

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE



Every day, the students, faculty and staff of our graduate community come together to advance knowledge, serve society and transform our world. **Welcome to our changemaker collective.**

**Ryerson
University**

**Graduate
Studies**

2017-18 Year in Review

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PROVOST AND DEAN

There is power in storytelling. The stories we tell shine a light on people, places and ideas that otherwise might go unheard. In a world filled with so many compelling and competing stories – including those not necessarily for the greater good – it is important to give voice to the unfolding stories of Ryerson’s changemaker collective.

The Year in Review captures the groundswell of contributions by students, faculty and staff to the future of graduate education at Ryerson. As the following pages demonstrate, these diverse individuals are reimagining our world with passion, whether driving technology into new territory, challenging societal paradigms, or fostering connections and creating opportunities for our graduate community.

While there can be a tendency to view graduate education as an amorphous concept, this publication counters that notion with stories of real people who are tangibly transforming society, industry, and creative and scholarly expression. The myriad intersections between past and future, faculty and students, research and community contribute not only to our legacy as a global urban innovation university, but also form a road map to a shared and brilliant future.

Dr. Jennifer Mactavish
Vice-Provost and Dean

*Yeates School of
Graduate Studies*



GRADUATE STUDIES AT A GLANCE



New programs

Master of Health Administration in Community Care

Financial Analysis Professional Master's Diploma

Federal and provincial scholarship support*

\$5 MILLION

Federal and provincial scholarships*

266

Programs

Master's

42

PhD

15

Professional Master's Diplomas

9

Vanier Scholars**

12

YSGS members**

970+

Students*

2,660



Distinguished visiting professors[◊]

52

* 2017-18 data

** Total to date

◊ As of May 2018

OUR TOP PRIORITY

Engaging students with opportunities for development, expression and co-creation

Attracting future students
 YSGS launched a revamped online portal for prospective graduate students (ryerson.ca/graduate/future-students), highlighting information about programs, research, funding, student life and profiles of current students. In conjunction with the digital portal, YSGS published a new and expanded admissions viewbook.

Student Contests



Digital Engagement

1,000+ Facebook fans can't be wrong

Since its launch in September 2016, the Graduate Studies Facebook page has exceeded expectations with more than 1,000 likes and followers. With 2.7 million visitors to date, the page continues to engage current and prospective grad students. This year, more than 1,000 people streamed events via Facebook Live, including GRADTalks, Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) and the GRAD Contests awards. A new series, Alumni of Grad Studies, showcases the diversity and wide-ranging impact of Ryerson graduate alumni.



Dr. Felix Odartey-Wellington, communication and culture PhD alumnus, communication professor at Cape Breton University and public affairs officer for the Canadian Armed Forces.
 Photo: Tammy Williams

“How will you create change in your world?” video contest

Winners
 Conor DeVries
Documentary Media MFA

Sina Dolati-Ardejani
Media Production MA

Yunqi You, Vinh To and Ayhan Kamran Isaacs
Master of Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship MEIE

Honourable mentions
 Patience Adamu and Ugonna Omeziri
Policy Studies PhD and Master of Science in Management MScM

Mahbub Hasan and Sarah Rashid
Social Work MSW

Emilia Zibaei
Master of Digital Media MDM

“ME + 3: How is your graduate education transforming you?” selfie contest

Winners
 Ryan Fernandes
Architecture MArch



Natasha Ramoutar
Professional Communication MPC

Cyrus Sundar Singh
Communication and Culture PhD

Honourable mentions
 Angélique Bernabé
Economics PhD

Nerissa Karen Cruz
Aerospace Engineering MEng

Talia Eylon
Documentary Media MFA

GRAD Contests reveal transformation

Graduate students from all faculties participated in two contests this year. In partnership with the Offices of Community Engagement and Social Innovation, the first contest invited students to share their vision for making an impact in their world through a 30-second video presentation. The second contest asked students to show how their graduate education is transforming them using a selfie and three words.

Events



A trifecta of GRADTalks

Approximately 300 students, joined by faculty and staff, attended three GRADTalks events this year: “Charting Your Career Journey,” “Engineering Wellness” (in partnership with the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science and the Centre for Social Innovation) and “Growing Your Network” (above). The events featured interactive activities, panel discussions and networking opportunities.



GRADShowcase: by students, for students

More than 150 students, faculty and staff attended the first interdisciplinary conference created by grad students, for grad students. The full-day event featured workshops, a panel discussion on how to succeed in and after grad school, and a research showcase of more than 60 presenters.

