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OCTOBER 2010

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YORKU

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OCTOBER 2010

The York-CBC connection. BY BERTON WOODWARD

Radio Grad

Want to get a high-profile job at CBC Radio? Here's my advice: make sure you have a degree from York University on your resumé. One can easily reach that conclusion reading our cover story on page 12, where we feature four key members of the crew from Radio One's "Metro Morning" in Toronto. Studio director Gord Cochrane calls the quartet of himself, host Matt Galloway, senior producer Nick Davis and newsreader Jill Dempsey the "York mafia". Galloway, who we first profiled in 2005, has often spoken of his beginnings at York's CHRY. But the affinity between York and prominent CBC personalities is long-standing. Just think of Barbara Budd (BA '74) and Jian Ghomeshi (BA '95).

Ghomeshi, in fact, is rapidly becoming a radio superstar – another "top of the morning" CBCer (we've already put him on the cover, in 2003). His cultural show "Q", which airs nationally at 10am weekdays, is now the top-rated program in its time-slot in CBC Radio's history. You can't get Ghomeshi to volunteer this, but what that means is he has surpassed the late Peter Gzowski (Hon. DLitt '91) and his legendary "Morningside".

During Ghomeshi's busy summer, I asked him whether he thought there was a common thread among Yorkies who gravitated to the CBC. "I always think of York as a populist kind of school," said the always thoughtful poli sci grad. "It's a big-city school. There is its diversity, not just in ethnicity but in the curriculum and the demographics. You get a sense of being in a big, populous meeting place. There may be something in that which



lends itself to broadcasting to a large population. It seems like a natural fit."

I asked the same question of theatre grad Budd, who this spring completed 17 years as co-host of "As It Happens" and is now carving out a sparkling new career as a performer, compère, narrator and speaker. "We're all products of a university where sharing stories was encouraged, including in the lecture hall," she said. "And even in the '70s, York was more diverse than other universities." These elements, she said, have attracted outward-looking people who are interested in other people and their stories – classic qualities of on-air folk.

Like Ghomeshi, Budd is a familiar figure to York's own audiences. Both have hosted the annual Bryden Alumni Awards, and Budd handled York's 50th anniversary gala. In her new life, she appeared at Stratford Summer Music, reading, with opera star Ben Heppner, letters between early 20th-century Canadian tenor Edward Johnson and his wife Beatriz, and in Charlottetown, where she did a one-woman show as Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*. "I'm doing such a wide variety of things – it's exciting," she says. And she has a great resumé. ■

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

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YORKU
UNIVERSITY
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redefine THE POSSIBLE.

York has a clear vision for the next decade and beyond. BY MAMDOUH SHOUKRI

Getting Energized

September is always an exhilarating time at York University. As the academic year begins, our campuses are teeming with more than 50,000 enthusiastic students, parents, staff and faculty. Everyone is re-energized and anxious to get the school year started.

I, too, am energized about this academic year and the future of York. In walking the campuses, it's hard not to notice all the changes. We have several large construction projects underway, including the highly anticipated expansion of Toronto's Spadina subway line, which will improve accessibility to the Keele campus. But infrastructure isn't the only thing changing. We're also redefining our strategies and priorities, as outlined in our recently released Provostial White Paper (see page 16). The document, developed through a University-wide consultative process, highlights our vision for the next decade and beyond.

I spent the summer thinking about all the transformations happening at York, and I see this as only the beginning. At 51

At 51 years young, our

years young, and as one of Canada's largest universities, we're at the doorstep of accomplishing even greater things. My careful, yet optimistic, conclusions stem from an annual conference in New York, where I was asked to present to university leaders from around the world on what I believed were some key factors driving change at our institutions.

I focused on five factors: internationalization, e-learning, demographics, challenges to university autonomy and engagement. These are the factors that I'm convinced York is managing well and will provide us with a strong foundation to move forward, to become more comprehensive and competitive.

The first driver is internationalization, an important component of the White Paper. We recognize that for students to contribute to society, they need opportunities to experience the world and learn global perspectives. Already, for example, we offer international programs at the Schulich School of Business and the Glendon campus, and we have excellent student

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



mobility programs, funded international internships and innovative international degrees. And we plan to do more.

One of the drivers of internationalization is e-learning, another initiative of the White Paper. Technology is important to today's students. Already, about five per cent of our classes are online and more of our courses are becoming hybrid, with part of the curriculum being online.

Universally, we're all facing challenges regarding accessibility. There's a growing recognition that a postsecondary degree is needed to succeed, with the Ontario government setting a goal of 70 per cent postsecondary attainment. To

reach this target, we need to shift from a system of elites to a system of access. Currently, we're working with other postsecondary institutions and the provincial government on a strategy.

This brings me to autonomy. Being a publicly assisted university, we must find commonalities between the government's policies and our own strategic priorities. The government has been very clear about its vision for postsecondary education, and I'm pleased that we're in line with those goals.

Finally, as universities, we have a moral and social obligation to engage our community, and I'm proud that this is one of our core values. We work hard to develop partnerships, like the York University-TD Community Engagement Centre.

As we move into York's next 50 years, we've laid the groundwork to become the international university that I envision. We're a university with great strengths and even greater potential, and I am excited about guiding York into this next phase. ■



ARCHIVES

Divine Illumination

Even in the iPad era, York's rare 15th-century decorated prayer book still wows students

What could be cooler than a 585-year-old book printed on vellum with lovingly hand-decorated pictures of the saints and scenes of everyday medieval life? Nothing really, unless you get to see it up close and personal. Such is the case each year for students in history Professor Rachel Koopmans' Culture & Society in Medieval Europe course who see the real thing in York's Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections. The volume, published in 1425, is known as a book of hours and is reputedly valued at a "cool six figures" (no one is saying exactly how much).

"In an age when many people assume that if it's not on the Web it doesn't exist, medieval texts such as this book of

hours spark a sense of wonder in the minds of students who see it up close," says University Archivist Michael Moir. "Students always marvel at the skill and artistry of the scribes who carefully recorded and decorated this text – before printing made it much easier to share information, and during a time when faith was central to coping with the world's many mysteries."

The 15th-century equivalent of a bestseller for devout medieval laity, the books of hours contained prayers and devotional cycles for worship during various times of the day. The illuminations, as in York's book, were designed to please the eye, but also to help users read and understand the significance of the text. ■



Eus in adiutorium
meum intende.
Domine ad adiuuā
dum me festina.

BOOKS

What They're Reading

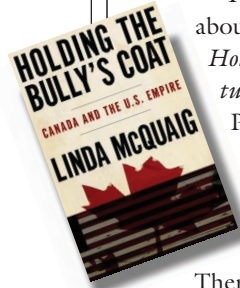
York people reveal what's on the bedside table

Justin Podur

Environmental studies professor

"I read a lot of political books about conflicts: Eyal Weizman's *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*, Gérard Prunier's *Africa's World War* and, a little closer to home, Linda McQuaig's *Holding the Bully's Coat* about Canadian foreign policy.

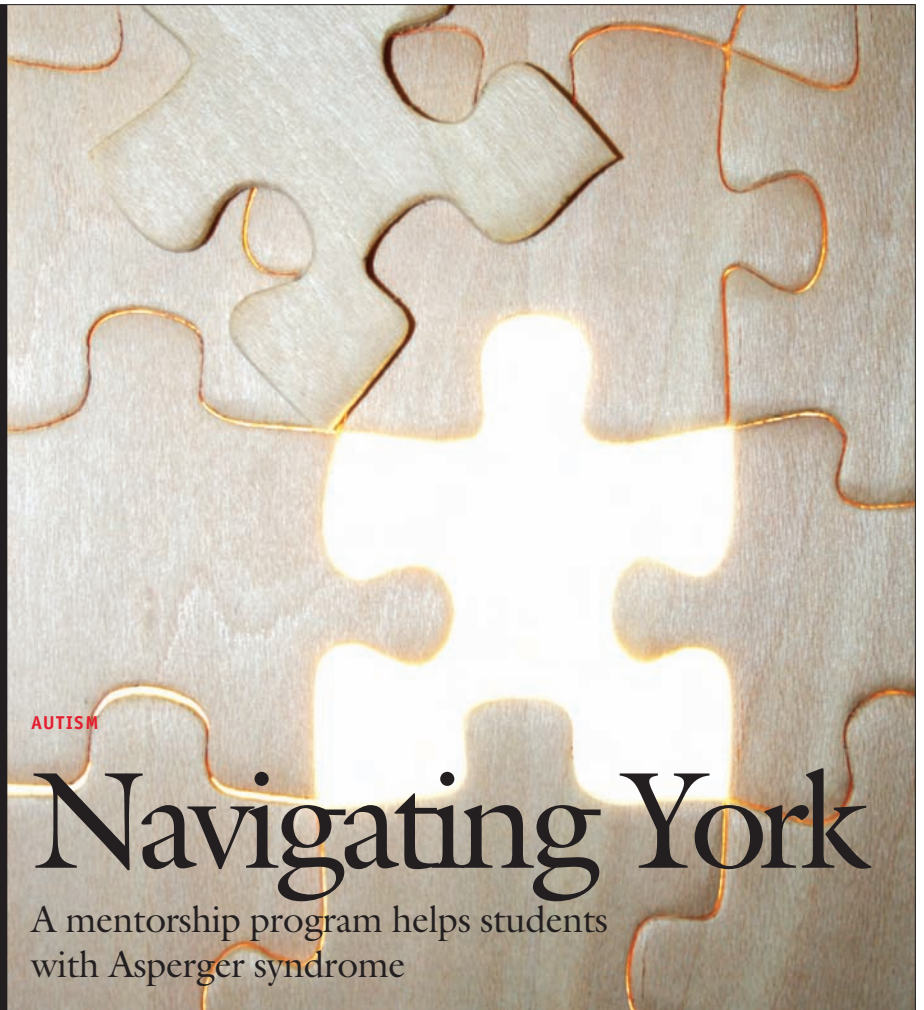
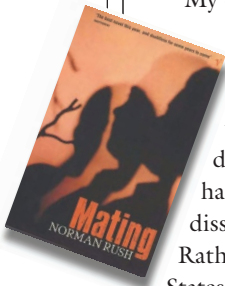
There has to be a bit of science mixed in, though, and lately it's brain science: *The Brain That Changes Itself* by Norman Doidge. For sheer escapism, I had a great time with the three books of Lian Hearn's *Tales of the Otori*. How can a hero who is torn between a ninja and samurai heritage not be compelling?"



