

YORKU

OCTOBER 2007

Cyber Citizen

Jennifer Corriero is using the Web to help young people change the world

PLUS

In Paula Todd's Court
A Planet Without Songbirds?
Jian Ghomeshi on Being a 'Yorkie'



- A PHYSICIST SEES APPLIED FORCE
- AN EDUCATOR SEES SYSTEMIC FAILURE
- A PSYCHOLOGIST SEES ACUTE SUFFERING

**QUESTION EVERY ANGLE.
STUDY EVERY ANGLE.
RESEARCH EVERY ANGLE.**

WELCOME TO THE INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY. At York, we tackle real-world issues by bringing together researchers, graduate students and partners from different disciplines. Currently, psychologists at York's LaMarsh Research Centre are unraveling the complex and far reaching effects of youth violence and its impact on a child's health. With the help of educators, social workers, health care providers and policy makers, we are developing new ways to identify, treat and ultimately stop the abuse. It is this collaborative approach to creating new knowledge that makes York a leading research innovator. To learn more about the interdisciplinary university, visit YORKU.CA



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THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY



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OCTOBER 2007

Checking in with Rob McEwen. BY BERTON WOODWARD

Gold 2.0

I RECENTLY LISTENED to a presentation by Internet guru Don Tapscott, who has made a lot of good calls about the Web over the years, and is now talking about “Wikinomics” – essentially how the Web is becoming a giant collaborative engine for humankind. In the course of his PowerPointing, he mentioned two examples with close York connections. One was TakingITGlobal, whose executive director and co-founder, Jennifer Corriero, was already due to grace our cover. She built this online force for good while going to York, and you can read about her on page 14.

The other Net phenomenon Tapscott mentioned involved his Toronto neighbour, mining entrepreneur and investor Rob McEwen (MBA '78), whose connection to York is deep, evidenced by the Robert E. McEwen Auditorium at the Schulich School of Business. Regular readers of *YorkU* would be familiar with what Tapscott described, as we covered it in our profile of McEwen in the October 2004 edition. At his former company, Goldcorp, McEwen decided he needed help figuring out where to dig for gold. So the marketing whiz turned the mining world on its head and put his company's top-secret geological studies online, offering prizes totaling US\$575,000 to whoever came up with a good plan – the famous Goldcorp Challenge. He received some highly expert entries, paid out the prizes, and of course got back far greater value from the gold he extracted. To Tapscott, this was very wiki, and ahead of its time.

It also made me wonder what McEwen



is up to now, having moved on from Goldcorp to chair US Gold and invest in a series of Nevada mining companies and properties, as well as biotech. Does he still use the Web in unusual ways in his businesses? “We’ve looked at a couple of things, just embryonic right now,” he told me, a little slyly. But he readily agrees with Tapscott about the Web changing everything, even in mining. “I think it crosses all industries.” McEwen is ever the pioneer. In the mining fraternity, it was news that he had appointed a female president at US Gold.

McEwen is also proud to have been named a member of the Order of Canada in the July 1 honours list. He and his wife Cheryl supported the 2003 establishment of Toronto's McEwen Centre for Regenerative Medicine, which includes stem cell research. As for York, “I have a strong relationship there,” McEwen says. As recently as June, he sponsored a day-long, big-picture colloquy at Schulich on future issues. He also goes for walks sometimes with Seymour Schulich, benefactor of the business school, new author (*Get Smarter*) and former Nevada mining tycoon. Given how valuable that collaboration could be, Tapscott might want to consider them wiki walks. ■

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

YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

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YorkU is published bi-monthly, five times during the academic year, by the Marketing & Communications Division of York University. All issues circulate on York's campuses. The October, February and Summer editions are also sent to alumni, for a total circulation in those issues of 185,000 each.

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Tel: 416-736-5058
E-mail: editor@yorku.ca
See rate card and back issues at yorku.ca/yorku

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40069546
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Marketing & Communications Division
West Office Building, York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
Tel: 416-736-5979
Fax: 416-736-5681

Address changes: alumni@yorku.ca
or 1-866-876-2228

Ideas and opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect the ideas or opinions of the University or the editors.

ISSN 1708-4512

PRINTED IN CANADA



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HORST HERGET

Looking ahead at a great University. BY MAMDOUH SHOUKRI

To the Next Level

THERE ARE FEW EXPERIENCES in life quite like that of transitioning into the role of president of York University. Luckily, my long-time alma mater, McMaster University, and my new colleagues here at York have made it easy for me to spend several months already on our campuses: finding the coffee machine, meeting different people, attending convocation dinners, meeting more people – generally finding my way around and getting the lay of the land.

Although I have not moved universities in 24 years, I have found the experience to be both highly stimulating and, of course, a little daunting – not least remembering all those names! What the experience has underlined for me, however, is the uniqueness of individual universities. Each has its distinct mission, strengths and idiosyncracies. When it comes to universities, there is no “one size fits all” approach.

With the deep commitment to its unique culture and the



Our research is strong in key centres and needs to be expanded across the spectrum of our activities.

hard work and dedication of its faculty, staff and students, York has evolved into a first-class university measured by any criteria: the intellectual calibre of our students, the quality of faculty research and teaching, the professionalism of our staff, our impact on society. York is a great university that plays a critical role in the cultural, social and economic development of our city, our region, our country and our world.

Yet as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2009, York stands at another crossroads. Our interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching has served us well over the last half-century and now we have further opportunities to expand our unique approach, as outlined in the *University Academic Plan*.

York remains historically strong in the social sciences and humanities and is relatively under-represented in science, the life sciences and engineering. We need to grow in these areas if we are to become full participants in society and in the academic debate. Our research is strong in many key centres and needs to be expanded and intensified across the spectrum of

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

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

our activities. We are already Ontario's second-largest graduate school and we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that the

University has the graduate students it needs to fulfil its academic mission.

Demographically, we also know that the Greater Toronto Area in general and York Region in particular are

poised for a period of exponential growth in university-ready school leavers. This presents us with a phenomenal opportunity for growth – but growth on our terms.

First and foremost we will not compromise on our insistence on quality, nor on our top strategic priorities as outlined in the UAP: research, graduate studies and overall rebalancing through growth in the sciences. It is because these goals are interdependent that none of them can be achieved at the expense of another.

It is my sincerest wish to build a fully comprehensive, research-intensive university with a strong graduate offering and a wide undergraduate base. Only by doing this can York carry out its academic mission to bring its unique perspective to every part of society and to help drive the change that is all around us.

In the years ahead, I look forward to working with the entire York community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends – and you. ■

UNIVERSE

LIBRARIES

Legal Fiction

No, not the kind in common law. These are rare novels – donated to York by an inveterate collector.

Here's a library donation that speaks volumes about its collector's reading habits. Professor Craig Scott, director of the Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime & Security at York's Osgoode Hall Law School, recently presented 450 volumes of legal fiction – or fiction with legal themes – to Osgoode's law library. Volumes range from the rare to the collectible, says Scott. Named the Barbara C. Scott Legal Fiction Collection after his mother, it includes such well-known titles as William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust* (1948), Robert Traver's *Anatomy of a Murder* (1958) and Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy* (vols. 1 & 2, 1925).

"The appraiser identified about 35 rare works, but there are many hardcover first editions that are collectible, but not necessarily 'rare,'" says Scott, who understands collecting: he also runs an art gallery in downtown Toronto. The book collection represents about 20 years of sleuthing. "I've always been a reader and my love of reading was inculcated by my mother." Scott says he loves browsing used and rare bookstores and has targeted collections of specific authors like Margaret Millar, André Brink and Eric Ambler, among others.

Why collect? "Part of it is the challenge and fun of researching and then discovering a hard-to-find book. With the legal fiction collection, I started discovering law themes across all kinds of authors who are not themselves writing about law. I thought that writing about law contains kernels of insight into the real-world functioning of law in society." ■



WORDS AND PICTURES: Scott at his downtown gallery

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY LEE

BOOKS

What They're Reading

York people reveal what's on the bedside table

Cheryl van Daalen-Smith
Professor, School of Nursing and School of Women's Studies

Becoming Human
By Jean Vanier
The Wisdom of Forgiveness

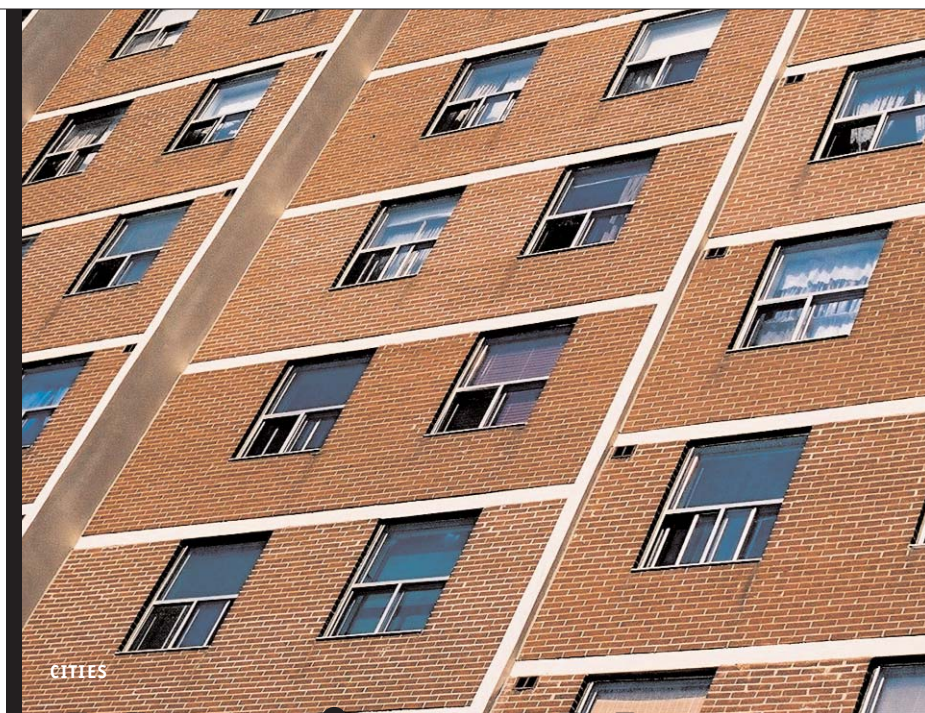
By the Dalai Lama and Victor Chan

"I am reading these books – among several others at the moment – for their intrinsic wisdom regarding human relationships. To forgive, which is the religion of the Dalai Lama, and to learn to be truly human as Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, urges, is a lifelong goal of mine. I am also reading about human-animal bonding. I'm mesmerized by animals' non-verbal ways of getting meaning across. They are honest with no hidden agendas."

Mary Jane Mossman
Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School

Belva Lockwood: The Woman Who Would be President
By Jill Norgren
Cornelia Sorabji: India's Pioneer Woman Lawyer
By Suparna Gooptu

"I'm reviewing a book about the first woman candidate for president of the United States. No, not Hillary Clinton! It was Belva Lockwood in the 1880s. At the same time, I'm reading the biography of India's Cornelia Sorabji, who was the first woman to complete the bachelor of civil law exams at Oxford in 1892. I've been asked to review both books as a result of my comparative study of the first women who became lawyers in the late 19th century, and it's great to see these new biographies of women who were pioneers in law."



CITIES

Moving Up

Welcome to the high-rise 'vertical neighbourhood'

What do you think of when you think neighbourhoods? Single-family dwellings with two-car garages? Many people's concept of neighbourhood has been heavily influenced by images of 1950s suburbia. But there's another kind that is being overlooked – Toronto's "vertical neighbourhoods", says geographer Sutama Ghosh, who recently completed doctoral research at York on aspects of immigrant settlement in the city.

"In Western literature, residential neighbourhoods are conceived of as horizontal spaces," says Ghosh. "Low-density, low-rise houses and perhaps small apartment buildings. But this understanding needs to be revised." Ghosh argues that immigrant neighbourhoods are produced. She studied 30 Bangladeshi immigrant households living in T.O. high-rises. "Although these buildings are vertical stacks not conducive to frequent social interaction, nevertheless the families I studied variously transformed these functional spaces into unique neighbourhoods," says Ghosh, who looked at three Toronto areas – Victoria Park, Regent Park and Eglinton Avenue/Markham Road. All three areas have a high concentration of apartment buildings of up to 20 storeys with as many as 370 units.

