

YORK

SUMMER 2006

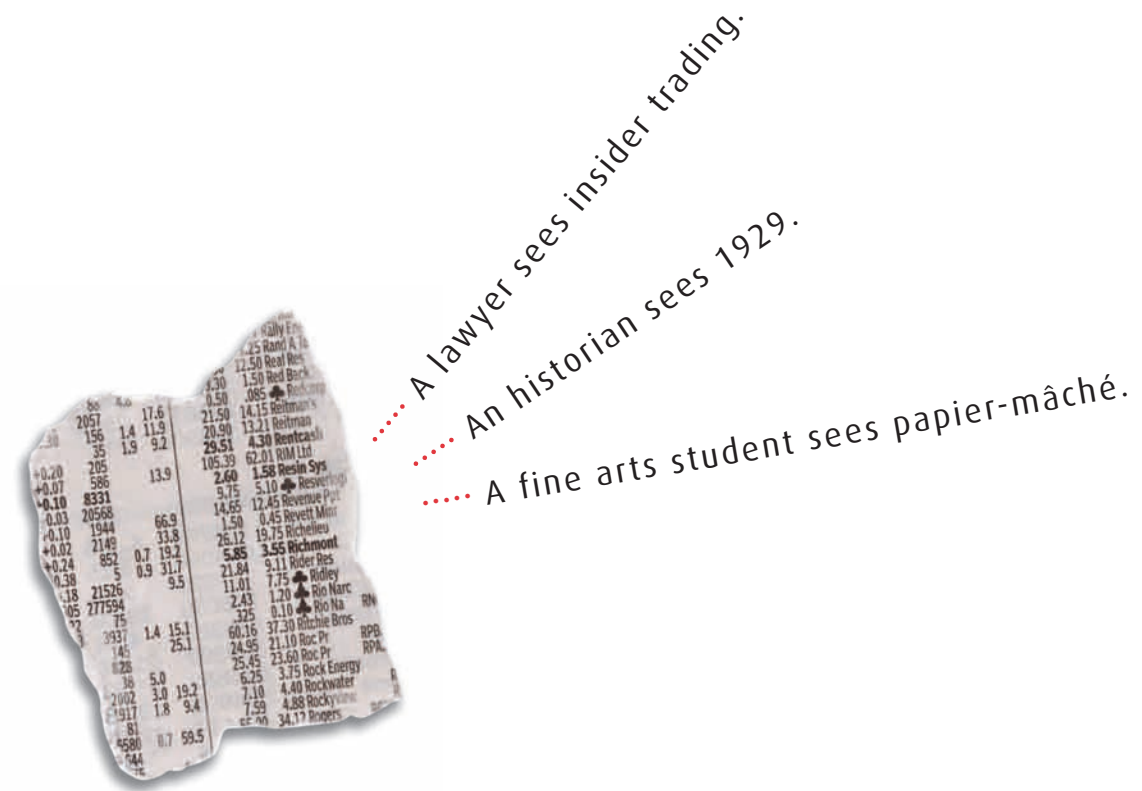
Star Struck

Astronaut Steve MacLean
is all set to go back
into space

PLUS

The Sociable City
Ontario's Information Czar
What Cocktails Say About Us





QUESTION EVERY ANGLE. STUDY EVERY ANGLE. RESEARCH EVERY ANGLE. WELCOME TO THE INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY. A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS NEEDS AN EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS. AT YORK, WE BREAK DOWN TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES AND BRING TOGETHER THINKERS FROM EVERY DISCIPLINE TO TACKLE REAL-WORLD ISSUES. WE DON'T JUST SEE THINGS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT, WE SEE THE LIGHT IN ITS ENTIRE SPECTRUM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIVERSITY, VISIT YORKU.CA.



INSIDE YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY: LINDSAY LOZON



4 Editor@YorkU A thirsty Congress. BY BERTON WOODWARD

7 Leading Edge Catching the subway. BY LORNA R. MARSDEN

8 Universe
Hey Presto...Yorkdex...Rx for RNs...Collaborative Divorce...Beyond Toons...Traffic Calming...
The Joys of Lawrence East



14 Star Struck
Fourteen years after his last flight, shuttle astronaut Steve MacLean prepares for a return to space. BY DAVID FULLER

18 Opening Act
Philanthropists Ivan Fecan and Sandra Faire have a lively conversation with *YorkU* about giving back, their role in the arts, and York's Accolade Project. BY MICHAEL TODD

22 Urbane Researcher
Roger Keil will lead a new institute at York focused on the city. BY MARTHA TANCOCK

24 The Sociable City
Five York experts discuss what makes metropolises succeed – or fail. BY BERTON WOODWARD

28 What Cocktails Say About Us
Christine Sismondo has stirred things up in the world of cocktails. BY MICHAEL TODD

30 The Information Czar
Ann Cavoukian, Ontario's information and privacy commissioner, sees her job as standing up for democracy. BY DIANNE RINEHART

32 Transported
David Collette, Canada's point man on 9/11, has found a "healthier" life as a Distinguished Fellow at Glendon. BY MARTHA TANCOCK



34 York People
Explorer Joseph Frey...Fundraiser Ron Cunningham...Painter Jennifer Lefort

41 Alumni
Branching out...Nomination time for the Bryden awards...Class Notes

46 Back Talk
A daughter ponders late poet Irving Layton. BY SAMANTHA BERNSTEIN

SUMMER 2006

York gets set for 'Congress'. BY BERTON WOODWARD

Thirsty Work

If you're organizing a huge national conference for academics, what's one of your biggest concerns? Housing them, obviously. Scheduling hundreds of meetings, certainly. But OK, after that? It's beer. I've been a fly on the wall in recent months as York organizers have taken on the mammoth task of hosting more than 8,000 delegates to the 75th Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, an annual confabulation of 80 academic societies, from historians to sociologists. They start arriving in late May for eight days of meetings and talk, which is thirsty work. So it's critical to have a beer tent where delegates can unwind and catch up with colleagues. I have learned how hapless past hosts didn't get the beer tent right and reaped the whirlwind of complaints. And how you'd better be careful about your brands of suds, because academics like premium.

Details like these have become ingrained for York's super-competent organizing team, led by John Lennox on the academic side and Cindy Bettcher and Deborah Hahn on the project and logistics side. They've been working for a year on this event, which is the biggest at York that anyone can remember. It's grand by any measure: Tourism Toronto starts its "very large" convention category just a little higher, at 9,000 delegates.

The last Congress at York was held in 1969, when, as Lennox likes to say with his customary twinkle, "York was three buildings and 400 acres of plowed fields, baked dry." His point is that Congress, as it's known, will showcase to many who may retain outmoded images of York



"our decisive coming of age." It will also show off other York strengths, such as its commitment to sustainability and social justice. The delegates' cloth carry bags are being produced, not overseas, but by Toronto's Somali Women and Children's Support Network, which helps immigrant Somalis with the transition to life in Canada. York will also issue everyone a reusable hot/cold mug to cut down on throwaway cups. During Congress's May 27-June 3 run, the public is welcome to attend major events, which will include an arts festival, a research gallery, a book fair and addresses by the United Nations' Stephen Lewis and environmentalist David Suzuki. Just get a \$10 day pass for "community participants" — see www.fedcan.ca/congress2006.

The theme of this Congress, pegged to its locale in Canada's largest urban area, is "The City: A Festival of Knowledge". In this issue of *YorkU*, we have picked up on the Congress theme with a roundtable of five York experts discussing urban issues. We also profile Roger Keil, director of the new City Institute at York, who joined the roundtable. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to offer the participants beer, but they should find plenty of that at Congress. ■

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

YORKU

THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 5

EDITOR Berton Woodward
bertonw@yorku.ca

MANAGING EDITOR Michael Todd
mtodd@yorku.ca

ART DIRECTOR James Nixon
jamen@yorku.ca

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

ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR Cindy Wilce
cindyw@yorku.ca

COPY EDITOR Marie Kopf
mkopf@yorku.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

KC Armstrong, Geoff George, Sophie Kinachtchouk, Jeff Kirk, Lindsay Lozon, Corey Mihailiuk, Jenny Pitt-Clark, James Reid, Dianne Rinehart, Rsquared

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 175,000 each.

CHIEF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Richard Fisher

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR
Berton Woodward

ADVERTISING
Tel: 416-736-5058
E-mail: editor@yorku.ca
See rate card and back issues at
www.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
See also page 45.

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

YORKU
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HORST HERGET

The benefits of Ontario's transit decision will be huge. BY LORNA R. MARSDEN

Catching the Subway

Ontario's recent decision to fund the Spadina-York Region subway is something the York community has been dreaming of and working towards for a very long time. We are grateful to all those who listened to our community appeals. The budget announcement in March came during our regular meeting of University Senate to loud applause. As the Chair of Senate, Professor Ross Rudolph, said, "This is a transformative moment in the history of this University."

This extension will greatly improve the lives of York University's 60,000 students, faculty and staff. And it will provide major transportation and community-building links for people locally and across the Greater Toronto Area.

At York, where the trains will make a stop right near the Common, York Lanes, the Seymour Schulich Building and the



The new extension will place York University more than ever at the heart of the GTA.

new Accolade performance building, the subway will remove the struggle to get to the campus, reduce travelling time and connect us to both the downtown and the 905 areas. In fact, the new extension will place York University more than ever at the heart of the GTA, linking the old city of Toronto with new cities that have grown around us.

For the broad community, York will be readily accessible for the first time. Alumni and the general public will come to lectures, exhibitions, performances and athletic events as easily as they do in any city core.

For our surrounding community, too, the subway will alleviate the now legendary gridlock in the northwest of Toronto. It will provide improved access to existing jobs and services for people in one of Toronto's most under-served areas. And there will be a development corridor along the path of the subway that will produce more employment and living space.

The reduction in vehicular traffic will further reduce demand for parking on campus and discourage the street parking

that often occurs at its edges. The environmental benefits in terms of reduced emissions, less noise pollution and the building of livable communities are incalculable. The extension will also take considerable pressure off the Yonge subway line, and reduce the chronic bus overcrowding that is directly traceable to

the lack of rapid-transit access in the northwest of the city.

The Ontario provincial budget committed \$670 million to this project. Further funding is due from the federal government, plus a municipal commitment shared by the City of Toronto and York Region. The subway will cross into York Region and the City of Vaughan at Steeles Avenue, linking up with Highway 407 and a major transit hub for York Regional Transit, VIVA, GO and Brampton Transit before terminating at a new Vaughan Corporate Centre at Highway 7.

It's a great investment. Apart from the benefits to people's lives, the extension will improve the movement of goods and services, which will have a significant impact on the economic growth and prosperity of the entire northwest quadrant of the GTA.

So, there is light at the end of the tunnel. And yes, it is an oncoming train. The extension may take up to seven years to build all the way to Vaughan but at York we will be counting down every second. ■

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

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COREY MIHAILIUK

CLUBS

Hey Presto

York's amateur magicians do everything but make exams disappear

For Tam Nguyen it was a “magical” moment. It happened when she was about 13 and hanging out at Canada’s Wonderland. She saw some performers doing magic tricks – not pulling rabbits out of a hat, but prestidigitation with cards. Nguyen, now president of York’s very own magic club, was both intrigued and hooked.

“I didn’t start doing magic right away,” says Nguyen, a graduating kinesiology student. “But when I got to York I found out about the Amateur Magic Organization at York (AMOY), which had been founded by two former York students, David Orlov and Sean Law, so I decided to join.”

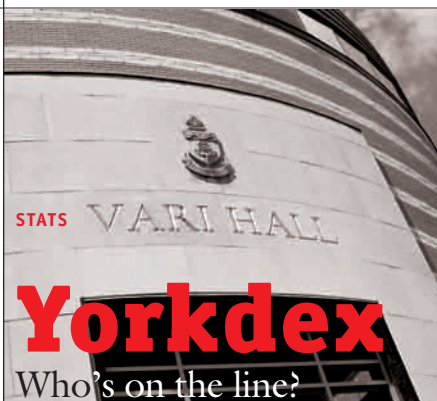
Men still outnumber women in the club, but Nguyen says about 10 of her female friends come out. “They’re kind of girlfriends. The whole club is like that, friendly and collegial.” The club now boasts about 30 members who meet twice a month.

