

# YORK

SUMMER 2009

## Northern Light

How writer Joseph Boyden found the path that led to the Giller Prize



**PLUS**

York's elegant 50th birthday  
Barry Callaghan on Atkinson's early years  
The art sharks

The future is theirs to create.

And yours to protect.



## ALUMNI TERM LIFE INSURANCE

**The need for life insurance is one of life's most important lessons.**

Whatever life brings, make sure the people who count on you will be well taken care of. With your Alumni Term Life Insurance plan, you may give your loved ones the financial security to continue living the life you dreamed of for them, no matter what.

Call us at **1 888 913-6333**  
or e-mail **am\_service@manulife.com**

What will life  
teach you?

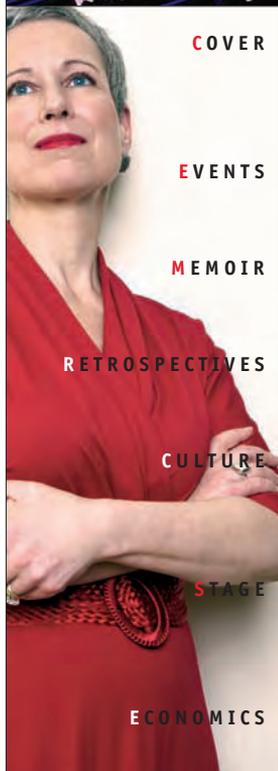
[manulife.com/yorku/mag](http://manulife.com/yorku/mag)

Insurance offered by:

 **Manulife Financial**

The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company

YORK  
**U50**  
DIPLOMÉS  
ALUMNI

COVER  
PHOTOGRAPHY:  
JEFF KIRK

COVER

EVENTS

MEMOIR

RETROSPECTIVES

CULTURE

STAGE

ECONOMICS



- 4 Editor@YorkU** Visions of Atkinson. BY BERTON WOODWARD
- 5 Leading Edge** Rebuilding a sense of community. BY MAMDOUH SHOUKRI
- 6 Universe** Aquatic Osteoporosis?...What They're Reading...Eye on a Cure...Seeing is Believing...Helpful Hobbies...Big Stuff, Little Place...Heavens Above...Rapid Transit
- 12 Northern Light**  
Award-winning author Joseph Boyden may live in New Orleans but his heart is in the Ontario bush. BY MARTHA TANCOCK
- 16 Words and Music: York's Elegant 50th**  
York celebrates its half century with a high-powered symposium and a gala concert.
- 18 Only at Atkinson**  
One of Canada's leading writers recalls the college's early days. BY BARRY CALLAGHAN
- 22 A Life in Arts**  
A retrospective display looks back at 50 years in York's biggest Faculty.
- 24 The Art Sharks**  
Schulich's Don Thompson paints the high-priced contemporary art world with a marketing brush. BY MICHAEL TODD
- 26 Drama Queen**  
Elizabeth Bradley leads one of North America's top theatre schools on the strength of a York BFA – and a lifetime of making theatre happen. BY MARTHA TANCOCK
- 28 The G-Word**  
More growth? Get over it. Economist Peter Victor says there's a better way. BY MICHAEL TODD
- 30 York People**  
Musician Jarek Dabrowski...Comedian Diane Flacks...MBA booster Damon Knights
- 33 Giving**  
York seeks \$5 million in urgent donations for students.
- 35 Alumni**  
Linking up on LinkedIn...York in 50 seconds...Class Notes
- 46 Back Talk**  
My sliding-door moment. BY SANDIE RINALDO

SUMMER 2009

Visions of Atkinson. BY BERTON WOODWARD

# Night and Day

**I**n my observation, old English professors never fade away – they just keep writing. So it is with not-so-old Barry Callaghan, a magical Canadian writer who also bears a magical name (his father was Morley Callaghan, another of Canada’s greats). Barry Callaghan spent 37 years as an English professor at York, based in what began as Atkinson College, became the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies and, as of July 1, will join with the Faculty of Arts to create a new entity, the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. This transition coincides with York’s 50th anniversary, also covered in this issue, a time of looking back and looking ahead.

So it seemed natural to turn to Callaghan for a look at the early days of Atkinson, which was founded just three years after York itself began in 1959. You can read Callaghan’s vivid memoir on page 18.

But that is hardly all he’s writing these days. He has just launched his latest novel, *Beside Still Waters* (McArthur & Co., 2009), a well-reviewed love story that ranges around the globe. What seems to have tickled him most, however, is the fact that his nearly 600-page autobiographical opus, *Barrelhouse Kings* (1998) has now been translated into Italian. As we finalized the *YorkU* piece, he was preparing to go to Italy for that launch, somewhat to his amazement.

To illustrate Callaghan’s work, we have made use of two Atkinson posters from times past. One comes with a story attached. On page 19, you’ll find the striking, literally dark rendition of a guy



in a car and a slightly mysterious young woman, under the headline “University at Night”. Those of us who have seen this poster, which has survived in framed versions in at least two offices on campus, have marvelled at how freewheeling York must have been in the 1970s to approve such a delightfully self-mocking, not to mention suggestive, piece of promotion. “It was the times,” we’d say to each other.

Er, not quite. It turns out that Robert Fothergill, then a colleague of Callaghan’s in the Atkinson English Department and later a York theatre professor, approached his friend Charles Pachter, the renowned Canadian artist, about doing a poster. Pachter had other commitments, so he recycled the nighttime image from his existing work. The poster was printed, but legendary Atkinson Dean Harry Crowe, who also figures in Callaghan’s piece, had a night’s deliberation and then, with a chuckle, nixed it for use.

That the poster has survived at York for some 30 years may in fact convey some of the spirit of Atkinson that Callaghan recalls in his memoir. Much changed for Atkinson over the decades as the needs of students themselves changed, but the legacy continues. ■

# YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 5

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

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

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

**STAFF WRITERS** David Fuller  
dfuller@yorku.ca  
Martha Tancock  
mtancock@yorku.ca

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

**COPY EDITOR** Beth Zabloski  
zabloski@yorku.ca

**CONTRIBUTORS**

John Beebe, Gary Beechey, Barry Callaghan, Jonathan Dolphin, John Hryniuk, Sophie Kinactchouk, Jeff Kirk, Lindsay Lozon, Sandra McLean, Bruce Mitchell, Sandie Rinaldo, Jenny Pitt-Clark, RSquared, Liz Teodorini, Sean Watters

*YorkU* is published bi-monthly, five times during the academic year, by the Marketing & Communications Division of York University. All issues circulate on York’s campuses. The October, February and Summer editions are also sent to alumni, for a total circulation in those issues of 200,000 each.

**CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER**  
Richard Fisher

**PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR**  
Berton Woodward

**ADVERTISING**

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

See rate card, back issues and digital edition at [yorku.ca/yorku](http://yorku.ca/yorku)

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

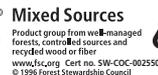
Marketing & Communications Division  
West Office Building, York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3  
Tel: 416-736-5979  
Fax: 416-736-5681

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

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

ISSN 1708-4512

PRINTED IN CANADA



**YORK UNIVERSITY**  
**U**  
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

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

Despite a challenging year, we have much to be proud of. BY MAMDOUH SHOUKRI

# Coming Together

**I**t's hard at this time of year not to be optimistic. The days are long and the air is sweet – the weather cannot help but make you feel truly alive. On a university campus in late spring, there is another, more obvious sign that all is right with the world: students robed for convocation. For the faculty and staff of a university, there is no more gratifying sight.

Convocation means that a university is sending its graduates out into the world to share what they have learned through years of study and research. For their families, it is a time to look back with pride and forward with hope.

Convocation is, by definition, a calling together. And at York, at this time, we must heed this call. We must come together as a community, as a family. Students, faculty and staff – we all have York University attached to our names and identities. It is part of who we are. So it only makes sense to build the kind of university we want, and to treat each other as we want

## One of my priorities is to

to be treated.

This has been a challenging year, in more ways than one: a lengthy labour disruption, the difficult economic climate and student behaviour that has been, at times, less than collegial. Despite these challenges, however, we have much to be proud of at York.

One of my priorities is to help rebuild a sense of community, and I believe that dialogue is key to building a sense of community – with unions, faculty, student groups, staff, parents and stakeholders alike. It's surprising how far civil discourse can take you. It's hard to turn your back on someone with whom you have a good working relationship.

To this end, I have been holding round tables with members of the York community to discuss ideas about how to move the University forward into its next 50 years. They have been well-attended and have produced some interesting conversations and many good ideas.

---

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



In addition, I have struck the Task Force on Student Life, Learning & Community to review concerns about the student environment on the York campuses. It will examine the broad spectrum of student life, the learning environment and student community at York University, with special attention to the relationships between and among students, as well as between students and other parts of the community.

There are still challenges, to be sure; the global financial crisis, for instance, is showing few signs of letting up. But

the important thing is not so much where we stand, to paraphrase the American poet Oliver Wendell Holmes, as in what direction we are moving, and I believe that York is moving in the right direction.

Our goal at York is to educate citizens of the world who are able to participate in the life of their times. What gives me the most pleasure about participating in convocation ceremonies is knowing that our graduates take with them not only a body of knowledge and the ability to think critically, but the values and spirit of this place.

York is a dynamic University, still young and still evolving; we have great strengths and even greater potential. The only way to reach that potential is to bring together the entire York community – students, staff, faculty, alumni and their families. Together we can build on our 50 years of success, and look to the next 50 full of hope and confidence. ■

## Aquatic Osteoporosis?

Why calcium decline threatens freshwater lakes

**I**t's been dubbed "aquatic osteoporosis". Whatever you call it, loss of calcium in soft-water boreal lakes could spell trouble for already beleaguered freshwater resources. York biology Professor Norman Yan and grad Adam Jeziorski (MSc '05), now a Queen's University doctoral student, along with their York/Queen's research team, have been studying 700 lakes in Ontario, northern New York state and Nova Scotia to find out how the changing chemistry is affecting lake ecosystems. The results of their study were recently published in the journal *Science*.

"Our study focused on a water flea known as daphnia. It's a key link in the food chain in lakes," says Yan. Calcium is an essential nutrient for all lake-dwelling organisms, he says. Daphnia eat tiny algae and other tiny organisms, keeping our lakes clean, but the fleas absorb their calcium from the lake water. The daphnia are, in turn, eaten by larger aquatic predators such as fish that also have high calcium demands.

"The problem is when calcium decline transforms the aquatic food web," says Yan. "Daphnia are like canaries in the coal mine, and if they are in trouble, chances are other, larger calcium-rich animals like crayfish, fish and mollusks, not to mention animals such as loons that depend on them, are also in trouble. The problem will likely worsen if we don't manage our forests sustainably." Yan and colleagues link calcium decline to the long-term effect of acid rain on soils, which depletes calcium levels in runoff.

Yan says we can still slow or even reverse the situation. "The problem of calcium decline can be reversed with further reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions in North America and better logging practices. We have solved enormous environmental problems in the past, and we have the knowledge to solve this too. The question is, do we have the will?" ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON



# What They're Reading

York people reveal what's on the bedside table

## William Denton

Web librarian, York Libraries

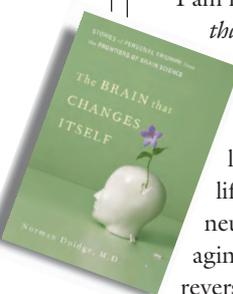
I reread a lot of fiction. It's nice to visit old friends again. Recently I reread Anthony Powell's 12-book sequence *A Dance to the Music of Time*, one of the best things ever written in English. To honour the late Donald Westlake I'm rereading what he wrote as Richard Stark about the remorseless professional thief Parker. Today I'm on *Slayground*. For non-fiction, next up is Chris Turney's *Ice, Mud and Blood: Lessons from Climates Past*, about paleoclimatology. Natural historic climate change has much to tell us about what humans are causing now.



## Don Thompson

Marketing professor emeritus,  
Schulich School of Business

I am halfway through *The Brain that Changes Itself*, about the revolution occurring in the field of neurology – that the brain is not hardwired early in life, unable to adapt, but has lifelong “plasticity”, and that neurological disease and the aging process can be treated and reversed. Author Norman Doidge is a psychiatrist at Columbia University, and the book is full of rich case histories. I just finished *Crowdsourcing: Why the Power of the Crowd is Driving the Future of Business* by Jeff Howe, as background to my own next book. It is a fascinating description of how communities of interest like Google and Wikipedia can innovate, write and run business initiatives more effectively than traditional organizations.



# Eye on a Cure

Can Pac-Man fix a common vision problem?

**I**t's a novel idea – use a computer game to help cure what's known as convergence insufficiency (CI), an inability to maintain effortless alignment of both eyes. Computer engineering Professor Robert Allison, a member of York's Centre for Vision Research, along with colleagues at York and the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry, have figured out a way to use a modified 3-D version of the popular arcade game Pac-Man as a way to treat CI at home.

In their study, Allison and colleagues had patients play the game for 20 minutes a day, five days a week, for two weeks. They found patients' eye coordination improved as they advanced through the game.

Tristan Carvelho (BASC Spec. Hons. '05, MSc '08), who developed the game as a York computer science student, chose the maze genre because it appealed to both males and females across a wide variety of ages, says Allison. “This type of game has a lot of replay value since it doesn't really have an ‘end’. That's important because the therapy needs to continue over several weeks,” says Allison. “We chose an updated version of Pac-Man because the game has nostalgic appeal and a proven track record as one of the most successful games in the genre.”

