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重大捐赠

爱与约克

律师和慈善家詹姆斯·洛夫（LLB ’73，LLM ’86）和妻子，乔安妮，最近捐赠了2500万美元用于约克大学的环境可持续性。此次捐赠旨在建立詹姆斯和乔安妮·洛夫环境工程主席职位，以及约翰·洛夫不热带保护学教授职位。此外，该捐赠也提供了主要资金来资助费希尔基金，用于不热带保护。

去年秋天，约克大学迎来了其历史上最大的校友捐赠。电脑科学校友道格·贝格龙和他深爱的妻子桑德拉慷慨捐赠了1000万美元，支持约克大学的新拉桑德工程学院大楼。现在，我们正在庆祝保格龙工程卓越中心的开幕，该中心将为未来的工程师们提供一个全新的学习和工作环境。

我们很高兴为您介绍道格，我们的专题故事中提到的硅谷之王。我们也很高兴与您分享我们从大小不等的慷慨捐赠中获得的许多成功的案例。在2014-2015年财政年度，我们的校友、捐助者和朋友的慈善支持总额超过了3500万美元。这项资助使得约克能够提供关键的学生活动支持，推动创新的教师研究，提升独特的课程和学习体验，等等。

在您错过的事，我们的新命名的学院艺术、媒体、表演和设计正在拥抱一个大胆的新愿景，我们主办了2015年泛美/残奥会游戏，并且，安大略省同意在马克汉姆中心建立约克大学的校区。此外，我们期待在2017年完成多伦多-约克斯皮达宁地铁延伸。

有了许多美好的事情发生，我们非常感激约克的校友、捐助者和朋友。在您的帮助下，我们将继续庆祝更多的成功故事。

 Mamdouh Shoukri  
总统及副校长

Jeff O’Hagan  
副校长

《我们的一年》的数字

在2014年5月1日至2015年4月30日间，约克大学收到了超过3540万美元的总捐赠价值。大约6400位捐赠者中，近1400位是首次捐赠者。

捐赠来源

- 阿尔门 79%
- 教职工、家长、朋友 16%
- 组织、公司、基金会 5%

支持领域

- 基础设施 28%
- 学生成功 25%
- 研究与创新 24%
- 教学与学习 23%
The Pattern of Giving at Schulich

Not everyone is comfortable asking people for money, but Bill Graham (MBA ’86) is. Having contributed to the Schulich School of Business since 1986, starting with $20, he is a true ambassador for the Schulich Annual Alumni Fund, which raises money for the school’s highest priorities and student financial aid.

“Because I give, I have no trouble asking people for money — people who have gained from Schulich and done well for themselves,” says Graham, a retired executive. “Everybody can afford $20. It’s really about starting to donate and becoming a regular donor.”

Graham calls it the “pattern of giving” that sees increased support from donors year after year. For Graham and his wife, Jennifer, their support of Schulich has exceeded $100,000 over the last three decades.

“It comes down to engagement,” he says. “I came to Schulich as a mature student after working 14 years. The connection was there. I gained a lot from it, so it’s not difficult to contribute to it.”

This past year, Schulich celebrated its most successful annual fund campaign to date with more than 24 per cent growth from the previous year. The campaign also saw a 40 per cent increase in total funds given by new donors. To engage those who have given $1,000 or more, the school launched the Dean’s Society to offer them special thanks and recognition. A goal to secure 50 inaugural members was far surpassed at the end of the campaign. Graham is among the first Dean’s Society members inducted this year.

“You have to ask yourself what impact can you make to better the school,” Graham says. “As you grow, we are betting you are going to succeed, because you went to Schulich.”

Bill Graham is president of Schulich’s Global Alumni Network, a member of the Schulich Dean’s Advisory Council, and a member of the York University Alumni Association Board of Directors. He serves as an executive-in-residence for the Schulich Dean’s Advisory Council, and a member of the York University Alumni Association Board of Directors. He serves as an executive-in-residence for the International MBA Program at Schulich.

When Alain Met Joan

They met at Wendy’s. He was nervous and she bored. In the end, it was the start of a beautiful engagement that reconnected her with York University and inspired him to pursue a career in philanthropy.

When Alain Mugisha (BA ’15) met Joan Sanderson (BA ’83) to meet with her about her experience at York, the two hit it off talking about studying abroad. “Travelling — not sitting in front of the keyboard — fires up your imagination,” says Sanderson, a storyteller who came to York in her 50s.

A work-study student at York who personally engaged alumni to discuss their support for the University, Mugisha helped Sanderson establish the Joan Sanderson International Experience Prize with her $1,500 gift. The prize benefits undergraduate students at the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies studying abroad through York International.

“It’s a small gift for me to feel a part of York again,” Sanderson says. “I hope it’ll help broaden the life of another person.”

Already, this connection has inspired Mugisha. “It’s enriching to tap into her mind,” he says. “I love working in philanthropy.”

