

# YORKU

SUMMER 2010



## A Silly Little Song

How this grad couple created the hit musical  
*My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding*

**PLUS**

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# YORKU

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# SUMMER 2010

Remembering Howard Daugherty. BY BERTON WOODWARD

# Into the Clouds

**W**hen I came to York in 2003, it didn't take long before I met the professor with the best gig at the whole university. That was Howard Daugherty, a gravel-voiced, perpetually unkempt teddy bear whose job it was to fly to Costa Rica on a regular basis with a group of students, hang out at the beach for a bit and then spend a lot more time in the upland rainforest of York's Las Nubes ("The Clouds") Reserve. Daugherty was a specialist in neotropical ecosystems in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, but Las Nubes and all it stands for was his real specialty. When he died at 68 in Toronto in February, there was considerable grief at York, but by all accounts it did not match the breadth of sorrow felt in Costa Rica.

Daugherty was emblematic of York's commitment to sustainability. He taught it in class and at Las Nubes, and he lived it through his work with the coffee growers nearby, championing creation of York's fair-trade, organic Las Nubes Coffee brand, which is sold on campus and across Canada at Timothy's World Coffee locations. He was one of those people who keep pushing until something gets done, by hook or by crook. Even a serious illness could be an advantage. It was because he got very sick in the 1980s that he met, as a patient, Toronto physician Dr. M.M. "Woody" Fisher. They became good friends and, much later, Daugherty got wind that Fisher was about to turn over a 133-hectare former farm he had purchased in Costa Rica to a local research institute for preservation as rainforest. Daugherty



turned up on his friend's doorstep and convinced him to donate Las Nubes to York. "He had an entrepreneurial instinct that he was able to turn to academia's interest," notes Fisher with a smile.

My favourite of several stories we've run in *YorkU* about Las Nubes was a journal-style piece written by a group of Daugherty's students about their Costa Rica journey, complete with zip-lining through the jungle. Daugherty inspired his students deeply, as many attested with heartfelt and tearful remembrances at a celebration of his life held at York in April. He was an appealing and colourful person, no doubt about it. Born in Colorado and raised in Wyoming, he was a schoolmate of Dick Cheney, the former US vice-president, and once dated actress-to-be Kim Basinger, in Athens, Georgia, where he did post-doc work after getting his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles. Arriving at York in 1973, he was part of the coterie of talented Americans from that anti-war era who have enriched the University ever since.

So let's toast Howard Daugherty with a cuppa Las Nubes. And as he'd quickly add, you might want to add a little something for York's Fisher Fund for Neotropical Conservation, in his memory. ■

Send letters, submissions, comments and ideas to [editor@yorku.ca](mailto:editor@yorku.ca).

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

Recent major awards highlight York's research prowess. BY MAMDOUH SHOUKRI

# On a Grand Scale

**I**n my last column, I talked about York's emergence as a leader in internationalization. I've since received fantastic news that demonstrates our researchers' broad global reach in responding to some of our greatest shared challenges. The Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the federal agency that funds university studies in these key areas, recently announced its Major Collaborative Research Initiatives program awards. Only four awards were given, at \$2.5 million each. York led all Canadian universities by securing two out of the four, a very rare result.

That \$5 million total will be put to good use. Two multinational teams led by York researchers will study long-term residential health care and global suburbanization, topics with ramifications for vast numbers of people. Pat Armstrong, a professor of sociology in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, will lead the study to identify promising practices in organizing long-term residential health care. As Canada's pop-

## Multinational teams led

ulation ages, many of our most vulnerable citizens live in such care, which is often seen as a last resort instead of a positive option. Armstrong's team of 25 researchers, eight partner institutions and 17 universities spans six countries and many disciplines. They will share approaches, best practices and data to better understand what creates respectful and dignified treatment for both residents and caregivers.

Roger Keil, a professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies and director of the City Institute at York University, will work with 44 researchers from 29 universities and 16 partner organizations to assess the challenges suburbanization poses in a globalizing world. Keil's is the first research project to systematically take stock of worldwide suburban developments by analyzing governance models, land use, infrastructure and suburban everyday life. With a team spanning 12 countries, their examples will draw from gated communities in North America to highrise-dominated suburbs in Europe, from the

**by York researchers will study long-term care and global suburbanization.**



exploding outskirts of Indian and Chinese cities to the squatter settlements and slums of Africa and Latin America.

This extraordinary recognition reflects York's expanding strength in leading large-scale social sciences and humanities research. Another example is Carla Lipsig-Mummé, professor of work and labour studies in the Faculty of Liberal Arts &

Professional Studies, who recently received \$1 million from SSHRC to study the challenges climate change presents to Canadian employment and workplaces.

All three projects draw upon expertise based in the

University's 28 research centres and speak to York as an engaged university with a strong commitment to social responsibility. York researchers now hold 11 major SSHRC grants worth over \$18 million. Their work encompasses an array of topics of high public interest, including homelessness, business ethics, immigration and urban youth.

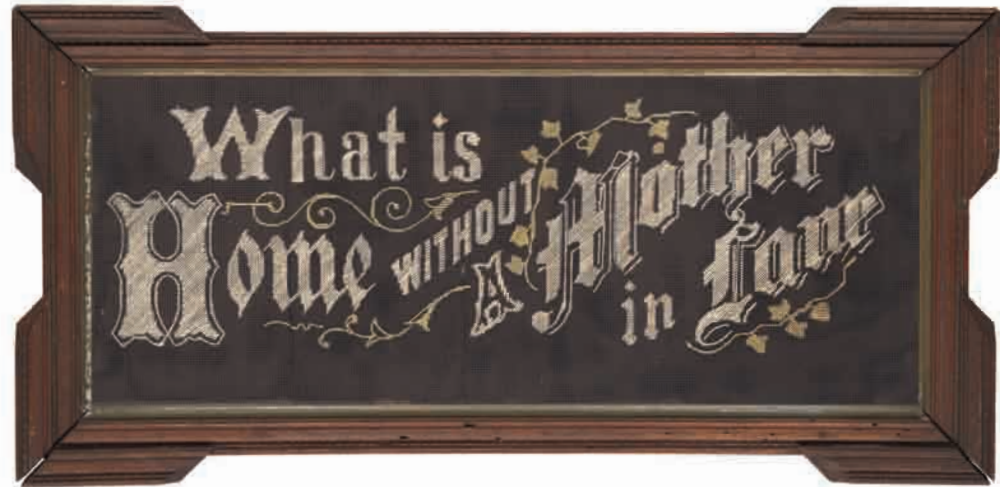
And I cannot talk about excellence in social science without mentioning Ellen Bialystok, a Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology in the Faculty of Health and a past recipient of SSHRC funding. Internationally known for her research on language, bilingualism and cognitive development, she recently received the prestigious Killam Prize, worth \$100,000, for her outstanding career achievements.

Our colleagues' success confirms the research excellence that defines York as a leading interdisciplinary university. And I could not be more proud of them. ■

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

ART

## Needle Points



Katherine Knight explores embroidered mottoes

**K**atherine Knight has been a longtime summer resident of Caribou Harbour, NS, northwest of the town of Pictou on the Northumberland Strait. So imagine her delight when she recently discovered that one of the area's 19th-century houses contained a treasure trove of Victorian punch-paper motto needlepoints dating from 1831 to 1881.

The needlepoints, which belong to local resident Jane Webster, bear messages such as "What is Home without a Mother in Law" and other homiletic gems that document and reflect the concerns of women's domestic culture at the time, says Knight, a York visual arts professor in the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The needlepoints sparked something in Knight, she says. "I experienced the mottoes first-hand, crowded into a much-loved, but

unoccupied, heritage house at the very moment they were about to be packed away. As a visual artist, I didn't want the mottoes to disappear but rather to be integrated into my contemporary experience of Caribou Harbour."

Knight has received a \$120,000 grant from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada to explore the material culture of Caribou Harbour and to create a fine art project that will incorporate the needlepoint mottoes. She is now working on a visual database of all 165 needlework pieces.

Her visual archive will have two purposes. The first is to provide a medium that will be accessible to interested academics. Secondly, she'll be donating the images, in the form of an artist book, to York's Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections. ■

# What They're Reading

York people reveal what's on the bedside table

**Thomas Klassen**

Political science professor

"Ah, books – too many of them and never enough time! I recently finished Min Jin Lee's *Free Food for Millionaires* – a novel of a young woman from an immigrant family who enters the 'real world' after university. I just

bought the first two volumes of Pierre Trudeau's biography by John English. But my favourite type of reading is plays: all dialogue. Some days I dream of becoming a playwright. Most days however, I'm lucky if I read one or two magazine stories. York's own *Global Brief* is a great new addition."

**Andrea Kosavic**

Digital initiatives librarian

"My recent fiction spree, furnished with books from a local second-hand bookseller, has unwittingly been somewhat thematic in nature. Douglas Coupland's *Hey Nostradamus!*, Ian McEwan's *Saturday* and Philip Roth's *Everyman* explore in their own unique ways how traumatic life experiences shape our relationships. Up next is Don DeLillo's *Underworld*. Given my research interest in scholarly communication, I will also soon be catching up with *E-book Publishing Success* by Kingsley Oghojafor, as I'm eagerly anticipating the release of Open Monograph Press, an open source software platform for e-books developed by the Public Knowledge Project."

# Upgrades Needed

Job training is failing some immigrant professionals



**M**ost people would expect that hard work and an upgrade of job skills would pay off career-wise, and usually they do – but not always. A recent analysis of the 2003 Canadian Workplace & Employee Survey by human resource management Professor Tony Fang of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies found workplace training and development did not help immigrant professionals to get ahead.

Fang says he and fellow researchers found that both non-immigrant professionals, or NIPs, and immigrant professionals, or IPs, are equally likely to undergo training and development initiatives funded by employers, but that IPs don't benefit in terms of higher pay, promotions or increased job satisfaction to the degree reported by their Canadian-born counterparts.

Fang defines IPs as those who hold at least an undergraduate, graduate or professional degree. "We found IPs earn less than NIPs – \$27.30 per hour versus \$30.10 per hour – and that IPs tend to have lower promotion rates and shorter tenure with their current employer than NIPs – seven years versus 8.3 years."

Based on his research, Fang says employers need to revisit who gets training and how this type of human investment may be circulated among domestic vs. foreign workers. "These two groups may need very different types of training," he says, noting that a major barrier for immigrant professionals is a lack of cultural fluency. That includes language limitations and unfamiliarity with training methods because more than 80 per cent of recent immigrants arrived from so-called non-conventional source countries, such as China and India, according to the most recent census data (2006).