Approximately five per cent of the population is affected by CI, a disorder that often causes blurred or double vision. “Studies have shown office-based vision therapies – or OBVT – are more effective than home-based ones, but OBVT is expensive and requires time away from work, school or other responsibilities,” says Allison. “The majority of eye exercises are tedious and patients often get discouraged and stop. Our goal is to motivate patients to comply with their treatment by incorporating home-based therapy through games.” ■

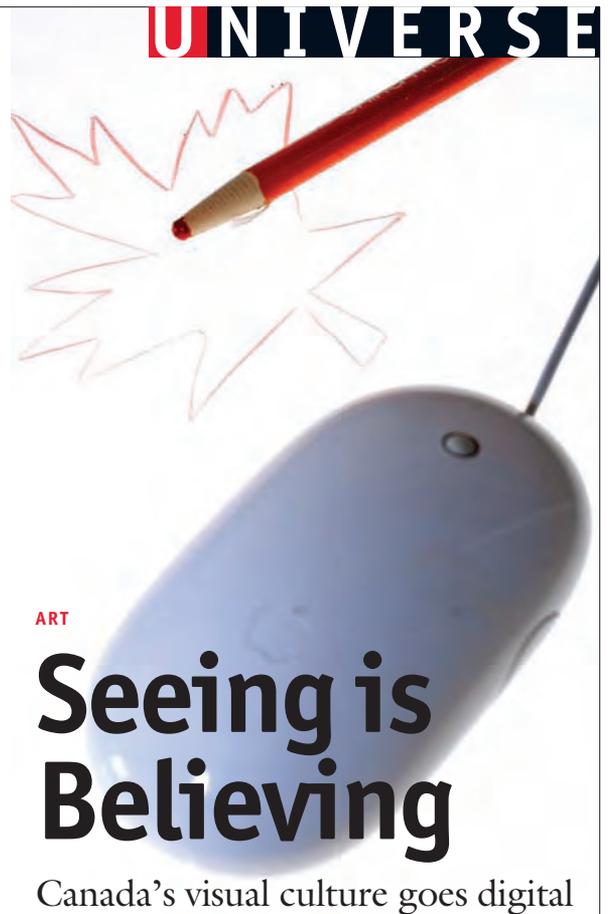
**L**ooking for a visual image or painting? You can find almost anything you want regarding “visual culture” on the Internet these days, but you can only find The Canadian Art Database (CAD) – devoted solely to contemporary Canadian art production – at York University. And that’s where visual arts Visiting Professor Bill Kirby comes in.

Kirby, who created and has worked on the project for the past 10 years, brought the CAD with him when he was hired by York in 2008. Now CAD – [www.ccca.ca](http://www.ccca.ca) – is housed within York’s Faculty of Fine Arts.

It’s a unique project, says Kirby, who began it as a collection of information on Canadian artists compiled when he was director of the Canada Council for the Arts’ Art Bank. “When I left that position in 1995 I decided to assemble information I had on artists into a database. It had modest beginnings – a Web site with 60 images by 60 artists – but it gradually grew, until 2000, when it took off.”

In 2000, Kirby received funding from the Canadian Culture Online Program of the federal Department of Canadian Heritage and from The Ontario Trillium Foundation. That was the financial impetus he needed to get the ball rolling. Kirby’s database now contains over 54,000 images, more than 600 media clips, and over 2,400 texts by 800 visual and media artists, graphic designers, writers and curators. And it is still expanding, he says. York students are helping.

Kirby is currently focused on developing a multimedia chronology of contemporary Canadian art by documenting a wide range of material from the archives of various Canadian art organizations. The chronology will set the context within which the artists, designers and writers created their work, effectively documenting the history of contemporary Canadian art. ■



ART

## Seeing is Believing

Canada’s visual culture goes digital



BUSINESS

## Helpful Hubbies

Top female execs reveal a secret to success

**I**t’s long been known that behind many successful women executives are supportive husbands. But little was known about what shape that support took – until now. Human resources management Professor Souha Ezzedeen of York’s School of Administrative Studies recently co-authored a qualitative study looking at the spousal support received and valued by executive women.

The study probed the attitudes of 20 married executive and senior-level women toward their spouse’s support. Female business leaders, it turned out, valued emotional support above all; that is, a partner who exhibits “empathic listening, especially during high-stress episodes”. Housework apparently was not high on the list of needs since household help could be hired but emotional support could not, notes Ezzedeen.

Husbands’ willingness to care for other family members was also highly valued by executive women, adds Ezzedeen, who says the study conveys an important message. “I think this study should help ambitious women feel more optimistic about their lives in the sense that they can pursue a high-achieving career without compromising their chances at marriage or an intimate partnership. The men in our study were spoken of in more or less glowing terms. They’re not perfect, but you can tell they are trying to be supportive of their ambitious wives.”

Ezzedeen, who co-authored the study with her former Penn State Harrisburg MBA student Kristen Grossnickle Ritchey, says there were a few personal surprises for her in the results. One was that some men were willing to put their careers on hold or relocate along with their partner. “I was also surprised to see men are capable of evolving around their wife’s growing career and will adjust their support as well as their values in response.” ■



# Big Stuff, Little Place

Why do so many elite athletes come from smaller centres?

**I**f you want to be big – a big athlete that is – you could do worse than grow up in a small city or town. In a recent study, Joe Baker, a professor in York’s School of Kinesiology & Health Science in the Faculty of Health, found smaller cities are more likely to produce elite athletes than larger ones.

That seems almost counterintuitive. After all, everyone thinks big cities would be the place to be for aspiring athletes – the best tracks, pools, arenas, coaches. But cities with populations over 500,000 pose lots of problems for a young athlete, says Baker.

“Ever try to organize a game of pickup hockey in Toronto?” he laughs. “It may be easier to develop sport-related creativity in smaller centres,” he says. “I don’t think it has anything to do with the distribution of innate talent. Our working hypothesis is that it’s more to do with differences in access to essential resources or involvement in less structured forms of sport. In larger centres athletes generally are involved in sport in a very structured way.”

Baker and colleagues, including Queen’s University sports psychologist Jean Côté, the study’s lead author, found the optimal community size for the development of a professional athlete is greater than 1,000 but less than 500,000. Baker says these are places where children enjoy more and safer space for unstructured play, which may promote higher levels of skill development.

Not much is known about the causes of this effect and Baker is somewhat concerned how the study results will be used. “This kind of study could have an important effect on the behaviour of elite sport scouts,” he says. “But if they’re limiting their searches to medium-sized areas they could be missing large pools of potential talent.” ■



ASTRONOMY

# Heavens Above

The York Observatory goes online with live viewing and chat

**W**e’re all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars, said Oscar Wilde. Certainly Paul Delaney, director of the York Observatory and senior lecturer in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, Faculty of Science & Engineering, is looking at them and he’s setting up four telescopes with a real-time online feed so others can do so too.

Now astronomy buffs around the world can see what York’s telescopes are tracking and join an interactive online chat room with resident astronomy experts. The “online observatory” is part of York’s 50th-anniversary celebrations and marks the International Year of Astronomy. It’s also an example of Delaney’s own long-standing commitment to public education about astronomy.

“This is the first time York has shown images from multiple

telescopes live,” says Delaney. “Online public viewing reaches a worldwide audience and it’s very interactive in the chat room.” Images will be broadcast from the observatory’s 40-centimetre Schmidt-Cassegrain and 60-centimetre classical Cassegrain reflecting telescopes, augmented by a wide-field, short-focal-length 90-millimetre-diameter refractor and an all-sky meteor camera.

Delaney says all the classic planets will be visible, as well as the moon. “They’re always the big favourites,” says Delaney, laughing.

For viewing, visit [astronomy.blog.yorku.ca](http://astronomy.blog.yorku.ca). Viewing times from May to August will be 9 to 11pm each Monday evening. “The site will be up all the time but new images and the chat room will only be active Monday nights,” says Delaney. ■

BIOLOGY

# Rapid Transit

York's Bridget Stutchbury finds songbird speeds worth crowing about



Using high-tech miniaturized tracking devices attached to the backs of migrating songbirds, York biologist Bridget Stutchbury and her fellow researchers have astounded the world with the news of how much day-to-day distance our feathered friends cover while migrating. Songbirds also cover those distances in record time. In a study published in the journal *Science*, Stutchbury found they fly three times faster than previously thought.

The tracking devices, or geolocators (pictured), weigh only 1.3 to 1.5 grams. “The geolocators are like tiny backpacks – lighter than a dime – that rest on the base of the back,” says Stutchbury, who is based in York’s Faculty of Science & Engineering. “We were a little worried they would slow our study birds down, but that didn’t happen.” Stutchbury’s right about that. One purple martin they tracked took only 13 days during spring to return to its breeding colony in North America from Brazil. (Interestingly, the same bird’s fall migration to Brazilian wintering grounds took 43 days.)

Data from the geolocators indicate that songbirds can fly more than 500 kilometres per day if they want to. This was surprising. Formerly most scientists guesstimated daily flight distance was closer to 150 kilometres per day.

The study, partly funded by the National Geographic Society and proceeds from Stutchbury’s book *Silence of the Songbirds* (excerpted in *YorkU*, October 2007), found songbirds’ overall migration rate was two to six times more rapid in spring than in fall. Geolocators were attached to 14 wood thrushes and 20 purple martins breeding in Pennsylvania in 2007. Researchers then tracked their migration to South America and back to North America. In summer 2008, the team retrieved geolocators from five wood thrushes and two purple martins and reconstructed their individual migration routes. ■

Award-winning author Joseph Boyden  
may live in New Orleans  
but his heart is in the Ontario bush.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

# Northern Light

**J**OSEPH BOYDEN IS A TEASE. Before surrendering to the irresistible opening page in *Through Black Spruce*, his 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning novel about a Cree bush pilot, you might pause at the dedication. Beneath each of the four names listed are words of a strange tongue not translated anywhere in this suspenseful sequel to the York grad's 2005 runaway bestseller, *Three Day Road*. The mystery words are Cree and the novel is peppered with them, though not these particular ones. If you can't translate, you might never find out that Amanda Nisakihakan is "my wife, my love"; Jacob Nkosis is "my son"; and William and Pamela Kotakiyak Nicishanu are "my other family, too".

But you will turn the page anticipating something exotic and original.

You won't be disappointed. In *Through Black Spruce*, Boyden delivers the story of Will Bird, fearless bush pilot and son of Xavier, First World War Cree sniper and the main character in Boyden's first novel. As Will lies in a coma in a Moose Factory, Ont. hospital, he whispers to his family, trying to figure out how he ended up so broken, while his niece, visiting him daily, whispers in his ear the tale of her search for her missing supermodel sister.

"Joseph Boyden shows us unforgettable characters and a northern landscape in a way we have never seen them before," stated the Giller judges, Bob Rae, Margaret Atwood and Irish author Colm Tóibín. For the 42-year-old novelist, "winning the Giller was like a stamp of approval, a nod that what I am pursuing is what people want to read and think is worthwhile reading." That pursuit – telling stories of First Nations people – wasn't something he planned when he fixated on a fiction-writing career.

But it is something that emerged from his childhood experience. Though his ancestry is primarily Irish Catholic and Scottish, Boyden also has strong Ojibwa and Métis bloodlines. Every summer, he and his sisters and brothers camped on Christian Island, home of Beausoleil First Nation, in Georgian Bay. That's where he first heard stories of legendary First World War Ojibwa sniper Francis Pegahmagabow, the inspiration for *Three Day Road*.



Boyden grew up in Toronto's suburban Willowdale, the third-youngest of 11 children. Eight when his doctor father died, the boy who devoured *Encyclopedia Britannica* became a teenage rebel who wrote "angsty" poetry. "I was struggling with what I wanted to be and who I was." At Jesuit-run Brebeuf College School, named after the French missionary Jean de Brébeuf who was killed by Iroquois in 1649, Boyden was football captain one day and politely asked to leave the next – for cutting his hair in a mohawk. He flourished at an alternative school and decided to go to university.

For five years at York, he soaked up the Western canon and honed his writing skills. "It was incredibly enriching and eye-opening. It really focused me." When author and York English Professor Bruce Powe said "you could write for a living if you wanted to," Boyden rushed to enrol in the Creative Writing Workshop at the University of New Orleans after gaining his York BA in 1991. "I was very hungry to learn to write." And that storied Louisiana city, so steeped in history and music, called him like a siren. "It seemed dangerous and beautiful at the same time."

His first year there he met Amanda, also an aspiring writer, chucked his Great Canadian Novel and turned his hand to short stories. The first time he wrote about the North, his spirit went into liftoff and his classmates oohed and aahed. "I was writing about a world no one down here knew about and I had lots of access to." His path became clear.

In 1994, he and Amanda graduated, married, then pursued dreams that left them apart for months at a time. She toured Canada and the US as a professional trapeze artist and contortionist. He flew to Moosonee, Ont. and travelled up and down the James Bay coast teaching communications to Cree students enrolled at the Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology. "It changed my life."

Back at the University of New Orleans in 1998 as writers-in-residence, the reunited Boydens sat down at the dining room table together and began writing. Three years later, out came Boyden's first book of short stories, *Born With a Tooth*. Then in 2005 – the same year the pair had to flee the ravages of Hurricane Katrina for a few months – Penguin Group Canada offered Boyden a princely advance for his first novel, *Three Day Road*, and he shot into the literary stratosphere.

The book won a slew of national prizes – the Amazon.ca/Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the inaugural McNally Robinson Aboriginal Book of the Year Award and more. Translated into 15 languages and published in more than 50 countries, it flew off the shelves and had everyone talking – from author Isabel Allende on NBC's "Today" show to sparring panellists on CBC Radio's

"Canada Reads". It was nominated for a 2005 Governor General's Literary Award, made the 2007 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award long list and won a 2008 Prix Littéraire in France.

"I was dumbfounded and happily amazed," says Boyden, especially for the attention it brought to First Nations people. "What I write about is very, very important to me. That part of the country is so important yet so few people know anything about it, so the attention in Canada and abroad is a great bonus."

