

The York University Magazine

Fall 2019



The Burning Season

Eric. B. Kennedy sounds the alarm
on wildfire prevention

PLUS

**Long-Term Sex
Up Schitt's Creek
Stem Cell Research**



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The York University Magazine

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THE PRESIDENT



RHONDA L. LENTON
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

YORK IS EMBRACING A BOLD VISION for the future of higher education, and our alumni have an important role to play in bringing this vision to life. York's success rests on four pillars: access, connectedness, excellence and impact. By looking towards the emerging needs of our students, our graduates and the communities we serve, we are strengthening these pillars in partnership with our alumni family.

There is no question that the world of work is undergoing a significant change. Research by the Brookfield Institute for Innovation & Entrepreneurship estimates that 50 per cent of current jobs will be impacted by automation and artificial intelligence. Given the rapid rate of technological innovation, many future careers have not even been imagined, much less created. But whatever those new jobs are, it is more than likely that they will require some form of post-secondary education.

In this context, universities have never been more important. But we will not be able to meet future needs by relying exclusively on traditional methods of higher education. We need to evolve the ways universities teach and students learn to meet the demands of the global knowledge economy.

York is taking the lead in changing what we teach. Programs like Disaster & Emergency Management – profiled in this issue – respond directly to emerging needs in society and the workforce. Offered at the bachelor and master's level, this new program is the first of its kind in Canada. It demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that our students benefit from educational experiences that are relevant in today's workforce, while preparing them for future opportunities.

We are also changing how we teach. York is working to embed experiential learning – such as internships, co-ops or similar opportunities – into all of our programs. We are also putting innovation and entrepreneurship at the centre of the student experience. Our LaunchYU program now supports over 3,400 entrepreneurs, including students, faculty and members of the community.

Finally, York is changing the way we think about the educational journey of our students. In a world defined by rapid change, the traditional pathway – where higher education means a four-year degree completed as a young adult – is obsolete. To thrive in the knowledge economy, individuals will need to acquire new skills and competencies throughout their careers, jumping in and out of post-secondary education as needed. York is making lifelong learning a priority with flexible learning options and an expansion of our School of Continuing Studies.

So where do alumni fit into this vision? As always, you have the opportunity to mentor our students and graduates, helping them navigate a complicated workforce. As you take on leadership roles in your career, you can also create new co-ops, internships and other experiential learning opportunities to enrich the educational experience of York students. Please know that York will also be there for you throughout your own working life. If you need a new skill to advance in your career or would like to transition into a new career entirely, I hope you will take advantage of our lifelong learning options.

As always, I encourage you to connect with me on Twitter and Instagram @YorkUPresident or by email at president@yorku.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

Silver Linings

LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW at the changing landscape, blanketed over with cascading leaves and autumn's sere grasses. A seasonal shift as regular and predictable as the Canada geese flying in V-formation on their annual journey south. Where summer represents life in all its verdant glory, the fall symbolizes maturity, and the nearing of the end of the road. You can grow melancholic contemplating the decomposing flowers. Or you can do as many of the people profiled here, in the Fall issue of *The York University Magazine*, have done: approach the end as the beginning of something new.

When life dies, as it inevitably does in a wildfire, the subject of our cover story on York's Disaster & Emergency Management program, nature looks for ways to regenerate itself from the ashes. After a fire burns away old, decaying trees and other flammable debris, saplings rise from the forest's flattened floor to create life anew. The moral of the story is that even catastrophic change has an upside. Just look for the silver linings on those storm clouds looming on the horizon.

The Lassonde School of Engineering's Hany Farag certainly does. A newly appointed York Research Chair in Integrated

Smart Energy Grids, the young professor researches electric and hydrogen studies – highlighted in the View section, which showcases scholarly innovation at York – and is helping to transform the pollution-clogged urban environment, and for the better.

Possibility thinking also motivates alumni like Leonard Brody, whose examinations of digital trends and how they are rewriting how we work and live have earned him a spot on the Thinkers50 Radar list of thought leaders around the world. The only Canadian to make the list in 2019, the Osgoode grad picks up his international award in London, U.K., in November, giving us all at York a reason to celebrate (even as the temperatures drop).

– DEIRDRE KELLY

EDITOR'S NOTES



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ON THE COVER



Eric B. Kennedy
photographed by
Chris Robinson



View

OUTLOOK & IDEAS

SHINE A LIGHT

*Chemists create
a colourful new tool
for materials discovery*

YORK UNIVERSITY chemists have invented a new fluorescence-based method for accurately determining the strength of a range of Lewis acids that could one day be used to help purify pharmaceutical drugs, improve industrial processes and explore next-generation technologies.

As important fundamental chemicals, Lewis acids are electron-pair acceptors, which the York scientists have elucidated with their groundbreaking work. They believe their fluorescent Lewis acid-base adduct (FLA) method to be the first of its kind to quantify the strengths of a wide variety of Lewis acids by providing the ability to visually observe differences. They expect this technique to replace the widely used Gutmann-Beckett method, which is prone to errors. The finding, recently published in the scientific journal *Chem*, could

lead to improved and cheaper processes for the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

"The pharmaceutical industry is always looking for optimized processes to make new drugs and find new chemicals," says Thomas Baumgartner, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, and Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Organomaterials, who co-lead the study involving a team of six York University researchers. "Our method provides a valuable new tool to help develop these processes."

Measuring the Lewis acidity of molecular species is important because it allows chemists around the world to establish the utility of new compounds to facilitate chemical

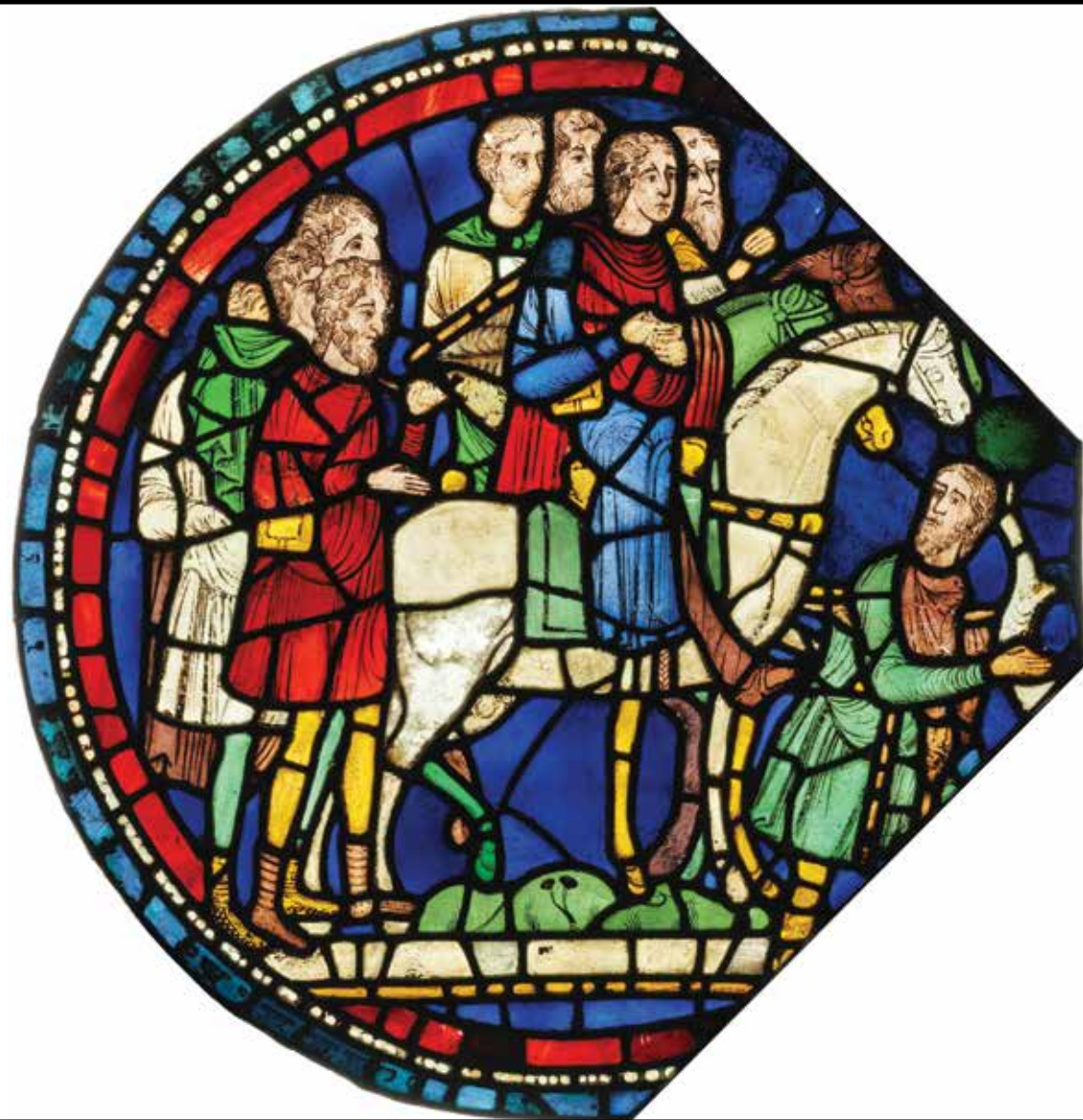
transformations for a range of applications.

"Until now, there has been no unifying thread to determine the strength across different species," says Christopher Caputo, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Canada Research Chair in Metal-Free Materials for Catalysis, who served as the York study's joint leader.

"Some Lewis acids are charged, some are neutral, some are based on metals, some are based on non-metals, and they cover the entire periodic table. With our method, we can compare across all these different species and across the periodic table. As new chemistry and new Lewis acids are developed, our method allows you to quantify and compare all the strengths across the board, which could be very impactful." ●

COLOURING CHEMISTRY:
Christopher Caputo (left) and
Thomas Baumgartner (right)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD



LEFT: Glass being removed July 2018

RIGHT: Seliger and Koopmans working at Canterbury Cathedral

Medieval Compositions

York expert cracks a stained-glass mystery

WHAT WAS ONCE THOUGHT to be the handiwork of the Victorian era has recently been revealed to have originated in the Middle Ages, a stunning discovery carried out by a York University historian studying stained-glass windows at England's Canterbury Cathedral.

