

YORK

SUMMER 2011

Nine Lives

How John Tory, man of many careers, gives back

PLUS

Secrets of tigers and raccoons
Heavy metal's chief headbanger
York's Mideast mediator



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THE MAGAZINE OF YORK UNIVERSITY



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SUMMER 2011

The kids are all right. BY BERTON WOODWARD

Parent Trip

With Spring Convocation coming around in June, I'm reminded of my own daughter's graduation from York a year ago. If you haven't been a student for a while, you'd see a lot of changes at these events. The ceremony is no longer held in the Tait McKenzie gym of old, nor in the large temporary tent near Osgoode set up in more recent years. It's now in the Centre for Excellence in the Rexall Centre tennis complex, and graduands sit on a large stage behind the chancellor and other dignitaries, facing their proud families. It's webcast, too.

It was certainly a proud moment for me to watch my daughter Catalina cross the stage in gown and mortarboard to accept her BA in psychology. Cat had a great university experience. Already well-travelled, she took advantage of York International's overseas exchange program, and wangled not one, but two terms at Melbourne, Australia's Monash University. Today she has a Facebook list of friends from all over the world and is in love with all things Australian. She's working as an event planner, doing yet more travel.

Now two more of my colleagues are preparing to watch their offspring on the convocation stage in June, and a third will soon embark on the journey. If our progeny represent any cross-section, York seems to be delivering on its promises. *YorkU* managing editor Michael Todd (BA Spec. Hons. '78) will see his daughter Aidan Todd-Parrish graduate with a major in music and a minor in biology. That's already a fascinating pairing – and one you can't do everywhere. I remember checking on such combinations at the



Ontario Universities' Fair with Cat when she was in Grade 12. York, which prides itself on being the interdisciplinary university, was by far the most flexible of its peers. Aidan is excited about moving on to a master's at York's highly interdisciplinary Faculty of Environmental Studies.

Then there's Adam Clark, the son of Jenny Pitt-Clark, a *YorkU* contributor and editor of York's daily *YFile* news bulletin. Adam has already turned his experience in York's renowned film program into a thriving business built around his passion for sound recording and editing. Even before he graduates in June, he'll have earned credits on several feature films. And this fall, Brendan Monk, son of *YorkU* staff writer David Fuller (BA Hons. '97), will enter Glendon, his father's former college. Brendan has been a French immersion student since kindergarten, and is pumped about getting into Glendon's bilingual international BA program.

International adventure. Highly flexible academics. Fine arts excellence. Bilingual learning. Sound like a promo? In fact, it's a great ad for York that we insiders, whose job it is to showcase York's strengths, have found that the University truly has helped our kids redefine the possible. **M**

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How York is helping to boost Canada's research power. **BY MAMDOUH SHOUKRI**

Innovation Nation

At the end of every academic year, I enjoy taking the time to reflect on York's achievements, and I am proud to say that we have had many – from being named a campus sustainability leader, to the opening of the Learning Commons, not to mention winning the men's national soccer championship! But perhaps what stands out most is our growing reputation as one of Canada's leading research and teaching universities.

Our team of researchers, faculty, students and alumni is leading the way in research, recognized for addressing such global issues as climate change, autism, diabetes and homelessness, to name a few. This knowledge benefits our University, and more importantly, our students. As a postsecondary institution, our responsibility is to provide our students with the tools to become global citizens and engage with the world's challenges, in order to contribute to Canada's goal of becoming an innovation nation. Given my passion for research, this last point

One of our strengths is our

is extremely important to me.

There's no denying that Canada is experiencing an innovation shortfall. In fact, at the request of the Government of Canada, I participated in a conference in Italy

with other research leaders, and the consensus was that our governments, industries and academic institutions must take a greater responsibility in fostering a culture of innovation if our nation is to become an international leader. We also know from numerous studies that Canadian industry and the private sector need to do more in promoting innovation.

York University is already doing its part, and we are doing it exceptionally well. We have the right people and the right environment, comprised of successful programs, initiatives and partnerships with the community. One of our strengths is our involvement in York Region's new Regional Innovation Centre, ventureLAB.

Officially launched in February in Markham, Ont., ventureLAB is a new model of research and innovation that forges

involvement in York Region's new ventureLAB innovation centre.



partnerships between the public sector, industry and academic institutions. As a member of the Ontario Network of Excellence, ventureLAB will help foster Canadian innovation, commercialization and economic growth, while also providing a powerful supportive base for high-impact research and innovation in York Region. VentureLAB will leverage local strengths for global reach, spurring the growth of York Region's advanced technology industry. The end result is increased opportunities in research and development, which is important to our University.

York University is an ideal partner for this community.

We have leading researchers who are willing to contribute their expertise; our physical presence at the centre, under the name Innovation York, allows our research to be more accessible and enhances partnerships already established through our Knowledge Mobilization Unit; and the collaboration allows our entrepreneurial faculty, graduate students and industry stakeholders to engage and share ideas – a concept that complements York's interdisciplinary approach to research and learning.

The strength of York University's research community is second to none. Our dedication and commitment in the field of research will continue to help shape our society and change the way we live. The work we do at York matters, and it is imperative that we continue to share it as broadly as we can. ■

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

Bot Talk

AQUA gets unplugged

Talking to an amphibious robot like AQUA – developed by York computer science & engineering Professor Michael Jenkin and colleagues at York, McGill and Dalhousie – isn't as easy as it seems. In the past, underwater robots such as AQUA had to be surface tethered – usually from a boat. Operators could only talk to them via a cable. As most PC users know, even the cables on office machines have an annoying habit of getting in the way. The problems are just compounded subsurface.

AQUA, a small submersible robot that swims using paddle-like legs and employs small cameras and position sensors for navigation, still requires a human component to get around. “Robots like AQUA move in three dimensions underwater. So the use of tethered communication is cumbersome,” says Jenkin. “The ideal would be wireless, but that’s proved extremely difficult because of the way water interferes with radio signals.”

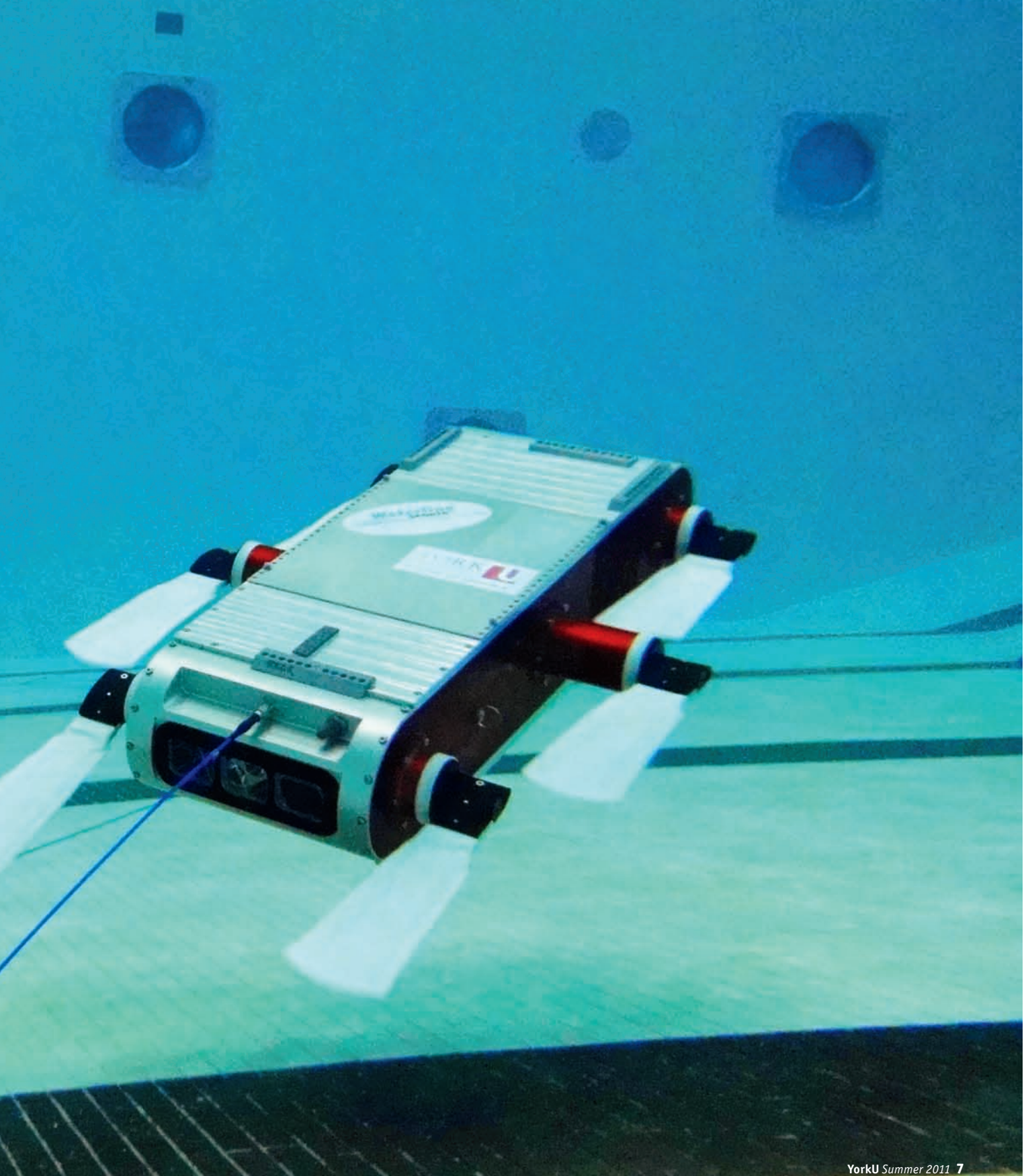
To get closer to the ideal, Jenkin and Bart Verzijlberg, a graduate student in York’s Department of Computer Science & Engineering, created a waterproof underwater casing for a tablet computer that can be controlled by a diver. This allows a diver to communicate with AQUA from underwater via a small fibre optic cable. Since a diver is in the same environment as the robot, communication is less complicated than relying on control from a boat on the surface.