"I think this research is particularly timely given the growing need to explore the relationship between the existing labour shortages emerging under the forces of globalization and the talent flow of internationally mobile and experienced professionals," says Fang. He notes that several studies have found that minority-friendly companies consistently outperform Fortune 500 companies. ■

**H**uman beings are known to be very good at rapidly detecting animals in a natural landscape – in fact, within 150 milliseconds of a visual stimulus. Given the complexity of natural scenes, that’s surprisingly quick, says James Elder, a member of York’s Centre for Vision Research and a professor of computer science & engineering and psychology.

“We’re very fast at this, yet no one knows how we do it,” says Elder. “It seemed to me we must be using shape when we detect animals so rapidly, especially when the textures on the animal have evolved to mimic its background, which makes using texture as a visual cue more difficult.”

Elder says research results show humans use both shape and texture, but that shape information emerges earlier in processing. “We think the brain has very fast mechanisms that allow rough shapes to be perceived extremely quickly. But we also think the more difficult detection tasks require feedback. The fast mechanisms are enough only to generate ‘guesses’ that have to be fed back to early visual areas for verification and elaboration,” he says.

Elder found that while colour and luminance carry useful information, they play only a minor part in detection. Shape and texture are more important. “However, we’ve only probed animal detection – we don’t yet know exactly which cues we use to discriminate different types of animal.”

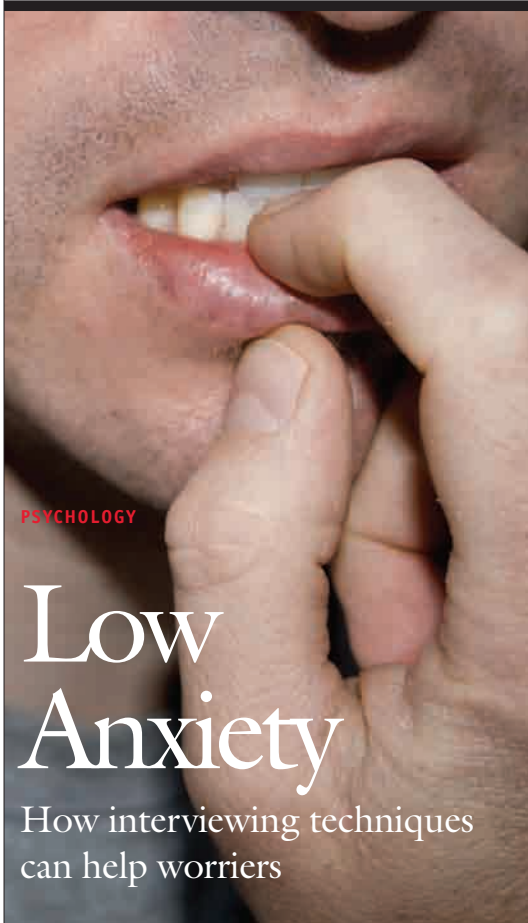
He suggests our brains have evolved to use shape cues most rapidly because they can break camouflage. “This may have helped us to hunt, but also to avoid being eaten!” ■



VISION

## See Spot Run

How humans detect animals so quickly



PSYCHOLOGY

## Low Anxiety

How interviewing techniques can help worriers

**I**t’s a psychological catch-22 – perhaps a person needs cognitive behavioural therapy to treat their generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), but their very worry about giving up control can get in the way of successful treatment.

GAD is defined as excessive, uncontrolled worry about multiple life domains, from minor things – like getting to the train on time – to major ones – health, finances, the future. Henny Westra, a psychology professor in York’s Faculty of Health, has been researching a new approach that may help GAD sufferers.

If clients are ambivalent about their worry, she says, it’s likely they’ll show little motivation for change. That’s where motivational interviewing (MI) comes in. In MI, the therapist does not take the role of change advocate, but instead, through empathy and other techniques, tries to help the client become the advocate for change.

Westra was the lead author of a recent study looking at the efficacy of MI prior to starting cognitive behavioural therapy treatment. “In folks with GAD, it’s fear of the unknown – that is, ‘I’ve been this way all my life, I don’t know who I’d be if I didn’t worry,’” she says.

In the first controlled clinical trial of its kind, Westra found 92 per cent of the group that received MI before therapy responded well, with normal “worry scores” following treatment. However, in the control group that did not receive MI before their therapy, 71 per cent responded well, but 21 per cent did not respond to therapy at all.

Says Westra: “MI is designed to help people work through their ambivalence and/or conflicted feelings regarding change. It isn’t designed to ‘do things’ to people, it’s focused on helping people understand themselves and evoke their own expertise.” ■



# For Baby Only?

A York study looks at the popular view of the pregnant body



**N**orth American culture has a peculiar relationship with the body at the best of times, and a standoffish relationship with the pregnant body most of the time. But the Web and new media may be mediating how we view images of pregnant women, suggests Jennifer Musial, a PhD candidate in York's School of Women's Studies who researches visual representations of pregnant bodies in the media.

Musial's analysis of the representation of sex in commodified texts reveals that certain bodies are permitted sexuality, while others are "too transgressive", she says. "There's definitely a cultural ambivalence towards pregnant women's sexuality," says Musial. "Pregnant bodies are assumed to be temporarily devoid of sexual pleasure – the body is for 'baby only'."

In her dissertation "Reproducing America: Examining Mainstream Media Narratives of Four White Pregnant Women in the US Nation, 2000-2006", Musial examined the intersections of gender, class, race and nation in the media. "I use critical discourse analysis to address why pregnant women such as Laci Peterson, Lori Hacking, Susan Torres and Britney Spears are a source of media fascination," Musial says. Peterson and Hacking were each murdered while pregnant, Torres was brain-dead when her baby was delivered, while singer Spears posed nude while pregnant.

Musial notes that Demi Moore's famous 1991 cover pictorial in *Vanity Fair* marked a shift in visual representation of the pregnant body in pop culture. Since then, pregnant bodies have been celebrated and memorialized in media. But up to now, she says, there has been a noticeable lack of literature on how pregnant women are emblematic of cultural values. ■

**T**he expression "no pain, no gain" is usually associated with a good workout, but for seniors coping with a different kind of pain – from cancer – the struggle *can* actually strengthen aspects of their lives, according to a York researcher's findings.

The study, conducted by Lucia Gagliese, a professor in the School of Kinesiology & Health Science, Faculty of Health, looked at chronic cancer-related pain in patients in their late 40s and early 50s and a group of patients in their 70s. It revealed that seniors coping with cancer pain often carried on with life goals and even reported stronger relationships with their spouses, whereas unmarried, middle-aged patients reported difficulties coping with illness.

"Pain is a common and debilitating symptom experienced by cancer patients of all ages," says Gagliese. "Although older people make up the majority of cancer patients, we as yet don't know a lot about aging and its relationship to dealing with cancer pain."

Two age-related adaptation outcomes emerged from patient interviews in Gagliese's study, which she labels "waiting to live" and "living despite pain". "We found younger patients were more likely than older ones to be 'waiting to live'," says Gagliese. "They felt complete pain relief was necessary before they could move on with their lives and reported feeling out of control, angry and unable to accept the pain." Older patients adapted by employing accommodative strategies.

Gagliese says the study's findings may provide a useful guide in the development of psychosocial interventions tailored to patients' life-stage challenges. ■



AGING

## Life Lesson

Why seniors cope better than boomers with cancer pain

**Y**ork students are sitting pretty thanks to 50 new commemorative York 50th-anniversary benches. Installed on the Keele and Glendon campuses, the stainless steel indoor benches and black enamelled outdoor ones are arranged and placed in quiet areas so students have more places to sit, read, socialize and study, says Harriet Lewis, University secretary & general counsel and chair of York's License Board.

The bench project was part of a larger "50 campus improvements" initiative whose objective was to highlight the 50th-anniversary year, provide an anniversary legacy and improve the student experience of the campus, notes Lewis. The Keele campus has 25 new indoor and 12 outdoor benches, while Glendon's

campus has seven indoor and six outdoor.

Benches were funded from royalties collected on commercial merchandise. (York's License Board oversees the granting of permission to persons who wish to use the University's name and marks for commercial purposes and receives royalties on the sale of such merchandise.) Says Lewis, "Licensing profits are used to fund community projects. We thought the benches would be a great way to return profits from the program to the community."

Lewis says they turned down a "Ye Olde-type" bench model in favour of something modern. "The stainless steel and the black benches both are in keeping with looking forward as well as back – which was the theme of the anniversary." ■

PROJECTS

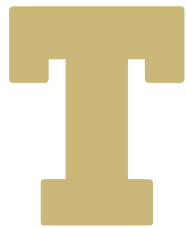
# Sitting Around

New benches for students are springing up on both campuses

How a 'silly little song' became the hit musical  
*My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding*.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

# Stages of Success



**THE FRINGE OF TORONTO THEATRE FESTIVAL** works by lottery. If you're lucky, your play gets picked. If you're unlucky, try again next year. Last summer, York grads David Hein and his wife Irene Carl Sankoff decided to avoid disappointment and chose the other option – BYOV (Bring Your Own Venue). They reserved Bread & Circus, a theatre bar in Toronto's Kensington Market, and mounted their musical *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding*. Bingo. Of the 153 productions mounted over 10 days last July, it became

the show to catch.

Behind the curious title lay a funny, touching and true tale of Hein's mother Claire, a woman struggling to redefine herself after divorcing her husband, leaving her teenage son behind and starting a new job and a new life in a new city. Along the way, she falls in love with a lesbian who adheres to Wicca (a form of modern witchcraft that worships a goddess and a god), and she re-embraces her own Jewish heritage. Audiences and reviewers adored this coming-out love story as told in song by Hein and Sankoff, who not only wrote and produced, but performed in, this big little musical. Who wouldn't? At its heart is a gentle reminder: we are who we are.

Even so, Hein (BFA Spec. Hons. '97) and Sankoff (BA Hons. '99) weren't sure what to expect. Since February, they had devoted all their spare time to creating the 60-minute show. To make sure they filled their 85-seat venue, they postered the downtown, flyered Toronto's Pride Parade, bought space in the Fringe program, invited everyone they knew to a fundraising preview and put on a special performance for Fringe volunteers. At least, they hoped to recoup their investment.

Not to worry. After only one performance, organizers fingered it for the post-festival celebration, Best of the Fringe. Advance tickets disappeared quickly and people lined up for hours, even in the rain, to buy same-day tickets. Hein, also the show's musical director, felt so sorry for them, he distributed his homemade comic books and played guitar to keep them entertained.