Four or five times a year, Boyden travels north, like a migrating Canada goose. He picks up his teenage son Jacob, from a long-ago relationship, in Toronto and the two drive to Georgian Bay to see Boyden's mom or fly to Moosonee to fish, hunt or go snowmobiling, and catch up with Will Tozer, Boyden's friend and the inspiration for Will Bird in *Through Black Spruce*. Boyden sheds the noise of modern urban life and grounds himself again in the still, remote and spectacular northern landscape. "It's humbling."

What do his Cree friends think of Boyden's books? Are they leading literary tours yet? "They're proud of me," says Boyden. "But then again they're very polite. They would never say they didn't like them," he laughs. "So I'm not sure."

He's devoted a portion of his \$40,000 Giller windfall to creating an annual scholarship for a James Bay student heading for university. The first will be presented this autumn. "They give me so much. I want to give something back."

Recently, he also established Moose River Waterkeeper, a local organization affiliated with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s Waterkeeper Alliance to keep waterways clean. In March, he hosted an episode of CBC Radio's "The Current" on water issues, and in June, his cover story on Kennedy appears in *Zoomer* magazine. "If I've got a voice in Canada, it would be silly and wrong of me not to speak out about things like the environment, which has always been important to me."

By July, though, this part-time journalist and water activist will "shut down", park himself at the dining room table across from Amanda (herself a successful author of two novels and his most enlightened critic) and start pecking on his laptop. He's finished *Louis Riel & Gabriel Dumont* for Penguin's Extraordinary Canadians series and published his interview with The Tragically Hip's Gord Downie in *Maclean's*. His plate is clear.

So what's next? Boyden has been teasing interviewers with the answer. He plans to work on two novels at once – the third in the Bird family trilogy and a "big, juicy, historical epic" about which all he'll reveal is "it's very Canadian". "I'm not trying to be coy here," he says, "but I don't know which one will win!" ■

**"If I've got a voice in Canada, it would be silly and wrong of me not to speak out about things like the environment."**

# TRANSFORM<sup>50</sup>

You can transform students' lives. Give to York's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bursaries and Awards program to provide immediate assistance to students at York facing the economic challenges of 2009. Close to one-quarter of the \$185 million of funds pledged to the York to the Power of 50 campaign have been directed to graduate and undergraduate awards, bursaries and scholarships. Add your support today and help some of our country's brightest minds reach their academic and research goals.



For more information, contact York University Foundation at 416-650-8210 or visit [www.yorku.ca/foundation](http://www.yorku.ca/foundation)



# YORK TO THE POWER OF 50

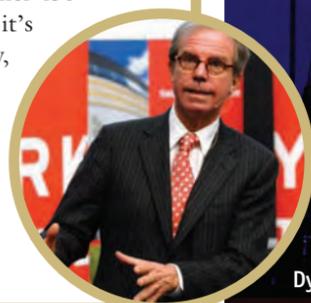
# Words and Music

York celebrates its 50th birthday with a high-powered symposium and a gala concert

**T**HE HALLMARK EVENT in the celebration of York's 50th anniversary, which continues all year (see [yorku50.ca](http://yorku50.ca)), was the 50+50 Symposium, subtitled "An Interdisciplinary Discussion of Pretty Much Everything". Opening the day after York's March 26 birthday, the two-day symposium featured lectures and discussions by eight leading thinkers. Some nuggets:

"THE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE in the last 50 years is we moved from a world of atoms to a world of bits. You can trace almost everything that's happened, whether it's changes in intellectual property, whether it's changes in how you deal with people socially, whether it's what the future of the book or the newspaper is – they all trace themselves back to that statement of fact."

**Nicholas Negroponte**  
MIT digital media expert,  
founder of One Laptop per Child



"WE APPEAR TO BE RELUCTANT to call to account the intolerant countries who abuse their citizens, and instead hide behind silencing concepts like cultural relativism or domestic sovereignty or root causes. These are concepts that excuse intolerance. Silence in the face of intolerance means intolerance wins."

**Rosalie Silberman Abella**  
Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada



**I**T WAS A NIGHT OF BLACK TIES and ball gowns when more than 300 invited guests and ticket winners converged on the Tribute Communities Recital Hall to see top alumni talent perform at the York in Concert Black Tie Gala for York's 50th. Hosted by Barbara Budd (BA '74), co-host of CBC Radio's "As It Happens", the event included vocals by opera singer Vania Chan (BFA Spec. Hons. '08), crooner Matt Dusk (BFA Spec. Hons. '02) and Latin singer Amanda Martinez (IMBA '99), among others. There were dancers choreographed by Debra Brown (BFA Spec. Hons. '78), longtime choreographer for Cirque de Soleil, and York dance Professor Susan Cash (BFA Spec. Hons. '78, MA '07) and even a whirling dervish, Sashar Zarif (MA '07).

Interspersed were memories delivered by prominent grads, such as writer Katherine Govier (MA '72), and a reading by author Nino Ricci (BA Spec. Hons. '81). The most unexpected performance may have come from lanky York English Professor John Lennox (BA '67), who delivered a rousing rendition of York's song: "Come along and join our throng as we sing our song. VICTOORRRYYYYY, VICTORY!" The applause was thunderous.



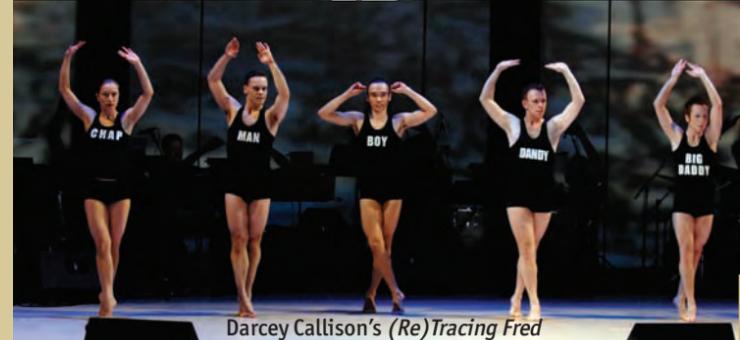
Dylan Bell, Suba Sankaran and Andrew Craig



Singers from a cappella group Wibi Jazzin



Lennox



Darcey Callison's (Re)Tracing Fred



Zarif



Kevin Laliberté and Martinez



Cash's The Bach Dual



**Sheila Watt-Cloutier**  
Canadian Inuit activist

"IT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, the inaction of the world to address this issue [of global warming] as urgently as it needs to be addressed.... You may say, 'which rights exactly?' All the rights that are entrenched in the 1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man – the right to health, the right to safety, the right to subsist, the right to culture."

"RIGHT NOW THE FRONT LINE is the Arctic. Global warming has opened up the Northwest Passage. Countries are eyeing the Arctic oil and resources, there are no rules and they can do what they want. We are back in a free-for-all Wild West of armament. The European Union, China, Russia and Japan all want to be players in the north. Who is taking the lead as mediator...? Should that not be us?"

**Lloyd Axworthy**  
University of Winnipeg president,  
former foreign affairs minister



**Margaret Atwood**  
Author, cultural icon

"HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE before people just get tired of being available at all times, in contact at all times, turned on or wired in at all times? The human being is not designed to have its 'on' button lit up 24-7. The new cool thing will probably be monasteries."

"[GLOBALLY] THE PRODUCTION OF CULTURAL DIFFERENCE – whether it's in matters of clothing or language, or in deep issues like the economy – will always outstrip the force of sameness, however much the forces of capital commoditization want to reduce a world of differences."

**Arjun Appadurai**  
New York University expert  
on global cultural flows



# ONLY AT ATKINSON

One of Canada's leading writers recalls the college's freewheeling early days – and nights. **BY BARRY CALLAGHAN**

*On July 1, the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, formerly Atkinson College, and the Faculty of Arts will close and be succeeded by the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, combining the strengths of both in a new unit. The Atkinson legacy will be strong – the new Faculty is designed to cater to students of all ages, with courses available at a wide variety of times.*

*Author, poet and short-story writer Barry Callaghan, who has just published his latest novel *Beside Still Waters* (McArthur & Co., 2009), arrived at Atkinson in 1965, just three years after it opened as an evening college for adults, and was a professor there until 2002. He wrote this memoir for YorkU.*

**O**N A CLEAR AFTERNOON IN MAY, I was walking along Queen's Park Crescent with Marshall McLuhan. I had just completed, in a stuffy office, the oral defence of my doctorate. Marshall, all elbows and shoulder bones in a tweed suit, had been one of my examiners. I had done well. We had had a good time as we had befuddled his fellow examiners by talking about the clotted and often confusing poetry of Hart Crane. Then he startled me. He quoted Patrick Kavanagh, the Irish poet:

*Sitting on a wooden gate,  
Sitting on a wooden gate,  
Sitting on a wooden gate,  
He didn't care a damn.*

We walked on, pausing at the corner in front of his college and mine, where I had been a teaching fellow for three years – University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto – and almost as an aside he said to me, "Of course, no matter how well you've done, they will not hire you here." I was taken aback. I had taught well for them, I had gone through their rigorous PhD program with straight Firsts.

As it turned out, he was right.

The Reverend L.K. Shook, the president of the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, the man who had encouraged me to enter the graduate school, a man who knew I was now looking for a job, took me aside and said, "I believe it is a bad thing for a man to teach at the place where he has been taught."

I thought, "That's a strange thing to hear from an old priest teaching young priests how to become old priests."

Then, Donald F. Theall, an extraordinary scholar who had guided me through the Toronto graduate school, told me I should come with him. "I'm going to a place called Atkinson College, a new college at the new university – York. I'm going to be chairman of the English Department and a new Communications Department, and I'll hire you right away." I said I'd go.

"By the way," he said, "it's a night college on the outskirts of town."

"Great," I said.

And it was great. Going to Atkinson College, and teaching there for the next 37 years, was the luckiest thing that ever happened to me, not just because I was forced to leave the dry but seductive urgings of celibate stone on the Toronto campus, but because at Atkinson, through those days, I was able to become who I was meant to be, and I was able to do this because I was part of a college that was, at the same time, becoming what it was meant to be. Hand in hand, in a kind of Aristotelian dance.

At Atkinson, we were night people. That is very important. We were not day scholars wearily moonlighting in the evenings to make a little bonus money to pay down the mortgage. We were a new kind of college, our classrooms operating only at night, and only with adult students. When I came on campus to teach those students, I came on in the dark, in the dead of winter (the heart of our school year), and when I walked

between office and classrooms, I walked like we all walked – head down into the numbing cold night wind that blew across open flatland spaces. Some students had to walk a half mile into that wind, their cars parked on unlit lots on the outskirts of nowhere.

They were special students. They were adults. As a teaching fellow at the University of Toronto, my students had been three or four years younger than I was (I started at Atkinson College when I was 28); and when they hadn't read the text for the day, which was all too often, we would end up talking – between those unread stanzas, so to speak – about sex and God, whether Joe Btfsplk's overhead cloud in *Li'l Abner* was an atomic cloud, and suicide as a logical option (Camus). All interesting, but highly speculative for those who were near youngsters.

At Atkinson, my first students were almost all older than I was – perhaps 10 years older on average – and several knew despondency, one or two had gone into the church, one had tried to commit suicide, nearly all had been married, all had suffered several broken hearts, all had often measured out their hours with coffee spoons, one had done time for manslaughter, and several had actually been to war.

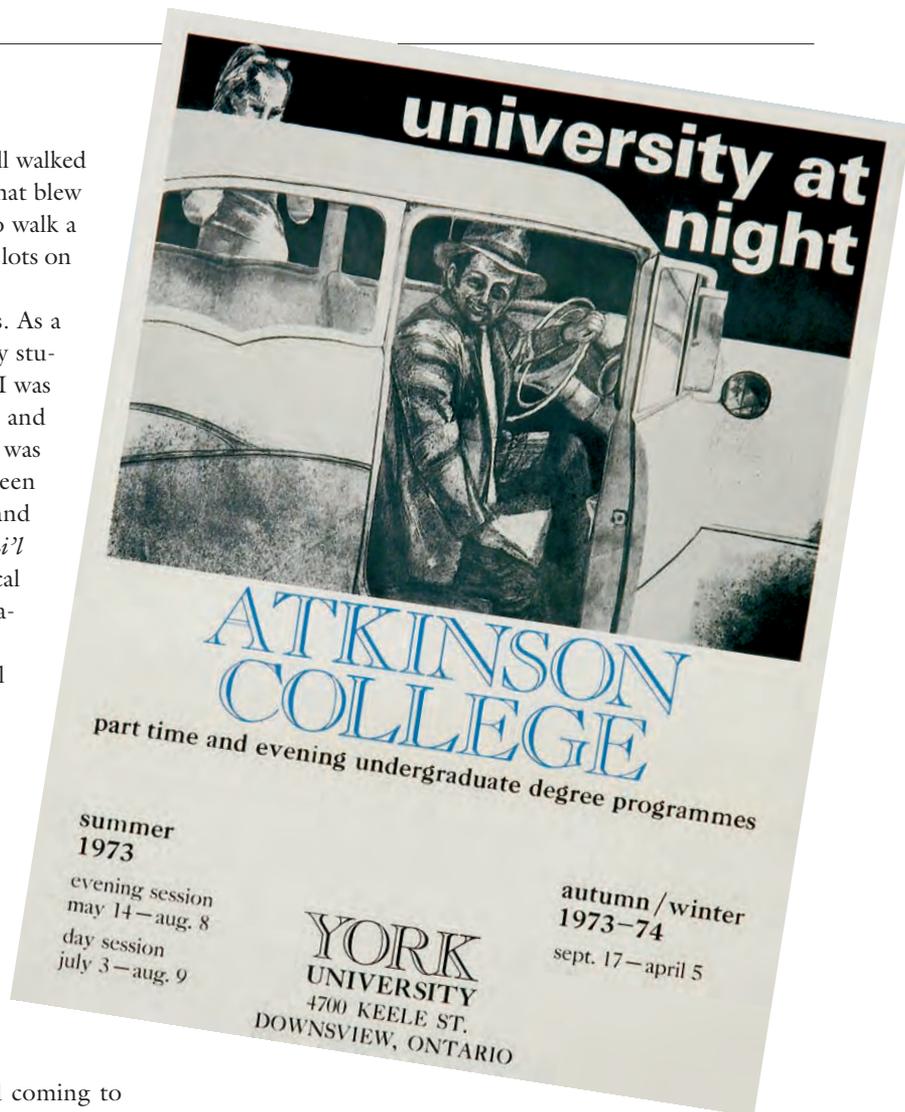
They were not speculating about the moon in June and What If and Maybe; they were speculating about the harvest moon and What Is and What's To Be Done?

