

YORKU

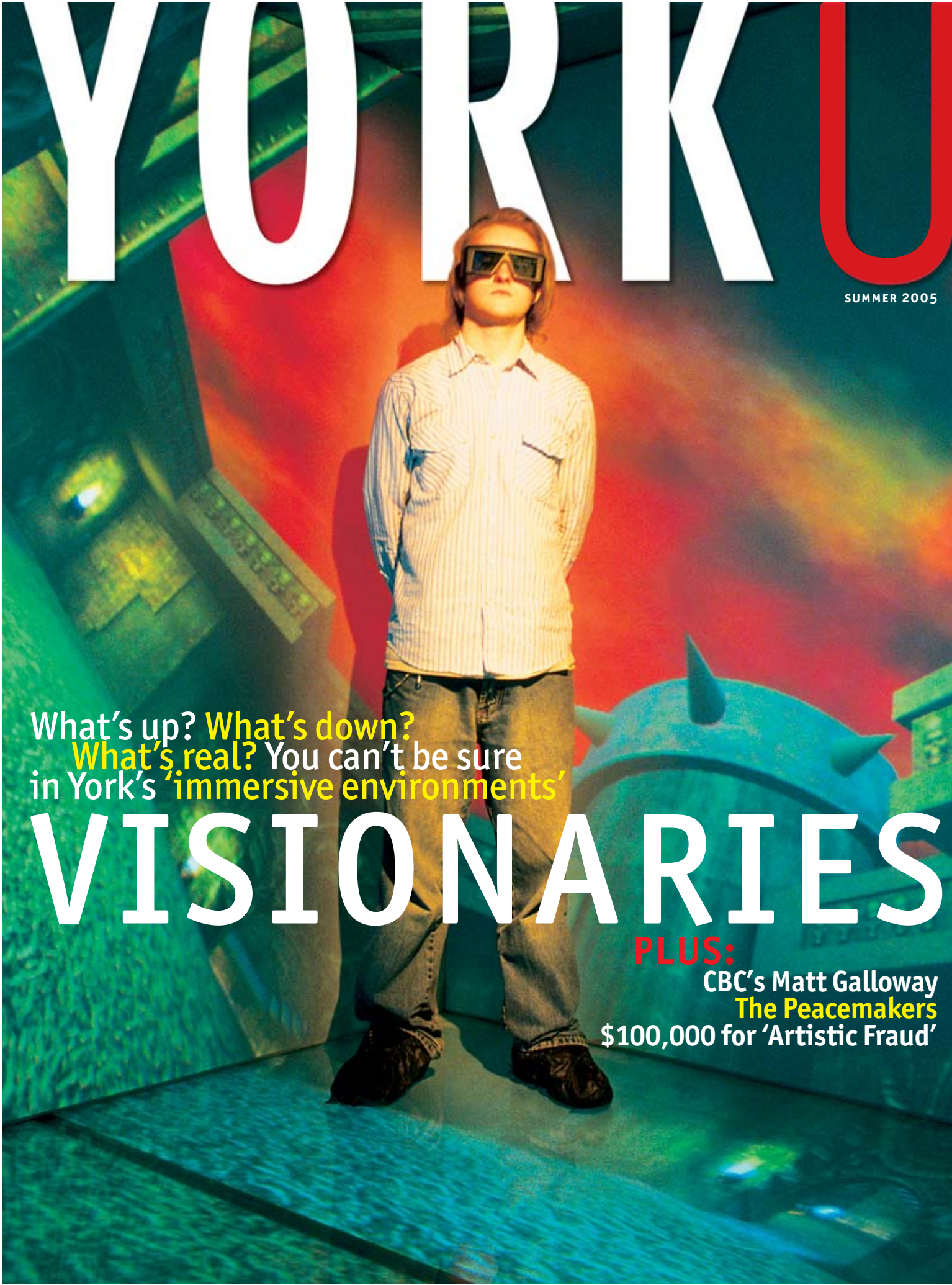
SUMMER 2005

What's up? What's down?
What's real? You can't be sure
in York's 'immersive environments'

VISIONARIES

PLUS:

CBC's Matt Galloway
The Peacemakers
\$100,000 for 'Artistic Fraud'



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YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY



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LINDSAY LOZON



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SUMMER 2005

The view from Hong Kong. BY BERTON WOODWARD

Looking East

This year marks an anniversary for me – 10 years since I left Hong Kong, where I worked as an editor on the regional newsmagazine *Asiaweek* for 16 years. I met my wife there, and both my kids were born there. So when we recently went back for a family holiday, our first visit since we moved to Toronto in 1995, I thought I'd compare notes on this key source of York students with a couple of grads who live there now.

You may have seen Christopher Wee's picture in Class Notes in our February issue. Wee (BSc '89) was born in Singapore but came to Canada when he was nine, and speaks "North York English", as he puts it. After York, he added an MBA to his resumé in Vancouver (his York neuropsychology studies, he says, taught him about "the human mechanism" in business – "after all, business is individuals"), then moved to Hong Kong in 1994, when the then-British territory was booming.

The political handover to Chinese control in 1997 was "a non-event", Wee says. But his career trajectory gives a sense of the economic crises that later hit Hong Kong: he was laid off by two different banks before securing his current position as head of finance and administration for a Jewish private school. Still, the good salaries and low tax rate are a continuing attraction. "Overall, Hong Kong has been great," he says. It's just that starting a family, as he and his new fiancée hope to do, is tough in the most densely populated place on earth. "You can't raise a kid in 313 square feet, which is what I have here." Canada beckons



again, sooner or later.

Listed in this issue's Class Notes is Alan Yim (BSW '97), a Hong Kong native who came to Canada in 1990 in his 20s, and graduated in economics from the University of Western Ontario. Then he discovered how much he liked doing community work, and decided to get a social work degree through an accelerated program at York. "It was a unique program, very useful to me," he says. It also set him up well for a job back home as placement manager at the elite University of Hong Kong, helping graduating students find jobs. But Yim now worries a little about the territory's role as a foreign-friendly environment, due to changes in high school education policies since the handover. He has already seen a decline in students' English – "it will have a significant impact on the next generation."

As for me, I was glad to see that Hong Kong is finally booming again, riding the powerful tiger of China's growth. It is once more the gleaming city-state that I left, and it remains a key centre of finance and talent for the mainland and for the world. York's over 1,500 active alumni living there have plenty to look forward to. ■

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

YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 5

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YorkU is published bi-monthly, five times during the academic year, by the 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 165,000 each.

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

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Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
Tel: 416-736-5979
Fax: 416-736-5681

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

Our convocation honorees are very engaged in modern society. BY LORNA R. MARSDEN

Unique Paths

*You have brains in your head
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself
Any direction you choose.*

You probably know that it was Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, who set down those immortal words in 1990, not long before he died. The book that contains them, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, is much quoted by convocation speakers and much bestowed as a graduation gift. Addressing young people just setting out, Geisel distilled a lifetime of reflections into his deceptively simple verses. But amid his glowing optimism ("You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights!"), he was careful to warn that "life's a Great Balancing Act" and "you



At York we concentrate

will come to a place where the streets are not marked." His clever and prophetic lines ring truer than ever now, as our graduates navigate the challenges of the 21st century.

The instantaneous nature of communication and the exponential growth in technology mean that entire sectors of today's economy were not even in existence 15 years ago.

This is why at York we concentrate on developing individuals who are ready for anything. Skills of critical thinking, independent inquiry and a sense of the complex, interdisciplinary matrix of elements that comprise the modern world set us apart as an institution. Studying at York never has been an ivory tower experience, but always an adventure in real-world conditions.

This sense of immersion in modern society was very much in our minds when we chose our honorary doctorate recipients for Spring Convocation 2005. Although they are an extremely diverse group of accomplished individuals, they all have one thing in common: they have built their own unique paths to success. People like musician and aboriginal activist Robbie Robertson and environmentalist and broadcaster David Suzuki

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

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COREY MIHALIUK

have become household names both in Canada and internationally. Opera director Robert Carsen challenges the way opera is

on developing individuals who are ready for anything.

traditionally presented and his father, Walter Carsen, transformed the world of ballet as well as generously supporting the fine arts in Canada. Philanthropist Hassanali Lakhani established Toronto's Noor

Cultural Centre and York's Noor Fellowship in Islamic Studies.

Honorees like Daphne Schiff, York faculty member, humanitarian and octogenarian aviator, exemplify a pioneering and indomitable spirit – she continues to fly volunteer missions in Africa for Air Solidarité. Award-winning novelist M.G. Vassanji has contributed immeasurably to the literature of Canada and the world. Other recipients have led in the academic realm, such as Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux, rector of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie, and Frank Iacobucci, interim president of the University of Toronto as well as a retired justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Each of these people is eminent and worthy of emulation by our graduates.

Returning to the convocation wisdom of Dr. Seuss, the future leaders who are now setting out from York can be confident they have the best possible preparation for the many streets that lie ahead of them. I wish them well and urge them to keep in touch, especially via York's Alumni Office, as they do their part in building the new century. ■

UNIVERSE

STUDENTS

Triple Treat

Three generations embrace lifelong learning at York

They never planned it this way, but a year from now, Bertie Friedlander, 76, his daughter Wendy Scolnik, 49, and his granddaughter Michal Scolnik, 21, might graduate together.

They didn't enroll together, though. Wendy, mother of three, registered first, shortly after she became a Canadian citizen. "I couldn't go to university before because we were too transient," explains the Zimbabwe-born doctor's wife who has also lived in England and Israel. When her father, an industrial pharmacist who's lived an equally peripatetic life, faced the gloomy prospect of retirement six years ago, Wendy urged him to sample courses – tuition free for seniors – at York. Bertie took the bait – and the academic heat was on. A year after Wendy made the dean's list with an honours BA in geography, Bertie graduated cum laude with an honours BA in anthropology. Now they're neck and neck in the race to finish their master's degrees. "He's going to leave me behind," predicts Wendy. "He's much more determined than I am."