Forums for student voices

GRADCafé engaged grad students with a fall session on how to continue fostering and nurturing a graduate community at Ryerson, and a special winter workshop on diversity and inclusion, led by award-winning diversity and leadership expert Ritu Bhasin (below).

The inaugural **Community Transformation Café** – presented in partnership with the John C. Eaton Chair in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Melanie Panitch – was led by Cathy Paton, a master of social work alumna and social arts facilitator. The participatory session featured improvisational activities and techniques to enhance networking skills.

Finally, YSGS launched a **Graduate Student Advisory Panel** to enable students to share ideas and insights about graduate education at Ryerson, and to collaborate on new initiatives.



Explaining a thesis in three minutes

Civil engineering PhD student **Lama Al Faseeh** was named this year’s Ryerson Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) winner for her research on the impact of introducing autonomous vehicles into traffic with human drivers. Al Faseeh represented Ryerson at the Ontario 3MT®, hosted by York University in April.



Diversity expert Ritu Bhasin

Supporting student wellness

Counsellors **Dr. Maria Chaparro** (C.Psych.) and **David McNeill** continued to support graduate students through one-on-one sessions and workshops on developing self-confidence, postponing procrastination and more. YSGS wishes Dr. Chaparro and her family the best on her maternity leave.

OUR STORIES

Meet our changemakers

The students, faculty and alumni whose extraordinary vision and passion drive us toward a bold and bright tomorrow

2



- 2. Dalia Hanna
- 3. Matthew Ferguson
- 4. Dr. Hong Yu
- 5. Dr. Lila Pine (pictured) and Dr. Joanne DiNova
Photo: Alia Youssef
- 6. Andrew Brankley
Photo: Eugen Sakhnenko
- 7. David Grant

4



3



5



7



Feature

- 1. Dr. Alexander Ferworn and Dr. Jean Li

History and Computer Science professors collaborate on robot archeology project



GRADUATE STUDIES

6



2017-18 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE SPIRIT OF EXPLORATION

Dr. Alexander Ferworn
Graduate Program Director,
Master of Digital Media and
Professor, Computer Science

*Faculty of Science and
Interdisciplinary Studies*

Dr. Jean Li
Professor, History

Faculty of Arts



What happens when an Egyptologist and a roboticist work together? The result is a robot capable of exploring treacherous tunnels dug by looters in an ancient desert town in Egypt.

Dr. Jean Li, history, and Dr. Alexander Ferworn, computer science, and graduate program director of the master of digital media (MDM) program, collaborated on designing a robot for Dr. Li's archeological dig last summer. What began as a class project-turned-final exam, became a real-life site assessment at el-Hibeh, a 3,000-year-old city in Egypt plagued by aging, erosion and looting since it was discovered.

Students from Dr. Ferworn's MDM program constructed six robots, with one chosen to be used in Egypt. MDM grad Rob Blain and computer science PhD student Jimmy Tran contributed to the final robot prototype, mostly designed and constructed at the Isaac Olowolafe Jr. Digital Media Experience Lab.

Mounted with an action camera, the robot travelled 27 metres underground to relay information about the site to Dr. Li's team. Using a robot to investigate the site proved to be an ideal choice given the narrow spaces of el-Hibeh and the importance of preserving its delicate landscape.

"Overall it was a successful mission," said Dr. Li. "The robot was deployed six times over four days and helped us assess the environment."

"The robot was deployed six times over four days and helped us assess the environment."



Far left: At the Ontario Science Centre, Dr. Jean Li demonstrates the robot used to explore Egyptian tunnels.



“Cross-disciplinary collaboration facilitates a common understanding of goals and ultimately leads to success.”

The dig wasn’t without its hiccups. The robot performed really well but because of erosion, looting and modern debris changing the original layout of the el-Hibeh site, the robot had trouble moving on loose sand and travelling up 45-degree inclines.

“There’s nothing that can replace the human experience of going through a site,” said Dr. Li. “But this is the first step in learning about the site. The robot was always meant to be a tool, not to replace the human archeological element.”

For Dr. Ferworn, the collaboration informed his work as a roboticist: “Cross-disciplinary collaboration facilitates a common understanding of goals and ultimately leads to success. I’m a big believer in it.”

The experience was also a learning opportunity for Dr. Li. As a history professor and Egyptologist, her expertise isn’t in operating or repairing robots. Dr. Li says it was an interesting experiment for her team to handle the robots themselves – Dr. Ferworn was not on the trip – learning how to drive them, navigate rough terrain and troubleshoot issues.

Despite the challenges, the research excursion helped her gain a better understanding of ancient Egypt.