Most members are strictly amateur, but the club does invite guest magicians to attend and give performances for the members. “A few of the club members such as Mike D’Urzo have more elaborate routines and they perform at birthday parties and things like that,” says Tam. “For me the allure of magic is trying to figure it out. I know it’s an illusion, but it’s great to experience the mystery of tricks.” ■



NO ILLUSION: AMOY's Shidan Murphy, David Orlov, Tam Nguyen, Mike D'urzo and Steven Orlov

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK



STATS **Varsity Hall**

Yorkdex

Who's on the line?

Number of administrative phones on the Keele campus:
> 6,295

Number of residence phones:
> 3,137

Average number of calls placed monthly to York in 2001:
> 674,700

Average monthly calls to York Aug.-Oct. 2005:
> 713,336

Total calls to York in September 2005:
> 975,716

Average daily calls processed by York's "auto-attendant" in 1990-1991:
> 2,368

Average monthly calls processed by auto-attendant Aug.-Oct. 2005:
> 137,128

There's a saying that you don't get divorced from people, you get divorced to them. Certainly, Victoria Smith (LLB '81) would agree. Smith is a practising lawyer in a relatively new area of family law called Collaborative Practice (CP). It is aimed at spouses intent on untying the knot (or dealing with other family disputes) based on a collaborative approach, not an adversarial court process.

Smith, an adjunct professor at York's Osgoode Hall Law School, teaches collaborative family law (CFL) to students eager to try new and innovative approaches to family law. Osgoode has one of only two CP/CFL programs in Canada. "Many of my students are young, but they already know they don't want to fight it out in court, or be involved in that kind of acrimony," says Smith, who is co-author of *Collaborative Family Law: Another Way to Resolve Family Disputes*.

PROGRAMS

Rx for RNs

York helps upgrade skills for internationally-trained nurses

What's good for nurses will likely be good for the ills of Ontario's understaffed hospitals (and the aging baby boomers who will soon be filling them). Why? Well, not only does Ontario have a doctor crisis, but it's also suffering from a lack of qualified nurses, says Sue Coffey, coordinator of York's BScN for Internationally Educated Nurses, a pioneering program to help upgrade skills of nurses who were trained outside Canada.

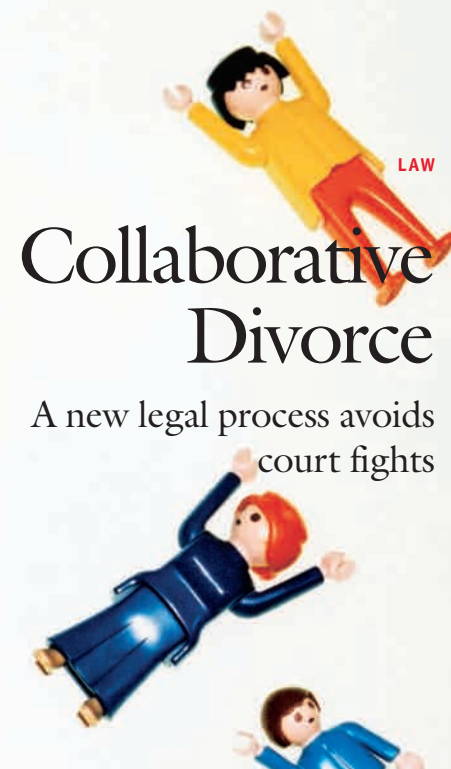
Thirty-two nurses started at York in April 2005, and 30 are scheduled to complete the program in December 2006. A second group of 36 students was admitted in January 2006.

In January 2005, Ontario began requiring a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for anyone entering the field. "Our program is designed to upgrade the educational preparation of international nurses who are already here but no longer eligible to write the nursing registration exam because of the new BScN entry-to-practice requirement," says Coffey, a professor in York's School of Nursing. Once registered, the applicant is allowed to work as an RN in the province.

"This program really shows a commitment to social justice and a willingness to step outside what a university is normally required to do," says Coffey. "With the new entry-to-practice requirements, the bar was raised. York is showing a real openness to educational innovation in taking this on." ■

In CP, both clients and lawyers sign a Participation Agreement in which all agree to act in good faith, exchange all important information, put the children first, look for solutions acceptable to both parties, and – key to the collaborative approach – pledge that neither lawyer may represent his or her client in a contested court proceeding against the other. This means that the lawyers act as nonadversarial advocates, focused solely on helping the clients achieve a mutually acceptable settlement.

Lawyers who practice CP receive special training in the collaborative process, communication skills and interest-based negotiation. "Collaborative lawyers aren't therapists but we need to understand the dynamics of families," says Smith. "We help clients negotiate effectively, preserve their capacity to co-parent their children and allow them to move on in a healthy way." ■



Collaborative Divorce

A new legal process avoids court fights

PHOTOGRAPH BY RSQUARED

Animation is in a renaissance because of the Web, savvy computer design programs and other technological innovations that are revolutionizing the craft. Just where it has been – and might be going – is laid out in a new book by Chris Gehman, a grad student in York's MFA Program in film production, and his co-editor, artist Steve Reinke (BFA '86). *The Sharpest Point: animation at the end of cinema* is a collection of 26 essays on animation's current state. "The book brings together contemporary strands of thought about animation as an art, a technological practice and an object of theoretical observation," says Gehman.

"Sadly, animation remains *terra incognita* in terms of serious writing on the subject. So we're hoping *The Sharpest Point* may help change that," says Gehman. Essays cover topics such as hand-made animation, animation and moving image theory, compositing, and Web-based animation. The book is illustrated throughout and includes a 16-page section of colour plates.

"With the digital era, animation has become unstable," says Gehman. "We use the idea of animation as a gravitational centre around which a great diversity of material in a broad range of styles is now revolving. The book emerged from a recognition that changes in the technology, distribution systems etc. have changed the way people think about, and position, animation within the larger culture." ■



BOOKS

Beyond Toons

Two Yorkies co-edit a serious look at animation



RESEARCH

Traffic Calming

Turns out that jammed highways may be less stressful after a hard day

There's nothing like counter-intuitive results to get academic heads scratching. And that's just what Christine Wickens, a York PhD candidate in psychology, recently got with her work on how workplace stress affects commuters. She and co-author David Wiesenthal, a York psychology professor, were expecting one thing, but discovered something else.

"You'd think that after a bad day at the office, stuck in slow traffic on the evening commute, driver stress levels would go up," says Wickens. "But we found that wasn't the case." In low-stress driving conditions, commuters in Wickens' ½-year study typically would drive about 100 km/hr. In higher-stress driving situations (on the 401 corridor and 400 series highways) speeds were more in

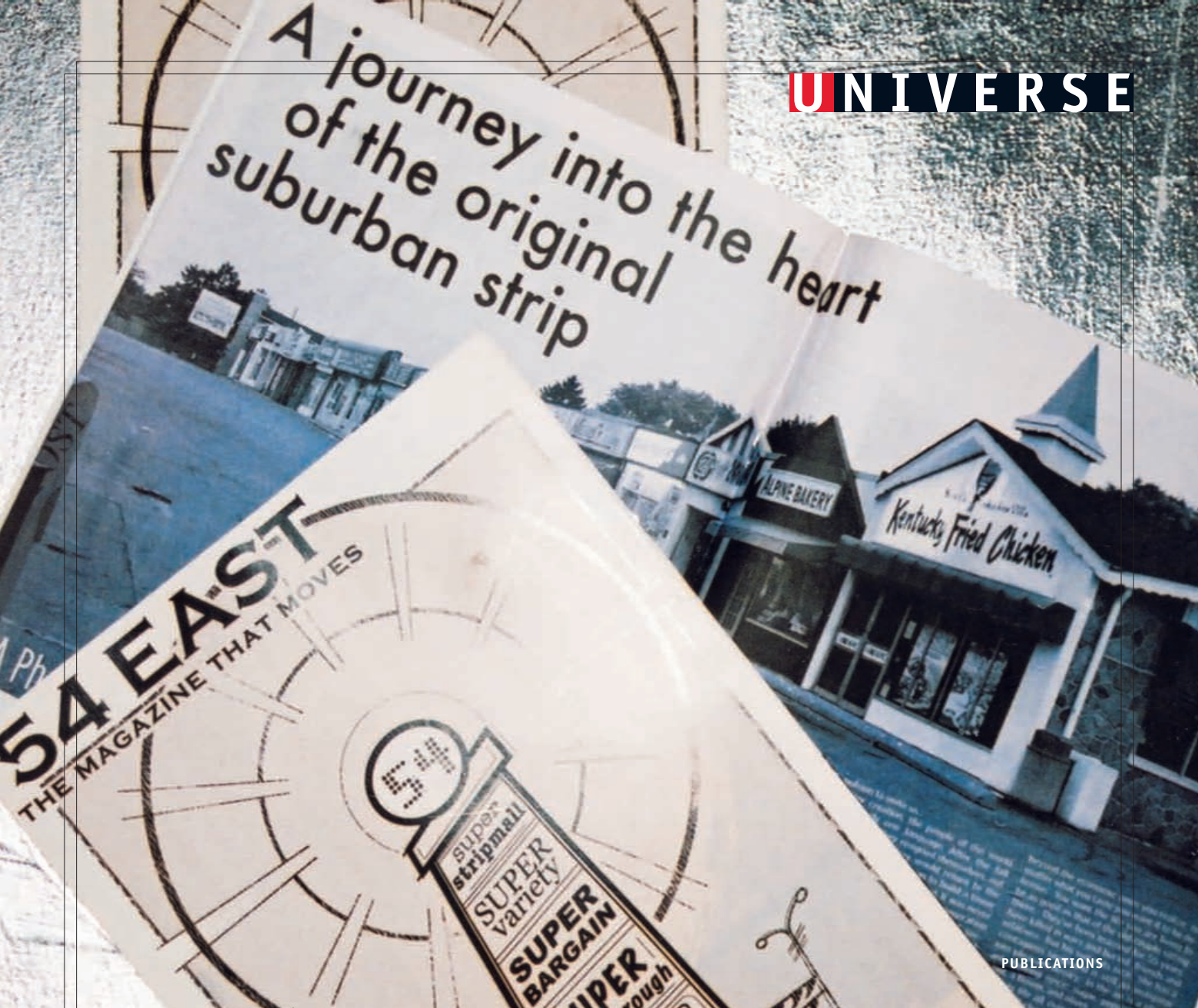
the 64 km/hr range. Subjects' average commute time was 2.6 hours each day.

Wickens interviewed 42 drivers for her study at predetermined places along the route by using cell phones. Drivers rated their response to such statements as "I'm losing my temper" or "I'm feeling tense" on a scale from 0 (low) to 100 (high).

The result of her study was the revelation that relatively

clear highways can cause a driver more stress after a bad day than a road bogged down with medium-to-heavy traffic. Why? Wickens' theory is drivers have to pay attention more in congested conditions than on wide-open highways. "Drivers get distracted from obsessing about work problems, and as a result their job stress doesn't add to the stress they're experiencing on the road." ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY RSQUARED



The Joys of Lawrence East

A York professor celebrates an oft-overlooked part of Scarborough

Call *54east* the little mag that could, even though it's named after a bus – Toronto's 54 Lawrence Ave. East bus to be exact. While it might seem unusual to name a quarterly city magazine after a transit vehicle, in this case it's apropos since it goes through the very heart of a place Rafael Gomez would like to celebrate. Scarborough.

It's an area that's suffered more than its fair share of snubs over the years, which is partly the reason Gomez, a Glendon economics professor and resident of Scar-

borough's Wexford area, decided to create a magazine that explores his 'hood's eclectic nature. Among Wexford's charms, for instance, are restaurants featuring exotic cuisines, Toronto's oldest wooden church (St. Jude's) and the distinction of having Canada's first strip mall opened by the Queen in 1958 (sadly, it has since been demolished, notes Gomez).