So far, father and daughter are leaving Michal in the dust. When it comes to academics, "I'm the slacker in the family," says the third-year kinesiology major. Yet, she admits, "I'd like to go to grad school and possibly be a professor. I've grown to love the atmosphere of a university." Her mother Wendy may try for a teaching degree next.

As for academics, "It's a wonderful way of life," says Bertie, who hasn't dismissed the idea of pursuing a PhD. "Learning keeps you young." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

BOOKS

What They're Reading

York people reveal what's on the bedside table

Laurence Packer,
bee expert, York biology prof:

The Hedgehog, the Fox and the Magister's Pox: Mending the Gap Between Science and the Humanities
By Stephen Jay Gould

"In truth, I tend to read a lot of magazines. I find *The New Yorker* to be good bedside reading these days because the articles are short and I can drop off at almost any time. For lengthier bouts, I've been reading Stephen Jay Gould's *The Hedgehog, the Fox and the Magister's Pox: Mending the Gap Between Science and the Humanities*. A worthy enterprise and something lots of us should read."

Jennifer Jenson,
e-game creator, professor of pedagogy and technology:

Anna Karenina
By Leo Tolstoy
An Accidental Man
By Iris Murdoch

"I'm often reading five or six texts at once. At the moment, I am listening to *Anna Karenina* (unabridged) on tape as I drive to and from York. On my bedside table is an Iris Murdoch novel, *An Accidental Man*, a painful, but comic, novel of middle-class betrayals. In my kitchen I'm drooling over the recipes and pictures in an Italian cookbook entitled *Florence* which I experience in the abstract – look, read, but don't attempt to make!"

COMMUNICATION

Are We Alone?

If not, how do you talk to an extraterrestrial?



York anthropologist Kathryn Denning isn't sure whether we are alone in the universe but she is certain about one thing: we'll have a tough time talking to alien "others" if we ever hear from them. Denning first became interested in the hypothetical challenge of communicating with extraterrestrials at a meeting of the World Archaeological Congress. Her interest was piqued when she heard researchers debating the merits of basic math or simple pictures to construct interstellar messages. She argues that we shouldn't assume these methods could work when there are peoples here on our own planet who can't count or understand two-dimensional representations such as maps. "Language is all cultural, all arbitrary," Denning says. "With archaeological cases here on Earth, deciphering an unknown script usually requires a familiar language, proper names of historical figures and bilingual or multilingual inscriptions." As well as being a member of the World Archaeological Congress's Space Heritage Task Force, Denning has presented papers at meetings of the non-profit SETI Institute (search for extraterrestrial intelligence). ■

ARCHAEOLOGY

Buried Treasure

Digging into York's aboriginal past



Before students and professors lived at York, the Keele campus was a popular spot with ancient Aboriginal Peoples – in fact, for thousands of years. "It's one of the top 10 archaeological sites in Ontario – which is saying something," says Ron Williamson of Archaeological Services Inc.

The partially excavated Parsons site (as the dig on York's campus boundary is known) revealed a village that was inhabited year-round by up to 2,000 people over a 20-year period. More than 300,000 artifacts have been recovered. "And there's a lot more to come," says Williamson.

When glaciers receded 11,000 years ago, Paleo-Indian populations (10,000-7,000 BC) began to move into Ontario, including the York site. They, along with descendants and other cultural groups, left behind a clear record of their lives with artifacts such as spear and arrow heads, pottery vessel fragments, beads, and remnants of their homes. The Ontario Iroquoian village dates from about 1450-1550. Villages were usually occupied for five to 30 years and would contain (as the Parsons site does) several cigar-shaped longhouses which sheltered up to 50 people.

What would attract Aboriginal Peoples to the area? "Rivers and their tributaries were a natural migration path for people and also afforded a source of water," says Cathy Crinnon, archaeologist with Toronto and Region Conservation. "Riverine environments also attracted wildlife." Parsons is among 170 known archaeological sites in Toronto. ■

UNIVERSE



RESEARCH

Unsung Heroes

Great Canadians you've never heard of

As a counterpoint to CBC's search for "The Greatest Canadian" last fall, Victoria's *Times Colonist* invited readers to nominate truly great Canadians of high achievement but low profile. It published hundreds of names including that of York astronomer Marshall McCall, 51, an alumnus of the University of Victoria (BSc '76). UVic's Alumni Association had given McCall a distinguished alumni award for his and a collaborator's discovery of two new galaxies and the identification of three of the five brightest galaxies in the

northern sky during the 1990s. That early research is critical to McCall's current project – to create an atlas of the "Local Sheet", a vast pancake of galaxies in which the Milky Way resides.

Using infrared images taken at observatories around the world, he and York graduate students are mapping the arrangement of galaxies – mostly dwarfs – within 15 million light years of Earth. McCall's research should bring us another step closer to understanding our own origins. ■

ESSAYS

Blanket Statements

Canadian couture comes of age

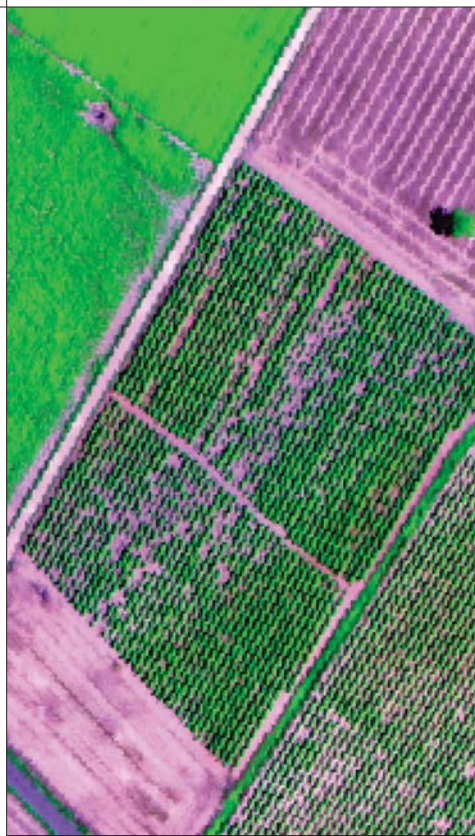
Canadian fashion" isn't an oxymoron anymore. At least, not in Alexandra Palmer's opinion. Palmer, an adjunct professor in York's graduate art history program and editor of the recently-published book, *Fashion: A Canadian Perspective* (University of Toronto Press), is also costume curator at the Royal Ontario Museum. And if there's anything she knows well, it's the art and history of *shmatta*.

"The Hudson Bay blanket is still in style. It's highly recognizable and 100 per cent Canadian," says Palmer. "I think you could easily say Canadian history has been tied to fashion and fashion's needs. Things like the beaver had a huge influence on fashion and Canada. It was the fur trade that was responsible for opening this country up."

Fashion, the book, tracks what Canadians have worn for the last 300 years through a series of essays by contributors ranging from fashion journalists to the country's top curators. Canadian fashion couturiers such as Alfred Sung and Hilary Radley are discussed too, as are such cultural phenomena like City-tv's "Fashion Television". Suddenly, as a result of made-in-Canada programming like "FT", fashion has become more than just something to wear to the office – it's now entertainment. ■



ILLUSTRATION BY ROB MACDONALD; PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED



RESEARCH

Farm Out

A York scientist advances techniques for remote sensing

Imagine you're a farmer with hundreds of acres of crops. Now you can know exactly what parts of your field need more (or less) water or fertilizer – right down to a single acre. Sound impossible? Not with the new emerging field of “precision farming”.

Enter York physics Professor John Miller, who works in the area of geomatics. Not too long ago Miller was in Spain with York PhD grad Pablo Zarco-Tejada mapping Spanish vineyards and olive groves from an airplane using the technique of remote sensing.

Miller is perhaps better known for his work around remote sensing of chlorophyll pigments in deciduous forests (precise inference of colour from leaves can give an indication of tree vigour and detect problems, he says). But the same techniques used to sustainably manage woodlots are also valuable to farmers.

The Spanish project came up as an offshoot of Miller's work to improve the technology involved in precision farming. Says Miller: “We collect the data as accurately as possible, but we ultimately leave it up to other experts like ecologists or plant scientists on how to use it.” ■

AWARDS

A Steacie for York

Scientist Doug Crawford wins the prestigious prize

York scientist Doug Crawford is this year's winner of the prestigious Steacie Prize, awarded to a promising young Canadian scientist or engineer who is 40 or under. Although the award began in 1964, this is York's first Steacie. Other illustrious recipients have included Nobel Prize-winning chemist John Polanyi (1965). The award is named in memory of E.W.R. Steacie, a physical chemist and former president of the National Research Council of Canada, who was instrumental in the development of science in Canada (and for whom York's Steacie Science Library is named). Crawford is Canada Research Chair in Visual-Motor Neuroscience, associate director of York's Centre for Vision Research and a professor in the departments of Psychology, Biology and Kinesiology & Health Science. His lab is engaged in three areas of vision research: eye-hand coordination; 3-D gaze control; and trans-saccadic integration (piecing together perceptions across different gaze fixations). ■



TOOLS

Web Log

York teaches Internet research strategies

Faster than you can say Google, the Internet has become the research tool of choice for undergraduates. “Students are more inclined to use the Web than the library,” says York social science Prof. Linda Briskin, “because access is easy.” Problem is, students don't always know how to make the best use of the Internet or its information. To help, Briskin and others lobbied for funding and eventually launched the Foundations Computer Assistance Program or FCAP. (The word “foundations” refers to the 80 Foundations courses in York's Faculty of Arts that combine academic content with academic-skills training). Since the fall of 2003, about 2,000 students have turned to FCAP for tutorials, one-on-one help and workshops in the Bootstrap Lab at Calumet College. So far, the most popular FCAP course is the Web research strategies workshop – how to do advanced searches, find and cite references, and evaluate sources on the Internet. But demand is also steady for training in basic Web-site construction. “Every student at university now needs computer skills,” says Briskin. Luckily, FCAP gives York students the chance to master them. ■

FARMING IMAGES COURTESY OF JOHN MILLER; PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

CULTURE

UNIVERSE

Down the Hatch

A stirring history of the cocktail

While Christine Sismondo likes her martinis dry, the same can't be said for her academic research. Sismondo is now putting the finishing touches to a 12-chapter book on – gulp – the history of the cocktail. “This will definitely be a fun book to read and use,” says Sismondo, humanities course director and York grad. The book, *Mondo Cocktail: A Shaken and Stirred History*, contains 12 chapters each centred around a different drink, from the Martini to the Bloody Mary.