“This is all in the spirit of exploration. The site at one time was a town where people lived, loved and died. They have left behind signs of their life and we’re rounding out a picture of the past that seems so removed from modern society. It helps us figure out how we got here.”



Research team members (2016-17 season)

Namir Ahmed
Digital Media Experience Lab coordinator

Rob Blain
Master of Digital Media (MDM) alumnus

Dr. Michael Carter
Creative Industries professor

Kristian Howald
MDM alumnus

Jimmy Tran
Computer Science PhD student (opposite page)

Acknowledgement

The researchers thank Igor Stomp, Eyolf Inc., for generously providing safety and technical rescue training and equipment to the project field team.



USING DRONES TO LOCATE PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Dalia Hanna
PhD Student,
Computer Science

Faculty of Science



Many years ago in her homeland of Cairo, Egypt, Dalia Hanna's aunt Lucy began wandering from the long-term care facility where she was admitted for dementia in her late 60s. One day, however, Lucy left and never came back.

It is estimated that six out of 10 Alzheimer's patients will go wandering; one in five will suffer injury if they are not found within 24 hours. Hanna, a computer science PhD student, aims to improve search-and-rescue efforts using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones. Whereas traditional searches conducted by police officers and volunteers require substantial time and resources, automation and a bird's-eye view make UAVs far more efficient.

As part of Ryerson's Network-Centric Applied Research Team (N-CART) led by Dr. Alex Ferworn, Hanna is developing an algorithm that will predict a wanderer's path, using data provided by startup Ubimodo. Last summer, she also partnered with the Ontario Provincial Police to conduct drone search tests in Mississauga and Brampton. Hanna's research is funded through Dr. Ferworn's association with a multi-university Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (CREATE) grant for Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation (ADERSIM). Ultimately, she hopes her research will prevent families from losing loved ones like Aunt Lucy.

In addition to being a PhD student, Hanna is also program director, community services at The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education. With a bachelor's degree in engineering, a master of science in instructional design and technology, and Project Management Professional certification, Hanna truly espouses The Chang School's mantra of lifelong learning.

"The nature of working in higher ed is that you continue learning," said Hanna. "So I felt a PhD was a natural progression for me."

And while graduate education is important, Hanna's family remains her top priority. In particular, she aims to be a role model for her nine-year-old daughter, not only as a seeker of knowledge but also as a woman in science.

"Nothing can stop her," said Hanna. "I tell her that all doors are open to her – she just has to choose."



PhD student Dalia Hanna exhibits her research on drone-assisted location of lost dementia patients at the Ontario Science Centre.

"The nature of working in higher ed is that you continue learning."



BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY INTO ARCHITECTURE

Matthew Ferguson
Master's Student,
Architecture

*Faculty of Engineering and
Architectural Science*



Growing up in Ontario's Thousand Islands region gave Matthew Ferguson a closer connection to nature than most Torontonians. With its need for ferry transportation and energy solutions in isolated areas, it's no wonder the environment cultivated the master of architecture student's passion for sustainability.

In 2017, Ferguson was part of the team behind LaneZero, a sustainable urban laneway housing concept that won the grand prize at the U.S. Department of Energy's 2017 Race to Zero student design competition.

"I learned from many incredibly talented students outside of my program, including engineers and building scientists that I am now proud to call friends," said Ferguson.

Later, he played a key role in the EcoStudio project, an interdisciplinary team of students, professors and industry professionals united in creating sustainable homes. Together, they developed ZeroHouse, a townhouse that generates as much energy as it consumes. ZeroHouse was showcased at EDIT: Expo for Design, Innovation and Technology as a model of sustainable architecture.

"It was a fantastic learning experience for students to see how decisions get made, how to compromise without losing sight of key ideals, and how to drive a project forward in the face of the kinds of logistical and financial setbacks that occur with all projects," said Cheryl Atkinson, the architecture faculty lead for EcoStudio and Ferguson's thesis supervisor.

For his thesis, Ferguson is continuing to explore sustainable design, but this time in the context of a purely natural environment. He is designing a landscape park in a marsh on Howe Island, located near Kingston, Ont. The project demonstrates how architecture can magnify a person's experience of nature.

Central to Ferguson's growth as an architect has been Ryerson's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration. "Having the building science program in the same building as architecture made it easy to walk downstairs with my laptop to get feedback on models from building science students. Interfacing with different people in this way was great preparation for how the industry works in the real world."

Through his work, Ferguson aims to show that construction can be environmentally sensitive without compromising design integrity. "Sustainability should be a foundation for all buildings, which can then become places of beauty."