But no worries, there are more than 100 strip malls along the Lawrence Ave. East route still to celebrate. Often overlooked, the malls of Scarborough and east

Toronto (featured last December in the Winter issue) comprise a unique urban landscape, Gomez says.

"I think this part of Scarborough is interesting for the same reason that London's Brixton suburb is interesting. It has a grittiness that, over time, has developed a patina. Sure I'd love to remake Toronto's urban landscape, but that isn't going to happen. So you celebrate what's there of value."

54east is available both in print and online at www.54eastmagazine.com. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RSQUARED

BY PUSHING BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES,
GALILEO REDEFINED THE WAY WE SEE THE WORLD.



RESEARCH AT YORK IS DOING THE SAME THING.

York University is a leading research innovator in Canada. By working across disciplines and in collaboration with partners outside the university, researchers at York are able to develop innovative ideas and work with policy makers and practitioners to create meaningful change and a more globally competitive Canada.

Examples of York's current collaborations include the Innovation Synergy Centre in Markham (ISCM), which helps Canadian companies realize their full growth potential and become globally competitive. Similarly, YORKbiotech, a regional innovation network and not-for-profit community development corporation, uses the power of convergence in order to help its partners deliver innovative, real-world solutions to real-world challenges. A third initiative, The Consortium on New Media, Culture and Entertainment R&D in Toronto (CONCERT) will, in time, drive the creative potential of the region by facilitating innovative collaborations between the arts, technology and business.

Taken together, these three initiatives are indicative of the unique and relevant way in which York Research is helping to shape Canada's competitiveness and global influence. To learn more about how York's approach to research is redefining university research in Canada and fueling Canada's growth, visit www.research.yorku.ca.



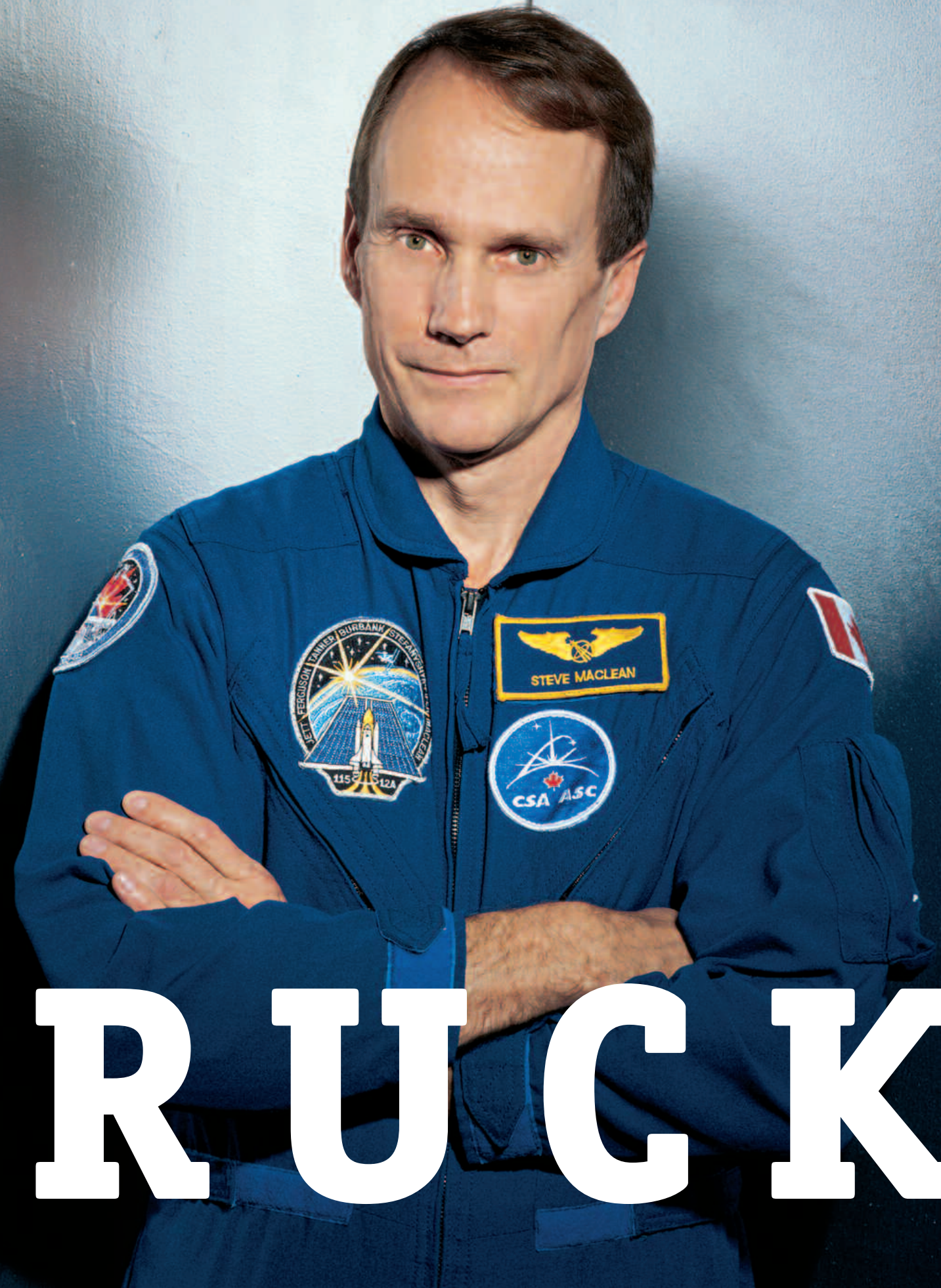
"I **T'S 15,000 DEGREES OUT HERE,"** explains Steve MacLean, Canadian astronaut and York alumnus, as he motions with his hands to describe the bright glow surrounding a space shuttle re-entering earth's atmosphere at 25 times the speed of sound. With cool precision, he goes on to explain the phenomenon of the resulting shockwave that reduces the temperature near the shuttle's surface to a mere 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. "Nothing can survive 15,000 degrees," he says. That singular fact has occupied the minds of MacLean (BA '77, PhD '83) and everyone else at NASA for the past three years as they've contemplated the return to flight of the space shuttle after the loss in 2003 of Columbia and seven of MacLean's fellow astronauts. Although NASA did get the shuttle back into space last summer, there were still minor problems, causing another hold on flights until the expected launch of Discovery this July. After that, if all goes well, MacLean is scheduled to make the second space flight of his life later in the year.

The trouble in 2005, again, was "the foam". As MacLean watched chunks of insulation fly off Discovery, he realized immediately they would cause another delay. Two years earlier, foam broke off Columbia's booster rocket during launch and hit the underside of the wing, damaging its insulation tiles and dooming the flight before it had even started. The thousands of fragile ceramic tiles covering the underside of the shuttle are all that protects one of the most complicated space vehicles ever designed from burning up as it returns through the atmosphere at 25,000 kilometres an hour. The tragedy affected MacLean in many ways, not least of which was fulfilling his sad duties as "CACO" (Casualty Assistance Calls Officer) to Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, one of Columbia's crew. The loss, NASA's second since the Challenger explosion in 1986, sent the space agency's shuttle program into a two-and-a-half-year hiatus as engineers looked for a fix that would allow them to resume space flights and construction of the International Space Station.

Both disasters delayed MacLean's scheduled flights into space. His first eventually came in 1992, eight years after he became an astronaut and five years later than planned. He waited another nine years before being assigned to his next flight, set for May 2003. That mission, STS 115, was going to deliver a large piece of the International Space

Fourteen years after his last flight,
shuttle astronaut Steve MacLean
is set to return to space. BY DAVID FULLER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

STARS TRUCK



Station but the Columbia tragedy intervened in February 2003. Not that MacLean was simply sitting around all those years. He has been a program manager in Houston responsible for the space vision system and laser camera aboard the shuttle, chief science adviser on the team that redesigned the International Space Station, director general of the Canadian Astronauts Program, and capsule communicator, or “CAPCOM” – the person who communicates with both the shuttle and space station astronauts from the ground.

But, as busy as he has been, MacLean admits to frustration over the delays and the added pressure facing the shuttle program now that the US government has committed itself to future manned flights to the moon and Mars using the International Space Station as a critical way point. “It’s not so much the waiting; it was really tough to lose friends,” he explains. His impatience to get on with the mission has fused with his sense of loss, hardening his resolve to get on with the work he began when he was chosen for the shuttle program in December 1983. “My goal right now is to go up and finish what we started as a bunch of guys going to astronaut training school together.”

His “right-stuff”, team-first approach to being an astronaut – the film *The Right Stuff* was released the year he was chosen to be one of the first six Canadian astronauts – comes naturally to MacLean. Born in Ottawa, he was a member of Canada’s national gymnastics team during his undergraduate years at York in the late ’70s. In fact, it’s what brought him to York despite a scholarship offer from another university. “It was a big requirement. I had to be in a gym every day at 3pm, so I had to finish my courses at 2:30 and that was hard to arrange,” he recalls. “It wasn’t easy to get it done but the people here were quite open.”

That willingness to accommodate his needs left a lasting impression on MacLean, so much so that he returned to York and became a member of the Alumni Association’s board of directors. He speaks at special events as often as he can, visiting the campus several times a year. “The flexibility to allow me to compete at the level I was competing at was unbelievable,” he says. “I am so thankful that this university allowed me to do both things.” His chance to both study and compete internationally, as well as pursue courses in different fields, goes to the heart of what York’s interdisciplinary approach is all about, MacLean says. “I really think it’s the strength of this university.

You really need to be cross educated between disciplines and York provided that. I didn’t know that was important at the time but now I know.”

A laser physicist by training, MacLean regularly collaborates with NASA scientists on research projects and, more critically, improvements to shuttle design.

“I can speak to the guys that do the thermal dynamics, I can speak to the guys that do the electronics,” he says. His interest in other areas of science heightened as he and fellow astronauts discussed design issues with NASA’s engineers following each “mistake”, as he calls them, eschewing the word “accident”. “It’s a materials issue,” he says of the re-entry problem. As for possible safer – and cooler – ways to return from space, “You can’t slow yourself down; it takes too much energy to do that. It takes 7.3 million pounds of thrust to get us up there; you need to dissipate all that energy to bring us back.”

Once MacLean makes the return journey to the International Space Station (ISS), he will help deliver and install a combined solar panel and support truss. As a mission specialist on this trip, MacLean will make his first walk in space. He and fellow crew member Dan Burbank will be responsible for unloading the space station part and moving it into position for final installation by the ISS crew. In a mission he describes as more complex than usual, MacLean will be floating above the earth for more than seven hours, acting basically as a construction worker – albeit one with a PhD and 20 years of training. The scientific research performed on earlier flights must now take a back seat to the job of completing the ISS.

Despite the delays, MacLean feels there’s still a large amount of public support for the space flights. “When you go and talk to people about what we’re trying to do, about some of the medical stuff that we’re close to solving because we’re flying in space, people get very excited,” he says. “I think we need to show more of the connection between the different aspects of our lives and what we do in space.”

Even with all the waiting, MacLean, now 51 and a father of three, exudes a kid’s enthusiasm about being an astronaut. “It’s still exciting. It really is amazing what we’re trying to do. And that we have 17 countries trying to do it,” he says. “It’s really important to me that we show the world we can work together. That’s as important as going into space.” ■



DOWN THE HATCH: MacLean in training

Boldly Going

York is a leader in space research

ASTRONAUT AND ALUMNUS Steve MacLean’s pride in York University includes its space-related research, which he can readily list off, finger by finger. Indeed, York is one of Canada’s leading space research universities, with experts participating in projects for NASA, the Canadian Space Agency and other major organizations around the world. At York, these heavenly men and women are based in the Department of Earth & Space Science & Engineering, the Department of Physics & Astronomy, the Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science and the Centre for Vision Research, among other units. Here is a partial list of how they are helping man and machine go where none have gone before.