Alexandra Rutherford

Psychology professor

"My current pleasure read is a novel called *Mating* by Norman Rush. It is set in Botswana in the 1980s and is narrated by a thirtysomething graduate student in anthropology whose life has become unmoored when her dissertation research dries up. Rather than return to the United States, she goes in search of an intentional community in the middle of the Kalahari Desert, reputed to have been set up by a renowned English intellectual to whom she has become romantically attracted. The community turns out to be run almost exclusively by women, and part of the novel's interest turns on this feisty young woman's relationship to feminism in the midst of her intense desire to find an appropriate heterosexual 'mate'."



AUTISM

Navigating York

A mentorship program helps students with Asperger syndrome

James Bebko, a professor of clinical psychology in York's Faculty of Health and one of Canada's foremost experts on autism, began his work on the disorder 35 years ago when it was little known or understood. At the time it was thought to occur in only one in 2,500 people. In the intervening years, that figure has risen to one in 165.

Autism spectrum disorders, which include Asperger syndrome, are now recognized as one of the more common developmental challenges that affect adults as well as children. Typical criteria include impaired social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication deficits and a narrowed, repetitive range of interests. "Asperger has some of the characteristics of autism," says Bebko. "There's a wide spectrum that encompasses those with more skills and those who are more severely involved. Individuals with Asperger tend to have less severity in symptoms."

With the recent increase in diagnosis of Asperger syndrome, Bebko realized that more students affected by it would be entering university. To aid them, he set up the Asperger Mentorship Program in 2007. It helps students navigate York's complexity and also provides experience for the student mentors who, typically, are Bebko's graduate psychology students studying to be clinical practitioners.

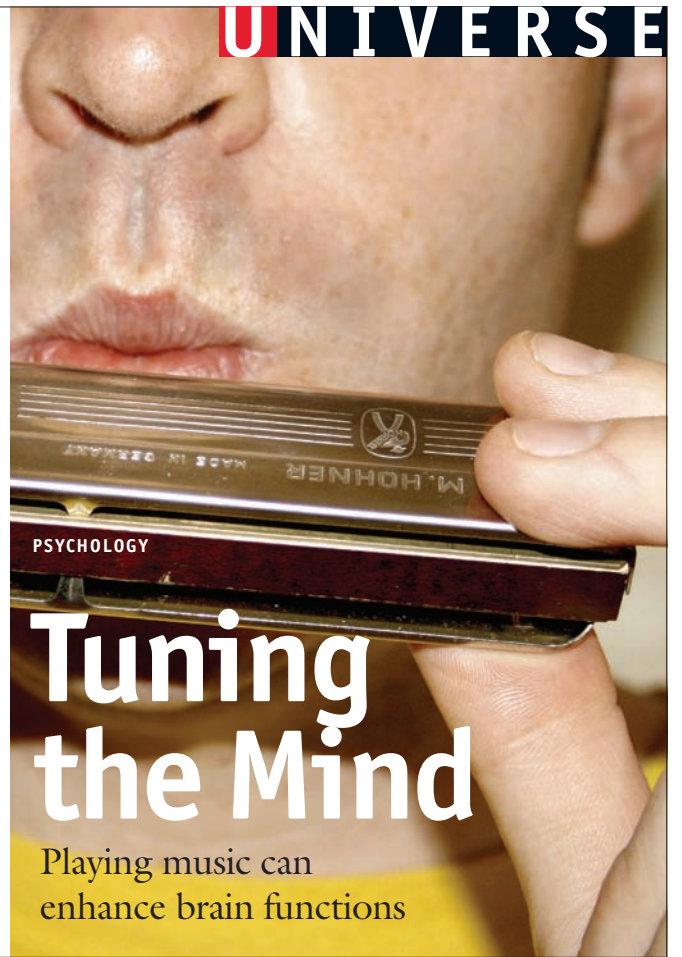
"Our goal is to ensure that the dropout rate for those with Asperger is no greater than for the general population of students," says Bebko. "We've been successful in that to date. Secondly, we want to create a feeling of belonging at the University. York students with Asperger syndrome now have a designated person to talk to about dealing with issues such as sexuality and alcohol as well as academics." Bebko says knowing how to handle those things is part of the university experience. "It's also part of becoming an independent adult." ■

Is playing a little Mozart good for your brain? Recent research by York post-doctoral fellow Sylvain Moreno, who works with Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology Ellen Bialystok in her Cognitive Development Laboratory, and Professor Glenn Schellenberg of the University of Toronto, suggests it is. They explored a hunch that music might improve what is known as the brain's "executive functions".

Although difficult to define in exact terms, these include the ability to focus and avoid distractions, and correspond to crucial cognitive skills used in many tasks, from remembering a doctor's appointment or what's on the grocery list to solving complex mathematical problems. These qualities have been described as the "CEO of the brain". They were once thought immutable but recent studies, such as Moreno's, indicate executive functions can be enhanced by activities such as playing music.

Moreno tested the executive functions of musicians seven to nine years of age who had three years of music training, then compared them to students who had not studied music. The young music makers clearly performed better on a test called "The Tower of London" which requires thinking ahead to solve a problem in as few moves as possible.

"Discovering that music training benefits our brain's executive functions is relevant to the current revival of music programs in North America and Europe, as well as to the heightened awareness among the scientific community about the importance of music in cognitive and child development," says Moreno. "Our data suggests arts programs are a vitally important part of pre-school and elementary school curriculums." ■



PSYCHOLOGY

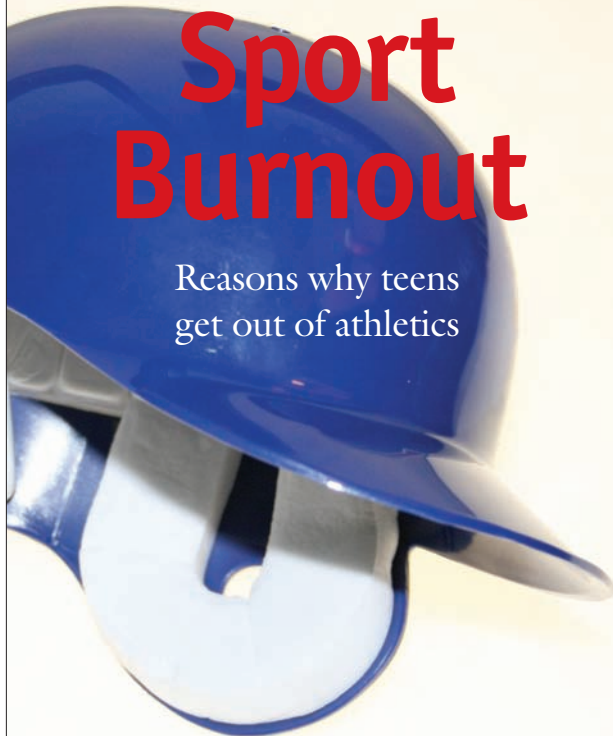
Tuning the Mind

Playing music can enhance brain functions

KINESIOLOGY

Sport Burnout

Reasons why teens get out of athletics



Why do some teens stick with a sport while others don't? It's a complicated scenario, but one that interests sport psychology researchers like Jessica Fraser-Thomas, a professor in York's School of Kinesiology & Health Science in the Faculty of Health.

Fraser-Thomas's recent study of young athletes who drop out of a sport (versus those who stay) yields insights into the decision process teens go through before leaving. "In coaching young athletes and acting as a varsity sport team captain, I came to realize many individuals have less positive experiences in sport than I did as a teenager," she says. "They are often very scarred by these experiences. This triggered my interest in youth sport, specifically the psychosocial influences."

She and her colleagues did in-depth interviews with 25 adolescent swimmers still actively engaged in the sport and 25 individuals who had dropped out. Participants were matched on key demographic variables. "We found dropouts were involved in fewer extracurricular activities and often had less unstructured swimming play during childhood," says Fraser-Thomas. "They also received less one-on-one coaching throughout development." Other factors included starting to train at an early age and reaching physical and performance plateaus.

The study also revealed that dropouts were more likely to have had parents who were accomplished athletes who may have visited their high-level expectations on their kids. "This last finding is particularly interesting," says Fraser-Thomas. "It highlights the critical role coaches and parents play in youth sport. 'Enjoyment' and 'fun' are consistently the top reasons kids state for being involved in sport. But 'fun' can mean different things to different kids." ■



VISION

Pigment of the Imagination?

