degree.’”

She finished two, has started a third and, who knows, might do a fourth. One thing is for sure. She seems to be destined for a future fighting for the marginalized and the disenfranchised, especially women. Just how, is the question. She talks about advocating for women’s health and labour rights, working as a mediator, running for municipal politics, doing a master’s in law and possibly teaching. “I guess I’m at the stage where I’m trying to figure out where I’ll be the most effective.” There’s no doubt others believe she will make a mark. In tandem with the YWCA award, *Maclean’s* named her one of 25 Faces for the Future this year. She puts in 12- to 16-hour days juggling school, research jobs and volunteer work. “I would be doing these things no matter what. I have a passion for community work. I don’t wake up and see it as a job. It’s an integral part of my life.” ■

When you renovate an architectural jewel like
Glendon Hall, it's all in the details.

STORIES BY MICHAEL TODD PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

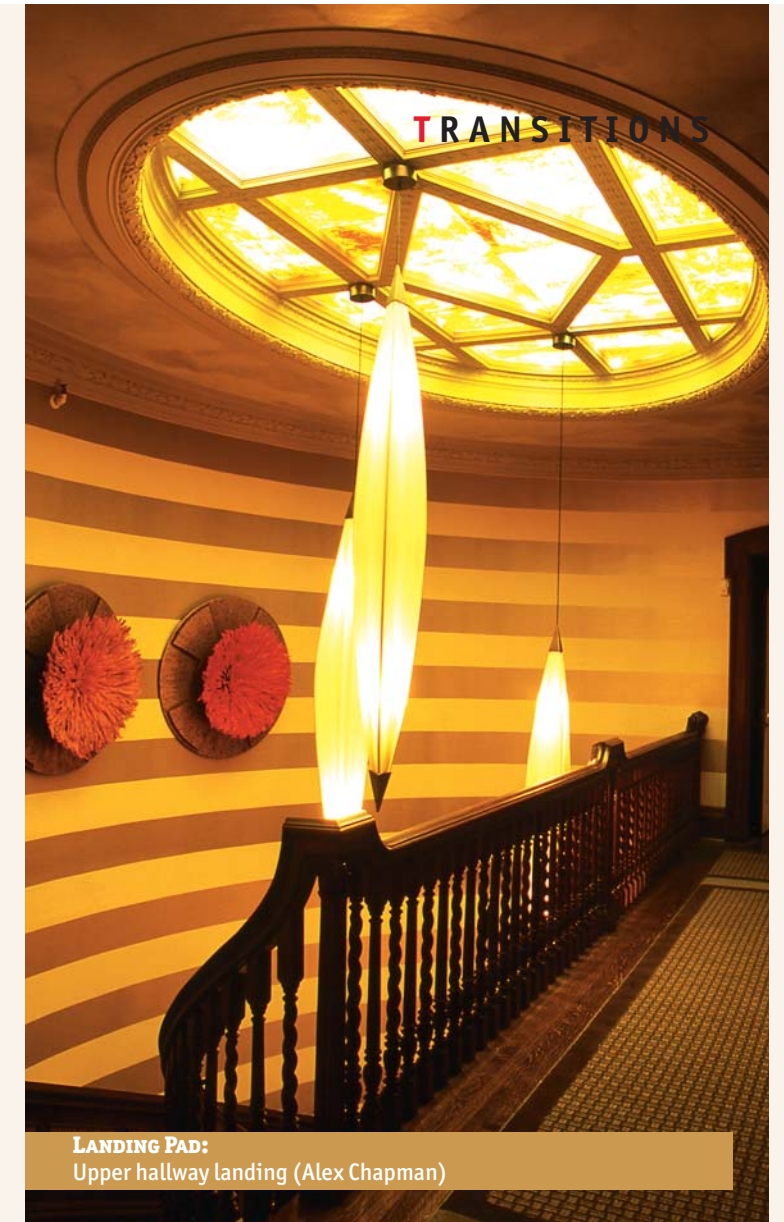


Grand Designs

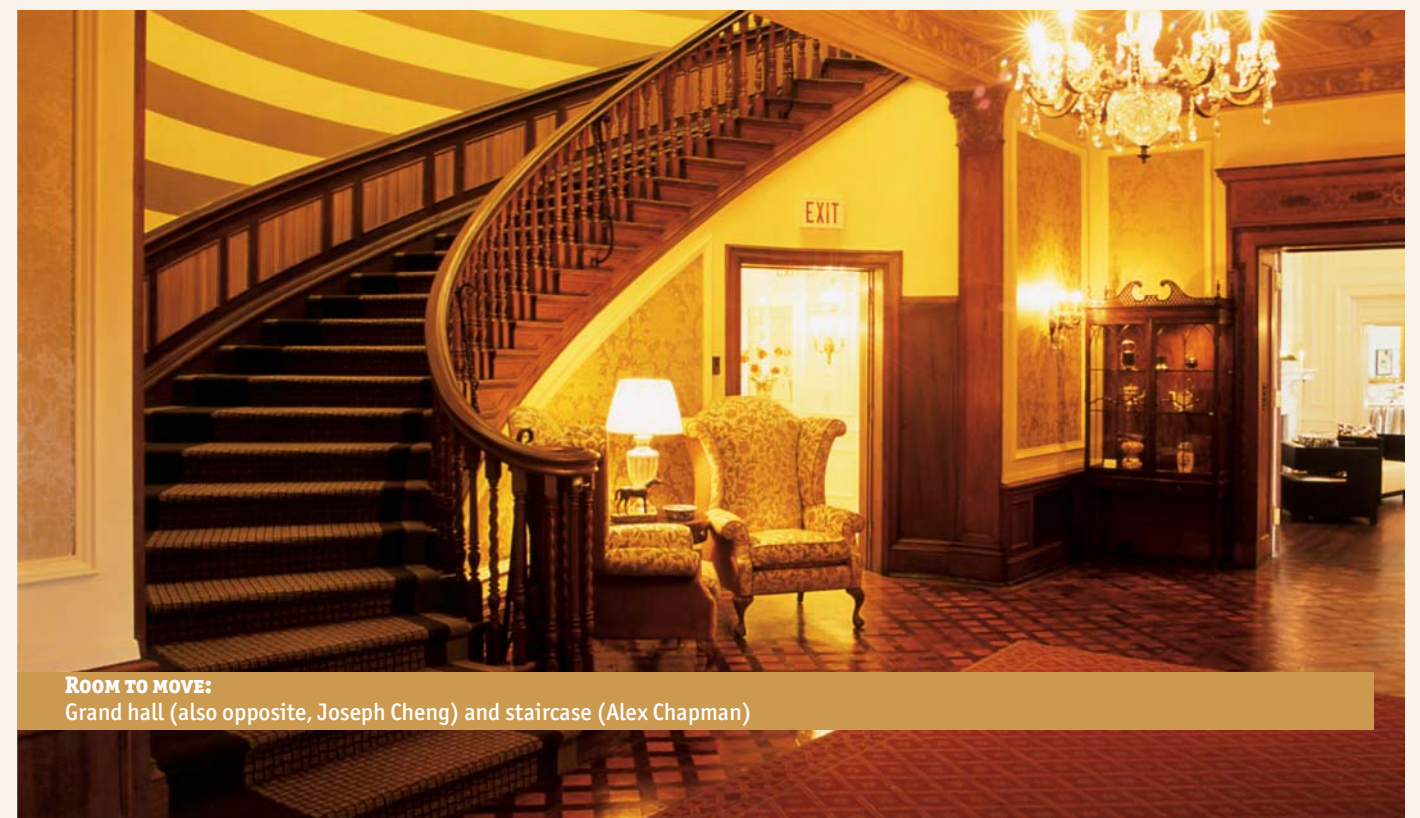


DRESSED TO THRILL:
Mr. Wood's dressing room (designer: Robert Tanz)

THINK OF IT AS THE NE PLUS ULTRA of home renos. Many of Toronto's top interior designers recently helped transform Glendon Hall, giving it an astounding makeover – all for free. What was formerly a collection of lacklustre, dusty rooms now sparkles with life, colour and the mansion's former graciousness. What enticed them to do it? Profile, yes. But more than that, a good cause. Designers transformed 48 spaces – from washrooms to ballrooms – in the 80-year-old house in eight frenetic weeks.