Joan Sanderson and Alain Mugisha

Photo by Sjoerd Witteveen

Bill Graham

Photo by Alex Ursescu

GRADUATE SCHOLARS

The Gift of “To Be, or Not to Be”

Philosophy was not something Abigail Klassen was good at. In fact, “I really had to work on getting good at it,” the York University PhD candidate recalls. “You learn to ask a lot of questions, and to question the questions.”

Klassen’s hard work paid off.

As the inaugural recipient of York’s Graduate Fellowship of Distinction in Philosophy — generously funded by a $1-million donation from the Hal Jackman Foundation — Klassen recently attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., as a visiting student. There, she studied under Professor Sally Haslanger, whose work on the social construction of categories such as gender and race Klassen analyses in her dissertation.

“My research examines the emancipatory potential of social constructionism,” Klassen says. “If social kinds and categories are constituted in part or entirely by social attitudes, then while we might be freed from nature, we might just be shackled to a new form of tyranny — that of others’ opinions.”

Thanks to the Philosophy Graduate Awards Endowment established by the Jackman Foundation in support of the Department of Philosophy’s graduate students and conferences, Klassen has been invited to speak at a number of conferences in North America and Europe. Aside from presenting papers at several universities and teaching a second-year philosophy course at York, she has been a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. While writing the final chapter of her dissertation, she also worked on a book review for Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy.

“I’m very grateful for the fellowship. It has given me opportunities I would not otherwise have been able to undertake,” Klassen says. “More so, it’s an honour to receive the award from my own department, from the people who know me and my work very well.”

Joan Sanderson and Alain Mugisha

Photo by Sjoerd Witteveen

Bill Graham

Photo by Alex Ursescu

Elia Scholars Program

Thanks to the support of The Mariano Elia Foundation, the Faculty of Graduate Studies at York University welcomed three PhD students to the 2014–2015 Elia Scholars Program, one of the most distinguished graduate scholarships at York.

Ayyaz Mallick, Faculty of Environmental Studies

“The Elia scholarship has given me a chance to pursue my research interests in urban geography, development studies, and political sociology in Pakistan.”

Anna Roberts, Organization Studies, Schulich School of Business

“Without this scholarship, I wouldn’t be able to research how lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals understand themselves at work.”

Melanie Wilmink, Art History and Visual Culture

“I’m able to push deeper into my research on the quality of experience in artistic installations because of this scholarship.”

Bill Graham

Photo by Sjoerd Witteveen
HEALTH CARE

Fighting Free Radicals

If there is a way to lower the amount of toxic waste production in muscle cells, people with muscular dystrophies will live longer. Thanks to the James H. Cummings Foundation, this hypothesis being tested in the research lab of Christopher Perry has received a dose of reality.

A gift of $68,880 (USS$56,000) from the Cummings Foundation to purchase the PTI Quantamaster 40 Spectrofluorometer – one of the most sophisticated and sensitive machines on the market – has enabled Perry and other biomedical researchers at York University to advance research involving the testing of cell samples for diabetes, obesity, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and neurological conditions.

An assistant professor at the School of Kinesiology & Health Science at York’s Faculty of Health, Perry has spent the last seven years researching the topic of free radicals. With the arrival of the new equipment last fall, his team has been testing the ability of novel drugs to prevent muscle wasting and related conditions such as muscular dystrophy. They have performed more than 100 experiments and worked with industry partners to investigate new pharmaceutical therapies and drugs that target free radicals in mice.

“We believe the synthetic antioxidants we are testing are much more powerful than natural antioxidants, and the machine is helping us find optimal concentration for the drugs to give to animals,” Perry says. “I simply could not do my research without this equipment. I would not be able to test new generations of antioxidant drugs that hold promise to treat muscular dystrophies.”

All About Health

The Schulich School of Business at York University recently established the J. Mark Lievonen Scholarship for MBA students enrolled in its Health Industry Management Program. The annual scholarship was created by Sanofi Pasteur Limited and Canada’s Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), each contributing $25,000. It honours the exceptional leadership and contributions of Lievonen (BBA ’79, MBA ’87) to the health and pharmaceutical sectors.

President of Sanofi Pasteur Limited and past Chair of the board of directors for Rx&D, Lievonen also made a generous gift of $51,000 toward the establishment of his namesake scholarship. With York matching the annual income generated by their collective contributions, the scholarship effectively creates an endowment valued at $405,000.

“I am proud to support some of the best minds in a vital area of study that holds so much potential,” Lievonen says. “I’m honoured to play a small part in cultivating the next generation of leaders in Canada’s health industry.”

YOUR IMPACT

Those Who Teach, Give

Larry Lam (PhD ’83)
York sociology professor
Larry Lam’s late wife used to say to him: “You are a professor. So what? You should help the students,” he recalls.

Having recently set up the So Pui Ching Award in Sociology in memory of his wife, Lam has made a bequest of more than $100,000 to York University in his will and named it the beneficiary of his $150,000 life insurance policy.