Rachel Koopmans' groundbreaking research finds that the dazzling artifact depicting an assortment of people on a religious pilgrimage to Canterbury dates to the 1180s, approximately 200 years before Geoffrey Chaucer immortalized the popular holy expedition in his *Canterbury Tales*.

"It's one of the most thrilling experiences of my career," says Koopmans, an associate professor in the Department of History and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada who trained as a religious literary historian in her native U.S. She joined York in 2006, where she presently teaches undergraduate courses on Christianity and medieval and early modern history.

Koopmans first went to Canterbury 25 years ago while researching her dissertation on miracle

stories, which she completed at the University of Notre Dame in 2001. For the thesis, she had travelled to England to study the cathedral's stained-glass windows, which glaziers of the Middle Ages had turned into a popular showcase of religious narratives to be displayed in churches for the delight and edification of a mostly illiterate population.

"They were the comic books of their day," Koopmans says. "They were designed as colourful bands to be read and admired by visiting pilgrims."

Canterbury's stained-glass windows had been installed after the death of Thomas Becket, the English archbishop murdered by King Henry II's henchman inside the cathedral in 1170. A bejewelled shrine to Becket, erected in the middle of a stunningly beautiful chapel built in his honour, was originally encircled by a dozen windows telling the story of Becket's life and miracles. Only eight remain.

Koopmans zeroed in on one called nV in reference to its position as the fifth window on the Cathedral's north side. She had become interested in it after noticing discrepancies in published descriptions of the window while preparing her PhD research for

publication. She knew all the miracle stories and so was quick to recognize errors in descriptions of the windows published in 1981.

"Then I discovered that some glass written off as Victorian could date to the medieval period," says Koopmans, who based her findings on documents she read in the cathedral archives and an examination of an 1861 photograph of the window in question.

Koopmans presented her findings to Leonie Seliger, director of Canterbury's stained-glass studio, who in 2018 eventually obtained the necessary permissions and funding to remove the window from its armature for a more detailed study.

Aided by microscopes, digital photography technologies and age-verification techniques employing different kinds of light, Koopmans and Seliger spent months scrutinizing thousands of pieces of glass contained in the fragile artifact throughout the summer of 2018. What they discovered surprised even them.

"The glass in question is 800 years older than anyone thought, going all the way back to the 12th century," says Koopmans. "The unique panel

picturing travelling pilgrims allows us to see how the earliest pilgrims to Canterbury interacted and what they would have looked like, right down to the pilgrims' wonderfully decorated boots."

The plan is to continue sleuthing through other windows from Canterbury, a project dependent on securing about £1 million in funding from the private sector. That might not be difficult now that the British Museum has announced it will exhibit one of the stained-glass windows Koopmans wants to examine next.

Composed of rondels cut through with diamonds, the nIII window depicts an armature design that in the Middle Ages was replicated in souvenirs that thousands of pilgrims then took home with them as proof that they had made the religious journey.

"It's one of the most beautiful of all the windows," enthuses Koopmans, whose research has earned her a highly competitive award from the British Academy and the attention of the BBC. "It has 22 figures compared to the 10 we just looked at, meaning there's nearly double the amount of content. I can't think of anything more rewarding." ●



HANY FARAG:

Driving that other electrical bus

GET ON BOARD

Eco-buses are the way of the future

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOFIE KIRK

BATTERY-POWERED electric buses have zoomed to the heart of the environmental zeitgeist as cities around the world hop on a technological development that looks to significantly reduce emissions levels by the 2030 deadline established by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals four years ago. In hot pursuit to the finish is a comparatively new type of electric vehicle that researchers at York University claim is the next big thing in sustainable urban transportation systems.

They are hydrogen, or fuel cell, buses and for Hany Farag, an associate professor in the Lassonde School of Engineering, they are the way of the future.

"Hydrogen buses have more advantages than electrical buses," he says, adding they can be refuelled quickly and can store more energy per tank than a freshly recharged electrical bus. A further advantage is that when burned with oxygen, hydrogen is a zero-emission fuel that can be used in electrochemical cells or internal combustion engines to power vehicles.

Hydrogen is also an abundant, if not readily available, material, comprising nearly 75 per cent of the universe. It occurs naturally in water and, unlike conventional batteries, can be stored with little energy loss for long stretches of time, making it ideal for public transit.

But before everyone jumps on the hydrogen bus, there are some potholes to consider. As most hydrogen on Earth is locked up in water, separating and compressing the gas for use in a fuel cell takes a lot of work. It is why hydrogen fuel cell vehicles tend to be a more expensive option than plug-ins.

A fuel cell electric bus costs some \$1.2 million, compared to

\$750,000 to \$900,000 for a battery-electric bus, according to a 2018 U.S. transit report.

Another challenge is infrastructure, "which for hydrogen buses so far simply doesn't exist," says Farag, who joined York in 2013, shortly after obtaining his PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Waterloo in June of that year.

But despite the obstacles, hydrogen buses are more viable than battery-electric vehicles for public transit because they can store energy for long stretches of time and be refuelled in minutes. Hydrogen fuel cell buses also operate well in cold climates, running for 450 kilometres during any given 18-hour shift. A battery bus, by comparison, has a range of just 150 kilometres. "This is an important difference," Farag says, "because transit companies do not want to compromise their routes, which have been developed over years in consultation with their clients. When introducing new technologies, there will be change, but the change should not be too much or the public just won't buy it." Others clearly agree.

In May, Transport for London announced that the world's first hydrogen-powered double-decker buses, having only water exhaust emissions, will be on the English capital's streets by 2020.

In June, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) deployed an all-electric bus into regular service for the first time. It is one of 60 "zero-emissions" buses the TTC is set to receive by early next year.

A newly appointed York Research Chair in Integrated Smart Energy Grids, Farag is hoping other municipalities across Ontario will soon follow suit.

"It's a futuristic vision," he says. "But if we think only in the short term then public transportation is done." ●

Let's Talk About Sex

Maintaining intimacy in long-term relationships

“**L**ONG-LASTING, happy relationships are key contributors to overall health and well-being,” says Amy Muise, an associate professor in York University’s Department of Psychology who studies the maintenance of sexual desire and relationship satisfaction in ongoing romantic relationships.

“But sexuality is something that is often difficult for a lot of people to talk about openly. As a general topic of conversation, it’s pretty fringe, and for years not a lot of work has been done on sexuality, making it hard for people to value as a real science.”

Helping to pave the way, York recently made Muise, 37, a Research Chair in Relationships and Sexuality. This is a relatively new area of study for the University but one quickly gaining widespread attention, not to mention respect, because of the work being done by Muise at the romantic relationships and sexuality lab she founded at the Keele Campus soon after arriving at York in 2016.

No, the lab isn’t furnished with beds and two-way mirrors.

But it does involve real people – up to 150 couples at a time (mainly thirtysomethings found through ads the lab posts on Craigslist and Kijiji) who volunteer to be part of Muise’s ongoing investigations into what makes romantic partners stay and have sex together over the long run.

“There’s a lot of sexual information out there,” Muise says, “but not a lot is grounded in research.”

To obtain credible information on sex, Muise guides couples who attend her lab to document their daily experiences in a journal over a three-week period. To get at the specifics of their relationship, Muise asks subjects to answer questions

about their sexual experiences on days when they report sexual activity.

When couples involved in the survey have sex, Muise not only wants to know about it – she wants to understand the spark that got it going. The discoveries are not as titillating as you might think.

Research shows that focusing on “we time” without neglecting the needs of the self is what it takes for couples to remain blissfully sexually active over time.

“One finding is that self-expansion sparks desire even in long-term relationships and that introducing novelty and excitement into a sexual relationship does not have to entail a major event,” Muise says.

“Couples who were able to have novel experiences in the context of their daily lives – going on walks together in different neighbourhoods or baking a cherry pie together for the first time – reported experiencing higher desire for each other and feeling more satisfied in their relationship. On the days when they did indulge in new and exciting shared activities – however small – they were more likely to have sex.”

But it’s not all fun and games. Sexual satisfaction, the study confirms, takes work. Couples in long-term relationships must be motivated to meet each other’s needs; they need to be willing to take their partners’ perspectives when examining their sexual differences, but without neglecting their own needs in the process.