PUTTING THE MET ON MARS: York University, Optech Inc. and MDA Space Missions are building the MET, or meteorological instrumentation package, for NASA’s 2007 Phoenix mission to Mars that will search for water and possible signs of life.

CHECKING EINSTEIN: York and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics are participating in the NASA/Stanford University experiment, Gravity Probe B, to prove – or disprove – Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity. A York-led team of experts is tracking movements of the probe’s guide star IM Pegasi.

AN ISSUE OF GRAVITY: York is conducting research for the Canadian Space Agency on how gravity, or lack of it, can affect human perception – including that of astronauts in the International Space Station.

AN ISSUE OF GRAVITY: University researchers are also working on a project sponsored by the US National Space Biomedical Research Institute to find ways to treat space sickness in order to make long-

distance space travel more endurable.

WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?: A group of York scientists have. Their latest project to better measure global wind patterns and atmospheric composition, called SWIFT, on Canada’s Chinook satellite is the successor to the recently concluded, 14-year WINDII project.

WEATHER BY GPS: York is in charge of a second instrument on the Chinook satellite called ARGO, designed to use “spin-off” GPS data to study temperatures and water vapour in the upper atmosphere.

SERIOUS ABOUT OZONE: York scientists are key players in OSIRIS, a Canadian instrument on the Odin satellite that images the stratosphere and ozone layer.

ACE UP THEIR SLEEVE: York is involved with ACE (Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment), the science mission of SCISAT, Canada’s first scientific satellite in more than two decades, with a focus on assessing damage to the ozone layer over the Arctic.

VERY SPECIAL TELESCOPE: York likes VSOP – no, not the brandy, the radio telescope (Very Long Baseline Interferometry Space Observatory Project). The University provided the unique high-precision instrumentation for the award-winning telescope, whose virtual size (if it had a conventional dish) is four times the diameter of the earth.

THE GALACTIC NEIGHBOURHOOD: York is a member of the Science Working Group of the Kepler mission, NASA’s Discovery project to see if Earth-size planets – and therefore the possibility of Earth-style life – are common or rare in inhabitable zones around other stars.

MARS LANDER, EH?: York-led Northern Light is a consortium of technology companies that hopes to put a Canadian-built lander on Mars within a few years. ■

WATER WORLD: Training for a spacewalk (top) and emergency bail-out (bottom two) in Houston



Philanthropists Ivan Fecan and Sandra Faire have a lively conversation about giving back, their role in the arts, and York's Accolade Project.

BY MICHAEL TODD

OPENING ACT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COREY MIHAILIUK

IN LATE MARCH, York University held the official opening of The Accolade Project, incorporating two new buildings which feature a range of new fine-arts facilities. Front and centre in the Accolade East building is the Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan Theatre, an intimate, 325-seat performance space named for two prominent Torontonians who donated \$1 million to the project. Soon after the opening, *YorkU* spoke with Faire and Fecan about their role as donors in the community, both at York and in the city as a whole.

Fecan is president and CEO of Bell Globemedia, which owns CTV and *The Globe and Mail*, and is CEO of CTV Inc. He is also a graduate of York's Film Department (BFA '01) and a member of the York University Foundation Board of Directors. In 2003, Fecan received York's Bruce Bryden Alumni Award in recognition of his contributions to the University. He is married to Sandra Faire.

A producer and writer, Faire is president and CEO of Sandra Faire & Associates (SFA), an award-winning Canadian production and entertainment company specializing in comedy. SFA's programming has included such shows as "Comedy Now", a stand-up series, and "Comedy Inc.", a sketch series which is sold to CTV in Canada and Spike TV in the US.

Here are highlights from the conversation.

Ivan, you were here in the early '70s as a film student. Did you ever have any idea you'd find yourself back at York opening a theatre with your – and Sandra's – name on it?

Fecan: Zero.

How does it feel?

Fecan: Both strange and wonderful. When I was here as a student I would never have imagined this. I was just trying to get by.

Faire: At the time you were doing video art shows in New York, and making documentaries.

Fecan: Yes. At the Mercer Arts Center [both laugh].

Doing "installations"? In NYC?

Fecan: Yeah! [laughter]

This must seem a long way from those days.

Fecan: When the theatre actually opened it affected me more than I expected. I thought, well, you know, it's great and it's a privilege to be able to give back and all of that...but...I was a nervous wreck [smiles].

Faire: He was! He was soooo emotional. He was nervous and happy at the same

time. All our friends who were there at the Accolade opening said so.

Fecan: I was. All of that stuff. It all appeared at that point...at the opening.

You were surprised?

Fecan: Yes, because I realized it had come full circle. I really didn't think a lot about coming here as a student, the bus ride up here, all the time involved. But being here when the theatre opened – it suddenly hit me.

Faire: And if I can share this...his mother, I thought of her as our mother, would have been so proud of this. And I think

interesting. It's more important to be happy. For Sandra and me, it's a real privilege to give back and I happen to think that's kind of important. We very consciously thought about what we were going to do. We knew we wanted to do something. Not everyone does.

Faire: I can't imagine not [doing something].

Fecan: No, but there are some people who feel that it's their money and so... Not everyone realizes there are different ways to give back. Some people do it late in life, or pass it on to their children. Or you can give earlier in life. We decided to do

we take that we love, and bring together with our support?" And that's what we did. Ivan's on the Art Gallery of Ontario board so we donated to that. We both love theatre so we gave to Soulpepper and the National Ballet School. They're wonderful projects. And then we focused on York University because it encompassed everything we loved – architecture, theatre, dance, music.

Fecan: And also we gave to York because people concentrate so much on downtown Toronto – and you can understand that. But you have 50,000 students coming here. It just seems in terms of attracting donors that it's a little harder to do, because I don't think people yet understand what's happening, or the potential here. So we felt it was important to, if you will, appropriate some leadership and lead by example. Our other gifts make a lot of sense for downtown Toronto but we felt it was important to make a contribution for a

place here in the northern part of the city – to set an example of giving perhaps a bit earlier than many of our peers would get around to.

Faire: I think a lot of people just don't know how to give – what the options are, whether it's \$10 or \$10,000. If it's the latter you don't have to sit down and write out a cheque right away. Give over a period of time. You can do it in a time frame you can afford. It's like that with most gifts. Or you can give of your time. It doesn't have to be money.

I sometimes wonder if we aren't on the cusp of "bigger things", not quite realizing yet how Accolade could play out in the cultural and academic life of York – or even the 905.

Fecan: I couldn't agree more. It is a whole different part of the city up here. Perhaps a more multicultural part. A little out of the public eye...which I think is a good thing. It means a little less pressure. You can experiment a bit more. And right now there are all the right ingredients for lift off. ■

I thought, well, you know, it's great and it's a privilege to be able to give back and all of that...but...I was a nervous wreck

Ivan was thinking a lot about that too. She thought this business...his business, being CEO at CTV and all that, somehow wasn't a "real" job [laughter]. Maybe it would have impressed on her a bit.

Fecan: Know what? She wasn't wrong! [more laughter]

Why did you decide to come to York?

Fecan: Fine arts. We lived near College and Bathurst, and it would have been a lot easier to go to U of T. But I came here because York had an integrated fine arts program. U of T didn't. I had good marks and could probably have gotten into any school I wanted, but I really wanted to do fine arts. So this was a very deliberate choice. And when you had to travel an hour and 20 minutes each way – on a good day – you had to seriously believe in your choice.

Faire: Ivan's the kind of guy who skips all the preliminaries and gets right down to it.

Fecan: And then it eventually catches up with me [laughter].

Is it harder making money, or giving it away?

Fecan: I don't think making money is particularly hard if you love what you're doing and you have a bit of good luck. But ultimately I don't think that's really

the latter so we could really watch the money benefit the things that were important to us. Then the whole issue becomes where? We thought about that a lot. I've certainly given my time to certain non-profit ventures, but we wanted a coherent way to give back to the arts. We thought it through. It's very easy to do it helter skelter. We thought about the framework and the areas and looked around for things that fit with what we wanted to accomplish.

Which is?

Faire: I think one of the most difficult questions in life is "what do you want"? And right up there is "what do you want to do with what you have"? We made a lot of conscious decisions about this. Honestly we don't feel we've done anything particularly special – others have given much more than we have – but we thought, "Our entire adult lives have been spent in the arts and entertainment area. We love art. We're lucky enough to have collected some. We love the ballet and theatre." And so we said, "What can

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Plenty.

SANDRA FAIRE AND IVAN FECAN

The Sandra Faire and Ivan Fecan Theatre
CIBC The CIBC Lobby

THE MIRKOPOULOS FAMILY & CINESPACE FILM STUDIOS

The Nick Mirkopoulos Screening Room

WALTER CARSEN The Walter & Robert Carsen Studio

THE LAMBERT FAMILY The Allen T. Lambert Music Studio

THE MCLEAN FOUNDATION

The McLean Foundation Dance Performance Studio

ROBERT & JULIA FOSTER The Robert & Julia Foster Acting Studio

LORNA R. MARSDEN The Dave Brubeck Studio

ELAINE & JIMMY KAY The Elaine & Jimmy Kay Practice Room

PAUL & PEARL MARCUS

Box Office in honour of Sara & Jacob Dykler and
Hilda & Leo Marcus

Other generous gifts have come from H. Barry & Joy Gales, TELUS, Lata Pada & Hari Venkatacharya, Manulife Financial, The John McKellar Charitable Foundation, James Wu, and Goldfarb Intelligence Marketing Corporation. Arts lovers, all. ■

NEW STAGE: Silver

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFF GEORGE

YORK HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON THE CUSP, geographically speaking. Neither downtown nor in the suburbs, the Keele campus is situated in what Roger Keil calls the “in-between city”. It’s the fluid periphery where global cities like Toronto really do their morphing as immigrants settle and shift. And it will distinguish the new City Institute at York University from other urban research centres. “We’re at the line where the old city meets the new city, the interface between Toronto and the outer city. We’re right in the middle of a completely new landscape of urbanity,” says the environmental studies professor and the institute’s first director. “The in-between city is where we are. We have a unique opportunity to say something others cannot.”

That’s not to say the City Institute will focus only on its own backyard – or that urban research is a novel endeavour at York. In fact, researchers at the University are renowned for their global expertise on city issues, ranging from housing and the urban economy to immigration and transportation. Until now, however, they have worked disparately. The City Institute will change that.

“We’re not inventing something,” says Keil. “We’re already doing urban research at York. The City Institute is an organizing principle, an attempt to bring things together.” Among 1,400 faculty, 80 of whom have been identified as urban scholars, such an institute will foster awareness and lead to more collaboration and interdisciplinary projects. To the outside world, governments in particular, it will signal that York is ready to tackle city-related research.

Considering Keil’s academic pursuits, it should come as no surprise that he sees the City Institute as a robust research centre that is also socially responsive. “I think the University needs to play an active, critical and empathetic role in the city. The city is not a laboratory rat. It is also our home.”

Toronto has been Keil’s home since 1991. Multilingual and cosmopolitan, the 48-year-old German lives in the trendy Beaches area with his two children and Swiss wife Ute Lehrer – also a York environmental studies professor specializing in urban research. Keil has lived in three major metropolises, including Frankfurt and Los Angeles. “I consider Toronto one of the luckiest things to happen to me. It’s the best place I have ever lived in my life.” That’s high praise from a scholar of the planet’s truly global cities and a world traveller who revels in ethnic, social and cultural diversity.

Keil has always been interested in cities but it wasn’t until he was well on his way to a PhD that he found his calling. Out of high school, Keil wanted to be an urban planner and before he even enrolled at university he had a thesis in mind: he would design a city entirely accessible to wheelchair-bound people like his younger sister, a concept well ahead of its time. “She influenced my whole outlook on the world,” he says of his enduring interest in social and environmental justice.