Since they were coming back to school, and coming to school after work, and paying their own hard money, they came to class having read all the texts. No one had to explain that they owed that to themselves. They came loaded for bear, wearing their hunger for learning on their sleeves.

So, teaching was big at Atkinson. It was front and centre in our minds in our English Department. And I know the same was true for the other departments at Atkinson. By and large, we tended to take our obligations as scholars – as men and women who read and did research and then wrote – as a given.

To teach well, though, that was something else, because when I say teaching, I don't mean a toe-dipping 50-minute session. I mean two to two-and-a-half hours, time to wrestle old ideas like old angels to the ground, in new courses, often using contemporary texts (at the University of Toronto, in 1963, a distinguished professor actually had told me with a straight face that he wasn't sure whether T.S. Eliot should be taught since he hadn't proven himself to be a poet of quality through the test of time). At Atkinson, one of my first lectures for a course designed by Stan Fefferman (designed is a good word; it captures exactly how we, as teachers, and our students were becoming what we believed was our potential as we went), was on Henry Miller, horny Henry Miller and his *Tropic of Capricorn*.

As I walked out on stage (miked for a class of hundreds), I



**ALL ADULTS:** Poster by artist Charles Pachter, never used (see p. 4)

could hear a rustle in the crowd – their course outline had billed the lecture, "*The Tropic of Capricorn: The Metaphysics of Fuck*" – but also a little flutter of concern, and I soon saw why. In the first row, there were three garbed-in-black nuns, notebooks at the ready.

I thought everyone was watching the nuns. I knew the nuns were watching me. So I took a deep breath and said, "Yes, well, we are going to be using the word fuck, a lot," and set off – with an aside on how the Catholic theologian Jacques Maritain had said that all poetry approaches metaphysics – to describe and discuss the poetic pilgrimage made by Miller's snub-nosed sperm into the upriver regions of orgasmic consciousness. Over an hour later, I concluded with a casual falling off, "And so there you have it, the metaphysics of...", letting the unspoken word hang in the silence, and waited. The whole class waited. The three nuns, sensing all eyes upon them, rose and gave a firm round of applause.

I took it as a sign, as a particular Atkinson kind of moment – a moment that was not a scatological overcoming but rather an

## MEMOIR

opening of the heart in which I was home free as a teacher, free to feel at home among my students.

Though not entirely at home on the campus at large.

Principal Escott Reid of Glendon College had made it clear to Professor Theall that he thought the University could well do without the likes of a Callaghan or a Fefferman.

No matter. At Atkinson, we were in the process of getting serious things done in new and serious ways. Many of our professors, private in their classrooms, were engaged in a very public and often political discourse. Our dean, Harry Crowe, wrote a weekly political column for the Toronto *Telegram*; Robert Fothergill was making socially alert films; several men were intimately engaged in on-site research into the drug counterculture; Matthew Ahearn was not only directing plays by Arthur Miller, but had taken a year's leave of absence so that he could actually run in two presidential primaries against Richard Nixon; I was editing the book pages of a national newspaper, *The Telegram*, and reporting for the CBC from various parts of the world, especially Quebec and the Middle East.

All of this came to bear on our teaching, as we reached back – by intuition rather than design – to Ferdinand de Saussure's early-20th-century vision of “*une semiologie generale*”, wherein he had hoped to apply the insights of structural linguistics across the whole breadth of human experience, hoping to pass through or over the traditional boundary lines between literary and non-literary texts, between the structures, forms and social practices of “high culture” – history, music, philosophy – and those that constitute culture in general – journalism, filmmaking, television itself, and even comic books.

A teaching assistant at Atkinson at the time, Michael Keefer, who is now a distinguished renaissance scholar and renowned authority on *Doctor Faustus*, writing about those days (1971), has said: “I would claim that, in his course, Callaghan (and others) were inventing, *avant la lettre*, a specifically Canadian form of what we can now appropriately call cultural studies . . . that was not merely or exclusively literary, but intimate (in its engagement with ideas) as well, because . . . Callaghan's

journalistic work had taken him to the Middle East, several African countries, Central America.”

This may be true, but then he had to add: “The year 1972 was a pivotal one. . . . Callaghan, having been unceremoniously fired by the CBC for the *lèse-majesté* of daring to put forceful questions, about the ethics of conquest and occupation, to Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir . . . [turned to other matters and] launched the literary quarterly *Exile*.”

It wasn't quite that neat.

I also had made a film about the Palestinians. It was the first such film of any length about the refugees in their camps in Jordan. Because it was only about the Palestinians, it was said that I must be pro-Palestinian, and if I was pro-Palestinian I must be anti-Israel.

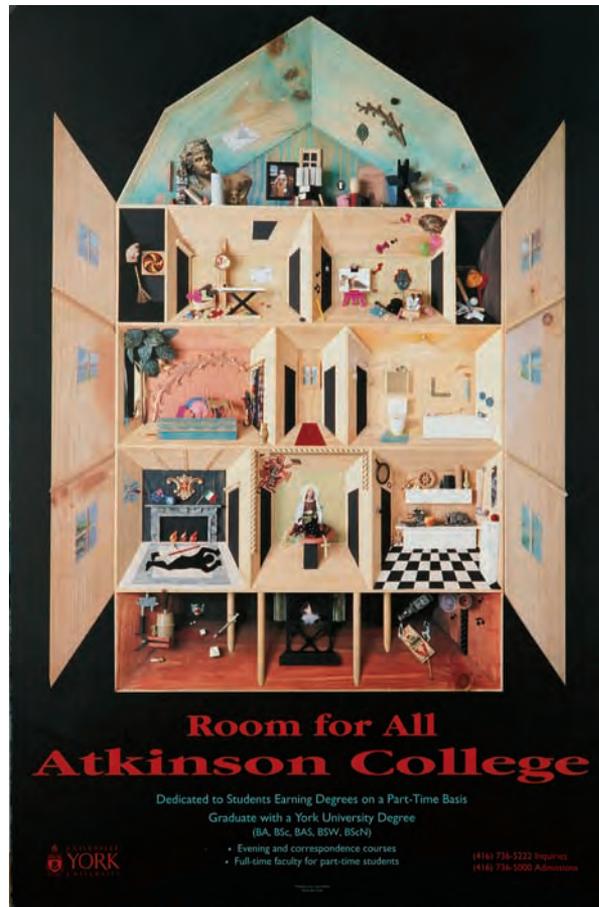
That the revered philosopher Emile Fackenheim was vile enough to publicly call me an anti-Semite didn't help. What Margaret Atwood has called “the witch-word” had been laid on me.

At the CBC, I never again made a film for them and I never again appeared on television as a commentator on anything. After a period, I had no alternative but to resign from *The Telegram*. And it didn't help that some attempted to purge me from York by trying to deny me tenure.

But they are not now the point. They were and are only the context of that moment. The point is and always will be Harry Crowe, the dean of Atkinson College, who – though he was an ardent Zionist – was more importantly a man of integrity who would

not stand for unfairness. The Senate, under advisement, voted to turn me down for tenure. But Harry so twisted the arm of the president that the president overrode the procedures of the Senate. I kept my job, I was given tenure. I would be able to go on teaching, not only home free but now safe.

Harry told me this over a glass of scotch and then astounded me. “Now that you have all this free time on your hands – no CBC, no newspapers to work for – what're you going to do with your free time?” Without thinking I said, “How would you like to have one of the two best literary journals in the world?”



**UNDERSTANDING:** Poster (approved) showing Atkinson programs

“How much would it cost?”

I plucked a big figure out of the air. He said, OK, he would fund it through his office for one year, to get it off the ground. I didn’t know anything about journals, but I said, “Great.”

Two young writers, soon to be known internationally as great poets, became our contributing editors – John Montague of Ireland and Yehuda Amichai of Israel. Montague is still with us, and Amichai stayed with us till he died.

Which brings me, of course, back to the beginning.

Only at Atkinson.

Never mind other universities; such a thing could not have happened at any other college within York itself. *Exile* had been given the freedom to become what it could be, and now, after 35 years, is – a journal that, having published some 1,000 writers and artists, is known and admired (its attachment to Atkinson and York acknowledged in every issue) in a dozen parts of the world.

I like to think that the nuns are standing somewhere, applauding, at another opening of the heart.

And so, at Atkinson, and in our department, we all went on doing what we did, becoming the teachers we were meant to be – John Unrau, a poet and world authority on Ruskin and St. Mark’s in Venice; Fran Beer, a first-class medievalist and authority on the *Chanson de Roland*; Ray Ellenwood, not just a singular authority on the literature of Quebec but a master translator.

Over the next two decades, there was political wrangling – to be expected – and some serious infighting (years earlier McLuhan had warned me that the political infighting in the universities made “Madison Avenue look like a piece of cake”). But that is a story of presidents and plenipotentiaries for others to write.

I went on teaching, in the dark, enjoying the night. Always teaching undergraduates – our undergraduate introductory course – because I never tired of taking pleasure at seeing the light of sudden understanding come into a young student’s eyes. And yes, they now were younger than I was, and though they were still adults who had jobs out in the world, year by year they were getting younger because I was growing older.

Over the last 15 or so years, I taught my favourite undergraduate course – a fourth-year study of post-concentration camp literature – stimulated, in the old spirit, by my travels in the Soviet Union and behind the Iron Curtain. Often, the first book we night riders read was – appropriately enough – Elie Wiesel’s searing little story, *Night*. By Christmas we had passed through *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* and were

deep into Solzhenitsyn’s *Gulag Archipelago*. There were always about a dozen students in the class – fiercely interested – and soon, to step outside the cold concrete block walls of our classrooms, I took to meeting with them to discuss these grim matters in fashionable restaurants that favoured us with a silent corner, and for the final six years, we met once a week in my home. “I feed them wine,” I liked to say sardonically, “and a little pâté so we can talk more easily about such mutilation of the spirit and death.”

**My students  
were no longer  
night people.  
They were  
fresh-faced  
and young,  
speed-balling  
their  
course credits.**

I realized that just as our little Atkinson English Department was being depleted by death itself, more of my courses were also being assigned to the summer daytime. My students were no longer night people. They were fresh-faced and young, speed-balling their course credits, full of What Ifs and Maybes and not What Is and What’s To Be Done?, eager to get out of school, not determined to get back into school. Finally, one morning, I found myself before class standing not in front of Atkinson College but between weeping willows on the Glendon campus, all in sunlight.

*Sitting on a wooden gate,*

*Sitting on a wooden gate,*

*Sitting on a wooden gate,*

*He didn’t care a damn.*

I retired.

I had donated a major outdoor sculpture by my friend, the Israeli artist Kosso Eloul (called “KoBar” – the name a sign of the bond between us) to the housing area on campus that bears Harry Crowe’s name, and I then donated all my working papers – two truckloads – to the University archives.

At a ceremony to honour this gift, the administration gave me a nice leather traveller’s tag, in York red, to attach to my luggage.

I took my leave, feeling no disappointment or even bitterness over anything. No, only thankfulness and a sense deep in my heart of having been very lucky – to have found myself among collegial men and women who (no matter what they thought of me personally) allowed me to become who I was meant to be, who I am today. I like to think – and it is one reason that I have written this little piece – that my story, in one way or another, is their story.

Only at Atkinson. ■

*For more Atkinson memories, visit [www.atkinson.yorku.ca/heritage](http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/heritage). The Heritage site also includes details of a new book to be published soon, Room to Grow: Celebrating Atkinson’s Living Legacy, supported by the Atkinson Dean’s Office and the U50 Campaign.*



RETROSPECTIVES

# A Life in Arts

Looking back at 50 years in York's biggest Faculty.  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

**C**OME JULY 1, York's Faculty of Arts will join with the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies to form the new Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. As at Atkinson, it has been a time of looking back for the people of Arts, York's largest Faculty. Recently, the Faculty mounted a display highlighting its diverse history since it was first constituted as the Faculty of Arts & Science in 1959. These images, including a wall of book covers by Arts authors, sample *50 Years in the Faculty of Arts: A Retrospective*, curated by Briana Sim, Stephanie D'Amico and Annie Tung. You can see more at [arts50.blog.yorku.ca](http://arts50.blog.yorku.ca). ■

# THE ART SHARKS

Schulich's Don Thompson paints the high-priced contemporary art world with a marketing brush.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK



**A**RT LOVER, if you bought a stuffed shark by contemporary British artist Damien Hirst as an investment (\$12 million in 2003), you might want to take it back. Why? Well, according to Don Thompson, professor emeritus of marketing at York's Schulich School of Business, buying contemporary art as an investment is a mistake.

Thompson himself collects because he genuinely loves art and art auctions, but he says he's always been curious about how art is priced. He notes that when Hirst sold his first shark in 2003, it was the second-highest amount ever paid at that time for a work by a living artist (a work by Jasper Johns was tops). "When someone asks me, 'Why is that work worth \$10 million, and who determines which one-thousandth of one per cent of artists become stars?', I realized I had no idea," says Thompson. "Nor did any of the existing literature answer it. So I hope my book is the answer."