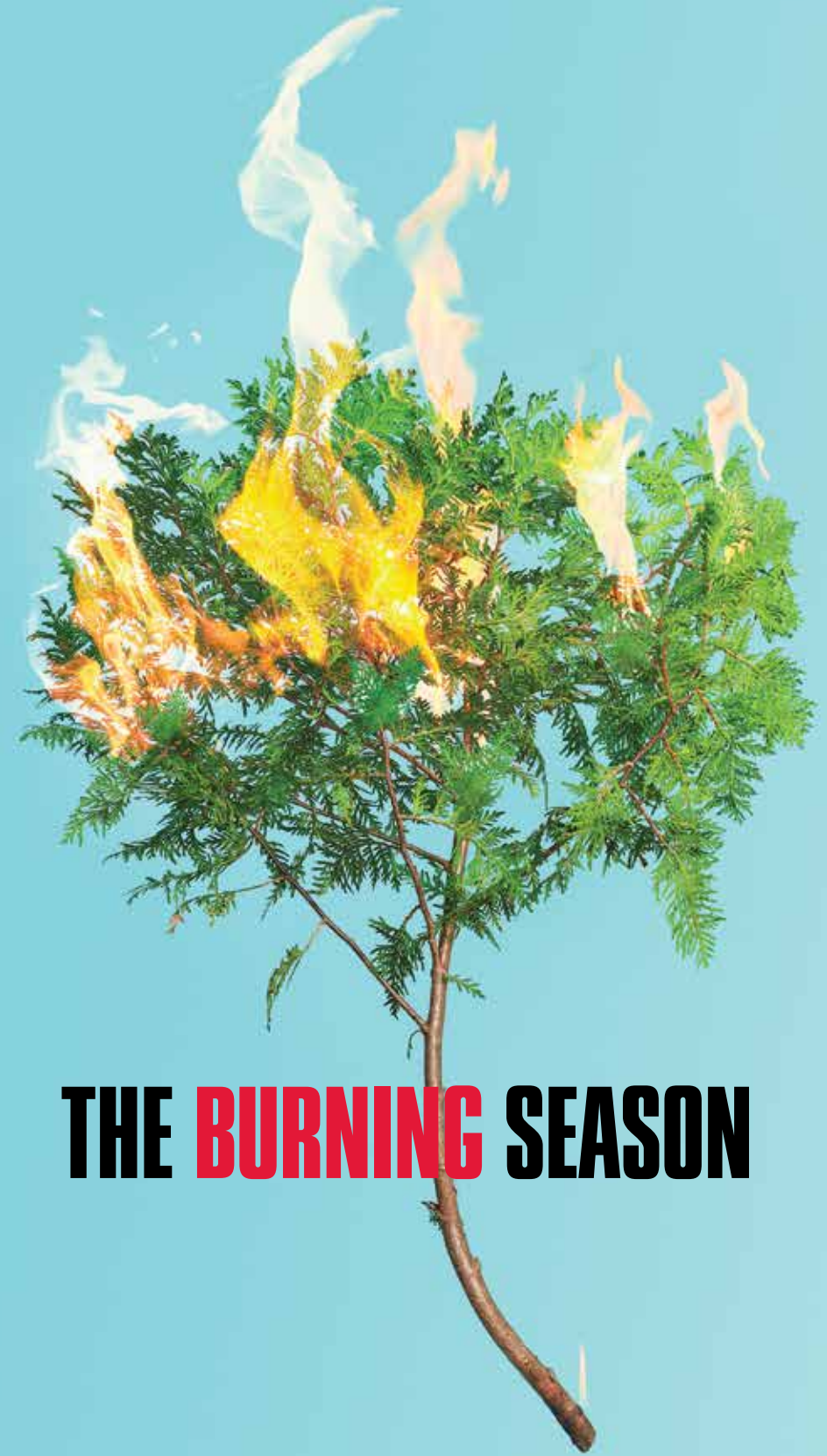
“Sex is what makes their relationship unique,” Muise says, “which is why, for many couples, keeping their sexual spark alive can help them maintain more satisfying relationships over time.” ●



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

Fighting fire with fire

BY DEIRDRE KELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS ROBINSON



THE **BURNING** SEASON



HOPE IN DISASTER: As York professor Eric B. Kennedy discovers while flying over and surveying the charred remains of a 2017 Ontario wildfire, after the flames burn through a forest not everything is lost: the potential for regeneration is huge

On

AUG. 30, 2017, a lightning strike ignited a small wildfire in the south-eastern corner of British Columbia.

It simmered for almost two weeks before 100-kilometre winds accelerated its growth, driving it across the border into Alberta and straight through Waterton Lakes National Park.

Overnight, the conflagration consumed almost 33,000 hectares of Parks Canada forest and surrounding agriculture land. It also ripped through the Waterton Lakes National Park's Visitor Centre, in addition to park maintenance and staff facilities and some other campground infrastructure, destroying them all.

Yet, as the smoke cleared, a more remarkable picture emerged: no public homes or businesses were lost within the Waterton town site.

For Eric B. Kennedy, an assistant professor in York University's Disaster & Emergency Management program who studies wildfires, this was by far the bigger story.

As the native of Waterloo, Ont., explains it, while the Kenow fire was still smouldering in another province entirely, Parks Canada staff in Alberta had foam-sprayed buildings, cleared flammable debris, and collaborated with firefighters from Calgary, Lethbridge, Taber and Coaldale to try and protect buildings like the historic Prince of Wales Hotel.

They also convened town hall meetings, assisting in the evacuation of the town, and worked with wildland firefighters from Ontario to help battle the flames when indeed they did come.

These co-ordinated efforts ended up sparing both lives and residential properties.

"This is what can happen when you are prepared," Kennedy says. "It's an illustration of how the system can and should work." And save money too.

New research shows that communities that protect themselves from future natural hazards like wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes and floods can save themselves \$11 for every \$1 they invest in mitigation efforts.

Waterton is living proof.

With damages estimated at \$22 million, the Kenow fire losses were far less than the 2016 Fort McMurray, Alta., fire whose estimated \$10 billion in damages makes it Canada's most expensive ever natural disaster – a striking contrast, even accounting for the difference in the cities' sizes.

"The Kenow fire really demonstrated how much can be achieved by planning ahead, working together and being ready for wildfire," Kennedy says. "We know a great deal about how to protect buildings and communities from forest fires, but that knowledge needs to be widely implemented to help reduce wildfire losses."

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019 lists York University as 4th in Canada 14th globally in Climate Action, a category

highlighting institutions that have taken urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts while strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

The University's wildfire scholars include John Gales, an assistant professor in the Lassonde School of Engineering's Department of Civil Engineering who leads York's new Fire Safety Engineering Research Group, and Aaida Mamuji and Jack Rozdilsky, professors in Disaster & Emergency Management who look at civilian evacuations, including in Fort McMurray and in B.C., in recently published papers.

"We explore different aspects of civic evacuation, both through the lived experiences of evacuees and the receiving host community. The former is captured in our paper looking at the evacuation experience of the largest visible minority group in Fort McMurray, the Muslim community," Mamuji says.

"Given the trend of increasing diver-

sity within Canadian communities, having a better understanding of how the needs of diverse social groups can be met in crisis situations is necessary, as it facilitates a whole community approach to disaster and emergency management."

Future research by the team will explore disability-inclusive emergency management, she says.

Gales also studies evacuations but from a transportation engineering perspective.

Earlier this year, he worked with students Lauren Folk and René Champagne to create a survey and computational model of a remote Canadian community as part of ongoing research into human behaviour and crisis management. Gales's behavioural engineering research is done in collaboration with Arup, a multidisciplinary engineering and consulting firm with which Gales is working to help build resiliency guidelines for Canadian infrastructure.

"Our approach brings psychology and engineering together to create

a conceptual framework on human behaviour based on real data from emergency evacuations," he says.

Canada has long been a leader in wildfire research around the world for a simple reason: the country is extremely susceptible to them.

"Wildfires are a perennial feature of Canadian environments and burn annually in forests and grasslands from the Yukon to Newfoundland and Labrador," says Kennedy, who joined Disaster & Emergency Management last July after completing a PhD at Arizona State University focusing on fire management practices across Canada.

"While busy fire seasons can shift from province to province in any given year, wildfires in Canada are as dependable as winter."

Summer is typically the burning season, though wildfires can start as early as March and go on as late as October, depending on weather conditions. But summer heat and dryness remain primary factors.

Last year, an especially hot and dry

THE KENOW FIRE REALLY DEMONSTRATED HOW MUCH CAN BE ACHIEVED BY PLANNING AHEAD, WORKING TOGETHER AND BEING READY

summer contributed to the 220 wildfires that burned across B.C. over two days in July, forcing community evacuations and consuming over 1.2 million hectares – twice the size of the entirety of Prince Edward Island – of heavily forested land. This year, in the first weeks of June, the burning season got off to a ferocious start when wildfires in northern Alberta burned more than 283,000 hectares and forced 11,000 people to evacuate.

Managing and fighting these and other fires in Canada last year had an estimated cost of \$1 billion.

Kennedy predicts that figure will climb even higher if people don't change their relationship with wildfires, something he is attempting to achieve through his academic work.

"Wildfire has always been and will always be a part of our landscapes," Kennedy says, "and if we choose to live in these flammable landscapes, we need to do so in a way that will reduce the potential for tragedy."

But not all wildfires are necessarily disasters.

Research increasingly finds that there's an advantage in letting moderate fires burn: they contribute to biodiversity and the sustainability of natural ecosystems.

Natural occurrences, wildfires reintroduce nutrients to the surrounding landscape, triggering forest regeneration and the growth of other plant species and providing new habitat for wildlife.

Regularly occurring, smaller and patchier fires can also help to create landscape patterns known as "mosaics," where forests have a checkerboard of old and new growth – a condition that's both ecologically healthier and more fire resilient than what results from suppressing all fires, Kennedy says.

Frequent burns can also help to reduce the potential for later catastrophic blazes by consuming old and decaying trees and debris.

As reported, the 2018 Boundary Valley fire burned roughly seven kilometres south of Waterton but was quickly suppressed, largely thanks to the efforts of Canadian and U.S. fire management resources.

"The 2017 Kenow fire burned much of the area to the north and west of this new area of fire," said the Northern Rockies Incident Management Team in a press release.

"Reduced fuels in this recently burned area should help act as a fire break."

In other words, you really can fight fire with fire. Science now backs that up.

Letting forests blaze (within limits) is a proactive approach increasingly being adopted by ecologists and governments who have come to understand that wildfires are often not just a fact of life, but ecologically necessary.

And alongside allowing lightning-started fires to burn, organizations like Parks Canada have been igniting forest fires as a matter of policy for some years now.

The government of Alberta's prescribed fire program, for instance, is used "to restore ecosystems, restore healthy and resilient forests, and reduce the threat of large, uncontrollable fires."

The fires are started under select weather conditions and managed in such a way as to minimize the emission of smoke and maximize the benefits to the site.

These prescribed fires can help prevent catastrophic blazes that are much harder to control. In these fires, it's not just a matter of fighting the flames.

The blazes can also spread to human communities by means of embers carried on wind gusts and take hold in wood piles, decks, shingles, air vents and eavestroughs, transforming a tiny spark into a full-blown house fire.

From there, embers can even feed on homes and vehicles as fuel, propagating from building to building.

Just as at Waterton, preparedness is key in mitigating damages.

Kennedy says homeowner disaster and emergency plans can be simple, involving such routine tasks as raking up dead leaves, cleaning out eavestroughs, choosing less flammable building materials, and avoiding plants and wood piles beside the home.