Newly arrived families dealt with the threat of alienation in a number of ways, such as offering Bengali-style services within the building itself, doing laundry at similar times (so mothers could talk), keeping apartment doors open to allow people to drop in, chatting in hallways, meeting at mosques or for Quran classes, offering informal day care for each other, starting "at-home" beauty parlours, and offering informal catering for neighbours' parties.

"To understand how migrants transform planners' conceived spaces into lived spaces, it's important to examine immigrants' transnational *habitus* – how they lived back home is often transposed to how they live here," says Ghosh. "Neighbourhoods in the Western sense have always been horizontal sanctuaries. My research found they can also be vertical." ■

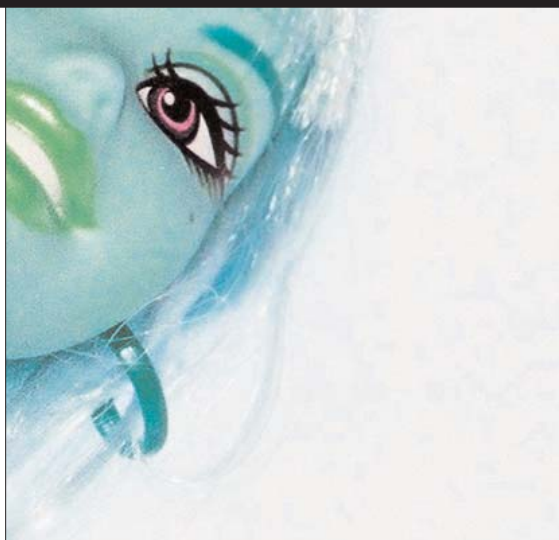
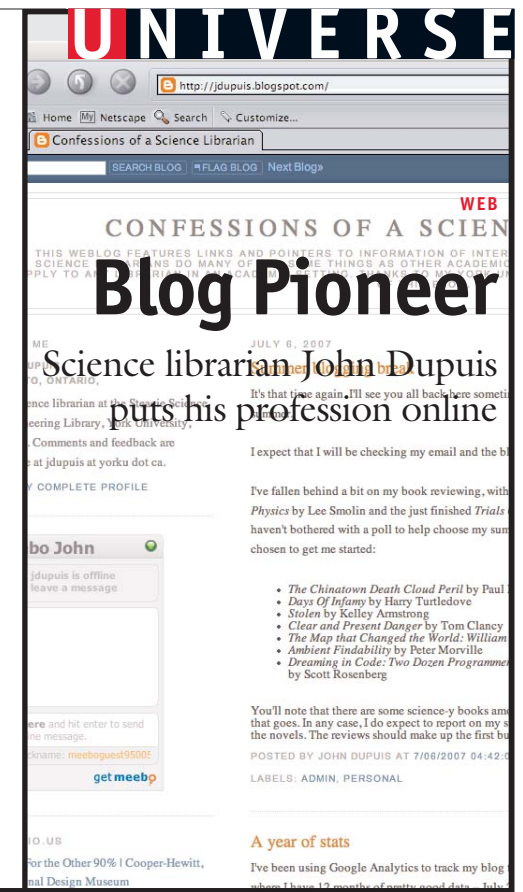
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

Once there was *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* by Thomas De Quincey; now there's "Confessions of a Science Librarian", a blog by John Dupuis, librarian at York's Steacie Science & Engineering Library. "My blog features links and pointers to information of interest to academic science librarians," says Dupuis. "But since science librarians do many of the same things as other academic librarians, a lot of my postings can apply to any librarian in an academic setting," he says. Dupuis began the blog in '02, which makes him something of a pioneer. "At the time I thought I was a bit late on the blogging craze but as it turns out I was a very early adopter of blog technology."

So why write it? "I wanted to show blogs can be more than just teen diaries and political rants, that people can actually put them to professional use. I tend to do a lot less mixing in of personal stuff than other bloggers. But I feel my main mission is to explore what science and science communication are all about."

Dupuis has many interesting "labels" on his blog (jdupuis.blogspot.com) pertaining to diverse subjects such as science books, women in science, Friday fun, blog "carnivals", kids today, a "blogorama", sci-lib jobs and, of course, book reviews. One label concerns other "scitech blogs" where Dupuis does a run-down, analysis and listing of some of "the best science blogs on the planet".

These days Dupuis' own blog is getting roughly 600 hits per week. "It's small by entertainment gossip blog standards, but pretty good for me, and up from the 200 average I was getting last year," Dupuis says. And Technorati.com, which rates blogs based on the number of other blogs that link to them, is now giving Dupuis' blog the best ranking it's ever had. "I'm about 50,000th place. But considering they rank more than 57 million blogs, that's pretty good." ■



RESEARCH

'Chameleon' Girls

A York expert finds that many young women repress their anger

Is a girl you know a chameleon? Not literally, of course, but psychologically? Research by Cheryl van Daalen-Smith into how young girls are socially coerced into suppressing their anger suggests that such repression often forces many to "live like chameleons" (as one of the study's participants said).

Van Daalen-Smith, a professor in York's School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, and the School of Women's Studies, has also been a practising public health nurse for 12 years. She says her two-year study of 65 young women aged 14-21 shows many feel "disbelieved" in response to their anger. (Anger, she adds, is a component of depression and is often – quite erroneously – confused with aggression.)

"My study found young women, whose legitimate anger is dismissed or silenced, change their outward selves in order to blend into a society that denies their right to feel and express anger," she says. Denied anger also prevents girls from both protecting and knowing the self – two key components of mental health and quality of life, she notes.

Denying anger can have other serious effects on mental health, says van Daalen-Smith, who has worked as a mental health nurse with children and youth. "Too often young women are medicated. Many of these young women told me that they felt instead they needed to have their stories and concerns believed and not judged by nurses and other health professionals."

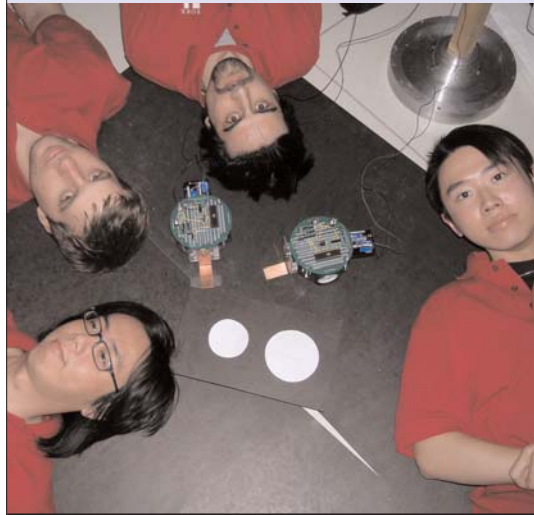
She has published her findings and suggestions in a handbook for health care professionals: *Living as a Chameleon: A Guide to Understanding Girls' Anger for Girl-Serving Professionals*. Her bottom-line advice? "Don't silence angry girls. Don't medicate them. Listen. Professionals should be transforming how young women's anger is viewed, and how it is heard." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

SCHOOLS

Credit to the Profession

York's 'non-traditional' School of Engineering gains full accreditation



Give credit where credit's due. Richard Hornsey got his and he's a happy man. Hornsey, associate dean for York's School of Engineering, recently received full accreditation for the school's evolving engineering programs. This means graduates can now apply for a professional engineering licence without the need for additional testing (which was formerly the case). The accreditation process itself sounded rather like an engineering marvel in its own right. "The documentation required to earn it could fill a room," noted Hornsey with a smile.

Final paperwork was presented to the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) outlining how York has created a program which will help meet the world's future engineering needs. The interdisciplinary approach focuses on three areas – space, geomatics and computer engineering. After a site visit by the CEAB's accreditation personnel (involving 65 meetings over three days), the program was awarded a three-year accreditation – the maximum given to any new program.

Nick Cercone, dean of York's Faculty of Science & Engineering, couldn't be happier with the successful result. "Sitting here, located in the heart of engineering country, York decided to pursue a non-traditional approach, rather than duplicate existing [engineering] programs. Our unique 'at-York' solution means our space engineering is one of the strongest in the country, geomatics is offered only by a handful of universities in Canada, and computer engineering, which suffered during the dot-com bubble, is poised to grow as the industry recovers." ■

Rockologist and York music Professor Rob Bowman has called the Mariposa Folk Festival the "longest running and single most important music festival in Canadian history." Now a big chunk of that history will find a home in York's Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections.

And special it is. Music librarian Rob van der Blik, who was instrumental, along with University Archivist Michael Moir and the York University Foundation, in securing the gift-in-kind from the Mariposa Folk Foundation, says, "It is collections like these that continue to make university libraries and archives interesting and relevant to researchers, providing a wealth of raw and unprocessed material that can be used to re-evaluate or flesh out accepted historical accounts – a real windfall."

According to Moir, the archives provide a comprehensive record of an event that started in 1961 in Orillia, Ont., moved to Toronto Island and the city's Harbourfront for a few years, and is now again based in Orillia. "Minutes of meetings and financial records will be of interest to faculty and students studying the administration of arts organizations," he says. "But even this is overshadowed by the large quantity of sound recordings and performers' files, which will support research in Fine Arts, particularly the Department of Music." Over the years, most performers submitted audio cassettes and publicity material to the festival's organizers, notes Moir. "That's a marvellous source for the study of folk music in North America during the second half of the 20th century."

The Mariposa Folk Foundation chose York's archives over other competitors because, says Moir, the foundation liked York's commitment to developing research collections that "are directly linked to research and teaching, and creating 'living' archives that will be actively used in the future." ■

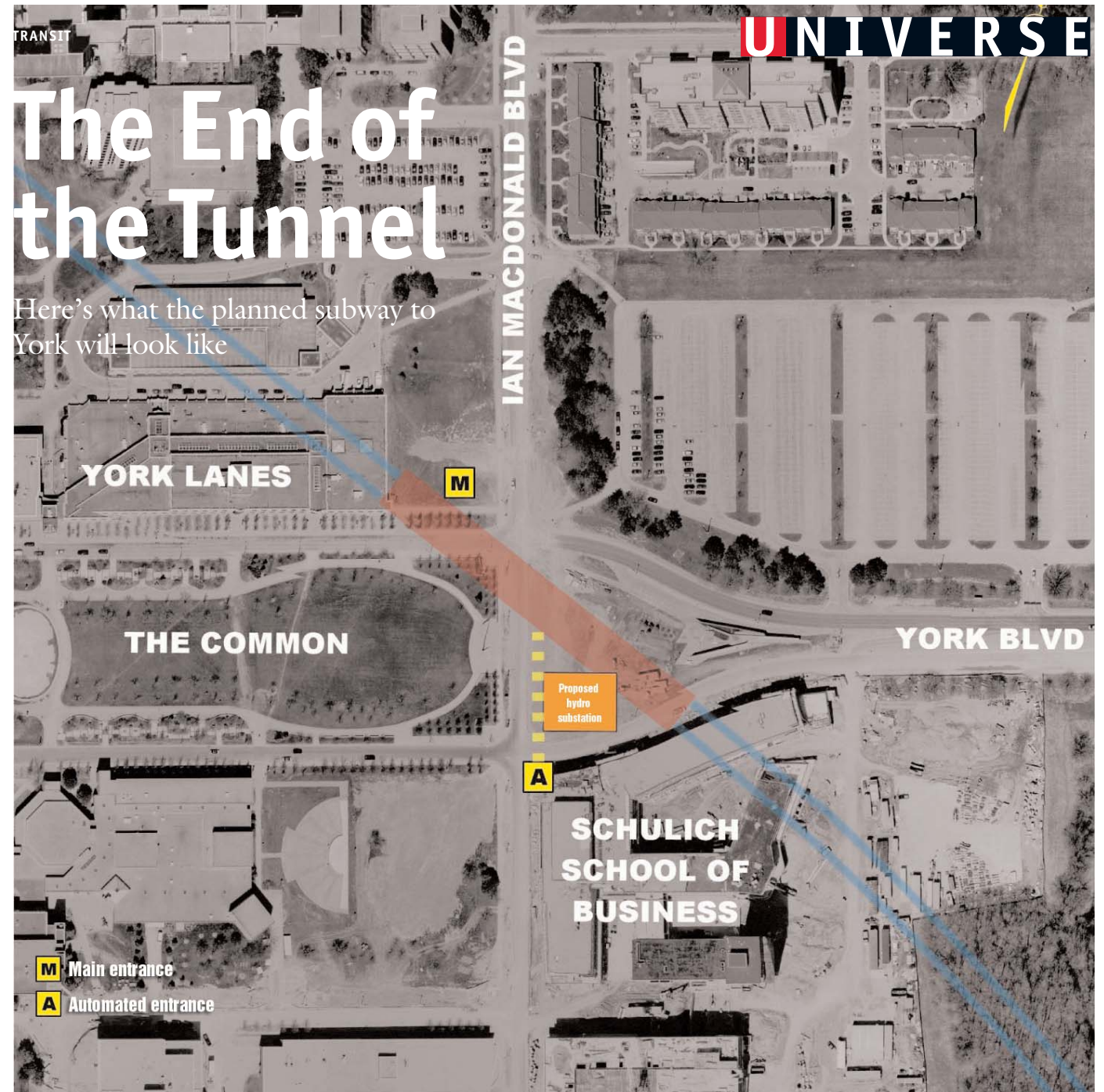


HISTORY

Mariposa Memories

The archives of the famed folk festival come to York

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID FULLER; PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED



Here's what the planned subway to York will look like

It's been a long time coming, but finally, a subway to York is on track. By this summer, all levels of government had pledged to support the \$2-billion Spadina Subway Extension, and only some paperwork from Ottawa was still awaited to set the Toronto Transit Commission's building process fully in motion. Projected completion date: 2013 or 2014.