That book is *The \$12 Million Stuffed Shark: The Curious Economics of Contemporary Art* (Doubleday Canada, 2008). To research it, Thompson spent a year at auction houses in New York City and London talking to dealers, artists and specialists at high-end auction houses such as Sotheby's and Christie's. His mission was to make some sense (if it could be made) of why some contemporary art fetched stratospheric prices. "I think one thing that perplexes people – myself included – is, who are the gatekeepers who influence which artists will make it to the level of the Hirsts and Jackson Pollocks and Jeff Koons of the world, and which won't? Secondly, why are pieces worth 10 or 100 times what I think they should be worth?"

One curious aspect of contemporary art pricing is that a piece's price isn't based on scarcity or the fact that the artist is no longer living. Hirst, for instance, is still very much alive and has produced (and sold) nine of his shark pieces. They are all virtually identical.

"These guys are still producing! So why do works sell for five or 10 million?" On the other hand, scarcity does play a role in the pricing of important historical, Impressionist and modern art, says Thompson – buyers fear that no other work like it will come up again during their lifetime. Thompson limited his study to contemporary works which, he says, "typically refers to art created after 1970."

Thompson's book is an in-depth, behind-the-scenes exploration of the way the contemporary art market functions – how

auctions are organized by the name auction houses, how art is priced, and the role galleries and dealers play in the pricing and marketing of artists like Damien Hirst.

"Hirst is probably the richest and best-known contemporary artist in the world," says Thompson. "In the 1990s he came up with the concept of the shark as a contemporary symbol for the times. He said the shark looks 'dead when it's alive and alive when it's dead'. For him it represents that space between life and death." Hirst had an Australian fisherman catch the shark, pack it in ice and ship it to the UK. On its arrival the artist had it taxidermied and mounted in a tank of formaldehyde. "Hirst didn't catch it or mount it but he conceived it – therefore he is the artist, and that's at the centre of conceptual art," says Thompson. The embalmed shark – titled *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living* – currently resides in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art where it is the single most viewed object in the museum's collection.

"Hirst went into shock/conceptual art more than most but he wasn't alone – he's just the best known," says Thompson. The difference, he argues, between Hirst and his lesser-known contemporaries is that Hirst and his manager are the smartest art marketers in the world. But is Hirst the "best" artist? "I couldn't say," says Thompson. "I'm not an art critic. My conclusion is that marketing may be as important in contemporary art as artistic skill."

Hirst is a top brand, which is why he can charge what he does. "Very often you are buying what an adviser, dealer or auction house specialist tells you will establish you as a cultured and cutting-edge collector," says Thompson. "And the branding part – branded artist, branded dealer – protects you from your friends not having proper respect for what is now hanging on your wall. Branding offers risk avoidance and trust."

One thing Thompson learned is just how rich really-rich people are. "For the buyer of the stuffed shark, the \$12 million purchase price represented four-and-a-half days' income," he notes. "This is what characterizes the upper reaches of the contemporary art market – a lot of collectors who are really rich." And if you aren't among the super wealthy and still want to collect? Well, just don't delude yourself that your latest purchase will fund your retirement. Says Thompson: "Buy it because you love it, or because it touches your soul, but don't buy it as an investment." ■

**L**AST DECEMBER, the Stratford Shakespeare Festival appointed New York City-based Elizabeth Bradley senior artistic associate. That's a fancy title for global talent scout. There's no money and only modest glory in it, but no matter, she felt utterly compelled to accept. "It helped to ease my defector guilt," jokes the 1976 York theatre grad who has spent the past eight years revitalizing two of America's leading university drama schools.

The truth is she vowed 25 years ago to help Des McAnuff if and when he took over the artistic helm at Stratford. The two crossed paths there in 1983. Legendary artistic director John Hirsch had recruited Bradley as communications and special projects director and lured hotshot McAnuff home from New York to direct *Macbeth*. "It was a hugely formative period in my career," says Bradley. "Working for John was a wild and unforgettable ride. It was an ambitious time for the festival."

In high school a decade before, Bradley had served as a casting intern on McAnuff's musical *Silent Edward* at Toronto's Young People's Theatre. At Stratford they reconnected. "We share a similar esthetic. We admire bravery of aspiration, technical accomplishment and intellectual daring. We both want theatre to create heat and be compelling." Now she's trolling New York and the international theatre scene for directors, actors and companies fitting that esthetic to help McAnuff "take a revered and cherished Canadian institution to even greater heights."

It's all in a day's work. Attending plays is part of the other job Bradley accepted last year – arts professor and chair of the drama department of New York University's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts, situated right on Broadway. By March, she'd floated at least a dozen ideas across the festival transom, including notes on a stunning new production of *Othello*. Stratford audiences could see the fruits of her labour as early as next year. "But I'm trying to incubate relationships for 2011 and five years beyond that."

Bradley has devoted her entire professional life – as producer, programmer and now educator – to fanning theatrical creativity, to making theatre happen. The daughter of a big-band musician turned agent, Elizabeth Widdess fell under theatre's thrall at age four when she saw Helen Hayes in *The School for Scandal* at Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre. An exceptional student, she skipped Ontario's Grade 13 to enter York's theatre program in 1972. Directing appealed to her until she realized there were so few women in the field that "the only way I could direct what I wanted would be to produce it

myself." After making the dean's list in 1976 and newly wedded to Keith Bradley, a York theatre production professor, she managed a couple of small theatres, then headed to Broadway to apprentice with Doris Cole Abrahams, producer of Tony Award-winning plays *Equus* and *Travesties*. She wanted to be like those storied American producers who find and champion a play, then bring it to glorious life. "That was the impulse that led me to New York."

Back in Toronto in 1981, she was managing famous Canadian actors like Roberta Maxwell and Nicholas Pennell when John Hirsch called "out of the blue". He'd heard about the 26-year-old's New York training and knack for managing theatres and promoting artists. Would she join his senior team? "John was a hard man to refuse and the allure of Stratford was irresistible."

After Hirsch exited Stratford, so did she, to produce and tour independent commercial shows like *The Mikado* and *HMS Pinafore* and *B-Movie, The Play*. However, "it was always a cash-flow arabesque," and Bradley, by this time mother of a preschooler and an infant, soon settled for 10 less-peripatetic years as program director, then first female general manager and CEO, of Toronto's O'Keefe Centre for the Performing Arts.

In 2001, Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh invited her to apply for head of its renowned drama school. "I didn't think they were serious," says Bradley, but she agreed to an interview "more or less as a lark." Ten days later, they offered her the tenured position, unfazed by her lack of postgraduate degrees. "It was a very, very maverick hire," she says. "I'm fond of saying I have taken an honours BFA from York a very long way."

Five years later, more students than ever were clamouring to enrol in the drama school and Carnegie Mellon rushed to renew her appointment. Bradley had diversified a traditional program, brought in international artists and created a festival for student work. During this time, she also helped launch the Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts as founding artistic director, chaired the International Society for the Performing Arts, provided programming advice to Ottawa's National Arts Centre and won a Queen's Jubilee Gold Medal for outstanding contribution to the arts in Canada. No wonder Tisch came knocking in 2008.

Bradley takes time to swim, enjoy her husband's home cooking, and catch up with daughter Bronwen's career as a publicist and son Ben's music studies. But theatre compels her more than ever. "I have been privileged to witness indelible work," says Bradley. "Every time I have one of those moments, I'm infatuated all over again." ■

Elizabeth Bradley leads one of North America's top theatre schools on the strength of a York BFA – and a lifetime of making theatre happen.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN WATTERS

# Drama Queen



# The G-Word

**H**OW MUCH IS TOO MUCH? How do we know when to stop? What will happen if we don't? And what, if any, are more sustainable alternatives to past economic growth policies? These are some of the questions around the "G-word" that economist and York environmental studies Professor Peter Victor contemplates daily (and did so long before the current economic crisis). Victor, an ecological economist, defines himself as "an economist who understands economies not as stand-alone systems, but as subsystems embedded in, and dependent upon, the biosphere."

Victor lays out his take on growth in detail in his newest book, *Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2008). He conceived of "economies as subsystems of the biosphere" years ago. It all began when he was working on his PhD at the University of British Columbia in the late 1960s. His research from that time was later published as a book with the title *Pollution: Economy and Environment* (1972). "At UBC I got caught up in the environmental movement and my PhD research gave me the opportunity to break new ground. I remember the literature review in my thesis covered only three papers – there was so little written on this then."

Victor's work on slow/no growth dates back to 2001 when he got a call from his old thesis supervisor Gideon Rosenbluth (now in his 80s and still going strong) to collaborate on research about growth and the environment. "We settled on the question of whether it is possible to have full employment, eradicate poverty, maintain fiscal balance and protect the environment without economic growth," says Victor. They published several papers and then Victor decided to embark on his book in 2006 with Rosenbluth's encouragement.

In the book, Victor doesn't advocate a knee-jerk reaction to economic crisis so much as a thoughtful approach that will carry us through decades to come. How? By choosing green over brown-based economies, he says. "The burden placed on the biosphere by global economic growth since the end of World War II is simply unsustainable," says Victor. "A better approach would be to deliberately manage the economies of developed countries on the basis of little or no growth."

It's not a matter of quitting the production/consumption

model cold turkey. Instead, he says, rich countries need to gradually reduce their dependence on growth in the long term. According to Victor's research and systems modelling, an economic slowdown could be achieved without sacrificing prosperity. If the economic growth rate, as measured by increases in gross domestic product, was deliberately slowed, even to zero, between 2010 and 2035, Victor says, Canada could continue to provide enough jobs and revenue to fund government services and dramatically reduce poverty and greenhouse gas emissions.

"I'm not saying zero growth should become the overarching goal of economic policy," says Victor. "But I don't think we should bother with growth as a policy objective." Economic growth in rich countries has been disappointing, he says, noting that growth in Canada hasn't eliminated poverty and may, in fact, have increased it. He notes also that growth has not brought full employment, and has increased demands on the environment. "The burden placed on the environment by the economy for natural resources and waste disposal has risen. When economies were small in relation to the environment – in the sense that these material and energy flows were modest – maybe it was acceptable for economists to ignore them," he says. "But now they are large – so large that some scientists refer to our current age as the 'Anthropocene' in recognition of the magnitude of human impacts on the planet."

Victor argues there is the possibility that increases in GDP do not necessarily require an increase in material and energy inputs in the future. Over time, he says, we have reduced the material and energy requirements per dollar of economic output. "The material and energy intensities of economies have already declined," he notes. "The trouble is these reductions in intensity have been too small to keep up with the increases in the scale of the economy, so the combined effect has been increases in the use of material and energy."

Of course, in the end, we may learn nothing from past mistakes and could plunge once more into a same-old-same-old model of production, consumption and debt. Says Victor: "I'm worried we'll rely on Band-Aid solutions to the recession. The short-term severity of the current crisis may distract government from the long-term dangers of relying on growth alone to keep economies afloat. Growth is not the answer." ■

More growth? Get over it.  
Ecological economist Peter Victor  
says there's a better, slower way.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACTCHOUK

# YORK PEOPLE



SUCCESSING IN THE MUSIC BUSINESS is hard enough without trying to make it as a jazz musician, especially one who likes performing Chinese folk music and plays “moon guitar”, but don’t tell that to Jarek Dabrowski. Not only have his parents already warned him – both are former musicians who left Poland for Canada when he was 15 – but he’s too busy working to listen. “My parents didn’t encourage me,” says the percussionist/guitarist. “You know the stereotype – always looking for work.” Since graduating from York’s Faculty of Fine Arts, Dabrowski (BFA Spec. Hons. ’03, MA ’06) has played traditional and world music with the Toronto Chinese Orchestra and the Yellow River Ensemble, and jazz/traditional fusion music with Klezfactor, all led by York instructors. He also made a CD with the York-based Chinese fusion group Ethnocity, and is now working on a pop/jazz recording project.

Dabrowski learned the power of networking – and curiosity – during his time at York. “I auditioned as a classical guitarist,” he says, “but because York is the way it is, I was exposed to several different genres.” Even while doing research for his ethnomusicology thesis on post-war jazz in Communist Poland, he was invited to tour with a group of local musicians, and he intends to go back. “I’ve been fortunate that I don’t have to get a real job,” says Dabrowski, who also plans on adding producing to his list of talents. “I enjoy projects.” ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

**Jarek Dabrowski**  
Jazz musician

**World  
Fusion**



## Diane Flacks

Comedian

# Baby Stage

UNTIL SHE GAVE BIRTH to her first son six years ago, Diane Flacks never imagined life with children. Now motherhood has hijacked this 43-year-old Toronto actor. Pre-Eli and Jonathan, she'd scripted and appeared in TV comedy series ("Kids in the Hall", "Royal Canadian Air Farce", "The Broad Side"), won rave reviews and award nominations for her collaborative plays *Sibs* and *Smudge*, and toured three hit solo shows, including HBO-aired *Myth Me*, Dora Award-nominated *By A Thread* and *Random Acts*.