Then Toronto theatre impresario David Mirvish requested tickets. Could he reserve four, no eight, make that 10? Hein and Sankoff panicked. The show was sold out! But they couldn't turn away the producer of *Mamma Mia* and *The Sound of Music* who had groomed another homegrown Fringe favourite, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, for Broadway.

**'WE'RE BOTH PERFECTIONISTS':** Hein and Sankoff



With help from Fringe staff, they arranged a block of seats.

“We didn’t tell the cast and we didn’t tell the band,” remembers Sankoff. “We didn’t want to stress them out.” The audience knew, though, the instant Mirvish walked past the bar and sat down with his out-of-town party. “Word got around the Fringe fast,” Sankoff says. “Rumours started flying.”

The next day, Mirvish invited them to his King Street headquarters. “We didn’t know what was going on until we got there,” says Hein. We love your show, Mirvish said, and we want to remount it at the Panasonic Theatre downtown.

Can you add 30 minutes, flesh out the story, compose more songs, bring in more cast and more musicians? “It was surreal,” says Hein. “It’s still surreal,” says Sankoff.

The two postponed a holiday to Cuba and quit their day jobs. She dropped work as an actor role-playing sick patients for medical students to diagnose. He left a secure, full-time job as manager of creative services at an insurance company – and benefits. “It was scary leaving my job,” says Hein. “It was a gamble.”

They sat down at a table in their favourite neighbourhood café and set to work revising the script and the score. They had three months to expand the show. They added four songs, extra scoring, new characters, new scenes, three more actors and another musician. Director Andrew Lamb and the original cast – including Stratford and Shaw festivals veteran Lisa Horner in the lead role – stayed on, as did the creative team and the band, for the three-week engagement downtown.

Three weeks. That’s all Mirvish guaranteed. The show opened Nov. 7. It was such a hit, they extended it for two, then three more weeks and rebooked it from February through April. CBC News did a feature and Paula Todd (BA ’82, LLB ’88) followed Hein and Sankoff around for a month to produce a documentary for CTV’s “W5”. In March, *Toronto Star* reviewer Richard Ouzounian loved the “tuneful, terrific show” and wrote: “Don’t wait like I did. Go right now to see it.”

Between runs, Hein whisked his wife off to Cuba for that promised holiday. They had been going full throttle for a year. “We’re both perfectionists,” says Sankoff. “We never said, ‘This is just a Fringe show.’”

Fast friends since they met at a York Frosh Week barbecue in 1994, Hein and Sankoff bring a formidable mix of talents to the theatre. Hein, musical and artistic (Mirvish used his cartoon poster to advertise the play), has designed lighting and sets for more than 60 productions since he graduated cum laude from York’s Theatre Program in 1997. Sankoff, a trained dancer,

## **“It started out as a love story and became a political act,” says Hein. His moms were “really moved”.**

graduated top of her class with her BA in psychology and creative writing in 1999. A year later, they moved to New York City. While she did a master’s degree at the Actors Studio Drama School, he took fiction and screenwriting courses, and worked in a recording studio that created music for “Sesame Street”, Muppets and Disney shows. Three years later, now married and back in Toronto, he began composing and recording his own songs, taking time off work to tour with his band, while she landed roles in theatre, film and TV. As the once inseparable couple like to say, they were “ships passing in the night.”

That changed in the fall of 2008, when they decided to collaborate on a project. They started with a song he had written about his mom’s wedding. The first verse began, “My mother’s lesbian Jewish Wiccan wedding was nice” and ended “my moms jumped over a pot and broom.” “It was a silly little song but people responded to it like crazy,” he says, when he sang it on tour. What about telling the whole story? They’d dined out on it for years, and truth was better than fiction.

They nailed the narrative down and turned it into song. Friends always asked Hein: How did your mom come out to you? (Song: Oh, My Mom’s a Lesbian.) What did your father think? (Hot Lesbian Action.) You planned to introduce Irene to your moms where? (Don’t Take Your Lesbian Moms to Hooters.) Tell us again what your moms told Irene while they waited for you? (You Don’t Need a Penis.) What are you? (Straight White Male.) How can two women get married? (A Short History of Gay Marriage in Canada.) Didn’t you know your mother was Jewish? (Claire Comes Out Again.)

“It started out as a love story and became a political act,” says Hein. He and Sankoff almost cut *A Short History of Gay Marriage in Canada* from the original show until they saw the audience reaction on the first night at the Fringe. His moms sat in the front row and, like everybody else, “laughed and cried”, he says. “They were really moved by it.” Canadians responded to it with pride, but how would American audiences react if this show went to Broadway?

Broadway. One minute Hein and Sankoff are paying down the mortgage with regular jobs and the next they’re hiring literary and talent agents, gambling on an unknown future in theatre. “We have a lot of ideas for shows,” says Hein. “We’re now in the throw-it-against-the-wall-and-see-if-it-sticks stage.”

Whatever happens next, the two like to follow what they learned in improv classes: always say “yes, and”; never say “no, but”. “It’s a good philosophy for life, too,” says Hein. ■

# Family Values

Offstage, a new book goes beyond the ‘two moms’ idea. BY MICHAEL TODD

**T**HEY’RE YOUNG, THEY’RE QUEER, they’re having babies. Yet for lesbian or gay parents, having babies can present challenges most heterosexual parents don’t face. One of the big issues is the role of the “known donor” in the new family unit. What happens when would-be lesbian moms or gay dads ask a friend or acquaintance to donate sperm or eggs, or act as a surrogate? What obligations do the parents who raise the baby have to surrogates or donors who are anything but anonymous? What, suddenly, is the definition (legally or otherwise) of the reinvention of the word “family”?

These are some of the questions that York education Professor Chloë Brushwood Rose (PhD ’04) and her friend from York grad-school days, Susan Goldberg (MA ’97), a writer, editor, mommyblogger and now creative writing instructor at Lakehead University, raise in their co-edited book of collected, often vivid essays, *And Baby Makes More: Known Donors, Queer Parents, and Our Unexpected Families*. Goldberg says she and Brushwood Rose, who each separately have kids by known donors, realized that there wasn’t any manual for these kinds of relationships. “We also realized we were at the point at which these relationships were common enough that there was a lot of experience out there to be shared, but uncommon enough that nobody had compiled the stories and that experience into a collection.”

The authors point out that queer families must deal with the normal challenges faced by any family but also be pioneers in terms of new language and the roles of all involved – from the parents themselves to known donors. So, sometimes “sperm donors” may not be “donor dads” – or else the classic parenting dyad can easily turn into a triad. Gay dads-to-be can watch a female friend give birth to their child, and boundaries can blur between “donor” and “lover” for both gay and lesbian couples. All of this adds up to creating and naming new ways of being “family”, says Brushwood Rose.

When it came to having their own children, Brushwood Rose (who has a boy in his first year and a girl of four) and

Goldberg (two boys, aged two and five) each ended up negotiating with their male sperm donors. Brushwood Rose’s agreement with her donor, “Bob”, was that he was always a member of their extended family, but not a parent to the kids. “In terms of how often he sees them, for me the most important thing is that it’s consistent, whether it’s once or five times a year,” she says. “We see Bob two or three times a year and also have a relationship with his mother and brother who are interested in the kids.” From the children’s point of view, “Bob is part of our family and helped us ‘make them’. He isn’t their dad, he’s ‘their Bob’.”

With donors or surrogates potentially in a child’s life, Brushwood Rose says the pressing issue is how to think of the family beyond the “two dads” or “two moms” pairing which can mimic the nuclear family’s own dominant model of “one dad, one mom”. “The stories in this collection, in many ways, challenge the notion that the nuclear family has ever existed in isolation without a wider community,” she says. “I think they push us to reconsider the many family relations we each experience – for better or worse.” ■



## BUSINESS

Randy Powell traded in his jet-setting CEO life to turn profits for a little engine that could.

BY DAVID FULLER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DARRELL LECORRE

**I**N HIS CAREER, he has sold everything from soup to coffee to air freshener. From a simple start working part time at a grocery store, he became one of Canada's top executives at iconic companies like Campbell's, SC Johnson, Second Cup and Maple Leaf Fresh Foods. At all of them, he made his name by increasing sales, expanding markets and boosting profits, often jetting to offices in Tokyo, Chicago or Australia. So what, you may ask, is Randy Powell (BAS '89) doing running Rocky Mountaineer, a scenic rail tourism operation in Western Canada?

It's a question that has been put to him many times by former colleagues and industry watchers in the heady world of what he calls "Tier 1" consumer branded marketing. To Powell, the answer is simple. "I'm still in a consumer-facing business, but now I'm selling fun and adventure versus soup and spaghetti sauce," he says enthusiastically – his main mode of expression.

For Powell, the customer focus keeps him fresh, and the company's smaller size is one of the challenges he relishes. He seeks to recreate the success he had in the 1990s at Second Cup, where he took a medium-sized company and boosted sales by realigning its retail strategy – and introducing Canada's first specialty coffees to the market. At Rocky Mountaineer, "I wanted to take something Canadian-based that I could grow from a relatively modest size into a couple of billion dollars and make it a player in the global theatre," he says. It's also nice, he admits, after jobs that had him rising at 5:30am for the hour-and-a-half commute into Toronto, to live in West Vancouver with a 15-minute drive across the Lions Gate Bridge and through Stanley Park to his office in Vancouver with views of the North Shore Mountains. "What a privilege," he says.

But still, the questions persist. If you're like 80 per cent of Canadians in the company's own surveys, you'd never heard of Rocky Mountaineer until now. Yet it has won World's Leading Travel Experience by Train at the World Travel Awards four times, BBC Television named it one of "50 things to do before you die", and the superlatives keep coming from media and travel writers. Passengers can book a couple of days or perhaps an 11-day round trip (costing, in peak season, up to US\$6,999 per person), and spend their journey viewing the Canadian Rockies through the train's all-glass domes while enjoying gourmet meals, Okanagan wines and sightseeing stopovers – just like a cruise ship. In fact, as many as half of the train's

customers are on their way to or from an Alaskan cruise.