Why red seems faster than blue

If you get a ticket for speeding, you might see red, but chances are, so did the cop. All things being equal, a medium-size red car is perceived as travelling faster than a medium-size blue one. That's because red is more likely to catch a cop's attention – and the attention of his radar gun as well. Being sensitive to red isn't a policing attribute, however – it's a human one. People have a natural colour hierarchy for “automatic target selection”, York kinesiology & health science Professor Mazyar Fallah has found.

Fallah and colleague Illia Tchernikov (BSc Spec. Hons. '06, MSc '08) from York's Centre for Vision Research discovered that people's eyes followed a red target more quickly on a computer screen than a green or yellow one. And their eyes followed all three colours – red, green and yellow – more

quickly than a blue target. The result of that “quickness factor” leads to a perception that a red-coloured object – again, all things being equal – appears to move faster than objects of other colours, says Fallah.

How would this affect a prospective car buyer? “If you wanted to attract less attention you might go for a neutral-coloured car where you wouldn't be perceived as moving fast,” says Fallah. A good ticket-avoidance colour might be blue, he suggests. “Sports cars are often red. That's because fast cars are marketed in ‘fast’ colours.”

Fallah says proof of a quantifiable colour hierarchy for automatic target selection has wide-ranging implications for all sorts of real-world applications, from sports uniforms to advertising to computer interfaces. ■

Nobody's perfect. And if you're an elementary student, being a perfectionist might actually hinder rather than help your academic achievement, reveals a York study of grade-school kids. It's the first of its kind to examine the relation between perfectionism and achievement in the lower grades, says co-author Gordon Flett, psychology professor and Canada Research Chair in Personality & Health in York's Faculty of Health. The study was led by Toronto District School Board psychologist Debbie Stornelli (BA Hons. '94).

Being obsessive about “correctness” actually seems to work against academic progress in the junior age group, Flett and colleagues found. “Perfectionist kids tend to be very driven. They are often very fearful of failure and will avoid situations where they don't feel comfortable and focus on the ones where they do,” he says.

The researchers surveyed Grades 4 and 7 students enrolled in regular, gifted and fine arts streams in elementary schools in the York Region District School Board. They measured both internally (self-driven) and externally motivated or “socially prescribed” (demanding parents) perfectionism. Then they compared the results with the respondents' Canadian Achievement Test scores. Perfectionism wasn't associated significantly with reading achievement among the three streams of students, nor were there significant associations between mathematical achievement and socially prescribed (e.g. parents' expectations) perfectionism in the total sample.

Interestingly, gifted students who self-reported as perfectionists reported lower levels of happiness than non-perfectionist students in the fine arts and regular streams. The study also found gifted students had no more tendency towards being perfectionists than students in the regular stream, thereby dispelling an old stereotype.

Flett says the pressure towards perfectionism comes partly from media hype but also from parents. So what's the best way to counteract perfectionism in young children? “Show your kids that there is a balance in life. Model non-workaholic type behaviours illustrating there is more to life than constant striving – it will eventually exhaust you.” ■



STUDENTS



Don't Obsess

Perfectionism won't help kids achieve in school



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Rise and Shine

CBC Radio's "Metro Morning" is Toronto's most popular wake-up show. Four York grads – including host Matt Galloway – make sure it stays that way.

BY MICHAEL TODD ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

M

ATT GALLOWAY, JILL DEMPSEY, GORD COCHRANE AND NICK DAVIS all work on "Metro Morning". The question is, why? Why would anyone willingly do this to themselves – even for a decent paycheque? CBC Radio's top-rated Toronto morning show begins at 5:30am, in the chilly hours of pre-dawn, at 250 Front Street West. Tim Hortons isn't open. The subway doesn't run for another half-hour. Even the pigeons aren't awake. Cochrane, Galloway and Dempsey, however, have been up-and-at-'em for hours and are now comfortably settled behind desks, microphones and control room soundboards.

Cochrane (BA Comb. Hons. '80, in political science & history at Glendon) is studio director – the man behind the glass cueing up music and sound clips and waking up guests for phone interviews. He comes in even before the rest of the crew, who include senior producer Davis, host Galloway and newscaster Dempsey, all fellow York grads. Cochrane's day usually starts around 2am, when he can be found sipping a large coffee while pondering the current newsworthiness of items arranged during story meetings the previous day. "There's always new material that comes to light from late the day before, so things might have to be shifted to accommodate some of that in the morning," says Cochrane. He is also the show's main "clock-watcher", making sure the weather, news, sports, traffic, daily columnists and guest interviews cohere seamlessly. "I love doing the morning show," he says. "It's the most important show of the day we produce at the CBC and it drives the ratings for the rest of the day. It's among the more protected projects at the CBC for that reason."

Dempsey, who is the show's news writer and newscaster, employs four, count 'em, four alarm clocks to make sure she gets out of bed in the morning. "I'm the world's soundest sleeper," says Dempsey (BA '04), who earned her political science degree while a mature student in the former Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies. "I've slept through major fires down the street from where I live." Regardless of her dead-to-the-world sleep habits, she counts herself as a morning person. "I don't mind getting up at 4am. It's cool to know what's going on in the city before anyone



CLOCK-WATCHING: Dempsey, Galloway, Cochrane and Davis

else. Also, I love the show because of that – you have the inside view, the first scoop on unfolding events.”

At 4:30am, Galloway (BA Hons. '94, in English) can usually be found hopping on his bicycle to pedal into work from his Christie Pits neighbourhood. Galloway has done his time in the late-night trenches, so he welcomed the change to early morning – it meant he could spend more time with his daughters in the evenings. “Let me say here that I have no training whatsoever for what I’m doing,” he laughs. “But, also, as someone who listened to the show before I got here, and to shows like ‘Ontario Morning’ while growing up in the Beaver Valley, population 12, that it’s just an amazing show to be involved with because you’re the first thing people hear when they get up.” Galloway maintains that’s a huge responsibility. “If you wake up on the wrong side of the bed you want a show that’s going to get you settled and get you set up for the day. We try to supply that.”

Andy Barrie, host of “Metro Morning” for 15 years, retired in March. Barrie, who received an honorary doctorate from York this spring recognizing his achievements in a 40-year broadcasting career, was revered by many. Was it tough for Galloway to fill his shoes? “Andy was a legend,” says Galloway. “He doesn’t just leave a footprint, he leaves a crater. So I don’t approach it as I’m Andy’s ‘replacement’. You’re a different person, so you bring what you are to the role.”

As senior producer, Davis (BA '94, in sociology) comes in later than most – at 8:30am – since he’s not on air. “I don’t even own a clock,” says Davis. “I just set my body clock.” Behind the scenes, he plots the next day’s lineup, makes the final decision on which stories are assigned and ultimately presented on air, and leads a daily post-mortem on what worked, what didn’t and why – all with the goal of making the show as good as it can be.

Davis, who, like Galloway, got his start in radio on York’s CHRY, was an *Excalibur* editor as well. He took the morning job at CBC to “spread his wings”, he says. “I didn’t know at the time the absolute extent of the show. It was only later I realized how far-ranging it is. I mean, we sometimes set the agenda for the day for what other people cover on later shows. And it’s kind of cool to read in Tuesday’s paper stories you broke on Monday’s show.”

Galloway says the show is a team effort – not an ego production. “This is not The Matt Galloway Show. It’s a reflection of all the different backgrounds, ages and life experiences the four of us, and others on the show, bring to the table,” he says. For

“It’s a reflection of all the different backgrounds, ages and life experiences the four of us, and others on the show, bring to the table.”

example, Davis is originally from Jamaica, lived in Montreal, then moved to Mississauga, where he still lives. Dempsey, the show’s news sleuth and a voracious newspaper reader, was born in Sudbury but spent her grade-school years in Burlington, then junior and senior high years in Sault Ste. Marie. She later went to Canadore College for radio and television arts, long before doing her degree through Atkinson. She got her start at Citytv and was a backup host for six years on CBC Newsworld (now CBC News Network), among other gigs.

Galloway, whose mom is a Glendon grad, grew up near Kimberley, Ont., but always yearned for the sights, sounds and multicultural life of the Big Smoke. Cochrane is Toronto-born but

was raised in Newcastle, Ont., and attended Trent University for a year. Then he heard good things about Glendon and decided to transfer. He brings a wealth of experience and insight into politics to the show’s behind-the-scenes story discussions.

Curiously, none of these four grads has a journalism degree. That’s not to say the CBC doesn’t hire journalism majors, or that they don’t work on “Metro Morning”, notes Galloway. They do. “It isn’t that the CBC is looking for non-journalism majors, it’s that they’re looking for curious people who are deep thinkers and who look at the world differently.”

Whatever the CBC’s formula for choosing its people, the approach appears to be working. Ratings for “Metro Morning” have been consistently higher than all the other Toronto morning shows for a number of years. Galloway attributes the group’s success to being true to their audience. “It’s important to include everyone’s community in the larger conversation,” he says. “If we don’t sound like our immigrant communities, for example, who are a huge part of this city, then we don’t sound like Toronto. We’ll only sound like a slice of the city. And that’s not interesting to the majority of the population – because they don’t live in that slice.”