Instead of urban planning, he went for a teaching degree, but seized a chance to take urban and black studies – and learn all about America’s inner-city ghettos – during a third-year exchange to the University of Illinois. Back in Frankfurt, he rejected teaching in favour of doctoral studies in political science. One day, casting about for a thesis, he read an article by John Friedmann in which the leading American urban planner observed the emergence of a network of world cities. “A whole bunch of lights went on in my head,” says Keil. He would study global urbanization. He bought a ticket to Los Angeles to do field research and completed a doctorate in urban politics.

Now Keil teaches courses on global cities, urban and regional environments, politics and planning. Co-author of *Nature and the City: Making Environmental Policy in Toronto and Los Angeles*, he is also editor of the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. And he’s a founding member of the International Network for Urban Research and Action, which is involved in urban activism and research in different cities.

Eighty per cent of Canadians now live in urban areas, Keil points out. “York is at the doorstep of a fantastically rich growing immigrant metropolis. There are some pretty big urban issues out there.” York’s City Institute will be a catalyst, a “one-stop urban research centre” where researchers work with community partners to address those issues, spawn real-world solutions to big-city problems – and “move forward to create a better city.” ■

Urbane Researcher

Roger Keil will lead a new institute at York focused on the city.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

Five York experts discuss what makes metropolises succeed – or fail.

BY BERTON WOODWARD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON

IN LATE MAY, York University will host the 75th Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, an event that will draw more than 8,000 academics to York's Keele campus under the location-aware theme, "The City: A Festival of Knowledge". Recently *YorkU* brought together an interdisciplinary group of five York experts to discuss urban issues and how they apply to Toronto. Participating were **Roger Keil**, professor of environmental studies and director of the new City Institute at York University; **Steven Flusty**, undergraduate program director in the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts; **Engin Isin**, Canada Research Chair in Citizenship Studies in the Faculty of Arts and director of the Citizenship Studies Media Lab; **Warren Crichlow**, graduate program director in the Faculty of Education; and **Janine Marchessault**, Canada Research Chair in Art, Digital Media and Globalization in the Faculty of Fine Arts and director of the Visible City Project. Here are highlights of the conversation:

To begin with, what does it take to make a successful city? What are some key elements?

Roger Keil: There's a tautological answer to this: a successful city is a city that works. Toronto used to be called the city that works. There are different challenges now, and it may be more difficult than it used to be, but it's also more promising. Because if we overcome some of the challenges we have now, we can build a much better place than Toronto was, say, in 1954 or 1970.

Steven Flusty: When I hear a question like that oftentimes my first response is, "Well, okay, successful for who?" One of the things I've seen over and over again in many cities – and I'm seeing here in Toronto as well – is issues of displacement, issues of focusing on making a city good and safe for the rights of capital. Too often, the priorities wind up being things like how do we go about bumping up real estate values in certain areas for certain classes of people, how do we go about rationalizing and improving vehicular flow at the same time as we can barely keep our mass transit systems funded and only give lip service to alternative forms of transportation.

For me, this often folds in with the question of the world city, pursued in ways that guarantee if you succeed in acquiring the infamous world-class city, you'll have one of the most inhumane cities in terms of everyday life.

Engin Isin: When you think about "the city", almost all written history is coeval with the city. At a minimum we can put it at 5,000 years, if not 10,000 years. What is it that the city provides, whether it's for empires, states, nations, or regions? It is that it provides social order. That order may be unjust, it could produce inequalities, but there's at least this inevitable understanding: given that we are now thrown together in the city, how do we live together? What the city provides is that sense of belonging.

Warren Crichlow: I think one of the things that the city should provide is opportunities for people to become educated. A city should be a place that really inspires people to produce creativity, to do new and different things. People come to the city because they want to be part of a neighbourhood, they want to raise families – and they want to develop themselves individually.

Janine Marchessault: My interest is in cultures in cities, and the way that cultures are expressed. Toronto is now trying to reinvent itself, and it's talking about world-class cities, and we have several architectural projects that are quite spectacular. So, is that going to make Toronto a world-class city? Is that going to create the social bonds that make people feel that they belong? I don't think so.

But despite this, what's going on in Toronto right now is very interesting. There is, underneath it all, a sense of being quite proud, all of a sudden, to be part of Toronto. And I don't think it's simply boosterism, and I don't think it's the mayor setting up community and cultural committees. I think there is maybe something opening up – networks of communication and culture at a ground level – which is connecting people to the city, maybe in smaller ways rather than in these spectacular ways.

Yet people do often point to grand buildings. Does great architecture make a great city?

Flusty: I don't think so, and I'm speaking as someone who was an architect. But there is the idea that great buildings make



QUESTIONS OF FREEDOM AND SECURITY: Keil (left), Flusty and Marchessault

great cities, and there are certain "star-architects" who are brought in to airlift their signature brand of building and drop it here. Frank Gehry is the classic now.

But why do we have great buildings, great museums, great opera houses, that sort of thing? Why do we look at places like Paris and London as great cities? Well, they were imperial centres, and to a certain extent their greatness and their great architecture had a lot to do with the kinds of violences and extractions that were going on for many other people elsewhere.

Isin: The problem is that large-scale projects do not create sociability and social patterns over time, they don't have the capacity to create the kinds of social relations and encounters that really take time. If you try to impose order, for all the best intentions you destroy the fabric that has created that sociability.

A case in point is Yonge and Dundas in Toronto. Before, it was a very sociable space, not liked by those who wanted to impose a particular order and who said, let's have a grand space. So you wreak havoc with social relations that evolved in Yonge and Dundas for nearly 200 years.

It's not always pretty, but it had its own particular history.

Instead, today, we built that square. It's artificial. Things are arranged there, there's heightened security. Certain classes are told not to go there. Frankly, I used to like Yonge-Dundas much better.

Marchessault: The Yonge and Dundas project is really interesting, also, because a lot of artists got involved in creating demonstrations inside of that very controlled, militarized space, really heightening public awareness that this was a vital space that's been lost. One of the reasons I feel more hopeful is because there seems to be the capacity in Toronto to articulate social need in public.

Keil: Can I interject one thing, which is the question of freedom and security in these public spaces. I don't think the question is new at all. Central Park in New York is not at all an uncontrolled space, but it is a great civic space. When it was proposed and built, it was a matter of great public debate, and what we would now call the left was against its construction, and people thought of it as a playground for the rich, which it was to a

certain degree. But over time it became something else, and it is impossible now to pose this argument solely in the framework of what it was 150 years ago when it was built. So it's important to keep this question open for any space, even Dundas Square, which I really, really despise.

Crichlow: I wanted to continue on the whole idea of parks, The focus on big Gehry-style buildings draws our attention away from places like High Park or other more interesting public spaces where there is much more...

Isin: Sociability.

Crichlow: ...sociability, and much less surveillance, where you see all kinds of interaction going on. So maybe this discussion could give some focus to park space, as well as the much larger problem of the waterfront.

What is the way to proceed on the Toronto waterfront?

Crichlow: One thing is we have to stop these big buildings that block the city from the waterfront. But there's not much waterfront left, quite frankly, in the city proper.

Marchessault: It just adds a sense of belonging to the city. Driving in, the view of the city over water used to be incredible, and you used to go, *gasp*, “oh my,” you know? And suddenly it’s gone, and you can see the city in between two buildings. It’s outrageous that that was allowed to happen.

Isin: That’s interesting, thinking about the visual vistas of the city as public goods. We don’t.

Keil: It’s important to have a public debate about these things, and for the waterfront we didn’t have a public debate.

Flusty: I’ve spent some time in Minneapolis over the last couple of years. It’s a great example, because one of the things I constantly hear in Toronto is, “Well, of course we don’t have this or that, we don’t do this or that with our spaces, it’s cold here and we have nasty, long winters.” Whereas you go to Minneapolis, and they’re faced with infinitely nastier and colder winters. Their attitude is, “Oh, yes, of course we protect as much waterfront as we can and put in bike paths and hiking belts. Of course we guarantee that absolutely every new high-rise has the largest amount of park space possible, which is publicly accessible, because our weather is so nasty that there’s only brief periods of time you can enjoy it so we’d better make the most of it.” Then I go to the waterfront here and I see this infinite, undiscussed process of building these massive towers out to the lot line.

Isin: Some of the issues we’re dealing with go all the way back to the 1950s in Toronto. We have failed to think of the city as a regional city. In metropolitan government – and Minneapolis is a metropolitan government – there was the recognition that issues of planning, housing, transportation, would be dealt with through regional coordination and regional planning.

Metropolitan Toronto was supposed to have dealt with those issues. In 1971, instead of expanding metropolitan

Toronto’s boundaries, which was actually specified in its Act, we created regions, and the regions began competing with one another for development and investment, and began to consider themselves



A NEED TO BELONG: Isin

as not of Toronto but competing with Toronto. So we had regional fragmentation. And then the Harris government took totally the wrong decision. Instead of dealing with regional fragmentation, it dealt with what was happening with metropolitan Toronto by amalgamating its municipalities, which had no bearing on the regional pattern.

A number of consequences flowed from lack of government. Lack of planning translated into haphazard development that involves car-dependent development, the single detached family home dominating in 905 and certain parts of metropolitan Toronto, not accessible with public transportation.

And the kinds of spaces that this creates can hardly be called the city. There are numerous regional malls where people come in and out in automobiles. They are woefully planned, if they are planned

at all. Stretching from Mississauga and Brampton all the way to Oshawa, the kind of landscape that dominates what we now call the regional city is not the city at all in terms of fabric, of what it can provide in terms of sociability. It is space that breeds isolation, real social isolation.

Now, here are a number of questions in terms of success in the future, and questions that we don’t have answers to. There’ve been at least two generations, now, growing up in those spaces, who as they grow up only know the city from the car, being driven from one place to another in their parents’ automobile. Most are our students now, but that generation is also getting into power positions, they are becoming professionals and so on.

So, we have a generation that does not have the kind of sociability that the city provides. What does that mean? If one were to judge by the amount of home entertainment systems sold in this very city – actually I find it frightening – there is that kind of increasing privatization of life.

Keil: There is an assumption that you’re in it for yourself. What it doesn’t entail

There is the idea that great buildings make great cities, and there are certain ‘star-chitects’ who are brought in to airlift their signature brand of building.

anymore is what the great modern cities entailed as a promise, such as the one here for Jane and Finch, which was, “We’re taking care of you.” Now we have a city which people use like a hotel. You don’t have to take any responsibility for that room that you inhabited.

What are your thoughts on the relationship between the city and the violence that we’ve seen in Toronto?

Crichlow: I think it’s all part and parcel of what we’ve just been talking about, the failure to invest, the failure to take responsibility, the failure to create the means for people to belong in the city,

No matter how much time you spend on your chat line, no matter how much time you spend on e-mails, there is no substitute for face to face interaction.

the creation of means that increasingly segregate people, not just in terms of identity but isolation from the very productive capacities of the city.

All of this is going to create more and more conditions where people simply have to make up a life for themselves, and this life is going to run completely counter to the notions of order that Engin is talking about. And completely counter to notions of what it means to attempt, in some small way, to love your neighbour as yourself.

In the suburbs, many people, including middle-class immigrants, might argue that they live there because they like it, that it’s voluntary.

Keil: I don’t think that the individualization or the sprawl, the single family homes out there, are the result of the marketplace and of the free will of the people, and – as the Harris government argued – this is what people want. The marketplace is structured by the laws of the land. I would say this is a

concerted effort, a very strategically planned environment in which certain people are supposed to live in certain ways. So when new immigrants come, they’re being presented with a very limited set of options.

What is a better way to cope in a city that needs to house a lot of people?

Isin: Medium density is the most brilliant response, in terms of environmental and sustainability aspects of Canadian cities and at the same time creating spaces that provide for efficient public services, houses, schools, public transportation and other amenities. On top of that, providing sociability.

There are really creative ways of doing medium density that don’t even look alike. But when you look at the Toronto landscape it has always struck me as two symbols of a total lack of imagination.

Either you build what a well-known urbanist, Lewis Mumford, called “filing cabinets for humans”, or you build this landscape that’s so homogeneous and so sprawling as not to have any identity whatsoever.