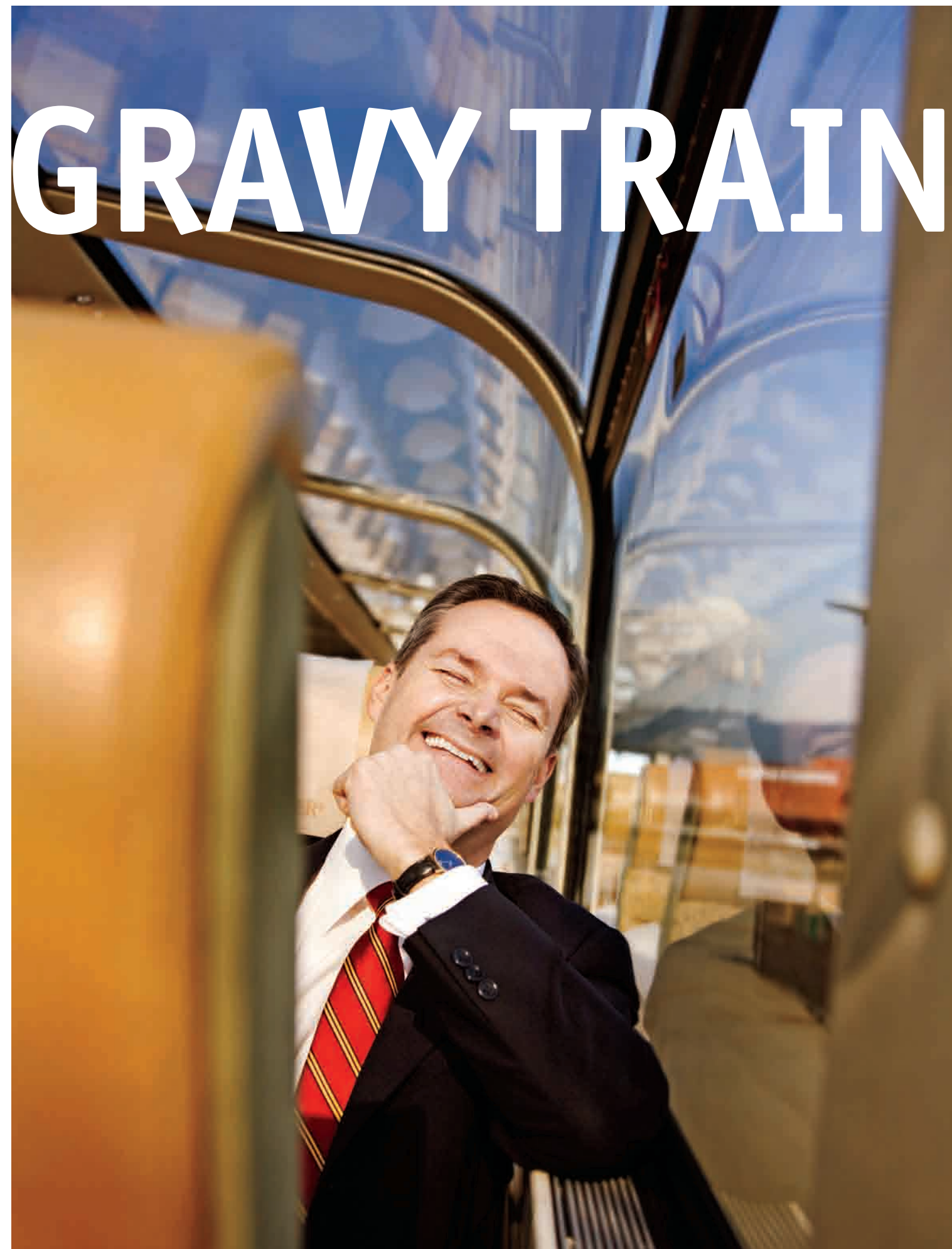
Then there were the Winter Olympics, which provided Powell with a marketer's dream opportunity: three weeks of wining and dining international VIPs between Vancouver and Whistler on an exclusive Rocky Mountaineer train, chartered by the Alberta government. "I've found in my life that hard work and good planning are essential, but so is a little good luck," says Powell.

He covered the hard work part of the equation by deciding to take his administrative studies degree at York while still working for Campbell's as a junior marketing manager. His wife and fellow grad Tina (BAS '89), who has her own career as a successful children's author, agreed – on condition that she take her degree at the same time. "It was the most enriched learning experience I'd ever had because of the way the programs were set up," Powell says. "And to be able to do it as an adult while I was working, and with Tina, just made it a fabulous learning experience."

Powell credits his York degree with helping him rise, at 33, to president of SC Johnson Canada, which required knowledge of the international business scene. "York was recognized by the leadership at SC Johnson as one of the big Canadian universities that had international prowess," he says. Like many successful grads, Powell kept returning to York. He helped bring recruiters from Campbell's and SC Johnson onto campus, and he served as a member of the Atkinson College Dean's Advisory Council. He was about to join the York University Foundation's Board of Directors when he got the call from BC's Armstrong Group, which owns Rocky Mountaineer.

After seven years heading Maple Leaf Fresh Foods, a division of Maple Leaf Foods (he was not involved with the later listeriosis outbreak), Powell decided he wanted a new challenge. With two children at home, travelling to overseas offices as global president had lost its allure. "It was full of discovery and adventures the first couple of years," he says. "But there came a time when I decided that chapter was complete." So he became the first outside president of family-owned Armstrong Group, and last fall succeeded founder and executive chairman Peter Armstrong as CEO. Powell says he looks forward to the day when Rocky Mountaineer is a global powerhouse brand that all Canadians take pride in. "I've sold a lot of great products and worked on a lot of great brands in my life, but selling fun for a living? Can't beat it." ■

# GRAVY TRAIN





# Flex Time

York's new Muscle Health Research Centre makes intriguing findings about aging and exercise.

BY MICHAEL TODD ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

QUALITY OF LIFE: Hood and Ugucioni



**S**OME THOUGHTS NEXT TIME you're lifting weights: The word for muscle is derived from the Latin *musculus*, the diminutive of *mus* or "mouse", because some muscles were thought to look mouse-like in form. With their ability to contract, these bands of fibrous tissue are what give us the power and strength to do things – to move or, just as important, not move. There are three major groups of muscles – skeletal, cardiac and smooth – and more than 640 in the human body. An average adult male is made up of about 42 per cent skeletal muscle and an average adult female about 36 per cent as a proportion of body mass.

York scientists are now muscling in on how exercise can benefit our own muscle structure and metabolism, and their findings could have a big impact on Canadians' future health. Professor David Hood, Canada Research Chair in Cell Physiology in the School of Kinesiology & Health Science, is director of York's new Muscle Health Research Centre. He is joined by 15 other collaborative researchers from his school in the Faculty of Health and from the Department of Biology in the Faculty of Science & Engineering.

Hood, who studies skeletal muscle, has discovered that while we may not be able to turn back the hands of time for our aging bodies, we can maintain our muscles into our golden years and, in some cases, reinvigorate muscles we've neglected. His research results indicate that the elderly are able to rebuild muscle mass. "They won't have the six-pack abs of an 18-year-old," he says, "but we found they can reverse muscle damage and loss of function due to inactivity and old age."

Hood used older rats for his study which, he says, is the equivalent of working with someone aged 70 to 80. "The idea was to see if muscle in the elder group could adapt as well to exercise as young muscle in a 20-year-old equivalent." Rats are used the world over in aging research, and Hood says his work would be difficult to do using human subjects. "You'd have to take 80-year-olds and put them on an exercise program that would have the same workload as for young individuals. There are also behavioural issues involved with humans that can affect a study's results."

A rat, when it gets to be "80", doesn't want to exercise any more than a human being does. "Rats are just like people in that regard," says Hood. To counteract this, he used electrical stimu-

lation of muscle to mimic exercise levels. By setting the same frequency and duration of muscle stimulation in both young and old rats, Hood could then isolate just for the effect of exercise.

He found that elderly muscle did adapt to regular exercise, although it took longer compared to younger muscle. "Our findings dispel the myth that regular exercise won't be of any benefit to older people because their muscles won't adapt. In fact, they do," says Hood. His findings suggest elderly people are perfectly capable of rebuilding muscle mass and that exercise can prevent and reverse significant damage and loss of function caused by inactivity and age.

Hood's study is one example of the sorts of work going on at the Muscle Health Research Centre, the first of its kind in Canada. Researchers are zeroing in on skeletal muscle, with a focus on what exercise can do to improve muscle health and ultimately people's quality of life. They are investigating topics such as muscle metabolism, development and adaptations to exercise, and metabolic disease and cancer.

One of the centre's bright young researchers is kinesiology & health science PhD student Giulia Ugucioni (BSc Spec. Hons. '07, MSc '10), who began working with Hood while an undergraduate. Ugucioni studies a protein called PGC-1 $\alpha$  (the symbol for alpha). "When we use our muscles regularly, they need more energy. To do this, they adapt to make more mitochondria," says Ugucioni. Many proteins work together as a team to increase our mitochondria – often called a cell's energy factory – and one of those critical ones is PGC-1 $\alpha$ , she says.

"This protein is so important that without it, our mitochondria cannot make enough energy for our muscles to work properly. The goal of my project is to see if the number of mitochondria in our muscles can still increase with exercise if our muscles do not have PGC-1 $\alpha$ ," she says. Her project will help researchers better understand how mitochondria in skeletal muscles increase with exercise, and how exercise may be used to improve the quality of life for people with mitochondrial impairments, such as the elderly.

Through the work of York scientists such as David Hood and Giulia Ugucioni, we may one day be able to achieve a deeper understanding of the role exercise plays in skeletal muscle health. And that could be good news because, so far, no one has discovered how to stop the clock. ■

How Catherine Gildiner transformed  
herself from clinical psychologist  
to bestselling author.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY LOZON



# Falls View

**A**FTER CATHERINE GILDINER'S BESTSELLING memoir *Too Close to the Falls* came out in 1999, she was surprised at readers' fierce reactions to her mother. "They either loved her or hated her," because unlike her Betty Crocker neighbours, she refused to cook for her family and insisted on eating in restaurants, says Gildiner. "Doesn't everybody eat in restaurants?" jokes the 62-year-old chip off the old block, waving her soup spoon at the lunch crowd in Bar Mercurio, an upscale eatery conveniently close to her home in Toronto's Annex. "Look, they're always full of people!"

Young Cathy McClure had no clue that her mother and her upbringing were unorthodox or would one day be the stuff of three memoirs – two published, a third in the works – that would bring her fame, change her life and make her family squirm.

Writing is Gildiner's second career. For 25 years, the York psychology grad (MA '76, PhD '83) hung out her shingle as a clinical psychologist and dabbled in journalism. She penned an advice column for *Chatelaine*, fired off the odd Facts & Arguments essay to *The Globe and Mail* and wrote scripts for CBC Radio's "Ideas". "I've always loved telling stories," says the irrepressible daughter of Irish Catholics. One day at a dinner party she heard a woman fret that her 16-year-old daughter was cutting short her childhood by taking a summer job. "I started working in my father's pharmacy at the age of four," declared Gildiner, and told the story of getting stuck in a snowstorm while delivering prescriptions with Roy, the black driver. You should write that down, someone said. She did, mailed it to a publisher and promptly received a note: Send more.