The extension's total length will be 8.7 km, running 6.2 km from the TTC's Downsview Station to a new Steeles West Station at Toronto's northern boundary, and then 2.5 km into neighbouring Vaughan to a terminus at the planned Vaughan Corporate Centre. In all there will be six stations: Sheppard West (in Downsview Park), Finch West, York University, Steeles West, Hwy. 407 Transitway (407 and Jane), and Vaughan Corporate Centre.

At York, the line will make its principal stop at the eastern end of the Harry Arthurs Common, with the station stretching underground roughly from the Seymour Schulich Building to York Lanes and the new Archives of Ontario building, currently under construction next door. The Steeles West Station will also serve York from its location at the University's Northwest Gate and Steeles Avenue West.

As the years to completion progress, the northwestern part of Toronto is bound to be reinvigorated. The new stations will provide significant opportunities for people to live and work, and stakeholders such as York have been working on integrated plans for the development and redevelopment of lands along the length of the transit corridor.

Mind the doors, please. ■

T a k i n g Y o u t h G l o b a l

EIGHT YEARS AGO, Jennifer Corriero, then 19, and friend Michael Furdyk conceived of a “capital” idea – in more ways than one. They were cycling down Ottawa’s Parliament Hill trying to think of a way to help young people change the world. Corriero and Furdyk knew technology itself wasn’t enough, but thought that by yoking the energy and talent of young people to technology, something great would come of it – and the seeds of TakingITGlobal (TIG) were sown.

“We both had an interest in technology,” says Corriero, “and we were wondering why young people don’t get more involved in global issues and initiatives. We thought we might be able to create a Web space that could foster inspiration, information and involvement. We eventually came up with the idea of a Web site as a platform for exchange of information, ideas and connections. But before we got to design it, Mike and I did a stint working at Microsoft for six months. They had heard about TIG and invited us for a six-month consulting project in Seattle. They wanted us to help them understand and re-think how they were approaching the Net Generation at the time.”

It wasn’t until Corriero and Furdyk were back in Toronto that they really got TIG rolling. Corriero also enrolled at York University for a BA in individualized studies in the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies. “My parents, neither of whom had a chance to attend university, were kind of freaking out that I was doing both of these things [her degree and developing TIG] at the same time,” says Corriero. “But I really wanted to pursue this dream and eventually I found I had to complete my degree part-time. I’ve managed to do both.”

After its launch at takingitglobal.org, word of mouth spread about TIG and things took off. Since its humble beginnings in 1999, TIG has become a much-honoured international organization built around an interactive Web site that allows young people around the world to collaborate on various online projects. Those projects usually target local, regional and global issues, Corriero says. Today, TIG, which is headquartered in Toronto, has a youth-led staff of 30, a budget of more than \$1 million a year, and 150,000 members (she’s hoping to build that to five million in the next few years) from more than 200 countries worldwide. Its



Jennifer Corriero has created a highly successful Web engine to help young people change the world.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

Web site receives upwards of a million hits a day and has had eight million unique visitors to the site over the years, says Corriero.

Now 27, Corriero (BA '03, MES '06) is no longer the wistful 19-year-old she once was, but she's still out to change the world, she says. And, in her own way, she has. As co-founder and executive director of TIG, she holds the same dreams and enthusiasm for global action and investment in youth as she did that day in Ottawa in 1999. In fact, in recognition of her work and TIG's reputation, she was named a "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2005 for helping to empower young people through technology. Among her peers getting the same award that year were the founders of Yahoo and Google. It was a natural follow-up to 2003, when the WEF named her a Global Leader for Tomorrow and *Time* magazine marked her as a leader for "Canada's Next Generation".

"USING TECHNOLOGY to create online communities seemed like the perfect way to address different needs, be they environmental, social, community or political," says Corriero. As an example, in 2006 TIG used its online presence – its network can be accessed in 11 languages – to increase youth participation at the 16th annual international AIDS conference, held in Toronto. Also in 2006, Creating Local Connections was launched as a Canada-wide initiative to increase youth participation and collaboration.

What interested Corriero when she was at York? Did her studies influence her approach to TIG? "First of all I love learning," she says. "I love to learn in a way that helps me expand my ideas about the world and also develops practical skills, the kind of learning that combines both theory and practice, and I think I got that at York with my interdisciplinary program in individualized studies. My focus was on business, communications, technology and culture. It all ties in with what I'm doing now.

"What I studied at York really complements my entrepreneurial work with TIG," says Corriero. "For my master's I was in the Faculty of Environmental Studies. I wasn't just looking at the natural world but also at social environments. I did a lot of work around participatory action research, cultural production, social movements, international development studies and the like. My major project was on youth-led action in an international context."

Corriero's early focus on youth in her academic studies has continued at TIG. "Youth are our key stakeholders," she says. Apathy isn't the problem among youth today, it's more lack of information about world issues and the imperative for action, she explains. "TIG's mandate is to offer youth a platform where they can navigate information on social issues and check out opportunities, have a voice and get involved. That can include

events to participate in – like the recent international AIDS conference – networks to join, or funds to access to support local projects and initiatives."

Corriero notes that too often so-called "world" issues seem far away to the average person – let alone a young person. "It can be daunting for young people to know how to get involved," she says. But she believes technology can help. "People today are more literate and educated generally," she says. "And increasingly the Internet offers opportunities to participate in the creation, access and dissemination of information. Youth are especially tuned in to this. Now your friends can just as easily be on the other side of the world as on the other side of the street."

To date, TIG has developed many initiatives to provide learning, cross-cultural awareness and development opportunities among young people. It recently helped to create Web sites for various non-profit groups including Oxfam Canada, Greenpeace, United Nations associations and Journalists for Human Rights. Other projects include toolkits, such as a "Guide to Action" which is a Web-based, educational booklet that guides young people through the process of taking action to benefit their communities. With support from Microsoft, TIG also created a Web portal called "Online Safety and Security" as a way to educate youth about Internet concerns such as protection and abuse of intellectual property, cyber bullying, online predators, identity theft, online security and cyber citizenship. TIG community building initiatives include discussion boards, e-groups, newsletters, blogs, open forums, an online gallery of youth artwork called Global Gallery (an actual art gallery where members post their creations) and an online magazine, *Panorama* – all at takingitglobal.org.

Of course, all these initiatives take money. So where does TIG find support? Partners include computer industry players such as RBC Financial, Microsoft, Zeus Technology, Google, Fusepoint Managed Services and Cisco Systems, among others. Key supporters also include the likes of J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency and, notes Corriero, TIG's all-important citizen donors.

For Corriero, TIG has in many ways fulfilled the social activist vision she had for herself years ago while riding her bike down Parliament Hill. But she doesn't plan to rest on her laurels. What's in her future? "The skills that I've developed now are very different from the ones I had when I started," she says. "Whether or not I'm here in 10 years working with TIG, I think there will always be a big part of me that's focused on contributing to a culture where there is a commitment toward healthy development and including youth as a necessary part of that process." ■

The Slavery Files

Paul Lovejoy and his team have created a world-class resource at York's new Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples.

BY OLENA WAWRYSHYN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY LEE

THE FIRST TIME York history Professor Paul Lovejoy set foot in Alton, a historic town in Madison County, Illinois, a delegation from the local black community held a ceremony in his honour and treated him like a VIP. It was the late 1980s, and

Lovejoy had been attending an African Studies Association conference in nearby St. Louis, Missouri. A colleague insisted that Lovejoy make a side trip to Alton where, overlooking the Mississippi, there is a massive monument – a 93-ft-high granite column surmounted by a bronze 17-foot statue – dedicated to the abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy, who was murdered in 1837. The newspaper editor and minister died defending his printing press from an angry mob opposed to his impassioned editorials against slavery.

Growing up in the 1950s, Paul Lovejoy was well aware of the role played by his ancestor Elijah – and Elijah's younger brother Owen, a prominent politician – in the abolitionist movement. Like Elijah, Lovejoy's father was a minister, who preached against segregation from pulpits around the state of Maine. As a youth, Lovejoy himself was a civil rights activist. Nevertheless, the York professor was overwhelmed by the reception in Alton. "Knowing what my specialization is, they welcomed me as if I were a brother," says Lovejoy.

So it was an especially poignant moment for Lovejoy when he oversaw the recent inauguration of the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples at York. "I was elated," says the historian and author of numerous books on slavery. And for good reason: aside from the sense of

continuing the family cause, there was his appointment as director of the institute and its official opening by Governor General Michaëlle Jean, fittingly on March 25, 2007, the 200th anniversary of the British law abolishing the slave trade.

The new institute is devoted to the study of global migrations, history and heritage of African peoples. Unique in Canada in its research focus, it is named after Harriet Tubman, the Maryland woman who fled slavery in 1849 and then helped others escape through the Underground Railroad that moved enslaved blacks from the US to Canada.

The work of the institute crosses many disciplines. "The research draws on subjects ranging from music to biography to culture and religion," says Lovejoy. "We are interested in issues of identity and ethnicity, and all of these components have a gendered aspect."

Lovejoy's interest in African history originated during his years as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, home to one of the earliest African studies programs in the US. He learned Hausa, an African language, while completing his dissertation on the caravan trade in West Africa. Then, in 1971, Lovejoy came to Canada to take up a position in the History Department at York University, and has been there ever since.

Over the years, he has established a reputation as an eminent African studies expert through his research and the publication of numerous books, including what has become a seminal text, *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa*. He also co-edited, with University of Stirling, Scotland, history

ISSUES OF IDENTITY: Hunt (left), Lovejoy and Daddi Addoun



HISTORY

Professor Robin Law, the biography of Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua, an enslaved African who was sent to Brazil, but escaped slavery in New York City and then journeyed to Boston and Haiti. During his research, Lovejoy discovered a Canadian connection – Baquaqua had penned his autobiography in Chatham, Ont., a fact previously unknown to scholars.

In the late 1990s, Lovejoy and a group of his History Department colleagues, including Professor David Trotman, the Tubman Institute's associate director, and Professor José Curto, set up a departmental research centre focusing on the black diaspora. In the process, they built up a network of associates and institutional connections around the world and made York an international hub of excellence in the field.

The work of the Tubman Institute, which grew out of that centre, is global in scope because the movement of Africans was a worldwide phenomenon, says Lovejoy.

The institute has 44 associates representing 24 institutions in Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, the US and Canada. Among them are the prominent Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library and the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation at the University of Hull in England.

Armed with digital cameras and laptops, researchers from York and other institutions are carrying out fieldwork in at least 14 countries, digitizing historical documents which are then stored in the Tubman Institute's digital archives. The institute is developing a highly advanced database system that will allow wide access to the institute's large repository of information.

Many of the Tubman documents tell the forgotten stories of enslaved blacks. Thanks to the research of Nadine Hunt, who is completing a PhD in history under Lovejoy, more will know of the existence in 18th-century Jamaica of a young "negro boy" named Fortune (valued at £45), a man recorded as Bobb (£60) and a woman named Cuba and her two children (£100). They were duly listed, with their deemed commercial value, as the property of the late Robert Mantle in the inventory of his estate from March 12, 1766.