Given their success in radio, what would these four York grads say to young people who might want a career in broadcasting? Go to your campus radio station, says Galloway: “Seriously, I learned about community radio by broadcasting on a 50-watt station that didn’t go south of St. Clair.” And Dempsey? “I’m an instructor at Ryerson in the Radio & Television Arts Program and I’m always telling my students that they have to read everything, embrace everything, step out of their comfort zones and expand their areas of interest. My advice? Don’t narrowcast your life!” ■

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A portrait of Patrick Monahan, a middle-aged man with light brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue striped shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

A Blueprint for Quality

Patrick Monahan, York's vice-president academic & provost, talks about the University's bold new strategic plan to improve student experience and academic excellence.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

C **ALL IT YORK'S VISION FOR THE DECADE.** Shortly after his appointment as vice-president academic & provost by President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri on July 1 last year, Patrick Monahan launched a University-wide consultative process on what he called a White Paper. This April, the resulting document, “Building a More Engaged University: Strategic Directions for York University 2010-2020”, was endorsed unanimously by the York University Senate. Monahan (LLB '80), former dean of York's Osgoode Hall Law School and a leading Canadian constitutional expert, recently talked with *YorkU* about the project.

What's the history and context of the White Paper?

When I was appointed provost by the president, he asked me to work with our colleagues on Senate on an academic planning process. It would be strategic and set some priorities for York. The idea of creating the White Paper, in simple terms, is about bringing people together in a process that involves as many members of the community as possible – and setting some priorities for the future.

We've reached the natural time to undertake a review of this kind. The current University Academic Plan is about to expire. Plus it had been over a decade since we had engaged in a longer-range planning exercise of this kind.

The president observed we have the academic priority-setting process – which is the University Academic Plan – but it seems to have proceeded separately from the process of budgets and allocation of resources. So one of the things that the president wanted to achieve through the White Paper was to bring the academic priority-setting process and the budget process together.

Not putting the cart before the horse.

Yeah, that's a good way of putting it. So we need to make sure that the horse is in front of the cart. And make sure we have a map so we know where we're going; otherwise we could end up going around in circles.

Why take on this project?

I think part of the reason to do it is simply to engage in a constructive, collegial discussion. The process itself is almost as

important as the outcome. I've sensed this year on campus a desire to look forward rather than to look back – to turn a page.

You have a decades-long perspective at York. Did that help?

I graduated in 1980, from Osgoode. I've been here as a student or as a member of the faculty for over 30 years. And I care very deeply about the institution. But I feel, quite frankly, that we have not fully realized our potential – that we have not capitalized on the many strengths that we have.

York has developed areas of strength that are focused either in particular Faculties or particular departments. We do have outstanding professional schools with international reputations. We have a variety of outstanding programs, but we should also have the confidence to acknowledge that there's some element of unevenness. So we have to build on those areas of leadership and success and that strength.

What are some key findings?

First of all, quality as the overriding principle. Trying to promote engagement on campus and outside the campus is a key way of doing that. But we actually have a series of 12 points or “key priority initiatives”. A lot of those focus on the student experience. The first-year experience is absolutely critical. So we argue there's a recognition we have to do a better job with students who are coming to campus in first year. We are already moving ahead with that in a concrete way, and let me give you an example. We've got a living-learning community project bringing together 40 students who are studying in the sciences, so they're studying similar subjects. They will live together in residence. The hope is that they will form some real bonds with each other and build a sense of community.

That sounds like an echo of what York's founding president, Murray Ross, had thought of in terms of the college system.

Yes, it is. We're very much looking at the colleges as a vehicle for the first-year experience.

Another critical aspect is the whole area of experiential learning, experiential education. That includes things like internships and co-op programs, which we don't have a lot of here at York. We surveyed our current students, as well as prospective students, and asked them, “What is the most important thing we could do to make the experience here at

INTERVIEW

York a more satisfying one?” The number one priority they indicated was more opportunity for experiential education.

Expansion of online learning and technology enhanced learning is also key. We have a commuter campus; students are here who have other commitments. We have to adapt to meet the needs of our students and do so in a way that doesn't compromise quality. Research shows online learning is very effective if done properly.

What key messages can alumni take away from the White Paper?

The York University Alumni Association Board was very positive about the White Paper because, I think, their interest is in the reputation of York – in having York seen as a leading institution because that's where their degree is from. Our number one priority is to increase the faculty complement. That's the top priority because that's the basis upon which the reputation of the University is built.

We are looking to increase the minimum grade point average for entering students – our goal is to move to a 77 per cent minimum GPA out of high school by the latter part of this decade. To do that we need to target secondary school students with strong academic records as well as adapt our programs to meet the needs of today's generation of students.

We'd like to enhance our engineering program; maybe even move to a separate Faculty of Engineering, which we do not have. With these kinds of initiatives we can improve the overall research profile and reputation of York University.

Another of our goals is to increase the number of international students that we have at York. For a university of our size, we have relatively few international students. We have not had a systematic recruitment strategy. That is something that we wish to do and will be doing. We also have, for a university of our size, relatively few opportunities for students at York to go and study abroad; the range is limited. And those types of opportunities tend to cost money because you need to have financial support. But a working group is looking at international recruitment as well as continuing to expand opportunities for students to study abroad.

How did you make sure you weren't just talking to the converted?

First of all, we reached out to our current students, as well as students who had received an offer from us and turned it down, or others who had not applied here but had applied to other

universities. We wanted to know what their view was and how we could do better. We weren't simply here to undertake an exercise in self-congratulation. We wanted to look hard at things we aren't doing as well as we need to.

The White Paper process got more parts of the campus talking to each other than they have in some time. Is there a way of continuing that?

One of the important elements is an ongoing process of monitoring and reporting, and so I plan to report regularly, at least annually, to Senate. I also want to report to other groups on campus on the progress we're making, because we must. In other words, it's not a one-off process. From our alumni perspective, I welcome as well the opportunity to hear from them. I have always found that our alumni care deeply about their alma mater and would like to contribute to it in some way, to its betterment. Not in a financial way, but in a moral way through advice. So my message to alumni is we welcome your involvement, we welcome your advice.

Is the proposed medical school still part of the equation?

There's no doubt that it is an objective of the University. However, it's not something that the University can do on its own. It requires provincial government approval and support. And we continue to work with the provincial government on that. I believe that there will be a medical school here at York. It's a question of when, not if.

“Our number one priority is to increase the faculty complement. That's the basis upon which the reputation of the University is built.”

York's a large and complicated place. There are a lot of different voices, different agendas, and it has a unique institutional character. Was the process a challenge?

It was somewhat daunting because we really didn't know how it would end up. But I'm delighted to report that there were relatively few surprises or bumps in the road.

I think if you have a process that people see as legitimate, in the sense that there is a legitimate desire to have genuine consultation, people will buy in to that process and they will participate in good faith and, as a result, you will be able to develop common ground. Barack Obama said in *The Audacity of Hope* that no one is exempt from the call to find common ground. I believe that to be so. York's White Paper process illustrated the fundamental truth that most people are prepared to search for common ground if you give them the opportunity to do so.

See the White Paper and related documents at yorku.ca/vpaweb/whitepaper. ■

WHY I GIVE TO YORK



Retired high school English teacher Brian Clow (BA Glendon '67 and MA '89)

“When I left Glendon in the late 1960s, I packed away my motorcycle and picked up the chalk. For more than three decades, I led class discussions on Shakespeare in high schools across Toronto.

As it turned out, many of my students had a thing or two to teach me about ability and access to education. I saw, in many of them, the will and enthusiasm to pursue post-secondary study. Unfortunately, they all too often lacked the financial resources to do so. I wondered how I could help, and was inspired to create a bequest in my will to support students at Glendon.

Some things never change. I’m back on a motorbike. And I’m still helping students—this time with a modest legacy that has a Harley-sized impact on students at Glendon.”

There has never been a better time to redefine the possible through gift planning. For more information about bequests in your will, gifts of life insurance or other planned gifts, contact York University Foundation at 416-650-8210 or visit yorku.ca/foundation.

On the Ball

One-time soccer pro Peter Sloly has used his education to rise to the top ranks of the Toronto police.
 BY MARTHA TANCOCK
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

IT'S A GOOD THING PETER SLOLY listened to his parents, or he might have quit high school and run off to England to play professional soccer when he was 16. But the athletic son of Jamaican immigrants finished Grade 13, attended university, earned a York MBA and last year made headlines as only the second black person to be promoted to deputy chief of the Toronto Police Service. Yet being black is only part of the story. "My immigrant experience has shaped why I'm doing what I'm doing in policing," says Sloly. However, "my legacy may be less about my race and more about how I ran the race."

No one went from beat officer to deputy chief faster than Sloly. He did it in 21 years, meteoric by police standards. On the way up, the 44-year-old faced hurdles – racism on the job and high expectations from Toronto's black community – but gained a reputation as a reformer, trailblazer and leader, and has policing, community and peacekeeping awards to prove it. Smart, ambitious, disciplined and visionary, Sloly embraced new experiences and never stopped upgrading his credentials. Education, he realized early, was a critical ticket to senior command, where he could really make a difference.

Twenty-two years ago, Sloly believed soccer was his ticket to success. He started playing as a boy in Kingston, Jamaica, where his father signed him up for lessons to keep him out of trouble. When his parents packed up their three sons for a more politically stable Canada in the 1970s, Sloly carried on kicking that ball in Scarborough. By 16, he was playing at the provincial level and scouts were trying to lure him overseas. But his father, a trained lawyer, and his mother, a social worker, said get an education first, son – pro-sports careers never last long. As it turned out, they knew what they were talking about.