Fifty and ready for something different, Gildiner tapped out memories of her 1950s childhood in Lewiston, a small town on the American side of the Niagara River. *Too Close to the Falls* vaulted onto the 1999 bestseller lists, was optioned for a movie and rocketed its author into literary orbit. Gildiner soon bid farewell to her clients. "I didn't want to listen to another depressed person. You just run thin on empathy after a while." Suddenly she had a lot of writing she wanted to do. "It was a relief to be creative." It didn't hurt that she had married a doctor, because fame sure didn't translate into fortune. "I made more money in three months as a psychotherapist than I ever did in book sales."

Five years later, she released her first novel, *Seduction*, about

two ex-cons hired to find out who would want to murder a scholar for exposing Sigmund Freud as a fraud. There's Kate, the beautiful, smart-alecky husband-killer who boned up on Freud in prison, and there's Jackie, the hunky tattooed bank robber turned private eye. What Gildiner couldn't include in her 1983 York PhD thesis on the influence of Charles Darwin on Freud, she wove into this page-turner.

Finally, last fall, Gildiner delivered *After the Falls*. In the sequel to *Too Close to the Falls*, our spunky heroine comes of age in suburban Buffalo. She smokes through the 1960s in a blue convertible, heads to university, falls in love, organizes civil rights protests, bumps into racism, drugs, women's lib and the FBI, then, at 21, wins a scholarship to study English literature at Oxford.

Released in Canada last October, *After the Falls* comes out in the United States this summer, just in time for Gildiner's 40th high-school reunion – but before anybody can read it. ("I'll sell it and run!") To placate her American publisher, who feared lawsuits, she changed names, occupations, even ethnicities. For many, though, it wouldn't be hard to identify who's who.

Now back in the book-promoting whirl, Gildiner sheds her sweats to get dolled up for interviews, readings, book clubs and fundraisers like the Book Lover's Ball. Otherwise, the former Masters rower drags husband Michael to tango lessons and escapes weekends to her Creemore farm to read, hike, bird-watch and make goofy home videos about living in the country (see her blog, Gildiner's Gospel).

Next year, Gildiner will publish her third – and last – memoir, *The Long Way Home*. It follows her to Oxford, then to Canada to study with Kathleen Coburn, a world expert on Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the 19th-century poet whose interest in early psychology propels Gildiner into the arms of Freud and clinical studies at York. It ends with her wedding.

That's where her husband and three sons have told her to stop, or else. Maybe she'll write a sequel to *Seduction*. ("People want Kate and Jackie to come back.") Or a book about ordinary people who've led heroic lives. Or a tale set in Lewiston during the War of 1812. "Everybody yawns when I tell them that." But she'll stick to novels. After the hullabaloo over obscuring identities in her second memoir, an exasperated Gildiner asked her publisher's lawyer: "What do you do if you want to tell the truth?" "Write fiction," he said. ■

# Getting Engaged

The York University-TD Community Engagement Centre helps bring people together in the local neighbourhood.

BY MICHAEL TODD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

**T**HE WORD “ENGAGEMENT” can mean many things to many people, from forming romantic attachments to sharing in the activities of a group. It’s that second enterprise the York University-TD Community Engagement Centre (CEC) is, well, engaged in. Part of, and partner with, the local Jane-Finch community, the centre is located in Yorkgate Mall – the heart of the neighbourhood at the busy northwest corner of Jane Street and Finch Avenue.

Outside Yorkgate, to the west, power lines tower over empty soccer fields soggy from spring rain. To the east, 1960s-style highrises loom against the skyline. Inside the mall, though, it’s a different world, with a kaleidoscopic number of cultures rubbing shoulders. Wander down the hall and around the corner from the CEC’s unassuming but welcoming second-floor entrance and you smell the delicious odours of Jamaican and South Asian cooking – there are fish balls, peas and rice, potato and chicken rotis, and savoury oxtails floating in gravy. Downstairs, the local supermarket sells everything from condiments for Thai and Vietnamese cuisines to plantains, breadfruit and durian.

In short, the CEC has a good majority of the world’s cultures flowing past its front door every day. That was a major reason for locating the centre in the heart of the community, rather than making the community come to it, says executive director Sue Levesque. “We’re located in the mall because we wanted to create an intimate and accessible point of contact between York and Jane & Finch.”

The centre was established in 2008 with a \$1-million gift from TD Bank Financial Group, with the goal of enhancing student learning and building stronger community ties through community and University-related projects. It is part of a long York tradition of involvement with the local area, such as the Westview Partnership with nearby schools begun in 1992. Now, with the storefront CEC operation, York professors and students and their community partners are able to help out

with things like a school documentary film-making program, a science homework club, tax preparation clinics, mapping local food assets, tutoring and mentoring local youth, and offering legal advice, among many other initiatives.

**CERTAINLY JAN HADLAW**, a York design professor, is challenging her students to get out there. Those enrolled in her Design for Public Awareness course are intimately involved with several projects with Jane-Finch/Black Creek community groups. On a late spring afternoon in one of York’s high-tech design studios, Hadlaw’s students are tutoring pupils from Jane-Finch’s C.W. Jefferys and Emery Collegiate Institutes. They’re helping the high-schoolers refine posters for a Hospital for Sick Children conference on child health equity. The computer screens cast a blue glow on the faces of the students and their York design mentors as they huddle over the work, tweaking some type here, shifting an image there. The high-schoolers watch as images and text gradually fall into place. Their pleasure is obvious.

Hadlaw’s students are also involved in the Jane-Finch Poets’ “Poverty/Poetry” project. The J-F Poets are a small group of writers who came together while taking a high-school prep course offered by Frontier College and discovered their common love of writing. Soon they organized a poetry contest open to the Jane-Finch community and invited local youth to submit poetry, spoken word and lyrics. Hadlaw’s students are now collaborating with the J-F Poets to design and produce a series of posters and a poetry chapbook. Hadlaw says the CEC’s commitment and involvement with the community was what made it possible for her to design the course and organize community projects around it.

Another exciting student program the CEC is involved with is the 16-year-old Urban Diversity Initiative of York’s Faculty of Education. Working in local classrooms and with community groups, Urban Diversity teacher candidates learn how to look at education differently – from the point of view of students



BUILDING TIES: Levesque

who are often marginalized in school. They also learn to challenge their biases about different communities, explore the perspectives of marginalized students and develop strategies to support those students' experiences in the curriculum. "If you don't know the community your students live in – the social and racial dynamics – you won't be as effective," says Levesque.

**CLEONI CRAWFORD IS ALSO A BENEFICIARY** of York's involvement with the Black Creek/Jane-Finch community – not as a student but as the owner of a fledgling small business. Through a friend, she heard about a local initiative called the Black Creek Micro-Credit Program, developed with the help of key York people such as social work Professor Susan McGrath, economics and public policy Professor Brenda Spotton Visano, Associate Vice-President Academic Rhonda Lenton and Levesque.

"Micro-credit is a way of delivering small loans for business and training to people who would otherwise have difficulty accessing credit through traditional banking," says Spotton Visano. "It offers assistance from the local community in securing a loan for people who have a great business plan and strong ties to the community, but face financial barriers. The program provides easier access to startup capital but also an opportunity for community members to learn from and support each other in shared endeavours. It's truly capacity building."

It was Spotton Visano's students who did market research on the kinds of ventures micro loans might fund in the community, such as hairstyling, home daycare and catering businesses. The students also did research on various types of micro loan scenarios around the world, says Barry Rieder, a United Church of Canada minister who does pastoral and community development work in the Jane-Finch community, and who was instrumental in bringing people together to get the program up and running this year.

Crawford, a Jane-Finch resident, was one of the program's



first clients to have a micro-credit loan approved, after being turned down by numerous banks and loan companies, she says. Her business, called C-virtue, is a Christian-inspired brand that offers a fashionable but modest line of women's clothing. Crawford used the \$5,000 loan she received through the Black Creek Micro-Credit Program to establish an office at Dufferin Street and Tycos Drive, in the heart of Toronto's clothing district. Now she has a real office ("as opposed to working out of my home"), access to sewing, cutting and showrooms, and a chance to meet people in the clothing design and manufacturing industry first-hand – something that would not have been possible when she was based at home. Her fashions have already been featured on Christian-oriented television shows such as "100 Huntley Street".

"Funding for businesses like Cleoni's are what the CEC, community involvement and the area's various support programs are all about," says Rieder. "We knew people had problems accessing capital, so we decided we could develop our own community loan fund. We don't look at it as a handout for the Cleoni Crawfords of the Black Creek community, we see it as a hand up." ■