LANDING PAD:
Upper hallway landing (Alex Chapman)



ROOM TO MOVE:
Grand hall (also opposite, Joseph Cheng) and staircase (Alex Chapman)

Hallmarks

York grads offer a lesson in elegance

INTERIOR DESIGNERS Elizabeth de Jong Greer (BA '86), Linda Schwartz (BA '74) and Janet Williams (BA '91) all have solid York credentials, making their role in rejuvenating Glendon Hall all the more rewarding. ■

BACK TO YORK: (left to right) de Jong Greer, Schwartz and Williams



MIRROR IMAGE: Living room with original moulding (Katherine Newman)



SITTING PRETTY: West sitting room (Del Weale)



SUNNY DAZE: Mrs. Wood's sunroom (Elizabeth de Jong Greer and Brigid Glancy)



BRIC-A-BRAC: Guest bedroom (Suzanne Davison)

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TORONTO opened the doors for public tours in May and early June. Admission proceeds went to benefit the Pathways to Education Program at Regent Park (see next page) which provides financial assistance, tutors and mentors to help students stay in high school and go on to postsecondary education. "It's part of the effort to break the chain of childhood poverty," says Ela Landegger, chair of the league. Landegger shared co-chair duties on the Glendon Hall reno with fellow JLT member Jane Clark. In all, more than 1,500 people were involved with the project. Not all the furnishings and carpets remained after the show closed, but much of the designers' oeuvre did – from paint to curtains, *trompe l'oeil* fireplaces to faux floors.

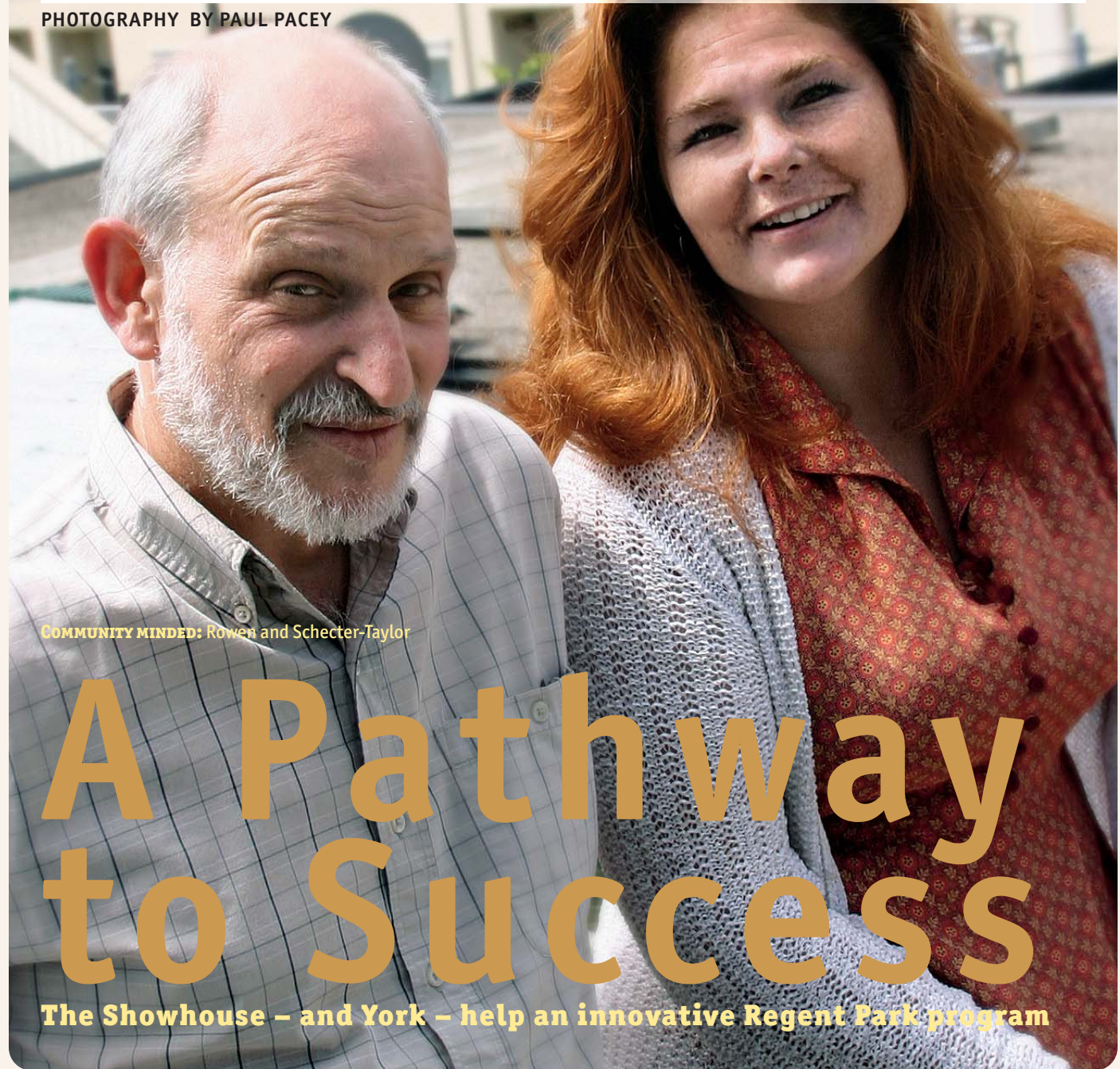
Proceeds from admissions to see the Junior League Showhouse makeover of Glendon Hall went to benefit Pathways to Education – an initiative of the Regent Park Community Health Centre. Two key people in the Regent Park project also happen to be York grads. Norman Rowen (BA '72) is program director and Glendon alum Marni Schecter-Taylor (BA '93) is director of development and communications. "The Faculty of Education's establishment of a teacher education site in Regent Park really stands as a sign of the University's commitment to the community," says Rowen. "York students have had an important role as tutors and mentors from the beginning of the Pathways to Education program."

The program's goal is to increase success in high school and access to postsecondary education for students living in the Regent Park community. There are daunting challenges: 10,000

families live in subsidized housing and the median income is only \$18,000 per year. There is no high school in the community and almost 85 per cent of residents do not speak English as a first language.

The innovative Pathways program has shown remarkable success. Offering a range of academic, social and financial supports designed to help kids get to and through high school, it has enrolled 97 per cent of eligible students in the Regent Park catchment area each year since 2001. York's teacher education site is part of the process. "Many of our students serve as mentors in the Pathways to Education project, and they also practice teach in the schools in Regent Park," notes Paul Axelrod, dean of the Faculty of Education. Pathways leaders like Rowen and Schecter-Taylor believe the program's success can be repeated in disadvantaged areas all over the Greater Toronto Area – and beyond. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL PACEY



COMMUNITY MINDED: Rowen and Schecter-Taylor

A Pathway to Success

The Showhouse – and York – help an innovative Regent Park program



AT TABLE: Dining room (Julie Wakely)

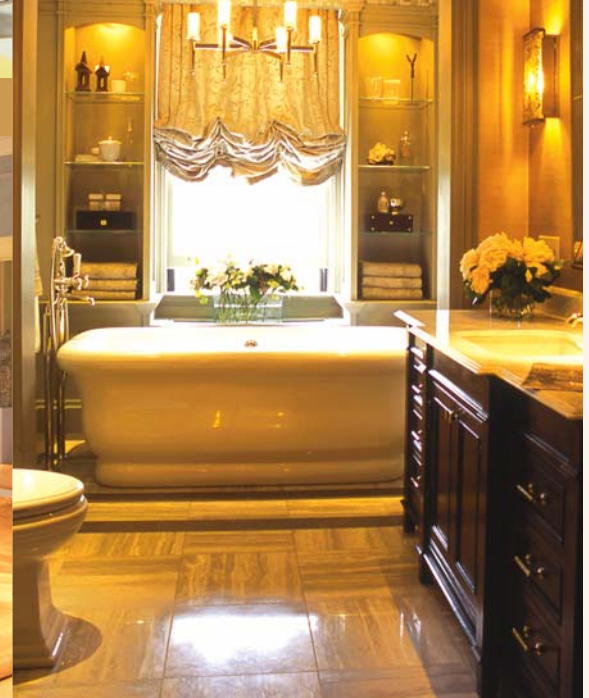
GREAT OUTDOORS: Dining room terrace (Martin Ciccone and Michael Renaud)