Sloly stayed in school but poured his everything into soccer. By 19, he'd made the Canadian team and competed in Minsk at the 1985 FIFA World Youth Championship. Three years later, BA in hand from McMaster University, he burst onto the practice field ready to start his brilliant career with the Canadian Soccer League's Toronto Blizzard, twisted on the Astroturf and blew out his back. "My dream of playing professional sports came to a halt."

Back on his feet six months later, the 23-year-old applied for jobs with police, fire and social services and went with the first to call back – the Toronto police. In 1988, all you needed to be a cop was Grade 12. Out of his class of 75 police academy graduates, he was one of

only three with a university degree. Within six months, he was being singled out for special assignments and leadership positions.

A second back injury steered him in yet another direction. Pulled off the beat and assigned to teach a course on ethics, professionalism and race relations, he took a long, hard look at his vocation. "Policing had to be more than locking up criminals and cops chasing robbers. I started to recognize the dark side of policing – focusing on enforcement can lead to misuse of force, abuse of power and racial profiling." It was generating fear, not trust, and could seriously undermine public safety. "I saw a need for change."

Deep change happens at the policy level, so Sloly enrolled in the MBA program at the Schulich School of Business to improve his chances of promotion to senior ranks. At York, he could study part time and take time out if he needed to.

He did. In 2000, he went to Kosovo to help rebuild the police force as part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a great adventure." He came home with invaluable senior command experience and in love with Leyla, a Turkish woman he married soon after he graduated in 2004.

Toronto dailies have called Sloly a rising star, a champion of change. His journey has had its bumps. When he started youth sports and life skills programs, traditionalists grouched that police officers weren't social workers. "That attitude has gone the way of the dodo," says Sloly. As a black man in policing, he faced individual and systemic racism; thanks to his efforts to remove barriers to recruitment, a growing number of new hires represent minorities. "In this city, which is so diverse, obviously race relations are critical. This institution and this city have to be inclusive and progressive to be the best in the world." By progressive, he means better educated. "We want people that want to learn, can learn and can apply new thinking."

Policing, he says, is the most visible symbol of a functioning democracy and Canada hasn't got it perfect yet. "I've travelled to four continents and 40 different countries and had the opportunity to see policing in other jurisdictions," says Sloly. "Of all the places in the world, this place [Toronto] has it most right."

Now the proud father of a four-year-old girl, Sloly says his job is to make Toronto an even safer, more socially just and inclusive society. "I live in this city. My daughter goes to school in this city. My wife shops in this city. I take the TTC to work. I've got a vested interest in it." ■

COMMUNITY

Laura Reinsborough is the force behind Not Far From The Tree, the award-winning group that plucks Toronto's urban orchards.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

TORONTO MAY BE MANY THINGS, but to Laura Reinsborough it is one giant orchard, teeming with fruit trees and berry bushes. Yet it wasn't until the York grad volunteered to pick heritage apples at the Spadina Museum that she really noticed them – in front yards and backyards, along sidewalks and back lanes, in parks and parking lots, all over the neighbourhood. Pluck me, pluck me, they seemed to say. You bet, she said, I'll go get my friends. Now, as founder of Not Far From The Tree, she deploys hundreds to “rescue” apples, cherries, plums, pears, apricots, berries – even sumac and ginkgo nuts – that might otherwise go to waste, then divvies up the bounty among tree owners, pickers and the poor. In three short years, she has reaped city awards, become a force in the local slow food movement and found a mission – as an urban-fruit-foraging community activist.

What started as a dozen friends picking fruit from a few trees in her downtown neighbourhood has grown into an army of 400 harvesting fruit in five city wards. Reinsborough calls them gleaners, the name given to those who used to gather what was left on fields after harvest. Every summer and fall, they fan out on foot and on bicycles pulling wagons and weigh scales, carrying canvas bags and wielding extension poles fitted with plucking tools. In 2008, they harvested 3,000 pounds of fruit; in 2009, over 8,000. Who knows how much they will harvest this year? There are an estimated 1.5 million pounds of fruit ripening on Toronto trees every year and no end of volunteers signing up to pluck it.

“Not Far From The Tree has captured people's hearts and imaginations in a way that I couldn't have foreseen,” says Reinsborough. After only one season, the City of Toronto presented the fledgling group with a Green Toronto Award of Excellence, *Toronto Life* listed it as one of 50 reasons to love Toronto, and the city's dailies wrote features about it. The local slow food movement has embraced it and celebrity chefs have baked pies, made jams and concocted drinks like The Gleaner, now Not Far From The Tree's signature elderberry cordial. Along with other green groups, it has joined the fight to preserve fruit trees in city parks. And this year, the Canadian Urban Institute gave the fruit-foraging, non-profit enterprise a City Soul award for engaging Toronto's collective spirit.

Not Far From The Tree is more than a fruit-rescuing mission for Reinsborough. The 28-year-old with two York environmental studies degrees (BES Spec. Hons. '05, MES '08) sees it as a way to animate people to care about and for their natural environment. “Whenever I start explaining what the project is, before I finish the first sentence, someone says, ‘I know where there's a cherry tree,’” says Reinsborough, who hands out brochures, serves hot cider and talks up Not Far From The Tree at local food markets, festivals and community events throughout the year. “People get why it is a good idea. On the surface level, some are attracted to it because it's fun and they get to take some fruit home. On a deeper level, they understand why it's important to pick fruit that would otherwise go to waste. This one simple act represents heavy things like hunger and climate change.” Not Far From The Tree donates a third of its bounty to food banks and homeless shelters.

School teachers and camp counsellors can't sign up their charges fast enough. Reinsborough, who was 25 before she ever picked fruit from a tree, says it's important for children to see where their food comes from. “I now realize how grounding these experiences are.”

“There's also something really compelling about the juxtaposition of doing a seemingly rural activity in the middle of the city,” says Reinsborough, who grew up on a lake in Sackville, NB. “I was wary of city life because it wasn't familiar to me. I fell into the trap of thinking city and country were different.”

Earlier this year, a publisher invited her to write a book about fruit. “I thought: This is hilarious. What do I know about fruit?” Quite a lot, it turns out. For someone who didn't know apricots grew in Canada, “it's been a steep learning curve.” Now that she is back from Sackville, where she was on maternity leave with baby Idris and novelist-musician husband Chris Eaton (MA '96), maybe she will write that book. And start more tree-related projects. Last spring, she launched We'd Tap That, to collect sap from urban maple trees and make syrup. She has plans to offer fruit-preserving workshops, develop a fruit-tree care program and design a map of fruit trees on city land.

In May, Reinsborough started fundraising. “What began as a part-time hobby has become a full-time job. There is so much more we want to do.” ■

Bearing Fruit



THE GURU OF WORRY

York's Moshe Milevsky is passionate about the need to prepare for your financial future.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK



PEOPLE BUTTONHOLE MOSHE MILEVSKY all the time and ask: What kind of mortgage should I get, fixed or variable? What stocks should I invest in? He always demurs: “Sorry, I am not a financial adviser.” Maybe not, but the 43-year-old finance professor in York’s Schulich School of Business is the author of six popular books doling out advice on smart investing, insurance and saving for retirement. Hot off the presses this fall is his latest, *Pensionize Your Nest Egg*, in which he explains how to create a pension plan if you don’t already have one and don’t wish to risk retiring in poverty. It’s a theme he returns to over and over: Think long-term; be prepared for life’s contingencies. You might live a long time without a paycheck.

Maybe it’s too late to help baby boomers who are heading into retirement financially ill-prepared. But Milevsky (MA ’92, PhD ’96) has been doing his darnedest to reach the generations bringing up the rear. Only 25 per cent of Canada’s labour force belong to a defined pension plan and he’s worried about the other 75 per cent. “I think there’s a group heading straight into a brick wall.”

They might avoid the collision if they read *Pensionize Your Nest Egg*, written with financial planner Alexandra Macqueen. Milevsky usually targets a general North American audience, but this time he’s talking exclusively to Canadians because, believe it or not, the Canada Pension Plan provides far less than the Social Security program in the United States. This could be his second Canadian bestseller since *Money Logic: Financial Strategies for the Smart Investor* in 1999.

Most of Milevsky’s books sell well. Works like *Are You a Stock or a Bond? Create Your Own Pension Plan for a Secure Financial Future* (2008) prompt readers to think carefully about how job and career risk should affect their asset allocation. “I tend to look at financial planning as worrying about what nobody expects,” he says. His message couldn’t be more timely in the wake of the 2008-2009 market meltdown. Even he, three-time winner of *The Globe and Mail*’s annual stock-picking contest, didn’t predict his family’s financial net worth dropping 50 per cent.

Like his father and grandfather, who were chief rabbis, Milevsky is a gifted communicator and a born teacher. An award-winning columnist who has written op-eds for *The Wall Street Journal* and been interviewed by *The New York Times* and *Fortune*, Milevsky can also be found on YouTube giving nuggets of good financial advice. He’s in demand as a speaker all over the world. Business journalists call him a guru of retirement-related finance.