Sismondo calls *Mondo*, due in October, a crossover book. “It's not strictly academic, but it's not pop culture either.” To write it, she drew on her experience both as an academic and a real-life bartender of many years, and uses cocktails to explore what they say about us as a culture: from gin and The Age of Reason, to rum running and the fortunes made on Prohibition. “It's interesting when you think how much cocktail language has influenced culture,” says Sismondo. “There's the cocktail dress, the cocktail hour and cocktail parties where people don't even serve cocktails.”

Along with stories about cocktail lore and culture, Sismondo also serves up some drink trivia. For instance, if you want to buy the world's most expensive cocktail you'll have to fly to Paris, drop into the Ritz and order a Sidecar (it's made with a rare 19th-century cognac that survived the Nazi occupation). Cost? “400 Euros,” says Sismondo. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

VISIONARIES

York's 'immersive environments' may seem out-of-this-world, but their perception research is always down-to-earth.

BY MICHAEL TODD

E

VER HAD A FEW DRINKS TOO MANY, staggered home, climbed into bed and awoken to find the room spinning? Then you've just experienced your own vestibular illusion (vestibular referring to the inner ear's gravity-sensing mechanism). Your brain goes crazy trying to sort out whether it's you who are spinning, or the room – or both.

A common reaction to that sensation is to feel nauseous. To avoid getting sick, most people sit up (gravity helps the inner ear feel reoriented in space). Turning on the light helps, as well as perhaps touching a wall. Any of these techniques – all gravity cues – gives us a sign that our world is how we think it should be (upright, not spinning). But sight is our primary tool, and our most highly evolved sense. "We tend to pay attention to the sensory system that screams the loudest – like kids seeking attention," explains Jim Zacher, a research associate with York's Centre for Vision Research (CVR). Zacher helped build several "immersive environments" at York.

Immersive environments, or IEs, are used for a variety of experiments in vision, motion perception, and the relationship between vision and the organs of balance (inner ear).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON



OVER, UNDER, SIDEWAYS, DOWN: The Tumbling Room

For instance, an ongoing puzzle is how humans determine what's "up" or "down". "Vision is our primary sense for telling us where we are," says Zacher. "But when you have strongly competing sensory information which disagrees, there will be problems with orientation. For instance, your eyes might tell you you're up, but your vestibular system will be saying your head's pointing down. So which do you trust? When sensory systems are at war it causes humans to make mistakes." For space shuttle astronauts the contradictions in up and down can lead to disorientation and space sickness. With fighter pilots it can lead to fatal crashes.

A VISION FOR VISION

THE PUZZLE OF HOW HUMANS SEE is what led Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus Ian Howard to establish the "Vision Group" – now the Centre for Vision Research – at York in the mid-1980s. York's lab was then one of 12 in the world. For Howard, a professor of psychology and biology, the question of "what's up?" has meant years of research into vision and how the brain interprets data and converts it from a stereo image (our two eyes) into a coherent 3-D picture of the world. To investigate the puzzles of perception, Howard built the first of the IEs on campus – called the Sphere – in 1986, well before the days of virtual reality.

"IEs are a popular technology now for scientific visualization, psychological research and task training for pilots and astronauts," says Michael Jenkin, York computer science & engineering professor and CVR member.

Howard's Sphere is like a giant golf ball painted on the inside with black dots on a white background; subjects sit on a tilting chair inside the ball which then rotates around them. In 1996, the Tumbling Room was built for perceptual experiments. NASA astronauts used the room for training prior to the 1998 Neurolab shuttle mission to help combat space sickness. Howard's down-to-earth suggestion to NASA designers for minimizing Visual Reorientation Illusions (causing space sickness) was to design the shuttle so there's a clear sense of up and down, and avoid making every wall a work surface. In other words, make it look like a place you'd live in. While NASA has funded his research, it has yet to take his advice, he says.

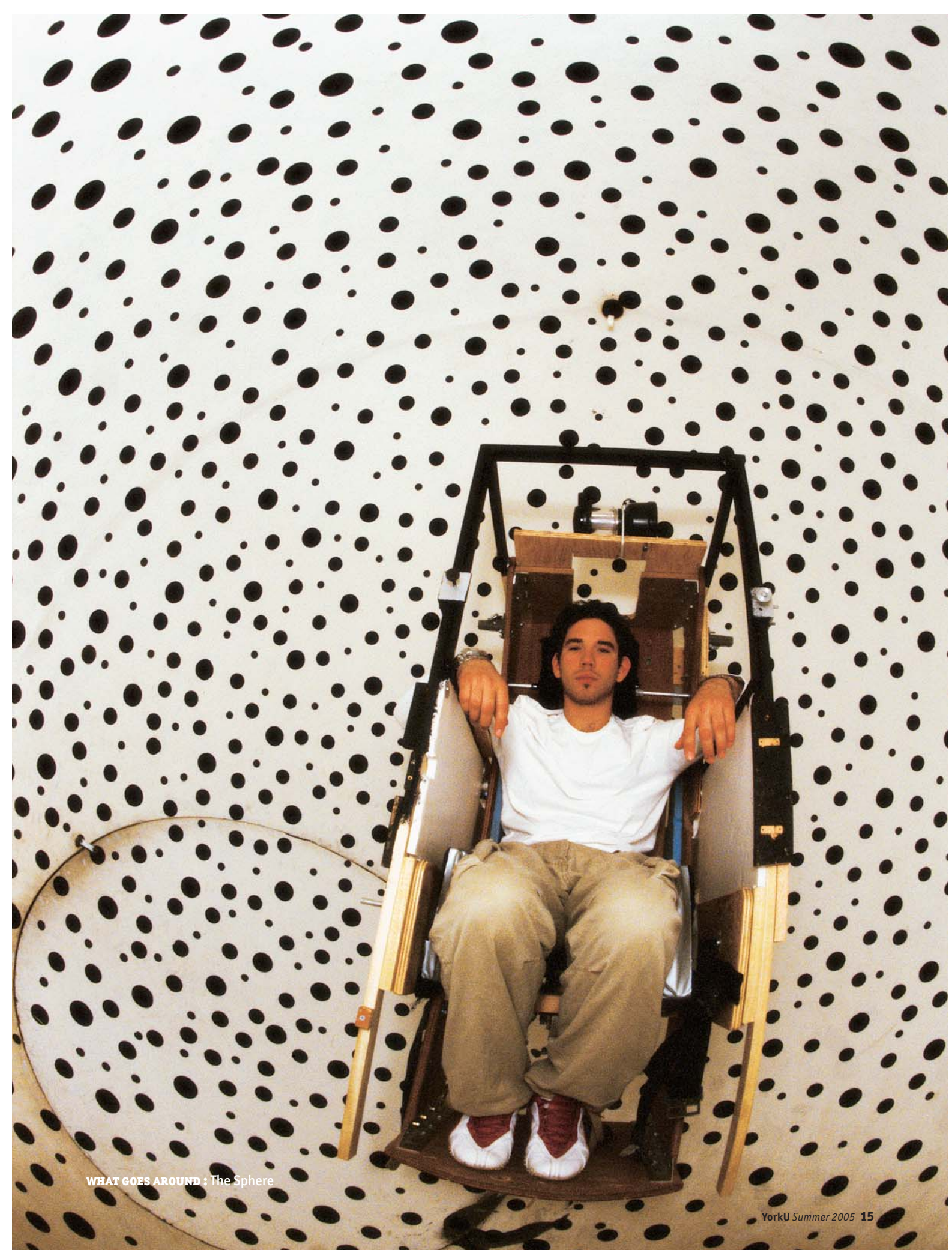
The latest jewel in CVR's crown is IVY, or "Immersive Visual environment at York". It's a cube with computer-generated visual displays on all sides. Jenkin and his team members built it in 2002 for a fraction of what companies that actually make such virtual "caves" charge. York now has a solid 20-plus years of research in visual perception. And with the continual evolution of IE technology, that reputation shows no sign of diminishing.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE SPHERE

IAN HOWARD'S GIANT ROTATING SPHERE was a York's pioneering "immersive environment", built nearly 20 years ago. The interior is entirely white except for large black dots randomly placed on the surface. Subjects sit in the middle, strapped into a seat. The Sphere, the seat or both can be rotated around either a horizontal or vertical axis.

Before the days of virtual displays, the Sphere was an early foray into determining how much our sense of spatial orientation – up or down – was due to visual cues and how much came from vestibular (inner ear) or proprioceptor cues (pressure on areas like the back, buttocks or feet).

Unlike the newer Tumbling Room, which has a rich visual environment to suggest up and down (a chair, table, curtains, cups and saucers, a window, etc.), the Sphere has only polka dots. "Turning the Sphere rarely makes people feel as if they've turned completely upside down, but turning the furnished room makes people feel they have turned head over heels," notes Howard. In the Sphere, it's more a sensation of tilting.



WHAT GOES AROUND : The Sphere



TUMBLING AROUND THE KITCHEN

AFTER THE SPHERE CAME THE TUMBLING ROOM, another immersive environment designed by Ian Howard. It's an actual hand-built furnished room – a kitchen – that's still in use. It looks like the real thing except in this room up, down and sideways can be deceiving. Which isn't a problem really, because that's just the way Centre for Vision Research experts wanted it. The room is the perfect place for York scientists from diverse disciplines such as biology, computer science, psychology and kinesiology to investigate the mysteries of human perception.

In the Tumbling Room, pictures, a clock and a bookcase are fixed to the wall. A table, chairs and two lifelike mannequins are screwed to the floor. Cups, bowls and cutlery are glued to the table. You are strapped into a padded chair and the room is rotated completely around your line of sight. Instead of seeing the room rotating, you feel that you have turned head over heels and the room has remained stationary.