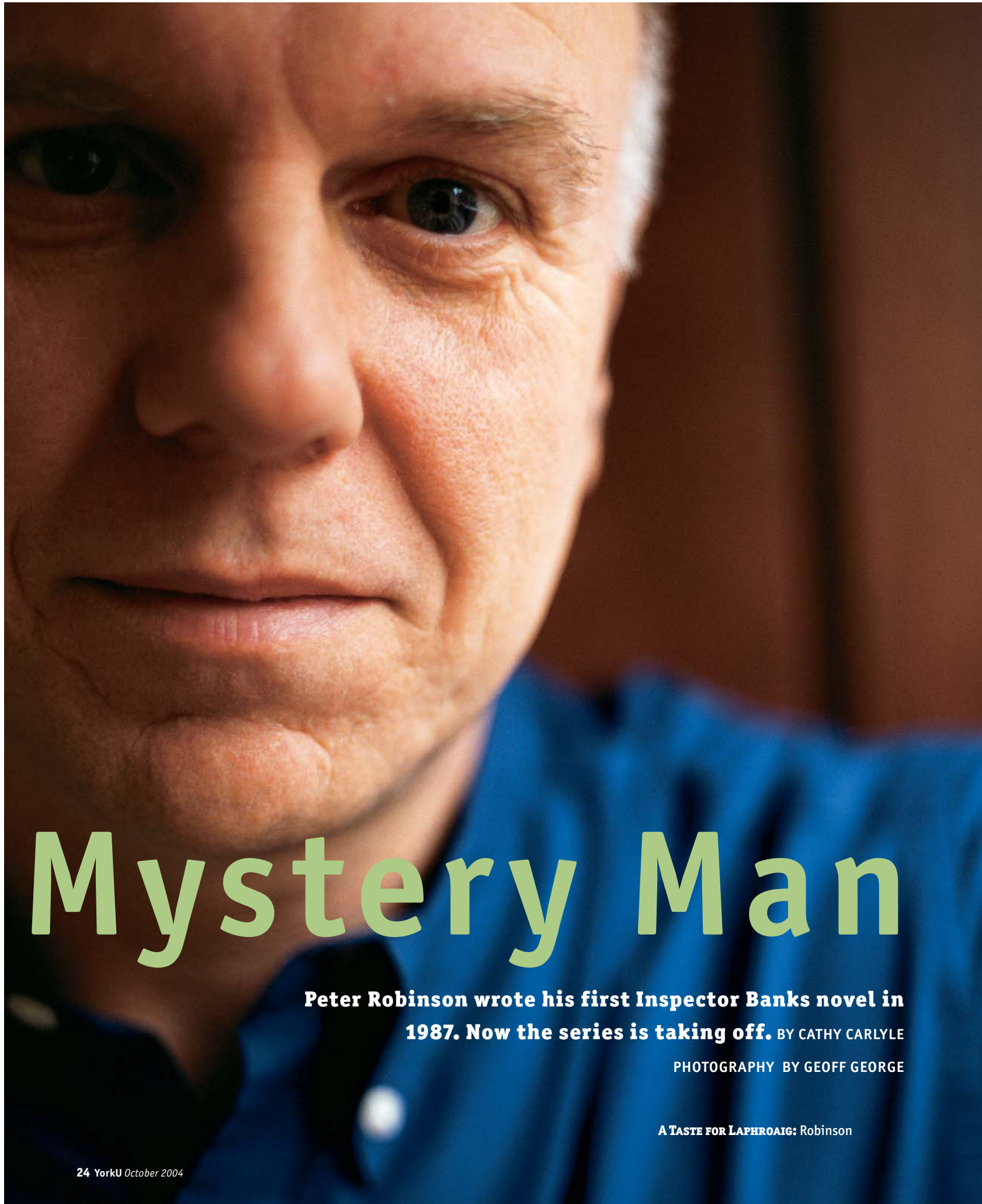
SLEEPING BEAUTY: Mrs. Wood's bedroom (Kimberly Seldon and Timothy Mather)



COMING CLEAN: Guest bathroom (Ann Johnston and Raymond Murakami)



IT ALL MIGHT HAVE PLEASED Edward Roger Wood, founder of Dominion Securities, who acquired the Glendon property in 1920 to build a country estate for his family. The manor home was completed in 1924 by the architectural firm of Molesworth, West & Secord. In 1950, Glendon Hall was bequeathed to the University of Toronto by Mrs. Wood, and was then deeded to York University in 1961. Its gleaming refurbishment will serve York for many more years. ■



Mystery Man

Peter Robison wrote his first Inspector Banks novel in 1987. Now the series is taking off. BY CATHY CARLYLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

A TASTE FOR LAPHROAIG: Robison

BITAIN HAS HAD MORSE, Rebus, Frost, Dalziel and Pascoe – and now there’s a new bloke on the British block: Detective Inspector Alan Banks of Eastvale, Yorkshire. To be honest, he’s not actually new, having already appeared in 14 novels and one novella, to be published this fall, but he’s only now seriously finding his way into a brighter limelight. Book sales, boosted by praise from people like suspense master Stephen King, are booming. And soon, if Britain’s Granada Television exercises its options, there could be a TV series about the introspective detective who never shies away from tackling gritty issues.

The man behind Banks, a York modern poetry alumnus (PhD ’84), is finding that he, like his alter ego, is gaining more acclaim, not just in Britain but also in the US, Europe, parts of Asia, and Canada. Though he lives in Toronto, Peter Robison is from Yorkshire. Like Banks, he’s been known to enjoy a finger or two of Laphroaig, has an eclectic taste in music, takes an interest in Graham Greene novels – though Banks is, otherwise, not a big reader – has a strong dislike of Margaret Thatcher’s politics and even shares much of Banks’ memories as a teen – which feature in *The Summer That Never Was* (2003).

Whether there are more similarities is arguable. “I am striving for ways to make differences between him and me. I give Banks tastes, memories and specific emotions that are personal to him. For instance, I like Laphroaig, but I mostly drink red wine,” explains Robison, as he sips on a pint of Creemore Springs – not the Theakston’s Bitter that Banks would have chosen. And, while Banks’ family sneers at his connection to the police force, Robison’s father, stepmother and sister, who remain in Yorkshire, are justly proud of his success in writing about police work. Another discernible difference is the author’s ability to get inside the mind and emotions of women – an area where Banks often flounders.

Among the traits Robison definitely likes about Banks is his ever-evolving character. From the first story, *Gallow’s View* (1987), to the latest, *Playing With Fire* (2004), Banks has gone from being a married man with teenagers to an angst-ridden divorced man enjoying maybe-partners, and now to a more mature, thoughtful middle-aged man who is beginning to come to terms with himself. And, as readers come to know and love Banks, so Robison’s books are becoming increasingly recognized. “The Alan Banks mystery-suspense novels are, simply put, the best series now on the market,” wrote Stephen King in a magazine column last year.

Robison’s interest in the detective genre harks back to his childhood, when he devoured books about The Saint, Sexton Blake and Sherlock Holmes, but it wasn’t

until he left his native land – which he now visits twice a year – that he began to add his own voice to the field. It was due to a mixture of homesickness and nostalgia for England, and his roots in a culture passionate about detective novels, that he began writing his Inspector Banks series and other books set back home.

If he missed Yorkshire so much, why did he come to Canada in the first place? “Because I love to travel and, after I got my BA at Leeds University in 1974, I saw a poster in the English Department advertising a master’s in creative writing at the University of Windsor in Ontario, taught by someone I’d never heard of: Joyce Carol Oates. I applied, but they turned me down for that course and accepted me in English. So I went and later did some casual poetry reading with other students. Joyce was there, and asked why I wasn’t in her course.”

Oates pulled some strings, got him into her program and encouraged his poetry writing. Eventually, he found his way to York, where he once ran a poetry program at Winters College. “It was a lively place to be,” says Robison fondly of the still-fledgling Keele campus. “I think in the late ’70s and early ’80s, as much of the education happened in places like the Absinthe and Cock & Bull as it did in the classroom, because often the TAs and the profs would get together after a class and have a few – and talk about literature. We would really argue passionately about it. I think, in some ways, the isolation helped to foster a special kind of community there.”

Had he not been a successful author, Robison says he might have become a professor. “I think education was the way for me to get out of the working class in England, and writing was the way out of the educated class here,” he says with a slightly roguish grin. Since leaving York, he has taught creative writing at times. His eyes twinkle and his Yorkshire bluntness surfaces. “I tell them, ‘There is nothing magical about being a writer. Put your bum on the chair, put your fingers on the keyboard and write. In fact you should be doing that instead of being here.’”

Something else Robison advises his students is to plan their stories in advance, then begin writing – advice he says he rarely takes with his detective novels. “It would just be like joining the dots, wouldn’t it – and I would be bored. Usually when I get about halfway through a novel I can see the end. I don’t even know who did it until then – and sometimes it gets me into trouble, but it’s an exciting way to work.”

Now well on the way to the end of his next book, Robison can safely predict that Banks won’t be dying off any time soon, and, instead, will continue to discover new things about himself. “I keep finding out new things about him, which keeps me interested in writing about him.” ■

WHEN YORK'S SERGEY KRYLOV TALKS about his research, you find yourself swept along with his enthusiasm for his groundbreaking cell work. The ebullient Canada Research Chair in Bioanalytical Chemistry is like an archeologist who's been successful on a dig and is getting close to finding the metaphorical Rosetta stone to decode his findings.