Beyond popularizing ideas like human capital – your earning power across a lifetime – Milevsky is hard at work

making research inroads where financial risk management intersects with personal wealth management. As executive director of the Individual Finance & Insurance Decisions Centre (IFID), a non-profit corporation affiliated with Schulich, he oversees research on strategic financial planning for individuals. A pioneering entrepreneur in the new field of quantitative wealth management, he also heads a crackerjack team that designs online financial calculators for insurance multinationals.

In addition, Milevsky founded and co-edits the *Journal of Pension Economics & Finance*. He’s written widely cited studies on longevity insurance and exotic option pricing, and published two books for specialists as well as almost 50 peer-reviewed papers. A month doesn’t go by, it seems, without some business writer citing his 2001 report that finds Canadians are generally better off with a variable rather than a fixed mortgage rate.

Twenty years ago, he says, he “knew nothing about economics or finance or business.” The eldest of five children, he grew up in Mexico and the US, then followed his parents to Canada. While he was finishing a master’s degree in mathematics & statistics at York, his dad fell ill and died of colon cancer at 49. Forced to learn the family finances, Milevsky decided to get a PhD in business finance instead of gravitational physics, and still use the same irresistible math. His father’s death had taught him: “Life is fickle and a breadwinner can die.” It has spurred him ever since to hedge against an uncertain future and help others do the same.

Governments included. The states of Florida and New Mexico have consulted the Spanish-fluent professor about improving their state pension plans, and Uruguay’s Central Bank has hired him to help with pension fund investment. It’s exciting, and the curiosity-driven Milevsky could see doing more public policy work in the future. “You have a chance to help a lot of people.” In fact, he would like to see a socialized wealth-care system of state-subsidized clinics where citizens could get free, unbiased advice about personal finance and pension planning. “It’s one of the things I’m passionate about.”

In the meantime, his four daughters with Edna Diena (BA ’91, BFA Spec. Hons. ’03) are learning Mandarin because he believes China will be the next global superpower. In 2011, Cambridge University Press will publish his new textbook, *Lifecycle Wealth and Risk Management: Strategic Financial Planning from Grave to Cradle*. “Honestly, if I could wave a magic wand, I would force every York student – and not just business students – to take personal finance,” he says. “It would be a required course and I would teach it. Because, no matter what aversion we have to thinking about finances, we all need to support ourselves in our old age.” ■



Heather Cameron

Professor, girls' boxing advocate

Pulling No Punches

WHEN HEATHER CAMERON ISN'T BUSY BOXING, or running her favourite project Boxgirls International, a sports training program to improve the fitness of girls and young women and enhance their leadership qualities, chances are you'll find her with the gloves off in her other role – that of stellar academic and teacher. She was recently named Professor of the Year by the German Association of University Professors & Lecturers and is the first non-German scholar to receive this award, worth \$12,000.

Cameron (MA '94, PhD '02) studied social & political thought at York and now teaches educational science at the Freie Universität Berlin, one of Germany's leading research universities. She founded Boxgirls in 2005 in Berlin's inner-city district of Kreuzberg. Since then, Boxgirls has expanded to include projects in Nairobi, Kenya, and Capetown, South Africa.

"Boxgirls is a social profit organization that supports women and girls and uses boxing programs as a catalyst for social change," says Cameron. "Boxing improves girls' strength and resilience. It allows them to negotiate the urban environment better." Young women come to Boxgirls because they like the idea of learning self-defence and being trained by other women, as well as doing something "different" from regular sports. Some want to confront their own fear, she says. "It's true that at first some girls' parents aren't so keen on the boxing idea, but we invite them to our training facilities and they get to know us. Now some of the most skeptical parents are among our biggest supporters!" ■

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF HEATHER CAMERON



Mark Campbell

Teacher, radio host

Hip-Hop Historian

IS THREE DECADES AGO TOO SOON to begin writing history? York grad Mark Campbell – teacher, historian and host of “The Bigger than Hip Hop Show” on York’s CHRY 105.5 FM – certainly didn’t think so. Combining his interests and expertise, Campbell (BA Spec. Hons. & BEd ’02, MA ’03) started compiling an archive of Canadian hip-hop history when he was asked to write a chapter on black culture for a high-school textbook and discovered there were few sources available covering the 30-year history of the genre in this country. “I put the word out that I was looking for material,” he says.

He started by interviewing his older brother, DJ DTS, host of “The Masterplan Show” on CIUT 89.5 FM, the longest-running hip-hop radio program in Canada, and went on to speak with 60 more

members of the Toronto hip-hop community. Many of them contributed ephemera that Campbell arranged into a six-week exhibition called *T-Dot Pioneers: A History of Toronto Hip-Hop History & Culture* at the Toronto Free Gallery last March. He put it all on a Web site – northsidehiphop.ca – supported by Canadian Heritage that launched in the opening week of the well-attended exhibit. “Over the first 72 hours, almost 600 people came out,” says Campbell, who also found time to defend his PhD thesis at the University of Toronto during its run. He is now expanding the archive on the Web site to include material from hip-hop communities across Canada, and has plans for a book to capture the vibrancy of the exhibition. **M**

GIVING

IT WAS THE LARGEST fundraising campaign in York's 51-year history, and it paid off big. Major new research venues.

More than 640 new student scholarships and awards. Important new academic chairs. Enhanced buildings. All supported by more than 30,000 generous donors.

It was certainly worth a party.

The York to the Power of 50 campaign, keyed to York's 50th anniversary in 2009, culminated on June 3 with an elegant fete at Glendon Hall, where representatives of the University and the York University Foundation joined donors, alumni and students to celebrate the highly successful effort. Guests were treated to the sounds of Latin/jazz artist Amanda Martinez (IMBA '99) and Ron Westray, York's Oscar Peterson Chair in Jazz Performance. The chair was endowed with a \$4-million grant from the Ontario government in 2008 – just one of many feats achieved during York to the Power of 50.

York President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri officially closed the campaign and thanked supporters for their efforts and generosity. The fundraising total, announced amid a chorus of cheers, stands at \$207 million – \$7 million over the \$200-million goal – and was reached well ahead of the campaign's scheduled December 2011 end. An additional \$26 million was leveraged in matching government funds. "This is an incredible achievement for the entire York community, which will enhance our presence as a leading Canadian university for interdisciplinary research and teaching," Shoukri told the guests.

Campaign co-chair Tim Price, also chair of the foundation, expressed his



A \$207-Million Success

The York to the Power of 50 campaign comes to a celebratory close

gratitude to supporters for their unwavering support during the campaign. "We were not expecting a global recession in its midst, but despite what could have been a serious impediment, everything came together for a successful campaign," said Price. Added fellow co-chair Bill Hatanaka (BA Comb. Hons. '77): "As York continues to expand its groundbreaking programs and research, the momentum we've built will only grow."

The success of York to the Power of 50 is evident across campus. The 30,000 donors, many of them alumni, were clearly eager to support the campaign's priorities. Among the highlights:

- Significant infrastructure funding, including cumulative support from philanthropist Seymour Schulich exceeding \$28 million for the Schulich School of Business.

- A gift of \$3 million from Jay Hennick (BA '78) and Barbara Hennick to Schulich and Osgoode Hall Law School to establish the Jay & Barbara Hennick

Centre for Business & Law. Substantial donations were also allocated to the renovation and expansion of Osgoode, with major gifts including \$2.5 million from businessman and philanthropist Ignat Kaneff to create the Ignat Kaneff Building, and \$500,000 from Osgoode alumnus Rudy Bratty (LLB '57).

- More than 640 new student scholarships, awards and bursaries established through the leadership and generous support of Chancellor Emeritus Avie Bennett and many other supporters.

- Pioneering programs and research, such as the new Sherman Health Sciences Research Centre, made possible by a \$5-million gift from philanthropists Barry and Honey Sherman. The centre will house York's Centre for Vision Research and laboratory space for kinesiology and psychology researchers, as well as a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machine.

- New chairs and professorships,

including the Jean Augustine Chair in Education in the New Urban Environment, named for the first black female member of Parliament. The chair will study issues affecting schooling in today's urban environments to improve teaching methods and student outcomes.

Community members also pledged their support for York through planned gifts, such as bequest intentions. Planned gifts pledged over the course of the campaign total \$10 million.

With more than 200 guests in attendance, foundation President & CEO Paul Marcus took advantage of the occasion to announce the 2010 inductees to York's Lorna R. Marsden Honour Court

& Welcome Centre. The Honour Court recognizes the contributions of donors who have cumulatively pledged more than \$100,000 to the University.

"Honour Court membership has grown considerably during the campaign, when we added 44 donors of \$1 million and more to the growing number of major supporters," said Marcus. "We're humbled by this generosity, but we are appreciative of all support, great and small."

One of the beneficiaries of this generosity, fourth-year Glendon student Jaelyn Volkhammer, voiced her appreciation on behalf of student award recipients. "It means I can devote my time not only to classes and homework, but to fully

benefiting from the university experience."

Looking ahead, Paul Cantor, chair of the York University Board of Governors, said the University is positioned to capitalize on the opportunities at its doorstep. "The growing interest in York's innovative programs, the potential for forging new partnerships in Toronto and York Region, and – at long last – the subway expansion that will make York an equal choice for student commuters, all contribute to what is shaping up to be another momentous 50 years."