An even more amazing illusion occurs when you are turned upside down in this upside-down room. You feel upright in an upright room even though your gravity sense organs are telling you that you are upside down. For most people, what they see overrides the conflicting information from the gravity sense organs.

Astronauts in space have only what they see to give them a sense of what is up and what is down. But their visual environment does not contain many familiar objects, so they often become disorientated and experience sudden reversals of their sense of up and down. The work on the Tumbling Room suggests that astronauts would have a stable sense of orientation if the visual environment were enriched.

The Tumbling Room proved so valuable in investigating human spatial orientation that NASA used it to train space shuttle astronauts. The Canadian Space Agency and NASA also funded Howard to conduct experiments in which astronauts aboard the space shuttle used a virtual-reality version of the Tumbling Room. It has attracted attention in Europe as well: the BBC featured the room last year in the science segment of its Radio 4 program, "Leading Edge".

IVY'S LEAGUE

MICHAEL JENKIN is a can-do kind of guy. When the computer science and engineering professor first investigated the price for a virtual-reality room made by firms like CAVE and Fakespace, the price tag was just too high. "It was around half a million bucks," he says. Jenkin decided the Centre for Vision Research could build its own room. Final price tag for IVY, Jenkin's acronym for "Immersive Visual environment at York", was about \$100,000. There are only five others like it in the world, and none in Canada.

The six-sided, 8-ft-by-8-ft room has a three-inch-thick glass floor – made of the same specialized glass used in the CN Tower's observation deck – that supports your weight. The walls are special high-tech mylar screens onto which images are rear-projected. Imaging is controlled by computer. The room can be used for space simulations, robotics and vision research.

Stereoscopic virtual-reality images can be created on all six sides of the room, floor and ceiling included, so up can be down and vice versa. Wearing special stereoscopic glasses, a person inside the room can experience effects like watching solid-looking balls whiz by, moving through the walls, or spiralling down a tunnel. The room also has the ability to recreate virtual scenes and objects so accurately that participants experience them as physically real.

The ability to study human perception in virtual environments can help prepare astronauts for the disorientation associated with zero-gravity environments. But IVY also has applications for such things as tele-operation (remote operation of robots). Other spin-offs could include applications for interior design, architecture, urban planning and even recreating crime scenes, where investigators can walk through the actual scene months later looking for things they might have missed. Jenkin, Howard and other York scientists might not crack the code of how humans see tomorrow, but you can bet they'll keep on looking. ■

PEACE BRIDGE

One is Jewish, the other Muslim. Together they are finding common ground in a unique York group called Shalom Salam.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

WELCOME FORCE: Khan, left, and Yosowich

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

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TWO MORE DIFFERENT young women you couldn't find: Hina Khan, a Muslim from a privileged Pakistani family, and Miriam Yosowich, a Jew whose grandparents were refuseniks from the former Soviet Union. And when they enrol in 2002 in a third-year course at York called War and Peace in the Middle East, their politics are as different as their family backgrounds: Khan is defiantly pro-Palestinian; Yosowich is adamantly pro-Israeli.

Fast forward to one year later: the two political science students are practically joined at the hip – for a cause that will change their lives. But the next batch of students arriving in the same War and Peace course don't know that as Khan and Yosowich face off at the front of the classroom.

The students see Khan, wearing a Muslim Allah pendant, seated on the table at the front of the room. She's scrawled the words "Israel Fest" on the blackboard behind her. Then they see Yosowich, wearing a Jewish Star of David, saunter past Khan and stop. "What's this?" Yosowich asks. "It's Israel Fest," replies Khan. "Do you know how many Palestinians are suffering by the day?" demands Yosowich. Khan snaps back: "Do you know how many Israeli civilians are suffering by the day?" They start to argue and shout until a third student, James Murayama, intervenes. "Stop, ladies!" he says. "What is this going to accomplish?" They stare at him as he launches into a pitch for something called Shalom Salam.

It's a new club, he explains, named for the Hebrew and Arabic words for "peace" and designed to stimulate dialogue, quell tensions and promote peace on campus. When he finishes, the young women tell the students they were reverse role-playing. "We need to put ourselves in each other's shoes," says Khan. "We're not going to solve anything by yelling at each other in hallways at York." The class cheers and applauds.

"That was a defining moment," says Khan now. Since that September day in 2003, Shalom Salam has recruited more than 200 members and made headlines on and off campus, due to the dogged efforts of Khan and Yosowich up front and Murayama behind the scenes. And judging by the community awards, media attention and high-profile speakers it has attracted, York's unique student peace group is a welcome force on the Canadian university scene and in the broader community.

"People are tired of the ongoing conflict," says Yosowich. "We respect people's right to be heard, but we want to make a difference in the student atmosphere. We want people to come

together and heal from the difficult past. Our goal is to say, 'Come, sit down, listen.' We would never ask people to change their opinion but just to listen to our views, to see how we're for peace."

So what happened to Yosowich and Khan in that intervening year? A lot of it had to do with Professor Saeed Rahnema, an Iranian exile who teaches the popular War and Peace in the Middle East course. "Prof. Rahnema opened my eyes to a wider view," says Yosowich. Like most of their 110 classmates, Khan and Yosowich entered the class with biases and exited with an appreciation of the complexity of the conflict. The spectacular end-of-the-year, in-class debate revealed, however, that some students remained entrenched in opposing camps. Rahnema encouraged the class to continue the dialogue. In a flurry of summer e-mails, Khan and Yosowich emerged as the keenest to take up the challenge. Together with a few other enthusiasts, they formed Shalom Salam and began recruiting, in class and around the University. "We knew we had something that had the potential to be great," says Yosowich. "We felt strongly that we could make peace on campus."

As co-presidents, Khan and Yosowich head a nine-person executive consisting equally of pro-Israelis and pro-Palestinians. Vice-president Murayama is the tie breaker. The Japanese-Canadian they call The Swiss "makes us unique," says Khan. "He's the objective one, the balancer." Ever the ambassador, he's also tirelessly pitched Shalom Salam to one campus group after another, inviting their members to attend the peace club's forums and socials.

It took the club a year of weekly meetings to hammer out a constitution and strict rules of conduct, but only three months to organize its first event, a forum called "Peace Is Possible." More than 300 showed up to hear guest speaker Michael Bell, former Canadian ambassador to the Middle East. Promoting the event thrust Khan and Yosowich into the media limelight. They were interviewed by the student press, by CBC Radio's "Metro Morning," by the *Toronto Star*. Membership in Shalom Salam swelled and the co-presidents' daytimers filled up with speaking engagements at schools and community centres around Metro Toronto.

Last December, the *Star* gave them a year-end laurel for promoting understanding between Jews and Muslims. And out of the blue, the Toronto Women's Intercultural Network invited Mayor David Miller to present Khan and Yosowich with the 2004 International Women's Day Award

DIALOGUE

for their contributions to peace. So impressed were two of the key negotiators of the Geneva Accord (the possible template for peace in the Middle East) that Nazmi Al-Jubeh and Menachem Klein interrupted a speaking tour in the United States to speak at York in January this year. “You have our complete admiration for achieving what Palestinian and Israeli representatives have failed to achieve, and that is peace,” Al-Jubeh told the sold-out crowd, who’d braved a snow storm to come out.

Peace sounds so reasonable. Yet members of Shalom Salam have met unexpected resistance from peers, faculty and even parents entrenched on one side or the other. “We try to remain as neutral as possible,” says Khan. “We’re not here to make people happy. We’re here to present an alternative. Sometimes people come up to me and say: ‘No justice, no peace.’ I say to them: ‘No peace, no justice.’” Murayama says: “The resistance only spurs us on to reach out more and do a better job.”

Racist experiences also fuel the two presidents’ crusade for

peace. Post 9/11, Khan, who was born and raised in Toronto, discerned an Islamophobia she’d never noticed before: vandals desecrated mosques; a hijab-wearing Muslim woman was punched on a bus. When Yosowich was 11 and going to school in Germany, an anti-Semitic youth pushed her down the stairs. She was so badly injured she couldn’t return to school for six months. Her family left for a safer Canada.

Both Khan and Yosowich graduate this year. After two intense years promoting peace on campus – and beyond – they’ve become masters of diplomacy and the best of friends. Neither can imagine relinquishing Shalom Salam. “It’s changed my life,” says Khan, who sees a career in mediation ahead of her. “Making the connection between cultures and races has been more important than having a part-time job,” says Yosowich, who hopes for a future in international law. But first, she plans to go to graduate school and study peace theory, conflict resolution and women’s contribution to world peace. “That’s what Hina and I do. We are peacemakers.” ■

“Sometimes people
come up to me and say:
‘No justice, no peace.’
I say to them: ‘No
peace, no justice.’”

Radio Matt

CBC host Matt Galloway talks locally, listens globally.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

DRIVE TIME: Galloway

YORK'S STUDENT RADIO STATION, CHRY 105.5 FM, used to broadcast from Room 258 in Vanier College. If it had been anywhere else, Matt Galloway might not be the current host of CBC Radio's "Here and Now" and "In Performance – The World." Galloway discovered CHRY shortly after he arrived at York in 1989. He and a friend were listening to the station's fundraising efforts, called in to give a donation and ended up talking on air. "A week after I got to York," says Galloway, "I started at the radio station." It would become his favourite hangout and a fertile training ground for the future broadcaster and world music aficionado.

To an 18-year-old from rural Ontario who used to drive two hours just to shop at Toronto's legendary Record Peddler, finding CHRY must have been like washing up on Treasure Island. Here was free access to 100,000 discs only minutes from his residence room upstairs. "When you're a student you have lots of time on your hands. I could go through thousands of music recordings one by one." (He did.) In quick order, Galloway learned to produce, script and host a show – most notably, a weekly late-night, music program called "Autopsy Turvy." For five years, he was the station's music director. At CHRY he fed an insatiable appetite for every kind of music from every corner of the globe; he still trawls the Internet daily for a fix of something new and exotic to add to his vast personal collection. At CHRY, he also met Alison Thomas (BA '97), his partner and mother of two-year-old daughter Rowan. And at CHRY, "I met friends who changed the way I listened to music and approached culture."