The underwater tablet can also communicate with the robot in an untethered mode. Jenkin and Verzijlberg have focused on a visual communication strategy where a diver uses the tablet to display the desired command sequence to the robot. In either mode, notes Jenkin, using a robot that’s remote-controlled allows a diver to remain outside any dangerous environments while also extending the diver’s underwater capabilities. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF MICHAEL JENKIN



UNIVERSE



What They're Reading

York people reveal what's on the bedside table

Steve Dranitsaris (BA '73)

Senior executive officer, Finance & Administration

"I got a book for Christmas that I really want to read – *The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood*.

My reading for pleasure happens intermittently. About

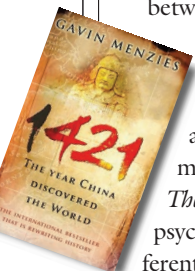
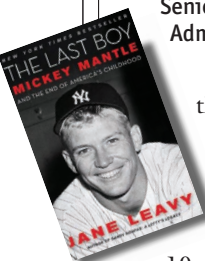
10 years ago, I decided to read all the old classics from our home library – *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Ben Hur*, *The Good Earth*, *The Caine Mutiny* – that I had never read. I did this over about a six-month period when I couldn't sleep well at night. I also re-read some of the novels from my first-year York humanities course that I hadn't read in 30 years – got more out of them than when I was 17 to 18 years old!"

Chris Bell

Organizational behaviour professor, Schulich

"Chris Agyris's *Personality and Organization* is a mid-20th-century treatise on the potential conflict

between the organization as a social entity and its members who 'will always be striving for self-actualization while behaving as agents of the organization.' On my iPad I have Richard Nisbett's *The Geography of Thought*, a social psychological exploration of the different ways in which Westerners and East Asians think about and construct their worlds. I'm also reading Gavin Menzies' *1421: The Year China Discovered the World*. Menzies is a retired Royal Navy submarine commander, and has written two incredible volumes on China's early naval adventures and how they influenced the West."



HISTORY

Mirabile Dictu

One prof's passion for miraculous stories

Who doesn't enjoy a good miracle? Even better, who doesn't like reading the story of one or, for that matter, a collection of stories about strange and wondrous healings, recoveries, resurrections from the dead or vicious acts of vengeance? In that respect, it seems we're not much different from our medieval forebears, if York history Professor Rachel Koopmans' latest book is any indication.

Wonderful to Relate: Miracle Stories and Miracle Collecting in High Medieval England is an in-depth look at the work of monastic writers of the late 11th and 12th centuries who, at the end of the late Anglo-Saxon period, started to preserve hundreds of the stories they had heard of healings and other miraculous deeds effected by their local saints.

"What prompted the book was the appeal of medieval miracle stories themselves," says Koopmans. "I've read thousands by now, and I'm still not tired of them. Each story is different, and each allows you a little glimpse into a very distant past – often into fraught and intimate corners of people's lives."

The late Anglo-Saxons had rarely recorded saints' posthumous miracles, but, in the wake of the Norman Conquest, the miracle collection quickly became a defining genre of high medieval English monastic culture. In fact, during a 150-year time span there was a kind of miracle feeding frenzy going on. The most famous period of miracle collecting was just after Thomas à Becket was murdered in 1170.

Says Koopmans: "What fascinates me about the period is that people in the Middle Ages lived so much closer to the bone than we do. They had very scarce resources – economically and intellectually. The range of books and knowledge about the world they had available to them seems incredibly limited by today's standards. Despite that, they created a rich and vibrant culture." ■

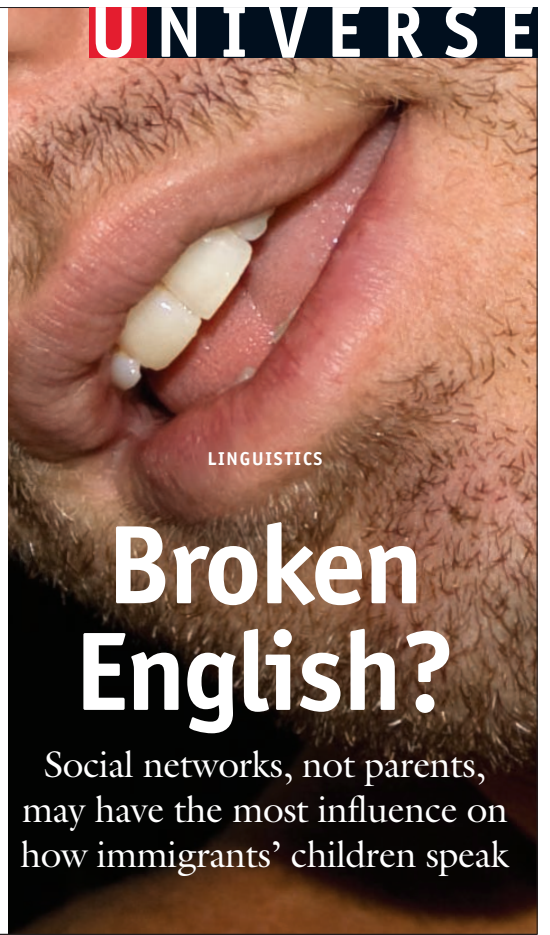
Does your ethnic background really determine how you speak the Queen's tongue? That's what York linguistics professors Michol Hoffman and James Walker wanted to find out, so they conducted research in Toronto's Chinese, British-Irish and Italian communities for a study funded by the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada.

"The study's impetus came from several *Toronto Star* articles five or six years ago that implied that the increasing multilingualism of Toronto would impede the way immigrant children would acquire English," says Walker. Hoffman says this is an assumption many people hold – i.e., that if you come from a background where English isn't the mother tongue, you're going to speak similarly to the way your parents do and you won't acquire the English that's spoken around you.

"We found the most important consideration wasn't so much neighbourhood as social network – the people you hang out with," says Walker. "People who had higher degrees of involvement with social networks that were more ethnically homogeneous tended to have different ways of speaking than people in the same ethnic group that didn't."

Hoffman notes that the underlying patterns of speaking are pretty much the same across groups. She says people might make use of particular ways of speaking to express a particular ethnic identity – Italian, for instance – but that doesn't necessarily mean they don't speak English properly.

So what's the concern in terms of education? "I think there's a lot of concern in Toronto that children coming from homes where English is not the mother tongue will necessarily have difficulties in acquiring English," says Hoffman. "But one of the results of our study shows that this is just not true." ■



Broken English?

Social networks, not parents, may have the most influence on how immigrants' children speak

LOSS

Ethan's Butterflies

How one child's death may help others learn to grieve

Loss. It's a subject area Professor Christine Jonas-Simpson is all too familiar with, and it has informed her research passions and inspired her to reach out to others through a self-published book, *Ethan's Butterflies: A Spiritual Book for Young Children and Parents After the Loss of a Baby*.

Jonas-Simpson already had two boys – Jonah and Kyle – when her son Ethan William Simpson was stillborn in 2001. Aside from her own feelings of loss, she says, her boys had many questions about their younger brother. But she had difficulty finding a book that reflected her spiritual beliefs, or one that could help answer her sons' queries. Her quest led her to develop her own book.

The result was *Ethan's Butterflies* – a small, colourful paperback that's as at home in the laps of kids as of parents. It addresses the kind of basic (but hard to answer) questions that children have about the world and its mysterious tragedies. In *Ethan's Butterflies*, Emma, who is a small pink elephant, eagerly awaits the birth of Ethan. But he dies. Based on Jonas-Simpson's own sons' words, Emma asks, "How could this happen in Momma's tummy? How can there be life and then no life?" Emma at first thinks it's her fault, then feels very sad and angry. But gradually she finds she is not sad all the time and begins to feel that Ethan is always near and still part of their family.

Says Jonas-Simpson, who is based in York's Faculty of Health: "Losing my son also inspired me to create arts-based research – such as my new documentary, *Why Did Baby Die?* – that reaches out to others by providing meaningful and engaging educational vehicles for professionals and the public." See more at hlln.ca/perinatalloss. ■



ARGUMENTS

Copy Cats

Copying isn't stealing, it's essential, says a new book

York English Professor Marcus Boon is a champion of copying. In fact, Boon maintains copying is at the heart of our culture – and necessary to our evolution. His new book, *In Praise of Copying*, tackles various issues around the much disparaged practice, and illuminates the important role copying plays in human development (as any baby could tell you).

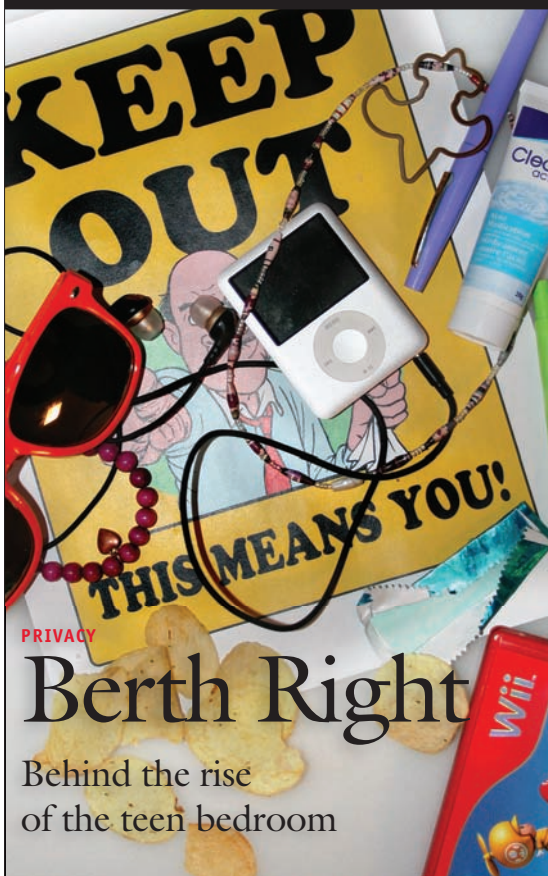
“My new book is based on a deceptively simple, but original, argument,” says Boon. “Copying is an essential part of being human, and so the ability to copy something is worthy of celebration because if we can't realize how integral copying is to being human, we can't hope to understand ourselves.”