For more information about how you can support York, contact the York University Foundation at 416-650-8210 or visit yorku.ca/foundation. ■



ELEGANT FETE: Opposite, co-chairs Hatanaka (left) and Price; clockwise from above, Martinez with accompanist; Cantor; foundation board member Robert Martin (left), Pamela Martin, Vice-President University Relations Jennifer Sloan and Marcus; Chancellor Roy McMurtry and Anita McBride, former York director of student programs; Westray; Shoukri and MC Barbara Budd; Price (left) and Guy Burry, chair of the York University Alumni Association Board.

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ALUMNI

News:

You're Invited

Mark your calendar for some popular grad events

THE ALUMNI OFFICE is abuzz planning a slew of upcoming events and programs. Whether you're living in Toronto or much further afield, there are lots of opportunities to tap into your alumni network. Here's just a taste of what's to come.

HOMECOMING

Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2010

ALL ALUMNI ENJOY free admission to Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 2. The football game between the York Lions and the McMaster Marauders will kick off at 1pm and a basketball game between the men's Lions and, yes, York alumni begins at 6pm. Other events include the inaugural York University Lions Scholarship Golf Tournament on Sept. 30 at King Valley Golf Club. Check out www.yorkulions.ca for more information.

REAL LIFE EVENT SERIES

October 2010 to June 2011

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, this series features fun, informative and affordable events for recent grads. Each event is taught by a pro, like career adviser Mark

Swartz (MBA '85), who will lead a session on how to find the right career for you. This season also features an evening with investment guru Moshe Milevsky (MA '92, PhD '96 – see page 24 for more on him). Register for the series at yorku.ca/alumni/reallife.

MIX & MEET: YUAA AGM

Nov. 30, 2010, 6:30pm

JOIN GUY BURRY (BA '82) and the rest of the York University Alumni Association (YUAA) Board at the annual general meeting in Toronto. They'll be discussing the past and coming years' initiatives and ratifying new members. This is a great way to get involved in and learn about the YUAA's work on behalf of grads. Then, stick around for the Mixer.

MIX & MEET: ALUMNI MIXER

Nov. 30, 2010, 7pm

GTA GRADS, this is your chance to come out and network with fellow alums. This relaxed gathering is also a great place to touch base with senior York staff and York University Alumni Association Board members, some of whom will speak briefly about changes on campus, such as the subway extension and York's ambitious building program. Enjoy appetizers, drinks and door prizes too. Check out yorku.ca/alumni/events.

ALUMNI FAMILIES PROGRAM

Scholarship deadline:

Feb. 1, 2011

IF YOU HAVE a family member applying to attend York, be sure to sign up with the Alumni Families Program. This program

gives your family front-of-the-line access to communications, events and benefits that help with the transition into university life. Alumni family members can also apply for the Harry W. Arthurs Alumni Families Entrance Scholarship, valued at \$24,000. Visit yorku.ca/alumnifamilies.

BRYDEN ALUMNI AWARDS

Nomination deadline:

Mar. 31, 2011

GET RECOGNIZED for your achievements! Be nominated – or nominate a fellow grad – for a Bryden Alumni Award. Now in its 10th year, the awards feature five categories to celebrate the outstanding work grads are accomplishing in their communities and careers. A jury of alumni selects the recipients and the awards are presented at a gala in the fall. Nomination and award information can be found at yorku.ca/alumni/awards.

CHAPTERS

Year-round

CONNECT WITH YOUR fellow grads by getting involved in chapters. Active chapters exist in many cities, while others are organized by Faculty or groups, like the York University Black Alumni Chapter and the Business & Society Alumni Association. Chapters gather and correspond through the year, so visit the online directory to get in touch with your chapter of interest. Got an idea for a gathering – maybe a lecture, tour or charitable fun run? Contact your chapter and volunteer to help organize it. See yorku.ca/alumni/getinvolved/chapters. ■

Class Notes:

1970

Lindsey, Glenn (BA Glendon) lives in Victoria, BC, with his wife of 31 years, **Marjorie** (BA Hons. '86 Glendon). He is a screenwriter and a bus driver for kids with special needs.

1971

Whitlock, Francis (Paul) (MBA) started his career as an engineer with Bell in Montreal. He is now retired and lives in the United Kingdom with his three sons and one granddaughter.

1974

Warren, David (BA Glendon) has been the principal of a private law firm in Barrie, Ont., for the past 11 years. Prior to graduating from Queen's University's Faculty of Law in 1996, he had a career in media, marketing and real estate.

1977

Lehto, Ilpo (BSc Founders) has made the big move to Hamilton. He is celebrating 25 years of working at York, where he has been involved in union activities as an executive for 23 years and assisting injured workers for 18 years.

Young, Annette (BA Hons. Calumet) has retired from the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre as director of management services. She is one half of the team that created the first bed and breakfast in Canada specifically designed for wheelchair accessibility and for persons suffering from aphasia due to head injury or stroke.



1985: Margaret Anne Christakos

1979

Beharry, Don (BA Vanier) has been a chartered accountant since 1982 and currently works with Franklin Templeton Investments in risk management.

Lichter, Robyn (BA & BEd Calumet) works in the field of education in medical research. She married in 1984 and has three children.

Oakleaf Spanton, Jane (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) and **John Spanton** (BA '78 Bethune) recently welcomed their first grandchild. Jane operates JOS Originals, making jewellery, watercolour paintings and collages. John, formerly of the York Yeomen rugby team, is a staff sergeant with the Toronto Police Service.

1980

Grosskurth, Anne (LLB) has been working for the United Kingdom government as a civil servant since 1999. She is currently a senior policy adviser for the Drug Policy branch in the Department of Health.

Vaccari, Luca (BA Founders) has been living in the Italian Alps for 15 years and would love to contact other York grads from 1977 to 1980. He is married with two daughters.

1981

Marchand, Beverley (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) married in September 2007. She lives in Barrie, Ont., where she is pursuing a degree in social work and operates her own business called Dreamcrafters.

1983

Dyet, Michael (BA Hons. Bethune) is the author of *Until the Deep Water Stills: An Internet-Enhanced Novel*, an innovative fusion of a traditional print novel with an optional online companion featuring text, imagery and professional quality audio recordings.

1984

Genova, Louie (LLB) is a criminal defence lawyer and the co-author of *Immigration Criminality and Inadmissibility* (Carswell, 2009) with



1998: Anthony Mattacchione and family

Mario Bellissimo (LLB '96), a certified specialist in immigration and refugee law.

Zikman, Steve (JD) recently received a master of laws in dispute resolution with a focus on environmental and public policy matters from Pepperdine University's Straus Institute. He is a practising attorney and mediator specializing in issues related to sustainability, climate change and green building.

1985

Christakos, Margaret Anne (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) is an award-winning author of one novel and eight poetry collections. She teaches poetry and creative writing at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies and lives with her husband and their three children.

Simson, Eve (BA Hons. Vanier) is completing a graduate certificate in human resources management and is also a parent volunteer with the Royal Canadian Army Cadets.

Sunga, Lyal (LLB) completed a master of laws in human rights at the University of Essex in 1986 and a doctorate in international law at the Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies in Geneva in 1991. He has been living in Rome since September 2009.

Walker, Glenn (MES) is a certified economic development professional with 20 years of experience demonstrating effective management of

multiple offices. He is married and is an avid curler and golfer.

1988

Plumley, George (MA) is the author of *WordPress 24-Hour Trainer*, a beginner's guide to building Web sites using the blogging software WordPress.

1989

Alia, Valerie (PhD) recently published *The New Media Nation: Indigenous Peoples and Global Communication* (Berghahn Books, 2010). Her previous book, *Names & Nunavut: Culture and Identity in the Inuit Homeland* (Berghahn Books, 2006), presented her work in political onomastics (the politics of naming), the subject of her dissertation at York.

Fennell, Lynn (BA '76 Founders, MA) retired from teaching in 2007 and has since founded the Prince Edward Community Theatre, now in its second season.

Hollinger, Dave (BA Hons. Vanier) has been composing and arranging music for a number of years and recently self-produced a Christmas album. He also offers free counselling from a Christian perspective.

1990

Kelly, Greg (BA '78 Stong, BA Hons. Atkinson) is the director of Upper Canada Educational Services - Online Learning Specialists.

1992

Chaplin, Elyse (BA Founders) is an

ALUMNI

Class Notes:

educational consultant for postsecondary institutions and is pursuing her PhD in higher education from the Department of Theory & Policy Studies at U of T's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. She lives in Los Angeles and welcomes former classmates to contact her.

Forsythe Moore, Anne (BA Hons. Atkinson) has a PhD in teacher education and curriculum studies and continues to teach and write academic articles, poetry, short stories, personal narratives and musical compositions.

Little, Catherine (BSc & BEd Bethune) has worked as a teacher, department chair and instructional leader for the Toronto District School Board. She is currently on secondment as a program coordinator of science, environmental and ecological studies in York's Faculty of Education. She and husband D'Arcy have a son.

1993

Smith, Laurel (MBA) is starting a professional summer theatre company dedicated to producing hits from the golden age of Broadway and the London Stage in beautiful downtown Heritage Perth, Ont. She lives with her partner and has a daughter.

1994

Smith, Anthony (Larry) (BA McLaughlin) began his career in the environmental field with Be Green Barrie, helping to implement a city-wide initiative that became a blueprint for cities throughout the province. He has since become a media and marketing consultant. He is an avid outdoorsman and has a wife and two daughters.