Find the derivative

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

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

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

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

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# YORK PEOPLE



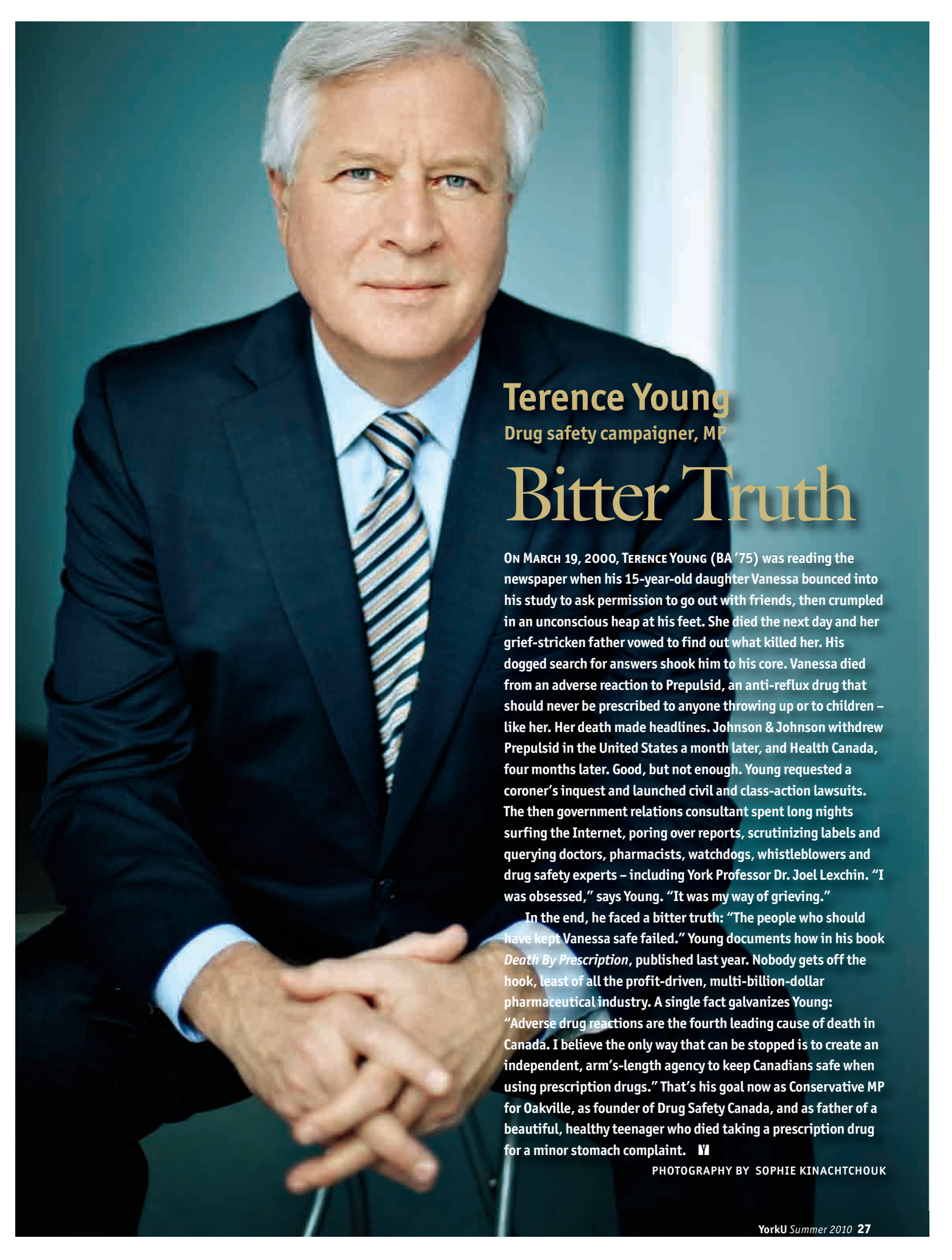
**Ricky Foley**  
Football star

## Sack Man

THE FIRST TIME FORMER YORK LIONS star Ricky Foley tried to fulfil his dream of playing in the National Football League, he says he spent too much time working out in the gym and not enough with his head in a playbook. That was four years ago in Baltimore, where, he admits, "I let things get to me." After that, York's 2005-2006 Male Athlete of the Year spent four years learning his trade as a defensive end with the Canadian Football League's BC Lions and was named Most Outstanding Canadian of 2009 when he led the league with 12 sacks – football-speak for tackling the quarterback. That got the NFL coaches' attention and earned him tryouts with six teams. He signed a two-year contract with the Seattle Seahawks, where he is being asked to play not so much a bird of prey as an "elephant" – the nickname for a hybrid defensive position where his job is to do what he does best, tackle quarterbacks.

Although the pundits say that by NFL standards he is small for the position – six-foot-two, 245 pounds – Foley isn't one to let such talk slow him down. He's looking forward to the smaller American field and different rules that put him a step closer to that guy with the ball. "You don't have to worry as much about the quarterback getting out of the pocket and running," he says with ominous relish. "You just pin your ears back and you go." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KC ARMSTRONG

A portrait of Terence Young, a man with grey hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and striped tie. He is sitting with his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a soft, out-of-focus teal color.

## Terence Young

Drug safety campaigner, MP

# Bitter Truth

ON MARCH 19, 2000, TERENCE YOUNG (BA '75) was reading the newspaper when his 15-year-old daughter Vanessa bounced into his study to ask permission to go out with friends, then crumpled in an unconscious heap at his feet. She died the next day and her grief-stricken father vowed to find out what killed her. His dogged search for answers shook him to his core. Vanessa died from an adverse reaction to Prepulsid, an anti-reflux drug that should never be prescribed to anyone throwing up or to children – like her. Her death made headlines. Johnson & Johnson withdrew Prepulsid in the United States a month later, and Health Canada, four months later. Good, but not enough. Young requested a coroner's inquest and launched civil and class-action lawsuits. The then government relations consultant spent long nights surfing the Internet, poring over reports, scrutinizing labels and querying doctors, pharmacists, watchdogs, whistleblowers and drug safety experts – including York Professor Dr. Joel Lexchin. "I was obsessed," says Young. "It was my way of grieving."

In the end, he faced a bitter truth: "The people who should have kept Vanessa safe failed." Young documents how in his book *Death By Prescription*, published last year. Nobody gets off the hook, least of all the profit-driven, multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical industry. A single fact galvanizes Young: "Adverse drug reactions are the fourth leading cause of death in Canada. I believe the only way that can be stopped is to create an independent, arm's-length agency to keep Canadians safe when using prescription drugs." That's his goal now as Conservative MP for Oakville, as founder of Drug Safety Canada, and as father of a beautiful, healthy teenager who died taking a prescription drug for a minor stomach complaint. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK



## Mary Anne Gage

Women's hockey referee

# On Olympic Ice

JUST SIX WOMEN IN THE WORLD GOT THE CALL – and there could only be one Canadian – so it's not surprising that when Mary Anne Gage (BEd '99) heard she would be a referee for women's hockey at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, she was "overwhelmed – it was so exciting." Her achievement was all the more impressive considering she only picked up a whistle 11 years ago. A competitive player, Gage wanted to parlay her skills into a part-time job that fit her study schedule for the Faculty of Education's one-year practicum. So she donned the zebra shirt for leagues in Oakville and Burlington, where she lives, and quickly rose to become a Level 6 official able to work world championship and Olympic contests. "Once I started to do the higher-level national and international games, I realized that with a lot of hard work and dedication, the Olympics could be a possibility," she says.

In Vancouver, Gage officiated in the semifinal game between the United States and Sweden. With Canada all but assured of a trip to the final, "I knew I wouldn't be able to do that game," she says. Her highlight of Vancouver 2010 was the fans' response to the Olympics and women's hockey: "It didn't matter who was playing – the stands were full of cheering fans." So what's next in hockey for this former literacy teacher who now works at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board as a program effectiveness consultant? "Now that I have lived my Olympic dream, I would like to continue supervising, instructing and giving back to the officiating program that has been so good to me." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

# GIVING

**A** **VACCINE FOR CANCER**, biomarkers for heart disease, new drugs tailored to individual patients – the roots of tomorrow’s medical innovations will spring from fundamental, interdisciplinary research in life sciences. Indeed, governments, policy-makers, academics and business and health leaders worldwide are saying the same thing – the future of the global economy is in life sciences, and only those countries that nurture and grow clusters of innovation will be in a position to compete on an international scale.

York University is now building a state-of-the-art research facility that will help expand Canada’s capacity for innovation and competitiveness globally. Due to open in March 2011, the Life Sciences Building will provide four storeys of classrooms, offices and open-concept laboratories. It’s designed to encourage collaboration by bringing top minds in biology, chemistry, molecular biology and physiology together under one roof, from both the Faculty of Science & Engineering and the Faculty of Health.

The new labs and lecture halls are an important part of the University’s plan to support an expected increase in enrolments spurred by growing demand for life science education in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and in York Region in particular. By 2025, the GTA could see as many as 60,000 additional post-secondary students, with approximately 30 per cent expected to enter the science and health streams.

More space for research is also needed to provide laboratories for new recruits and allow room for new equipment that can support the technical demands of



## Supporting Life

York’s new Life Sciences Building will help fuel  
Canada’s global competitiveness

biomedical and biochemical research.

The 160,000-square-foot building will help address all of these needs, giving York space to accommodate up to 1,700 additional undergraduate students, between 40 and 50 new life science researchers, and such leading-edge technologies as a radioisotope suite and a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer for advanced imaging.

Faculty of Health Dean Harvey Skinner praises these investments as visionary and key to Canada’s ability to confront a number of health-care challenges, including an aging population, rising costs and an impending shortage of health professionals.

“New challenges require new ways of thinking,” says Skinner. “Building on York’s reputation for tearing down the ivory tower, the Life Sciences Building will create the necessary conditions for innovative thinking and problem-solving

that will ultimately lead to critical solutions for 21st-century health challenges.”

Construction of the Life Sciences Building was made possible by a \$70-million investment from the federal and provincial governments under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. However, more funding is needed before it can realize its full potential as a centre for life science innovation and as a training ground for the next generation of scientists and health professionals. York University is now raising additional funding to support its full vision of pace-setting research that contributes to the social, health and economic development of Canadians.

If you are interested in supporting the Life Sciences Building and related recognition opportunities, please contact the York University Foundation’s Kim Warner at 416-650-8203 or [warnerk@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca](mailto:warnerk@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca). ■

## News:

### Career Move

Experts say a coach may help you find a path to your dream job

**A**lison Chafe (MBA '04) wanted a change. The 30-year-old had been working in information technology for nearly 10 years. IT was well aligned with her commerce degree, but, she explains, “A career is a really long haul and I thought ‘OK, for the next 30 years I want to be doing something I really care about.’”

Sound familiar? In 2006, Statistics Canada reported that one in 12 Canadians are unhappy at work. “Most people never really figure out what they really want to do,” observes career transition expert Tim Cork (BA '81), president of NEXCareer. “To figure it out, you have to look at your greatest successes to date, because success is built on success. Build from a position of strength.”

If you need help, many experts suggest trying a career coach. “Coaches help you figure yourself out. They force you to look forward,” explains Dayna Patterson (MBA '05), a career coach and a part-time

instructor at York’s Schulich School of Business. Most, she says, begin with an aptitude assessment and a discussion of your values and long-term goals. From here, your coach will help you explore good job matches and help you develop tactics to position yourself.

Chafe considered several options before landing on corporate sustainability. “I was trying to change without starting over completely,” she says. “IT gave me transferable skills like project and performance management. Corporate sustainability was a way of using what I had.”

Her transition tactic was accreditation. “I decided to do my MBA in sustainability,” says Chafe. It had some unexpected hurdles: “My first semester midterm grades weren’t very good. I was surprised it took a while to remember how to study, retain information and focus.” To afford school, she cashed in some RSPs and took a job at a pub. “I had to curb my expenses a lot,” she admits, “but it was absolutely worth



CHANGE FROM WITHIN: Chafe

it. School is a completely different experience when you’re 30 than when you’re 22. You care.”

Little did she realize the hardest part was yet to come: the job hunt.

When you’re looking for work, stresses Cork, you should be focused on your “PFFs” – prospects, face time, followups. “Companies don’t hire people – people hire people,” he says. And you’d better have a 30-second speech prepared to sell yourself, he advises.

Chafe found most postings required an engineering or environmental science degree as well as an MBA, a hiccup that could have been avoided had she enlisted a career coach. After four months, and facing mounting debt, she returned to IT. “I realized opportunities might arise if I

effected change from within, so I started to learn more about the company in order to make the case for integrating sustainability,” she recalls.