The two planned gifts are designated to support students with financial need. When realized, the gifts will benefit about a dozen undergraduate sociology students, making the Dr. Larry Lam and So Pui Ching Award in Sociology the biggest of its kind at York.

Lam, who served as York’s sociology undergraduate program director for many years, knows first-hand the financial challenges faced by many students. He arrived in Toronto from Hong Kong in 1969 as an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, and worked part-time jobs through his postsecondary education.

“When I go, I can’t take my possessions with me. So I will leave the students with a little something,” Lam says.

Clara Thomas (Hon. D.Litt. ’86)
York emeritus professor of English
Clara Thomas was a well-loved and admired member of York’s faculty, a champion of women writers, and an advocate of her students. When she died in 2013 at the age of 94, she bequeathed $300,000 to York University’s Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections. With $300,000 she left to her husband, Morley, the Thomas family recently established the Clara Thomas Doctoral Scholarship in Canadian Literature.

“Clara would have been very pleased and proud that her estate money is being used to assist those York PhD graduates who qualify,” Morley says. “She would have hoped that others might follow her example.”
Nicola Martin (L) and Sherry McGratten. Photo by Sjoerd Witteveen

**First-Ever Award in Tamil Studies**

A York alumni couple and their family have established Canada’s first graduate award in Tamil studies.

Matched by York University through the Graduate Support Matching Program, the endowed gift from the family of Harris Sivalingam (LLB ‘95) and husband Gary Anandassangaree (LLB ‘95) created the N. Sivalingam Award in Tamil Studies to encourage and promote research on Tamil language, history, culture, society or the Tamil diaspora.

“We want to encourage young people to pursue studies that may not always be financially rewarding, but are important,” the couple says of the award honouring Harim’s father, Nagarathnam (Siva) Sivalingam.

A pioneer and leader of the Tamil community, Siva co-founded the Tamil Eelam Society of Canada and played a key role in the settlement of many Tamil families in Toronto. The Sivalingam award is administered by the York Centre for Asian Research.

**Nicola Martin**

Career Development Officer

I’m a single mother of a six-year-old son and I’ve been working at Osgoode for 12 years. I wanted to help Osgoode students but thought I didn’t have a lot of money to give. Then I found out about the monthly payroll deduction. It’s so easy. It’s just another deduction and I don’t think people even think about it.

Law school is now an expensive undertaking and I don’t even think about it. I’m happy to support it,” she says.

Abdullah Merei (BASc ’09, MBA ’15) is a rare breed among twentysomethings.

At 29 years old, he is a product manager at Everz Microsystems Ltd., a leading-edge global manufacturer of broadcast equipment. While still attending the Schulich School of Business at York University, Merei established the Merei Family Scholarships to benefit students in York’s Lassonde School of Engineering. His $10,000 donation supports three students annually who are enrolled in the Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science: one demonstrating leadership skills (with preference to women candidates), one demonstrating both leadership skills and financial need, and one recognizing academic excellence.

**Who Gives? This Millennial Does**

Abdullah Merei, the Millennial philanthropist, is the founders of Lassonde’s inaugural Alumnus of the Year.

Earlier this year, Abdullah Merei was awarded Lassonde’s inaugural Alumnus of the Year award.

Why do you give to York?

“When I was younger, I used to receive an award for my academic standing, it motivated me to work harder and achieve more. Growing up, I was always taught that I should help people whenever I can. My family sponsors several students attending universities and I wanted to do the same.

What inspired you to establish the scholarship under York’s special program for Women in Science?

Engineering remains a male-dominated field. We need more women to become leaders in a field that is truly shaping our future. By offering entrance scholarships in engineering, with preference to women candidates, I feel it will demonstrate our appreciation for them in the field and encourage more to join.

Earlier this year, Abdullah Merei was awarded Lassonde’s inaugural Alumnus of the Year award.
INNOVATION ISN’T ALWAYS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY OR THE PRODUCT. INNOVATION IS ABOUT YOURSELF AND REINVENTING YOURSELF.

OUR MAN in Silicon Valley

York University alumnus Doug Bergeron (BA Spec. Hons. ’83, LLD ’13) and wife, Sandra, donate $10 million to the University’s Lassonde School of Engineering – the largest gift ever made by an alumnus

When the Watergate scandal broke in the United States in 1972, Doug Bergeron skipped Grade 8 classes to take notes of the Senate Watergate Committee hearings that led to the resignation of former U.S. president Richard Nixon. Years later, he was absorbed in media coverage of the Iran hostage crisis at the American embassy involving Ken Taylor, Canada’s ambassador to Iran. Taylor, dubbed “Our Man in Tehran” in a book and documentary of the same title, played a key role in the 1979 covert operation of sheltering six American diplomats during the crisis.

“That was the day’s news every day. I was captivated by that stuff,” Bergeron says, speaking at a recent Lassonde-Maclean’s Thought Leadership Breakfast.