Boon says copying remains poorly understood. In his book

he works comparatively across cultures and times to examine what the word means – culturally, historically and philosophically – and why it fills us with fear and fascination.

“What if copying, rather than being an aberration, or a mistake or a crime, is a fundamental condition or requirement for anything, human or not, to exist at all?” asks Boon. In our digital universe copying is now pervasive – music, art, pictures, Louis Vuitton handbags and Patek Philippe watches – but so, paradoxically, are the proliferating intellectual property and copyright laws designed to rein in that process. Even universities are “saturated” in the culture of copies and copying, Boon argues.

Score your own free copy of Boon's 304-page book at www.hup.harvard.edu/features/boon. ■



PRIVACY

Berth Right

Behind the rise of the teen bedroom

Once upon a time, if you didn't live in a castle, you probably inhabited a one-room cabin – or worse. Times have changed and, along with them, our expectations of personal and private space. With that has come the idea that teens need a room of their own. The trend began in the early 19th century, says Jason Reid, a York doctoral candidate in American history who is researching the rise of teen room culture in America from 1800 to 1985.

“During the latter half of the 19th century, the industrialization of America led to an unprecedented explosion in personal wealth,” Reid notes. “The new middle class used its growing economic and cultural clout to re-envision the very idea of a home.”

After the Second World War, there was an emphasis on privacy as families became smaller and houses bigger. “Privacy and its evolution represent a huge part of my research,” says Reid. Theories of child development also encouraged the idea of separate rooms, considered to be psychologically healthier for adolescents. “The idea was that kids need to be ‘psychologically weaned’ from their parents, even as we extended childhood.”

There were other, parental advantages to giving teens a room – such as curbing “teen wanderlust”. As a means of keeping the kids within earshot, rooms were furnished with all sorts of evolving tech toys – phones, phonographs, quadraphonic stereos, CD players and televisions. Decorating teen bedrooms also became an industry.

Reid had his own classic teen room, he says. “It was off limits to my parents and had all the gadgets. But when they sold the house and downsized, my room disappeared. I missed it.” ■

Text Rx

How mobile messages can be life changers

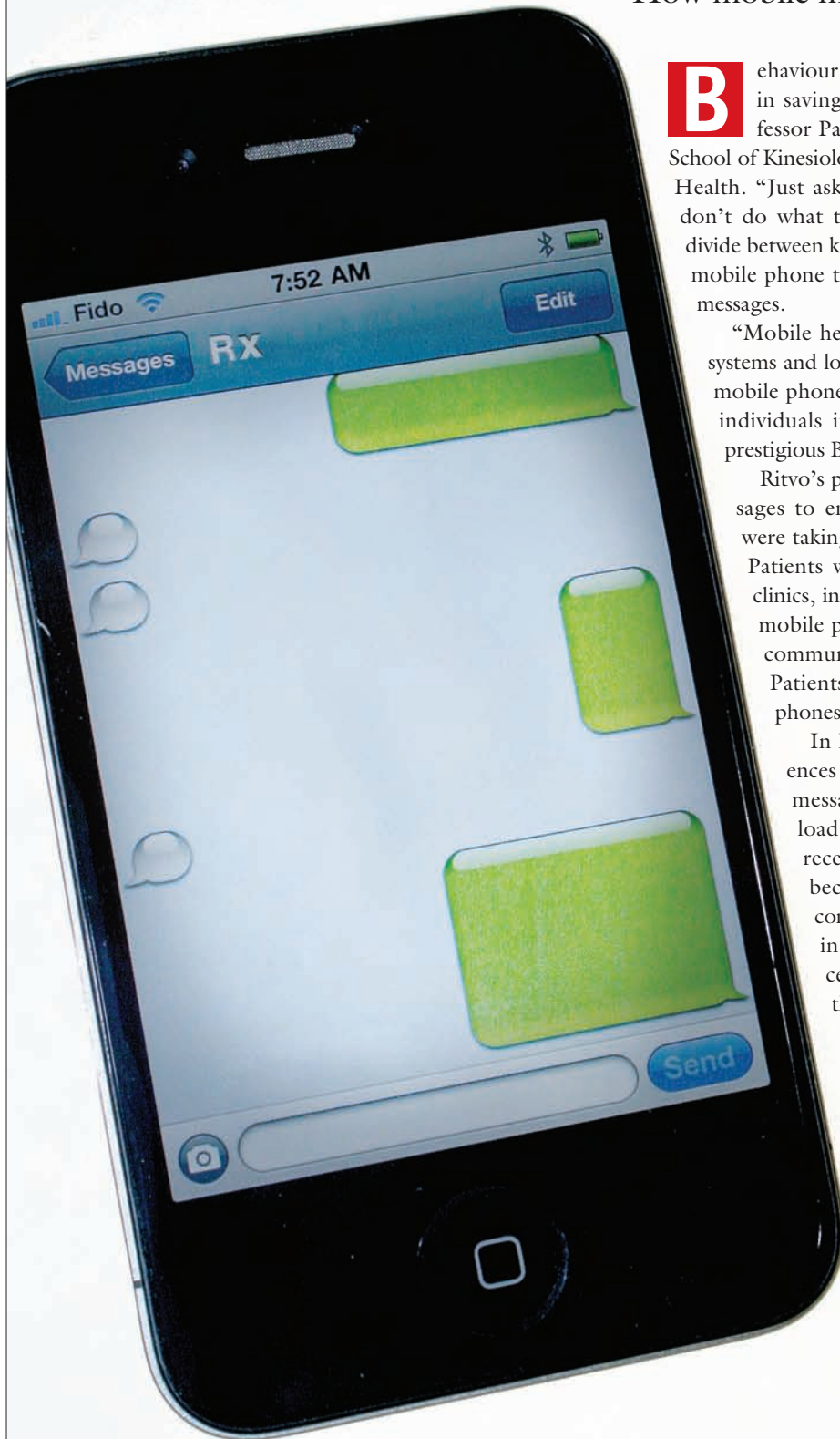
Behaviour change is becoming the major challenge in saving lives and preventing illness,” says Professor Paul Ritvo, a health psychologist in York’s School of Kinesiology & Health Science in York’s Faculty of Health. “Just ask a smoker. They know what to do, but don’t do what they know.” One way to overcome the divide between knowledge and behaviour, he says, is to use mobile phone technologies like texting and BlackBerry messages.

“Mobile health technologies can strengthen health systems and lower costs,” says Ritvo, whose research on mobile phones to improve the health of HIV-positive individuals in Kenya was recently published in the prestigious British medical journal *The Lancet*.

Ritvo’s pioneering study used cellphone text messages to ensure the study’s HIV-positive patients were taking anti-retroviral medications consistently. Patients were recruited from three Kenyan HIV clinics, including one rural clinic. All had access to mobile phones on a daily basis and knew how to communicate via short message service (SMS). Patients used existing mobile phone services – phones and network airtime were not provided.

In Ritvo’s view, it was the biological differences that impressed reviewers the most. “Text messaging changed the physiology, the viral load of participants,” he says. “The patients receiving the text messages had lower levels because they took their medications more consistently.” Health advocacy organizations in Kenya are now disseminating the cellphone text message intervention throughout the country.

“Our Kenyan study clearly showed mobile health innovations improved HIV treatment outcomes,” says Ritvo. “Now we’re applying what we learned to using BlackBerrys to help Canadian patients with Type 2 diabetes achieve better glucose regulation. We’re doing the study in the Jane-Finch community [in Toronto] because there we believe we can do a great deal to improve diabetes management. We also have great collaborators there at the Black Creek Community Health Centre.” ■



John Tory never made a career plan,
but he's had a remarkable career.
Now he's giving back.

BY MICHAEL TODD ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

BESIDES DEATH AND TAXES, there's one other sure thing in life – you haven't seen the last of John Tory. Businessman, lawyer, political leader, aide, lobbyist, journalist, broadcaster, philanthropist and four-year Canadian Football League volunteer commissioner (yes, that's nine), Tory seems intent on packing as many career experiences into one life as possible. "I can honestly say I haven't planned much of anything as far as my working life goes," says Tory, who turns 57 this year. "It has just worked out that way. Opportunities came along and I embraced them. I never knew if I could pull them off. There were lots of risks – especially in the political arena where you always have to worry about whether things you say or do may backfire. But a career plan? No."

Although Tory admits he has had opportunities others may not have had, because of family and connections, he says that doesn't mean he's had life handed to him on a silver platter. As a kid, he had a *Toronto Star* paper route and a summer job in northern Ontario planting trees. He also has a healthy Protestant work ethic (he still gets up at 5:30am every day) instilled by family and long hours as a top executive, as well as his present-day calling in philanthropic projects.

"Look, at this point in my life, I'm lucky enough, and now comfortable enough, to be able to do a lot of volunteer work," says Tory. "I do happen to have a paying job at the moment, but 40 per cent of what I do with my time is volunteer. Sometimes the organizations I give my time to, and speak on behalf of, feel they should pay me. I turn them down. I tell them this is what I do, and giving back is payment enough."