Over three years, Chafe discussed her ideas widely. Finally, she got a break. “I presented a case to senior executives on how sustainability made sense profit-wise,” says Chafe. This led her to collaborate with the company’s strategy team.

In 2008, she got a job with a member-based sustainability organization. It led to a job with a sustainability consulting firm, but not without sacrifice. Chafe had to relocate, but doesn’t regret it. She’s finally got the job she set out for over six years ago. Despite the long road, Chafe has no qualms about taking a chance in pursuit of passion: “It was the best decision I ever made.” ■

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

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# Class Notes:

**1971**

**King, Wayne** (BSc Spec. Hons. Winters) has been the head coach of the Harwood Phoenix Junior Badminton Centre in Ajax since 1972, and of the University of Toronto Varsity Blues Badminton Team since 1998. He previously taught at Harwood Secondary School and Ajax High School.

**Rapson, Jeff** (BA Founders) is senior vice-president of marketing & sales at a financial valuation firm. He earned his MBA in Leadership from Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire, where he's been living since 1982.

**1972**

**Brennan, Sandra A.** (née Leskiw) (BA McLaughlin) retired from the Niagara Regional Police Service in 1999. She lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake with her husband, Ed.

**Jeffery, Ronald** (BA Vanier) married Linda Jeffery (née Phillips) (BA Hons. '73 Founders). He retired in 2006 after teaching high school and university for 32 years. He is currently pursuing his passion for educational travel.

**1973**

**Mattys, John** (BA Spec. Hons. Winters) has retired from teaching after 30 years and is now working on his doctoral degree at the University of Toronto.

**Middleton, Brian** (BA McLaughlin) is a professional visual artist. In 2006 he moved from Ontario to Vancouver Island where he exhibits at galleries along the West Coast.

**1974**

**Marin, David** (BA Atkinson) has worked as an accountant and business educator in Trinidad and Ethiopia, and now lives in Dallas, Texas, working with a non-profit organization.

**Singer, Judith** (BA Founders), an artist who has been exhibiting her paintings since 1974, taught painting, drawing and art history at York from 1976 to 2005. She has been married to landscape architect Henry Gotfryd for 23 years.

**1975**

**Koven, Charlotte** (BA Vanier) has worked at the Temple Sinai Congregation of Toronto Hebrew & Religious School for the past 25 years.

**Laurin, Gilbert** (LLB) retired from the Canadian Foreign Service in September 2008. His last assignment was as Canada's ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization in Paris.

**1976**

**Pouliot, Jocelyne** (BA Glendon) works as a child consultant, columnist and trainer in Rimouski, Que.



1972: Ronald Jeffery

**1977**

**Killinger, Barbara** (née Henderson) (MA '74, PhD) is the author of the bestselling *Workaholics: The Respectable Addicts* and recently launched the second edition of *Integrity: Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reason*.

**1979**

**Pokorchak, Patricia** (MBA) travelled for nine years after graduation and now works for Speakers With Impact, a company focusing on the marketing of professional speakers.

**1982**

**Lipsett, Katherine** (BA Spec. Hons. Winters) earned her MA from the University of Saskatchewan in 1990 and then worked as curator of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. In January 2003, she moved to Costa Rica with her husband.

**Price, William** (BA '76 McLaughlin, MA) is a professional project manager with over 30 years of expertise in the financial services and information technology industries.

**1983**

**Henry, Antoinette** (BSc Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) returned to school to complete her MBA and recently founded a management consulting business, AHA Consulting Advantage, in Cambridge, Ont.

**Lang, Marisa** (née Beaco) (BA Glendon) is the co-founder of the

world's first Italian Walk of Fame. It launched in Toronto's Little Italy in September 2009.

**Protich, Milena** (LLB) is a partner of the law firm Lee LLP in Kitchener, where she practises civil and administrative litigation and the law of charities and non-profit organizations.

**Samosir, Nora** (BA Hons. Stong) teaches theatre studies at the National University of Singapore.

**1984**

**Cardwell, Christine** (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) is a breeder of Irish wolfhounds under the Linacre kennel prefix and is the secretary of the Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada.

**Chau, Tom Do** (BA Vanier) lives in Vancouver with his wife, two sons and daughter. He is a practising lawyer.

**Freeman, Shirra** (BA Hons. McLaughlin) is completing a research fellowship, profiling the risks and benefits associated with the consumption of seafood, at the Harvard School of Public Health after residing in Israel for 13 years.

**Khan, Fareed** (BA Comb. Hons. McLaughlin) has worked in public affairs and government relations for 20 years, and is currently pursuing graduate studies at Carleton University's School of Canadian Studies. He was recently widowed from Robynne Neugebauer (BA Comb. Hons. '82 Founders, MA '86, PhD '96).



1974: Judith Singer



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to the 1000s  
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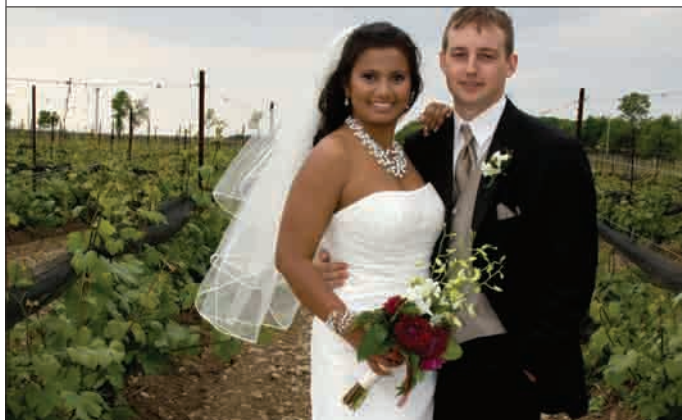
### FINANCIAL SERVICES



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# Class Notes:



1998: Ramona Moore and husband Chris

## 1986

**Gui, Kevin** (BA Stong) lives in Hong Kong with his wife and two daughters, and works at Standard Chartered Bank.

**Mousseau, Mary Anne** (LLB) was appointed Crown attorney for the District of Kenora in October 2008.

**Meurling, Sara** (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) has been working in performance art since graduation, and is currently the managing director of Toronto's Factory Theatre.

## 1987

**Blackler, Michael** (MBA) recently joined Royal LePage in Oakville as a real estate broker specializing in residential real estate.

## 1989

**Brown, Stephanie** (BFA Spec. Hons. Vanier) in 2009 founded On Pointe Marketing, a marketing and business development consultancy for creative agencies, after working as a senior marketer for design agencies for 15 years. She lives in England.

**Hounjet, Marven** (MBA) is vice-president of Forum Equity Partners Inc., where he oversees business development in the public-private partnership infrastructure market.

**Moore, Patrick** (BFA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) works for CTV and TSN as a freelance broadcast camera operator.

## 1990

**Martin, Jennifer** (MBA) is leading TELUS World of Science-Calgary toward the construction of a new

\$160-million facility that will open in late 2011.

**MacLeod, Kari** (née Gordon) (BA Bethune) married Warren MacLeod (BA '89 Bethune) upon graduation and moved to Mexico, and later to England. They now live in Nova Scotia with their two daughters.

## 1991

**Friendly, David** (MES '74, MBA) is retired and lives in a 180-year-old heritage house in Old Town Lunenburg, NS, with his wife and their two golden retrievers. He is on the board of the Lunenburg Working Waterfront Investment Fund.

**Ng, Edward** (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) works as an information technology specialist at IBM. He earned an MBA from the University of Leicester in 2006 while working full time and raising two kids.

## 1992

**M'Imanyara, Kirianki** (MES) is a consultant for the provincial government of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and a lecturer at the University of Zululand. He has also served as co-operatives consultant to the Government of Rwanda.

**Occhipinti, Michael** (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is the artistic director of the Markham Jazz Festival. He was nominated for a Juno Award for best contemporary jazz album in 2009.

## 1993

**Monaghan, Kelly** (MBA) is the chair of the Canadian General Standards

Board's Organic Technical Committee, a team responsible for writing and revising Canada's national organic standard.

**Sword, Deborah** (MES) earned her PhD at the University of Toronto and now works as a conflict manager at Parks Canada. She blogs regularly at ConflictCompetence.com.

## 1994

**Kirshner, David-Seth** (BA Atkinson) is the rabbi at Temple Emanu-el in New Jersey. He is married with two children.

**Packwood, Gail** (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is an Arts Management Fellow at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

**Smith, Anthony** (BA McLaughlin) has worked in marketing and communications for the last 15 years, and is currently focused on e-commerce and communication. He lives with his wife and two daughters.

## 1995

**Wong, Joe G.** (LLB) has been a member of the Ontario Municipal Board, an independent adjudicative tribunal that deals with land-use planning matters, since 2008. He has worked extensively in real estate financing, acquisitions, asset management and consulting.

## 1996

**Ginglo, Tina** (BA Spec. Hons. & BEd Vanier) is on secondment to York University, teaching in the Faculty of Education's Pre-Service Program after working for the North York Board of Education.

## 1997

**Cooper, Joseph Gordon** (IMBA), his wife and four children, live in Singapore where Gord oversees Visa's mobile commerce business for Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

**Smith, Jim** (LLB) is now entering his 12th year as a Crown counsel at the Ministry of the Attorney General's Crown Law Office - Civil. He has been publishing his writing since 1979. His most recent work, a poetry col-

lection titled *Back Off, Assassin! New and Selected Poems*, was published by Mansfield Press in 2009.

## 1998

**Klich, John** (BA Atkinson) is seconded to Community Referrals by EMS within Toronto Emergency Medical Services' Community Paramedicine Program. His role is a hybrid of social services and paramedicine.

**Moore, Ramona** (née Fernandes) (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) married Chris Moore on June 2008. She lives in Whitby and works as a freelance graphic designer.

**Niro, Frances** (née Legge) (BA Winters) majored in women's studies at York and went on to complete a Master's Certificate in Business Analysis from the Schulich Executive Education Centre in 2008. She is a business analyst with Sears Canada's IT Department.

## 1999

**Meek, Chanda** (MES) received her doctorate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2009, where she is now a professor of political science researching social-ecological systems, policy approaches and community-based governance in the North. She is married to Colin Craven.

**Rebenchuk, Kimberly** (BA Hons. Glendon) is a senior defence policy adviser with the Department of National Defence in Ottawa. She married Joel Dorner in October 2009.

## 2001

**Babra, Supinder** (BBA Spec. Hons. Bethune) received his Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation in 2006. He is an instructor at CMA Ontario and plans on pursuing his MBA.