In fact, Bergeron had such a fascination with political affairs and a profound desire to travel the world that he secretly applied to a university journalism program in his last year of high school. He was accepted, but was then called into the office of his high school’s head guidance counsellor.

“He was an 80-year-old priest who knew me well and taught me Latin,” Bergeron recalls. “He said, ‘This is a travesty. You are going to journalism over my dead body.’”

Bergeron had scored No. 1 on the University of Waterloo math contest in all of Windsor, Ont., his hometown, and the priest encouraged him to do something with computers. However,
In recognition of the couple’s latest gift supporting Lassonde’s brand new home – the largest gift ever made to York by an alumnus – York named the new engineering building the Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence.

In recognition of the couple’s latest gift supporting Lassonde’s brand new home – the largest gift ever made to York by an alumnus – York named the new engineering building the Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence. The “cloud” design of the centre flips the classroom so students can watch lectures online at home or in a café, and come to campus for active learning sessions with professors, classmates, and mentors.

"The building looks like it’s floating, like the ramblings of free-flowing ideas of a young engineer," Bergeron says in a speech he gave at the gift announcement last fall.

"I’m proud to call this building my new symbolic home. It’s on this ground 33 years ago that I wrote my first lines of software and contemplated my own life’s journey."

On succeeding as a financial technology veteran and becoming an active philanthropist, Bergeron, who comes from a family of four children, a father who was sick with multiple sclerosis, and a mother who was an Avon district manager, doesn’t downplay the importance of innovation.

"Innovation isn’t always about technology or the product. Innovation is about yourself and reinventing yourself," he says. "I don’t think I'm the greatest innovator, I really don’t. I've written a lot of software and I've fathered a few products over the years, but my innovation is the ability to reinvent myself to roll with it and to adapt. That’s the skill on steroids."
They are called "RKGs": the right kind of guys. And with the help of Ron Ferguson (BSc ’89), former outside linebacker for York University’s football team, five RKGs from Calgary are joining the York Lions football squad this fall.

Ferguson is no stranger to recruiting RKGs. The York biology grad is a mergers and acquisitions partner with Stikeman Elliott LLP, a Canadian business law firm, where as part of his practice he has spent the better part of the last 20 years helping recruit, mentor, and retain top talent for the firm. When he is not chasing his wife, Pauline, and two daughters, Taylor and Phoebe, down the ski hill in his spare time, Ferguson is a member of the Special Olympics Festival board, the York University Alumni Association, York’s President Advisory Council on Advancement, and Chair of the York Football Alumni Association. He has also taught law classes at both the Osgoode Hall Law School at York and Queen’s University. So when it comes to recruiting RKGs for the Lions football team, Ferguson tells it like it is.

“The first thing I tell prospects and their families during recruitment is this isn’t for everyone. You gotta want something different if you want to play football at York. You have to want to build something special for yourself that contributes to the team, something you can look back on 20 years from now and say, ‘I helped build that,’” he says.

Recently, Ferguson committed significant financial resources and personal time to help York’s football recruitment efforts.

“I believe we have all the necessary elements in place at York to move the program to the next level,” he says. “We have a fabulous coaching staff led by head coach Warren Craney, the full backing of the administration, and a brand-spanking-new Pan Am stadium. I felt very comfortable the next step was to help any way I could to find those RKGs.”

As someone who grew up playing football with his father and two brothers in their Dundas, Ont., backyard, Ferguson places a great value on what one can take away from the sport. “The lessons you learn on the football field about teamwork, about perseverance – getting knocked down and getting back up – these are lessons you can’t learn in a classroom or in a boardroom,” he says. “And they are lessons and experiences you can continually draw on and apply for the rest of your life.”

Having previously set up the Jim Ferguson Football Bursary at York in his father’s name, Ferguson says he wanted to provide more hands-on help. The latest five recruits came out of a number of back-and-forth trips between Calgary and Toronto, during which Ferguson met all of the kids and their parents.

“It was important for Warren to have alumni support, for me to show...
Ron Ferguson and Warren Craney (right), head coach of the York Lions football team, chat with players in a huddle at the York Stadium.

(L-R) Mitchell Fraser (fullback), Jarrett Carson (receiver), Chris Kolenkowski (offensive lineman), Ron Ferguson, Cole Austin (defensive lineman), Warren Craney, Jamal Campbell (offensive lineman), Ryan Farr (offensive lineman), and Jordan Young (defensive lineman).

Thanks to Ferguson's help, Craney says they have been able to cast a wider net for RKGs across the country. "It's very expensive to recruit," Craney says. "I don't even think of him as an alumnus, I consider him one of the guys I work with. It's pretty incredible knowing he believes in me that much – words can't describe it. He's got my back and that feeling is incredible."