Tory, who received his degree from York's Osgoode Hall Law School in 1978, is, as anyone who's followed municipal or provincial politics knows, an outspoken mover and shaker who calls Toronto home and loves the city. The Tory family has had a long and illustrious track record in the Toronto business



SITTING PRETTY: Tory at Toronto's TIFF Bell Lightbox



Nine Lives

community. So perhaps it's no surprise that Tory himself, the runner-up in the 2003 mayoral election, is passionate about his town and worries about keeping it livable – especially for new immigrants and those who are economically and socially disadvantaged. And, although it seems contradictory, part of the reason he didn't enter the last Toronto mayoral race in early 2010 is because he felt he could do more for Toronto outside politics than within. From the start, Tory was a founder and volunteer with the Toronto City Summit Alliance, which morphed into the Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance, and is now known simply as CivicAction. That was why legendary CivicAction voluntary chair David Pecaut, facing death in 2009, called Tory to ask him to take over afterward.

John Howard Tory is the son of the late John Arnold Tory, a prominent lawyer and executive who was closely involved with the Thomson organization and Rogers Communications Inc. John H. has himself served as president and CEO of Rogers Media Inc. and Rogers Cable Inc., and is a Rogers director today. (Ironically, his cellphone went dead in the middle of our interview, prompting him to joke that even insiders can't necessarily get good reception.) The one-time Osgoode student councillor is seen as a moderate conservative, and was a backroom organizer and fundraiser for the Progressive Conservative party for more than 35 years. He became leader of the Ontario PCs in 2004, but resigned in 2009 after losing a by-election for a provincial legislature seat. Since 1978, he has been married to Barbara Hackett (BBA Spec. Hons. '79, MBA '80), whom he met at York, and has four children – three sons and a daughter – as well as two grandchildren.

Interestingly, his life seems to have come full circle these days – from budding young journalist to (slightly more than) mid-life radio show host. His first real job came when he was hired at a Toronto radio station, initially as a gofer getting coffee for co-workers. Later he was given the opportunity to chase fires and other emergencies. "They were hard up for staff and so they decided to try me out as a reporter and sent me out to stand around with a tape recorder along with the other reporters. It gradually took off from there. I did that all through law school."

Now, as host of "The Live Drive with John Tory" on CFRB Newstalk 1010, he tackles whatever issues of the day move him – personal, political, municipal. In fact, like any good litigating lawyer (which he was when he was a managing partner and member of the executive committee at Torys, the Toronto law firm founded by his grandfather), there's nothing Tory likes more than a good Q & A or thoughtful debate. He gets that and more on his daily drive-home show. And he's gone on record as saying that the CFRB gig is his "dream job".

But having a high public profile these days isn't his main focus, he says. It's giving back. "Yes, I know that might sound trite, but it's really true. It goes back to the question about did I have a privileged upbringing. The old saying is 'with privilege comes responsibility', and I really believe that's true. We've told our children the same thing."

Tory's involvement in CivicAction – a non-profit organization devoted to addressing critical issues around the future, health and wealth of the Toronto region – is one aspect of living out that credo. He was appointed chair in December 2009, although the day-to-day workings are run by CEO Julia Deans and staff. One of the things that concerns him most about Toronto's future is the growing gap between rich and poor. "There's been a huge spread in urban poverty," he says. "There are between a dozen and 20 neighbourhoods that are in trouble. They are populated most often by visible minorities and newcomers to Canada. We invite people over to live here and then we don't give them the support they need – not hand-outs, but a hand up. I don't get that. They deserve the same opportunities that we had."

Tory is also immersed in a myriad of initiatives covering the gamut of Toronto life – from St. Michael's Hospital and the Toronto International Film Festival to the United Way and Yorktown, an organization supporting children's mental health. He also gives back to York, joining other prominent alumni in such events as "Speed Mentoring". He received a Bryden Alumni Award from York in 2003.

Both as a talk-show host and former politician, Tory says his interest is, and always was, in people. "The move from politician to host made sense to me. When I got the call to try out at Newstalk 1010, the producers already knew I could talk. But with politics also comes a kind of poise and, of course, I was familiar with the issues of the day and had a certain recognition factor because of the mayoral thing." While Tory says "experts" are valuable on the day's issues, it's the common touch and insights of the average person that he cherishes. "People – average people – have these incredible insights coming straight from human nature. It's not wisdom from school books – it's from something inside."

Tory doesn't have any new plans for reinventing himself just yet, but he would eventually like to write a book about his life's experiences. "I'm not sure if anyone would buy it or read it. But maybe my grandchildren would be interested in finding out what I did and thought." And what would Tory want as his biographical legacy? "I'd like them to think, 'he made a difference in the lives of a few people.' At the end of the day, for me, that's what it's all about." ■

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.”

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IT'S THE MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEM OF OUR TIMES, one that has caused enormous suffering at its epicentre and tension in communities around the world: what to do about the Arab-Israeli struggle in the Middle East? On campuses across Canada and globally, supporters of the Palestinians and the Jewish state mount a loud and vigorous trench war for public opinion – sometimes too vigorous. It's a tough dilemma for universities: how do you function in an academic environment when debate descends into raucous political theatre that can distract students from their studies and inhibit open discussion?

York University's large size and broad diversity virtually guarantee that the world's roiling emotions will also bubble up on campus. So how to calm the waters? Noël Badiou, the soft-spoken director of York's Centre for Human Rights, is determined to find an answer that will protect both principles and participants, without censorship. In partnership with others, his office has become a focal point in that quest, even if the centre's staff deals more frequently with complaints involving disability accommodation or racial discrimination in its role of ensuring the University follows the Ontario Human Rights Code. As a first principle, Badiou believes in early intervention by dialogue – when a concern is brought forward, it doesn't do, he says, to stand on ceremony and say, "it's not a human rights issue per se." "The earlier these concerns come in, the better the chance we're going to be able to come up with a reasonable resolution that most will at least be OK with and not totally unhappy," says Badiou. "We've got some time, we've got some resources, let's just resolve it here and now, if we can."

A case in point: when a dispute between the independent campus newspaper *YU Free Press* and student supporters of Israel over an editorial cartoon about Gaza arose in 2009, Badiou immediately suggested a dialogue. The two sides would not sit at a table together, so the centre mounted a version of shuttle diplomacy between the parties. While the outcome was less than a full-blown resolution, it resulted in a conciliatory gesture that short-circuited lengthy formal proceedings as well as the potential drama of protests and angry words on placards.

In Badiou's view, dialogue is critical to solving problems. The centre's first Inclusion Day, now an annual event, featured a dramatic poster campaign in October 2009 about hurtful speech that likened harsh words to bombs and bullets. In October 2010, the theme was "Dialoguing Across Differences" and featured a keynote speech by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, the Palestinian physician who continues to promote peace in the region despite losing three daughters to the violence of an Israeli incursion.

In the fall of 2010, Badiou volunteered to act as the unoffi-

cial secretary to York's Standing Committee on Campus Dialogue, which had been created the year before to address the heated disputes arising on campus. It seemed like a natural fit for Badiou, who saw it as a partnership in promoting dialogue. One of the first joint events was the screening of the film *Anatomy of Hate*, with a panel of York experts in religious studies, psychology and political science facilitating a discussion about how humans learn to hate.

A trained lawyer who formerly worked in senior human rights roles in Manitoba, Badiou has helped bring other dialogue sessions to York's campuses. One was in partnership with the Canadian Arab-Jewish Leadership Dialogue Group, titled "Difficult Conversations". His office also supported a video conference in March by the Faculty of Health student group Health as a Bridge to Peace @ York U that highlighted the experiences of Palestinian, Israeli, Jordanian, Canadian and American doctors working together. In addition, the centre helps offer training on respect and inclusivity for 700 student leaders at the start of each academic year.

As helpful as these events are, however, Badiou recognizes the need to speak directly with the key players in the ongoing debate. He has met with members of the York Federation of Students, the Graduate Student Association, academic unions and campus student clubs that are involved with contentious issues – such as the provocatively titled student event known as Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) – to try to establish lines of communication and gain better understanding about roles and responsibilities, if not settle differences. "When we meet, it is always positive and respectful," Badiou says. "We all speak the same language about human rights, dignity, respect, inclusion and the need for dialogue – but not necessarily dialogue with the other side," he adds wryly. He also meets with outside community organizations "to listen to their concerns and to try to dispel some of the myths in the print media about York, so they get a better understanding of the efforts and initiatives the University is taking."

Disputes over an issue that has baffled world leaders for close to a century aren't resolved easily, especially when a small number of polarized hard-liners monopolize the debate. But Badiou says there is plenty of room for dialogue with those who are still somewhere in the middle. The fact that IAW sessions for the past two years have been calmer suggests York's approach may be paying off. Events in the Middle East will always be the X factor that threatens to cause setbacks, but Badiou sees hope in the ongoing process on campus, even while a resolution to the larger question remains elusive. "It's our role to continue helping people find ways of respectfully dialoguing with each other on contentious issues," says Badiou. "This is what universities are all about." ■

Man of Dialogue

When issues like the Mideast roil Canadian campuses, Noël Badiou and the Centre for Human Rights help calm the waters at York.

BY DAVID FULLER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD



The Green Cross



United Church moderator Mardi Tindal is using her powerful pulpit to help fight climate change.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

IN THE SUMMER OF 2009, Mardi Tindal stepped out of the quiet woods at Five Oaks, an educational centre she'd directed for 10 years, and stepped up into the United Church of Canada's highest pulpit. Newly elected as the 40th moderator, Tindal (BA '75) would be spiritual leader of Canada's largest Protestant Christian church for the next three years. She had turned down the nomination in the past, but the urgency of climate change persuaded her to throw in her hat this time. Here was a mission the farm girl who'd spent summers at camp couldn't resist – to help save God's green garden. She would dare to wade into what some insist is the domain of science, not religion. Stick to praising God? "That's what we're doing!"