**Gibson, Duane** (BA Hons. Founders) set a Guinness World Record for longest freestyle rap, at eight hours and 45 minutes, in 2003. Known as D.O., he recently released the single *Out This World* with his group *Art of Fresh*. He also speaks at hundreds of schools annually as a motivational

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Tickets on sale at  
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# Class Notes:



2006: Judith Christopher

speaker for Stay Driven, an anti-bullying program.

**Tilley, Sara** (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is a writer and theatre artist in St. John's, Nfld. She has written and co-written 10 plays and is the artistic director of She Said Yes! theatre company. She is researching and writing a novel based on her great-grandfather's journey to Alaska at the tail end of the Klondike Gold Rush.

## 2002

**Clarke, Karen** (BA Spec. Hons. Glendon) obtained her Certified Human Resources Professional designation and is now working for The Walt Disney Company (Canada) as an HR consultant. She is getting married in October 2010.

**Edmondson, Jill** (BA Founders) has completed an MA with a concentration in cultural studies at Athabasca University.

**Guler Tuck, Erin** (BA Hons. Stong) recently returned to Turkey after travelling to 22 countries last year. While on the road she completed a novel and continues to write a travel

blog for Lonely Planet. Erin married Joe Tuck (BFA Spec. Hons. '01 Vanier) in October 2009.

## 2003

**Singh, Mark (Ravi)** (BES Spec. Hons. Bethune) has worked as a program manager in the City of Toronto's Environment Office since 2008. He also volunteers with Pride Toronto, which under his leadership successfully bid to bring WorldPride to Toronto in 2014.

**Walters, Oneal** (BA Atkinson) is the author of two poetry collections, *Frozen Stare* (2000) and *The Age Begins* (2005).

## 2004

**Anafarta, Orhan** (MFA) co-edited and composed the music for *Calling the Minstrel*, a short dance film that screened at the 2010 Olympics Cultural Olympiad. He also directed and edited *Aida Hani*, the winner of the 2008 Best Music Video Award at the Top Channel Music Awards in Albania.

**Appleton, Genevieve** (MFA) wrote, produced and directed *Calling the*

*Minstrel*, a short dance film that screened at the 2010 Olympics Cultural Olympiad. She also wrote the narration for the feature documentary *Partly Private*, which won the Best New York Documentary Award at the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival. She lives with her husband Orhan Anafarta (MFA '04) and their four-year-old son.

**Barker, Brie (Brian)** (BA Atkinson) is a founding member and artistic director of Toronto's Sanitas Playback Theatre. The theatre honours real-life experiences by re-enacting stories and presented its Ottawa premiere performance at the 3i Summit late last year.

**Bromberg, Marilyn** (BBA Hons.) graduated from the University of Western Australia with an LLB with distinction in 2008 and now works at a commercial law firm. She is engaged to Alan Krawitz and will marry in August 2010.

**Ho, Jacqueline** (BA Bethune) moved to Queensland, Australia, in 2008 to study law at Bond University.

## 2005

**McCallum, Andrea** (née Winzer) (BA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) married Duncan McCallum (BA Hons. '05 Winters) last year in Mayan Riviera, Mexico, among family and friends, including seven other York alumni and students.

**Min, John** (BA Hons. Bethune) is completing a joint MBA-Certified Management Accountant degree through Wilfrid Laurier University. He is married and has one daughter.

## 2006

**Christopher, Judith** (BA Hons. Founders) and her family live in Oakland, California, where Judith works as a local organizer for CodePink Women For Peace.

**Clarence, Sherran** (MA) is the director of the Writing Centre at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and is beginning her PhD in higher education studies at Rhodes University this year.

**Gill, Navdeep** (BA Hons. McLaughlin) published her debut novel, *Under the Moonlit Sky*, this spring.

## 2007

**Forbes, Alexandra** (née Sklierenko) (BA Vanier) is the resident care services coordinator in an Etobicoke nursing home and is pursuing further education in nursing at George Brown College. She married in 2008.

**Mediratta, Rahul** (BHS Spec. Hons.) is currently drafting a 10-Year Mental Health & Addictions Strategy as a senior policy adviser in the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care after conducting freelance research for six months in the jungles of India and Bhutan.

## 2008

**Gourley, Will** (BA Founders) graduated from the Faculty of Education in Toronto's Tyndale University College & Seminary in 2009, and is now teaching full time in Maple, affiliated with the York Region District School Board.

**Lisanti, Melissa** (née Romulus) (BA Glendon) works in the Office of Advancement, Alumni & External

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# Class Notes:

Affairs at Glendon College. She married last year and is currently working toward a Certificate in Project Management at Ryerson University.

**Mohammed, Lubna** (BA Founders) completed an Association Montessori Internationale 10-month primary teacher course after graduation and works as a casa directress in a Montessori school.

**Telner, Jason** (PhD) is a research scientist at the University Health Network Centre for Global eHealth Innovation, and is part of the Health Care Human Factors Group.

## 2009

**Bertoldi, Amanda** (BSc Spec. Hons. Bethune) has established a tutoring business and teaches a wide variety of subjects to age groups ranging from pre-school to university students.

**DeRango-Adem, Adebe** (BA Spec. Hons. '08 Stong, MA) is one of 10 winners of the Dektet 2010 national poetry competition for her debut collection, *Ex Nihilo*. It will be published by Frontenac House.

**Johnston, Megan** (BA Founders) is pursuing a bachelor of education at the University of Western Ontario.

**Prole, Jennifer** (BA Hons. Vanier) teaches English at a high school in Utsunomiya, Japan.

**Totten, Stephanie** (BScN Stong) married Marc Galbrand in July 2009, in London, Ont.

## In Memoriam

**Daugherty, Howard**, an environmental studies professor and the public face of York's Las Nubes Reserve in Costa Rica, died Feb. 12 at 68 (see p. 4).

**Gutsell, Bernard "Bernie"** (Hon. LLD '88), a former York cartography lecturer who founded the journal *Cartographica*, died March 4 at 96.

**MacKinnon, Victor**, an administrative studies professor emeritus and former master of Atkinson College, died March 9.

**Magnotta, Gabriele "Gabe"** (BA '74), Italian-born founder of Vaughan, Ont.-based Magnotta Winery Corp., died of Lyme disease Dec. 30 at 60.

**Massey, Hector**, a former York political science professor and associate dean, died Jan. 24 at 78.

**Pollard, Michael**, the most recent professor to join the Chemistry Department and a researcher on green energy, died suddenly of an aneurysm Feb. 27 at 36.

**Sealy, David**, a lecturer in York's Law & Society Program, died Dec. 26.

**Siegel, Arthur**, a York professor emeritus in communications studies who played a key role in shaping the program, died April 7.

**Slater, David**, York's second president & vice-chancellor, died Feb. 9 at 88. Slater succeeded founding president Murray Ross in 1970, but became embroiled in deep controversy amid a financial crisis. He agreed to resign in early 1973. An economist, he went on to serve in the federal Finance Department and to chair the Economic Council of Canada.

**Wood, Robert Paul "Robin"**, a York film professor emeritus and a leading film scholar and critic, died Dec. 18 at 78.

**Zingrone, Frank**, a York humanities professor emeritus and a poet, media critic and cultural historian, died Dec. 13 at 76.

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Why a sudden spate of kids' books about the Cuban Missile Crisis? **BY TIM WYNNE-JONES**

# In from the Cold

**I** was walking home from school one day when the air-raided sirens sounded. It was October 1962. I was in a park not two blocks from home but the alarms were so strident, I sat down and wept. President Kennedy had told us that in the thermonuclear age, more devastation could rain down on us in several hours than had been wrought in all the wars of human history. In any case, we had those iconic A-bomb blasts burned into our retinas. The aerial shot of the explosion at Bikini, for example. That test blasted an entire atoll out of the water – literally! I expected

## We had those iconic A-bomb

nothing less for Ottawa.

The alarms stopped. The world came to an end and didn't. When I wrote the kids' novel *Rex Zero and the End of the World* in 2005, that after-

noon's panic forty-some years earlier in an otherwise quiet suburb of the nation's capital was the point towards which the story inevitably careened. I gave 11-year-old Rex a friend to be with. This, after all, is one of the joys of writing fiction: the chance to make history a little easier to swallow.

The Cold War ended in 1991. Yet it is only recently that we've seen a spate of books intended for young readers figured against the background of those times. *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*, by Peter Sis, for instance, was a Caldecott Honor Book in 2008. Sis grew up in Czechoslovakia and remembers vividly in words and striking images what it was like to be a small boy behind the Iron Curtain.

I asked some other authors about this trend. National Book Awards finalist Deborah Wiles also intended, in 1996, to write a picture book, "fascinated and frightened by the Cold War and particularly by the Cuban Missile Crisis." The picture book eventually morphed into a novel, *Countdown*, released this spring. "As a kid, I used to lie in bed at night and compose a letter to Chairman Khrushchev and President Kennedy and ask them to meet me at the White House," Deb told me. British writer David Almond, winner of both the Carnegie Medal and Whitbread Children's Book Award for *Skellig*,

Tim Wynne-Jones (MFA '79) has written 32 books and won two Governor General's Literary Awards for children's literature.

revisited this period in his 2003 book *The Fire-Eaters*. It's a story that, like *Rex*, begins in the summer of '62, with the Cuban Missile Crisis looming ahead. We all grew up with the thought that "oblivion lay just around the corner," as Almond put it in an e-mail. "Strange how we took it so much for granted."

Is that why it has taken so long to put these childhood memories into story-shaped words? Is it only in the diminish-



ment of our childhood resiliency that the fears of those days have escaped from the staunch fabric of youth? I loved the way we kids managed to incorporate terror into our games and to therefore claim

## blasts burned into our retinas. I expected nothing less for Ottawa.

some mastery over it.

We were happily obsessed with spies and zombies. We would survive in giant cans of tomato soup, which we somehow supposed to be a medium safe from radiation. We would fend off nuclear mutants and be lords of the empty afterworld, living in abandoned mansions, ransacking deserted shopping centres. It was going to be a blast! This is, I suspect, a child's eternal job: to imagine surviving its parents.

Current events seem also to have contributed to Cold War-inspired children's writing. My American publisher's first response to *Rex* was that it captured the angst suffered by many children in the wake of 9-11. Just replace the commie behind every bush with a terrorist.

Almond was stirred to action by the rhetoric of the Iraq war. "It was exactly the right moment to write this book," he says. "I remember Bush saying that the USA 'will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons' and moving swiftly to making exactly such threats to the people of Iraq."

Deb Wiles says, "I see parallels today, in how young people are scared of what they don't understand in the world. I tell them to write about that. To ask questions. And to talk about it, too. We really didn't talk about these things, when I was a kid."

And now we are. Better late than never. ■

# WHY I GIVE TO YORK



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

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

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

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

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

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