Galloway grew up in Kimberley, an Ontario village south of Georgian Bay. With savings from waiting tables at a local ski resort, the son of an electrician and a teacher enrolled at York, keen to live in the big city. "What was appealing about York, even back then, was its diversity. I got to see different angles on things, I got to read different styles of literature." Restless, intensely curious and easily bored, the English literature student veered from the traditional canon to study post-colonial literature, African-American and Korean culture, women's fiction, war and peace in the nuclear age. "I had a great time. I learned loads of stuff I'm convinced I wouldn't have learned elsewhere." He stretched four into five years and graduated in 1994 on the dean's honour roll. He thought he'd do an MA and PhD and become a prof.

But music proved a more powerful siren. After he graduated, Galloway remained as music director at CHRY for three years. At the same time, he landed a job writing for Toronto's alternative weekly *NOW*. For the next eight years, he covered the city's popular music scene, wrote about new technology and the Internet, and followed international soccer and cricket. "It was excellent. The way the paper works is you don't have to be a specialist. If you have an interest in something, they encourage you to write about it."

Avid CBC listeners may be aware that the chatty, quick and uniquely plugged-in Galloway didn't just burst onto the airwaves as Avril Benoit's replacement last year. While still writing for *NOW*, he tantalized audiences of "Brave New Waves", "Global Village" and "Definitely Not The Opera" with tunes he'd discovered from Africa, Asia and Latin America. He guest hosted a variety of arts and entertainment shows and even covered cricket matches for "CBC National Sports", demonstrating the kind of scope and on-air poise the national broadcaster looks for.

"Here and Now" takes Galloway off his usual musical track. He provides Toronto's daily afternoon commuters with traffic and weather updates, and interviews local newsmakers. But Friday nights Galloway, now 34, settles back into a more familiar groove. As host of CBC Radio Two's "In Performance – The World", he airs concerts by international artists who perform on Canadian stages, from the Senegalese Orchestra Baobab to the Brazilian guitarist Celso Machado, from gospel singers to jazz virtuosos.

For Galloway, thirsty for musical and cultural novelty, Toronto couldn't be more intoxicating. "You're a fool if you ignore the variety this heaving, thriving, multicultural city has to offer," says the man who will cross the city to get some Ethiopian bread. And what better medium to share his global-Toronto adventure than radio, one intriguing conversation, one musical discovery after another: "It's a great opportunity to tell people about things I might have access to they don't. It's why I read newspapers, magazines, books. It's why I talk to friends about theatre, about film, about music. Because I also want them to turn me on to something I'm not exposed to." ■

A Space for Space

Gordon Shepherd doesn't have room for much else.
A life in an office.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED



PAPER WEIGHT: Shepherd after a quick tidy-up

If there's one thing there's no shortage of in Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus Gordon G. Shepherd's office, it's paper. Paper in the form of textbooks both old and modern, essays, reports, scientific treatises, journals, certificates, awards, posters, photographs and pretty much anything else you could think of. Papers are piled on his desk, spill from boxes, or are lodged atop file cabinets. In short, it's a classic prof's office.

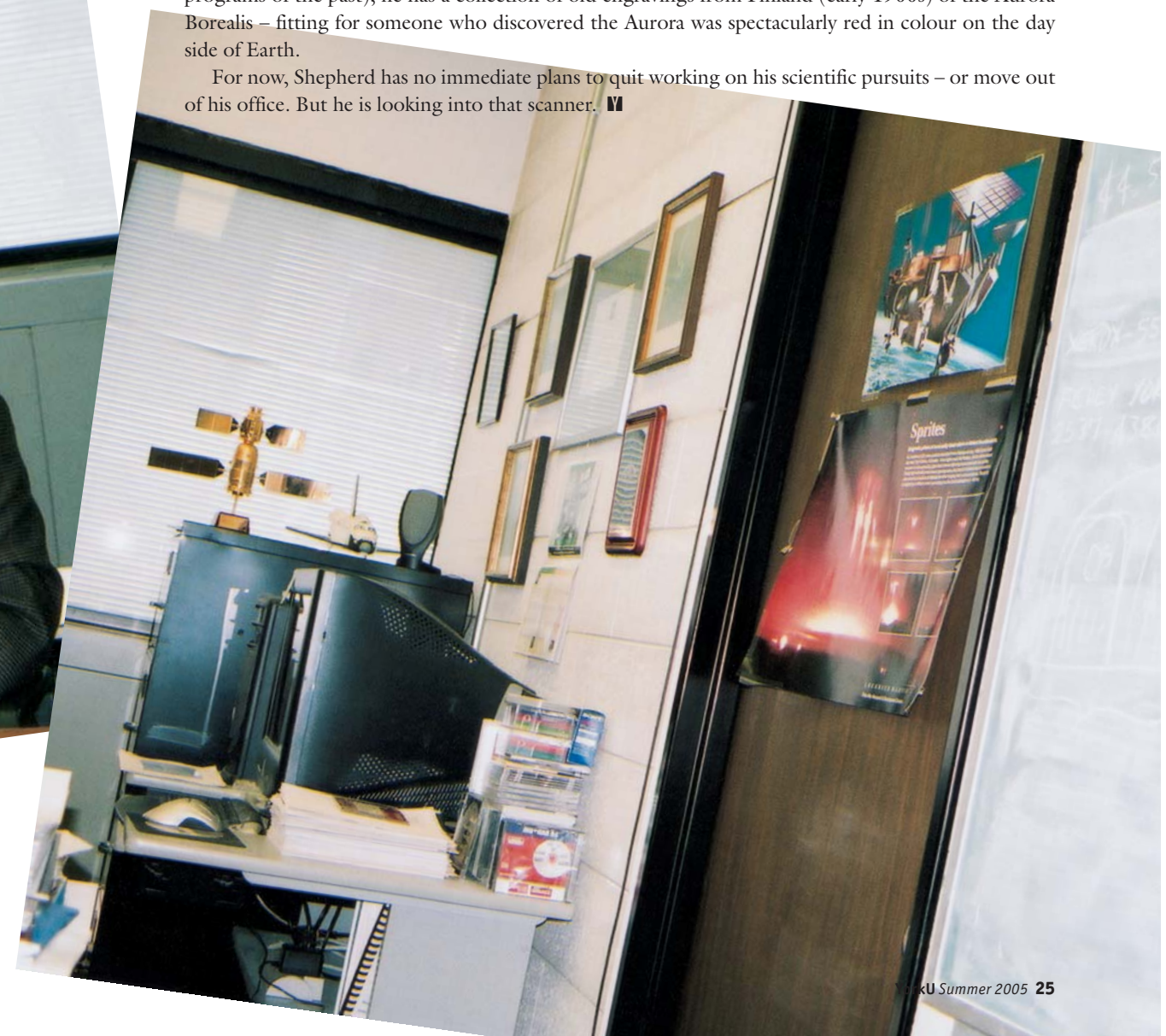
This isn't to say that Shepherd, who's now officially retired, hasn't joined the computer age. He owns a very nice one. Asked about his paper overload, Shepherd says he's seriously thinking of buying a document scanner. "I think it would really help, you know?"

An atmospheric physicist by trade, Shepherd specializes in the design and development of instruments carried into space. He has spent a large part of his career developing methods for remote space-based atmospheric observation, working on projects such as WINDII (Wind Imaging Interferometer). WINDII flew on NASA's Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite. Shepherd has also worked on SWIFT, a stratospheric wind interferometer. It's expected to fly on a future Canadian space satellite.

"I've had the same office for 35 years," says Shepherd. That's a lot of time and, as any office dweller knows, stay in one place long enough and chances are you collect memories and memorabilia. Shepherd is no exception and is quite proud of a gift from Chinese scientists of a scale model of China's recent manned spacecraft. Then there's the paper model of an early shuttle made by his son.

Along with a collection of coffee "space" mugs (featuring various logos from different scientific programs of the past), he has a collection of old engravings from Finland (early 1900s) of the Aurora Borealis – fitting for someone who discovered the Aurora was spectacularly red in colour on the day side of Earth.

For now, Shepherd has no immediate plans to quit working on his scientific pursuits – or move out of his office. But he is looking into that scanner. ■



When theatre director Jillian Keiley reads a script, she envisions the entire play in precise detail – every actor’s move, every word of dialogue, each of the sets and costumes. All come together in a kaleidoscope of influences in her mind. It’s a very special gift, one that she has turned into an intriguing style of performance she calls “kaleidography” – a unique, mathematical and music-based choreography and directing system. Now her gift has turned out to be lucrative as well. For her work in Canadian theatre and her creation of kaleidography, Keiley received the Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Prize in Theatre for 2004. The \$100,000 award is the most generous arts prize in the country.

The praise was generous, too. Her work with Artistic Fraud, the St. John’s, Nfld.-based theatre group she founded, was described by the Siminovitch jury as “startlingly original and radically imaginative.” Keiley, who graduated from York with a BFA in theatre in 1994, was selected from a shortlist of five candidates, chosen in turn from 59 of the country’s top directors, the largest number of nominees ever to be considered for this award. The five-member panel said she was a “visionary, innovative artist whose experiments with form and content have magical results for audiences and performers alike.”

Things weren’t always as focused for the 30-something director, who admits to failing her fair share of university assignments because she wrote about every aspect of the plays she studied. “I wanted to include it all,” she chuckles. She credits her education at York, and, in particular, the guidance she received from the late Professor Anatol Schlosser, for much of her development. There, and in an earlier stint at Memorial University in St. John’s, she gained the foundation to create her unique brand of theatre and the courage to go with her all-encompassing vision of how a play should be staged. With her professors’ support, she relentlessly pursued what made each script work. She put in tremendous amounts of extra time, often working until the wee hours of the morning, to break the plays down into units and then reconstruct them into cohesive works.