Krylov is particularly excited about his research on stem cells, those entities which give rise to the differentiated cells in the rest of our bodies. He already knows how important they are for research into cancer treatment, and now wants to delve deeper into the secrets of how and why they divide and reproduce the way they do – asymmetrically, in which a single cell divides into two cells with different characteristics. If he had that answer, he could couple it with information from chemical analysis of the cells, and take a giant step nearer to the key for treating such diseases as cancer.

Unlike stem cells, cancer cells reproduce symmetrically – creating replicas of themselves – and are capable of dividing indefinitely. “With cancer cells, there’s an avalanche, an exponential growth of cells, which we see in tumours,” explains Krylov. “Some even migrate to other parts of the body and eventually kill the host. If we could intervene and make the cancer cells divide asymmetrically, the way stem cells do, we would have a new way of treating cancer.”

Moreover, cancer cells first form through mutation, then replicate themselves, says Krylov. “These cells are what we call ‘non-working’, because they don’t help the body; instead, they use up the body’s resources for themselves. If we stop cancerous tumours through therapies, they can become benign in some cases. But we need to design specific therapies for each type of tumour in each person. That is where we need to understand the mechanism for cell reproduction.”

Krylov sees stem cells as the superheroes of cell regeneration in adults. While all cells in embryos are constantly dividing as the body grows, this does not happen routinely in adults, even though certain cells do need to be replaced when people have finished growing – for example, skin cells and other cells that have died through injury or disease. And this is where stem cells shine as they regenerate to form specific cells for those areas.

“It is the complex and interesting stem cells that are responsible for the diversity in our bodies,” Krylov says. “Our bodies developed from a single fertilized egg cell, but if you look at a brain cell and a liver cell under a microscope, you’d think they were from different creatures. What we are trying to understand is why stem cells divide asymmetrically and why some of the resulting cells remain stem cells and some become differentiated.”

Russian-born Krylov, who was educated at Moscow State University before coming to Canada in 1994 and to York’s Faculty of Science & Engineering in 2000, is in the forefront of research in this field. His recent breakthrough technique for analyzing cell chemistry, particularly the proteins, has given him fresh hope that one day scientists will find the cell-division answers. Such knowledge is essential for designing new ways of dealing with cancer, treating Alzheimer’s disease and even regenerating damaged organs, he says. “Cell proteins regulate everything that goes on in cells, and if we can find out how they control cell division, we will have a key to treating many deadly diseases.”

Through his new cell analysis technology, Krylov and his team have been able to show, for the first time, that even cancer cells don’t always reproduce entirely symmetrically. Now, with his team of researchers at York, he is on to his next “archeological dig” – investigating how the protein regulators in cancer cells work. “Then, we’ll observe sister stem cells of the same age and compare their chemical content, specifically their proteins.” He says it with the gleam of someone eager to solve an ancient mystery. ■

THE HARD CELL

Sergey Krylov targets cancer with his cutting-edge work on stem cells. BY CATHY CARLYLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE



LOOKING FOR THE KEY: Krylov

TOP COP

Chief Armand La Barge is truly at home in diverse York Region. BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN HYRNIUK



A RESTLESS INTELLECT: La Barge at work

LEADERS

FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER VENTURED far from his small-town, eastern Ontario roots, York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge easily embraces the United Nations that has landed in his bailiwick. When he joined the force in 1973, York Region – stretching from Steeles Avenue on the northern edge of Toronto all the way to Lake Simcoe – was such a sleepy rural district that two officers could be sent to investigate the most minor robbery. That would be a luxury now. York Region is one of the fastest growing urban regions in the country, home to many of Canada's newest immigrants and so culturally diverse that La Barge prints his business card in English, French, Italian and Chinese. It's a human mosaic the 50-year-old veteran cop could hardly have imagined when he was pumping gas and going to secondary school in Madoc, but one he would later come to treasure while taking evening courses offered by York University.

At 19, other high-school grads hitchhiked out West, drove to Mexico in Volkswagen vans or backpacked around Europe. "I didn't. I stayed home and went into policing," says La Barge. Uncles, brothers and cousins wore the badge and he considered it an honourable, potentially exciting job. Tall and imposing, he was just the kind of burly guy recruiters signed up back then. But things have changed. Nowadays the average new recruit entering the airy glass lobby of York Regional Police headquarters in Newmarket is 27, college- or university-educated and often multilingual. La Barge would never get past the receptionist with his original credentials – but he would with his current ones. He's changed, too.

In 31 years with the same force, La Barge has tackled almost every major job on his way up the ladder. A career cop who thrives on "multi-multi-tasking," he has always kept up with the latest technology (notice the BlackBerry in his pocket) and never missed a year to take yet another professional development course. Married to a staff sergeant on the same force, childless, and not one to take a holiday, he's had the time and appetite to complete a family genealogy, learn French – his grandparents' language – and earn a BA.

In 1987, La Barge signed up for his first York University night course. "I didn't want to take a policing-related program. What fascinated me was history." All he had to do was drive to the Newmarket seniors centre just down the road from police headquarters. "York made it easy for me." He took courses on Canadian immigration, women writers and social change. "It was history in the non-traditional sense," says La Barge. "It made my Tuesdays and Thursdays."

By 1991, La Barge had earned one of York's first certificates in multiculturalism. "I've always been fascinated by different religions and by different cultures," says the loyal fan of Britain's longest-running soap, "Coronation Street". Maybe because he's such a mix himself. Descended from a 17th-century French immigrant from Normandy, La Barge is the son of a Catholic father and a Pentecostal mother, grandson of Newfoundland fishermen and Ontario farmers. He and his brothers and sister were raised by his working mother. He knows what it's like to adapt and survive.

By 1995, he'd earned an Honours BA in Canadian studies from York, inspired by professors such as Varpu Lindström, Les Wheatcroft and Jack Granatstein. Even now, as chief, his restless intellect is at work on a master's thesis for Trent University about Billa Flint, a 19th-century land and lumber baron in Hastings County, the area north of Belleville, Ont., where La Barge grew up.

It's a measure of his prodigious drive and unflinching commitment that he can do all this and attend community events almost every night of the week and some weekends. He has absorbed his mother's ethic of hard work and her conviction that "community is important and people in need are important." He has launched an aggressive campaign to recruit more ethnically diverse officers, increased neighbourhood foot patrols and effectively used municipal bylaws to close illegal massage parlours, steps that reflect his credo – "crime prevention is more important than law enforcement." He encourages his officers to get involved in their communities, spurred on by a vision that "we can be such agents of positive change in Canada."

Last March 21, La Barge hosted men, women and children of different races, religions and cultures at a district police headquarters in Markham. "It was just fabulous to see them coming to our station," he says about this unusual venue to celebrate International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. "Diversity," he told them, "is among our most important assets." Spoken from the heart, by one who knows his history. ■

MASTERMIND: Marketing Professor Alan Middleton with writer Todd

YOU ARE HERE: Finding the way

POINT OF REFERENCE: Schulich's well-stocked business library

JUST DESSERTS: Great food, great service



PROGRAMS

EXECUTIVE FOR A NIGHT

There are linen napkins, cushy bathrobes and, oh yes, some fine management courses at the Schulich Executive Education Centre. **BY MICHAEL TODD**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

DAY 1, 9AM: It's a hot June day as I climb into my car, crank up the A/C, and make tracks for my experience in executive grooming. Here's the pitch: I'll be learning the tricks of the trade on becoming the kind of leader employees love to work for. But I'm not headed downtown to Bay and King or jetting off to a fancy exec retreat. I can get all the expertise I need right here on York's Keele campus at the Schulich Executive Education Centre (SEEC) – as well as excellent food, great accommodation, in-depth seminars and the business acumen you'd expect from one of the world's top business schools.

My two-day course carries the impressive title of "Facilitative Leadership". It's an intensive head-banger that teaches managers the skills they'll need to be better people leaders. Today 20 execs are taking part from diverse organizations, including banks, hospitals, health non-profits, a parts manufacturing concern, a name-brand paint-maker and the federal government. Everyone is eager to learn what it takes to navigate the troubled waters of middle management.