"Interfacing with different people in this way was great preparation for how the industry works in the real world."



Left and above: Architecture professor Cheryl Atkinson supports Matthew Ferguson as his thesis supervisor.



Dr. Hong Yu
Interim Associate Dean,
Research and Graduate
Programs and Professor,
Retail Management

*Ted Rogers School of
Management*

MAKING OPPORTUNITIES POP UP FOR STUDENTS

In today's fiercely competitive retail industry, pop-up shops are a win-win-win proposition: consumers enjoy an ephemeral shopping experience, brands can test-drive new products and downtown neighbourhoods benefit from increased foot traffic and revitalization. Dr. Hong Yu, a retail management professor in the Ted Rogers School of Management (TRSM), is researching this trend – and providing experiential learning opportunities for students in the process.

Funded by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Dr. Yu and a team of TRSM graduate and undergraduate students, faculty and staff conducted field research on a variety of pop-up shops last summer. The results informed an etextbook funded by eCampus (“Pop-up Retail Strategies in Omnichannel Context”), an MBA research project and an undergraduate course on pop-up retailing.

The research also generated content and case studies for a Virtual Knowledge Commons for Pop-up Shops (pop-upshops.ca), which offers resources such as video tutorials for entrepreneurs, landlords and the pop-up community. More tangibly, a modular pop-up kiosk was installed in the TRSM building for use by entrepreneurs, community members and students. Since its launch in October 2017 with Kenneth Cole, the space has hosted pop-up events by 15 brands, with TRSM students gaining hands-on work experience.

Another way that Dr. Yu supports students is as a graduate supervisor. To date, she has supervised or served as a committee member for more than 70 graduate students. “Supervising is very rewarding because you feel you have made a unique impact in developing the next generation of researchers,” she said.

Currently, Dr. Yu is serving as interim associate dean, research and graduate programs at TRSM. The role has deepened her knowledge about policies, best practices and managing complex issues. “It’s very challenging but quite exciting because every day is different.”

Whether collaborating with students, faculty or staff, Dr. Yu relishes being a vital member of the Ryerson graduate community. “It’s exciting to interact with graduate students who have ambitious goals. I’m also inspired by my faculty colleagues, who are very engaged and dedicated to providing real-world learning opportunities for graduate students.”



“I’m inspired by my faculty colleagues, who are very engaged and dedicated to providing real-world learning opportunities for graduate students.”

Research team members

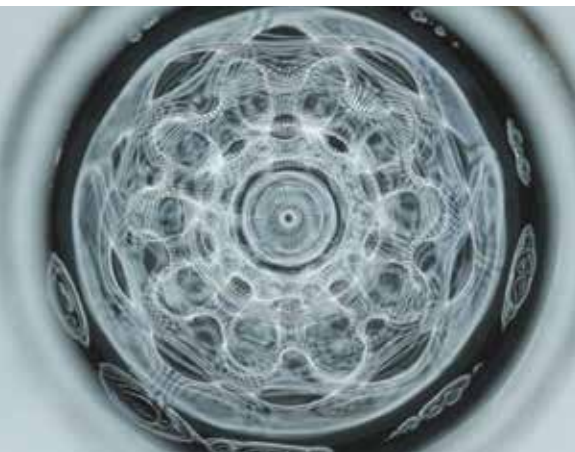
- Chelsea Heney**
Master of Science in Management (MScM)
- Jasmin Matalla**
Ted Rogers MBA
- Ksenia Sergueeva**
MScM
- Rahi Tajzadeh**
MScM
- Dana Marlatt**
Retail Management

**Dr. Lila Pine (right)
and Dr. Joanne DiNova**
Professors, New Media and
Professional Communication

*Faculty of
Communication
& Design*

CREATING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ON CAMPUS





“If you can visually represent spoken language, you may be able to see differences in worldview.”

Like most research, it began with a question. “Can you show me what language looks like?” Dr. Joanne DiNova asked her fellow Indigenous colleague Dr. Lila Pine, both based in the Faculty of Communication & Design (FCAD).

Thus began their research on language visualization using CymaScopes, scientific instruments that produce images based on sound vibrations in water. By comparing the voiceprints of spoken English and Indigenous languages, they hope to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between ways of speaking and knowing.