The job of a United Church moderator involves travel across Canada and around the world. Right off the top, Tindal issued a challenge to her 500,000-plus flock: Can you make changes in your lives to help offset my carbon footprint? Within weeks, a Regina congregation sent her a list of building upgrades and energy-saving efforts that would more than offset her fuel-guzzling flights. Tindal tells this story everywhere she goes.

Months later, she joined other spiritual leaders in Copenhagen for the United Nations Climate Change Conference. She cheered as South Africa's Desmond Tutu exhorted world leaders to sign a legally binding agreement to reduce carbon emissions. The former co-host of Vision TV's "Spirit Connection" taped on-the-street interviews and posted them on her blog. She tweeted. On Dec. 13, she squeezed into a crowded pew in the Danish capital's Lutheran cathedral for an interfaith service and heard church bells chime all over the city in a global call to action on climate change. Her heart swelled in solidarity.

That the talks failed, that hope turned to despair, only galvanized a heartbroken Tindal: "I wept after Copenhagen." Then she wiped her eyes and wrote an open letter to Canadians. This "ecological crisis is one of the most urgent moral challenges in human history," just as slavery was before us, she declared. Quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., she said, "We are tied in a single garment of destiny." And the time to act is now. "Science is not enough," she wrote. People also need faith, because faith "helps us take heart and understand that there is another way."

That letter, issued on Jan. 17, 2010, was read from 300 pulpits across the country. It was delivered to the prime minister, governor general, every member of Parliament and every senator in Ottawa. A few months later, organizers of a climate

change forum invited her to speak along with the scientists. They remembered that faith leaders played a pivotal role in the peace movement. We need people like you, they said.

Before the year was up, Tindal had penned another very public lament. Her hopes were dashed when the Senate killed the Climate Change Accountability Act voted through by the opposition in the House of Commons. In an op-ed published Dec. 14 in the *Ottawa Citizen*, she said Prime Minister Stephen Harper ignored scientific consensus, disregarded the will of the majority and failed future generations. "It's time for the prime minister to exercise accountable leadership on climate change," she wrote. Fighting words from a non-partisan layperson who speaks in soft, sure cadences and a receptive tilt of her head, her daily discourse brimming with Biblical quotes like "For God so loved the world...."

Tindal never dreamed that one day she would lead the United Church of Canada. But it's not surprising. From the day she was born, the church has been the centre of her life. At university, she started studies in social work, then veered into psychology at York and later education, curious to understand how we become who we are and "what makes us move out from ourselves to care for others and the whole planet." While raising two sons – interactive-media producer Chris and comedian Alex – with husband Doug, she worked as a corporate team-building consultant, but mostly served in youth ministry and leadership for the church.

Last fall, Tindal hopped on her Spirit Express, travelling across Canada by train urging people to put their "garden faith into green action." On this first leg, she weathered prairie blizzards to attend 52 church gatherings in 27 days, and will attend dozens more before her term ends in 2012. She wants to build and keep alive the conversation about climate change so it can't be ignored. This, she says, is how movements begin.

As moderator, Tindal, 58, speaks out on so many pressing issues at home and abroad – injustice, poverty and helping those devastated by earthquakes, floods, AIDS and hunger. But nothing compels her like climate change. "I believe there is still time for humanity to get back to a safe level of carbon emissions if we act together." Often, when she comes to the end of a talk, she drops her voice, closes her eyes, lifts her face to heaven and recites the words of American Unitarian minister Victoria Safford: "Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of hope."

"Hope," says Tindal, "is my business." ■

WHEN SUMATRAN TIGERS at the Toronto Zoo did nothing but yawn and pace and ignore each other, York Professor Suzanne MacDonald recognized the symptoms. The big cats were bored, showing signs of stress, not happy. What could she do to brighten up their lives, to stop this “bad” behaviour? Food usually works. But what about smell? That’s how tigers perceive their world, after all.

MacDonald emptied her bathroom cabinet of perfumes she would never use and sprayed them, one at a time, throughout the tiger enclosure. Every day, she watched as the big cats did their rounds, sniffing for news. Ho-hum. Ho-hum. Then she opened a bottle of Obsession. Calvin Klein’s Obsession. They drooled, they rubbed, they rolled in it. And before long, the zoo was celebrating the arrival of three little cubs.

What’s in that Obsession anyway? Among its more than 200 compounds, the one that’s the big turn-on is still a mystery. But those tigers – leopards and cheetahs, too – won’t settle for any cheap knock-off. Only the real thing – at \$90 a bottle – will do.

MacDonald is an animal behaviourist who’s been volunteering at the Toronto Zoo ever since she joined York’s psychology and biology departments 20 years ago. “I’m not a fan of zoos, but I love a good zoo,” she says. So if you’re going to confine an animal, you’d better make it feel at home. She is still haunted by the sad monkey she saw as a child during a trip to Britain and the London Zoo, a time when you could poke animals with sticks and feed them peanuts for a good laugh. Those days are over, says MacDonald, currently chair of the Psychology Department. Now zoos are more like arks, protecting the endangered species of the world. Which is why the birth of three little cubs is such a triumph.

If Obsession works for tigers, what might work for elephants?

For the past three summers, MacDonald has gone to Kenya to study wild elephants. Electric fences and other measures have failed to prevent them from trampling crops and colliding with cars as they migrate north every year to mate. What to do? Like tigers, elephants know their world through their noses, and MacDonald has discovered that elephants are suckers for vanilla. Now the food flavouring is being dabbed along an alternative corridor to divert the beasts away from farms and through underpasses – out of danger.

As a teen, MacDonald loved David Attenborough’s nature documentaries. The secret lives of animals compel her still. After studying zoology and earning graduate degrees in psychology, she has spent countless hours watching primates, large cats, Vancouver Island marmots and other endangered

animals – mostly in zoos, but also in the wild. “Most of the time they’re sleeping, but I never find it boring.” No fan of the human species, MacDonald likes to point out that animals don’t lie, cheat or talk back, though they might kill you. Still, bonding is out of the question for a researcher who needs to remain objective. “I don’t ever think these animals are my friends.”


Like Attenborough, MacDonald shares her hey-look-at-this enthusiasm for critters with TV audiences. She answers questions on PBS’s “Ask the Scientists”. And for five years, she scripted and shot a weekly segment for the Discovery Channel – sometimes in other parts of the world – while she was associate vice-president research at York. There’s no end of material. “We think we know everything about animals,” she says. “We know practically nothing.”

In March, CBC’s “The Nature of Things” aired a documentary called *Raccoon Nation*, featuring research MacDonald and her biology graduate student Marc Dupuis-Desormeaux did on Toronto raccoons. Fitted with GPS-trackable collars, the raccoons, they discovered, stayed within three-block areas, had up to 20 nests and avoided roads where they could be hit by cars. MacDonald got so excited about their findings she blurted out a hunch that humans, in trying to outsmart raccoons, are creating an über-raccoon much smarter than its country cousin. Now she intends to prove it.

Oddly enough, very little research has been done on urban wildlife. But “cameras are revolutionizing our research,” and MacDonald plans to use them to spy on raccoons. “We don’t disturb them, and we can find out what they’re doing.” She got the idea from her research in Kenya.

A couple of years ago, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy north of Nairobi aimed motion-sensor cameras at a gap on a major animal corridor. Indestructible, with loads of storage capacity, the cameras captured more than 28,000 images of animals – and humans – passing by, day and night, for a year. There was a herd of 50 elephants, far more than expected, and a parade of zebras, hyenas and lions, predators following prey. “No one else has data like this,” says MacDonald. “For the first time, it will tell us about the movement patterns of animals in an ecological system and how they interact.” It could help nab poachers and has already spawned myriad research projects.

In Toronto, such cameras could reveal how raccoons get into attics and open garbage cans. “It’s a real-world question,” she says, that can help solve a real-world problem. “I really like doing research that has a benefit. We need to figure out how to co-exist or humans are going to wipe out animals.” ■

A portrait of Suzanne MacDonald, a woman with long, straight, reddish-brown hair and light blue eyes. She is wearing a black top and small pearl earrings. The background is a solid light green color.

From African elephants
to urban raccoons,
York's Suzanne MacDonald
is discovering surprising
things about what
makes animals tick.

BY MARTHA TANCOCK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

Scent of a Tiger

Chief Headbanger



Filmmaker Sam Dunn uses his MA in anthropology to explore – and celebrate – the tribal culture of heavy metal music.

BY DAVID FULLER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

IT WAS LIKE A HEAVY-METAL MIRAGE in the sands of Dubai, with a seven-star hotel in the background,” says York anthropology grad Sam Dunn as he describes the scene he and co-director Scot McFadyen were filming for their 2008 music documentary *Global Metal*. “A bizarre sea of black t-shirts in the desert – definitely the strangest thing I’ve ever laid eyes on.” For a self-avowed headbanger like Dunn (MA ’01), who’s used to seeing strange things, this is not just hyperbole. The academic in him realized that any such throng in the Middle East – young metalheads revelling to Western rock music with lyrics about rebellion, Satan and unbridled hedonism – carried a message in itself: metal is a powerful expression of tribalism, and it is global.

The idea for the film – a sequel to their 2005 hit *Metal: A Headbanger’s Journey*, in which Dunn led viewers on a guided tour of the music in the US and Europe – came to them through hundreds of e-mails from fans around the world who’d seen their first project and wanted more. “They came from Indonesia, from Brazil, from Japan, from the Middle East,” says Dunn, “telling us that, you know, we really liked the first one, but you only got part of the story right. Metal is thriving in our country too.” Now, in 2011, the interest shows no signs of waning. The pair have extended their study of the genre into a new 11-episode television series, titled “Metal Evolution” due to air this fall on Canada’s MuchMore music channel and VH1 Classic in the US. The series explores in depth the anthropological-style “family tree” created in the first film to explain metal’s evolution, and looks at 24 sub-genres, including “extreme metal”, the darkest style that gives parents nightmares. The series will premiere on Nov. 11, 2011, at 11pm – and yes, for those in the know, that is a deliberate nod to the spoof metal band Spinal Tap.