Sometimes our course seems more like a refresher in Psychology 101. Participants bandy about terms like "reflexive loops" or learn what body language is really saying. We

DINNER IS SERVED: Plat du jour in the Schulich dining room

MAY WE HELP YOU?: Support staff at the ready

ROOM WITH A VIEW: Taking in Toronto skyline from the residence

COMING CLEAN: A well-appointed residence bathroom

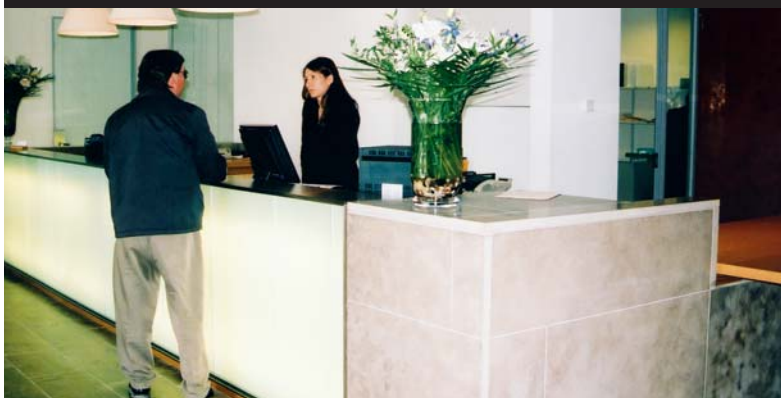


CHECK IN HERE: Picking up keys at front desk

ABOVE IT ALL: Bird's-eye-view of the dining hall

HARD AT WORK: Tomorrow's business leaders hit the books

TREATS EN SUITE: A special bathrobe





FROM THE OUTSIDE: One of many Schulich student conference rooms



CHANNEL SURFING: Cable TV in every room provides instant biz updates



LOUNGING AROUND: Complimentary cookies in the penthouse lounge

investigate how managers often “write the story” about a situation and/or employees rather than look at the actual reality. We tackle “non-verbals” and reflect on “emotional positioning” for “optimal influence”.

Some people might see all this as managerial boot camp, but at boot camp you don’t get gourmet meals (e.g. red snapper washed down with Stella Artois in a fluted glass), great coffee, linen napkins, an elegant dining room, good waiters and a hotel room rivalling the best in comfort and convenience of big-name downtown hostelrys. What’s that? A hotel? On campus?

Yes, while Schulich officially calls its accommodation an “executive residence”, most people would call it a hotel. My room is near the top of a 13-storey glass tower, part of the business school’s elegant new \$100-million complex. Rooms feature individual temperature controls, windows you can open, use of a cushy Schulich bathrobe (white), bathtubs that let you lie back comfortably, a Sony Dream Machine to wake you up and seize the day, an ironing board to work out the wrinkles, superb views of the Toronto skyline, and a workout room and lounge on the penthouse level.

Perhaps the best thing about it all is that at the end of an intense day of learning, you’re simply steps away from the dining room and your hotel elevator.

Course selections from SEEC (formerly the division of executive development) fall into five general categories: Management & Leadership, Finance & Accounting, Business Operations, Marketing & Sales, and Executive & Residential. I counted more than 70 topical business courses offered in two-, three- and five-day learning formats. So what kind of topics get covered?

The purview of the catalogue says it all. You can take anything from conducting behavioural interviews to coaching and mentoring individuals and teams. If you’re the art-of-the-deal type, maybe Negotiating for Success in Business is for you, or Strategic Management, or perhaps Winning Collaboration to get people over to your side. Many seminars deal with corporate-culture standbys, such as leadership through team building, or leading change and organizational renewal. The marketing and sales area boasts an impressive list of topics, including new product development, direct response marketing and relationship marketing, to name only a few.

Alan Middleton, Schulich School of Business marketing professor and executive director of SEEC, says the centre expects to handle about 10,000 execs a year – although not all at the Keele location. SEEC also offers courses at Schulich’s downtown campus, the Miles S. Nadal Management Centre, at client companies’ own sites and on the Internet through its e-learning series. “The new facilities here at York only opened recently but we hope to invite about 3,000 managers a year to attend SEEC courses,” says Middleton. “Probably about half of those would stay in the executive residence.” The income goes to Schulich.

DAY 2, 3:30PM: We’ve made it through the theory and role playing. It’s been an intense two days of study, conversation – and eating. Now one of the participants has to catch her GO train back to Georgetown, so the instructor lets our “class” out early. Before we go we exchange promises to keep in touch while bundling up notes, Black-Berries, pagers and cell phones, and cramming course binders into briefcases. It’s not just the course that’s been valuable, it’s the business connections too. While the theory was great, there’s no discounting the worth of the war stories about life in the middle-management trenches. Now, however, it’s time to get back to the office, work on non-verbals, implement emotional positioning and go for optimal influence. ■

THERE'S GOLD in them thar hills, and if anyone is going to find it, chances are Rob McEwen will. As chairman and CEO of Toronto-based Goldcorp Inc., McEwen (MBA '78) has been the Canadian investment community's golden boy. He took a mine most experts left for dead, resurrected it, and (despite a four-year-long labour strike) made it one of the highest gold producers in the world. Suffice to say, investors were ecstatic. This is a guy with a Midas touch, and it has made him a multi-millionaire.

"Gold is money," says McEwen. "It's always been the basis of world currencies since ancient times." Well, times aren't ancient anymore but it seems the world is still enamoured of the earth's softest precious metal. While stock markets were in steady decline, Goldcorp share prices doubled, twice, from 2001 through early 2003. In fact, 2003 was a record year for Goldcorp's Red Lake Mine, which produced 532,000 ounces of gold at a cost of US\$80 an ounce. The selling price on the world market ranged from US\$320 to US\$400, which helps explain Goldcorp's net profits of nearly \$100 million last year.

What this all means, as Goldcorp never tires of pointing out, is that if you'd invested US\$1,000 in Goldcorp in 1993, it would have been worth roughly US\$25,000 a decade later, reflecting a compound annual growth rate of 35 per cent – outperforming some of corporate America's most significant blue-chip names, including Microsoft and IBM.

McEwen's rise to fame and fortune all started when he was 14. That's when he got his first paying job. "My dad asked me to replant all these trees that had been put in wrong. Said he'd pay me \$5 a tree to dig out the extra soil. Well, there were 40 of them. At the end of the day he asked me how much he owed me and I said, 'Two hundred.' He couldn't believe I'd done all 40! My father wondered what I was going to do with the cash. I said, 'Put it in the bank.' He suggested investing it. So I did and got nine times the return on my initial investment."

That entrepreneurial acumen is something McEwen has carried with him to this day. A willingness to gamble, do things differently and never take "can't" for an answer. Those qualities made him confident about the promise of Red Lake Mine – the gem in Goldcorp's crown. Although Goldcorp owns another high-yield gold mine in South Dakota and a lucrative phosphate mine in Saskatchewan (it produces

the stuff that goes in your dish and clothes detergents), it's been the Northern Ontario Red Lake Mine that's made McEwen rich – and famous among gold cognoscenti. More than 70 per cent of the gold found at Red Lake has been found since 1995, due to McEwen's exploration team. And the company has plans to expand operations, hoping by the end of 2005 to increase annual production levels to 740,000 ounces.

McEwen's creative thinking doesn't end with sinking new mines. He's also a master at marketing his company and its product. Perhaps that's not surprising, since he majored in marketing when he attended York's Faculty of Administrative Studies (now the Schulich School of Business). In a bold gesture that rocked the mining industry, McEwen used the Web to launch "the Goldcorp Challenge" in 2001.

He did what no one had done before: openly post on the Web proprietary geological drill-hole data that he'd gathered on the Red Lake site at the cost of millions. He then offered prizes totalling US\$575,000 to anyone who could suggest the best plan for finding Red Lake's suspected resources of a further six million ounces. For its money, Goldcorp said it identified or confirmed 110 geological targets from among the 1,400 entries, many from top experts. A pair of Australian geological consultants took the first prize of US\$95,000.

McEwen's days of calculated risk-taking have now paid off and, as he looks toward stepping down from the Goldcorp leadership, he finds himself in the enviable position of having enough money to start giving back. He did just that with York's new Seymour Schulich Building, home of the business school, by funding the Robert R. McEwen Auditorium to the tune of \$1.5 million. He's also given millions to other worthy causes around Toronto and abroad, including \$10 million to Toronto General Hospital for regenerative medicine research. He also supports Red Lake's own hospital and local museum.