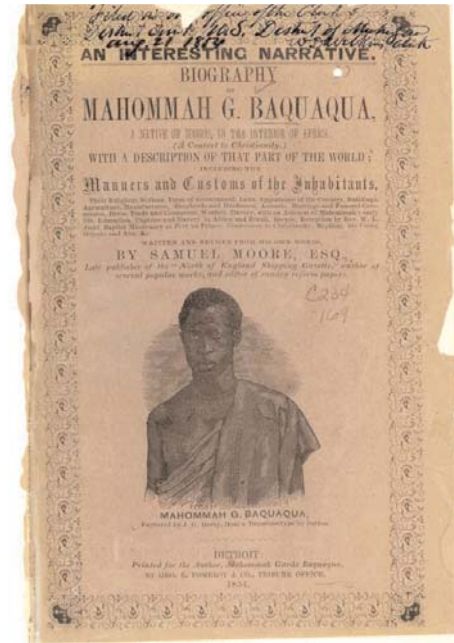
Hunt found and digitized this document and many similar ones in the Jamaica Archives in Spanish Town, Jamaica. "I am looking at the economy in the Caribbean region in my dissertation, but I am also making a connection to the enslaved people because I think they are important. They provided the labour, and their story is an important one to tell," says Hunt.

The Saskatoon-born researcher also chanced upon a docu-

ment that shed light on her own past. "My mother's family is from Paisley Village in Hanover, Jamaica, and I came across a reference in England last year about a Paisley Estate in Jamaica," she says. The document records that the estate was

"owned by Samuel Cleland: 124 slaves, 120 stock, 3 white men, 3 white women and children, 76 hhd[s] [hogsheads] of sugar." The village likely developed out of the estate.

Another one of Lovejoy's doctoral students, Yacine Daddi Addoun, is digitizing 18th- and 19th-century archival material in Algeria, France, Mali and Portugal, relating not only to blacks enslaved by North Africans, but also to white Europeans who were captured by corsairs – sea-faring mercenaries – and held in North Africa. Documents Daddi Addoun has found include an emancipation contract granting freedom to 14 Portuguese held by private owners, and letters written by enslaved Portuguese to their government and families. Daddi Addoun, who grew up in Algeria, is using such source materials to compare perceptions and power relationships in slavery. He is also studying how attitudes towards slavery have changed in Islam.



ESCAPE TO FREEDOM: Baquaqua's story

Lovejoy says the studies taking place at the Tubman Institute can lead to social innovation. Research into cultures and diversity has practical applications in shaping public policy that tackles present-day social injustices, such as human trafficking, and in educating people to act as informed citizens of a global society.

Yet misconceptions persist, he says. For example, many people think that Canadian involvement with slavery was only in the defence of freedom through the Underground Railroad. In reality, it was more complicated. "They do not realize that there was slavery in Canada until 1834," says Lovejoy. Slaves were held in Upper and Lower Canada from the early 18th century. In 1793, the lieutenant governor of Upper Canada, John Graves Simcoe, famously passed the Act Against Slavery, but the law was gradual: it outlawed the importation of new slaves but did not emancipate those already held captive. Another largely overlooked fact, says Lovejoy, is that the enslaved in Canada included not only Africans, but also Native people.

The aim of the Tubman Institute is to sweep away such ignorance about the past and help society better understand the present, he says. "We have to understand that our combined past has involved the massive enslavement of African people during a particular time," says Lovejoy. "That has a legacy into contemporary times, right up to today and it takes shape in many ways." ■

IT'S 9:15PM and CTV Newsnet's live "The Verdict with Paula Todd" has gone to commercial. As the next guests step onto the raised set and take their seats at the frosted glass table, shaped like a giant question mark, Todd swivels away from her laptop, leans forward and flashes her brilliant smile. "Hi, I'm Paula Todd. Welcome to 'The Verdict'. I'm a lawyer and a journalist – two of the most despised professions in the world. Thanks for joining me." Her guests smile and visibly relax. As the studio crew pins mikes to their lapels, it's safe to say the three men – one of the country's top criminal lawyers, a detective and a forensic expert – are familiar with their host's credentials as they prepare for her probing questions about DNA evidence, one of the lead topics this night.

When CTV head honchos Ivan Fecan (BA Hons. '01), Robert Hurst and Jana Juginovic dreamed up "The Verdict", they assembled a production team in January and planned to launch March 14, the opening day of Conrad Black's fraud trial, from the courthouse in Chicago. Midway to launch they finally found their anchor in Todd, ideally qualified for the nightly in-depth look at legal and justice issues. Until recently, she had co-hosted TVOntario's former flagship "Studio 2", and Todd was thrilled to be back at the helm of another smart current affairs program. "It's a perfect fit for me," she says. It draws upon all her skills – as a journalist, lawyer, writer and broadcaster, and suits her sunny, inquisitive nature.

From her beginning at York's student newspaper *Excalibur*, Todd has forged a stellar career in print and TV journalism. The *Toronto Star* scooped her up shortly after she earned a BA in English in 1982 and so besotted was she with journalism she almost turned down an acceptance to York's Osgoode Hall Law School, until mentor and former *Star* publisher John Honderich persuaded her she could do both. By 1988, she had her LLB and in 1990 was called to the Ontario bar. She never regretted it. "Law has been useful to me every single day as a journalist," says Todd.

She worked at the *Star* for 13 years. She rose from reporter to feature writer, Queen's Park correspondent and editorial writer. In demand as a political and news analyst on TV and radio, she leapt at TVO's offer in 1996 to co-host "Studio 2" with Steve Paikin. When TVO cancelled the show 10 years later, Todd carried on doing "Person2Person", her one-on-one interviews with inspiring people (explored more fully in her book, *A Quiet Courage*), but she missed the daily excitement of

live television. "You get addicted to the adrenalin and the pressure."

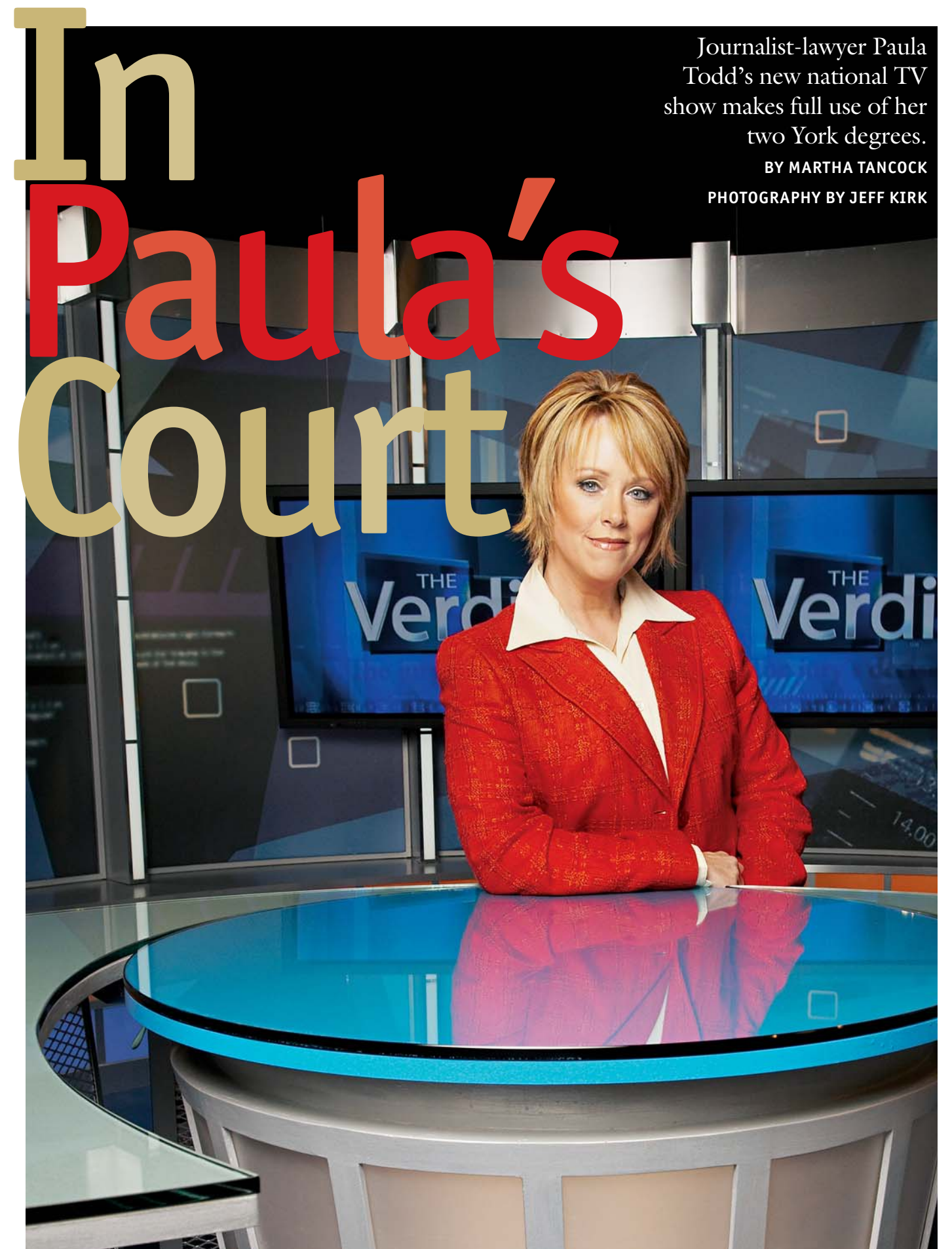
When CTV approached her about hosting "The Verdict", she couldn't say yes fast enough. After years at a funding-challenged public network, Todd still revels at the resources at her disposal at Canada's biggest and richest private broadcaster. "There's real energy and drive here," she says. "It's one of the most exciting experiences in my life."

Every week from Sunday to Thursday at 9pm, Todd interviews lawyers, newsmakers, even criminals and victims, about issues "ripped from the headlines of the day." Racy promo aside, "The Verdict" is anything but tabloid and Todd is nothing like CNN's one-note Nancy Grace. "We want to go beyond a knee-jerk reaction, drill down three miles and cover all angles."

What's even more compelling is the show's uniquely Canadian perspective. "Can you believe we didn't have a live, comprehensive, national legal affairs program?" exclaims Todd as she scans a script on her cluttered desk. It's about 7pm, two hours to air, she's just been through "the car wash" – had her makeup and hair done – and is about to rush off to a final script check with producers. Many Canadians, she says, get their notions of the criminal justice system from American TV. "The Verdict" offers a counterpoint. "It's jam-packed, entertaining, in-depth, informative, and it's opening people's eyes. That makes a 12-hour day worthwhile."

Todd typically works from late morning to 10pm, which poses little problem on the home front because she is married to an equally hardworking, very supportive CBC executive and both her stepdaughters are away at university. She begins her day with a 40-minute drive to the studio, tuning into the morning radio shows. Not until she's finished reading the day's newspapers and the wires, surfed the Net and met with story producers, does she have a clue who she's interviewing that night – or what her two- to three-minute "closing argument" will be.

Expressing her opinion on air is new and challenging for Todd. "Nobody ever tells me what I should talk about," she says, back in her office moments after saying goodbye to viewers and "thanks, darlings" to her studio crew. But the law-trained journalist crafts her closing arguments with care. "I think a great deal about the responsibility free speech entails." She stands up, slings her purse over her shoulder and heads for the door. "We live in a democracy and the way to protect that democracy is to question it, to stretch it, to strengthen it." ■



Journalist-lawyer Paula Todd's new national TV show makes full use of her two York degrees.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

The Kids'



ADVOCATE

Osgoode grad Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond adds another to a career full of firsts: BC's first Representative for Children and Youth.

BY ROB MCMAHON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN YANYSHYN

PERCHED AMONG the stacked papers crowding Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond's desk is a signed photograph of Lord Alfred Thompson Denning, Master of the Rolls. Looking across the glimmering Inner Harbour in Victoria, BC, Turpel-Lafond reflects on a quotation from Lord Denning, the famed senior civil judge in the Court of Appeal of England and Wales who died in 1999. The sentiment is one she lives by: We're not masters of the law, but servants of the people. "To me, that's a very significant part of law," says Turpel-Lafond (LLB '85) in her pensive yet friendly manner. "I've spent a long time considering the issue of recasting law in the context of a pluralistic society, so it meets the needs of people whose stories have been suppressed."

Throughout the course of her 24-year-long career, as a lawyer trained at York's Osgoode Hall Law School and at Cambridge and Harvard, as Canada's first Aboriginal tenured law professor, as a provincial judge in Saskatchewan, and now as BC's first Representative for Children and Youth, Turpel-Lafond has worked to reconcile law's institutional nature with the organization she believes is society's most resilient: the family. At the core of her work is her belief in the ability of law to adapt to personal circumstances. "Law is an emblem of the hopes and dreams of people in a very complicated society," she says, "but it doesn't always translate what is really happening. A situation is always more complicated than what you hear in one case or another."