SEGREGATION AND ISOLATION: Crichlow

What makes me worried is, what calamity are we going to wait for before we start experimenting? It could be environmental disaster, it could be simply running

out of oil. Places like Toronto, especially large swaths of it, would simply be unworkable. We would not know how to get people from one place to another.

Marchessault: I’m a bit more optimistic about Toronto. I sort of think you have an old-fashioned view of what the city could be, a 19th-century view. I think the city is spatially changed. The city as we knew it in the 19th century has been completely transformed. And I think we *are* suffering under technology and we *are* suffering under this fragmentation and this lack of unison between various – I don’t even want to call them communities, but developments.

But I also think that there is the possibility to create something. I mean, suburbs aren’t bad. There are spaces that people can live in that are social, that represent diverse needs and cultures. I just don’t think there’s any going back. It’s decentralized. The city has to be reinterpreted in terms of these decentralized communities that need to be connected.

Isin: The issue is to what extent they are severed from the fabric of the city. No matter how much time you spend on your chat line, no matter how much time you spend on e-mails, there is no substitute for face to face interaction. The fundamental aspect of being human is coming face to face with the other, and that cannot be done with communications.

Marchessault: I agree, but I think communications is part of it too. We have a new generation, and yes, they’re into media and cellphones and all that, and their lives are completely mediated, but I think it’s very old-fashioned to just say, “They’re so bad and they’re so alienated.” I think this is what they’re living, but there are ways to connect it to civic responsibility. I don’t think it’s just a physical, material, face to face world, I think it’s that *and*.

Isin: A combination.

Marchessault: Yes. ■

Christine Sismondo has stirred things up in the world of cocktails.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KC ARMSTRONG

Shaken All Over

WHEN CHRISTINE SISMONDO SAYS “down the hatch”, trust her, she knows what she’s talking about. And so she should. Sismondo is author of a recent, definitive book on the history of the cocktail and cocktail arcana. Read it and you’ll find out more than you probably ever thought you could possibly know about the drink – from its history and preparation to where to buy the world’s most expensive one (Paris Ritz, 400 euros). And she throws in some classic cocktail recipes for good measure.

The book, titled *Mondo Cocktail: A Shaken and Stirred History* (yes, Sismondo worked her name into the title), is indeed “mondo” at 12 chapters, exhaustively researched, entertainingly written and full of wonderful lore about a drink that is both glamorous and tasty if well prepared. Mondo’s chapters are each centred on a different drink, from the martini to the bloody mary.

Her publisher, McArthur and Company, did an initial print run of 7,500, and the media attention the book has received makes it seem like a bestseller. “I don’t know exact sales figures yet,” says Sismondo, “but word on the street says it has been selling well.” Sismondo got the idea for the book when she took a year off from teaching. “I wish I could tell you it was all planned and strategic but it wasn’t. It’s really a cross-over book, not an academic one by any means.”

A York grad (BA Hons. ’96) and now a York researcher and lecturer (she teaches courses on new media), Sismondo says it was her undergraduate and graduate studies in American literature and history that piqued her interest in the subject of cocktails. So many literary, political and society figures she encountered had well-documented connections with alcohol – from Hemingway and his frozen daiquiri to Abe Lincoln’s sordid past as a bourbon distiller – that “I felt the phenomenon needed to be written about,” she says.

“Examining the use, or abuse, of alcohol is really a great barometer of how we see ourselves, our society,” says Sismondo, who learned about cocktails the hard way – by making them as a real-life bartender for 15 years. (She hasn’t lost her touch for mixing a good drink either, and was a recent finalist in a

Toronto-based competition to create a signature cocktail for the Royal Ontario Museum’s sparkling new addition.)

“I thought I could use cocktails to explore what they say about us as a culture, from gin and the Age of Reason to the family fortunes made during Prohibition.” As an example, Sismondo notes in her book how the age of cocktails has influenced the language – from the cocktail dress to cocktail parties. “It’s not even important that cocktails get served at those parties,” she says. “Just by announcing that’s what you’re having people know it’s a particular time of day and event. It denotes a certain toniness. Cocktails are a terrific entrée into the culture. They give us access to literary history and theory, colonialism and even some scientific history.”

As a devoted culture watcher (she has a blog and has written widely on food and done many articles on the food industry, including pieces on restaurants with S&M themes), Sismondo had noticed that pot-distilled whiskies, microbrewery beers, and fruit coolers were taking their toll on the traditional liquor cabinet. Sales of time-honoured staples like rye, scotch, gin and brandy were plummeting. But she also noted a trend in the resurgence of the classic North American cocktail. She attributes that to consumers wearying of so-called pre-mixed martinis (bearing little resemblance to the gin-and-vermouth original), and a renewed attraction to gourmand culture, which brought with it a reinvigorated curiosity about the cocktail itself.

Sismondo came by her fascination with the world of bars and mixed drinks as a kid while travelling widely with her parents. “We’d stay in hotels and my mom and dad would always drag me along to the bar where I’d soak up the atmosphere and eat ice cream while they sipped their martinis. As a kid I always thought it’d be a great job, it looked so sexy.”

Now that she’s finished her cocktail book, she is focussing on future projects like a book on “people’s vices and the narrative of addiction”, she says. “I find the public reaction to legal and illegal substances fascinating. Maybe it’s because I grew up in Ottawa where not much happened. I’ve found vice has always held a special attraction for me. Sex, gambling, drinking. As fodder for a writer, it’s all good.” ■

STANDING AT THE BUS STOP one day, Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner Ann Cavoukian says she noticed a newspaper headline: “Plan B: Invasion of Privacy.” Whoa! She hadn’t heard of this. So she bought the paper and read it on the way to work. “By the time I got there, I was incensed,” she says. The story outlined how the Canadian Pharmacists Association had issued guidelines suggesting members obtain a woman’s name and address, the date of her last menstrual period, when she last had unprotected sex, and her customary method of birth control – and input it into computers – before selling the behind-the-counter emergency contraception, Plan B. So Cavoukian told her staff she wanted to meet with Ontario’s pharmacists – “today!”

And indeed, by end of day they’d arranged a meeting. They quickly agreed on replacing the “privacy invasive” guidelines with new ones compliant with Ontario’s Personal Health Information Protection Act. “Maybe I’m just impatient,” Cavoukian says of her utterly unbureaucratic style. “It’s just my pet peeve that you don’t sit around when you can move something along.”

Impatience is clearly a virtue for the York graduate (BA ’75 Glendon) who, for almost 20 years at the commission, has battled Bad Guy identity thieves and Big Brother governments, not to mention everyday businesses, on behalf of personal privacy – while simultaneously ensuring public officials release government information on behalf of an open society. There is absolutely no conflict in those assignments, she says. She’s out to defend democratic rights, and not just in Ontario, but globally. It might be a tall order for some, but not for this energetic intellectual, who says she knew while studying psychology at Glendon, “I wanted to do something that would allow me to have some influence. I know that sounds lofty, but I wanted to matter.”

Cavoukian has mattered. Of Armenian descent – she is the younger sister of children’s entertainer Raffi Cavoukian (“Baby Beluga”) – she went on from York to earn an MA and PhD in psychology from the University of Toronto, specializing in criminology and law. After creating a research division for the Ontario attorney-general’s office, she started at the commission in 1987 as director of compliance and 10 years later became Ontario’s first female privacy commissioner – and then the first commissioner to be appointed to a second term, which runs to 2009.

Now she is striding the world stage as well. She chairs an international group of data protection and privacy commissioners who are developing a global privacy standard, and she serves on Europe’s International Biometric Advisory Council. There she balances off the enthusiasm of nine male security specialists for the cool-factor of biometrics to ensure that privacy measures are paramount. One example? Insisting systems to check biometrics on passports – such as fingerprints or iris scans – be “one-to-one”. That means security officials can compare your real fingerprint to its image on your passport, but not compile a database of fingerprints that would be a gold mine for identity thieves. “If they hack in and steal your biometric, imagine trying to prove you are who you say you are,” says Cavoukian.

In fact, she ranks identity theft, which affects “our ability to function viably in society,” as one of “two big threats” to society. In 2003, the US Federal Trade Commissioner found 10 million Americans were affected by identity theft, she notes. And don’t blame consumers for not being careful with their private information – though Cavoukian advises everyone to buy a shredder. Rather, she reports, customer information in business databases is too easily accessible, especially to staff – who are responsible for 70 per cent of identity theft cases.

The other big threat to freedom and liberty? “Expanded surveillance since 9/11,” she says. “Unfortunately, since 9/11 we’ve been going down the road of: ‘If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear, so tell the police and government whatever they want to know.’” She compares it to the proverbial frog in a pot of water, in which the temperature rises so incrementally the frog doesn’t notice until he’s cooked. “Once you have no privacy, you have no freedom,” Cavoukian warns.

On the other side of her duties – ensuring governments release information to the public so they can be held accountable – Cavoukian is equally appalled by a “trust us” attitude. She cites her current battle, on behalf of Ontarians, to wrench information from the federal government about what citizens should do if they think they’ve been placed incorrectly on a security “no-fly list”, which can cause havoc with travel. As she describes the feds’ attitude, Cavoukian’s toughness and determination shine through. “It’s the whole trust-me model – ‘you have to assume we’re taking care of this’,” she says. “And I will do no such thing.” ■

Ann Cavoukian, Ontario’s information and privacy commissioner, sees her job as standing up for democracy.

BY DIANNE RINEHART

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY GEOFF GEORGE

Defending Freedom





David Collenette, Canada's point man on 9/11, has found a 'healthier' life as a Distinguished Fellow at Glendon.

TRANSPORTED

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KC ARMSTRONG

WHEN TERRORISTS FLEW the first plane into one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, Canada's transport minister, David Collenette, was giving a keynote address at a conference of Airport Councils International in Montreal. Sipping morning coffee in front of him were hundreds of airport CEOs from around the world. "Just before 9am, I heard a buzz at the back of the hall and figured I was boring people," recalls Collenette. One of his senior officials strode across the stage and thrust a note on the podium. It said: "Wind up speech. There's been a tragedy. Don't talk to media." According to news reports the plane was small, but Collenette quickly learned it was a Boeing 767. "The moment we heard that, we knew it was terrorism. Planes of that size don't fly over Manhattan. And for a plane to be that low, it just wouldn't happen. It was quite obvious to me that it was a terrorist act." He excused himself and rushed out of the hall to board the Transport Canada van back to Ottawa. Reporters ambushed him. "I gave a terrible scrum. I was almost incoherent," says the otherwise fluently bilingual Glendon grad (BA '69). "I couldn't really say what I really thought." As he raced down the escalator to the waiting vehicle, his cellphone rang. Deputy transport minister Margaret Bloodworth told him a second plane had hit the other World Trade Center tower.

Thus began the most intense day of Collenette's 20-year political career. "All the key decisions were made during that two-hour trip up Highway 417 to Ottawa," says Collenette, whose account of Canada's response can be heard on a documentary, *Untold Stories: Canada on September 11th* available on CBC's Web site. "I gave authority to close Canadian skies and to land all aircraft. I authorized

that more than 250 flights headed for the US be diverted to 15 Canadian airports." He believes Canada's response – his department's response – will be remembered in the history books for its decisiveness. "It was one of the most fulfilling days I ever had as a politician."

But the next six months "were the most intense and emotionally draining period of my life," adds Collenette. He and Transport Canada officials faced tremendous pressure from the US to revise Canada's safety and security rules. "It virtually finished me off." Two years later, Collenette said goodbye to federal politics. As MP for Don Valley East for 20 of the previous 30 years, he'd served three prime ministers and held four cabinet posts. "Politicians run on adrenalin. It's the greatest legal high you can get," he admits, but it can exact a heavy toll. As defence minister, he'd presided over the post-Somalia scandal, sent troops to Bosnia, and initiated controversial budget cuts and restructuring of the armed forces. As transport minister, he'd merged the failing Canadian airline with Air Canada, then overseen Canada's response to 9/11. At the same time, he'd been regional minister for the Greater Toronto Area. "The whole period was very tumultuous." After Jean Chrétien retired, Collenette bowed out, too.