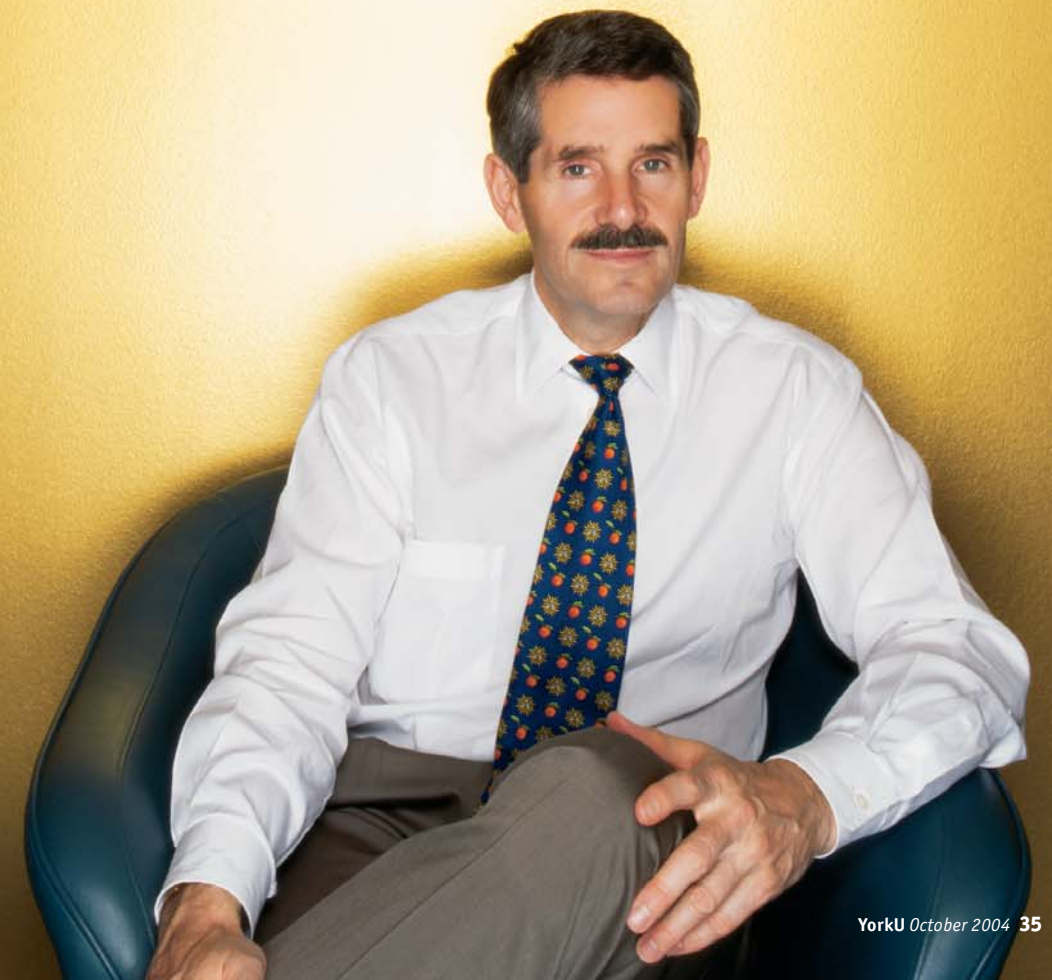
What inspired him? Actually, another well-known York donor and mining magnate – Seymour Schulich. "I hadn't thought much about giving money away. But Seymour encouraged me. He said, 'You know Rob, I've done all sorts of things, made lots of money, but the sense of richness I got out of donating was greater than all the deals I've ever done.'" For McEwen, it's been a revelation worth its weight in gold. ■

Midas Touch

How Rob McEwen took a gold mine no one wanted and made millions.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE



Li Zhang

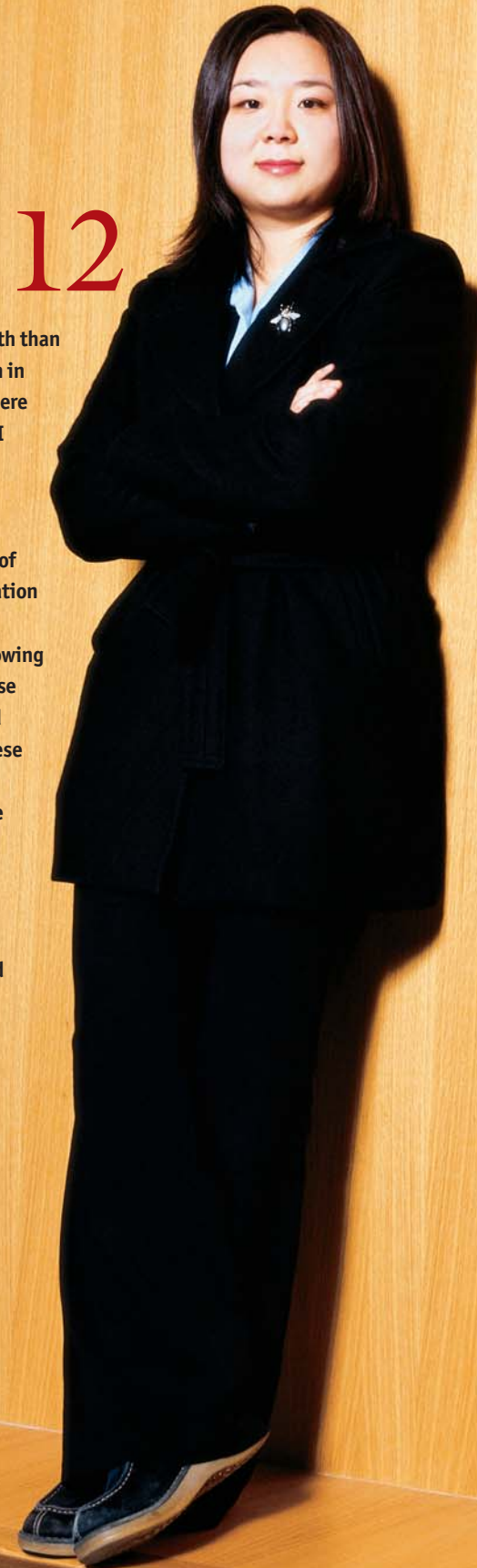
Schulich student, diarist

Success at 12

LI ZHANG HAS PACKED more into her 19 years on earth than many people do in a lifetime. Zhang, who was born in 1985 in Wixu, China, only spent four brief years there before being whisked to Canada with her family. "I remember all the work learning English in kindergarten, only to have to turn around the very next year and learn French!" says the high-achieving, well-spoken Zhang, now entering her second year of the International Bachelor of Business Administration program at the Schulich School of Business.

Zhang wrote down many of her reactions to growing up in North America in a daily diary. Gradually those diaries grew to about 50. She condensed them and her mother secretly sent the manuscript to a Chinese publisher. Result? At 12, she became a popular author in China and the youngest author ever to be published there. "The title was *My Life*," says Zhang. "It's 200 pages and sold about 7,000 copies for 16 yuan. About \$3 Canadian."

Zhang isn't writing any more books at the moment, but she is planning on a career in law and politics. One day, watch for "My Life II". ■



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

KARIN LOWACHEE RESISTED finding a regular job after she graduated with a York BA in creative writing and English in 1995. A weekly paycheque could have been fatally seductive. "I didn't want to spend 20 years working at a job I didn't like and not have a book published," she says. The Mississauga scribbler buckled down. Five years later, she won the Warner Aspect First Novel Award and a publishing contract for *Warchild*, a 450-page tale about an orphaned boy surviving interstellar war. It was a finalist for the 2002 Philip K. Dick Award and made *Science Fiction Chronicle's* list of best novels of the year.

Many military sci-fi novels are built around third-person narratives about grown men fighting aliens, notes Lowachee. She is exploring different frontiers. *Warchild* and its sequels, *Burndive* and *Cagebird*, feature first-person accounts by boys dealing not only with physical danger but conflicting feelings – loyalty vs. betrayal, cruelty vs. compassion – as they come of age. "My books," says the 31-year-old Lowachee, who now has an American agent and a contract to write a fourth novel, "are about the essential search for humanity – know yourself, both good and bad." ■

Karin Lowachee
Science fiction writer

Wordwarrior

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

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Vernon Stong
Philanthropist

Deep Roots

SOMEHOW IT SEEMS FITTING that a descendant of an early pioneer family who settled what is now the Keele campus has donated \$150,000 for York scholarships. The recent gift from Vernon Stong will bear fruit for future generations of York students. Named for Stong and his parents, the Oliver, Verona and Vernon Stong Scholarship will benefit graduate students whose focus is African economic and political development. The income and government aid generated by his gift will fund up to two \$15,000 scholarships for exceptional students.

"The 20th-century benefits that many of us enjoy today, such as good health care and a stable government, aren't available to many people in Africa," says Stong. "My hope is this scholarship will help bring attention to and focus on the conflicts in Africa today."