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Each year, between 300 and 600 high school students are approached by the York Lions football program during recruitment. About 32 to 40 of them are enlisted annually for the team’s 90-player roster.
VISUAL ART

From Scrap Metal to Art

RAM Iron & Metal Inc., a Toronto dealer and processor of all grades of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metals, recently donated $13,000 worth of scrap metal to the sculpture program in the School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD) at York University. Thanks to this support, sculpture students have the opportunity to experiment and learn without the financial constraints that would otherwise limit their development. In addition, the company provides cash awards for winners of the annual RAM Iron & Metal Competition at York. The $5,000 winning prize is the largest sculpture award and one of the largest awards in the school.
The Brook of Joshua

The Joshua Yasay Award for Excellence in Criminology and Community Service at York University has been endowed in perpetuity.

Like the watershed of the Rouge River—one of a few treasured wilderness areas left in southern Ontario—Joshua Yasay (BA Spec. Hons. ’11) was a gem to those who knew him. A York criminology alumnus, Joshua was a passionate volunteer who was working toward a career with the police force. Ironically, at 23 years of age, he became one of two innocent bystanders killed in Toronto’s July 2012 Danzig Street shooting spree.

While it may be some time before those who were touched by Joshua can find closure in his senseless death, the Yasay family is thankful that the Joshua Yasay Award for Excellence in Criminology and Community Service at York has been endowed in perpetuity.

“To have Joshua honoured with his own endowed award is an incredible and overwhelming feeling that words cannot describe,” says Joshua’s sister, Jennilyn. “This means Joshua’s legacy will live on forever and this award will help finish what he started, which is to help the young leaders of tomorrow change the world.”

Each year, the Yasay award is given to a fourth-year criminology student who has positively impacted their communities through civic engagement and stewardship. A campaign to raise funds for the endowment two years ago recently surpassed its goal of $25,000. In total, contributions came in from more than 200 individual donors, including York criminology alumni and community members, as well as from the annual Joshua Yasay Charity Basketball Tournament led by the Yasay family and from fundraising events organized by the student club, Criminology Society at York. More than 80 per cent of the donations were less than $100.

“The number of donors and volunteers who supported the campaign is a testament to the many lives Joshua
touched,” Jennilyn says. “Many people think, talk, and wish about making a difference, but Joshua actually did it. Although he’s no longer with us in a physical sense, his name and legacy will live on. This allows us to have something to look forward to each year.”

Since the Yasay award was created, two recipients have had the honour of continuing Joshua’s mission to make a difference in their communities. Gillian Maharaj (BA ’13), the award’s inaugural recipient and now a student at Osgoode Hall Law School, has continued to volunteer at the Scarborough Courthouse, where the Danzig Street shooting trial took place. She also volunteers with Pro Bono Students Canada: Family Law Project to provide legal support involving children’s issues, and takes part in Osgoode’s Child Protection Externship to work with the legal counsel for Children’s Aid Society of Toronto.

“Joshua was always interested in social justice and so am I,” Maharaj says. “As a past recipient of the award, I still feel motivated and encouraged to work hard to promote social objectives, not only for myself, but for the Yasay family.”

Carina Bastidas (BA, BEd ’14), second recipient of the Yasay award, is a certified junior high and high school teacher who has volunteered with several community initiatives to tutor and mentor youths from neighbourhoods known for violence and crime. Like Joshua, who spent his spare time coaching basketball for at-risk youth, Bastidas works at a boxing and fitness gym to teach kids in schools and in the community the benefits of healthy and active living.

“The Yasay award not only helped with my studies, but it gave me extra motivation, validation, and confidence to do something about crimes in the city,” she says. “Joshua’s story hit very close to home for me, and it was extremely humbling to receive an award in his name. I believe education is the key to crime reduction in the city, and my goal is to bring social justice through teaching.”
BUSINESS

The Krembil Effect

How the Krembil Foundation is helping to pave the way for MBA students at York University’s Schulich School of Business

2014–2015 Robert Krembil Scholarship of Merit recipients:
Sonja Hiemisch
Cristina Ion
Negar Golchin Khiabani

2014–2015 Krembil Internship program recipients:
Cristina Ion
Stewart Watt

Most people wouldn’t leave a lucrative job to go back to school. But Cristina Ion isn’t most people. When the 31-year-old York University student felt she could do more with her career, she thought of the possibility of pursuing a master of business administration (MBA) program part time so she could continue working on the side to finance her education.

Things didn’t pan out exactly like that. With impressive academic, professional, and volunteer experiences, Ion is one of three 2014–2015 Robert Krembil Scholarship of Merit recipients. Each receives full tuition (about $34,500) plus a $5,000 living subsidy funded by the Krembil Foundation. The scholarship is renewable and enables students like Ion to quit her job as a clinical pharmacist and enrol in York’s Schulich School of Business full time.

“This scholarship was an unexpected, yet very welcome surprise,” she says. “It has allowed me to have the full MBA experience, thus enriching my learning opportunities and the connections I make with my peers and alumni. Another side effect of this scholarship is gaining the courage and confidence in my abilities to be successful in my future career aspirations in health-care management.”