The ability to view the humanity behind the numbers allows a sense of hope to emerge from the challenges of Turpel-Lafond's new position. At face value, the statistics tell a bleak story. At present, though they make up eight per cent of BC's youth population, Aboriginal youth represent 43 per cent of youth in custody and a third of those serving a community sentence. These children often face poor health and limited education and employment opportunities – only one-fifth graduate from high school.

Yet Turpel-Lafond is living proof that statistics form an incomplete picture – and are by no means a stamp of failure. Growing up in Saskatchewan, her childhood was more difficult than most. The child of a Cree father and a Scottish mother, Turpel-Lafond moved off reserve early to pursue an education, but still experienced domestic violence first-hand.

Later, serving for nine years as Saskatchewan's first Aboriginal Provincial Court judge, Turpel-Lafond drew upon that perspective. When applying the law in cases concerning youth, she advocated for more services for these individuals –

especially those who had been sexually exploited or who suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome. "Having had the experience of growing up where I was exposed to domestic violence, I tried to react in a voice of compassion and understanding," she says. "It comes back to resilience. I try to demonstrate to people that trauma can sometimes be regarded in a positive way and be a situation to build upon."

As an independent officer of the legislature, Turpel-Lafond oversees BC's child protection system – with the power to investigate injuries or deaths of those in care – and advocates on behalf of the province's children. One of the points listed in the Representative for Children and Youth's vision statement notes the importance of family in overcoming challenges. It also calls for the representative to help nurture the spirit of Aboriginal youth, in part through securing a sense of family. "My role is to ensure the most vulnerable children in society are supported by legal, social and political institutions," she says. "It's an opportunity to do something important."

Turpel-Lafond says she received a strong foundation in the convergence of law and community at Osgoode. The school acted as a meeting place for people from diverse backgrounds, encouraging a sense of community missing from some large academic institutions. "Osgoode and York really reached out to the community to include people who were traditionally not as well represented in the field of law," she says. "I felt other schools could be quite monolithic."

The resilience of family and community was a key theme for her when she wrote a history of her band, the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, to help celebrate Saskatchewan's 2005 centennial. The 2,000-member band, located in central Saskatchewan, was founded by two brothers – Kitowehow and Petequakey – at Fort Carleton in 1876. While one left to join the Riel rebellion, the other stayed on to build the community as chief. The history shows that the band flourished in many areas, building a strong tradition of peaceful co-existence with non-Aboriginal neighbours, participation in competitive sports and voluntary military service during the Second World War.

Turpel-Lafond says she wrote the book for her four children, who range in age from three to 11. She aimed to demonstrate how things have changed since their great-grandparents were the first and second students enrolled at the Duck Lake Reserve school. "It's a lot different from the issues that people hear of in the media, where First Nations are living in jails, addicted to substances and have lost their culture. The history shows the strengths of families – and how they help people persevere." ■

SUSTAINABILITY

BIRDS WERE AMONG nature's delights during my childhood, but they were not the stars of the show. Visits to the cottage were a kid's dream, filled with swimming, canoeing, and building makeshift forts in the woods. During games of hide-and-seek I shrank into the ground, breathing in the tangy scent of pine needles, and passed the time watching whirligig beetles clumsily rowing into each other, blue damselflies dancing an aerial ballet over the water, and spiders doing tightrope walks. My family would gather at the living-room window to admire the imposing figure of the great blue heron standing on his rock or when someone spotted a merganser duck and her fluffy brood bobbing in the waves along the shoreline. On crisp fall mornings, loud and insistent honking sparked a stampede to the dock, where we counted the low-flying geese as they headed south one squadron after another. I don't remember paying much attention to the little songbirds that nested in the blueberry bushes, cedars, and pine trees. The red-eyed vireos, song sparrows, and yellow-rumped warblers went about their business year after year despite three noisy kids and a dog that invaded on weekends and summer vacations.

Little did I know that songbirds would lead me on a life of discovery and adventure, from dodging surprised rattlesnakes in the desert of Arizona to dodging aerial bombardment by angry howler monkeys in the tropical rainforests of Panama. The gateway to my passion for these feathered jewels began with the graceful swallows, though my own interest was in their fierce battles for nesting cavities. As an undergraduate student, my summer home at a field station in southern Ontario was also home to dozens of nest boxes that were lined up row after row in several different hayfields, each one with a vigilant tree swallow perched atop or flying nearby. Shiny blue backs glittered in the sun as the bickering swallows circled their boxes like little fighter jets, scolding and chasing intruders that dared to come too close. The nest boxes are so valuable that both males and females have knock-down, drag-out fights with the desperate stragglers that arrive later in spring and have no place to breed. Once, during nest checks, I opened the door of a box to find two females fighting so intently they did not even notice the giant face peering in at them.

I studied the swallow battles for several years and earned a master's degree, but this was not enough for me. I was hooked for life on the challenge and satisfaction of posing questions of nature and devising ways to work out the answers. My PhD at Yale University in the late 1980s was on another swallow, the

purple martin, though this time I wanted to know how young males finesse their way to home ownership among older males who control all the nest cavities.

I got to know tree swallows and purple martins intimately after holding dozens in my hand and spending hundreds of hours watching them at their nesting houses. But until the end of my PhD, I had barely given a thought to what their lives were like *after* they left their breeding grounds. My outlook changed forever when I was invited along on a field trip to Brazil with the Purple Martin Conservation Association and Dr. Gene Morton, a senior scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park – and, as it turned out, my future husband. After a gruelling day of travel in early February, we ended up in southern Brazil at a small lodge in the Itatiaia National Park sipping a well-earned *caipirinha*, the national drink. The next morning I sat on the patio taking in my first look at wild toucans, parrots, and other exotic tropical birds. But we were there to study martins, not bird watch, so after breakfast we began the long drive to the busy town of Ribeirão Preto in the state of São Paulo. We needed to find the park in the centre of town where martins slept at night by the thousands, so our driver pulled up to a group of men standing by the side of the road.

In his rough Spanish, Gene told them we were looking for the swallows, or *golondrinas*. Amid wide smirks, winks, and knowing looks, they gave us the directions. Our Brazilian driver laughed and explained that *golondrina* was the local nickname for the prostitutes who, like the martins, congregated in the park at night. This seemed like such a foreign world to me, yet it was just as much a home for purple martins as the familiar nesting houses I had studied thousands of kilometres away. The next year I worked with Gene at the National Zoo and began a study of hooded warblers on their wintering grounds in Mexico, and we married a few years later, after I took on a faculty position at York University, in Toronto.

Over the past decade our family has lived a migratory lifestyle of our own while studying birds, dividing our time between our suburban home north of Toronto, our old farmhouse in northwestern Pennsylvania, and the tropical forests of Panama. Our children are growing up with parents who net and band birds in the backyard, raise dozens of *Promethea* silk moths on the screened-in porch, and drive around town with an antenna on the roof of the minivan listening for radio-tagged purple martins. Their patience is sometimes pushed to the limit when they run away from the picnic table yelling

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PARADISE LOSING

NATURE'S DELIGHTS: Stutchbury

In an excerpt from her new book, *Silence of the Songbirds*, a York biology professor writes about the tragic decline in songbird species – and what we can do to help fight it.

BY BRIDGET STUTCHBURY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KC ARMSTRONG

“Bee!” while I calmly explain that the offending creature is a *wasp*, not a bee.

I have spent my entire adult life studying and enjoying birds, taking for granted that they will be there for future generations to do the same. When I did my graduate work on tree swallows, the alarm bells were not yet ringing, and

one heard very little about disappearing songbirds. Times have changed though, and now we have a long list of North American migratory songbirds that are disappearing at a frightening rate. Wood thrush, Kentucky warblers, bobolinks, and the eastern kingbird are among the victims. By some estimates, we may have already lost almost half the songbirds that filled the skies only 40 years ago. The threats are almost too many to count: destruction of wintering habitat, pesticides, cowbirds and other predators, light pollution, and poor breeding habitat are among the problems birds face.

The early warning cries of the songbirds suggest that their enormous migration, even bigger in number and scale than that of the extinct passenger pigeons, is now at risk. If we could change the natural world enough to wipe out billions of passenger pigeons, it is not out of line to think that we are able to inadvertently cripple songbird migration. We can put a man on the moon and send an e-mail to the other side of the planet in a blink of an eye, but we can also burn a hole in the ozone layer, send our pollution across oceans and disrupt climates around the globe.

We are seeing dramatic songbird declines around the world, not just in North America. In Britain a wide variety of songbird species have suffered enormous losses in numbers since the 1960s, including a 95 per cent drop in tree sparrows and an 80 per cent decline in corn buntings. The possible causes are as varied as for North America: loss of wintering habitat in the tropics, loss of breeding habitat, exposure to pesticides, climate change, and increased predation pressures. On the other side of the globe, extensive loss of woodlands in southern Australia has meant that once common songbirds, like the hooded robin and brown creeper, are now missing from whole regions. There is good evidence of population declines of many other species, and some ornithologists predict that unless drastic changes are made, the country will lose half its land birds over the next century.

IN THE PAST FEW DECADES the environmental crisis has grown from the confined problem of extinctions of individual species to a full-blown global biodiversity crisis. We are losing entire groups of animals and plants, not just one species at a time. The

In many ways we live in a fantasy world, consuming resources on our planet with abandon and ignoring the realities of how ecosystems really function.

the far north and others that prefer the southern states. Their common decline tells us that our environmental problems are sweeping in scale, large enough to affect birds as they travel across two continents.

The scale of biodiversity loss is so huge today, and includes such plummeting numbers, that we risk losing the general basic services that sustain ecosystems. Although fewer than two per cent of bird species have gone extinct in the past 500 years, by some estimates the total number of birds has dropped by 20 to 30 per cent. In the coming century, roughly 30 per cent of birds and mammals worldwide will be threatened with extinction or will become so small in number that they are functionally extinct. Their jobs as pollinators, fruit-eaters, insect-eaters, scavengers, and nutrient recyclers will not get done, and this will disrupt ecosystems and affect everyone on the planet.

Birds are not just bio-indicators of environmental change; they are nature’s blue-collar workers, helping to sustain the environment that we share with them. The planet’s ability to cope with increasing carbon dioxide levels depends in large part on the health of our forests; healthy forests will soak up more carbon dioxide and buy us more time to get our carbon emissions under control. Birds are intimately tied to the health of forests, and vice versa. Tropical deforestation is cutting migratory bird populations off at the knees; they are losing their best wintering habitat and suffer lower survival and often longer-term consequences too, like delays in migration and lower breeding success. Tropical deforestation also has a hidden cost: it forces migrants out into agricultural landscapes where they find less food and are likely to encounter deadly pesticides. Migrants connect the ecosystems of the tropics and the northern forests; their own healthy populations depend on both, and so do our human populations.

In many ways we live in a fantasy world, consuming resources on our planet with abandon and ignoring the realities of how ecosystems really function and support life and human society. How can the vicious cycle be broken? The global problems of overpopulation, overconsumption of natural resources, broken ecosystems, rising temperatures, and increasing world poverty

migratory songbird declines are not limited to just a handful of unlucky birds; instead, dozens of species are in a chronic downhill slide. They come from every walk of life: grassland birds as well as forest birds, birds that spend the winter in Mexico and those that go all the way to Argentina, insect eaters and fruit eaters, those that breed in

seem inevitable and overwhelming. Even solving one part of the problem, the collapsing bird-migration system, seems insurmountable. Consider all the environmental roadblocks birds face during their journey: tropical deforestation, lethal pesticides, loss of important habitat used for migration, cats, colliding with buildings and towers, and, as if all this was not bad enough, loss and fragmentation of their rich breeding grounds.

Yet there is hope for migratory birds and the state of the planet. There are simple actions we can take every day that will help to promote a healthier world for birds, for ourselves, and for our grandchildren (see table below). We can help our migrants find safe winter homes by buying shade coffee as well as bird-friendly produce like organic pineapples and bananas. To help save the boreal forest, North America’s bird nursery, we can buy “green” paper products made from recycled paper and wood products from forests that were harvested sustainably. It is so easy! People living in major cities can turn their lights out at night, and everyone can keep their cats indoors and ask their

neighbours to do the same. Our day-to-day choices add up to an enormous ecosystem boost for birds and other wildlife.