"What Waterton shows," says Kennedy, "is that fire preparedness is not a one-time thing. Not only do we have to think about how we build, but also about the risks faced by existing homes and how to maintain landscapes on an ongoing basis."

In the wake of Waterton, Fort McMurray and the B.C. wildfires, he is also proposing that communities be designed with wildfires in mind.

Climate change, for one, is ensuring they are not going away.

"So much effort is often spent on putting out fires," Kennedy says, "but a better approach might just be learning how to live with them." ●

*Amanda Wood clothes
Canada's most-loved TV characters*

BY LINDSAY MACADAM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

IT'S A SUNNY SPRING morning at Toronto's Revival Film Studios where I'm meeting York University graduate Amanda Wood (BFA '03) to discuss her fascinating career in costumes. Hidden among a sea of parked vehicles is her mobile office – a nondescript white transport truck containing the building blocks of “Schitt’s Creek,” CBC’s hit comedy about the once-wealthy Rose family which, after losing all its money, is forced to start over in the small town they acquired years earlier as a joke.

Wood is the costume truck supervisor on the Emmy Award-nominated series known as much for its character-defining garb as its legendary Canuck cast starring “Second City Television” alumni Eugene Levy and Catherine O’Hara.

I climb the truck’s ramp not expecting much but am met with the most elaborate set of walk-in closets, well-lit and filled floor to ceiling with methodically stored designer duds: Johnny’s impeccably tailored suits, Alexis’s cool-girl florals, David’s moody monochromes and Moira’s over-the-top, well, everything.

Wood greets me with a friendly smile, walkie-talkie on hip and her tiny pooch Hugo nipping at her heels. He accompanies her to work every day, she gushes.

As the quirky comedy’s self-described wardrobe librarian since season four, the 38-year-old St. Thomas, Ont., native is responsible for preparing the costumes for each day’s shoot and ensuring scene-to-scene continuity. It’s an important job.

“Wardrobe was the first in terms of me understanding the characters,” Daniel Levy, co-creator of “Schitt’s Creek” alongside his famous father, Eugene, told *New York Magazine* in January.

Before any of the actors step on set, Wood makes sure their attire appears exactly as costume designer Debra Hanson

intended. Between shoots, she arranges alterations and laundering, polishes jewelry, and organizes shoes and undergarments. It’s painstakingly detailed work.

“I’m usually the first one in and the last to leave,” says Wood, whose typical start time is an unfathomable 4 or 5 a.m. “It’s a costume-heavy show,” she adds. “Every character is so specific.”

The 70-hour workweeks can be gruelling, but Wood loves that every day on the job is different. “People ask if I want to costume design,” she says, “but the truck is exactly where I want to be.”

This is the life Wood dreamed of as a child. A 14th birthday trip to see the *Lion King* musical in Toronto solidified her direction, inspiring her annual involvement in the Sears Ontario Drama Festival and her eventual major in costume design at York. There, she learned the theatre world inside out, preparing her for the inevitable obstacles of an arts career.

“It was nice to have professors who were working in the industry,” Wood says, mentioning York theatre production Professor Teresa Przybylski in particular for having given her the confidence to pursue her passions.

Przybylski remembers Wood’s natural talent and ability to make industry connections. “She did many projects outside of York,” Przybylski recalls. “That’s remarkable for a busy student – you have to build relationships and convince people you represent something interesting.”

In her 17 years in the business, Wood has been everything from wardrobe assistant and makeup artist to set supervisor and costume designer, at times struggling to stay afloat. She paid her dues in small-town theatre, indie film and music videos before breaking into Canadian TV.

Wood worked on a slew of well-known drama series – “Orphan Black,” “Remedy,” “Bitten” and “Defiance,” to name a few – before scoring her dream job on “Schitt’s Creek.” It was a nerve-racking prospect initially. “Being hired on a show with such a big following and well-known cast was intimidating,” she admits, “but soon you realize they’re just normal people doing their jobs.”

And they are people she has grown incredibly close to.

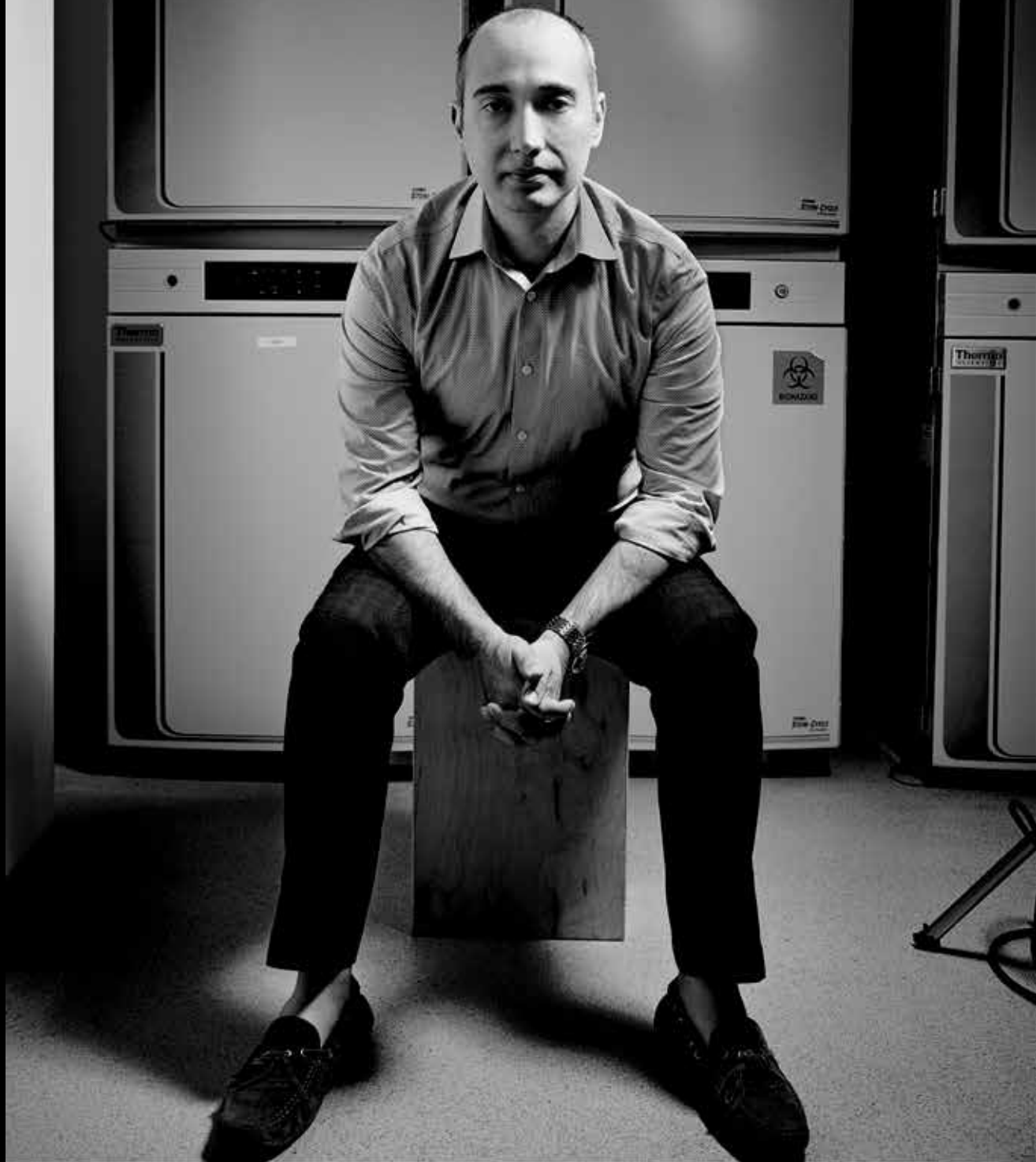
When the show’s sixth and final season airs early next year, Wood, who ironically doesn’t own a television, will be snuggled up on her parents’ couch, a Manhattan cocktail in hand, reminiscing about her time behind the scenes of this truly groundbreaking production.

“I will definitely miss the costumes,” she says, “but I will miss the cast most.” ●

Dressing the Part



REGENERATE



Biology meets engineering in York's stem cell research program

BY DAN FALK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
SOFIE KIRK

L **EUKEMIA, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS,** Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injuries – these are very different ailments with one thing in common: all can potentially be treated with therapies rooted in stem cells. Known since the 1960s, when they were discovered by Canadian researchers Ernest McCulloch and James Till, stem cells have incredible potential value for regenerative medicine.

Research such as that being carried out at the Stem Cell Engineering Lab at York University finds that stem cells can develop into many different types of cells within the body, with a multitude of possible functions. No other cell in the human body is so malleable. But a major obstacle is that stem cells, once removed from a donor's body, typically only stay alive for a couple of days.



We're mindful that the work that we're doing is applied research. We want to see the benefits trickle down to patients....

TERRY SACHLOS: Investigating stem cell therapies to improve quality of life

"If we try to keep them alive in a dish, they die," explains Eleftherios (Terry) Sachlos, York's Stem Cell Engineering Lab director and principal investigator. With a PhD in tissue engineering and 3D printing from the University of Oxford, Sachlos continued his work with stem cells during his post-doctoral research at Harvard, MIT and McMaster. He joined York in 2014.

One of his main goals in this capacity is to figure out what conditions are needed to make stem cells survive for longer periods. Demand for stem cells always outstrips supply, so being able to grow them in the lab could have tremendous payoff. "We're asking," Sachlos says, "how can we keep these blood stem cells alive in a dish, so that we can grow more of them?"

For Sachlos, a cell's environment is the key: conditions in a plastic dish are nothing like those within the human body, so the first step is to be able to move beyond the petri dish to a more realistic environment. Ideally, that environment would closely resemble and mimic that of real bone marrow.

"By engineering the bone marrow, we're creating a 'house' for these stem cells. We're creating these micro-environments,

so that when the cells get removed from the body, it's not too much of a shock for them."

The challenge of keeping stem cells alive combines basic biology with techniques drawn from engineering – which makes it perfectly suited to Sachlos's combination of talents. "We're using engineering principles to try to control and manipulate the cells," he says. That includes building a 3D matrix, a sponge-like structure in which cells can live and thrive as they would in human bone marrow.