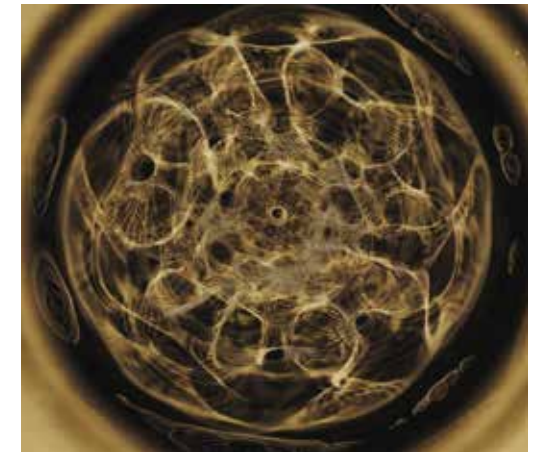
“Language affects how we see the world and think,” said Dr. DiNova, a professional communication professor. “And if you can visually represent spoken language, you may be able to see differences in worldview.”

Their investigation is one of the initiatives based out of Saagajiwe, a transdisciplinary Indigenous centre for research and creation launched by FCAD in 2017. Named after the Anishinaabe word for the emerging light of dawn, Saagajiwe’s mission is to facilitate the dissemination of Indigenous thought and culture. In addition to research, priorities include Indigenous creative expression, interdisciplinary curriculum development and creative spaces on campus.

During the 2017 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Pine collaborated with Billy Merasty, Saagajiwe’s inaugural artist-in-residence, on *Survival through Sovereignty*, an installation consisting of 150 cedar planks hanging inside a tipi on campus. Printed on the planks were the names of Indigenous children who died while fleeing residential schools. A sunrise naming ceremony for Saagajiwe was also held in the tipi during Congress.

Each day, people flocked to the tipi to honour the children and hear stories by Merasty, a Cree actor and playwright. “It showed that if you do something in an Indigenous setting, people will come,” said Dr. Pine, a media production professor.

Other Saagajiwe initiatives include plans for a rooftop sweat lodge and medicine garden – similar to the one atop nearby Native Child and Family Services – as well as a structure inspired by traditional architecture for Indigenous ceremonies, performance, studios, labs, exhibition and storytelling.



Above: Dr. Lila Pine’s voiceprint created using a CymaScope.

Opposite page, above: A tipi houses the *Survival through Sovereignty* installation during Congress 2017.

Opposite page, below: Dr. Joanne DiNova’s CymaScope voiceprint.



KEEPING US SAFE FROM HARM

Andrew Brankley
MA Alumnus and
PhD Student, Psychology
Faculty of Arts

Every year in Canada, an estimated \$3.6 billion is spent on the direct and indirect effects of child sexual abuse. This includes public and private costs in the areas of health, social services, justice, education, research and employment. Andrew Brankley sees this as an opportunity to use research to protect the public and give back to the community.

An alumnus of Ryerson’s clinical psychology master’s program and a current PhD student, Brankley is investigating whether pedophilia is better understood as a category (such as autism or biological sex) or an age preference. By interviewing adult male offenders in the correctional system, he hopes to guide prevention efforts by identifying individuals before they commit a sex crime.

Similarly, Brankley’s master’s thesis focused on the prevention of sexual violence by trying to understand offenders’ motivations. Dr. Alasdair Goodwill, Brankley’s master’s supervisor and PhD co-supervisor, supported his ambitions and opened doors so he could flourish as a researcher. His other co-supervisor is Dr. Karl Hanson, adjunct professor at Carleton University, research manager at Public Safety Canada and a world expert in risk assessment. Dr. Hanson provided Brankley with access to a vast network of researchers, which has been instrumental to his investigation.

Currently, Brankley is completing a clinical residency at The Royal, a leading mental health care and academic health science centre in Ottawa. Working in the satellite Secure Treatment Unit in Brockville, he is conducting assessments, and providing treatment and consultation for individuals with a history of sexual offending, in addition to other groups. According to Brankley, the role offers a good balance between research and clinical practice, along with opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and seeing first-hand how psychology fits into the overall mental health treatment plan.

In 2014, Brankley became the first Ryerson psychology student to receive a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, valued at \$150,000 over three years. The scholarship gave him credibility as an emerging researcher and opened doors on his journey.

“Ryerson always encouraged me to take chances and try new things, to ask ‘Why not?’” said Brankley. “It represents a group of individuals who are passionate about education and are constantly trying to improve that experience for students.”

Following his PhD, Brankley plans to continue research in risk assessment with a postdoctoral fellowship. His focus will be on enhancing the interpretation of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist – Revised (PCL-R), a widely used assessment tool in the criminal justice system, in order to improve how the relationship between psychopathy and criminal behaviour is communicated.

“These are major public health problems that are preventable. By gaining a better understanding of criminal behaviour, I hope to contribute to the solution towards keeping Canadians safe.”