Birds are worth saving, not just for practical reasons but because they are a fascinating window on nature and the history of life on earth. They teach us how the natural world works at its most basic level. Inside their bodies, migrants are fine-tuned flying machines that can navigate precisely over thousands of kilometres without the benefit of electronic wonders like Global Positioning Systems. Their internal clocks tell them when to breed and when to migrate, and trigger precise hormonal changes that affect their entire bodies from head to toe to match the change in seasons. Over many thousands of years songbirds have shaped the natural world around us; trees make fruit and flowers for them, insects hide from them, and predators hunt them down. Songbirds are beautiful to see and hear, and their fascinating behaviour reminds us of our own lives: moving to a new home, finding food, choosing partners, and the challenges of raising children. ■

How You Can Make a Difference

WHAT TO BUY OR DO WHY

Buy shade coffee or sustainable coffee that is organic and fairly traded

Increases tropical forest habitat for birds and other wildlife; conserves soil; provides fair profits for farmers; fewer pesticides in environment

When buying produce from Latin America, such as bananas and pineapples, choose organic when available

Reduces the amount of dangerous pesticide use in the tropics; fewer birds killed; safer for farmers and consumers

Buy organic, or avoid altogether when possible, the North American crops that pose the greatest risk to birds: alfalfa, Brussels sprouts, blueberries, celery, corn, cotton, cranberries, potatoes and wheat

Reduces the amount of dangerous pesticides in the environment; fewer birds killed; safer for farmers and consumers

Buy wood and paper products that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council

Increases amount of forest being logged sustainably and responsibly; better habitat for birds and a healthier forest

Buy disposable paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues) that are made from recycled paper and that are not bleached with chlorine

Reduces logging pressure on forests; increases habitat for birds; creates less pollution

Turn off the lights at night in city buildings and homes during peak migration periods

Fewer birds killed and injured by hitting buildings; saves electricity

Keep your cat indoors

Fewer birds killed; healthier and longer lives for pets

YORK PEOPLE

Bart Given

Baseball administrator

The Boy of Summer



BART GIVEN (BA '98), a kinesiology grad with a Sports Administration Certificate from York's Faculty of Health, says his ultimate sports moment has yet to come. That's saying something for a 33-year-old who already has a Grey Cup ring, is married to sports broadcaster Jody Vance and, in January 2007, was appointed assistant general manager of the Toronto Blue Jays. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Sue Vail and her passion for the sports administration program," says Given of the program's coordinator, who is now also associate dean, students, in the Faculty of Health. Given got his start as a summer intern with the Toronto Argonauts in 1997, a year they won the Grey Cup. Now, having achieved his goal of working for a professional baseball team, he has his sights set on a World Series win for the Jays. Working closely with team general manager J.P. Riccardi on player procurement, contracts and trades, Given shares his friend and colleague's pain when fans get vocal about player moves. "When they say something about J.P., I feel it too, I feel like it's said about us because we worked on all those decisions." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KC ARMSTRONG

YORK PEOPLE

David Rankine

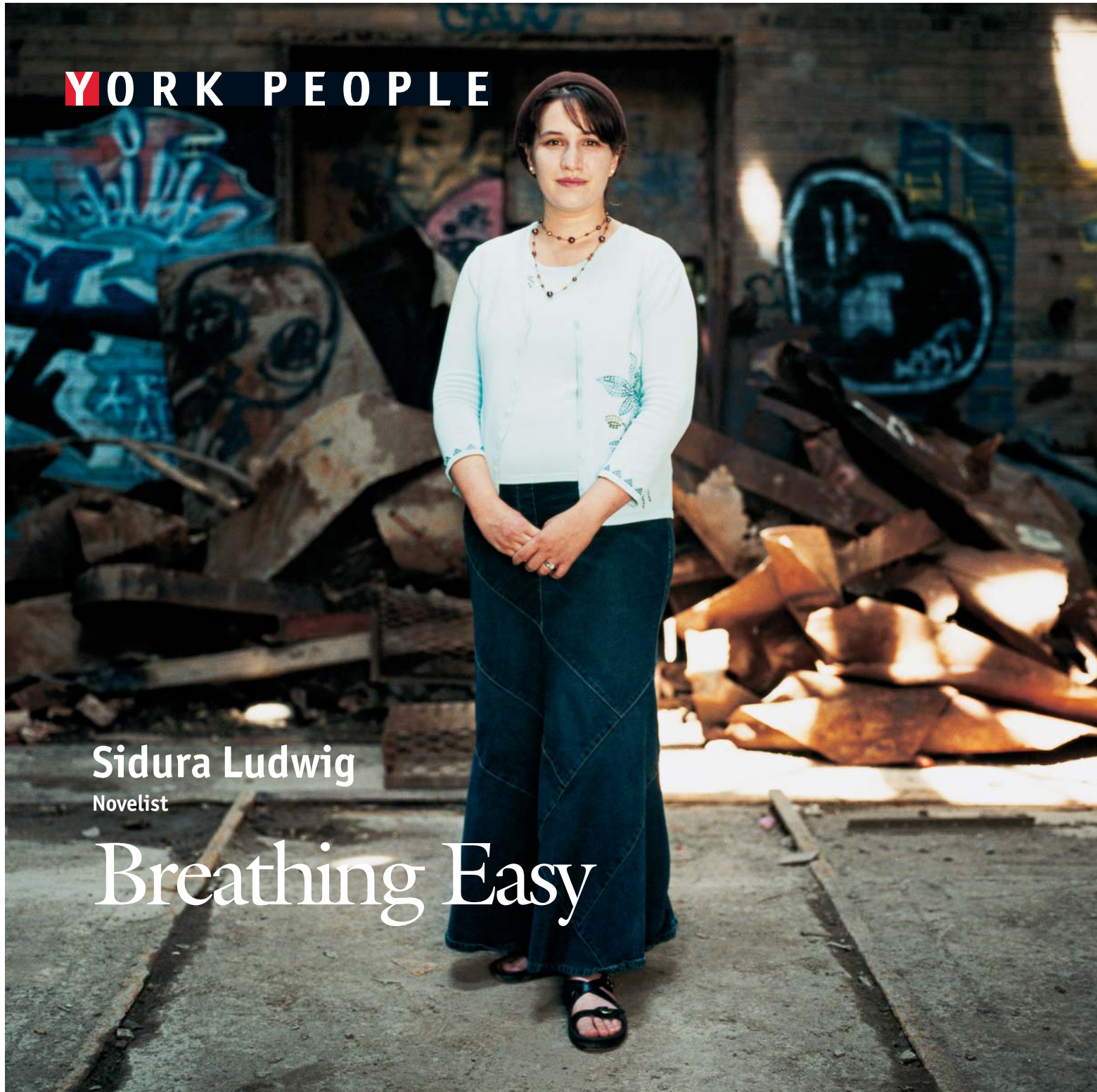
Artist, designer

Celtic Visions

WILLOWDALE, ONT.-BORN DAVID RANKINE (BFA Spec. Hons. '82) never imagined he'd become one of Canada's foremost Celtic visual artists. But maybe it was in the genes. Rankine, who was born to Scottish parents, developed an appreciation for Celtic history, music (he learned to play the bagpipes) and dance as a child, he says. "From my involvement in piping and Scottish country dancing I became aware that the fluidic circular nature of the visual rhythms found in Celtic art – especially manuscripts like the *Book of Kells* – mirrored the same kinds of rhythms found in Celtic music."

Rankine says that influence paid off. He now draws on the "thousands of hours" he spent practising pipes and dance for inspiration in his paintings. He also does commercial Celtic design for book illustrations, CD covers, cards, posters, jewellery and rugs. When not designing in gouache, acrylic and 23-karat gold leaf at his Everett, Ont. home, Rankine somehow finds time to give guest lectures on Celtic art, run spirituality-based workshops and teach classes in Celtic calligraphy and illuminated letter construction. Do you have to be a Michelangelo to create ornate Celtic designs? "Definitely not," says Rankine. "My workshops are easy and hands-on. Celtic art can be enjoyed by students of any age or art experience." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRYAN MCBURNEY



Sidura Ludwig
Novelist

Breathing Easy

SIDURA LUDWIG (BA '98) had just turned 31 and was about to give birth to her second child when Key Porter released her first novel, *Holding My Breath*, in March. The coming-of-age story about a young Jewish girl growing up in Winnipeg's storied north end took five years of Sundays to write – and has been scooped up by British and American publishers. Signs of Ludwig's destiny surfaced early – compulsive scribbler, voracious reader, fan of *Anne of Green Gables*, vivid imagination ("I played pretend until I was way too old"). At 17, she won a

national prize for a story she later turned into an award-winning screenplay at York. Mentored by writer Martha Brooks, inspired by novelist Carol Shields and nurtured by Britain's Tindal Street Fiction Group when she lived in Birmingham, Ludwig flirted with journalism before opting for a 9-to-5 job that gave her time to write short stories. When it comes to her dream, the Toronto-based English grad isn't holding her breath. She's already started her second novel. "Fiction has always been my first love." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRYAN MCBURNEY

Osgoode's New Hall

Ignat Kaneff gives \$2.5 million to the law school's building campaign

BUSINESSMAN and philanthropist Ignat Kaneff has committed \$2.5 million toward The Building Osgoode Campaign – the largest campaign in the history of legal education in Ontario.

"Ignat Kaneff's generosity and the other early pledges are fantastic contributions that demonstrate great leadership and set an example for others to follow," says Osgoode Dean Patrick Monahan. Kaneff is a prominent Ontario builder and holder of numerous properties.

The Building Osgoode Campaign launched on May 23 with a \$20-million goal for the renovation and expansion of the Osgoode Hall Law School building, as well as for programs and for student access and achievement. The campaign has \$6 million in commitments and growing. Other gifts announced are: \$1 million from Canada Law Book; \$750,000 from Goodmans LLP; \$500,000 from Rudy Bratty (LLB '57); \$70,000 from the Legal & Literary Society; and \$250,000 from Osgoode faculty and staff. York University has also pledged substantial support.

The new building design by Diamond + Schmitt Architects emphasizes light, space and functionality with a centrepiece atrium serving as the "living room" or



LEGAL CEREMONY: Gathered for the signing of the gift agreement are (seated from left) former Ontario premier William Davis, Osgoode Dean Patrick Monahan, Ignat Kaneff, York's then-president & vice-chancellor Lorna R. Marsden, York University Foundation president Paul Marcus, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, and (standing from left) Kathleen Davis, Didi Kaneff, Eduardo Sumares, Kristina Kaneff, Monica Monahan, Anna-Maria Kaneff, Martin Rochweg

common area.

Building Osgoode is part of the York to the Power of 50 campaign, tied to York University's 50th anniversary. ■

York Calling

Dedicated students are on the line

WHY NOT \$10,000 this year?" So said a generous alumna recently to a surprised student staffer calling on behalf of York. The alumna's donation was the largest single gift ever received through York's Call Centre.

Each year, thousands of students receive much-needed financial assistance thanks to the benevolence of York sup-

porters who donate through the Call Centre. The assistance defrays the cost of tuition, books and living expenses.

For callers like Damian Brown, a third-year political science student at York, it's a special task. "The most important thing for the Call Centre is not simply to get a donation; it's to connect with the person, to get them involved in what's happening on campus," he says. "It's important to create a relationship with alumni."

Their dedication does not go unnoticed. "I was really impressed with the drive of the student callers and the real commitment to York University that these students have," says Terrie-Lynne Devonish (BA '92, LLB '95), York to the Power of 50 Annual Fund Team co-chair.

In more ways than one, these student callers are making a connection. York hopes you'll answer the call. ■

ALUMNI

News:

Not Your Dad's Alumni

New programs are designed to attract recent grads

THE CLASS OF 2007, brimming with Ontario's 2003 high-school double

cohort, poured out nearly 9,000 newly minted York alumni this spring and expanded the total community to over 200,000 graduates across the country and around the globe. With York's student population continuing to bubble along at 50,000, it's no wonder there are so many fresh faces crossing the stage at convocation each year.

But to many recent graduates, the word "alumni" doesn't sound like it applies to them – it conjures up notions of musty old traditions and stiff, formal receptions. That's why the Alumni Office is launching new programs to give recent graduates the services they want.

"Our 2006 research study told us that recent graduates are interested in our alumni offerings – in our sports and entertainment discounts, net-

working events, continuing education and mentorship programs," says James Allan, director, alumni. "But we also learned that most of them didn't know what the Alumni Office does, so we've started by connecting with some of our latest graduates."

In April, the York University Alumni Association (YUAA) hosted a thank-you event for graduating students who had made significant contributions to campus life while they were at York. These ranged from leading the School of Health Policy & Management Student Association to working as residence

life coordinator at Calumet residence and captaining the women's basketball team.