The success of the films is due to more than just fan interest in a music form spawned in the 1960s and ’70s. “There actually is an audience and a real curiosity about this music” beyond its base, says Dunn. Reviewers agree. *Variety* said the original was “strong enough to make believers out of non-metalheads,” and it won a 2007 Gemini Award. The duo’s latest film, about Canada’s most famous hard rock/metal band, *Rush: Beyond the Lighted Stage*, won the Heineken Audience Award at the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. But aficionados – they of the two-fingered devil’s horns salute – are undoubtedly the

core audience. Dunn has several theories on why metal has survived the decades. For him, the music has “integrity” and “virtuosity”, acting as an antidote to the pop sounds each generation throws up for itself. It’s also about rebellion, of course, and social commentary, and being “outside the mainstream” but part of a tribe.

So in a sense, exploring metal culture wasn’t such a stretch for Dunn, who says he came to York for its cutting-edge anthropology program and studied Guatemalan refugees. But he was “distracted” from his thesis by the works of musicologist Robert Walser and sociologist Deena Weinstein, American authors who had each written serious books about heavy metal music. They inspired him, at McFadyen’s suggestion, to tackle a film about their favourite music and “wipe the collective smirk off people’s faces.”

That satisfying moment didn’t come easily. After graduating, Dunn spent three years working in his field at a community health centre in Toronto’s Kensington Market while he and McFadyen tried to raise money for the first film. “When we walked into meetings and told people we wanted to make a smart film about heavy metal, we got laughed out of the room,” he recalls. Dunn spent countless morning-coffee hours consoling McFadyen and then being consoled in return. “If we had known it was going to take five years to complete the film, I don’t know if we would have done it,” Dunn says, laughing. At one point, when their budget was spent and filming almost completed, he borrowed money from his parents to film a last-minute interview with Tony Iommi, lead guitarist for Black Sabbath. “I remember calling my dad from Oslo on a pay phone to ask him for it,” Dunn says. “Thankfully, he didn’t hate heavy metal enough to say no.” Since then, the pair’s success has bands coming to them asking to be filmed – their third project, *Iron Maiden: Flight 666*, was commissioned by the band – and their reputation now opens doors and sources of funding for future band-specific documentaries, as well as a non-music film on the history of Satan.

Having achieved a degree of success, Dunn jokes that he and McFadyen are going to continue “milking the metal cow” because he is still inspired by the music and by the way making documentaries helps people look at something in a new light. And those memories of finding funding? “Let me put it this way,” Dunn says. “Now, we don’t have to borrow money from our parents.” ■

YORK PEOPLE



EVERY DAY, LEEANNE KENEDY – Elle Kennedy to her readers – escapes into a world of steamy romance mixed with suspense. As addicted to writing breathless titles – *Heat of Passion*, *Hidden Desires* – as she is to reading them, she sinks into a funk if a day or two goes by without scripting, say, a flirty exchange between a bored, mane-tossing art history professor and a blue-eyed hunk who’s good with a pool cue. “I am living through them,” admits Kenedy (BA Spec. Hons. ’05). “Exciting things aren’t going to happen to me!” She could have a point. At 29, the author of 12 published novels – three by Harlequin Enterprises, the world’s leading publisher of romance

fiction – still lives with her parents in Vaughan, Ont., and writes till midnight, breaking only to tutor kids or watch “Gossip Girl”. Her drug of choice is a Danielle Steel paperback or a game of Scrabble.

At York, English profs insisted she “make every word count” and the year she graduated, Kenedy signed her first book contract. This year, three more books roll off the presses as she taps out two new murder mysteries and a series of three fat novels for her New York literary agent. Boyfriend and parents may never read her novels, but she couldn’t be happier. “Writing is really all I want to do.” ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIE KINACHTCHOUK

Leeanne Kenedy
Romance writer

Bodice-Ripping Yarns

JOEL SUTHERLAND, GOTH AUTHOR, kid lit scribe, public librarian and now reality TV contestant, is flexing his literary muscles on screen and off. Sutherland, a York film grad (BFA '03), is garnering critical kudos for his latest books with reviewer comments like "a talent to watch" and "this guy has got a great future ahead of him."

Be a Writing Superstar is Sutherland's irreverent and encouraging guide for young middle-grade readers who want to write. It takes them through the entire writing process, from brainstorming to writer's block. It also includes in-depth interviews with beloved children's authors such as Robert Munsch and Kenneth Oppel. Meanwhile, *Frozen Blood*, his horror novel published in 2008, was nominated for the Bram Stoker Award. "When I graduated, I had dreams of becoming the next big Hollywood director, but I learned at York that my favourite part of film production was screenwriting," says Sutherland. "I've been able to use many of my screenwriting techniques in my books."

Now Sutherland has translated his librarian/writer persona from the book stacks to the TV screen with the birth of "The Barbarian Librarian", which Sutherland calls "embarrassingly entertaining." He debuted this moniker on the TVtropolis reality show "Wipeout Canada" this spring. "I've always been a fan of the show, since I stumbled upon it while flipping through channels," he says. "There's something about watching regular people run impossibly large and extravagant – and often foam-covered – obstacle courses while being mocked by commentators that really appealed to me."

Sutherland was selected to be one of 260 contestants, out of 45,000 applicants. "I had a lot of fun thinking of all the ways I could turn typical librarian tasks into physically demanding feats," says Sutherland. "Basically I'm trying to prove to the world that librarians can be as tough and crazy as anyone else." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD



Joel Sutherland
Writer, librarian, reality show guy

Barbarian Librarian

Domenic Scuglia
Award-winning educator

Principal Honours

DOMENIC SCUGLIA (BA Comb. Hons. '80) has taught and coached thousands during his 29-year career in education. In January, a local newspaper reported that The Learning Partnership had named him one of Canada's outstanding principals this year. Soon, he was deluged with Facebook and e-mail messages from students he hadn't heard from for decades. "They told me how important I was in their lives." The principal of Aurora's new St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School was so moved, he carries their words around on his BlackBerry like precious trophies.

Scuglia found his calling at York. Recruited to play varsity rugby, he volunteered to coach at his old high school and took a

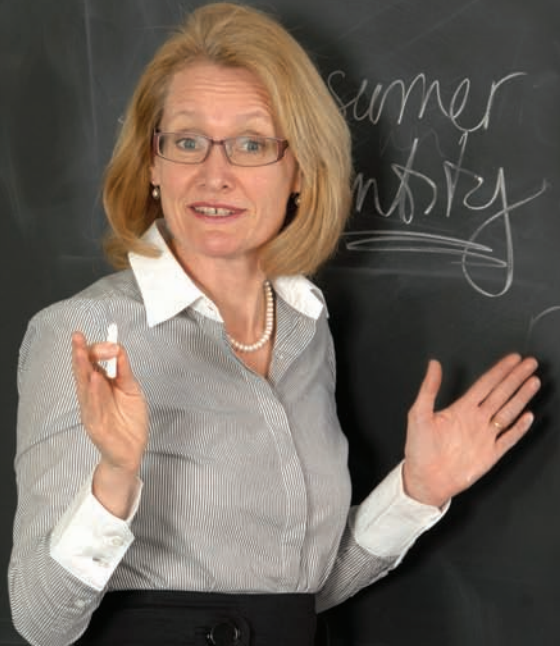
summer job organizing social events for French Canadians attending York's English language program. For years, the husband of Kim Ronsyn (BA '82) and father of three continued to coach rugby – including York's team – and direct the summer program. He loves working with young people and has won many leadership awards, but this one felt like an Oscar. Principals can shape the culture of a whole school, and Scuglia has made it his mission to help at-risk students succeed, build strong teaching teams and foster an inclusive community. But he begins each unpredictable day reminding himself that every little interaction matters. "You don't know the influence you might have on a child." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRENDAN SMYTH

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To learn more please contact us at
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GIVING

WHEN LOYAN GILAO was gunned down in 2005 in downtown Toronto, an innocent victim amid a summer of senseless violence, the father of the gifted 22-year-old wanted to create something positive from the tragedy. “We raised him with love,” says Mohamed Gilao of his son, who had studied information technology at Glendon. “He was an angel that was with us. He was an altruist. He was a mentor and a leader. He was a man of great compassion with his peers. He was always a person who believed in respecting others.”

With generous support from The Career Foundation in Toronto, one of the ways Mohamed Gilao found to honour Loyan’s life and his dedication to conflict resolution and non-violence was to create a legacy award to support students. Beginning this year, The Career Foundation/Loyan Gilao Memorial Award in Science & Engineering will be awarded to exceptional students who demonstrate community service, leadership and excellent academic achievement.

Creating a memorial or tribute award is a meaningful way to honour a special person and a life well-lived. “Individuals honoured in this way are remembered for their strong value of education and their commitment to investing in the future,” says Lisa Gleva, director of University development in York’s Division of Advancement. “What better way to acknowledge them than to set up a permanent gift in their name that will support students – our future leaders – for generations?”

Such awards also serve to keep impor-

tant names etched in York’s collective consciousness. For instance, consider Robert Lundell, who was York’s founding professor of chemistry and, from 1972 to 1982, dean of the Faculty of Science. His many contributions to York included crucial support for York’s Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry. The establishment of the Dr. Robert Lundell Achievement Award allows his legacy to continue to inspire new generations of students, long after his passing in 1999. “The great things Dr. Lundell accomplished during his time at York have helped motivate me to work harder to achieve excellence and strive to make things better for everyone around me,” says Boris Li, the 2010 recipient of the award.

“Legacy awards are established for a variety of reasons and represent the unique attributes of each honouree,” says Gleva. “As well, cohorts of students supported through legacy awards cement our memory of the exceptional individuals honoured in perpetuity.”