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“Thanks to the Krembil scholarship, which has enabled me to pursue a slew of activities at school, I jumped at the chance to do the internship,” she says. “The exposure was fantastic. It allowed me to apply my previous skills and experience as a pharmacist and to interact with hospital leaders at the forefront of system change. It allowed me to contribute in a meaningful way.”

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RESEARCH

Call Me Brainy

Thanks to a $750,000 gift from the Krembil Foundation that leveraged another $750,000 donation from the Brain Canada Foundation for a total of $1.5 million, Kari Hoffman, a psychology professor at York’s Faculty of Health, is advancing her Modulating Memory Circuits project to find new treatment options designed to compensate for the memory deficits seen in Alzheimer’s disease.

Brain Canada Foundation also provided $2.6 million to benefit the research project, Z-BRAIN: A Zebrafish Drug Screening Platform Targeting Brain Disorders, a portion of which is co-led by York Professor Georg Zoidl, Canada Research Chair in Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience.

Most people wouldn’t leave a lucrative job to go back to school. But Cristina Ion isn’t most people. When the 31-year-old York University student felt she could do more with her career, she thought of the possibility of pursuing a master of business administration (MBA) program part time so she could continue working on the side to finance her education.

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Michaela Green-Murray has a new video game on her playlist these days. “You see that dog there?” she says, pointing at a moving icon on the computer screen. “You have to get the dog to cross the town without it getting hit by cars. It’s harder than it looks because there are so many cars.”

The game, Across the Town, was created by Michaela and a classmate in Toronto’s Forest Manor Public School. It was recently featured at the school showcase through Kids Get Game, a York University initiative generously funded by Motorola Solutions Foundation and led by Jennifer Jenson, a pedagogy and technology professor at York’s Faculty of Education. Over the last two years, the unique in-school project has provided opportunities for about 200 Grade 6 students like Michaela to play and build video games, helping them develop necessary skills to successfully live and work in the 21st century.

“In a video-game age, many kids play, but fewer of them make games,” says Jenson, director of York’s Institute for Research and Digital Learning. “We revamped the curriculum this year to explicitly make use of coding and focus on computer programming. Using a commercial off-the-shelf product called GameMaker, we put them in the producer role and that empowered them.”

Based on a survey Jenson’s group did with kids who took part in the project last year, they found that participants are more confident in using computers and about their abilities in general.

“They attitude toward computer and computer programming has improved,” Jenson says. “It changed who they are overall.”

Building on the project’s previous success during after-school and summer digital game development and programming clubs over more than seven years, Motorola’s support has enabled Jenson to target girls and underprivileged youth who might be left out of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics education early on due to economics.

“Girls are often the last person to get access to a machine in a one-computer household,” Jenson says.

Matt Blakely, executive director of Motorola Solutions Foundation, applauds Kids Get Game for not only providing these students with the opportunity to become users, but also creators, of technology.

“Our engineers design new products all the time, and companies like Motorola Solutions are hungry to hire talented, creative people,” he says. “We believe these students can become the engineers of tomorrow that the world needs.”
**Taking Health into Their Own Hands**

With the help of a York University alumnus, the Faculty of Health launched the Agents of Change Project to promote student-led healthy initiatives.

**I’m proud to support the Agents of Change Project,** Frostad says. “Innovation needs a little help from time to time, and it’s exciting to see what the students will accomplish.”

While Chan aims to establish ATP chapters across the country, Pratik Nair (BSc ’15) hopes to change the general perception of mental health issues from an individual to a social problem. Frostad’s gift has provided startup funding for projects like ATP, which recently received a $25,000 grant from the Laidlaw Foundation to start a new chapter in Kitchener-Waterloo.

“I wanted to do something at the time, but I didn’t know how to express it,” Chan recalls when Joshua was hit in the school yard when they were kids. “He’s doing well now. He helps out at ATP meetings — he loves it and he’s proud of me.”

With the help of a generous donation from John Frostad (BBA ’81, MBA ’84), president and CEO of Pure Foods Corp., York University’s Faculty of Health launched the Agents of Change Project to encourage students to create their own healthy initiatives. Frostad’s gift has provided startup funding for projects like ATP, which recently received a $25,000 grant from the Laidlaw Foundation to start a new chapter in Kitchener-Waterloo.

*Photos by Sjoerd Witteveen*

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**Mental Health Cheques**

A clinical psychologist and director of the York University Psychology Clinic in the Faculty of Health, Dr. Louise Hartley is no stranger to students coming to her in despair and in tears. When that happens, “You listen, you instill hope, and you let them know that things can change,” she says.

The York psychology clinic is a community mental health and training centre open to the public. Thanks to an annual fund campaign last year, the clinic has benefited from more than $14,000 in donations from York psychology alumni. The funds have enabled the clinic to continue providing a range of mental health services, including sliding-scale and pro bono counselling services for 34 clients in more than 280 hours of therapy during 2014-2015.

“Many students struggle with social anxiety,” Hartley says. “Through therapy, we help them build confidence and strength in themselves — we help them get control over their emotions.”