In 2004 Collenette added a York MA in political science to his credentials and accepted a position at Glendon as Distinguished Fellow. He moved his books and photos from a grand Victorian suite in Ottawa's East Block to a ground-floor office at York's sylvan downtown campus. "I'm healthier and more relaxed than I have been in 30 years," he says. These days he juggles corporate travel abroad as a senior adviser to Intergraph Corporation, a world leader in spatial management systems for transport and

defence industries, with lectures on international security and other political hot topics at Glendon. He also commutes weekly to his home in Ottawa where his wife, corporate director and fellow Liberal Penny Hossack-Collenette, is executive-in-residence and adjunct law professor at the University of Ottawa. "Am I challenged? Not entirely. Am I bored? No. Am I happy? Yes."

Born in 1946, Collenette grew up playing in the rubble of blitzed London. When he was 11, the Suez crisis erupted and his war-weary, working class parents decided to move far away to safer Toronto. They settled in East York where their only child quickly turned Canadian and became swept up in Trudeaumania. At York, he helped a professor win a provincial seat and was a founding member of the York University Liberal Club. After stints in London and Paris, he came home to work for the Liberals. Stepping in for an ailing candidate in the 1974 election, he surprised even himself when he won a seat in the House of Commons. It took him and his new bride two years to adjust to Ottawa. "It wasn't part of some master plan."

Thirty years later, Collenette rocks back in his Glendon office chair and scans the trophy photos covering three walls. There he is with Princess Diana, the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela and a who's who of 20th-century world leaders. "How many people get to have the kind of experience reflected on this wall? I never would have had the opportunity in Britain. I look up at this wall and I think, 'I've been a part of Canadian history.' I played a role in patriating the Constitution. And I made a lot of major decisions in cabinet. Along the way, I met presidents, kings and queens, the Pope and all these other important people. That's pretty good for a poor immigrant kid." ■

YORK PEOPLE

"YOU COULDN'T GET ME TO READ THEN," says Joseph Frey (BA '78) referring to that day, in Grade 3, when he saw pictures of the explorers Radisson and Grosseilliers and was captivated by their story. He decided then and there to become a reader – and an explorer. He studied history and geography at York and became a science journalist, writing about his experiences volunteering for archaeological digs. He has since travelled to more than 60 countries on all seven continents, covering everything from imperial British history to polar expeditions to war.

In March, on a stage at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York before 1,200 guests, Frey received a Citation of Merit from the fabled Explorers Club, the worldwide organization started in 1904 that includes such members as former astronaut Buzz Aldrin and mountain climbers Sir Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay. As Chair of the Canadian chapter, Frey was responsible for a major turnaround in the club's organization and membership in Canada. When he's not joining in a dig somewhere or diving à la Jacques Cousteau, another childhood hero, Frey is a lieutenant (Navy) in the Canadian Forces who works as a public relations officer stationed at Downsview Park, near York's Keele campus. ■

Joseph Frey
Navy officer, explorer

World Rover

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

Ron Cunningham

Consultant, fundraiser

Accounting for Good

WHEN RON CUNNINGHAM LEFT BANKING three years ago, the accountant hung out his shingle as a consultant. Now he couldn't be busier – but not as a consultant.

As founder of Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development, he's been raising money and donations to equip schools and set up training centres to improve the skills of at-risk, inner-city kids in his native Jamaica. He's recruited Canadian instructors to give life-skills and community-policing workshops and soon hopes to launch a healthy-schools program. "I'm using my education and my organizational and leadership skills to address the ills of society," says the one-man charity who earned two York degrees – a bachelor of administrative studies ('96) and a BA in economics ('00) – as a part-time student.

On his own Toronto doorstep, he has organized a public anti-crime forum and offers life-skills, mentorship and leadership workshops to at-risk youth, for which the Mississauga YMCA gave him a 2005 Peace Medallion. "I've always had a tremendous passion to work for the less fortunate and do whatever I can to advance their lives." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES REID

Jennifer Lefort
Painter

A Brush with Europe

CANADIAN ART MAGAZINE has called Montreal-born painter Jennifer Lefort “a young artist to watch.” Certainly this Yorkie’s bold abstracts are ensuring that she’s getting some serious attention in Canadian art circles – three Montreal solo exhibitions so far, and works in some high-profile collections. But more than that, Lefort, who’s currently pursuing her MFA in visual arts at York, was the recent winner of the Joseph Plaskett Foundation Award, worth \$25,000. One of the richest annual painting prizes in Canada, it enables a year’s study in Europe, the adopted home of the renowned BC-born artist who launched the award last year.

Lefort started drawing when she was a child. “My first major painting was a 20-foot-long mural I did in high school with my father,” she says. “We painted a man in the hills of Europe as a backdrop for a stage. It still gets used today.”

So how does she feel about winning the Plaskett? “I am very excited,” she says. “I’m hoping to find an artist residency – to give me some studio space – and I’ll be visiting Berlin, Paris and London. I want to meet other artists and have studio visits of my own. Oh, and of course I will go meet Mr. Plaskett and thank him!” ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

ALUMNI

News:



AT THE HEART: Mena and chapter colleagues

Branching Out

Alumni groups are a great way to stay in touch

For Adriano Mena (BA '01), leaving York was hard to do. “When I started working, I felt isolated in my career path,” says Mena, who graduated with a major in public policy & administration, “and I missed all the perks of being a student at York – especially the opportunities to discuss policy issues, the social life and the networking opportunities.”

But now, as president of the Organization of Public Policy & Administration Alumni Chapter – or OPPAA – Mena is back where he wants to be: at the heart of a York community. The OPPAA is one of York’s newest alumni groups – part of a renewed effort to foster alumni connections, both with students and among alumni themselves. With a

highly active membership of 100, the OPPAA maintains strong links with the University, and acts as a partner organization to the Public Policy & Administration Student Association.

“The OPPAA is one of our most exciting new alumni groups. Adriano and his team put together a dynamic plan for the next two years and we’re delighted that we can support them,” says James Allan, York’s director, alumni.

“They’ve worked hard to create value for the chapter members, and they’re a great asset to the University. They can help us recruit the best students, they can advocate for us in the policy circles where they work. They’re even working on plans for an academic forum to promote the remarkable work that York does in

public policy and administration,” says Allan.

York already has a number of alumni groups serving a variety of interests and locations: from the Geography and Field Hockey chapters to the Paris, Vancouver and Barbados branches. But as the University gets ready for its 50th anniversary in 2009, the Alumni Office is set to expand the program.

And it is looking for alumni with great ideas for new groups. To date, graduates have expressed interest in starting branches in Calgary, New York and Dubai. Others have suggested starting chapters for groups ranging from black alumni and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) alumni to graduates of the York is U Student Alumni Program.

“Our new Alumni Group Handbook ensures that all groups are treated equally, receiving the same benefits and support, while also holding the same level of responsibility to the University,” says Allan.

“We’re looking forward to helping people connect as they start new alumni groups. York is a place that encourages students to discover their passions, and chapters and branches are a great way to maintain those passions after graduation. The sky really is the limit – if you can imagine it, we can help make it happen.”

For more information about the Alumni Office chapters and branches program, including a link to all of the current chapters and branches, visit www.yorku.ca/alumni. ■

Chapter or Branch?

CHAPTER: an alumni group based on a shared interest, such as the Faculty of Environmental Studies Chapter and the Careers & Kids Chapter.

BRANCH: an alumni group based on a geographic location, such as the Paris Branch and the Vancouver Branch.

AS IT HAPPENED:
Host Barbara Budd
at 2005 awards

Defining Success

Do you have a nominee for the Brydens?

There are many ways to define success, and given the University's interdisciplinary nature, that's especially true for York alumni. So when the Alumni Office invites York grads from across the country and around the world to define success by nominating other graduates for the Bryden Alumni Awards, staff are prepared to do a lot of extra reading.

"When it comes to York grads, there are a lot of success stories to choose from," says James Allan, director, alumni at York, "and the Brydens are our chance to honour those alumni who have made remarkable achievements and significant contributions to York and to their communities."

Preparations for this year's Brydens are underway and the Alumni Office is accepting nominations until June 23. "We

owe a lot to the people who take the time to submit a confidential nomination, and we're looking forward to reading about some of the truly extraordinary things that our alumni have been doing – whether they graduated in the 1960s, or just last year," says Allan.

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

The Awards

There are five categories of Bryden Alumni Awards, each of which honour a distinct set of contributions and accomplishments.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD: for dedication to the advancement of York University through exceptional service, commitment and/or contributions.

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

REDEFINE THE POSSIBLE AWARD: for demonstrating leadership and successes that embody York's tagline, "Redefine the Possible".

ONE-TO-WATCH AWARD: for remarkable professional and/or community accomplishments early in his/her career (within 15 years of a BA or 10 years of a professional/graduate degree).

LOCAL HERO AWARD: for a current or former employee of York

who has risen above the call of duty in her/his devotion to the University. This award can recognize contributions, achievements, leadership and/or early accomplishments.

Interested in nominating a York alumna or alumnus? For more information, call 416-650-8159 (toll free in North America: 1-866-876-2228) or visit www.yorku.ca/brydenawards to download a nomination form. The deadline is June 23, 2006. ■

PAST BRYDEN AWARD WINNERS

2005

Debra Lynne Brown, BFA Spec. Hons. '78
Steve Dranitsaris, BA '73
Farouk Jiwa, MES '03
Sandie Rinaldo, BA (fine arts) '73
Helen K. Sinclair, BA '73

2004

Peter W. Currie, BA '73, MBA '78
Janet Green Foster, BA '69, PhD '76
Timothy R. Price (friend of York)
Joseph D. Sorbara, LLB '68

2003

Ivan Fecan, BA '01
Steve T. Mirkopoulos (friend of York)
John Tory, LLB '78
David H. Tsubouchi, BA '72, LLB '75

2001

William Dimma, MBA '69
Ernie Eves, LLB '70
Martin and Joan Goldfarb (friends of York)
Carol Anne Letheren, MBA '77
Steve MacLean, BSc Spec. Hons. '77, PhD '83 ■



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. THE ALUMNI OFFICE IS YOUR GATEWAY TO A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY. WE EXIST TO SERVE YOU.

ALUMNI MATTERS

York's alumni e-newsletter brings you breaking news, exclusive events, special offers and alumni contests. Your essential connection to York. Subscribe at www.yorku.ca/alumnimatters

YUAA BRANCHES AND CHAPTERS

Stay connected with alumni in your area. Network with other professionals in your field.

PERKS

Membership in the YUAA (York University Alumni Association) comes with privileged access and great savings on everything from event tickets to investment services and insurance.

ONLINE COMMUNITY

Connect with classmates, plan your future, mentor others, find re-location advice and discuss current issues. (COMING SOON)

EVENTS

Have fun and rub elbows with other graduates at career-oriented networking nights, cultural and sports events, and philanthropic-community service projects.

Update your information with the Alumni Office at www.yorku.ca/alumni

ALUMNI CARD

Update your information online to receive your passport to exclusive benefits.



Class Notes:

1970
Fimio, P. Susan (BA Winters) retired as an employment counsellor in 2000. She is now involved with environmental issues such as alternative housing (building a home with bales of straw).

1973
Morton, J. Roger (BA Stong) is president and GM of Oahu Transit Services, which operates bus services for the City of Honolulu, Hawaii.

1974
LaPorte, Douglas (BA Bethune) teaches in the Advanced Building Technologies Centre at George Brown College and received the 2005 Crystal Apple Award for teaching excellence.
Zinner, Frank (BA McLaughlin) is the director of real estate assessments for The Bay, Zellers, Home Outfitters and Designer Depot banners.

1978
Elliott, Mark (BFA Spec. Hons. Bethune) and wife Krys received the 2005 Canadian Retailer of the Year award for their St. Catharines, Ont., store, Elliott & Company.