Born into a family that hooted together at Mel Brooks movies and Lily Tomlin records, this "least-likely-to" (her words) theatre grad quickly learned to harness a subversive sense of humour to create work for herself. Just how was revealed at York's 50th-anniversary gala concert in March (page 16) when Flacks (BFA Spec. Hons. '88) presented an excerpt from *Bear With Me*, a monologue based on her 2005 book about her first pregnancy. Performed with her trademark heart and shtick earlier this year at Toronto's Nightwood Theatre and later at the CBC Winnipeg Comedy Festival, it marked Flacks' return to the stage after two desperate years nursing sick second baby Jonathan to health – and writing about it in *Toronto Star* columns. Now she's back doing guest turns in shows like CBC TV's "Being Erica" but, no question, Flacks' leading role these days is mom. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN HRYNIUK

## Damon Knights

MBA booster

# Visible Returns

MONTREAL NATIVE DAMON KNIGHTS speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish, and is proud of his African-Canadian heritage. His mother is descended from the first settlers of Nova Scotia's Africville community and he tries to coach other black business people about the benefits of investing in an MBA. "The return on investment is really, really high," says Knights (IMBA '06), who took part in last fall's Connect 2008, the annual Schulich School of Business Alumni Forum. Because there were relatively few blacks in the MBA programs at Schulich when he was a student in 2005, Knights wanted to find a way to increase the school's visibility in the community. He hit upon the idea of forming the first Canadian chapter of the Chicago-based National Black MBA Association and set about organizing it. In 2007 the association's president came to Toronto to make it official and the chapter now has more than 100 members and blue-chip corporate sponsors.

During his two years of study at Schulich, Knights worked at HP Germany and took part in an academic exchange in Caracas, Venezuela. He has since become an executive at a major financial institution. His experiences have made him a big supporter of the school and the International MBA Program. "Schulich provided me with confidence, business knowledge and an ability to apply that knowledge in a way that's specific to me," he says. "Now I have found my own style." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN BEEBE



# GIVING

## A Tough Time for Students

York seeks \$5 million in donations to help



**A**S IF THE GLOBAL recession weren't enough, for many York students there is the added impact of the extension of the academic year as a result of the three-month strike on campus. "Students are very concerned about their finances for next year," says Angie Saweczko, associate director, scholarships & bursaries, for Student Financial Services.

Vice-President Students Rob Tiffin sums up the tough situation: "As the winter term will now end in early June, we anticipate that many students will face serious financial hardship in May and in the following academic year, as their summer employment time will be limited. Unfortunately, this challenge comes at a time when many are already feeling the harmful effects of an economic downturn."

To help students through these difficult times, York University has launched the 50th Anniversary Bursaries and Awards Program. The University is raising \$5 million in expendable gifts (versus endowed) to help returning students whose schooling is threatened by the challenges of 2009. The York community has been quick to respond, with more than 1,400 alumni, faculty, staff and retirees contributing to the program.

The economic climate is also having an impact on those students looking to begin their academic careers. With this in

mind, an anonymous donor has stepped forward with a gift of \$2.5 million to create 500 Entrance Awards of \$5,000 each over the next two years.

Combined, the 50th Anniversary Bursaries and Awards Program and these new York University Entrance Awards will help ease immediate financial barriers for qualified students. Moreover, nearly one-quarter of the \$185 million so far pledged to the York to the Power of 50

fundraising campaign has already been directed to students. These are mostly long-term endowments for scholarships, bursaries and awards, and many of these gifts have in turn triggered government matching funds, exponentially increasing the overall impact for students.

For more information or to give to the 50th Anniversary Bursaries and Awards Program, visit [yorku.ca/foundation](http://yorku.ca/foundation) or call 416-650-8210. ■



**EXCEPTIONAL:** Fecan, Faire and a Beefeater

**P**ROMINENT YORK UNIVERSITY supporters and community leaders Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan (BA '01) were the honourees at the 2009 Red Rose Ball organized by The St. George's Society of Toronto.

Like York, The St. George's Society is celebrating a major anniversary this year. Toronto's oldest charity, now in its 175th year, was established in a coffee house in 1834 and brings together people of all

cultures who have an interest in things British. Each year during the Red Rose Ball, the society bestows its Award of Merit on those who have made exceptional contributions to the community.

Typical of their thoughtfulness and dedication to York, Faire and Fecan asked that part of the funds raised from this year's ball benefit York students in financial need – funds that will go even further during this difficult year thanks to Ontario government matching programs. ■

# ALUMNI<sup>50</sup>

**YORK TO THE POWER OF 50.** Fifty years ago a dream began. A vision of bringing together researchers, teachers, students and partners from different disciplines to tackle real-world issues. This is the essence of our interdisciplinary approach. For the last fifty years, York University has produced outstanding leaders in every field. We are proud of our 200,000 alumni and believe there is no limit to what the next 200,000 can accomplish. [yorku50.ca](http://yorku50.ca)

**YORK** **U50**  
UNIVERSITÉ  
UNIVERSITY  
*redefine* THE POSSIBLE.

Presenting Sponsors:



Media Sponsor:



# ALUMNI

## News:

### Linking Up on LinkedIn

York grads can get a lot of networking help

**I**F YOU DON'T have a profile on the social networking site LinkedIn yet, chances are your co-workers do. Today over 36 million people use the site – over one million in Canada – and with so many people nervously navigating the economic crisis, it is growing at a staggering one new user every second.

Like so many people these days, York grad Jason (surnames in this story have been withheld at the request of interviewees) was looking for work, cold-calling prospective employers. After many such calls, he got a break and landed an interview. But while he'd read all about the company on its Web site, Jason knew nothing about his interviewer. So he turned to LinkedIn.

One of the top social networking sites, LinkedIn.com is designed to help people like Jason build their professional networks and make important connections. "I threw my interviewer's name into LinkedIn and it turned out

that somebody I knew, knew somebody who knew him – a 'third degree' contact. And because of this connection his entire CV popped up in front of me," recalls Jason, who graduated with a BA in international studies in 1998. What he uncovered next was like striking gold.

"My interviewer had posted one of the recent deals he had done with a particular company. This was perfect because I had just completed an internship at that same company," says Jason. When he got to the interview, Jason could demonstrate his direct experience and establish a personal connection with his prospective employer by highlighting his internship. This won him a second interview and, eventually, the job.

While sites like Facebook and MySpace are great for staying in touch with friends old and new, LinkedIn is very much a professional tool – and it's being used by York grads in a whole range of industries.

Christie (BA '03) is the



**INFO BLASTS:** Christie gets fit

communications director at a fitness centre in Canada. "I use LinkedIn to blast out info about our newest corporate training programs to my connections and groups. This is a new endeavour for the studio, but we're getting calls from people who we otherwise would not have reached," she says.

Like Facebook, LinkedIn enables people with common

interests to come together in professional forums called "groups" – there's even a group for York grads. According to Christie, "The groups are the best part of LinkedIn. They allow you to connect with dozens of like-minded people at once." She also makes good use of the blog application, which allows her to feed to her network her daily blog on getting fit.

LinkedIn's groups are also home to private job and event postings, as well as polls and business-oriented discussions between members. "I've had

great success using it to get answers to specific HR questions that I don't have expertise in, especially if I'm looking for answers that are US or international specific," says Corina (MBA '98), a self-employed human resources consultant.

But groups can do more than just connect you to colleagues in your industry. "It's important to ensure that you have some breadth in your network – because otherwise you can get tunnel vision," says James Allan, York's director, alumni. "It's always good to join a couple of groups that connect you to a broad range of people across a variety of industries, and alumni groups are great for that. After all, sometimes it's an outside perspective that can give you the greatest insight into a problem."

One of the unique aspects of LinkedIn is the way in which your contacts can recommend your work. These references then become part of your profile. Corina says having recommendations "helps lend credibility to my work as a self-employed consultant. I've even utilized the recommendations as part of testimonial marketing literature." Corina has also been approached by

recruiters, in part, she believes, due to the recommendations she's received. LinkedIn also has an "Answers" section where you can post questions for all users to respond to, or lend your expertise to others' questions.

LinkedIn is fast becoming

an essential tool for people looking to find new professional connections and to build on the ones they have. With thousands of York grads on LinkedIn already, alumni have a built-in community just waiting for them to join in and get down to business. ■

## Tightening the Link

### TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LINKEDIN:

- Create a complete profile (and keep it professional – this isn't Facebook!).
- Build a network of people who are well connected.
- Join the York University Alumni group.
- Join groups in your industry (there's a search tool just for this).
- Increase your credibility with recommendations.
- Find business solutions with features like "Answers", polls and discussion groups.
- Check out LinkedIn's Learning Center, a comprehensive site complete with videos, screenshots and how-tos for members wanting to learn more about the various features.
- Share your "LinkedIn results" in the online poll at [yorku.ca/alumni](http://yorku.ca/alumni).

### DUE DATE



## York in 50 Seconds

Join this YouTube contest

**H**IS DEADLINE is just hours away. His focus intensifies as he types madly.

A round of rushed edits, then the relief of clicking Print before he dashes to hand it in. Suddenly, he's interrupted...

To find out what happens, watch this 50-second sample video by film grad Ryan Knight (BA Spec. Hons. '07) at [yorku50.ca/flix50](http://yorku50.ca/flix50) – and try to beat it.

Flix50 is a YouTube con-

test running all year as part of York's 50th anniversary. You can enter your best York memory – 50 seconds or less – for a chance to win a \$100 gift card and the grand prize, a \$2,000 Air Canada voucher. A winner will be selected each month and proceed to December's public vote for the favourite York tale. "It's a fun, creative way to celebrate our York memories," says the creator of the contest, James Allan, director, alumni. ■



## [yorku.ca/alumni](http://yorku.ca/alumni)

- Share your news – submit a Class Note
- Learn about alumni events and special perks
- Get on the list and sign up for our alumni e-newsletter





**ALUMNI MATTERS**, the alumni e-newsletter that delivers the latest news and special offers

**PERKS** that give you privileged access and great savings on products and services

**EVENTS** where you can have fun and rub elbows with other grads

**YUAA GROUPS** that keep you connected to alumni in your area and profession

## MORE REASONS TO STAY CONNECTED. FRIENDS, TRENDS, PRIVILEGES AND PERKS

### YOU DESERVE THE BEST

As a graduate of York, you've earned your membership with the York University Alumni Association and the privileges that it offers



Your alumni card is your passport to exclusive perks. Order it online.

[www.yorku.ca/alumni](http://www.yorku.ca/alumni)

**YORK** **U50**  
DIPLOMES  
ALUMNI  
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

## Class Notes:

**1969**

**Atkinson, Richard T.** (MBA) recently published *Don't Just Retire: Live it, Love it!*, a guide to help people ages 45 to 65 in building a retirement plan.

**1971**

**Ledrew, Melvin** (BA Winters) retired in May 2007 after 33 years at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

**Sobel, Harold** (BSc Founders) works as a computer support specialist for the medical simulation labs at Fanshawe College in London, Ont., where he's also a member of the Board of Governors. In his spare time he restores antique cars and enjoys RVing with his wife.

**1973**

**Pulver, Howard** (MES) operates BikeOnTours.on.ca and is the author of the *Ontario Bicycle Touring Atlas*. He is married and has three children.

**1974**

**Abrams, Bernard** (BA Atkinson) has produced four Broadway shows, including *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* and *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, as well as the Seattle opening of *Lone Star Love*.

**Doyle, Martin** (BA Stong), a professional actor for 36 years, is the coordinator of Niagara College's Acting for Film & Television Program. He

and his wife Judi recently celebrated 37 years of marriage. They have two sons, Colin (BFA Spec. Hons. '01) and Devin.

**1975**

**Orchard, Ian** (BA Hons. '72 Winters, MES) retired from the Ontario Region Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment Canada in March 2008 after 33 years.

**Young, Terence** (BA Bethune) was elected Conservative MP for Oakville in 2008 and recently published *Death by Prescription: A Father Takes on his Daughter's Killer - the Multi-Billion-Dollar Pharmaceutical Industry*. His 15-year-old daughter Vanessa died tragically in 2000 after taking a prescription drug.

**1976**

**Hamilton, Karl** (BFA Stong) recently moved to the Thunder Bay area with his wife Luba, where he continues to produce nature sound recordings with his company NatureSounds.ca.

**1977**

**Cervinka, Jana** (BFA Bethune) enjoys a varied and rewarding career which includes acting and travel. She has been married 14 years and lives in Cobourg and Toronto.

**1978**

**Coombs, David** (BA Spec. Hons. '72 McLaughlin, PhD) recently retired after 27 years as a stockbroker. He



1980: Catherine Eaton

has just published *Madcap Adventures in the Madawaska Valley*, a collection of columns originally written for his local paper.

**Michael, Patricia** (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) has written and produced for TVO, VisionTV, Citytv, CBC and for magazines, and is currently assisting people in writing their biographies and memoirs.

**1979**

**Pitsula, James** (MA '73, PhD) recently published *For All We Have and Are: Regina and the Experience of the Great War*, tracing social movements against the lives of Regina men who fought overseas in the First World War.

**1980**

**Eaton, Catherine** (BA Spec. Hons. Atkinson) is a teacher with the Toronto Catholic District School Board. After retirement, she hopes to volunteer with inner city teens. Her son is a student at York.

**Kesteven, Pauline** (BA Spec. Hons. '79 Stong, MA) is a counsellor whose work with Aboriginal bands has introduced her to the Sto:lo culture and longhouse dance and ceremonies.

**1981**

**Dagorne, Shelley** (BSc Stong) works in finance for an agency of the Ontario health care system. She

lives with her partner in Pickering where she volunteers on the board of a local charity that helps youth and families.

**Schmidt, Rene** (BA Hons. Calumet, BEd), a teacher for almost 30 years, has written a student-friendly series on Canadian disasters for Scholastic Canada. His latest novel, *Leaving Fletchville*, was published by Orca Book Publishers in 2008. He has been married for 25 years and has two sons.

**1982**

**Barizo, Ophelia** (BSc Spec. Hons. Stong), a teacher and chair of the science department at Highland View Academy in Washington County, Maryland since 1996, was awarded the 2005 Private School Teacher of the Year Award.