"These students were remarkable leaders while they were on campus," says Guy Burry, Chair of the YUAA Board of Directors. "We hope that they'll become leaders within the alumni community. We would love to see a Health Policy & Management Alumni Chapter someday."

The Alumni Office also held its first events specifically for recent grads: Habitat for Humanity York Alumni Build Days. "We know that many recent grads are looking to give back to their communities, and Habitat is a great organization, so we thought it was a natural fit," says Allan. "And it was heartening to see the groups get excited while they chatted at lunch about their time as students at York."

But programming for recent grads isn't limited to parties and community events. In the

fall of 2007, the Alumni Office will be working with York's Career Centre to offer two day-long career seminars for the classes of 2006 and 2007.

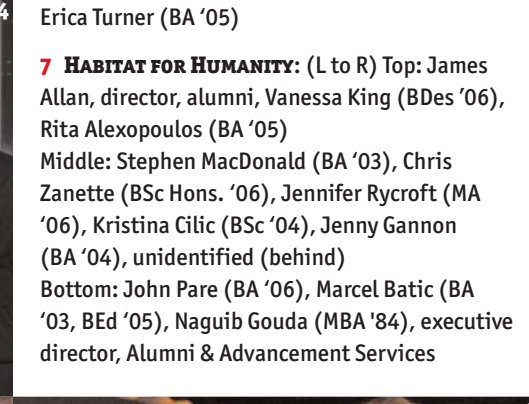
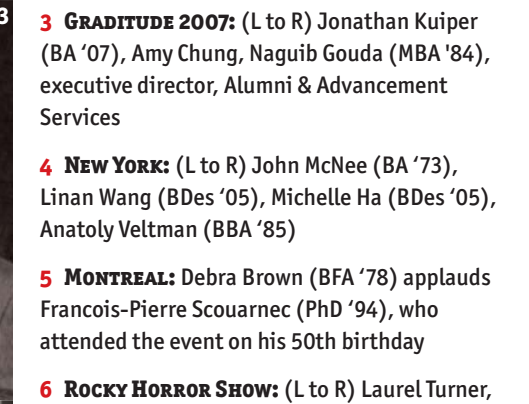
"Recent graduates often have questions about how to make great career decisions, or how to translate those decisions into a job they want and love," says Salina Abji, the Career Centre's manager of programs and services. "Whether you're searching for your first professional job or are working in your field and curious about what else is out there, these seminars will get you started on the next step in your career journey."

To help recent graduates connect with one another, the Alumni Office has also launched a new social networking Web site, YORKin-Common. Located at incommon.yorku.ca, the site gives graduates an easy way to stay connected with old friends after convocation and make new contacts with alumni who work in the same field or have similar interests. It's set up much like Facebook, with profiles, photo albums and groups. It also has a full directory of York graduates, and operates in a secure, trusted environment so that members know that people are who they say they are. ■

How Old Are We Now?

Median age, class of 2007: 24
Median age, all York alumni: 40

Median means half are younger, half older.



Grad Gallery

Highlights of recent alumni events

1 ATLANTA: (L to R) Astronaut Steve MacLean (BSc '77, PhD '83) with Sandra Levy (BA '90) and Teljija Oka-Pregel (BA '06)

2 BASKETBALL: (L to R) Aniko Just, Justin and Jessica, Paul Just (BA '92)

3 GRADITUDE 2007: (L to R) Jonathan Kuiper (BA '07), Amy Chung, Naguib Gouda (MBA '84), executive director, Alumni & Advancement Services

4 NEW YORK: (L to R) John McNee (BA '73), Linan Wang (BDes '05), Michelle Ha (BDes '05), Anatoly Veltman (BBA '85)

5 MONTREAL: Debra Brown (BFA '78) applauds Francois-Pierre Scouarnec (PhD '94), who attended the event on his 50th birthday

6 ROCKY HORROR SHOW: (L to R) Laurel Turner, Erica Turner (BA '05)

7 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: (L to R) Top: James Allan, director, alumni, Vanessa King (BDes '06), Rita Alexopoulos (BA '05)
Middle: Stephen MacDonald (BA '03), Chris Zanette (BSc Hons. '06), Jennifer Rycroft (MA '06), Kristina Cilic (BSc '04), Jenny Gannon (BA '04), unidentified (behind)
Bottom: John Pare (BA '06), Marcel Batic (BA '03, BEd '05), Naguib Gouda (MBA '84), executive director, Alumni & Advancement Services

Getting Together

Alumni events planned for 2007-2008

FALL

- Homecoming York Lions football game
- Alumni reception, New York
- Toronto FC York Alumni Night

WINTER

- Victorian Christmas at Black Creek
- Alumni gala, Atlanta
- Alumni reception, New York
- York Lions Basketball Alumni Night

SPRING

- Alumni theatre event, Toronto
- Habitat for Humanity York Alumni Build Days
- Alumni reception, Vancouver
- Alumni reception, Calgary
- Alumni reception, Ottawa
- Alumni reception, Montreal

SUMMER

- York Day at Rogers Cup tennis

Check the alumni Web site for details: yorku.ca/alumni

Class Notes:

M = married p = partner c = children d = daughter(s) s = son(s)

1966

Bragg, Cynthia Dianne (BA Glendon) trained in England for six years as a medical herbalist. She enjoys vegan cooking and "wildlife gardening".

1967

Campbell, Marilyn Elaine (BA Glendon) is a senior content specialist with Pearson Educational Measurement. 2s.

1970

Mittler, Greg (BA Vanier) has been a dentist for 29 years and is president of the College of Denturists of Ontario.

1971

Gallacher, Nancy Irene (née MacInnes) (BA Glendon) recently retired as an elementary school principal in Niagara and works part time as an instructor in the Faculty of Education, Brock University.

1972

MacKinnon, John William (BA '71 Winters, MBA) is general manager of pension investment finance & administration of the Canada Post Pension Fund.

1973

Brugos, John (MBA) was married on Nov. 25, 2006.

Lee, Catherine Elizabeth (BA Winters) teaches movement for actors at Langara College's Studio 58, and dance and singing for actors at Tooba Physical Theatre Centre, in Vancouver.

Middleton, Brian David (BA McLaughlin) was recently accepted as a member of the Federation of Canadian Artists and is also a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists.

Steckley, John L. (BA Hons. Vanier) teaches at Humber College and has published three books.

1974

Campbell, William H. (BA '72 Stong, MES) recently retired to Charleston, South Carolina, after leading Cus-

tomer Based Marketing LLC, a specialized database and relationship marketing company.

Howe, Nina (BA Hons. Vanier) teaches early childhood and elementary education at Concordia University. M, 1s, 1d.

1975

Appelberg, Art (BSc Hons. Winters '73, MBA) is president of Northwood Mortgage Ltd. and director of Northwood Mortgage Life. His son **Jordan**, a graduate of York's Faculty of Education, is a school teacher in Woodbridge, Ont. M, 1s.

1977

Goldstein, Michael W. (BA Spec. Hons. '73 McLaughlin, MES) retired at 55 after operating a successful Edmonton-based management consulting practice. M, 2d.

Hertz, Joel Lawrence (LLB) retired after 28 years as a litigation lawyer in Toronto. He is a York Region public school trustee representing Vaughan-Thornhill. Son Paul studies biochemistry at York. M, 2s.

1979

Devlin, Hilton Joseph (BA Spec. Hons. Bethune) gained a PhD in human movement studies (sport psychology) at the University of Queensland, Australia, in 2003.

1980

Campbell, Frances Catherine (BA Hons. Stong) is the provincial offences court administrator for Halton Court Services. She lives in Milton, Ont. 2s.

Patel, Rajni S. (BA Founders) is director of audits with Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

Rechner, Dale (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) is national operations manager of Image Pacific/Image Central Broadcast Rentals, which offers broadcast technical facilities.

1981

Bell, Spencer Reid (BA Winters) is a registered nurse in the brain injury

rehabilitation unit at the Centennial Centre for Mental Health & Brain Injury and a clinical instructor at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton.

Marsh, Beverley Anne (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) was married last year and is starting her own business called Dreamcrafters, creating everything from jewellery to paintings.

1983

Britt, John (BA Vanier) is a novelist and freelance journalist, active with the Writers' Union of Canada. Following *Bob's Ichthyosaur* (2004), his second novel, *Maggie's Day*, was released in May.

1984

Dackson, Wendy (BFA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin), in 2006, joined the UK's Ripon College Cuddesdon as a Research Fellow in congregational studies and was elected a Fellow of the Centre for Christianity & Culture at Regent's Park College, University of Oxford.

1985

Bellamy-Woodcock, Suzanne (BA Glendon) works for the Department of Education in Florida and freelances as a land-use planning consultant.

Herbert, Lynn Maureen (MA) received a master of library & information science degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1992.

Ritz, Kerry (MBA) lives in London, England, and has been managing director of the Internet telephony company Vonage UK since 2005.

1986

Haddad, Eliza (BFA Spec. Hons. Bethune) produces documentaries and short films. Her latest documentary, *Lost Innocents: The Children of War* (2006), aired on OMNI TV.

Law, Marilyn (BAS Atkinson) graduated with a master of divinity in family ministry in 2004. M, 2c.

1987

Bhaloo, Karim (BSc Vanier) works as a medical laboratory technologist in

the area of cancer cytogenetics and takes health service management courses at Ryerson University.

Stenson, Rich (BFA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) received his master of music degree at Yale University and later pursued doctoral studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Now in Edmonton, he mentors many young musicians.

Stewart, Marjory S. (BA Spec. Hons. '82 Bethune, MA) has an international intellectual property & business law practice and enjoys mountaineering and running.

1988

Carpio, Elizabeth (BA Vanier) lives in Bermuda with her husband **Curtis Ballantyne** (MBA '88).

DesOrmeaux, Denis Gérard (BA Hons. Atkinson) retired earlier this year after almost 30 years of teaching.

Nuttall, Denise Irene (BA Hons. Vanier) received her PhD in cultural anthropology from the University of British Columbia in 1998 and did a post-doctoral fellowship at S.N.D.T Women's University, Mumbai, India, through the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. She has taught at York University, Dalhousie University in Halifax, and Ithaca College in New York.

Renaudin, Gina Lynn (BA Glendon) taught English at businesses in Paris for almost 15 years. She now teaches at Université Paris Diderot. M, 3d.

1989

Macewko, Deanne Elizabeth (BAS Hons. Atkinson) has run her own company since 1994, specializing in design for the packaged-goods industry.

1990

Jones, Wendy H. (BA Hons. Winters) completed two mission trips to South America working as a residential counsellor for developmentally challenged adults. It was there she met her future husband, from England. They moved to Scotland in 1995 and to England in 2001.

Class Notes:

M = married p = partner c = children d = daughter(s) s = son(s)

Paterson, Sherri L. (BA Founders) works in advertising sales for *Kingston This Week*, a bi-weekly newspaper.

Sone-Cooper, Lori (BA Hons. Vanier) owns HR Alliance Consulting & Coaching, providing HR services to corporations. M, 1s, 1d.

1991

Chu Turbeville, Winnie (BAS Hons. Atkinson) lives in Dallas, Texas, and is director & partner of ERP Solutions, Inc., the largest SAP human resource consulting firm in the US. M, 2s.

Knight, Ian Andrew (BA Hons. Bethune) is general manager of a commercial construction company in Barbados. M, 2s.

Turner, Mark G.J. (BEd) is a special education teacher in Milton, Ont. His first orchestral composition "Ballad for Orchestra" was performed by the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra earlier this year.

1992

Lakdawala, Saleha (Sally) (BSc Spec. Hons. Stong) moved to Frisco, Texas, in 2006. She is a widow and has four grandchildren.

Sharpe, Alysia Mary (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) teaches dance and is a practising registered massage therapist. She is currently pursuing her bachelor of education degree. P, 2c.

1993

Abbruzzino, Helen (BA Hons. Vanier) manages her husband's chi-

ropractic office and is studying at Ryerson University to become a registered dietitian. M, 2c.

Augustson, (Betsy) Elizabeth Ann (BA Vanier) was married on Sept. 30, 2006.

Campo, Mariela (BA Stong) gained an interior design degree from Parsons School of Design in New York and works as a set stylist & designer for television shows at HGTV, the BBC and TLC. This year, she was one of 10 finalists on HGTV Canada's Designer Superstar Challenge.

Falasca, Tony (BA '88 Bethune, BSW Hons. Atkinson) completed his master of science in counsellor education from Canisius College, Buffalo, NY, in 1998.