“Ryerson always encouraged me to take chances and try new things, to ask ‘Why not?’”

FLIPPING THE SCRIPT ON BLACK MEN'S PAIN

David Grant
Master's Alumnus,
Social Work

*Faculty of Community
Services*



As a young Black man in Scarborough, David Grant questioned a term he heard often: “angry Black man.” Yes, he was angry – at losing his grandmother at a young age, dealing with the challenges associated with his younger brother’s autism, finding out his cousin was sentenced to life in prison and having a close Black male friend murdered. To make matters worse, he was repeatedly kicked out of class for “disruptive behaviour.”

Grant investigated the stereotype through Ryerson’s master of social work (MSW) program. His major research paper (MRP), “They Don’t Really Care About Us,” examined the lives of previously incarcerated Black men in Scarborough and found that their heightened exposure to racism and violence in the streets led to hypermasculinity and displaced anger towards their community and themselves.

For his research, Grant received the Faculty of Community Service’s Dean’s Graduate Writing Award. His MRP supervisor, Dr. Samantha Wehbi, social work professor and associate dean, student affairs, Yeates School of Graduate Studies, was “thrilled to see his creative, original and thought-provoking work recognized as outstanding... David’s writing style is eloquent and scholarly and demonstrates his ability to weave in the literature to support his own ideas, while offering a unique perspective all his own.”

Grant credits Dr. Wehbi with helping to foster his love for research and academia, and constantly pushing him to do his very best. “She is one of the main people who made my graduate experience unforgettable,” he said. Additional faculty support came from Dr. Jennifer Poole, MSW graduate program director, who encouraged his journey, Professor Idil Abdillahi – “one of the most intelligent people I’ve ever met” – and Dr. Henry Parada, who inspired Grant’s interest in international research.

As an extension of his MRP, Grant recently delivered a TEDxRyersonU talk entitled “Black Men’s Pain,” in which he draws the connection between slavery’s dehumanizing, destructive effect on Black people and the all-too-common “school-to-prison pipeline” for Black men. As he simply states: “I, as a Black man, am subject to death, detriment and incarceration from the skin that I am in.” Grant concludes by calling for understanding, empathy and a restructuring of the criminal justice and education system.

Currently, Grant is a family service worker with the Toronto Children’s Aid Society, in order to gain frontline experience before pursuing his PhD. He hopes to become a professor and show the next generation that they too can reject the “angry Black” script and be the author of their own stories.

“I, as a Black man, am subject to death, detriment and incarceration from the skin that I am in.”

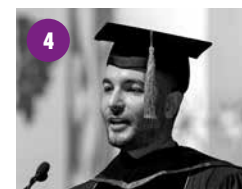


CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Recognizing exceptional accomplishments inside and outside the classroom

Student Awards

Governor General's Academic Gold Medal
 Mechanical and industrial engineering PhD alumna **Dr. Fatma Mokdad** received Ryerson's most prestigious academic award for achieving the highest GPA in a graduate program. For her dissertation, Dr. Mokdad focused on deformation behaviour in advanced magnesium and aluminum alloys for lightweight structural applications, in order to improve fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the automotive and aerospace industries.



Ryerson Gold Medals

During her philosophy MA degree, **Madelaine Ley (1)** maintained a high GPA while earning a SSHRC scholarship, serving as interim director of Boarding Homes Ministry, co-founding a chapter of Minorities and Philosophy, attending conferences and participating in internationally renowned programs such as Yale University's Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics.

In addition to achieving the highest GPA in his graduating class, documentary media MFA alumnus **Eliot Wright (2)** served as co-chair of the annual DocNow film festival, mentored fourth-year photography students and curated the annual Chang School Photography Exhibition. Based on his work, the City of Toronto Archives invited Wright to curate an exhibition of early 20th-century and contemporary images of Dupont Street to illustrate its historical complexity.

Early childhood Studies MA alumna **Nicole Ineese-Nash (3)** excelled as a research assistant, published in scholarly journals, presented at academic conferences, served as president of the ECS Graduate Course Union and volunteered in the community. An Oji-Cree woman and band member of Constance Lake First Nation, Ineese-Nash shared her experiences as an Indigenous woman with the Ryerson community so others could learn from her story. For her outstanding achievements, Ineese-Nash also received a **Board of Governors Leadership Award and Medal**.

Aerospace engineering PhD alumnus **Dr. Afshin Rahimi (4)** received a Vanier Scholarship, a Mitacs Accelerate Award and a Ryerson Student Centre Community Builder Award. In addition, Rahimi received the **C. Ravi Ravindran Outstanding Thesis Award** for his doctoral research, which focused on developing innovative fault diagnosis and prognosis for satellite actuators. He is currently employed as a data scientist at Pratt & Whitney Canada, where he is helping improve the reliability of aircraft engines.

