The Gordon and Agnes (Twambley) Brash Awards in Engineering will ensure exceptional students in financial need can continue in their studies.

Before his death in 2006 at the age of 74, engineer Ronald A. Brash (MBA ’79) worked closely with York University Foundation to include the University as part of his estate plans, endowing funds in perpetuity for student awards in the engineering program. When matched by Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS), his generosity amounts to more than $660,000 for students in York’s fast-growing School of Engineering, which received accreditation in 2007. The award will provide several students each year with full tuition.

“I’m hoping that someone who might not otherwise get a chance at an education will get a chance with this bursary,” Brash told the Foundation in 2002. He dedicated the award to the memory of his parents.

Brash is remembered as a kind, modest and generous person who was involved in several charitable organizations, including acting as Santa Claus for Scott Mission toy drives.

“My brother would be careful of what organizations he would give to — those organizations would need to be close to his heart,” says his sister Elaine Brash.

The awards support York’s ambitious plans to build on its strengths in space, computer and geomatic engineering.
At York, we encourage cutting-edge research and develop pioneering programs that take students beyond the classroom and change the way they learn. Here are some examples:

- Our Space Engineering program, the only engineering program of its kind in Canada, celebrated its leadership role in NASA’s Phoenix Mars Mission in 2008.
- Recently, York established Canada’s first Chair in E-Librarianship, placing the University at the forefront of information research into the Internet and related technologies.
- We opened the country’s first Faculty of Environmental Studies in 1968.
- In 1992, York helped establish the Westview Partnership, which increases postsecondary opportunities to high-school students in the Jane-Finch community.
- York University and Glendon College established the country’s first fully bilingual School of Public Affairs, welcoming its first class in September 2008.
- We have also introduced ground-breaking programs in disaster management and disease prevention; lead research in diabetes, bullying and vision science; and have recently introduced a bachelor of education specifically for future French teachers.

With innovation as our tradition, plans are now underway to expand our School of Engineering and to establish a medical school at York. You can direct your giving toward our innovative programming and research initiatives by contacting us.

Las Nubes Rainforest is York’s very own rainforest in Costa Rica. Pioneering research into biodiversity and sustainability is conducted at the site.

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**“EGG MONEY” FOR SCHOOL OF WOMEN’S STUDIES**

Since becoming York’s first Women’s Studies graduate in 1984, Rev. Louise H. Mahood has found several ways to give back to York. Most recently, by naming the School of Women’s Studies as the beneficiary on her life insurance policy.

“My vocation is not a vow of poverty, but it is not a vow of prosperity either,” says Mahood. “I pondered for a good long time how I could make a significant contribution to the school that gave so much to me. My financial advisor suggested my life insurance policy option, which will meet my earthly needs and create a legacy after I die.”

York University is a Canadian leader in women’s studies. In December 1997, programming and resources at York were formally linked to create the School of Women’s Studies. Mahood was on the fundraising committee that helped make this happen. At that time, she also established the Louise H. Mahood Bursary Fund within the School, awarding outstanding students in perpetuity. “The School is vitally important for it ensures high-calibre academic research, as well as provides endless epiphanies for women studying women.”

Mahood calls her gifts “egg money”, referring to the practice by pioneer women of raising chickens and selling eggs for extra income that was used to improve both their own lives and the lives of other women. “The betterment of women is the betterment of the human race.”

In addition to the life insurance policy, she has also arranged for personal papers and a selection of books to benefit York. Some such materials, including Mahood’s sermons and essays, are already housed in the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections at the University’s Keele campus. And her books on feminist theology now belong to the Nellie Langford Rowell Library, the women’s studies library at York.

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**WHY SUPPORT PIONEERING PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH?**

Rev. Louise Mahood
The Honour Court Dedication and Reception celebrates York benefactors, including planned giving donors, who have made contributions of $100,000 or more in support of the University. Planned giving donors are honoured when their gift is realized. At the sixth annual event in June, 28 donors were honoured, including Ronald A. Brash and Jay Newman.

Paul Marcus, president and CEO of York University Foundation, toasted past and present supporters of York. “We thank you all for ensuring our Honour Court walls climb higher and higher and we value all you do for us.”

Robin Grant and Shari Preece celebrate the Gordon and Agnes (Twambley) Brash Awards in Engineering, made possible by a legacy gift from Grant’s uncle Ronald A. Brash (MBA ’79).

Campaign and University leaders toast past and present Honour Court donors. (From left): Terrie-Lynne Devonish (BA ’92, LLB ’95), member of the University Board of Governors and campaign executive; Tim Price, chair of York University Foundation’s Board of Directors and co-chair of York to the Power of 50; Paul Marcus, president and CEO of York University Foundation; Aidan Flatley (BA ’78), member of the Foundation Board of Directors and campaign executive; student scholarship recipient Bramilee Dhayanandhan; and York University President and Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri.