The clinic, which has been in operation for seven years, also provides internship and placement opportunities for York PhD clinical psychology students like Nicole Racine (BSc ’08, MA ’11). A graduate trainee at the clinic, Racine says the experience has been the ideal stepping stone for the next phase of her career.

“It has allowed me to round out my training in areas where I had less experience,” she says. “It has deepened my knowledge and understanding of assessment and psychological treatment.”

York’s clinical and clinical developmental psychology programs are among seven areas of specialization in Canada’s largest department of psychology, which is ranked in the top 100 in the world. 
I used to work for a mining company in northern Manitoba in the summer during my undergrad years as a geology student at Concordia University. That’s when I first realized that the company was dumping poisonous substances into the local lakes and streams. In those days, there were few environmental regulations. I knew then I wanted to become an environmentalist.

I saw a poster for York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES) in the school hallway at Concordia. I tore a coupon off, applied to FES, and someone called me in for an interview. I ended up doing my master’s thesis on the environmental impacts of mining.

While studying at FES, I was a student in Professor Peter Victor’s ecological economics class, where I learned that the economy isn’t just a thing on its own. The economy is a construction of society, which in turn is bounded by our environment. That’s a concept that’s still not well understood and sustainability needs to be reframed in that way. Peter is very much ahead of his time. His research is cutting edge and provocative. For example, every government will say the most important thing there is, is economic growth. What Peter is saying is that a healthy economy comes from an equitable healthy society and for that we need a healthy ecosystem. Peter is shining a spotlight on the fact that society and the environment are being severely compromised because of our near obsession with economic growth.

It’s no coincidence that half of the CEOs are engineers, because engineers are great thinkers with great problem-solving capabilities. But engineering as a profession has the biggest gender imbalance, and my decision to support Lassonde’s Mentor Program is really about providing career coaching for young female engineering students. In doing so, I want to provide an outlet for female students to find their confidence and to shine.

Don’t tell MBA students this, but learning from a mentor is an MBA quickly. My best learnings have been from mentors both female and male. The best advice I’ve received from a mentor is that there is no wrong opinion, that the value women bring to the industry is much needed. In fact, we still need more outspoken, strong female leaders. The best advice I’ve received from a mentor is that there is no wrong opinion, that the value women bring to the industry is much needed. In fact, we still need more outspoken, strong female leaders.

The Green Economic Reality

Bruce Lourie (MES ’87) is the co-author of the international bestseller Slow Death by Rubber Duck and Toxin Toxout. He may be best known for initiating the campaign to shut down coal-fired power plants in the province and for his role in the greenbelt initiatives in southern Ontario. Lourie is also the president of the Ivy Foundation, which recently provided a $27,000 grant to York University Professor Peter Victor in support of his work to explore long-term scenarios for the transformation of national economies so they respect ecological limits.

Why I Give

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I’m really lucky to be doing every day exactly what I learned at FES, and that’s using an interdisciplinary approach to solving environmental problems that touch on health, economy, public policy, and the environment. It’s important to support people like Peter who are challenging the status quo. While it may take 10 to 20 years for his ideas to be widely accepted, we need to start shifting the mainstream thinking toward a more future-oriented approach.
Schulich Leaders are by definition smart. But are they kind? The ones at York University are.

A $100-million scholarship fund created by philanthropist Seymour Schulich (Hon. LLD ‘03), the Schulich Leader Scholarships provide financial aid to the most promising students entering a Canadian university undergraduate program in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Administered by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and The Schulich Foundation, the impact of the program is manifold, and at York’s Keele campus, it extends far beyond the recipients’ academic endeavours to the well-being of others.

Last fall, the Schulich Leaders at York kicked off a student-led initiative to promote positivity through random acts of kindness. Inspired by the Feed the Deed online movement, the Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Project was spearheaded by Yaakov Green, a York biology major.

“Our goal with RAK is to empower members of the York community to effect positive social change at York through acts of kindness,” Green says. “Whether they are students, faculty, or staff, we believe people have the potential to make a significant impact.”

Crediting the Schulich scholarship for opening up many doors and giving him access to a network of talented and exceptional people, Green recruited the help of his friend Ben Shachar, a biomedical science student at York’s Faculty of Science, to get RAK going. Together they enlisted four other York students who share the prestigious connection of being Schulich Leaders with them, including Arpit Sharma, a biochemistry student.

For Shachar and Sharma, RAK’s message is simple. Whether it’s holding the door for someone or giving directions on campus, “We want to get people to talk to each other,” they say. “We want them to know it’s cool and OK to help each other.”

From handing out free Halloween candy in lecture halls to offering strangers free hot chocolate on the coldest day of the year, RAK has become a fast-growing club with nearly 400 active members and an aggressive social media campaign. Because York is a commuter school, Green says many students tend not to get as involved outside of class. “We want to perpetuate kindness and stimulate student involvement in an effort to create an overall positive university experience for York students,” he adds. “We want to generate an atmosphere of happiness and well-being in the York community at large. Then we hope to reach out to Schulich Leaders at other universities to establish RAK chapters throughout the country and spread the social movement using York as a model.”