As a result of her research on preventing E. coli outbreaks, molecular science PhD alumna **Dr. Tracy Lackraj (5)** published three journal articles and conducted 26 conference presentations. While at Ryerson, she was highly involved in the Graduate Student Association, the Graduate Program Council, the Departmental Symposium Planning Committee and Women in Science at Ryerson.

MBA alumna **Krysten Connely (6)** served as vice-president of communications for the MBA Students' Association, volleyball team captain for the MBA Games and vice-president of funding for Ryerson's Women in Leadership Association. Connely was also a successful participant in extracurricular case competitions at the national and international levels.

MDM alumnus **Nelson Kimron Corion (7)** was named among the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' 30 Under 30 entrepreneurs. Corion is the co-founder of I Am Grenadian, an online community for Grenada and its diaspora, developed in Ryerson's Transmedia Zone. An advocate for entrepreneurship, he encourages young people to create their own opportunities.



Ryerson's first Trudeau scholar

Policy studies PhD student **Vathsala Illesinghe** was named Ryerson's first Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation scholar for her research on the intersection between immigration policy and violence against women. Awarded to only a handful of doctoral students in Canada for academic excellence and civic engagement, the prestigious three-year scholarship is valued at more than \$200,000.



Protecting Earth's most precious resource

Katherine Minich, policy studies PhD student, and **Edgar Tovilla**, environmental applied science and management PhD student, were named inaugural recipients of the **Geoffrey F. Bruce Fellowship in Canadian Freshwater Policy**. Minich is analyzing and documenting Indigenous values and knowledge of Arctic watersheds, in order to inform federal freshwater policy. Meanwhile, Tovilla is examining environmental policy convergence in two realms: across municipal drinking water, wastewater and stormwater governance, and across government sectors applying private-sector management system standards to supplement regulatory requirements.



Vanier scholars explore community-engaged research

Psychology PhD students **Rachel Bar** and **Fiona C. Thomas** received Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, valued at \$150,000 over three years. Thomas is examining trauma and resilience in post-conflict Sri Lanka, while Bar is investigating the benefits of dance programs for people with Parkinson's disease.



Dennis Mock Student Leadership Awards

Named in honour of former Vice-President, Academic, Dennis Mock, these awards celebrate students who have made outstanding voluntary extracurricular contributions to Ryerson.

Andrew Na
Applied Mathematics MSc

Brenda Wong (above left)
Psychology PhD

Yanjing (Winnie) Wu (above right)
Documentary Media MFA



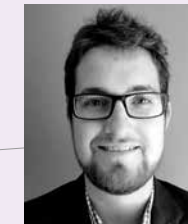
Dennis Mock Graduate Scholarship

Aerospace engineering master's student **Taha Rezzag-Lebza** was awarded a Dennis Mock Graduate Scholarship in recognition of his accomplishments. "This scholarship will enable me to fully concentrate on my research and studies," said Rezzag-Lebza, whose research involves using computer simulations to improve the efficiency of airplane gas-turbine engines.

Startup success



Ted Rogers MBA alumnus **Daniel Bokun** and his partners pitched their augmented-reality startup Gimme360° on the CBC entrepreneurship show *Dragons' Den*. In the end, they scored a \$125,000 deal with the option of an additional \$125,000 the following year. "The deal couldn't have been better for the branding and legitimacy of our company," said Bokun.



Electrical engineering master's alumnus **Nicholas Burgwin** plans to disrupt the industrial sensing market with Fibos, a startup he co-founded with Michael Bakaic. Together, they created a fibre-optic sensor-measurement platform that replaces conventional technology with advanced, affordable optical sensors. Fibos has received financial support from the Norman Esch Engineering, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards, iBoost and several Ontario Centres of Excellence awards.



Funded by a stage-three Esch Award, alumnus **Wes Leewis** plans to change the way migraines are diagnosed through Headache Sciences Inc., a startup he developed through the master of engineering innovation and entrepreneurship program and incubated at iBoost. Currently, Leewis is collaborating with medical researchers in order to commercialize his groundbreaking technology.

Supporting our students

YSGS Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Education Award recipients

As a professor and researcher, **Dr. Alagan Anpalagan (1)** provided mentorship to graduate students and created numerous opportunities for professional development within and outside Ryerson. Dr. Anpalagan has been instrumental in advancing the graduate education and research agenda in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Currently serving as the early childhood studies graduate program director, **Dr. Rachel Berman (2)** is an outstanding professor, researcher, mentor, adviser and administrator. She is sought after as an MRP supervisor and highly regarded for her tireless efforts to create a well-supported culture within the program. Her impressive and long-lasting impact is reflected in the high publication rates for her graduates and their continued success.