1996

Stephens, Dionne (BA Spec. Hons. Founders) is a professor with a joint

appointment in the Department of Psychology and the African Diaspora Studies Program at Florida International University in Miami. She lives with her husband, Mark, in Miami Beach.

1997

Zeidman, Felicia (BA Hons. '94 Bethune, LLB) is married and lives in the New York area, where she works at the Canadian division of an immigration law firm to help US-based individuals and companies make their move to Canada.

1998

Chavannes, Vidal (BA Hons. & BEd Founders) was a high-school teacher at the Durham Catholic District School Board for 10 years. He took a leave of absence in 2004 and moved to Manchester, UK, with his wife and



2004: Olive Chan

three children. He recently published his first book, *detox*.

Mattacchione, Anthony (BA Hons. Stong) moved to Texas in 1999 and is heavily involved in the Texas High School Rugby Conference as a coach. He and his wife Kelli celebrated the



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- What does red hair symbolize in impressionist art?
- What are the three musts for networking success?

yorku.ca/alumni

Class Notes:



In Memoriam: Susan Weinstein

birth of their first child in September 2009.

2001

Whillier, Stephney (BEd) obtained her PhD in 2009 and is an anatomy lecturer at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Her research interest is in cellular antioxidant glutathione. She is married and has three children.

2002

Belluardo, Frank (BA Hons. Vanier) has worked in government for the last six years. Earlier this year, he began a position as policy analyst with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. He is also completing York's Graduate Program in Public Policy, Administration & Law part time.

Flores, Jose (BA Hons. McLaughlin) has been teaching at the Toronto Catholic District School Board since 2004, working in guidance and student success. He is also pursuing his principal's qualifications and working toward a master's degree.

Lee, Moonlake (MBA & LLB '98, LLM) is the director of business affairs for the Specialist Dental Group at the Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre in Singapore.

Passmore, Susan (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) and her band, The Good Lovelies, just took home a Juno Award for Best Roots & Traditional Album of the Year.

2003

Brar, Sunny (BA Bethune) has worked for TIC Travel Insurance Coordinators since October 2003. He bought a new home in 2004, is married and has twins.

2004

Boljkovac, Nadine (née Rumble) (MA) successfully defended her University of Cambridge PhD thesis in January. She lives with her partner in Scotland, where she lectures in the School of Language & Literature at the University of Aberdeen.

Chan, Olive (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) moved to Asia after graduating, then to Vancouver in 2008. She currently works with the non-profit organization Power to Change and is pursuing a master of arts in spiritual formation.

Garfinkle, Michael (BA Hons. Bethune) recently began a private practice as a clinical psychologist in Manhattan. He is an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and a clinical researcher at the Seamen's Church Institute.

2005

Beckford, Morris (BA Hons. '04 Vanier, BEd) recently made a career shift from classroom teaching back to social services. Since May 2009 he has been the executive director of a community services agency in north-west Toronto called Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services.

2006

Chong, Shawn (BA Hons. Founders) recently returned to Toronto from four years of living in Taiwan. He has entered the real estate field as a sales assistant at Minto Communities.

Collins, Michael (BA Spec. Hons. & BEd McLaughlin) and **Jennifer Bullen** (BA Spec. Hons. & BEd '07 Winters) married in July. They live and teach in Barrie, Ont.

Grace, Taneshia (BA McLaughlin) has taught English in Sangju City, South Korea, for the past four years. She plans to return to Canada to start a consulting business for people who want to teach English overseas. She is learning to speak Spanish and Korean.

2007

McArthur, Glenn (MDes) has published a book on Toronto architect John M. Lyle. He is also the curator for an exhibit on Toronto architectural firm Moriyama & Teshima which runs till November at the Archives of Ontario at York.

2008

Rosen, Jacqueline (Jackie) (BA Comb. Hons. Glendon) works at Toronto's 680News Radio as an audio and Web site editor. She can also be heard on air from time to time, covering local news stories.

Sinclair, Dionne (MScN) was a flag bearer at the Florence Nightingale Centennial Commemorative Global Service Celebrating Nursing at the Washington National Cathedral on April 25.

2009

Jancen, Julie (BDes Spec. Hons. Winters) is the founder of One Twin Design, a graphic design business focused on branding solutions and corporate identity work for other entrepreneurs in the print industry.

In Memoriam

Cotnam, Jacques, a founder, shaper and chair of York's French Studies Program, died June 5 at 68.

Davey, Magda, director of graduate admissions at York from 1964 to 1989, died May 20 at 83.

Del Buono, Vincent (BA Comb. Hons. '72) had a distinguished international career in criminal law reform, justice, security and human rights, and helped establish the Glendon School of Public & International Affairs. He died April 13 at 60.

Devlin, Hilton (BA Spec. Hons. '79 Bethune) devoted his life to health and fitness and in later years spent much time on political activities. He died on Nov. 18, 2009, at 75.

Durlak, Jerome, a professor emeritus in communication & culture and director of York's Digital Media Lab, died May 21.

Godard, Barbara, a professor of English, French, social & political thought and women's studies who held the Avie Bennett Historica Chair in Canadian Literature, died May 16.

Grant, Rudolph (Rudy), a York professor emeritus in political and social science, died June 14. He was 79.

Lynch, George (BAS Spec. Hons. '00, BA '03 Atkinson) was well liked by faculty, staff and his fellow students. He went on to grade for many faculty members at York. He died at 40.

Pulver, Gismara (BA Hons. '09 Glendon) died April 14 in Switzerland at 25. A kind and gentle person, she was a resident of E House in Wood Residence for her four years on campus and was a dedicated student of the International Studies Program.

Shaw, Gordon, a York professor emeritus of operations management & information systems, was a founding faculty member of York's business school. He died May 7 at 83.

Weinstein, Susan (BA Comb. Hons. '91 Glendon), a writer based in Grafton, Ont., co-authored a book on pet health with her personal veterinarian, Paul McCutcheon, titled *The New Holistic Way for Dogs & Cats: The Stress-Health Connection*, published in late 2009. She died May 12 at 53.



YORK ALUMNI

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50 Dates in 50 Days

How long is 50 days? What can one accomplish in those 1,200 hours? It may not seem like a lot of time, but for me, 50 days was long enough to go on 50 dates and live to blog about it.

This all started because I have had the most ludicrous dating experiences ever. Time and again, friends have encouraged me to write a book. But in order to provide readers with the true trials and tribulations of the dating scene, I felt I had to do more research. Thus, the concept of 50 Dates in 50 Days was born.

Just as the server was

The rules were simple: a maximum of two dates per person, a speed-dating session would count as two dates, and if I went on two or three dates in one day, I could take a day off. The men came from online dating sites, speed dating, the bar, friends of friends and messages guys sent after hearing about me in the media. Each man got a nickname for anonymity on my blog 50datesin50days.com, and, just like that, I was ready.

First up was a date at Starbucks with a guy I met online. I had barely sat down when I received a text message saying he had to cancel. Calling it off at the last minute is bad enough, but by text? Simply unacceptable.

On the second day, I met Hunter Gatherer, so named because he told me he only ate food he felt comfortable killing himself. I shuddered amid visions of him prancing around the woods in a loincloth with a bow and arrow, as we ate – of course – at a vegetarian restaurant. Then I got taken on a laser tag date by Laser Beam. Instead of getting to know my companion, I got to chase after a stampede of 10-year-olds.

Speed Racer was an old cycling friend I had recently reconnected with. We were at a restaurant where you pay at the till at the end. Just as the server was ringing everything in, Speed Racer raced to the bathroom and left me to pay, yes, the whole bill. So classy.

Sky Mitchell (IBBA Spec. Hons. '06) is a sales rep for a multinational company in Calgary.

Another who stands out was Trouble. We went for a lovely dinner full of great conversation. He drove me home, walked me to the door, leaned in for a kiss and said, “I had a great night with you, Paige.” My name is not Paige – that was his ex.



Yet not all guys are so scattered or forgetful. I had known Butterflies for a couple of months before he asked me out, and I'd be lying if I said I was anything but thrilled. He picked me

up on his motorcycle, took me to a lovely brunch spot and swept me off my feet. Everything about him sent shivers down my spine but, sadly, he didn't feel the same way.

Did I ever screw up or do silly things? Absolutely! I booked two dates in one night

and when the first went longer than expected, I had to make up an excuse as to why he had to drop me off at the back door of my apartment – so I could run through the building and go out the front door to get into my second date's car. Another fellow showed up early and found me in the basement, right in the middle of unsuccessfully attempting to put three loads of laundry into one dryer. He kindly grabbed a pile of clothes to try to help me out. “Wow,” I said, “it's only our second date and you are already handling my underwear.”

But did I find “The One”? I can't say that I did. Trust me, it's not that I didn't want to. But I am not willing to settle. After seeing some of my friends end up in complacency or divorce, I know I'm better off being single than dating someone just for the sake of being in a relationship.

Another great lesson of the 50 days is that men are capable of making an effort and being romantic. Though there were times when I would rather have shot myself in the foot than go on another date, I also received more nice gestures than I thought imaginable. Men cooked me meals, opened car doors, brought me flowers and showed me that chivalry, though lacking at times, is not dead. As I work on the book, I still hope to find someone to date more than twice, so I can build my white picket fence and live happily ever after. ■

Find the derivative

$$\frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{(x+h) - x} = \frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h}$$

~~y = g(x)~~
Secant
Lines

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$f(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h}$$
$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - x^2}{h}$$

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