The Lorna R. Marsden Honour Court and Welcome Centre, composed of a pavilion and garden at the main entrance of York’s Keele campus, showcases granite stones that represent cumulative giving of nearly $200 million since the University’s inception, with legacy gifts representing a growing contribution to that success. The Lorna R. Marsden Honour Court and Welcome Centre, named for York President Emerita Lorna R. Marsden, was made possible by a leadership gift from philanthropist Seymour Schulich.
Jay Newman (PhD ’71) F.R.S.C., was certainly familiar with the need for scholarships and awards. As a philosophy professor at the University of Guelph, he taught thousands of students.

“He was one of those professors you never forgot,” says Patrick Luciani, a friend and former student of Newman’s. “Jay stayed close to many of his students. He had a great capacity for friendship. He made many friends and kept them – students, colleagues and many others from different walks of life.” Newman died June 17, 2007 at the age of 59.

Thanks to a bequest in his will, the Kitty and Lou Newman Memorial Graduate Scholarship Fund in the Humanities has been established at York University, named in honour of his parents. Newman’s gift was endowed and matched by Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS), creating a $210,000 endowment that will benefit master’s and PhD students well into the future. “He took scholarships very seriously and thought students who worked hard deserve to be rewarded,” says Luciani.

Newman, a native of Brooklyn N.Y., was only 22 when he completed his doctorate degree at York and began teaching. He spent 36 years as a popular and passionate teacher, introducing students to the ideas of Descartes, Spinoza and Plato. He also authored 11 books and numerous articles.

In 1995, Newman was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada. “It was one of the proudest days of his life,” says Luciani. “Jay was a proud American, but he grew very attached to his country of adoption.” Newman had both American and Canadian citizenship.

In 2005, 50 per cent of Canadian PhD students graduated debt-free, up from 46 per cent the year before. The costs of a graduate education are considerable, and removing the financial burden leaves some of our country’s leading minds better able to launch their careers and contribute to society. Scholarships and awards like the Kitty and Lou Newman Memorial Graduate Scholarships are instrumental in making this possible.
The Importance of Early Estate Planning in Dealing with Your RRIFs

We welcome the advice of York alumna Karen Slezak (BBA ’86, CA, CFP, TEP), partner with the Tax Minimization Group at Soberman LLP and co-leader of the firm’s Estates and Trusts Group. Karen is a frequent speaker at conferences and contributor to newsletters for the financial and charitable sectors.

Recently, I met with two sons about the final tax return for their deceased mother. They were shocked that almost half of their mother’s $250,000 Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) would be paid to the government in taxes! Unless a RRIF names a spouse, common-law partner or dependant, such as a child or grandchild, as the beneficiary, it becomes fully taxable.

As a tax accountant, it can be stressful to meet with executors, especially those who are friends or family members, and quantifying the taxes to be paid with the deceased’s final return. I’m inevitably asked, “Could’t something have been done?” While there are some tax saving measures that can be utilized after death, the most effective plans are those designed well in advance.

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Here are two examples of how:

Name a Charity as the Beneficiary on your RRIF
At the time of death:
• the charity receives the full amount in the RRIF
• a charitable donation receipt is issued to your estate to offset taxes payable on the RRIF

If you wish to leave a larger inheritance to family and friends, while still bequeathing your RRIF to charity, you could acquire a life insurance policy to protect the capital in your RRIF. Proceeds from the policy would benefit your family and friends.

Name a Charity as the Beneficiary on a Life Insurance Policy
If you are insurable, you could purchase Term-100 life insurance, naming a charity as the beneficiary of the policy. In this example, you would acquire insurance equal to the anticipated future value of your RRIF, taking into account life expectancy, investment returns and annual withdrawals.

At the time of death:
• the charity will receive the life insurance proceeds
• a charitable donation receipt for the value of the life insurance will be issued to offset the taxes payable on the RRIF

In the case of life insurance policies, premiums are typically significantly less than the tax bill that will arise upon death. You should speak further with a professional estate planner to discover the RRIF option best for you.

It is said that there are two things in life that can’t be avoided: death and taxes. While we can’t escape our own mortality, that doesn’t sanction ignoring our estate planning and sealing our fate to pay significant taxes at death!

To discuss what estate planning options may be right for you, talk to your own financial advisor, or call in confidence Jacqueline Cooper, associate director of development, gift planning, York University Foundation, at (416) 650-8210.

Estate planning is a process for preserving your wealth and ensuring that it is transferred to your intended beneficiaries in an orderly and tax efficient manner. The process involves clearly stating the testamentary intentions for your assets in a will, and ensuring there is adequate liquidity for taxes, outstanding bills and for an ongoing legacy for the people and charitable causes close to you.

By planning for your estate early, you can ensure proceeds from your RRIF benefit what you want, and do not go to the government in taxes.

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For the purpose of legal documents, including wills, our name is York University Foundation.

York University Foundation raises funds to help York redefine the possible.