She landed her share of parts in plays – once she was cast in Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* “because I was the tallest,” says Keiley, who tops six feet. But it was the mystery behind making a script come to life that fascinated her, and she realized she preferred directing. She became enamoured of the dynamics of how a group of unrelated actors band together to produce a cohesive, powerful representation of each script.

“I was fascinated by what I was learning,” she says. “I loved the precision and perfection of *commedia dell’arte*. How do actors know when to catch another actor when that actor falls? While at York, I did a piece trying to duplicate the technique and it was terrible. I went to Anatol and asked ‘Why can’t I get this right?’ and he told me that it is because the actors are families and they have this connection. ‘You can’t impose that on actors,’ he said, and I looked at him and said, ‘Oh yes I can!’”

Keiley pursued her understanding of ensemble theatre, working to develop that elusive sense of family in her own theatre group. She returned to her roots in St. John’s, and it was there, in the city’s thriving theatre community, that she created a company called Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland – originally a joke subsidiary of the Artistic Fraud company she’d founded at York with fellow student and now guest professor Chris Tolley. Over the past decade, she has successfully nurtured the company into the artistic family she so craved. With the support of that family, her work in kaleidography has been the recipient of tremendous critical acclaim.

“It is really almost impossible to describe the effect,” she says of her unique form. “In the theatre, what you play with is time. Our company builds the shows into units, and we have smaller units inside of them.” The kaleidography technique, she says, creates a three-dimensional experience by infusing the units with acting, moving and blocking techniques which are all based in a precisely-timed choreography. Combined with large casts and music that is chorally driven, the resulting effect is a spectacular symphony of colour, movement and sound – everything Keiley first envisioned a play should be. ■

Bit Parts

Her company is called Artistic Fraud,
but Jillian Keiley is the real deal.

BY JENNY PITT-CLARK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL DALY





Don Drew

Innovative charity supporter

A Discount for Good

LIFE WAS GOOD for the Drews five years ago. Don (BA '79) was a government buyer. Diana (BFA '87) taught voice and sang in her own jazz band. They had two little kids, a nice house, great friends. Then a shadow passed over their sunny world. Diana was diagnosed with thyroid and breast cancer.

From Diana's first day in hospital, volunteers swooped in to help the shaken couple. "They were keeping our lives together," says Don. Grateful, he began asking retail, sports and entertainment businesses if they would give discounts to the volunteers and organizations that helped them.

The response was so enthusiastic that last June in Markham, Ont., Don launched Care Unlimited with great fanfare. Diane also relaunched her singing career. Don now lists over 170 suppliers in Ontario on the organization's Web site (www.careunlimited.ca) and hopes to go national in three years. Charities are scooping up the \$2.50 volunteer "advantage" cards. Like Don, they recognize that "selfless volunteers are the real heroes in society." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON



Bryna Wasserman

Novelist

A Gothic Odyssey

MIX ONE PART HORROR WITH EQUAL PARTS OF LOVE, evil and the supernatural and the result is York alumna Bryna Wasserman's new book *The Naked Island*. Set initially in a small Ontario community, the book takes the reader on a global odyssey to the Far East as it documents one young woman's journey toward self-discovery. Much of *The Naked Island* is a reflection of Wasserman's own life experiences, including her travels to exotic locales and the ghostly presence she says inhabited her family home on the shores of Lake Erie.

Described by critics as a "delicious gothic travelogue", the book took Wasserman 10 years to complete. Along the way, she enrolled in creative writing and English studies at York, earning a BA in 1995. "The professors and the program at York taught me to relax and go with the writing process – to let it happen," says Wasserman. The results have been worth it. *The Naked Island* has received stellar reviews in the mainstream media and is in demand by Canadian booksellers, leaving Wasserman to embark on her next odyssey – her second novel. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

Dirk Bendiak

Brewmaster

Happy Yeaster

IN AN INDUSTRY WHERE the currency is a single-celled organism, Dirk Bendiak could be called the head of bank security. Bendiak, who got his doctorate in biology from York in 1980, is a Molson brewmaster, responsible for ensuring that each bottle of Molson beer meets the brewery's tough standards. Working with yeast and malt extract, he oversees a highly regimented and complex system to produce over 50 brands of beer. The company has five variations of yeast, including two Molson originals, kept under lock and key.

From the estery light ales to the heartier dark beers, Bendiak says he finds the entire process of brewing beer endlessly fascinating. "There's the mystery of putting yeast into a big vessel and 20 out of 21 times the beer is perfect," he laughs. "It's what that little microbe can do in those big vessels; the challenge of working with raw materials which have natural variations; and what good old Mother Nature does with the whole process that I find intriguing." He and his staff taste each batch, daily. "Yeast is like gold," he says. "It is what makes beer what it is." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

Andrew Hall

Club owner

Toast to the Jam

WHEN ANDREW HALL (BA '85) suddenly lost his comfortable computer-purchasing job at 33, he spent a year ruminating on what he loved most. He recalled playing live music with his two older brothers in the wood-paneled basement of his central Toronto home. Sometimes his celebrity uncle, Monty Hall, then host of TV's "Let's Make a Deal", would stop in for a listen as the boys covered songs by the Stones, Bob Dylan and the Band.

Hall decided to make his passion for "jamming" his livelihood. Knowing nothing about the club business, he opened Toronto's Downtown Jam. Now, eight years in and just beginning to turn a profit, Downtown Jam provides, he says, a "mental health service" to dozens of weekly members who are also CEOs, cops, stockbrokers, lawyers, even stay-at-home moms. Keyboardist and former Ontario premier Bob Rae is a member. Hall organizes evening jams based on members' abilities and tastes – music of the '60s and '70s is big – and slots them into one of the club's three soundproofed rooms.

"The club is not a means to an end – it's an end in itself," says Hall. "It's about nostalgia and having fun. When you put people together and watch them form relationships or see them play their first Beatles song – tell me how to make a better living than that." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY INGRID JOHANSSON

ALUMNI

News:

Revamping the Brydens

Here's your chance to nominate a special person for an alumni award

THE GENIES, Junos and Oscars may be over for 2005, but the York Alumni Office is just gearing up for its annual awards season. Each year, York University honours alumni who have achieved amazing successes and made remarkable contributions to York and to their communities, by presenting them with Bryden Alumni Awards.

The York University Alumni Association (YUAA) is currently seeking nominations for this year's awards, which will be presented in November. "We want to hear about the whole range of York alumni – every Faculty, every discipline, whether they graduated in the 1960s or just last year," says Naguib Gouda, executive director, Alumni and Advancement Services.

"Nominations are open until Aug. 21, so we're looking forward to reading about some of the truly extraordinary things that York alumni have been doing."

The awards are named in honour of Bruce Bryden, a member of York's first undergraduate class and founding president of the YUAA. Bryden also served for 20 years on York's Board of Governors until his untimely death in 1992. The YUAA held the first Bryden Alumni Awards in 2000.

This year, the YUAA is introducing two new awards and revamping a few of its categories for the 2005 event. "We want the Brydens to capture the innovative spirit of York," says Guy Burry, the recently elected Chair of the YUAA board. "Our alumni are remarkably diverse and they've achieved so many different kinds of success, we concluded

it was time to update the awards to reflect that."

For details on the award categories, see the list below. Here's what nominators should submit: a detailed letter specifically addressing the criteria for the award; the candidate's resumé or curriculum vitae (if possible); and three letters of support. All nominations are confidential.

The Awards

The revamped Bryden awards will be presented to a York alumnus or alumna with these attributes:

PINNACLE ACHIEVEMENT: Has achieved true distinction in his/her professional life or in any field of endeavour and who, by his/her integrity and ability, inspires alumni, faculty, staff and students.

ONE-TO-WATCH: Has made remarkable professional and/or community accomplishments early in his/her career (within 15 years of receiving a bachelor's degree or 10 years of receiving a professional/graduate degree).

REDEFINE THE POSSIBLE: One whose leadership and successes – innovative, unconventional, daring – embody York's tagline "Redefine the Possible".

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION: Has shown dedication to the advancement of York through exceptional service, commitment and/or contributions.

LOCAL HERO: One who is also a current or former employee of York University and who has risen above the call of duty in his/her devotion to York. This award can recognize achievements, leadership, early accomplishments and/or contributions.

For more information, visit www.yorku.ca/alumni or call 1-866-876-2228 for a nomination form.

GLITTERING NIGHT: Alum Sandie Rinaldo of CTV hosts 2004 Brydens



ALUMNI

Giving Back

Atkinson expands its mentorship program

I WASN'T SURE WHAT I was getting into," says David Peck, "but boy, was I pleasantly surprised." Peck (BA '03) is talking about the Student-Alumni Mentorship Program at the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, where he has volunteered since the program was launched in October 2003. "As a mature student," explains Peck, a corporate consultant and practising magician, "Atkinson provided me with so much – a wonderful educa-

tion, great memories and lasting friendships – that I decided it was time to give something back."

Now in its second year, Atkinson's mentorship program provides alumni with a meaningful way to stay connected to their alma mater while making a real difference in a student's academic and professional development. At the outset, alumni and current students are matched based on common professional or career interests, and then are provided with guidance and tools throughout the program, which runs from September to April. Already, more than 200 mentorship matches have taken place since the program began.

"I've really enjoyed being an Atkinson mentor – hearing about my former professors, coming back to campus, and just knowing that I'm making a difference in a student's



life," says mentor Susan Atkinson (BA '02), an administrative consultant. Her first mentee, Jennifer Li, joined the program to "find out about the business administration field and how the industry works." What she got from her mentor far surpassed her expectations, and today she and Atkinson continue to keep in touch as friends. "I remember how I could have used the support of a mentor when I was a student," says Atkinson.

Mentors can contribute to the entire student experience. "Some students are looking

for concrete job search and career planning strategies, while others are still exploring their options," says program administrator Carole Umaña of the Atkinson Dean's Office.

For the 2005-2006 academic year, the Faculty hopes to expand the program significantly to help meet increasing student demand, so it is looking for many more Atkinson grads to become mentors this fall. To find out about upcoming information sessions, call 416-736-5220 or visit www.atkinson.yorku.ca/alumni. **M**

Remember your days at York. And enter to win!