1982: Ophelia Barizo



1973: Howard Pulver

# FLIX 50

YORK **U50**  
DIPLOMÉS  
ALUMNI  
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

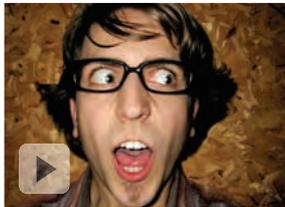
## FLIX 50 CONTEST

REC

Upload your York tale to WIN

Legendary? Hilarious? Cringe-worthy? Unforgettable?  
Got a great York story?

Shoot it. Upload it. And enter it to win.



Monthly prizes of  
**\$100 gift cards**  
and a grand prize of  
**\$2000**  
Air Canada voucher



To find out how to enter and a chance to win great prizes go to:

[www.yorku50.ca/flix50](http://www.yorku50.ca/flix50)

# Class Notes:

**Hardy, Lee** (BA Founders, BEd) is in his 28th year of teaching. He is an avid reader of international news, follows the latest revisionist history theories and enjoys volunteering as an assistant basketball coach.

## 1983

**Dyet, Michael** (BA Hons. Bethune) works as a marketing specialist at IAPA, a non-profit health and safety association in Mississauga. He is an avid birdwatcher and is involved with the North Bramalea United Church in Brampton.

## 1984

**Cooper, Marlene** (BA Vanier, BEd) works as an occasional teacher for the York Region District School Board. Her daughter is a film student in York's Faculty of Fine Arts.

**Parada, Juan** (BAS Atkinson) has worked with a number of banking institutions, including ING and Royal Bank. He and his family are currently located in Colombia where he works as country credit manager for Banco Popular.

**Rowntree, Jessie-May** (BA Hons. '81 Calumet, BA Atkinson), a former director in York's Marketing & Communications Division, teaches in the postgraduate Corporate Communications & Public Relations Program at Centennial College and serves as director of marketing, communications & public relations at Pickering

College, an independent day and boarding school in Newmarket.

## 1985

**Arthur, Jack** (BSc Founders) is the owner of Watershore Logistics & Trade Services Inc., a third-party logistics services provider offering international supply chain outsourcing solutions to Western Canadian resource sector companies. He lives in Vancouver with his wife and two children.

**Hayward, Karen L.** (MA) recently moved to Saskatoon to become director of professional development & community education for the Centre of Continuing & Distance Education at the University of Saskatchewan.

## 1986

**Herscovitch, Aubie** (LLB) is a partner at the law firm Phillips Friedman Kotler in Montreal, specializing in complex real estate transactions, bank financing, secured transactions and commercial and corporate law.

## 1988

**DeKeseredy, Walter** (BA Hons. '82, MA '84, PhD) received the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division on Critical Criminology. He is married and has a 16-year-old daughter.



1988: Robert Tang

**Handson, Allyson** (BA Hons. Glendon) has worked in theatre and with wildlife and domestic animals for nearly 20 years. She went back to college in 1993 and received two diplomas in Fish and Wildlife Management from Sir Sandford Fleming College. She is a very proud single mom of a four-year-old boy.

**Tang, Robert** (MBA) recently appeared on CBC TV's "Fortune Hunters", which featured his company, danceScape. Earlier this year, danceScape launched a teacher training program for those passionate about dance.

## 1989

**Garrett, Leslie** (BA Hons. Stong) has written more than a dozen books, including *The Virtuous Consumer: Your Essential Shopping Guide for a Better, Kinder, Healthier World*, and is the "green" correspondent for A Channel. She is a mother of three and lives in London, Ont.

**Ramsay, Vassell O.** (BA Winters) has worked as a probation and parole officer for the past 19 years. He has also published two novels, *No Mercy* and *A Foot in the Hood - No Turning Back*.

## 1990

**Dharamsi, Shafik** (BA Stong, BEd) is associate director of the University of British Columbia's Centre for International Health. He travels everywhere from East Africa to Thailand for work and often brings his

family along. He is married with two children, Shazia and Miraal.

**Mylvaganam, Chandran** (MBA) is chair of the Division of Management at Northwood University in Midland, Michigan. He is married to Agnes Khu (MBA '90), and has two daughters. He coaches youth soccer teams and enjoys international travel with his family.

## 1991

**Fishman, Jan** (LLB) was elected to the BC Provincial Council of the Canadian Bar Association for a three-year term in 2006 and was recently appointed as its representative on the Board of the Law Courts Inn. He is married with two children.

**Sung, Norman H.** (BBA) moved to Richmond, BC with his wife in 2000. He currently works for CMC Markets Canada Inc. as vice-president of national Chinese markets and branch manager of the western region.

## 1992

**Chu, Albert** (LLB) has over 12 years of experience working as an international wealth planner for global institutions such as Schroders PLC, ING, Merrill Lynch and Fortis Group.

**Traynor, John** (MBA) recently accepted the position of vice-president of product marketing at Palm Inc. in Sunnyvale, California, after 16 years at Microsoft Corp. He will be responsible for the Treo family of



1989: Leslie Garrett



Serena Williams

Maria Sharapova

Jelena Jankovic

Photo credit: © Nathaniel Welch, 2009.

**YORK DAY** at the Rogers Cup  
 Tuesday, Aug. 18

Section	Regular Price	Alumni Price (before June 30)	Alumni Price (after June 30)
Gold	\$90	\$45	\$63
Silver	\$65	\$32.50	\$45.50
Bronze	\$45	\$22.50	\$31.50
Level 300	\$25	\$12.50	\$17.50

Alumni discounts also available on other days.

Don't miss food, drinks and giveaways at the alumni reception.

**CORONAVILLE PATIO**  
**5:30-7PM**



# EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S BEST TENNIS

GET 50% OFF REGULAR PRICE TICKETS  
 IN CELEBRATION OF YORK'S 50TH!

**Tuesday, August 18**

York Day at the Rogers Cup, Rexall Centre (York University)

For matinee and evening matches if you order before June 30. Taxes and fees apply.



Your alumni card is your passport to exclusive perks. Order it online.

Tickets on sale at  
[www.yorku.ca/alumni/rogerscup](http://www.yorku.ca/alumni/rogerscup)



# Class Notes:



1991: Jan Fishman

mobile devices. John and his family live in the Seattle area.

## 1993

**Mazerolle, Steve** (BA Glendon) and Kelly (née Paul) (BEEd '94 Glendon) live in Wainwright, Alta., with their two children. Steve is the principal of École Saint-Christophe and Kelly teaches at Lakeland College.

## 1994

**Carlile, Narath** (BSc Spec. Hons. Bethune) is a Rolf C. Syvertsen Scholar at Dartmouth Medical School. Prior to med school, he co-founded an educational software company specializing in science education. He is married and has a young daughter.

## 1995

**McDaniel, Jodi** (BA Glendon) met her husband Todd (BA Hons. '95) during her first week at Glendon, back in 1991. They live in Oakville and have two daughters. Jodi has worked as regional manager at Rauland-Borg for almost nine years.

**Panarisi, Angela** (BA Founders) has worked for CBC Radio-Canada in their Talent Management & Organizational Development Department since October 2008. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Community of Maple Child Care Services.

**Prochazka, Filip** (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) has worked as an art director for NBC Universal in New York City's famous "30 Rock" (30

Rockefeller Plaza) for the last four years. Prior to NBC, he worked for The Movie Network in Toronto.

## 1996

**Cherry, Letty** (BA Hons. Vanier) moved to Seattle and works as the head of public relations for Xbox LIVE at Microsoft Corp.

**Cornacchia, Luciano** (BA Atkinson) works at RBC Insurance Services Inc. in Leslieville, Ont. He has been married for 17 years and is active in his community.

**Hannoufa, Abdelati** (PhD) is a research scientist with Agriculture & Agri-food Canada in London, Ont. He visits the York campus frequently and enjoys meeting with alumni and current students. He is married with two children.

**Eguchi, Leya** (BSc McLaughlin) lives in Vancouver and is completing her bachelor of social work at the University of British Columbia. She is actively involved in the Coalition to End Homelessness in Greater Vancouver.

**Persaud, Randolph** (BA Spec. Hons. '84 Founders, MA '86, PhD) has been appointed director of Comparative & Regional Studies at American University in Washington, DC, where he lives with his wife and two daughters.

## 1997

**Ciufo, Paul** (BA Hons. '94 Vanier, MA) is married and has two young daughters. His stage play *Reverend Jonah*, published by Scirocco Drama, was a finalist for the 2008 Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. He has run four full marathons and is a member of the Rotary Club and two chambers of commerce in Grand Bend, Ont.

**Constant, David** (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) is the owner of SPEED Training Centers in Anaheim, California. He also works part time as an exercise physiologist and instructor for a local college and is a regular guest lecturer at Chapman University in Orange County.

**O'Briain, Janice** (MBA) is the manager of Simon Fraser University's new entrepreneurship initiative, Venture Connection. She lives in



1998: Erin Steuter

Vancouver with her husband, Jamie Woods, and enjoys the local culinary and cultural scenes.

**Radbord, Joanna** (LLB) practises family law and equality rights litigation with Martha McCarthy & Co. in Toronto. She was honoured with the Canadian Bar Association Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference Hero Award in 2008. Joanna and her spouse recently welcomed their first son, Cameron.

**Winter, Aaron Z.** (BA Hons. Vanier) was awarded a DPhil in Social & Political Thought from the University of Sussex in 2006. He is now lecturer in sociology at the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland.

## 1998

**Kara, Nadim** (BA Calumet) works as a policy analyst at the federal Department of Natural Resources in Ottawa. He is focused on the design of global regulatory initiatives whose aims are to align international economic activity with social, economic and environmental sustainability.

**Steuter, Erin** (PhD) is a professor of sociology at Mount Allison University and co-author of a critical account of the news media, *At War with Metaphor: Media Propaganda and Racism in the War on Terror*. She is married to Geoffrey Martin (PhD '93) and they have two daughters.

## Your Privacy Is Our Priority

At YORK, your contact information is considered highly confidential. Your data as a graduate is used to keep you up-to-date on alumni programs and services, the latest special offers and York news, and for fundraising and development activities. All of your personal information is stored in a secure database managed by York's Alumni & Advancement Services and is only accessible to authorized staff. It is never sold or inappropriately disclosed to third-party service providers, and York adheres to regulations in federal and provincial privacy legislation to ensure that your information is kept safe.

To learn more about York's commitment to privacy, visit [yorku.ca/alumni/privacy](http://yorku.ca/alumni/privacy).



— SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & MORE —



— FINANCIAL SERVICES —



ALUMNI PERKS SUPPORT  
YORK STUDENTS

# HERE'S TO THE 1000s WHO USE THEIR PERKS!

## YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTIONS ARE PAYING OFF

We have one of Canada's largest alumni communities, and that gives us a strong perks program. In fact, last year York alumni took advantage of the program 60,000 times. From financial services to sports, entertainment & more, you have great connections. Why not use them?



Your alumni card is your passport to exclusive perks. Order it online.

[www.yorku.ca/alumni/perks](http://www.yorku.ca/alumni/perks)



# Class Notes:

## 1999

**Graves, Rev. Daniel** (BA '94, BA Spec. Hons. Founders) is an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Toronto, currently serving as assistant curate at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Thornhill, Ont.

**Matteson, Sara** (BA Hons. Glendon) welcomed daughter Tessa Calais Matteson in July 2008, who joins her siblings Leia Amie and Xander Luc.

## 2000

**Ciraco, Dan** (BA Hons. '96 McLaughlin, MES) is former general counsel and corporate secretary of stock photo company Masterfile Corp. and recently joined the CBC in Toronto as legal counsel.

**Khan, Muhammad** (MES) recently moved from UNICEF to USAID in Pakistan, working as an education sector specialist. He is also trying to create awareness about Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases after his father's recent death from Parkinson's.

**Polanyi, Michael** (PhD) works as a researcher with the caucus of the Ontario NDP and is responsible for research on poverty, environment and agriculture.

## 2001

**Gordillo, Sandy** (BA '98, BSW Founders) married her boyfriend of five years on Thanksgiving weekend 2008.

**Jubril, Tajudeen** (BAS Atkinson) recently opened a takeout barbecue restaurant in Brampton with his wife.



2004: Paul Headrick



2002: Selma D'Souza

The restaurant, MJ's BBQ & Suya, specializes in unique African barbecue.

**Naqi, Omer** (BAS Founders) has worked for a number of financial institutions including Merrill Lynch in Toronto, ABN AMRO Bank in Miami and now Royal Bank of Scotland in Dubai, UAE. He is in the process of training for his first triathlon.

**Palumbo, Joseph** (BAS Hons. '89, MBA) is chair of the Board of Directors for United Way of Peel Region. He works as the executive director of the Career Development Centre at York's Schulich School of Business and is a York donor.

**Parameswaran, Nithya** (BSc '00 Bethune, BEd) has taught for the Toronto District School Board for the last seven years. She vividly remembers her biology classes with Prof. K. Andrew White – some of her favourites from her time at York.

## 2002

**D'Souza, Selma** (BA Founders) was on the 2008 Women's Executive Network's list of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women. She is a member of the York Regional Police Auxiliary, the Ontario Public Service Pride Network, and sits on the Board of Directors for Pride Toronto.

**Song, Hyoung Suk** (BA Hons. Calumet) recently moved to the product planning/strategic marketing team for Samsung Electronics

Printing division. He was married in September 2007.

**Wahbi, Michael** (BA Hons. Stong) is a high school teacher at Bishop Allen Academy in Toronto. He married in May 2007 and volunteers as assistant coach for the York Lions men's volleyball team.

## 2003

**Montgomery-Hall, Louise** (BA Glendon) has, along with her children, moved to a house in the middle of a conservation area and is discovering the beauty and quiet of the country and the fortitude and graciousness of people in rural Ontario.