“W e want to perpetuate kindness back, I’m so grateful to have had the chance to do an internship at Celestica as a corporate tax associate intern, the fourth-year York University student will tell you that, during this paid internship, she supported 11 tax team members and that general office work such as photocopying, scanning, and filing made up 10 per cent to 15 per cent of her work load. The remaining 85 per cent to 90 per cent involved challenging projects that pulled her into different directions during peak periods.

“As for interns doing coffee runs, I’d like to think that this is a myth,” she says.

Thanks to a new $80,000 gift from the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario (CPA Ontario) in support of its namesake internship program, students like Oiga, who is pursuing her CPA designation, will benefit from a total of 40 work terms over two years. According to Vicki Liederman, director of student recruitment for CPA Ontario, these internships are “win-win” for both interns and partnered organizations.

“To enter the profession, CPAs need to apply their technical knowledge in practical settings and develop their skills while being overseen and aided by a CPA mentor,” Liederman says. “Not only do the students get an opportunity to connect academic learning with real-world experience, but the employers get access to top talent.”

York’s Professional Accounting Internship Program is an optional experiential education program administered by the Career Centre, which helps students like Oiga prepare resumes and interviews. “We see these interns grow into confident young professionals that know what they want in their careers,” says Kathleen Wingham, manager of Employer Development & Experiential Education at the Career Centre.

Or, as Oiga puts it, “the internship is the way to go to have an edge or advantage over others once school is over.” In many ways, “it was hectic and fun at the same time – I loved every second of it,” she says. “Looking back, I’m so grateful to have had the chance to do an internship at Celestica. If I can, I would do it again.”
**FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**Wine, Golf, Music**

*13th Fisher Fund Wine Tasting and Auction / April 2015 / Sunnybrook Vaughan Estate*

Toronto's most generous wine collectors raised more than $100,000 in support of ongoing research and conservation at York University's Las Nubes rainforest in Costa Rica. Funds will help outfit the new Lillian Meighan Wright Centre there with much-needed furnishings. Thanks to a gift from The Lillian and Don Wright Foundation, the facility is expected to be completed this year. Over the years, the Fisher Fund event has raised nearly $1.5 million.

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*Celebrating Sunnuz / November 2014 / Hugh's Room*

The family of Sunnuz Sarah Taheri (BA '05) recently reached their goal of raising $100,000 for the Sunnuz Sarah Taheri Graduate Award in Fine Arts at York University. The fund is matched by the Graduate Studies Awards Program to create a $200,000 endowment. Contributions included about $5,000 raised through the Celebrating Sunnuz memorial concert. While she was an English major at York, Taheri, who died in 2013, was a talented musician who studied jazz vocal and had hopes of studying opera at the Juilliard School in New York.

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*14th Kenaidan-York University Lions Cup Golf Tournament / September 2014 / Lionhead Golf & Country Club*

Friends, alumni, and supporters of York University raised more than $300,000 in support of its graduate students and varsity student-athletes. The event was co-chaired by Greg Stack (BA Spec. Hons. ’83) and Guy Burry (BA ’82).

Since its inception, the annual tournament has raised more than $3.5 million.
A legendary Toronto lawyer, Austin Cooper (LLB ’53) was considered one of the justice system’s most passionate advocates at the time of his death in September 2013. He was 84 years old. In his will, Cooper left his entire art collection – about 100 paintings, photographs, and works of sculpture by artists like John Scott, John Hartman, Lillian Freiman, and Edward Burtynsky – to Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. This generous gift, appraised at more than $200,000, has inspired students, faculty, and staff at Osgoode. “The very best lawyers have a courtroom persona and then other sides that enrich their humanity,” says Osgoode Dean Lorne Sossin. “You get a glimpse of the many textures of Austin Cooper through his art – his compassion, his playfulness, his desire to be provoked and to think hard about things.”

![Image 1](image1.png)
![Image 2](image2.png)
![Image 3](image3.png)
![Image 4](image4.png)
![Image 5](image5.png)
![Image 6](image6.png)

1. Austin Cooper. Photo: Aka Photography
2. John Hartman, Explosion in Midland Harbour, oil on canvas
3. Lyn Wendall, Towards the Chapel, acrylic on canvas
4. Gerald Ferguson, Historical SLW Life with Empire Cabinet Door, frottage on canvas
5. Edward Burtynsky, Densified Oil Drums #4, Hamilton, ON, chromogenic colour print
6. Gerald Ferguson, Fence 5 (vice versa), enamel on canvas
7. George Bleiweiss, Flag, bronze and steel
Photos of Cooper Collection: Michael Liswick
$35.4M

total value of your donations

6,400

total donors

1,400

first-time donors

Rounded numbers between May 1, 2014 and April 30, 2015