Vernon is the great-grandson of Jacob and Sarah Stong, one of the area's original settler families. Vernon was born in the farmhouse that Sarah and Jacob built (circa 1860) and which now faces Steeles Ave. Other Stong family houses and farm buildings form the heart of York's neighbour, Black Creek Pioneer Village. In fact, the apple seedlings that Vernon's great-great-grandparents, Daniel and Elizabeth Stong, planted there more than 170 years ago are still bearing fruit today. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

News:

Privacy and You

If we've got your number, don't worry. We'll keep it safe.

ANYONE WHO has been afflicted with e-mail spam or unwanted ad promotions knows the value of privacy. Over the last three years, the federal government has implemented legislation that increases protection of individuals' privacy. Many alumni may be wondering what happens to their information, resting comfortably in York's databases. Be assured: York is serious about protecting your privacy. Here are some FAQs prepared by the Alumni Office:

Are there rules for using my personal information?

Yes. The University has always been committed to privacy. Since 1993, when the Council of Ontario Universities adopted the "Guidelines on Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection", York's recently updated Access to Information and Protection of Privacy policy has applied to all records under the control of the University (search

"access to information" at www.yorku.ca). In addition, York is cognizant of the federal law, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), which provides Canadians with a right of privacy with respect to the collection, use or disclosure of their personal information for commercial activities. All the benefit providers with which the Alumni Office deals are required to abide by this law. While we want to be able to make benefit information available to you, we are very cautious about how your personal information is used and by whom.

Who gets my information and when?

The benefit promotions you receive from the Alumni Office are distributed by direct mail companies. Your information is provided to the mailing house on a confidential basis, on each separate occasion, for that limited and specific use.

What kind of contact can I expect?

There is regular contact from the Alumni Association and the University about matters we think will be of interest to you. Unless you choose otherwise, we will e-mail you the *Alumni Matters* newsletter (if we have your e-mail address), mail you *YorkU* magazine free of charge, and provide information about special offers from our benefit providers. We might also contact you if a former classmate wants to reconnect. We do not release your information but make you aware when anybody is trying to contact you so you can choose whether to respond.

Why does the Alumni Association want to keep in touch?

For a variety of reasons. It is our hope that by maintaining contact with York, you will continue your interest in the University and participate in ways that will enrich your life and those of the students.

Through our online community services, it is possible to stay in contact with a wide network of alumni, hear about national and international reunions or awareness events, discover ways to contribute by mentoring or speaking, keep track of sports events and stay informed about a wide variety of alumni-related topics.

We also want to be able to make preferred services available to you. These not only benefit you, as a graduate; they enable us to support scholarships and awards, and sponsor activities that expand the reach of the University.

Who controls the use of my information?

You do. We include an "opt out" clause in our communications so at any time you can opt out of the collection and use of your personal information. You can also advise the Alumni Office about your preferences for when and how you are to be contacted or receive information. The database can then be personalized to provide the combination and type of communications you desire. You can reach us by e-mail at alumni@yorku.ca, on the Web at www.yorku.ca/alumni or by phone at 1-866-876-2228. ■

Class Notes:

1967

Bresnahan, Paul (BA Glendon), a member of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Saint Albans, West Virginia, writes, "Our congregation has just established a homeless shelter. There is a soup kitchen, food pantry and aid for utility costs for the growing permanent underclass of American society."

1980

Simms, Phillip (BA Vanier) works in the civic law branch for the Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto.

1981

Lecours, Rita (BA Hons. Glendon) is a high-school teacher with the Toronto District School Board.

Tiidus, Peter (BSc Spec. Hons. '78 Bethune, MSc) married **Ann Westall** (BA '77, BA Hons. '80 Bethune). They live in Waterloo, Ont., with their two boys, aged 14 and 16. Peter is a professor and Chair of Kinesiology at Wilfrid Laurier University, and Ann teaches physical education and art at the KW Bilingual School.

1973

Kerr, John R. (BA '71 Vanier, MBA) is the manager of corporate planning for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Toronto. He and his wife live in Burlington, Ont.

1974

Fenn, Michael (BA '70 Glendon, BA Hons. Atkinson) was appointed Ontario deputy minister of community safety in Feb. '04 after serving as the deputy minister of municipal affairs & housing for over five years.

Horne, Sarah (BA Bethune) is a graduate of York's dance program in the Faculty of Fine Arts, and would like to keep in touch with others dancing through life. (*Sarah's grad year was listed incorrectly in our previous issue.*)

1976

Flaherty, George W. (BA, BEd McLaughlin) is a multiple-exceptionalities teacher at Pine Ridge Secondary School in Pickering, Ont.

1978

Kitts, Douglas J.A. (BA Vanier) is a former member of the York men's football team (the Yeomen). He is a service manager for TELUS in British Columbia.

Salloum, Trevor (BA Winters) has been practising naturopathic medicine in Kelowna, BC, since he graduated in '86 from the National College

of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon. In his spare time he writes books on Afro-Cuban percussion for Mel Bay Publications, Inc.

1983

Roth, Fred (BA Hons. '81 Calumet, MBA) is currently on contract, working as a change management and communication consultant with the Fraser Health Authority in the lower mainland outside Vancouver.

1986

Kogut, Boris (BBA Spec. Hons. '84 Calumet, MBA) is VP of the securities department at a Bank of Montreal location in Toronto.

1988

Shaw, Joanne L. (BA Hons. Atkinson) is a financial advisor with Canfin Financial Group in Mississauga, Ont.

Boucher, Yves (BA Glendon) is legal counsel in Ontario for La Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec.

1989

Barnes, Bruce (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) is currently posted to the Canadian Air Force Headquarters in Winnipeg as a staff officer for Aerospace Defence Standards. Bruce is married with two girls, ages 2 and 3, and is completing his masters in war studies at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont.

Wynd, Shari (BSc Spec. Hons. Stong) received her master's degree

in engineering from the University of Toronto, then graduated from The Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto. She is currently a PhD student and works as a chiropractic doctor for Comfort Health in Calgary.

1990

Morocco, Nuala (BA Founders) is a special education teacher with Niagara Child and Youth Services in Welland, Ont.

1991

Wolanski, Robert (BFA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) is presently acting principal bass of The Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. He also appears with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir Orchestra, Mississauga Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Canadian Opera.

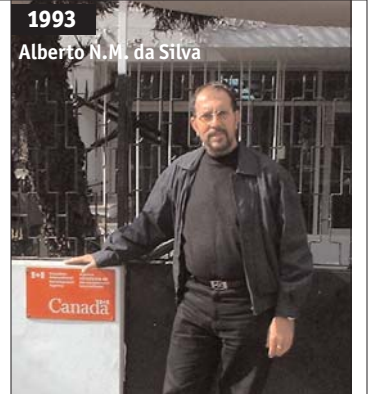
Cossarin, Mark (BA Hons. Bethune) is the vice-principal at I.E. Weldon Secondary School in Lindsay, Ont., and is also an international beach volleyball official. He and his wife (née **Mary Van Soelen**, BSc '92 Founders) have two children, Tomas, 3, and Julia, born in Jan. '04.

1992

Bennett, Roderick (LLB) was residence porter during the '80s, of Glendon's Wood Residence and Founders College Residence, and served as president of York's staff association. For several years he has lived with his children in Smith Falls, Ont., alternating between teaching and practising law. He recently left his private practice to fill the position of supervisory duty counsel for Lanark County, Ont.

1993

da Silva, Alberto N.M. (BA Hons '90, MA Atkinson) came to Canada from Mozambique in '82 with his wife and 5-year-old son to pursue a university education. At York he worked as an associate researcher at the Centre for Refugee Studies and was part of a group of academics that attended a 1991 international conference in Balantyre, Malawi. The conference, held while final rounds of peace



talks were taking place in Rome, was organized to discuss the resettlement of the more than one million Mozambican refugees who had sought asylum in Malawi during the 16-year war that devastated Mozambique. After completing his York MA, he returned to a Mozambique at peace and in the reconstruction phase. Alberto has worked for the Canadian International Development Agency's Program Support Unit for the past four years in Maputo, Mozambique. Alberto says, "The practical experience that I continue to gain is permanently interfacing with my academic background from York."

Peterson, Todd (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is the original character designer and voice of Frank Shackelford for the animated television series "Chilly Beach" on CBC. He is currently the director of "Henry's World" (season 2) for Alliance Atlantis and the Family Channel in Ontario.

1995

Beckerman, Miriam (née Dashkin) (BA '73, BA Hons. Glendon), who lives in Toronto, has translated several works from Yiddish. Most recently is the first English translation of award-winning author Konrad Chermatz' heartbreaking memoirs about his Holocaust experiences, originally written in Yiddish. *Nightmares: Memoirs of the Years of Horror Under Nazi Rule in Europe, 1939-1945*, Beckerman's English translation, was published in '03 by Syracuse University Press.