And it’s an increasingly important area of financial support for students as the costs of education rise. Overall, in 2009-2010, endowments along with annual donations contributed almost \$6 million in funding to provide 3,676 awards. Many donors also took advantage of provincial matching programs such as the Ontario Trust for Student Support and the Ontario Graduate Scholarship that can double or even triple an award.

If you are interested in creating an award to honour a remarkable person, you can learn more by visiting yorku.ca/advancement or by calling 416-650-8210. ■



RAISED WITH LOVE: Loyan Gilao

Lives that Live On

Creating a memorial award is a permanent way to honour a special person

News:

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The Alumni Perks Program is a win-win for grads and current students

WHAT DOES YORK'S perks program for alumni have to do with exploring Mars? Or with a power lunch between a grad and a current student?

These are just two of the areas that benefit when alumni take advantage of the Alumni Perks Program, which offers great deals on everything from insurance to show tickets. That's because a portion of the revenue is invested back into support for alumni and students. "It's the quintessential win-win situation," says James Allan, senior director of Alumni Relations. "Alumni save money on products and services they need, while the University earns revenue that supports the activities of current students as well as graduates."

The York University Rover Team is one such beneficiary.

Each year, undergraduate and graduate students compete on "Mars" (actually the Utah desert), matching their Mars Rover robots against those from other North American and European teams. In 2009, York's team – the only Canadian entry – took the prestigious first prize, providing another boost to the University's reputation in science and engineering. Funds helped support the year-long efforts of the team as they designed, built and tested their prototypes. The robots needed to be ready, in 40-degree heat, for challenges that included finding and repairing a loose equipment panel and using emergency navigation to deliver a critical container to an astronaut in the field.

Take a Student to Eat (TASTE) is another example. TASTE is a mentorship program in which alumni and cur-



PRIZE WINNER: York's Mars Rover

rent students connect over a meal to share knowledge and experience and keep the York fires burning. Dozens of grateful students have taken part in the past two years, benefiting from chats with successful alumni including Tony Genco (BA '88), former president & CEO of Parc Downsview Park Inc.; Catherine Pike (BA Hons. '76), art director at the *Toronto Star*; and Dr. Earle Nestmann (MSc '71, PhD '74), president of Cantox Health Sciences International.

Other activities recently supported with this money include the Faculty of Education Awards, the Sport York Hall of Fame Induction Dinner, the 3rd Annual Ready, Set... Mentor! event, the

Bryden Alumni Awards, alumni receptions in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver, and the Career Conversations series.

With 66,000 transactions made just last year, the perks program is a major success by any measure. And York is not stopping there. Alumni Relations is constantly evaluating its roster to bring you the best deals.

Currently, York offers savings on life, health and dental insurance, as well as insurance for your home and car, financial advising, an MBNA MasterCard, and theatre and sports tickets, to name just a few. To learn more about the Alumni Perks Program and its products and services, see page 33 or yorku.ca/alumniperks. ■

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**FASCINATING FACTS, THOUGHT-
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- Why is coffee great for men but not for women?
- What does red hair symbolize in impressionist art?
- What are the three musts for networking success?

yorku.ca/alumni

Class Notes:

1980

Gutsche, Catherine (BFA Spec. Hons. Calumet) has been the webmaster at Siemens Canada Ltd. for the past 13 years, and is also an artist showing mixed-media paintings in the Ottawa area. She lives with her husband and their two cats.

1981

Chodikoff, David W. (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) is a tax partner at Miller Thomson LLP. He was student president of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) in 1978-79. He has been married for more than 20 years and has a son.

1987

Niggl, Violet (BA Atkinson) recently published her first book, *First Love, Just Once in a Lifetime: A Memoir* (2011), available under her pen name Violeta Barrett. After becoming a widow in 1993, Violet was encouraged to write about reinventing her life. Living in Ft. Myers, Fla., she is proud to credit her achievements to Atkinson.

1988

Grzynski, Robert (MBA Schulich) recently published his third book, *Freedom from Fear* (2010), about the ability to make a difference and



1988: Stanley Rogal

become a leader. Robert, based in the UK, is proud of his time at York, and says it laid the foundation for what he's doing today.

Rogal, Stanley (MA) has published three novels, three stories and nine poetry collections. He is a produced playwright, including a play with Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille. He works for the University of Toronto in the Standardized Patient Program as an academic educator.

1989

Riego, Lourena (BA Spec. Hons. McLaughlin) recently joined a successful wealth management practice working as an adviser associate.

1991

Boisselle, Leslie-Ann (BA Founders) is the public affairs officer at the High Commission of Canada in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and has been there for the past 13 years. She graduated from York with a BA in Spanish.

1992

Forsythe, Anne (BA Hons. Atkinson) completed her doctoral dissertation in the fall of 2006 at OISE, University of Toronto. She now teaches part-time in the Faculty of Education at York. Her poetry and musical compositions have been produced in four CDs. She has three grown sons and one daughter-in-law, and continues to live with Roger in Markham, Ont.

Grevstad, Peter (BA Hons. '91 Glendon, MA) is a professor of communications and general education at the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Brampton, Ont. Prior to joining Sheridan, he worked in the former Czechoslovakia, Thailand, China, and for World University Services of Canada as a development worker in central Vietnam.

1993

Khan, Sharif (BA Calumet) recently published his inspirational leadership book *Psychology of the Hero Soul* (2010). He lives in Toronto.



1999: Michelle Micallef

1996

Baker, Kevin (BA Spec. Hons. '94 Atkinson, JD '96 Osgoode, MA) has returned to the GTA as dean of Interdisciplinary Studies & Employment Services at Durham College in Oshawa.

Elliott, David (MBA Schulich), general manager of KitchenAid Small Appliances in St. Joseph, Mich., has been elected to the board of directors of the International Housewares Association. He and his wife, Andrea, live in Stevensville, Mich. and have three children.

Rotstein, Gena (BA Vanier) launched Dexterity Consulting in 2003, a firm working with non-profit organizations, which in 2008 became Canada's first philanthropic brokerage. This year the automated version was launched – Place2Give.com – a matching service for donors and charities based on giving habits and operational implementation. She lives in Calgary.

1998

Pahapill, Leigh-Ann (BFA Winters) received a privately endowed award for emerging artists from the University of Chicago, where she completed her MFA in 2007. The award has helped her in her studio practice in Toronto.

1999

Micallef, Michelle (BA Hons. & BEd Vanier) has been teaching with the Toronto Catholic District School Board for 13 years. Over the past four years, she has led her school's "Me to We" team in raising enough funds to build schools and clean

water programs in Kenya, Sierra Leone, India and China.

Tabet, Cyril (BAS Atkinson) joined ActiVia Networks, a leading content networking solutions provider, after graduation. He has since joined Alpari (UK), an online retail foreign exchange platform, as head of marketing. He is also a passionate and active mountaineer, having climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Ararat, Blanc and Tengboche Peak in the Himalayas. In 2008 he co-founded Rise Up, an NGO that organizes mountaineering walkathons to support destitute children.

2001

Bakrighes, Christopher (PhD) is both a pianist and composer, maintaining careers in performance and academia. He lectures at Elms College in Massachusetts, where he coordinates the music minor program. He is also the jazz instructor at The Putney School in Vermont. He has released eight recordings as a leader, and also co-leads the Cleveland-based Oikos Ensemble.

Kott, Geoffrey (JD Osgoode) was promoted to managing director in the Fixed Income Division at Morgan Stanley in New York.

2002

Edmondson, Jill (BA Founders) recently published her second novel, a mystery called *Dead Light District* (2010), featuring a private detective named Sasha Jackson. The first Sasha Jackson novel was *Blood and Groom* (2009). Jill teaches writing and other communications courses at George Brown College and the University of Toronto.

Marchiotti, Nancy (BA Spec. Hons. Stong) was recently hired as the human resources generalist for the Laboratory Services Division at CML HealthCare Inc., in Mississauga, Ont. She has been working in the HR field for the last 10 years and is currently pursuing her CHRP designation through the HRP of Ontario.

So, Tiffany (BSc Stong) moved to Vancouver in 2009, and works for Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. as the



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Class Notes:

human resources representative for the Vancouver Retail Division.

2003

Silverman-Gavrila, Lorelei (MSc '99, PhD) and **Rosalind** (MSc '00, PhD), are twins and both researchers at the University of Toronto. They initiated the Models of Human Diseases initiative and organize an annual international conference.

2004

Sacks, Lauren (BSc Spec. Hons. Bethune) graduated with an MSc in physical therapy from the University of Toronto in 2006, after completing her degree in kinesiology and health science at York. She is also a certified acupuncture practitioner. She has been a member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association and the

Orthopaedic and Sports Divisions since 2006.

2005

Guillemette, Eric (BA McLaughlin) worked as arts editor and graphics coordinator for *Excalibur* during his time at York. He obtained his bachelor of education from the University of Toronto, and has taught in several school boards across the GTA. He most recently completed a one-year teaching assignment abroad with Impact Teachers, which took him to Uganda and India to mentor teachers in impoverished communities. He currently teaches Grade 8 French immersion in Brampton and lives with Angie Oliveira (BA '04 Stong).

2007

Bonner, W. Allan (MA '83, LLM Osgoode) has been on a media and

speaking tour to support his new book on crisis management: *An Ounce of Prevention* (2010). In addition to his crisis and communication consultancy, he is working towards his MSc in urban planning at the University of Toronto. Allan lives in Toronto with his wife, Lorna.

Shin Doi, Julia S. (JD '92, LLM Osgoode) was recently profiled by the Korean Canadian Leadership Development Committee as a leader in the community. She works for the Office of the Counsel at York University, practising corporate law, intellectual property law and privacy law. She also represents York in a broad range of legal matters.