The move to a 3D environment is crucial, says Farrah Sawh, a graduate student working in York's Stem Cell Engineering Lab. "Traditionally, cell cultures have been created in a flat, 2D plastic dish," she says. "But we're not 2D organisms; we're 3D."

The next step is to duplicate the body's building materials – calcium, collagen, elastin and the various proteins that hold it all together. In the lab located in York's Life Sciences Building, Sawh tries out different combinations of those key ingredients, honing in on those that produce the best results.

"If you get even half of the cells still living after five days," she says, "then you're doing something right."

It's clear is that there's a growing demand for stem cells across North America. According to a recent report, the stem cell market is increasing by some 9.5 per cent annually. "Stem cells have the potential to transform the treatment of several chronic and incurable diseases," says Sandra Donaldson, vice-president of the Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

"Innovative stem cell therapies have the potential to improve the quality of life of affected patients and families," and can also generate considerable economic benefits as the technologies become commercialized, she says. At the Stem Cell Engineering Lab, which opened last year, research is front and centre – but with an eye on commercialization. Sachlos has been working with several industry partners and has been involved with the Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science & Technology program at York, which supports tech-based start-ups.

"We're mindful that the work that we're doing is applied research," says Sachlos. "We want to see the benefits trickle down to patients, and the best way you can do that is through a commercialization route."

Bone marrow transplants have been used to treat leukemia since the late 1950s; so far, more than one million transplants have been carried out, with some 50,000 people receiving a bone marrow graft every year worldwide.

But bone marrow transplants also offer hope for the treatment of autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis (MS), Sachlos says.

Unfortunately, bone marrow transplants remain dangerous; the mortality rate is about 10 per cent. In the case of leukemia, because the disease is so deadly, patients often decide to have the transplant despite the risks.

Because MS is less deadly, patients sometimes choose to forgo the transplant and live with the disease and its consequences. But if those transplants could be made safer, it would be a big step forward, Sachlos says, and having more stem cells available could do just that.

"What if we could get that 10 per cent down to 0.1 per cent? What if we could make it safer?" That can potentially be achieved just by having more stem cells available. "The more stem cells you inject, the safer it becomes." ●

Giving

FRIENDS & PHILANTHROPY



Cause and Effect

"A hidden gem" in the heart of Jane and Finch

BY IRA LAMCJA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD

BEING FROM the Jane and Finch community, Talisha Ramsaroop (BA '14, MA '17) has always been surrounded by negative stereotypes.

"When you're from Jane and Finch, higher education and opportunities aren't what people think of when they think of you," Ramsaroop says.

There were times, she says, when these stereotypes made her question her self-worth. There were times when she never thought she would have the opportunity to go to university. And there were times when she didn't dare to imagine she would ever make an impact on her community.

BIG IMPACT: (left to right) Administrative Assistant Tessa Jean, Manager Byron Gray and Community Projects Co-ordinator Talisha Ramsaroop

All she wanted was just to finish high school. She was an absentee student and didn't dare to dream of anything more.

Everything changed for Ramsaroop when, in grade 11, she went on a field trip to York University organized through the Advanced Credit Experience program, which gives high school students from the Jane and Finch neighbourhood a chance to experience life at York. That program prompted her to imagine herself going to university.

"I looked around me and I thought, OK, I can actually do this. I can see myself here," Ramsaroop says.

The next year, she enrolled at York, completed her undergraduate degree, earned a master's degree and eventually committed her career to inspiring local youth to pursue a post-secondary education.

Today, Ramsaroop is a community project co-ordinator at the York University-TD Community Engagement Centre (TD CEC), where she connects with local high school students to empower them to pursue their dreams.

A Decade of Impact

Walking around Yorkgate Mall, you might not notice the TD CEC. Surrounded by retail shops in the heart of the Black Creek community, the centre's storefront in the mall looks small and unassuming. But inside lies a world of possibility, connections, deep knowledge and love for Jane-Finch.

Since the TD CEC first opened its doors in 2008, it has served nearly 70,000 people from Black Creek and has become a catalyst for breaking barriers and changing stereotypes.

"York University has transformed from community participant, to leader, to a fully engaged institution in the Black Creek community," says York University President and Vice-Chancellor Rhonda L. Lenton.

"As part of our commitment to access and connection, we have brought together community, university and civic partners in a spirit of inclusion and empowerment," says Lenton. "We couldn't have done it without the TD Bank Group and look forward to the next 10 years of breaking down barriers through university-community-private sector partnerships."

York University and TD Bank Group recently celebrated a decade of impact with a funding commitment of an additional \$1 million from The Ready Commitment, TD's newly launched corporate giving strategy. With this new infusion, the centre will be equipped to evolve its services to meet the changing needs of Jane-Finch.

The TD CEC has changed significantly since Lorna Schwartzentruber worked there. As the former manager of the centre, Schwartzentruber recalls her struggle to forge partnerships in the community and at York University.

"At that time, people just didn't even know that this centre existed," Schwartzentruber recalls. Her team worked tirelessly to forge partnerships, build relationships and provide programming.

"The TD CEC is such a hidden gem at York," Schwartzentruber says. "When we first started, no one had any idea what we did. But that has changed as the community becomes more involved in the centre and more people at the University learn about what a fantastic resource it is."

A New Way Forward

This new gift will help people shift from precarious work to promising career opportunities.

"The skills needed for jobs today are vastly different than five years ago," says York alumna and TD Bank Group head of customer and colleague experience Norie Campbell (LLB '95, LLM '03).

"It is critical that there are resources and places where individuals can seek assistance to learn and upskill to thrive in the economy," Campbell says. "I'm so proud of the work that the TD CEC is doing, offering programs and leadership to ensure that in-career workers can feel confident about their future."

As manager of the TD CEC, Byron Gray's ambition is to strengthen and solidify the university-community partnership.

And to this end, Gray has a public call for the York community.

"We want you to know that we are here, we are a great resource and we are willing to work with anyone who is looking to do any kind of community-based work," Gray says. "Come work with us." ●

Alumni

Feeling No Pain

The nurse who really does make it better



BY DEIRDRE KELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK

YORK DID NOT HAVE a nursing program when Kathy Popovski (BA '95) first came to the Keele Campus as an undergraduate in the 1980s.

The closest thing the University had at the time to help her realize her goal of becoming an advanced practice nurse was Health Studies, a multi-faceted program offered through the School of Health Policy & Management.

Popovski, who already had a nursing diploma from Ryerson University, enrolled anyway, taking eight years to complete the three-year degree, mainly because she did it part time while holding down nursing jobs at two major city hospitals.

She took even longer with the master's in nursing she took at the University of Toronto, again because she did it while working full time in health care.

"For five years of my life," she says, "I worked straight week-ends, doing 12-hour shifts, and studied and went to class during the week."

But you hardly need to ask if it was worth it.

Today a nurse practitioner, one of her profession's highest rankings, Popovski works in the acute pain division of St. Michael's Hospital, a leading Toronto trauma facility.

Pain is her specialty for the simple reason she has a low tolerance for it.

"I am the one who asks the dentist to put me under even for a filling," she says. "I am so sensitive to pain, not just in myself but in others. I really want to make the pain go away."

What she has learned about managing pain during a 35-year nursing career she learned mostly first-hand, starting with babies in pediatric care and proceeding to adults in hospital burn units.

At St. Mike's, where she has been employed since 2011, Popovski now uses that experience to treat patients – approximately 3,000 a year – whose pain comes from a variety of causes, surgery for instance, or a violent attack. Gang war victims are unfortunately a common occurrence at a downtown hospital like hers. Popovski has seen it all.

In an office shared with other members of the hospital's collaborative pain management team, and certainly looking more funky than pharmaceutical in patterned blue trousers, a magenta shirt the colour of her hair and lace-up bronze platform trainers (her version of sensible shoes), she reflects on some of the more extreme cases to have come her way.

Top of list is the new mother who suffered a life-altering injury when dragged under the wheels of a garbage truck – a heartbreaking story. And then there's the young man who suffered extensive burns to almost every inch of his body because of an industrial accident. His pain, she recalls, was terrible.

"I remember the burn victim especially because his sister told me he liked music and it gave me the idea to play his favourite songs while cleaning his wounds," says Popovski, known for combining textbook learning with empathy and practical experience on the job.

"I noticed that this calmed him a great deal, it helped with his healing and it made me realize the importance of taking a multimodal approach to treating acute pain, not just with analgesics but with alternative therapies, including music and movement."

Popovski is big on non-opioid alternatives, especially since much of the developed world has become enmeshed in a growing opioid epidemic. She feels a keen sense of responsibility to try and right a wrong that she believes she and other members of the medical profession helped create by trusting pharmaceutical company claims that fentanyl and other high-potency synthetic opioids were not addictive.

"I prescribed them myself," Popovski says. "I actually told patients that there was no harm in taking them." She knows differently now. These new narcotics can be extremely addictive and so must be handled with care. Which is where her expertise as a nurse practitioner comes in.

"Opioids are one of the most effective ways to relieve pain, along with nerve blocks, injections that interfere with pain receptors in the body, and regional analgesia," she says. "But there can't be an overreliance. It's important to find new ways to ease a patient's suffering." ●

AFTER BEING CALLED to the bar, Nina Richmond (LLB '86) now sings in bars – belting out standards from the Great American Songbook while backed by musicians who, like her, came out of York University's Osgoode Hall Law School. Her voice is sensual and powerful, on that I do swear.

Full disclosure: I was her roommate at university, and I can still remember the thrills of her trills, which she used to let loose while taming her dark mane of hair in front of our shared room's dresser-top mirror.

Hamming it up, she would turn her brush into a microphone. Drowning out the birds chirping outside the residence window, she would sing, sing, sing on her way to class – waking up the dorm in more ways than one. “I have always sung,” she says. “It takes me away.”

Away from her worries, she means. And, lately, away from the successful career she built over 24 years as a Toronto lawyer. Richmond recently made the leap to full time singing (as well as voice-over work) after decades of keeping it as her passion on the side.