Frostad, Cynthia (née Payne) (BFA Hons. McLaughlin) is an artist and also received the Volunteer Vancouver Award for Community Service for establishing clinics for children with severe physical disabilities. She is married to **John Frostad** (BBA '81, MBA '84).

Lambermont, Jeannette (BFA Spec. Hons. Bethune) directed York's graduating acting class in the Nov. 2005 *Three Birds Alighting in a Field* at York. She is the co-artistic director of Toronto-based DareDen Theatre Inc.

1979
Raats, Lois (née Felhaber) (BA, BEd Vanier) has been a consultant, counsellor, coach, trainer and facilitator for 20 years, helping individual and corporate clients.

Ross, Ian (MBA) has stepped down after 18 years as dean of the Faculty of

Social Sciences & Management at Malaspina University-College in BC. He continues to teach, research and consult in Canada and internationally.

1981
Da Costa, Carole (BA '80, BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) went to Paris to work, then stayed on to teach English at an MBA school. In 1997 she moved to England where she lives with her three children.

1982
Ruegg, Richard (PhD) is associate dean of clinics at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College and operates a network of teaching clinics across Toronto.

Ryan, Laurel (née Quinlan) (MFA) is the family support coordinator at the University of Tennessee's Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities in Memphis, having changed careers from dance to helping people with disabilities.

St. Denis, Derra (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) is a Toronto-based actress in film, television and corporate events. She also sings and plays piano, and composed a jingle for a Fox Sports Network hockey spot in the US.

1983
Rahimi, Saeed (BSc Hons. Stong) bounces between New Zealand and Australia doing IT jobs and working as a senior software engineer. E-mail badmullah@gmail.com.

1984
Fiordelmondo, Danila (BA '83, BA Hons. Winters) is an English language professor for several universities and an oral examiner for Cambridge University. She plans to expand into translating and interpreting, and has recently moved to Italy.

1987
Hoyt, Tracey (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) currently stars in the CBC-TV comedy series "The Tournament". Tracey is also a voice artist and teaches improvisation at The Second City Training Centre and Gilda's Club Greater Toronto.

1988
Elliott, William (BAS Hons. Atkinson) retired from Bell Canada and is now pursuing a career in telecommunications technology & management strategy, project management and vendor selections & negotiations.

1991
Auliffe, Ken (BFA Hons. McLaughlin) operates his own poker consulting business, ACEhigh Entertainment, and edits *Canadian Poker Player* magazine, based in Ontario's Muskoka area.

Friendly, David (MES '74, MBA) worked 31 years for Gulf Canada and Petro-Canada, and is now a consultant based in Calgary.

Ross, Tanya (née Dale) (BFA Hons. Vanier) and **James Ross** (BA '92 Vanier) will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in September. They have two sons.

Skoulas, George (PhD) teaches political science at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece. He previously taught at universities including York, Wilfred Laurier and the University of Crete in Greece.

Tolentino, Alvin (BBA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) is international tax senior consultant at Dell Inc. in Houston, Texas.

1992
Waldman, Grant (BA '86, BAS Hons. Atkinson) is married to **Annik Moyal-Waldman** (BA Hons. '89 Vanier) and they have a nine-year-old son. Grant is a direct marketing list broker, working remotely from home north of Victoria, BC.

1993
McKee, Susan (née Bowe) (MBA) is a certified professional executive coach, and self-employed as president of Leaders Excelling.

Yee, Stanley (BA Spec. Hons. Vanier) coached York's fencing club and varsity team for 15 years, and recently started the Dragon Fencing Academy in Richmond Hill, Ont.

1994
Ali, Tracey (née Galloway) (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is a full-time mom with two boys, and volunteers with Barrie's Trust Communications Ministries helping to develop a local Christian FM radio station.

Lonergan, Mark (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is the artistic director of Parallel Exit, a New York City-based theatre company, and co-creator of its innovative physical comedy piece, *This Way That Way*. Over the next year, Parallel Exit will present two new shows, one in New York and one in Toronto.

1996
Langdon-MacDonald, Susan (née Langdon) (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is working as an air traffic controller with NavCanada at the Gander Area Control Center.

Sippel, Brian (BA Hons. Founders) is an educational assistant with Simcoe Muskoka Catholic School Board's TOP Kid Program for students having difficulties in the classroom.

1997
Cook, Edward (LLB Osgoode) is a tax counsel with the Department of Justice and teaches tax at the University of Ottawa Law School. His latest book *Canadian Tax Research* was published Dec. 2005.

Crompton, Leslie (née Coons) (BA Hons. Glendon) teaches grades 4 and 6 core French in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and lives in Grimsby, Ont.

Jones, Allison (BA Hons. McLaughlin) received her master's in sociology at McMaster University in 2000 and now teaches sociology & related social science courses at Mohawk College of Applied Arts & Technology, Hamilton, Ont.

1998
Anjowski, William (MBA) relocated to Knoxville, Tenn., in 2005, where he directs new product research & development for Colortech USA, an international plastics business.

Ciampaglia, Gary (BA Spec. Hons. Calumet) received a Fulbright Schol-

Class Notes:

arship to study Canadian and US law. He is now a lawyer in Los Angeles specializing in business, intellectual property and business immigration law.

Das Neves, Nelson (BA Spec. Hons. Founders) is an associate at the law firm of Miller Canfield in Windsor, Ont. He has lectured on consumer protection & privacy at Seneca College in Toronto.

1999
Matteson, Sara (née Mockridge) (BA Hons. Glendon) has moved back to Rochester, NY, after five years in New England, with her husband and 4-year-old daughter.

2000
Moore, Stephanie (BA Hons., BEd Bethune) has joined the law firm of Miller Canfield in Windsor, Ont., after being an intern at the University

of Windsor's Faculty of Law Media-tion Clinic.

Szwejkowska, Danuta (BA Hons. Glendon) completed an international yoga teacher certification in 2002 and started an on-site corporate yoga business, K-Yoga. She will soon marry fiancé **Sean Blumberg** (BA '00 Vanier).

2001
Sulunteh, Jeremiah (MA) worked at York's Office of Student Financial Services for two years before returning to Liberia. After the Oct. 2005 election there, he became minister of transport. Whatever leadership skills he brings to his challenging job, Jeremiah believes, he owes to York University.

2002
Colquhoun, Heather (BSW Spec. Hons. Atkinson) was married in Nov.

2005 and operates her own training company, Kaleidoscopic, in Burlington, Ont.

Sturm, Deena (née Aiken) (BSc Bethune) graduated from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, NY, in 2005 and joined Kenyon & Kenyon, an intellectual property law firm.

2003
Cherpanath, Rose (BSc Bethune) works as a cost engineer with ABB Inc. in Houston, Texas, where she is pursuing a master's degree in health administration.

2004
Tudor, Coralía (née Sterescu) (BA Stong) completed her master's in education and bought a new home with her husband in Brantford, Ont. in 2005.

Wu, Tien-Yu (Danny) (BA Stong) after returning to his home country of Taiwan, was appointed deputy administrative coordinator for the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

IN MEMORIAM
1974
Chisholm, Kenneth Arthur (BSc Calumet) worked with new environmental technology, including solid waste & wastewater treatment, and was an amateur astronomer.

1978
Hejduk, George (LLB Osgoode) worked for the law firm of Paterson MacDougall after graduation, later joined Ontario Hydro and most recently was a professor with the Seneca College School of Fire Protection.

Update Your Alumni Record

Personal Information

☐ York may announce in its publications where I am living and working.

☐ I would like to add more about my current activities. I am enclosing a letter or sending an e-mail. If I can, I'll try to include a photograph for possible publication.

☐ Please send me a new Alumni Card.

☐ I am interested in information about Alumni Services.

The Alumni Office may from time to time send you information about Alumni programs, services and fund development activities and include your personal information in contact lists prepared to enable benefits providers to let you know about their products and services.

Opting Out: If alumni so choose, they can opt out of any collection, use or disclosure of personal information for the Alumni Office's purposes including communications about programs and services and the preparation of mailing and contact lists, by calling 1-866-876-2228 or e-mailing alumni@yorku.ca

Company

Address

Telephone

Position title

Occupational Information

YORK
alumni

COPY AND RETURN TO:
Alumni Office
West Office Bldg.
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario
M3J 1P3
Tel: 416-650-8159
Toll Free: 1-866-876-2228
Fax: 416-650-8220
E-mail: alumni@yorku.ca
www.yorku.ca/alumni

A daughter ponders late poet Irving Layton. **BY SAMANTHA BERNSTEIN**

The Suffering Hero

MY MOM ONCE SAID she discovered the strangeness of genetics one afternoon when I was lying on the carpet, one calf crossed over my knee. That was exactly how Irving used to lie, she said. She had always told me my legs were shaped like his, but to see this pose reproduced by me was truly peculiar: I had never seen him in it. My father’s recent date with Sir Mortimer, as he affectionately called death, has occasioned various ponderings on the meaning of heredity, genetic and otherwise.

Take, for instance, the story of his crippled kitten Pussela, whom he cites as a major influence on his life. In his memoir he writes, “The anguish was intolerable and tears would start in

Driving, Aviva told Irving

my eyes each time I saw Pussela, pulling himself across the linoleum by his healthy front paws.” Irving believed it was his love for this pathetic animal that rooted the tremen-

dous sense of poignancy and respect he held for individuals who meet great misfortune with grace and courage. The tale gave a weird depth of dimension to my own propensity to pick out imperfect Christmas trees, ugly kittens, even my obsession with watching World Vision ads as a small child. Mom never understood these tendencies; I always thought they were just empathy for the ugly, abused and unwanted. But maybe it’s more than empathy, or something less pure. Maybe there is some genetic continuity in my lifelong curiosity about struggle, and the creative propulsion I draw from its causes and effects.

Thinking about the life of this man, whom I met in earnest at 16, I am left with a sense of envy. There is no Horn’s café anymore, no such thing as coffee for a nickel, no place I can routinely go to find a boisterous crowd and unending debate. Where once there were one or two places to go and talk art or politics, now there are dozens in any given city. In my father’s generation, you had the wicked monolith of repressive, philistine society, and then a small, recognized community of artists and those trying to become artists. Now, the “artistic commu-

nity” seems massive and fractional: there are more opportunities to participate but less chance you’ll make a serious impact on it or society generally.

Irving’s generation was the last to have the freedom to self-define without irony. His literary descriptions of his youth lead inexorably to a portrait of a poet-in-the-making – they are sometimes almost stereotypical anecdotes of the intelligent rebel, the sensitive outsider, the fearless shit-disturber. Secure in the meanings of “talent”, “artist” and “art”, Irving didn’t worry whether he was really supposed to be a writer. He was always sure that his poetic nature was in fact that, and not just self-indulgence, because he could believe in Great Talent, Great Men, Great Deeds.

His experience with Pussela alerted him to his “unappeasable appetite for unfamiliar sensations and feelings in [his] morbid search into the ambiguous nature of the human soul”. Thus, the pleasure he took in barreling into situations like a bewitched bowling ball, just to see the crazy patterns of the pins as they fell. Irving lived as someone who believed absolutely in the Romantic vision of the poet as suffering hero, someone whose fate is defined by his art. To me, in this cultural moment, it seems impossible to believe in anything so unequivocally, especially my own artistic compulsions.

My half-brother David once told me a funny story: he, his mother Aviva and Irving were driving somewhere beautiful, and Irving was sitting writing, impervious to the view. Aviva told Irving to look up; Irving replied, “You tell me what you see, and I’ll tell you what it means.” Trying to create art in this new millennium, I cannot imagine imbuing the world with significance so unambiguously; the source of my impressions, their right to be heard, seems far too complicated. Yet I am frustrated with the sheen of irony that has been slicked onto modern existence, the sneer that acknowledges every vile possibility of humankind without the faintest nod to hope, passion, or positive action. If Irving had no doubt, my generation is consumed by it, and either extreme is dangerous. ■



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNY PITT-CLARK

Samantha Bernstein is a York creative writing student and daughter of Irving Layton, who taught creative writing at York from 1969 to 1978. He died in January.