**Neal, David** (BA Hons. McLaughlin) was to complete his MBA at Saint Mary's University in Halifax in May 2009 and hopes to return to Toronto to seek employment upon graduation. He volunteers in community events with other members of the MBA Society in his spare time.

**Pjescic, Minja** (MBA) has been working at Fidelity Investments Canada in Toronto for 10 years, currently as manager in the Product Solutions Department. She married Tihomir Cvijic in May 2008.

**Ruocco, Anthony** (BSc Spec. Hons. Bethune) recently completed his predoctoral internship at the University of Chicago and is currently a postdoctoral research associate and neuropsychology fellow at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago.

**Ursu, Ramona** (BSc Bethune) manages the commercial real estate transactions for Bell Canada in Ontario. She keeps herself informed on economics and the commercial market, travels for business and practises yoga twice a week.

**Zepeda, Raquel** (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) lives in Barcelona and is working on a PhD on clinical developmental psychology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She is studying parenting styles and disruptive behaviour disorders.

## 2004

**Headrick, Paul** (PhD) recently published his first novel, *That Tune Clutches My Heart*, with Gaspereau Press. He teaches English literature

and creative writing at Langara College in Vancouver.

**Johnston, Julie** (BDes Spec. Hons. Calumet) co-founded Defence Intelligence, an Ottawa-based information security firm specializing in compromise detection and mitigation, incident response and emergency forensics.

**Patch, April** (BSc Bethune) gave birth to a 4-1/2 week premature baby boy, Cameron James, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces, on Jan. 16, 2008.

## 2005

**Brooks, Andrew** (BES Spec. Hons. Bethune) married Carolyn Barber (MES '05) in Lewiston, Maine on Aug. 4, 2007. She gave birth to their first child, a baby boy named Amon Luca Brooks on Oct. 12, 2007.

**Cole, Kenneth** (BA Hons. Vanier) is an independent film director and recently concluded work on a short film. He looks forward to a master's degree in either film production or screenwriting at York in the fall of 2009.

**Mohi-ud-Din Qadri, Hussain** (BA Atkinson) is CEO of Bala & Ladae Group, a manufacturer and supplier of spa equipment in Canada. He has authored five books including a book of Urdu poetry.

**Russell, Marilyn** (BA Bethune) was married in Port Sydney, Ont. in 2008. The couple has recently relocated to the Ottawa Valley.



2006: Westmore Smith

# Class Notes:



2006: Suzana Stos

**Silva, Steven** (BA Hons. McLaughlin, BEd) was married on Aug. 2, 2008 to Josie (Giuseppa) Bagnato (BA Hons. '07 McLaughlin, BEd '08).

## 2006

**Dubins, Matthew** (BA Hons. Winters) married Rachel E. Lifshitz (BA, BEd '07 Stong) in July 2008. Matthew is working toward his PhD in experimental psychology with a specialization in cognitive neuroscience at the University of Toronto.

**Goodman, Adam** (MBA) recently wrote and published his first book, *Following The Goods: Financial Management for the Young and Ambitious*, designed to help teenagers and young adults learn to manage their finances.

**McQueen, Tammy** (BA Hons. Winters) is the director of communications at the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, an organization working to improve the accessibility and quality of higher education in Ontario.

**Nizam, Hudaser** (BA Hons. Calumet, BEd) has for the past two years worked as a math teacher at Chinguacousy Secondary School in Brampton, where she's just bought her first home with her husband. She plans to pursue a master of education on a part-time basis in 2009.

**Stos, Suzana** (BA Spec. Hons. Atkinson) recently completed an MA in English literature and film studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. She is currently completing a bachelor of education at York.

**Smith, Westmore** (BA '06 Atkinson) is a French teacher at Shoreham

Public School in Toronto. He also helps run a Boys to Men Program at the school for at-risk youth, and volunteers at the Jamaican Canadian Association.

## 2007

**Stefanidis, Kyriake** (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) teaches English and ESL at Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute in Toronto. She is also involved in an initiative that, in cooperation with schools, tries to close the gap between ESL and mainstream education.

**Steinberg, Lindsey** (BA Spec. Hons. Winters, BEd) has produced two off-Broadway plays, *Jewtopia* and *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*.

**Wright, Nicole C.** (BA '88, BA Hons. '05 Bethune, MA) is the owner/proprietor of Museum of Moments, a company that documents and preserves individual and corporate oral histories for clients. She lives in Mississauga with her three teenagers.

## 2008

**Alexander, Sylvia** (BA Atkinson) enjoys the freedom that graduating has given her by volunteering at the YMCA and a seniors' centre. She feels fortunate to have had the opportunity of a university education in her later years as it has broadened her horizons and outlook.

**Ghoari, Ridah** (BA Hons. Calumet) is completing her MA in international & comparative legal studies, specializing in dispute & conflict resolution at the School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, UK.

**Gourley, Will** (BA Founders) is completing his bachelor of education at Tyndale University College & Seminary in Toronto. He is the proud father of son Storm, 13, and lucky husband of Robyn (15 years). His undergrad took 24 years to complete because of a hiatus to found the clothing site CostaNada.com.

**Haner, Dilys** (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) has returned to York to pursue a graduate degree in clinical-developmental psychology. She is chair of the Board of Directors at Justice for Children and Youth.

**Ijaz, Fatima** (BA Atkinson) is pursuing a master in linguistics at Eastern Michigan University. She is also trying to develop a new approach towards language learning by incorporating poetry, philosophy and extracts of literature in the teaching of a language.

**Kirkham, Amy** (BSc Spec. Hons. Bethune) moved to Vancouver with her boyfriend in August 2008. She plans to complete a master of science at the University of British Columbia.

**Lachance, Heidi** (BA Glendon, BEd) teaches French with the Toronto District School Board. She is confident that the learning experiences and mentorship she received at York are what helped her attain such a wonderful position.

**Sharma, Kunal** (MBA) works in the management training program at Manulife Financial. His wife had twin boys in July 2008 and he is enjoying life as a father.

**Telner, Jason** (PhD) works as a research scientist at Honeywell International Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Bowsfield, Hartwell**, who became York's first archivist in 1970, died on Aug. 10, 2008. Also a history professor, he was inducted into York's Founders Society in 1999.

**Doxey, George**, founding chair of York's Department of Economics and master of McLaughlin College from 1978 to 1988, died on June 5, 2008. His lectures, delivered in tandem with McLaughlin's first master, George Tatham, have been described as legendary.

**Escobar, José**, professor emeritus of Hispanic studies, died Sept. 28, 2008. He had taught Spanish literature in Glendon's Department of Hispanic Studies since it was founded in 1972.

**Gibson, Barry** (LLB '74), well-known Vancouver libel lawyer, died of a heart attack on March 24 at 60.

**Gibson, Dyanne** (BA Spec. Hons. '73, MA '74), longtime York humanities professor, died on Oct. 19, 2008 at 75. She produced annually revised guides to Canadian universities, including *Gibson's Student Guide to*

*Ontario Universities* and *Gibson's Student Guide to Western Canadian Universities*.

**Jeffrey, Liss** (MES '87), director of the McLuhan Global Research Network at the University of Toronto, died of cancer on Dec. 18, 2008 at 57.

**Leswal, Thomas** (BA Hons. '74 Vanier) died in Calgary in November 2008, of complications from bladder cancer and kidney failure. The geography major had many friends in Ontario from his days at York.

**Lucas, Robert**, professor in York's Schulich School of Business, died on Feb. 17 at 65. He taught organizational behaviour and industrial relations and had headed the Bachelor of Business Administration Program.

**Minden, Harold** (MA '67, PhD '69), York professor emeritus of psychology, died Feb. 18 at 85. At age 40, he sold his successful leather business, went back to school at York and then joined its Department of Psychology, where he founded the Learning Disability Program.

**Nanji, Soraya** (BAS Spec. Hons. '07 Atkinson) was killed by a truck while walking in Toronto on March 25. Aged 28, she was an administrative assistant in sales and marketing at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

**Rezansoff, Jeff** (MES '05), died on Dec. 23, 2008 at 34 from complications stemming from an accident in Taiwan, where he was teaching English.

**Solomon, Patrick**, education professor, died of cancer on Oct. 4, 2008. Jamaican-born, he was one of the pioneers of the Urban Diversity Initiative in York's Faculty of Education.

**Westcott, Malcolm**, chair of York's Department of Psychology in the 1970s and author of *The Psychology of Human Freedom* (1988), died of pneumonia on Nov. 10, 2008 at 79. He retired in 1993.

**Youngman, Alison** (LLB '84, LLM '99), a high-profile Toronto lawyer, died of lung cancer on March 8. She was named a YWCA Woman of Distinction in 2004 for breaking "new ground for women in the legal profession".

How a York dance instructor gave me my epiphany. **BY SANDIE RINALDO**

# Dancing to the News

**I** REMEMBER THE MOMENT I realized I would never be a professional dancer. Until then, I had harboured dreams of Broadway musical stardom, a marriage perhaps to the much older choreographer Gower Champion or Alvin Ailey, a brownstone in Manhattan and dinners at the infamous Sardi's on West 44th.

I had achieved some early success as a singer and dancer, as a regular on the CBC shows "The Good Company" and "Where It's At", and a TV pilot the CBC capriciously called "Ruby Begonia's Electric Chowder Society". But a seminal moment in

## It was a sliding door

a modern dance class at York University opened my eyes to the wisdom of selecting another career path.

Like others who sought an intellectual and artistic refuge in the wilds of a new university, I pursued the finer arts in this northern outpost of Toronto. Grant Strate was head of dance. I studied ballet under Yves Cousineau, and dance therapy with Juliana Lau. But it was Ahuva Anbary, my modern dance instructor, who provided me with my epiphany. She was an excellent instructor, but this tough former Israeli army drill sergeant, or so the legend goes, ruled with an iron fist and taught through intimidation. Everyone wanted to please, but few could.

At each class she would single out someone for "special attention". I generally tried to stay hidden behind some of the taller dancers, thinking that if I could not see Ahuva, she could not see me. I was wrong. One day she ordered the pianist to stop playing, glared around the studio and fixed her gaze on me. "Sandie, come here," she bellowed. Ahuva turned me around to face the class and with hands placed on my shoulders, she declared: "This girl will never be a dancer. She does not have the body. She does not have the physical strength. But she has more musicality in her baby finger than all of you combined. Dance, Sandie. Dance." I did not know whether to be thrilled or to throw up!

As instructed, I danced for the class. But it was a sliding door moment for me, the moment when reality came face to

face with ambition and reality emerged the victor.

It would be dishonest to claim that like Odette, the princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse, I took to my bed to the soulful strains of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. I may have been disheartened but I was not down.

You see, Gower and Alvin did not know there was another man in my life, a man often cited in viewer opinion polls as the most

trusted man in America. I was in an alternative fantasy relationship with Walter Leland Cronkite Jr., anchor of the CBS Evening News. Walter and I would get together five nights a week from 6:30 to 7. I had been involved

with him since the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy. He drew me into his television world of journalism and reporting.

With youthful exuberance I set my sights on an improbable goal. I did not want to be with Walter. I wanted Walter's job. I became an information junkie, a walking *Encyclopedia Britannica* of news. I read newspapers, magazines and books. I watched newsmagazine shows like "60 Minutes" and "W5". The same week I graduated from York University I called the CBC looking for work as a news researcher. They politely declined to avail themselves of my services.

Not to be discouraged, I telephoned CTV and, remarkably, the head of personnel, Chuck Umland, took my call and took the time to talk to me. After 20 minutes he put me on hold. It was another seminal moment. When he returned he told me the director of news needed someone to answer the phones and asked whether I was interested in the job. A streetcar and subway ride later, I was interviewed by the late Don Cameron and hired.

Ahuva Anbary was a memorable teacher – whether you used her wisdom to build a career in dance or took her advice to try something else. I do not know where she is today, but I thank her for closing one door so I could open another.

By the way, I still dance every day in my living room, at parties with friends and family, and during intermission at tapings of CTV's "So You Think You Can Dance Canada", but only when the cameras are not rolling!



Sandie Rinaldo (BA Spec. Hons. '73) is weekend anchor for "CTV National News" and co-host of today's "W-FIVE".

# 50



**YORK TO THE POWER OF 50.** Fifty years ago a dream began. A vision of bringing together researchers, teachers, students and partners from different disciplines to address the complex challenges of tomorrow. This is the essence of our interdisciplinary approach. Each year, York University welcomes 50,000 students helping them transform into innovative thinkers prepared to tackle real-world issues. As we look back on our first fifty years, we believe there is no limit to what can be accomplished in our next fifty. [yorku50.ca](http://yorku50.ca)

**YORK** **U50**  
UNIVERSITÉ  
UNIVERSITY  
*redefine* THE POSSIBLE.

Presenting Sponsors:



Media Sponsor:



# GROUP HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE

for York Alumni



## PROTECTION MADE EASY... GROUP RATES MADE EASIER!

As a **York University perks provider**, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex is confident it can help you save on your home and auto insurance through **preferred group rates**, while enjoying **high-quality insurance products** and **outstanding service**.

As the leader in group home and auto insurance, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex lets you decide on the coverage that's right for you. In addition to benefiting from group rates, you can choose from a wide range of innovative insurance features and options to suit your needs and lifestyle.

Request a quote and you could



ENJOY SAVINGS THROUGH  
PREFERRED GROUP RATES

[MelocheMonnex.com/yorku](http://MelocheMonnex.com/yorku)

**1 866 352 6187**

(Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)



**Insurance**

Meloche Monnex

The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY and distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Québec and by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in the rest of Canada.

Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

\***No purchase required.** Contest ends on January 16, 2010. Skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Complete contest rules available at [MelocheMonnex.com](http://MelocheMonnex.com).

Meloche Monnex® is a trade-mark of Meloche Monnex Inc.

TD Insurance is a trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank, used under license.