Growing up in London, Ont., she trained as a classical pianist. At university in Toronto, while an undergraduate pursuing a general arts degree, she headlined late-night coffee houses, singing covers of Carole King and her favourite songs from Broadway musicals.

Everyone believed that she would one day be a professional performer.

But law – as everyone and their uncle never fail to tell you – was (and still is) the more practical choice, as the profession that pays the bills and puts food on the table.

For Richmond it did that and more, allowing her a chance to run her own practice for 21 years and work from home while raising two daughters with her husband of 31 years, fellow Osgoode grad Martin Ross (LLB '87).

But, in her case, the law was also a family legacy. It was what her father, Alec Richmond, another Osgoode alum, had done after being called to the bar in 1948. Nina wanted to follow in his footsteps. She ended up doing that in more ways than even she had anticipated.

Her dad had also been an amateur performer, acting at university and later at London Little Theatre, even while working as a prominent real estate lawyer. He sang too, participating in intimate concerts with similarly tuneful

friends at London-area restaurants like La Casa Ristorante and Marienbad.

So, like father, like daughter? A rhetorical question.

When Ninatchkala, to call her by her nickname, came to Osgoode in the late 1980s, she signed up to sing and act in the school's annual Mock Trial musical. She did the shows for three consecutive years. She couldn't help herself. Performing was in her blood and it made her realize that she did have what it takes to make it on the stage.

“It was a turning point for me,” she says. As it was for other Osgoode students also performing in those amateur productions.

Mock Trial was where other would-be lawyers whose love of music would run like a bass line throughout their studies and legal careers came to play, socialize and stay connected with the arts. Department of Justice Canada general counsel Henry Gluch (LLB '87) remembers it well.

“Brian Fukuzawa (LLB '87) was the musical director of Mock Trial. Nina sang. I played saxophone. Stewart Cruickshank (LLB '87) played trombone. Steven Leitl (LLB '86) played bass. James Brender (LLB '87) and Avi Slodovnick (LLB '87) played drums. Roger Rowe (BA '82, LLB '87) played guitar,” says Gluch, speaking from Ottawa. “We performed jazz in the JCR and after law school formed the Advocats and Tokyo Giants, groups still in existence to this day. We all continue to perform, and my life has been enriched by it.”

More than 30 years later, R & B band Tokyo Giants remains predominately made up of lawyers, with four of the nine current members being Osgoode grads.

The 17-piece Advocats Big Band, meanwhile, has lost some of its original lawyer players but it still retains a strong connection to York University now that grads Jonnie Bakan (BFA '87, MA '99, PhD '04) and Mike Lewis (BA '91), professional musicians both, have joined the fold.

Richmond, the only Osgoode grad left standing in the Advocats, regularly performs at Toronto venues like the Rex Hotel, the Old Mill and the Duke Live.

Now that JAZZ.FM91, Canada's premier jazz station, has started giving the band airtime, word of Richmond's vocal prowess is spreading. After all these years, she's becoming the star we always thought she would be.

“I love Nina's voice, otherwise I wouldn't play her records,” says JAZZ.FM91's big-band jazz authority, Glen Woodcock. “She sounds pretty good – for a lawyer.” ●

SHE'S WITH THE BAND

A lawyer sings her dues

BY DEIRDRE KELLY PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF KIRK



Classes

1984

BARNES, SYLVIA
(MBA Schulich)

Earlier this year, Sylvia joined the board of directors of Teekay LNG Partners, one of the world's largest marine energy transportation, storage and production companies. She is currently a principal and owner of Tanda Resources LLC, a privately held oil and gas investment and consulting company.

BENAYON, CHARLES
(BA Health)

In 2003, Charles founded Aspiria Corp., a Canadian company offering

employee and student assistance programs in the form of mental health counselling. Active in his community, Charles donates his time by volunteering at Toronto East General Hospital and co-chairing Tourette Canada's annual charity golf tournament.

1993

PRESEMENT, BRIAN

(BA Hons. Political Science)

Recently, Brian was appointed chief executive officer of Duncan Park, a Toronto-based minerals exploration corporation. Previously,



MIEKA FORTE
(BA Health '02)

he was president and CEO of Unite Communications Corporation and, before that, vice-president business development of telecom company VOXX.

1997

GRATES, TONI
(BA Theatre)

Following graduation, Toni founded the Travelling Stage, an arts education company working in partnership with Mirvish Productions and providing students and teachers with an opportunity to participate in dance, drama and music workshops alongside established performing artists and instructors. Presently, it services 36 school boards across Ontario and Manitoba.

1998

DI MARCO, LIANA

(MA Environmental Studies)

A multimedia artist, writer, teacher and musician, Liana creates work around themes of survival, free speech, justice, faith and hope. In 2019, she published her first book, *Beyond Pain: Livin' La Vita*, a collection of poetry, art and short stories.

2002

FORTE, MIEKA

(BA Health)

A certified yoga instructor, Mieka incorporates yoga philosophy with her clients and teaches happiness workshops. Recently, she published her first book, *The Many Sides of Happy*, about her own stories and happiness strategies. Mieka lives in Ontario and is happily married with two energetic sons.



TRISH EXTON-PARDER (BA Mass Communications '84)

A summer job in the community relations department at the Calgary Zoo inspired Trish to fall in love with media relations, focusing on creating stories about conservation. After graduation, she landed a permanent job at the zoo, which led to a rewarding 34-year career with the organization. She retired in January.



MARY-MARGARET SCRIMGER
(BA English '03)

2003

SCRIMGER, MARY-MARGARET

(BA English)

Mary-Margaret worked in the publishing and finance fields before receiving training in circus arts, a hobby that turned into a career. Today, 11 years later, she spends many days hanging in the air as a trapeze specialist. With Anandam Dancetheatre, Mary-Margaret performed in *Glaciology* and *Cascades*, large-scale works presented at Nuit Blanche Toronto in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

2007

AKINWEKOMI, TOSIN

(BAS)

Over the past decade, Tosin has led transformational initiatives in the financial services and non-profit

sectors. Currently, as director of change management for RBC's internal audit transformation, he is looking to reshape the future of auditing. Outside of work, Tosin is the co-founder of Beam Inc., a non-profit that, from 2008 to 2016, rebuilt two schools in Nigeria and provided school supplies for 3,000-plus underprivileged children.

2009

LIU, VINCENT

(iBBA Schulich)

Working in accounting and advisory roles for the early part of his career, Vincent joined RBC's corporate development team in 2012. As an early member of RBC Ventures, in 2017 he co-founded Butter, a web app that tracks and manages paid online subscription services (including Spotify, Netflix and Amazon Prime) while paying cash rewards.

2010



MUDIMU, RUFARO

(BA Hons. International Development Studies)

While attending York,

Rufaro worked at both the Centre for Student Success and the International Students' Association at York, experience that led to a career in the non-profit social enterprise industries in Canada and South Africa. In 2019, Africa's leading media and public

relations agency, Avance Media, named her one of the 100 Most Influential Young South Africans in the Social Enterprise and Philanthropy category.

2011

AMBROSINO, PASCAL

(BBA Schulich)

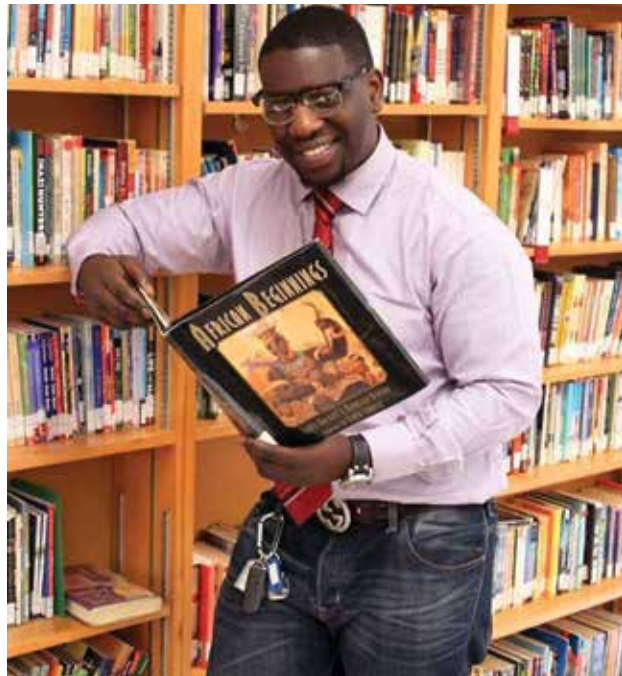
After more than five years of working in corporate Canada, Pascal moved to Rwanda and co-founded two social enterprises: FinanceYOU, launched in 2017, which provides consulting services and customized training programs to finance teams in both



LILLY SINGH (BA Health '10)

Earlier this year on the "Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," it was announced that Lilly would be replacing Carson Daly as the host of NBC's late-night talk show. With the launch this fall of "A Little Late with Lilly Singh," the Toronto-raised comic and YouTube star is the only female hosting a late-night talk show on one of the four major U.S. television networks.

Classes



AUGUSTINE OBENG (BA Hons. Criminology, BEd '13)

non-profit and for-profit organizations; and the African Accounting Academy, launched in 2018, which develops the next generation of accountants in the region.

2013

KOHLI, NEHA
(BBA Schulich)

The founder of her own tax consulting practice, Neha divides her time between being a chartered professional accountant and a comedian. A graduate of the Second City's Conservatory program, she received the organization's 2018 Diversity Fellowship, awarded to the 15 brightest new voices in comedy. Neha currently teaches for the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario and is a program designer and facilitator for the Artscape Daniels Launchpad.

OBENG, AUGUSTINE

(BA Hons. Criminology, BEd)
After leaving York, Augustine landed a teaching job with the Toronto District School Board in 2015. The following year, he published *Changing Lanes: The First XXV*, an ebook based on his work with youth from the Jane-Finch community where he grew up. In 2016, Augustine was accepted into the Master of Social Work program at the University of Toronto, where he won the Ghanaian-Canadian Social Service Award. Today, he works with Unison Health & Community Services in North York, Ont.