2008

Evans, Jenna (BHS Spec. Hons. Stong) is a doctoral candidate in health services research at the Uni-



2001: Christopher Bakriges

versity of Toronto, a certified health executive with the Canadian College of Health Leaders, a trainee with the Health System Performance Research Network and a part-time lecturer in York's School of Health Policy & Management. She was



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Gold EVENING	\$90	\$58.50	\$63.00
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Class Notes:



2009: James Vidot

named a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholar in 2010.

Tan de Bibiana, Marcus (BA Hons. McLaughlin) spent six months

working in Ghana with Africa 2000 Network on a livelihoods project supporting districts and communities throughout the country.

2009

Vidot, James (BA Hons. '06, MA '07, BA Hons. Vanier) recently completed teachers' college in the junior/intermediate level at OISE, University of Toronto. He hopes to be teaching in the public school board this fall.

2010

Corlito, Cristina (BSc Hons. Bethune) is pursuing regulatory affairs certification at Humber College. She was a contributing author to the article "The Year 2020: What Will Regulatory Affairs Look Like in Canada?", published by the Canadian Association of Professional Regulatory Affairs.

Mellow, Glendon (BFA Spec. Hons. Winters) is a graduate of York's Fine Arts Visual Arts studio program. He married Michelle Follett, a primary teacher for the TDSB, and they recently had their first child, Calvin. He is a speaker on the intersection of art and science on several radio programs.

In Memoriam

McCormack, Delmar, a York professor emeritus of administrative studies and former dean of Atkinson College, died Feb. 21 at age 88.

Morris, Peter, a York film professor emeritus and author known for his commitment to championing Canadian film studies, died Feb. 2. He was 73.

Noble, David, an outspoken York professor and prominent critical historian who taught in the Social & Political Thought Program, died Dec. 27. He was 65.

Storr, Richard, a history professor emeritus and author who was briefly York's acting president, died in March at age 95. He was named interim president in January 1973 but resigned almost immediately due to illness.

Tesolin, Alex (BA '89, BA '90 Stong), husband of Kim (nee Peel) (BA Hons. '92, BEd '92), was on the committee for the Stong 25 reunion in 1994. Remembered as a happy, loyal, positive man, he died from complications following surgery to repair a broken leg.

Vari, George (Hon. LLD '92), engineer and York benefactor, died Dec. 9 at age 87. With his wife Helen (Hon. LLD '03), he created an outstanding record of philanthropic activity, including major support for York. Vari Hall, opened in 1991, is named for them.



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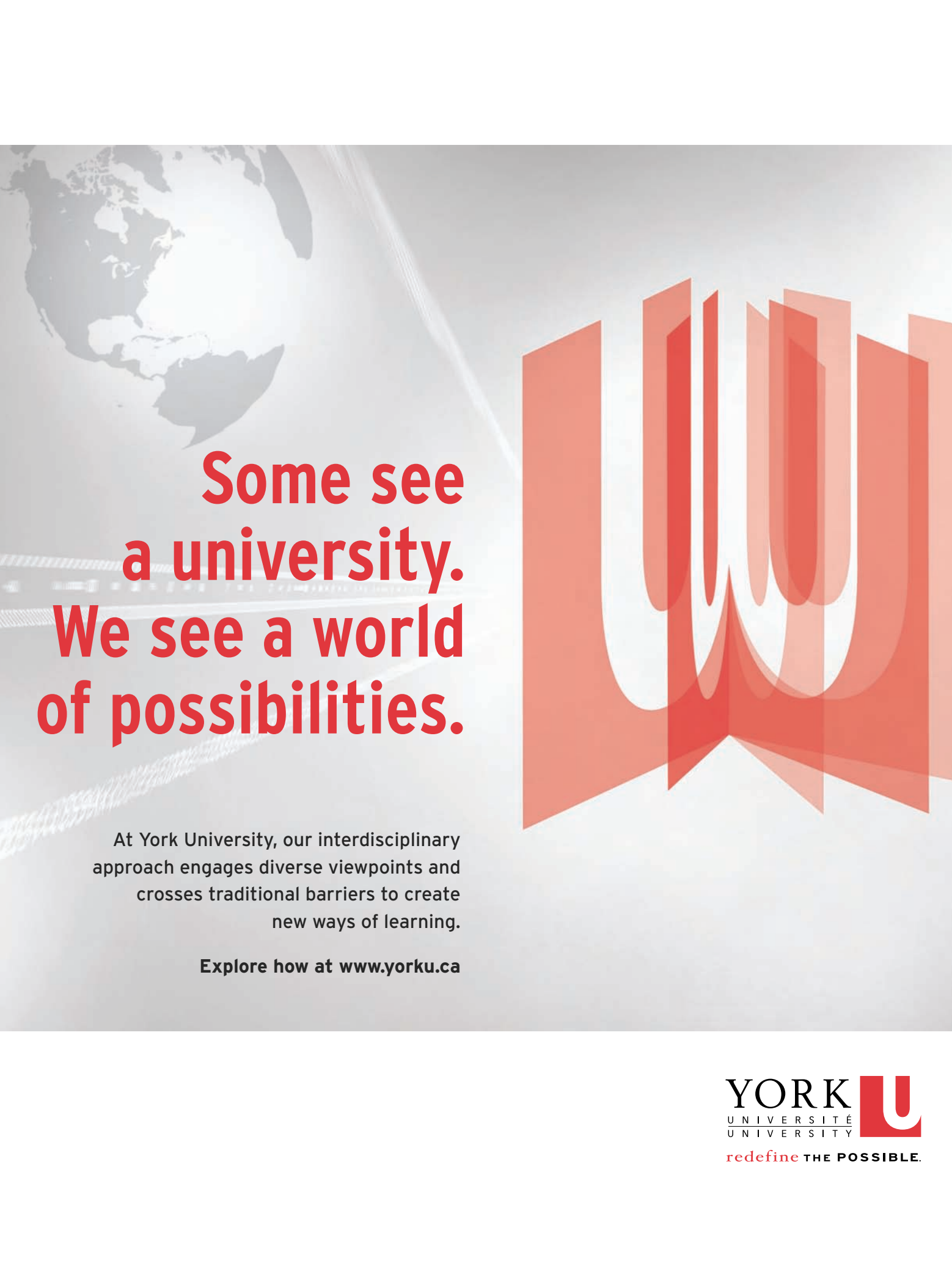


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What being in the military taught a budding writer. **BY KELLY THOMPSON**

No Life Like It

Eight years ago, I signed on the dotted line to join the military. An hour earlier, I had been an undergrad student at York, pursuing a career in writing. The next, I was an officer cadet, enlisting at the start of the war in Afghanistan. Today, I am Captain Kelly Thompson, both a logistics officer in the Canadian Forces and a writer – two labels you might think contradict one another. But soon, I will be civilian, and civilian life is something I know nothing about.

My dad was in the military for 35 years, so I grew up surrounded by the military lifestyle. Although the Forces inter-

I was glued to the news,

ested me, I always knew what I wanted in life: To write. The Professional Writing Program at York seemed like a natural choice. But as I pursued my passion, another part of me felt haunted by my strong military background. My family has served its country for four generations and I felt an overwhelming desire to continue that tradition. So I drove to the recruiting centre and voilà. I was a soon-to-be writer and soldier, all in one day. In the summers, I trained with the military and once I completed my degree, I was posted and started out in my career.

Military life was much like I thought it would be. In basic training, I was yelled at constantly, I shot a rifle with some pretty impressive accuracy and we marched everywhere. But during an insanely gruelling week in the field, carrying 70 pounds of gear and marching 20 kilometres a day, I broke my leg – badly. Eight years, two surgeries and five very painful procedures later, I am left with a permanent limp and constant pain. Now, I'm being medically released from the military because my injury means I can no longer perform all the physical duties required of a soldier. My last few months in the military will be spent training for civilian work. Sept. 12, 2011, will be my first day without my uniform.

But during all this, joy in my work prevails and so does love. I met my fiancé, Mark, in 2007. Little did we know that in our three years as a couple, we would be apart for almost two years,

crying when we lost a soldier, then worrying that Mark would be next.

due to our training and Mark's eight-month deployment to Afghanistan. Lonely and sad, I turned to writing for comfort.

In June 2010, I started a blog for *Chatelaine* magazine's website, where I write about being a woman in the Forces and life as a military spouse. I can assure you that nothing is scarier than worrying about losing the one you love to war. I was glued to the news, crying when we lost another soldier, then worrying that Mark would be next. Yet as a fellow soldier, I understood why he had to be gone. Finally, in December, Mark returned from overseas and we could be together.

But living together doesn't seem to be in the cards. My impending military release, and my love for books, sent me to pursue work in publishing. When I was offered an internship with Douglas & McIntyre Publishing in Vancouver, I jumped at the chance to chase my dream. Mark and I sold our house and I moved across the country, alone. Mark is supportive and we know that we will live together again, but the actual date is a mystery. Civilians may find this all crazy, but for military people, it's just life.

The military has become an integral part of who I am. Faced with parting with that identity, I am grateful for all that I've learned while in the Forces: Courage is vital. Respect doesn't come easy; you have to work very, very hard for it. If you can't work as a team, you will struggle and fail. Trust your fellow soldiers, because they will be your eternal friends, comrades and lifesavers – literally. Most of all, I have learned I can overcome things I never thought possible. My broken leg is no longer an obstacle, but an opportunity.

Being civilian scares me, and moving away from my family was the hardest thing I've ever done. But as I embark down this path, I'm also excited, thrilled, hopeful and determined – the same feelings I had when I joined the military. I am honoured to have served my country, but now it's time to rekindle the excitement I felt every time I took out a pen and etched a story across the page. ■



Capt. Kelly Thompson (BA Hons. '06) writes the blog "Under Fire" for Chatelaine.com and is a freelance writer and editor.



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