York University's 50th Anniversary is coming soon – in 2009! Think back on your time at York and send us the stories, memories or pictures that made it special.

You'll be contributing to the history of York University – PLUS, you'll be automatically entered into our alumni contest to win your choice of *either* a Kodak EasyShare DX7630 digital camera *or* 4 Platinum Seats at the Finals of the 2005 Rogers Cup international women's tennis championships on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2005, at the Rexall Centre at York University.

To enter, complete this card and send us your stories at the address at right. Or you can enter online at www.yorkhistorycontest.com

Deadline for submissions is June 15, 2005; random draw will be made on July 15, 2005. All entries become the property of York University. Some restrictions and conditions apply – for complete contest rules, please visit www.yorkhistorycontest.com or call 1-866-876-2228.

Name _____
 E-mail _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Postal Code _____
 Telephone _____

York Degree(s)/Diploma/Certificate _____
 Faculty/College _____
 Year of Graduation _____
 Signature _____

YORK

a l u m n i

PLEASE SEND YOUR STORIES, REMEMBRANCES AND PHOTOS TO:

York University Remembered Alumni Contest
 c/o Alumni Office
 West Office Building
 York University
 4700 Keele Street
 Toronto, Ontario
 M3J 1P3

Contest void where prohibited by law.

Class Notes:

1969

Whitehorn, Alan (BA McLaughlin) is a professor of political science at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ont. His daughter **Kate Whitehorn** (MA '04) is currently on contract as a policy analyst with the Ontario government's Community and Social Services branch.

1972

Donnelly, Peter (MA '69, PhD) works as a Christian lay missionary with Break Through Ministries in the Qwaqwa region of the Free State Province in South Africa. He works primarily with AIDS orphans and children of families in crisis.

Orchard, Thelma (née Wheatley) (MA) is author of *My Sad is All Gone: A Family's Triumph over Violent Autism* (2004), offering insight into the education of autistic children and into the world of psychiatry. She also specialized in teaching autistic/DC children for nine years in the Peel District School Board.

Shefman, Alan (BA Hons. McLaughlin) is president of The Edge Quality-Communications Consultants, human rights consulting firm in Vaughan, Ont., and was elected as councillor in Vaughan, Nov. 2004. He has maintained his connection to York as a Fellow of McLaughlin College and associate of York's Centre for Practical Ethics.

1973

Laytner, Anson (BA Spec. Hons. Founders) is an executive director for the American Jewish Committee located in Seattle, Wash. He is author of *Arguing with God: A Jewish Tradition* (1990) and translator for *The Animals Lawsuit Against Humanity: An Illustrated 10th Century Iraqi Ecological Fable* (2005).

1974

Cawker, Ruth (BA '74 Glendon) is an architect with practices in the south of France and London. In 1996, Ruth received an honorary doctor of letters (DLitt Hon.) from York. Her practice will complete work in 2005 restoring the house created for Marc Chagall in 1964 in Saint-Paul, France.

Parker, Jeffery (MES) was appointed consul general of Canada in Seattle, responsible to the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska, in Sept. 2004.

1975

Lambersky, Sid (BA Spec. Hons. '72 Winters, MBA) is VP of Big Lots Capital, Inc. in Chicago. The company acquires inventory from businesses in transition, restructuring, liquidation or bankruptcy.

1978

Cunningham, David (BSc Spec. Hons. Bethune) is owner of D.G. Cunningham & Assoc. in Lindsay, Ont., an environmental consulting firm specializing in natural resources issues related to land development. David is married with three children.

1979

Ross, Ian (MBA) lives with his wife Melody Martin in Qualicum Beach, BC, and is a professor of international business and strategic management in the BBA and MBA programs at Malaspina University College-Nanaimo campus.

1980

Bouchard, Johanne (BSc Bethune) is an executive leadership coach and adviser for marketing executives, international executives and entrepreneurs. She is president of BOSS (Bouchard On Strategic Services), www.boss-ltd.com.

Gutsche, Catherine (BFA Calumet) is Web administrator at Siemens Communications, a division of Siemens Canada Ltd., and has also opened her own freelance Web design business. She is also working on a large series of TIE paintings called "TIE-one-on (the WALL)".

1981

Sissons, Andrea (BA Stong) is programs manager at Bell Mobility's Corporate Fitness Centre in Toronto. She has two daughters, one in third year at University of Toronto and the other in first year at Ontario College of Art. Andrea returned to school in

2002 to do a postgraduate diploma in workplace wellness & health promotion.

1982

Kripalani, Anil N. (MBA) is an attorney at law for Fitzgerald Abbott & Beardsley LLP in Oakland, Calif.

1983

Bonner, Allan (MA) has recently been awarded his Second Dan (degree) karate black belt. Owner-operator of an international crisis management consulting firm, Allan lives in Toronto with his wife of 25 years, Lorna Jackson. He has two boys, Michael and Christian.

Gildiner, Catherine (MA '76, PhD) is the author of the fiction novel *Seduction* (Knopf Canada, 2005) and *Too Close to the Falls* (ECW Press, 1999), a humorous memoir of her childhood. *Too Close* was a Trillium award nominee, won the Different Drummer award, and was on the *Globe and Mail's* best sellers list for 72 weeks.

Pery, Erez (BA Winters) is married with three boys and lives in Israel. Erez is the manager of sales and export for a fashion business that produces hand-loomed and hand-made printed fashion knitwear.

1984

Davis-Gains, Elizabeth (BA Stong) has developed an innovative Yoga Teacher Training program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ont.

Hart, Michael (BA '80 McLaughlin, MBA) is an associate partner with IBM Business Consulting Services. He and his wife Nancy have two kids, ages 20 and 10, and live in Richmond Hill, Ont.

1985

Edwards, Carol (MBA) is a finance instructor at the British Columbia Institute of Technology's School of Business.

1986

Charbonneau, Stephane (BA Hons. Glendon) is consul and senior trade commissioner at the Canadian Consulate in Munich, Germany.

Jackson, Nancy L. (BA '79 Vanier, BEd) is a teacher for the York Region District School Board.

Pilkey, Teresa (BSc Atkinson) lives in Paris, France, and is the quality control assurance director of Experchem Laboratories. She also serves as a regulatory consultant for the drug industry.

1987

Phillippe, Michele (BA Hons. McLaughlin) is a Toronto District School Board vice-principal, married with two stepchildren. Michele would love to hear from her fellow "aarghites" (before The Aargh pub was renamed) at mphilippe@alumni.yorku.ca.

1989

Alia, Valerie (PhD) is a professor of ethics and identity in the Leslie Silver International Faculty of Leeds Metropolitan University. Her latest book, *Media Ethics and Social Change* was published in 2004. Valerie lives in the northeast of England with sons Dave and Dan.

Hannay, Scott (BA Founders) is co-owner of the BRUSH gallery, a commercial art gallery in the Distillery Historic District in Toronto that presents an eclectic variety of works by emerging and established artists.

Rowan, Stephen M. (BA Hons. Atkinson) is a pastor at the Grace Bible Church in Apsley, Ont.

1990

Andrews, John (BA '89, BA Bethune) is manager of corporate communications for the Regional Municipality of Durham, and is working towards his APR through the Canadian Public Relations Society. He has been married five years and has a toddler named Charlotte.

Cacho, Nadean (née McDonald) (BA Bethune) is a labour management consultant for the health maintenance organization Kaiser Permanente in Silver Spring, Maryland. Married to Laurence (a former York student), they have a 4-year-old son, Malcolm Patrick, and twins (1 boy, 1 girl) born Oct. 2004.

Class Notes:

Kraft Sloan, Karen (MES) is Canada's new ambassador for the environment, appointed Feb. 16. She will head Canadian delegations to UN gatherings, and deal with sustainability, the environment and renewable energy.

McNabb, Charlene (BFA Spec. Hons. Bethune) lives in London, Ont., and is a registered art psychotherapist and an approved art therapy supervisor, specializing in children, youth and family therapy, particularly in the areas of sexual and physical abuse and trauma.

Robbins, Michael (BA Hons. Stong) is district manager of Expeditors Canada, Inc., a global freight forwarder & customs broker, in Mississauga, Ont.

1992

Flaherty, Peter (BA '70 Glendon, MA '83, PhD) is a part-time instructor in York's Faculty of Education, working with teacher-candidates, "a job I thoroughly enjoy."

Grevstad, Peter (BA Hons. '91 Glendon, MA) is a professor in the Centre for International Education, Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan.

Lobel, Andrea (BA Spec. Hons. Founders) is a PhD student at McGill University, researching Hebrew Bible interpretation and astronomy/cosmology in religious texts. Married to her sweetheart, Mark, she runs the Montreal Anaphylaxis Support Group and serves as a gifted children's consultant for Mensa Canada.

Rosen, Adrienne (BA Hons. '89 Atkinson, BA Hons.) is the mother of two girls, and after waiting 18 years she married Myra White in June 2004. She is the president and CEO of First International Courier in Toronto (profiled in *YorkU's* Summer 2004 issue).

Wood, Susan M. (MBA) recently moved from a contract position to staff with McRae Integration as its financial controller.

1993

Maddison-Lund, Andria (BA Glendon) lives in Munich, Germany, where she is teaching languages and

working on her masters in intercultural communication & cooperation.

Schultz, Anthony (MBA) is vice-president of engineering at Look Communications Inc., a provider of Internet and wireless broadband video services in Ontario and Quebec.

1995

Redublo, Arthur (BA Spec. Hons. Calumet) works for a Canadian pharmaceutical company based out of Toronto and is pursuing an MA at McMaster University. He would like to reconnect with York grads of '95, diligent@speedpost.net.

Williams, Norman (BAS Atkinson) is a certified management accountant & certified financial manager. He operates Ledgers, an accounting and tax franchise in Burlington, Ont.

1996

Caplan, David (BA Vanier) is a senior writer/reporter at *Star* magazine in New York, where he breaks entertainment-related exclusives and secures celebrity interviews for the magazine. Before joining *Star*, he was an editor at *Women's Wear Daily* for three years.