RIZZI, DERYN

(MA Disaster & Emergency Management)
Deryn is the new chief of the Vaughan Fire & Rescue Service and the first woman to hold that role. She joined

the service in 2001 as a firefighter and was promoted rapidly through the ranks, rising to acting captain and eventually captain. An aide-de-camp to Ontario's lieutenant-governor, Deryn is currently completing a PhD in gender, feminist and women's studies at York University.

2014

PRATT, DAN

(BA Hons. Political Science)
For the past two years, Dan has been hiking long-distance trails around the world. Recently, he successfully hiked the 2,000-kilometre Peace Trail between Jordan and Israel. His next adventure will take him from Canada

to Mexico, travelling 4,989 kilometres along the Continental Divide Trail.

2015

DURWARD, LUKE

(BA Health)
At York, Luke won the 2013 university-wide "This Is My Time" vision contest after writing an essay in which he forecasted that by 2023, as CEO of a fitness and nutrition company, he would make Canada the leader in reversing the growing number of obesity and type 2 diabetes cases. Today, as an entrepreneur and owner of the Village Gym Vaughan, Luke is making good on that goal by encouraging others to live a healthy lifestyle.



VINCENT-PHILIP MIRENZI (BA English '14)

From 2015 to 2018, Vincent-Philip helmed NFL Canada's social media channels and provided on-site coverage of Super Bowls 50, LI and LII. As well, he helped execute The Great Canadian Handoff, a groundbreaking program celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary in which NFL players and personnel with Canadian ties handed the Canadian flag off to one another when their teams played during the 2017-18 season.

WILLEY, KIM
(LLM Osgoode)

Kim is a corporate mergers and acquisitions lawyer with 15-plus years of experience advising boards of directors and senior executives. She currently advises as a senior corporate counsel at ASW Law Limited and teaches business associations at the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. Kim completed her PhD at the University of Cambridge and her thesis, "Stock Market Short-Termism: Law, Regula-

tion, and Reform," is scheduled to be published as a book this fall.

In Memoriam

D'AUGEROT-AREND, SYLVIE

(Professor Emerita, BA '72, MA '74, PhD '82)
A graduate of York University, Sylvie joined the Glendon Department of Political Science where, in 1994, she was awarded a Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada strategic grant to study the presence and activities of francophone women in the Greater Toronto Area. A beloved teacher, colleague, researcher and author whose academic career was at Glendon until her retirement in 2002,

Sylvie was born into a distinguished French aristocratic family that has one ancestor's name on her mother's side engraved on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. She passed away in Toronto on April 8.

NG, PEGGY

(Professor, BA '80, MA '83)
An accomplished statistician, Peggy joined the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at York University in 1996. A past president of the Southern Ontario Regional Association of the Statistical Society of Canada, she leaves behind a rich legacy of research in the areas of patient safety and modelling of health statistics, in addition to countless papers on qualitative inquiries concerning environmental health

and quality of life in oncology. Peggy passed away at the age of 64 on May 4.

TAIT, TERENCE J.

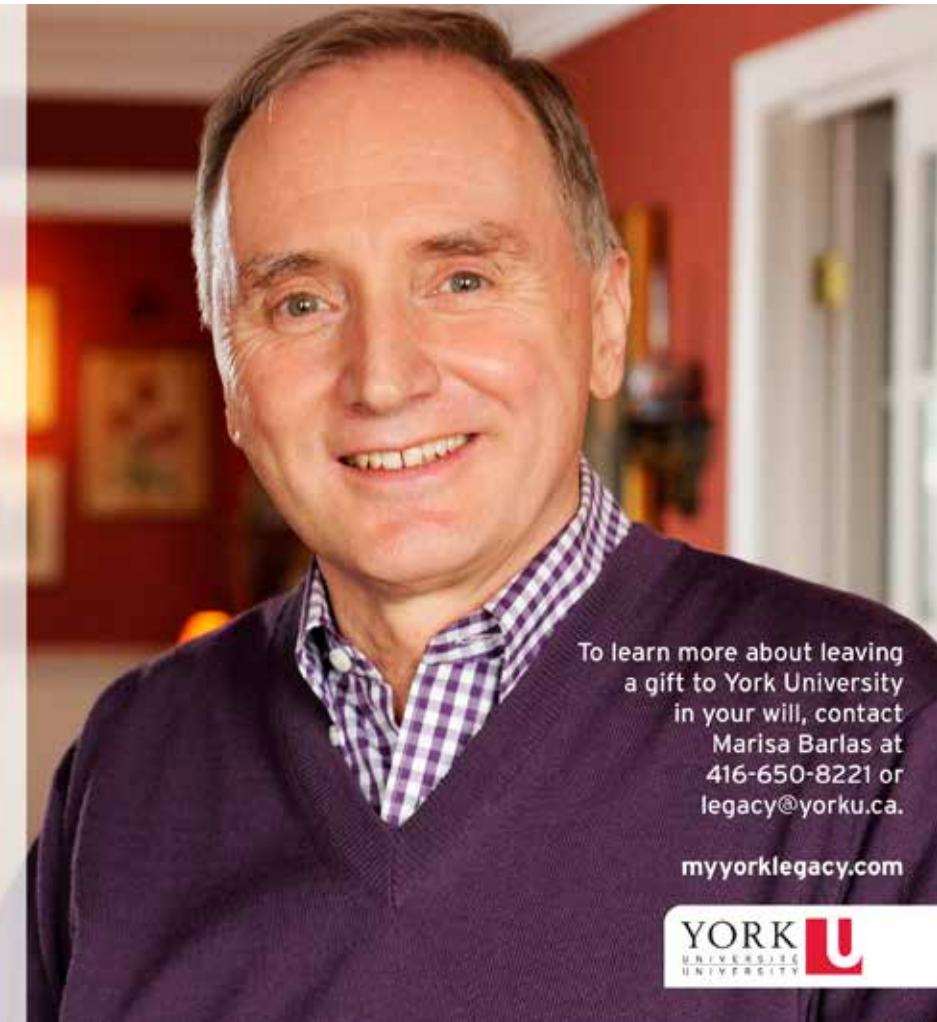
(LLB Osgoode '66)
After graduating from Osgoode Hall Law School, Terry served as corporate counsel for Goodyear Tire Canada. In 1968, he moved to Kingston, Ont., entering a partnership with James Herrington. Upon his retirement from law in 2003, he focused on managing his real estate holdings and giving his time generously, undertaking leadership roles in several organizations and boards. He died peacefully at Providence Care Hospital at the age of 77 on June 1.

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To learn more about leaving a gift to York University in your will, contact Marisa Barlas at 416-650-8221 or legacy@yorku.ca.

myyorklegacy.com



Noteworthy

I F IT'S TUESDAY it must be Toronto. Because Monday is Milwaukee and Wednesday is Macau, followed by Hong Kong, Los Angeles and Orange County, roughly in that order.

Leonard Brody (LLB '97) checks his cell phone. Yup. That insanely peripatetic schedule looks about right.

There's a seventh day, and it's back home in Vancouver, where in about a week's time the Canadian venture capitalist with a global clientele (including a European royal family and a celebrity or two) is planning to return. Not to rest, mind. But to recharge and go-go-go all over again.

"Boredom is not an emotion any adult should feel; being bored is not an adult experience," says Brody, 48, while on a layover in Toronto where the born and bred Calgarian also conducts business. "Things you can do can be boring. You could be in a boring job. But we're living in the most abundant moment of humanity, so I just don't get it when people say they are bored. I am never bored. I am tired a lot but never bored. It's just not allowed."

Brody lives and dies by that rule. His brain is as wide-roving as his flight pattern, investigating everything from music-generating artificial intelligence to consumer-facing technologies in the growing gaming market.

Over the past 20 years, he has worked in the sports and concert promotion industries and run an e-commerce company that went on to become one of the largest internet initial public offerings in history. He has also authored two successful books on business innovation and has another in the works, *The Great Rewrite*, a collaboration with *Forbes* magazine based on the successful documentary series first produced last year concerning new digital trends and how they are rewriting the way we work and live.

As if that weren't enough, Brody is a shareholder and part owner of the English professional soccer team Coventry City, an in-demand speaker at G8 summits and the United Nations, and the founder of NowPublic, a pioneering citizen journalism site that he cannily sold for a big whack of cash to the Anschutz Entertainment Group in the U.S. in 2009, launching his present career as a venture capitalist.

Brody honed his ambitions at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School, attending as an out-of-province student in the 1990s even though he didn't think a law career was ultimately for him.

His uncle, Canadian lawyer and media czar Izzy Asper, had strongly advised him to get a law degree before making

his way out into the world, advice Brody dutifully if not begrudgingly heeded. "Certainly, I never saw myself working in a law firm wearing a suit," he says. "I still don't own a suit. It's just not me."

Almost as soon as he joined a Bay Street law firm post-graduation he left it to develop the sports agency he had already launched on the side while an articling student. From there, Brody quickly moved on to even bigger game, working with brands like Facebook, Pepsi and Warner Bros. to innovate and build systems and structures to take their companies forward in the digital age.

Today, as the co-founder and executive chair of Creative Labs, a joint venture with Creative Artists Agency (CAA) in L.A., Brody oversees the building of new ventures for international celebrities and political leaders. Working with one of the world's largest sports and entertainment agencies has brought him even bigger recognition.

For raising hundreds of millions in capital for startup companies and helping to steer them in the right direction, Brody has earned a coveted spot on this year's Thinkers50 Radar list as one of the top 30 up-and-coming management thinkers on the planet.

Compiled by Thinkers50, a U.K.-based global business ideas platform, the list comprises people from around the globe whose work will shape the future of how organizations are managed and led. Heralded as a "digital visionary," Brody is the only Canadian ranked in 2019.

"At Thinkers50, we are interested in people who think about business and who put their ideas to work," says the platform's co-founder Stuart Crainer, speaking from England.

"What brought Leonard Brody to our attention was his blending of entrepreneurial vigour with interesting ideas about the future shape of organizations. It is a powerful combination."