1994

Berkson, Dahna (MA '85, PhD) recently moved back to Canada after almost 10 years in the US and is director of behavioural medicine in the University of Ottawa's Department of Family Medicine.

Donahue, Jane E. (LLB '82, LLM) retired from practising law and lives in Cape Town, South Africa, running a Canadian charity, Over the Rainbow Foundation.

Eades Telford, Gillian Mary (MES) is author of *Making the Right Move: Housing Options for Seniors* (2004), a book about how to choose a nursing home and other options available in Canada and the US.

Kibriya, Talat (BA Winters) is owner of an Exxon gas station in Delray

Beach, Florida, and a Petro Canada gas station in Toronto.

Noorani, Safina (BA Founders) remembers her excellent professors and her great experience at York University.

1995

Guruh, Sridewa (BAS Atkinson) recently migrated to Melbourne, Australia.

Larsson, Anette (BFA Hons. Winters) manages philanthropy fundraising at the Toronto International Film Festival Group, including the Capital & Endowment Campaign to build a new home for TIFFG at King and John streets in Toronto.

Lucier, Marianne G. (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) works at BlueNet Solutions Inc., a management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company in Toronto.

1996

Gray, John (BA Founders) graduated in law from the University of Western Ontario in 1999, and now works as a freelance legal researcher and writer in Toronto.

O'Reilly, Andrea Joan (BA Hons. '85 Winters, MA '87, PhD) is a professor in York's School of Women's Studies, founder & director of the Association for Research on Mothering and founder & editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*. P, 1s, 2d.

Rhodes, Clayton A. (BA Hons. Stong) recently graduated from the University of Phoenix with an MA in

education, and teaches academic upgrading at Durham College, Ont.

1997

Ciufo, Paul (BA Hons '94 Vanier, MA Stong) had his play *Reverend Jonah* produced by the Blyth Festival in Blyth, Ont.

Shen, Lyon (BA Bethune) graduated with an MBA from INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France, in 1997. He lives in Paris.

Wang, Yuan (James) (IMBA) is co-owner in Montreal of an acupuncture clinic specializing in infertility treatment. M, 1d.

1998

Falzone, Charlie (BSc Spec. Hons. '94, MSc Bethune) transitioned from laboratory researcher and manager to the patent law area in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry. M, 3c.

Galati, Christopher Michael (BA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) obtained his BEd from OISE, University of Toronto, and bachelor of laws degree from the University of Windsor. He practises real estate, estates & wills, and civil & business litigation.

Musa, Safia (BES Spec. Hons. Bethune) lives in Houston, Texas, and recently graduated from teacher's college. M, 1d.

Spivey, Michael (PhD) recently received tenure in the Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice at UNC-Pembroke, North Carolina, where he is also a faculty member in the Department of American Indian Studies.

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Class Notes:

1999

Bissoondial, Coralita (BA McLaughlin) works at Allegis Group Canada, the country's largest privately owned staffing company.

Clarke, Leanne Ruth (BAS Spec. Hons. Atkinson) works at IBM as a senior finance manager. 2s.

Millie, Terrence J. (BA Hons. Winters) moved to Beijing in 2005 and is teaching international students. M.

von Vulte, Manfred (BA Hons. '96, MA Founders) is an admissions and discipline counsellor at Northmount School, a private Catholic school for boys in Toronto. He is author of two books, *Where Have All of Toronto's Germans Gone?* (2003) and *The Tale of the Giant Pigeon* (2005).

2000

Myllymaki, Jaana H. (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) works at an architectural firm and pursues digital photography as a hobby.

O'Connor, Miranda (BES Spec. Hons. Bethune) obtained her MBA in 2004 and runs a Web site development company. M.

Summers, Lisa (BA Hons. '97 McLaughlin, LLB) recently published her first novel, *Men Are Like Mocha Lattes*, a comical look at dating in the 21st century.

Wright, Stuart (BA Spec. Hons. '96 McLaughlin, LLB Stong) married **Teresa Tropea** (LLB '00). They have a daughter, Elizabeth, and a second daughter due in October 2007. Stuart is an insurance defence litigator for ING Insurance in Toronto.

2001

Flores, Jennifer (MBA) published her first book, *Design City: Toronto*, in March and married her co-author, Sean Stanwick, in August. The book was formally launched at the Design Exchange in May in partnership with Doors Open Toronto.

Kalia, Vishal (BSc Bethune) started a distribution company for Bollywood music and movies in Canada. M, 1s.

Persaud, Mark M. (LLB '91, LLM) is president and CEO of the Canadian International Peace Project. He

received the Osgoode Hall Law School Alumni Gold Key Award for achievements in the public sector at the Dean's Reception on May 23.

Zeltins, Ingrid E. (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) co-founded Toronto's West Wing Art Space with artists **Karen Azoulay** (BFA Spec. Hons. '00 Winters) and Paul Petro. In 2003, Zeltins moved to London, England, where she started her own fashion label, CHOPSHOP, and in 2005 founded The Residence, an East London gallery devoted to international emerging contemporary art.

2002

Berkovich, Dan (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) completed an MBA at Oxford University and now works at Scotiabank as a product manager.

Kizoff, Tammi K. (BA Hons. Glendon) recently completed her master of science in education degree at Daemen College in Amherst, New York.

Leonio, Rizza (BBA Spec. Hons. Calumet) is a business analyst for Sears Canada Inc.

Maharaj-Sharma, Rawatee (MSc '97, PhD) lectures in science education at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago. 3c.

2003

McCleary, Lesley Nicole (BA '99 Glendon, BEd) teaches kindergarten in Mississauga for the Peel District School Board.

Wilhelm, Laurie (MBA) has produced an e-book, *Express Yourself to Success*, focussing on improving communication skills.

2004

Boyle, Rob (BScN Spec. Hons. Atkinson) is enjoying his new baby boy, born March 31, 2007.

Deyell, Natalie (BA Spec. Hons. Calumet) spent the last three years travelling around the world. She currently works in South Korea as an English teacher.

Patch, April L. (née Storey) (BSc Bethune) was married on Feb 1, 2007, in Bowmanville, Ont.

Wood, Paula (née Barata) (BA Atkinson) works as a manager at Random House of Canada. M.

2005

Consoli, Tarah (BA Hons. Founders) is a member of The Second City Touring Company. She is marrying a fellow actor in July 2008.

Franz, Tara (MA) works as a qualitative researcher for Critical Mass, an Internet marketing agency.

Ibarra, Isabel (BA Hons. Winters) is completing her English-Spanish translation certificate at Glendon College.

Young, Lisa C. (BA Atkinson) is an editor for Thomson Carswell, working from home.

2006

Christopher, Judy (BA Hons. Founders) and her husband live in the Presidio, San Francisco, and plan to relocate to the Caribbean in a few years. Their first son, Cipriani, was born on March 15, 2007.

Dong, Xiaoying Helen (BA Atkinson) works as director of a trading company in China.

Dubins, Matthew (BA Hons. Winters) has been accepted to the Experimental Psychology Program at U of T Scarborough. Specializing in neuropsychology, he is looking at new and exciting ways of exploring the topic of bilingualism.

Gingrich, Leah Louise (BEd) will be married in August 2008.

Smith, Westmore John (BA Atkinson) recently graduated from the BEd program at the University of Windsor.

Yuan, Sandy (MSc) is pursuing her MBA at the University of Calgary.

IN MEMORIAM

Gough, Helen (BA '74 Atkinson, BA Hons. '89, MA '90) died of cancer on June 1 at 76. She was the first woman elected a parish warden in the Anglican Church of Canada's Toronto diocese, in 1971. A teacher and counsellor, she was an early advocate of the rights of Aboriginal people, immigrants, gays, the poor and the marginalized.

Howe, Nicholas (BA '74 Winters) died of leukemia on Sept. 27, 2006, at 53. He was a professor of medieval studies at University of California, Berkeley. His most recent book, *Writing the Map of Anglo-Saxon England: Essays in Cultural Geography*, will be published in December.

Kilby, Terra Dawn (BA '01 Founders) died on July 21, 2006, at 28. She was the sister of **Brandy Kilby** (BA '01 Founders).

Lander, Elizabeth, senior scholar emeritus in York's Department of Biology, Faculty of Science & Engineering, died on June 8 at 73. The Lander Dandy Prize in Plant and Animal Biology at York University was established by friends of Prof. Lander and her colleague, Prof. Cynthia Dandy, to honour their contributions during their careers at York. P, 3d.

Leung, Tim Shing (MBA '93) died on May 12 at 57. A proud and dedicated engineer, he retired from HydroOne in 2005 after 19 years of service. M, 1s, 1d.

Paraskevopoulos, Chris, retired economics professor in the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, died on May 20 at 73. He was a founding member of the Athenian Policy Forum, an international forum for scholarly debate on issues related to economic organization, globalization and structural change.

YUAA AGM

The York University Alumni Association will hold its Annual General Meeting in the fall of 2007. For date and location information, visit yorku.ca/alumni.

A proud Yorkie goes on the defensive. BY JIAN GHOMESHI

Biting Back

I GET VERY DEFENSIVE about York. Is it OK to talk about this here? Good. Because if we cannot discuss getting defensive about York U on the back page of the magazine entitled *York U*, then...well, then we really are defensive. So here goes. Like you, I'm a Yorkie. I know, it's a strange name but I understand that this is now the designated moniker for York alums and supporters and fans and sycophants. And yes, I'm one of those. I don't remember when we became "Yorkies." We used to be less creatively named species like, "Person who went to York." Or

The truth is, since I

that catchy old chestnut: "Former York student." But sometime in the last decade or so someone coined the term "Yorkie." Back in the old days of the 1990s, "Yorkie" still meant diminutive and (sometimes) annoyingly-dressed canine. But not anymore. Now, you and I, we are Yorkies. Good Yorkie. Shake a paw.

And as a Yorkie of the '90s vintage, I get defensive. Proud, for sure. But, at times, defensive too. The truth is, since I graduated, I have become all too aware of slights or prejudices towards the fine York name. You know the kind of remarks, like when some uppity McGill grad smirks at the mention of York? Or one of those University of Alberta heathens talks about how great their school has fared in the latest rankings? And I get defensive. Angry, even. Angry Yorkie.

But it's no blind patriot love that gets me barking mad at the Yorkie detractors. Rather, I've always had an aversion to jingoism or flag-waving exuberance – the idea of supporting my school over others simply because I chose to enroll there when I was 18. I remember having a moment of revelation at a York football game while I was a student (indeed, I was the president of the York Federation of Students at the time). As I sat cheering on our team, York logo prominently displayed on my chest, I wondered why exactly I was supporting the Yeomen (as they were then). I didn't know any of the players. If I did, we might hate each other or have different interests. Why would I be cheering for them rather than

Jian Ghomeshi (BA '95) hosts the daily cultural show 'Q' on CBC Radio One. He played in the band Moxy Früvous.

the guys from the rival school down the highway? This would seem to be root of all jingoistic nationalism that I abhor.

But it's never been about simply wearing the colours and cheering my team. I'm a defensive/proud Yorkie because everything about my experience at York tells me that it is the best school in the land. And I've had the opportunity to visit just about all of them. It might have something to do with the fact that I emerged out



of the Political Science and History Departments at York. I revelled in an atmosphere of debate, discussion, ideology and stimulation created by the best instructors and curricula anywhere in the country. I devel-

oped my own politics and identity. And immediately upon graduation I did what any successful A-list poli sci grad would do: played in a rock band for a decade. But now, as a broadcaster at the CBC, I can tell you that not a day goes by when I don't use the academic and educational lessons I learned at York. I'd probably feel the same way if I graduated out of the remarkable Fine Arts program. Or the law school. Or the stellar Environmental Studies Faculty. The point is, it goes beyond the academics.

I've always believed York is the best school in the land because of the diversity of its massive student population. It is an undeniable and precious asset. York is the country's most racially mixed big university. We Yorkies know that. It's our secret weapon. And York students bring the perspective of an impressive variety of immigrant communities and social classes to school every day. That is an educational environment. That is a place to learn about the world. And that is why I've loved York and continue to live in the blueprint for multiracialism that is the city of Toronto.

The environment created by the diversity at York is not something that can be quantified or listed or ranked. It has to be experienced. It was my years at York that led me to reconciliation of my own identity as a proud Iranian-Canadian. The truth is, sometimes those unschooled in the brilliance of our school will take shots. And when anyone takes a shot at York I get defensive. Proud, Yorkie. That's me. Watch what you say, McGillie. ■