Class Notes:

Svab, Paul (BSc Bethune) was Chair of the business & math department at a community college in Toronto since '98. He has recently been appointed VP of Little Creations Toys & Games in Unionville, Ont.

1996

Christopoulos, Michelle A. (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) obtained a bachelor of science degree in nursing in '99 and has since been working at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. She got married in '01 and gave birth to identical twin boys in March '03.

Farley, Jeff M. (BA Hons. '93 Stong, MBA) is a business systems analyst for ShawCor Ltd. in Toronto.

Jiang, Jonathan H. (MSc '91, PhD) was a post-doctoral research fellow at McGill University in '97 and a research associate at University of Quebec in '98. He then moved to California and is currently a research physicist and atmospheric scientist at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

Kralidis, Tom (BA Vanier) is back in Toronto working as a systems scientist with Environment Canada, after spending six years in Ottawa. Currently completing his master's thesis at Carleton University, his work and research interests involve geospatial data infrastructures and systems.

Munn-Venn, Trefor (BA Hons. Calumet) is a principal research associate for the Conference Board of Canada in Ontario.

Timperley, Matthew (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) married **Amy Baldwin** (BFA Spec. Hons. '96 Winters). They live in Ontario with their children, 3-year-old Maxine and 2-year-old Jacob.

1997

Abji, Salina (BA Hons. Calumet) completed her master's degree in women's studies at Oxford University in 2000, then worked as a human resource consultant for Goodwill Industries of Toronto. She is now the manager of the FES Works! & Alumni Office for the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York.

Dusome, Debra (BA Hons. Founders) graduated from I.S.I.S.-Canada with an expressive arts therapy degree and is currently working as a mental health educator for the Grace Hospital Psychiatry Department in Winnipeg. She is building an expressive arts therapy practice in Selkirk, Man., where she and her partner Brenda enjoy being "rural folks".

Smith, Patricia A. (BA '92 Glendon, BA Spec. Hons. Atkinson) moved to England in '98 where she taught at the primary level for four years. She has since relocated to Virginia and continues to teach elementary. She comments: "Having travelled in Europe, one thing I can say for sure is that having a degree from York University was worth all the expense. [I] wouldn't trade my time at York for any other institution in Canada or the world."

1998

Cornish, Vanessa (BA Hons. Vanier) and **Robert Legair** (BA Hons. '97 Founders) got married on Sept. 4, 2004. Vanessa has been at York for 10 years, both as a student and full-time employee, and is currently the annual programs manager with the York University Foundation. Robert works for the Canada Revenue Agency and completed a master of divinity degree at Tyndale Seminary in '03. Later in his vocation as an ordained minister he plans to do a doctoral degree in pastoral counselling.

Fulford, Carrie (BA Vanier) is the owner of a health essentials wellness clinic in Richmond Hill, Ont.

Geysendorpher, Alexandra (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) is a manager at Sun Life Assurance in Vancouver.

Hall, Monique (BA Hons. Founders) is data repair associate at Bell Canada in Toronto.

Jaggi, Christie L. (BA Founders) works for the Dryden & District Museum in Dryden, Ont.

Lau, Chi Yeung (BA Calumet) is a technical sales executive for InfoMax Consulting Services Inc., Ont.

1999

Studin, Irvin (BBA), a Rhodes Scholar, married **Alla Varenboud** (BA Hons. '02 Bethune) in Toronto on June 6 of this year.

2000

Mullick, Farah (BA Hons. Vanier) is assistant marketing manager with Harlequin Enterprises in Toronto.

Passmore, Alison (BA Founders) is an autism consultant at Kerry's Place Autism Services in Ontario.

2001

Caswell, Jeff (MBA) is the senior brand manager for Danone Waters North America in Ontario.

Kelly, Aaron (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is a lighting designer in Toronto.

Sheldrick, Lesley Anne (BEd) is an elementary teacher with the Halton Board of Education. She got married July 12, '03, and lives in Milton, Ont.

Young, Kelly (BA, BEd '95 Winters, MEd) is a faculty member in the Department of Education at Trent University. She is expecting to obtain her PhD in 2004.

2002

Dharmawan, Andrea (BBA Spec. Hons.) runs a used car centre and Rent-A-Car company in Indonesia.

Kerr, Sibyl L. (BA Stong) is an instructor with the Toronto District School Board.

Paskowitz, Marci (BSc Spec. Hons. Bethune) earned her master of science degree in aerospace science in 2003 from the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan. She has since been admitted to the PhD program to continue her research in astrodynamics.

2003

Andrew, Jill (BA Hons. '02 Atkinson, BEd) is CEO of her business Corporate Drama Works and is a career/education columnist for *Metro Toronto* and a Toronto life columnist for *Diversity News*. She has performed in The Vagina Monologues charity productions and is currently completing

two books, with the assistance of the Ontario Arts Council.

Antonelli, Monica (BA Hons., BEd Vanier) is a financial service associate for CIBC Imperial Service, Toronto.

Cornish, Gail (BA Spec. Hons., BEd Vanier) is an elementary teacher with the Toronto District School Board. (*Gail's grad year was listed incorrectly in our previous issue.*)

Toth, Kathy (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) established Forward Minds, a student-based mental health awareness group in Ontario. She is currently taking time off to work before applying to graduate school.

How I became fascinated with Casanova. BY SUSAN SWAN

More than a Lover

AN UNRESOLVED ARGUMENT ignited my interest in Casanova. My uncle-in-law, the late Jack Crean, argued that only non-fiction captured the truth of human experience. I, of course, argued for fiction.

One evening, Jack brought out a new example: the 12-volume memoir by Giacomo Casanova, *History of My Life*, and challenged me to top it. He said the passage describing Casanova's escape from the Leads, the Venetian prison next to the Bridge of Sighs, was the best suspense narrative in Western literature.

Somewhat disdainfully, I took away the memoir. All I knew of Casanova was the man who had been passed down in public myth. An infamous womanizer, in other words, one of those playboys your mother told you to avoid. I'd also seen Fellini's masterpiece, *Casanova*, but the film doesn't show his literary side – the European man of letters who had translated *The Illiad*, written poems and operas and essays and engaged in scientific discussions.

Of course, Jack Crean ended up winning the argument

I was struck by the paradox.

because I was transfixed by Casanova's description of his escape. I went on to read most of the 12 volumes and I was struck by the fascinating paradox of the man. Here was a legendary rake who insisted

on seeing women as people and once famously said: "I cannot make love to a woman unless I can speak to her in her own language because I like to enjoy myself in all my senses at once."

Inspired by his memoirs, I visited Venice, Casanova's birthplace, and was moved by the city's atmosphere of longing, which must have its origin in the thousand-year separation from the Italian mainland. This atmosphere gave me my insight into Casanova, a man who was able to dwell creatively in a permanent state of transit. That may be the reason for his enormous capacity to appreciate life. In my new novel about him, he pays homage to longings:

"Our longings provide us with the text of our lives and lead us to the faiths we need to enact our destinies. And our paradox

Susan Swan teaches English in the Faculty of Arts. *What Casanova Told Me* has just been published by Knopf Canada.

is this: the true art is not to satisfy our longings, but to learn how to cherish them."

Who really was Casanova? Born April 2, 1725, he was the son of lower-class actors. His mother was celebrated on the stage of Europe and he grew up equating women with creativity and intelligence as well as beauty, love and sexual conquest. A master of role-playing, he was a law student, a preacher, a novelist, an alchemist, even the director of a state lottery. He met Voltaire and Catherine the Great; he was imprisoned in Venice in 1755-1756; he returned after 18 years in 1774, and went into second exile in 1782. He wound up as a librarian for Count Waldstein at the count's castle at Dux in Bohemia and died there on June 4, 1798.

Most of the facts in his memoirs appear to be true. The English scholar Arthur Symons found Casanova's papers in boxes at the castle 100 years after Casanova's death and in those



boxes were letters from many of the 122 women he had affairs with because he continued to be friends with them afterward. Sometimes he found them rich husbands who provided the security he was never able to offer himself.

In my novel, Casanova is an old man returning for a last look at the city he loves when he meets Asker Adams, a descendant of Puritans and the young cousin of US president John Adams. A mellow, wiser Casanova than the young man of his memoirs, he espouses travel as a form of love and emphasizes the romance rather than the clash of civilizations.

His memoirs only go up to the year 1774, and I was conscious of choosing a time in his life that he didn't write about. The blank periods in the lives of historical personalities are more interesting to a novelist because these gaps leave room for invention. Although it may seem odd to write a novel about Casanova now, his way of moving in the world is a good antidote to today's climate of fear. And I've always liked the critical notion that historical novels are written out of the Utopian hope that new stories about the past create fresh possibilities for the future. ■