Chaplin, David (BA Calumet) is a sales manager at Purolator Courier in Mississauga, Ont. Married, he is planning to continue his education.

Fiorini-Carinci, Sonya (BES Spec. Hons. Bethune) is the manager of environmental affairs at George Weston Ltd. She got married in 1997 and has a 3-year-old son.

Tompkins, Kyla D.W. (BA Spec. Hons. Calumet) is a professor of English and women's studies at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. Her research examines how food and eating have been used as metaphors for the negotiation of cultural and racial differences in American culture since the 19th century.

1997

Gibbs, Monica (née Lalomia) (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) is a recruitment manager with the Toronto-based search firm Everest Management Network Inc., focusing on senior level positions in finance, marketing and human resources.

Jemetz, Mykola (BA Spec. Hons. Calumet) recently attained his charter as a financial analyst (CFA). He and his wife, Sarah Fitting, have a baby daughter, Lily.

Kwok, Mimi (BFA Spec. Hons., BEd Winters) has scored & composed music for Canadian film projects. Also an actress, she has appeared in Canada, the US & South America in films, commercials and TV shows (such as "Saturday Night Live" and "Kung Fu: The Legend Continues").

Murphy, Jack (BAS Spec. Hons. Atkinson) has returned to active service in the Canadian Forces and lives in Petawawa, Ont., with wife Deanne and daughters, Caelie & Brin. He spent most of 2002 in training for service in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the NATO-lead SFOR peacekeeping mission. After returning to Canada he was selected to lead and manage health-care operations at the base.

Sugarman, Michael (BA '94, BA Spec. Hons., '95 Founders, LLB) married **Alexandra Katsaros** (BA '95 Vanier) on Jan. 18, 2003.

Yim, Alan (BSW Spec. Hons. Atkinson) is placement manager with the Career Education & Placement Centre at the University of Hong Kong. He places students into internship programs and graduate employment opportunities, and provides career planning advice to students & grads.

1998

Gammon, Kimberly (BSc Bethune) works in the Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Toronto General Hospital. She and her fiancé, Joseph, will be married in fall 2006.

McCormick, Kirsten (née Mungham) (BA Hons. Vanier) is married and has a 3-year-old son, Killian. Busy with family and working at home, she is almost finished her teaching & training adults certificate through Durham College.

Perri-Tsingis, Giulia (BA Vanier) is working at IBM Canada in software sales, with a US-based clientele. She married her university sweetheart Tom in Oct. 2003, and they live in Toronto.

Raymond, Sylvain (MBA) is senior manager of sales force effectiveness within the equipment financing section of GE Commercial Finance. He lives in Montreal with wife Louise Bachand, 4-year-old son Ben and 1-year-old daughter Olivia.

Yan, Miu Chung (MSW) is a professor at the School of Social Work & Family Studies, University of British Columbia.

1999

Khan, Alia (BEd, BA Spec. Hons. Founders) is teaching ESL in Dubai, UAE, and was previously an employment consultant with Seneca College.

Najjar, Michael (MFA) has been named artistic director & instructor of theatre for Portland Community College in Oregon.

O'Neill, Anne (BA '95 Stong, BA Hons.) works for the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board as a secondary English/religious teacher.

2000

Chummar, Noble (LLM) was appointed by the premier of Ontario to the Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons, the regulatory body that governs doctors in Ontario. Noble is the only lawyer on the council.

Guo, Qingzhu (MBA) is VP of marketing & sales at Geopost International China.

Maling, Kyle (BA Stong) publishes and owns *Highrise* magazine, an international design magazine focusing on fashion, architecture, industrial design and art.

Munroe Hotes, Catherine (MA) recently completed her PhD in film & visual culture at the University of Exeter, UK. In 2002, she married Stefan Hotes and on July 26 in the same year she gave birth to their son, Lukas Benjamin. She lives in Tokyo, Japan.

Ostrander, Brian (BA Atkinson) won a seat on the council for Brighton, Ont., where he aims to increase awareness of social challenges in the municipality. This father of two also

Class Notes:

works full-time (for the past 11 years) in the book industry.

St-Cyr, Olivier (BA Hons. Glendon) is engaged to **Tu Loan Vuong** (BA '00 Calumet) and they plan to get married within the next year. They met at York while attending a third-year social science class. Olivier will be completing his PhD at the University of Toronto in April 2006.

2001

Castellano, Jennifer (BA Calumet) relocated to New York City in Aug. 2004 to complete a masters degree in occupational therapy at New York University.

Hare, Lindsay (BScN Spec. Hons. Atkinson) is a part-time clinical course director with York's School of Nursing.

2002

Rollins, Patricia (née Halloran) (BA

Spec. Hons. Calumet) graduated from the Sutherland-Chan School of Massage Therapy in the summer of 2004. She got married on Nov. 20, 2004.

Roman, Denise (PhD) is the author of *Fragmented Identities: Popular Culture, Sex, & Everyday Life in Post-communist Romania* (2003).

2003

Allen, Venice (BA Atkinson) is doing a post-degree certificate in addictions counselling.

Baumgartner, Andrew (MBA '95, LLB '95, BEd) is marrying Lindsay Newman on July 30, 2005, in Fredericton, NB. Andrew left law to become a high-school teacher and currently teaches math and religion at Holy Trinity High School in Bradford, Ont. Classmates can get in touch at andrew.n.baumgartner@sympatico.ca.

Curran, Matthew (BA Hons. '98

Founders, BEd) is a special education teacher with the Peel District School Board and a union activist in the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario.

Khwaja, Fawad (BA Winters) moved to Pakistan and works for an export-import company dealing in carpets, jewelry, furniture and handicrafts.

Mani, Gina (BA Hons. Calumet) is engaged to marry Rohit Navani in Toronto on Aug. 7, 2005. Gina will then move to New York.

2004

Cortes, Rafael (EMBA) is the trade commissioner of Mexico in Toronto. His mandate includes promoting business from Mexico to Canada and direct foreign investment in Mexico.

Storey, April Lynn (BSc Bethune) is a nuclear operator for Ontario Power Generation. She recalls a York lec-

ture in Physics 1410 that mentioned nuclear reactors (specifically CANDU) and how they work. She became fascinated with them, even though only 15 minutes of discussion was spent on them.

In Memoriam

Ross (Silverman), Gerald M., (BA '72 Winters), better known as Jerry, lost his battle with bladder cancer at age 55, peacefully at home in Victoria, BC, on Feb. 15, 2005. He is survived by his best friend and wife of 12 years, Helene, who says Jerry's legacy is: just by knowing him, your life was indescribably better.

Saunders, Shauna (BA Spec. Hons. '97 Glendon) passed away Dec. 3, 2004, at the Duke University Medical Center while awaiting a liver transplant. She was to receive her PhD in economics posthumously from Duke in May 2005.

A 1950s 'red diaper baby' sees parallels today. BY JAMES LAXER

The New Age of Fear

The Toronto I grew up in 50 years ago has changed beyond recognition from the cautious, colourless, Protestant city of my childhood. But the first decade of the 21st century does resemble those distant days in one alarming way. The 1950s was an age of clashing belief systems, and consequently of fear, as is the era in which we live. People get caught in the middle of these conflicts, as I did during my own childhood. The early 1950s was the climax of the Cold War, and in Canada, as south of the border, fear of the reds was at its height.

Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin had been fanning the flames of anti-Communist hysteria. His famous speech in February 1950, talking about Communists in the State Department, struck a chord among Americans who were worried about internal subversion. He began receiving fresh material from J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the FBI. For the next five years, McCarthy's witch hunt gave rise to alarm and paranoia in the United States before elements of the political establishment

Caught between the world

finally decided that the demagogue had to be stopped.

In my family, it was another Joseph who had pride of place. Joseph Stalin, the first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet

Union, had been leader of the struggle to which my parents had devoted their lives for the previous two decades. My father, the son of an orthodox rabbi, had been won over to the Communist cause in the early 1930s, while a student at McGill University. For him the Communists alone appeared willing to stand up unflinchingly against the threat of the Nazis and fascists. And they symbolized the promise of a world without exploitation of workers by bosses in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. My mother, the daughter of a Protestant clergyman who had spent 35 years as a missionary in China, had found her own way to Communism.

When I was a kid, my father worked full-time for the Labour Progressive Party, the name the Communist Party took for itself

James Laxer, author of *Red Diaper Baby: A Boyhood in the Age of McCarthyism*, has taught political science at York since 1971.

toward the end of the Second World War. On Melita Street, near the corner of Christie and Dupont, where I grew up, the working-class men and women mostly shared the view that the party was a menace. Caught between the world of my parents, in whose cause I believed, and the world of the street, I learned to play a survival game, wherein I tried never to let these separate spheres collide. I distributed Communist pamphlets door to door at my parents' behest, but when someone caught me and asked me where I got this red propaganda, I explained that someone had paid me 10 cents to do the delivery. Or, when LPP signs appeared on the front of our house, I told my friends that it was the people downstairs who were putting up the signs.

For me this world of shadows ended in the aftermath of the 20th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, where, at a secret session in 1956, Nikita Khrushchev acknowledged – the

first time a top Soviet Communist had ever done so – that serious crimes had been committed while Stalin was in power. In truth, the revelations barely touched on the true extent of Stalin's atrocities, which had resulted in the

deaths of millions of people. But the revelations destroyed my parents' faith in the party, and within a year they left the LPP along with about half the members of the party.

In our era as in the 1950s, the world is torn by clashing belief systems. Especially in the United States, fear of Communism has been replaced by fear of terrorism. And just as the red scare opened the way for assaults on civil liberties, fear of terror has fuelled the incarceration of people who have been charged with no offence. Beyond the legitimate concern to prevent attacks like those of Sept. 11, 2001, a surveillance state takes shape, so that the communications, and even the reading habits, of large numbers of people are vetted.

Fifty years ago, it was people's political associations that were marshalled to blackball them. Today, a person's religion, ethnic origin and place of birth can be used, with the same devastating effect. ■