Brody will pick up his award at the Thinkers50 gala, the Oscars of the management world, taking place in London in November.

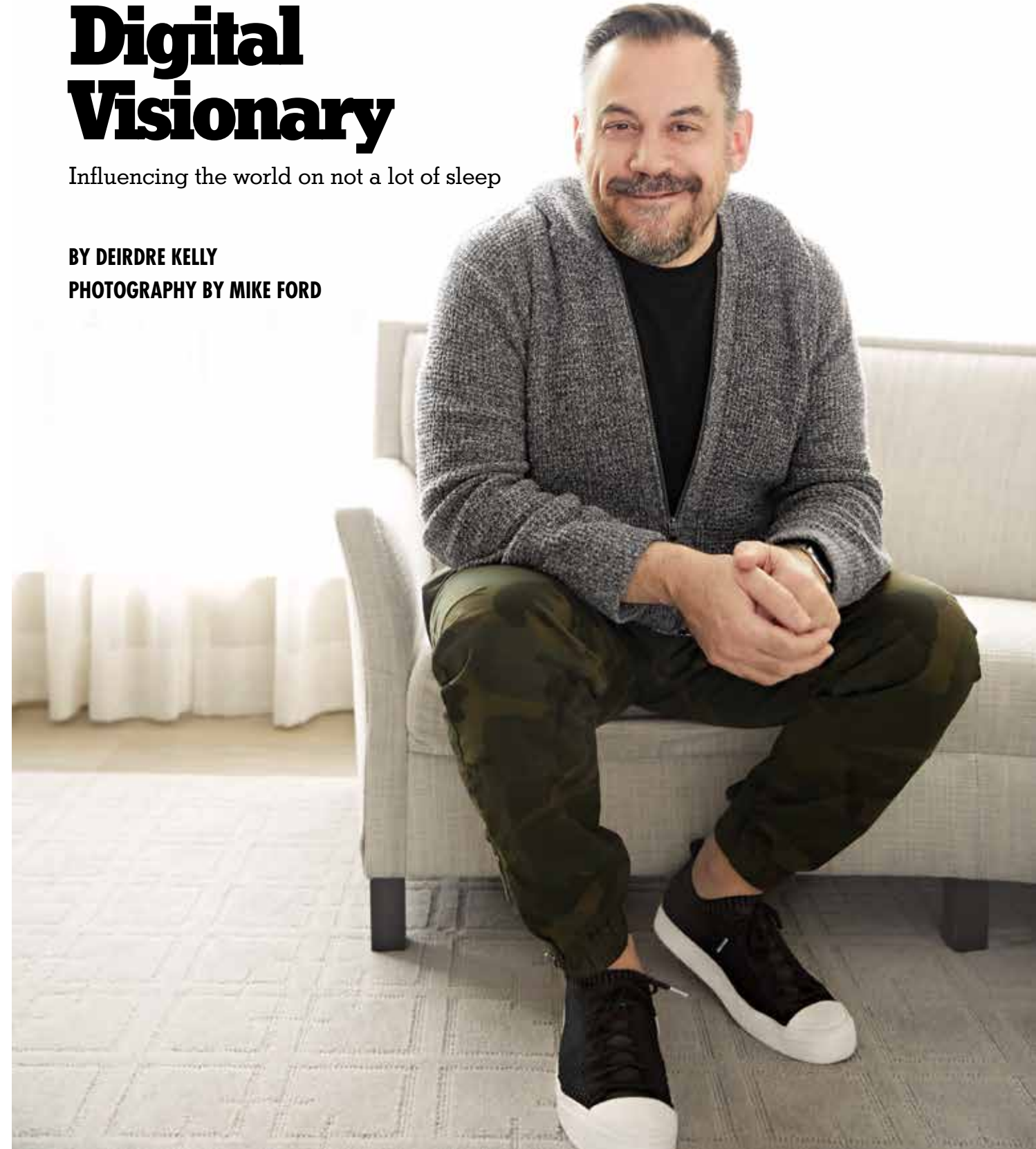
It's a prestigious affair that might prompt Brody to finally buy that suit. Provided he can find the time.

"Some people really do believe their own hype. But to me that's not reality. That's not being authentic to yourself," he says, stealing another glance at his constantly pinging phone. "Be real about where you're at and you'll always know where you're going." ●

Digital Visionary

Influencing the world on not a lot of sleep

BY DEIRDRE KELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE FORD





Flashback

Have a great photo from your days at York?

Email us at magnotes@yorku.ca

IN 2003, York University's 24th annual Science & Engineering Olympics attracted more than 800 high school students from across the country to participate in a series of science games aimed at getting young people engaged in scientific research and discovery, one of the University's recognized strengths.

Most of the activities took place in and around the Computer Science & Engineering Building (now the Lassonde Building) at York's Keele Campus, with prizes going to the top three schools emerging from the day's competition.

Several participants took inspiration from what scientists at York had been investigating since the founding of the Centre for Research in Experimental Space Science (now the Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science) in 1965.

Supported by the Canadian Space Agency, York scientists have literally flown high – into outer space and back. Some of the students who attended the 2003 Science Olympics – like those shown here – wanted to emulate those superhero feats by holding up science projects that roll outside the box. ●

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Anonymous

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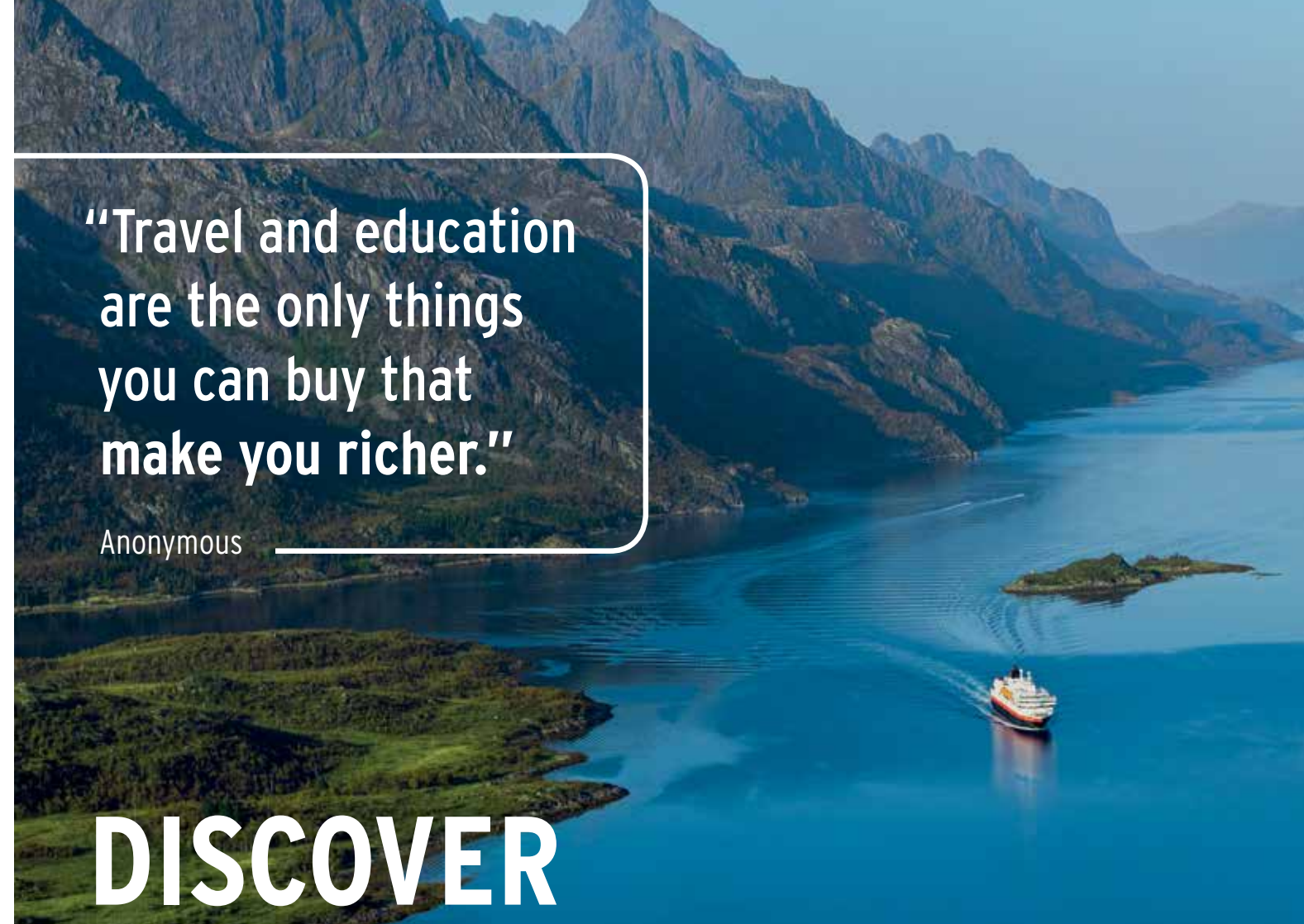
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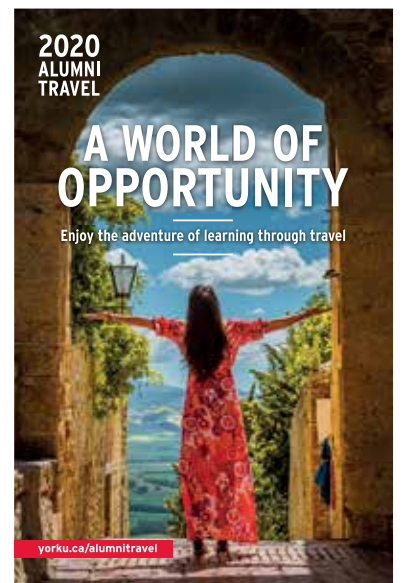
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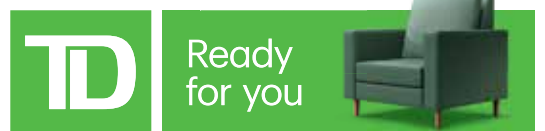
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