A Biomedical Physics professor and clinical physicist at the Odette Cancer Centre, **Dr. James Gräfe (3)** provides clinical training while supporting cutting-edge, relevant research projects for graduate students. Since 2015, Dr. Gräfe has built a robust research program with a bustling laboratory full of both graduate and undergraduate students.

Dr. Karen Milligan (4) played a pivotal role in developing training for clinical psychology students interested in children's mental health. This included serving as associate director of clinical training, developing and managing a practicum in child assessment, supporting students in obtaining clinical placements and supervising research evaluating innovative treatments to support children's mental health.

Dr. Paul Moore (5) is an award-winning researcher, gifted teacher, dedicated supervisor and was the visionary director of the joint communication and culture program from 2012 to 2017. Dr. Moore fostered the intellectual and professional development of students and supported them in obtaining grants and fellowships, publishing in top journals and securing tenure-track teaching positions and applied research careers.

Since joining Ryerson in 2007, **Dr. James Tiessen (6)** has made an enormous contribution to graduate education as MBA director, and developing the new master of health administration in community care. Under his entrepreneurial and innovative leadership, the Ted Rogers MBA established its reputation as a top Canadian MBA.

A committed scholar, engaged researcher, dedicated supervisor and passionate teacher, **Dr. Matthew Tiessen (7)** made exceptional contributions to graduate education, through both the professional communication and communication and culture programs. Graduate students and faculty alike have benefited from his commitment to inclusion, collegiality, transparency, and pedagogical innovation and excellence.



Dr. Samantha Wehbi and **Dr. Cory Searcy** joined YSGS as Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Associate Dean, Programs, respectively. Among other responsibilities, Dr. Wehbi focuses on the quality of student experience and engagement, while Dr. Searcy oversees the graduate component of the institutional quality assurance process mandated by the Quality Council.



Dr. Janice Waddell joined YSGS as the inaugural Director of Experiential Learning (EL). In this important new role, Dr. Waddell will conduct a systematic review of existing EL opportunities, develop measures to track EL opportunities and outcomes, and provide guidance and suggest resources to graduate programs looking to incorporate EL opportunities.



YSGS congratulates **Rachel Trozzolo (right)**, strategic initiatives and policy advisor, on receiving an Alan Shepard Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award with Laurie Stewart, communications director, administration and operations. Trozzolo and Stewart are co-chairs of Positive Space at Ryerson, a staff and faculty community network for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, committed to creating and maintaining a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.



Jo Ann Mackie retired after 13 years as graduate program administrator for the communication and culture joint program with York University. "Knowing that I have helped hundreds of students to successfully complete the program touches me deeply," said Mackie, who worked with six graduate program directors during her Ryerson career. YSGS commends her years of service and wishes her the best for her retirement.

WHO WE ARE

As a shared endeavour, graduate education would not be possible without these Ryerson leaders. A special thank you to the following long-serving faculty for their significant contributions over the years: Dr. Janet Lum, former associate dean, Faculty of Arts; and outgoing graduate program directors Dr. Carl Kumaradas, biomedical physics; Katy McCormick, documentary media; and Dr. Duncan MacLellan, public policy and administration.

Associate Deans with Graduate Responsibilities

Faculty of Arts

Dr. Alexandra Orlova

PhD, Law, York University

Research areas: transnational organized crime, Russian organized crime, international terrorism and international crimes

Faculty of Communication & Design

Dr. Jean Bruce

PhD, Humanities, Concordia University

Research areas: multiculturalism and sexuality in Canadian cinema; melodrama and visual culture; advertising and consumer culture; property television in trans/national contexts

Faculty of Community Services

Dr. Pamela Robinson

PhD, Environmental Geography, University of Toronto

Research areas: urban sustainability, environmental design, environmental planning, urban governance, civic technology, open government, public engagement and progressive pedagogy

Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science

Dr. Miljana Horvat

PhD, Building Engineering, Concordia University

Research areas: solar energy and architecture, advanced energy-efficient facades, sustainability

Faculty of Science

Dr. Michael C. Kolios

PhD, Medical Biophysics, University of Toronto

Research areas: ultrasound imaging, acoustic microscopy, optoacoustic imaging, optoacoustic microscopy, optical coherence tomography, use of microbubbles and nanobubbles for imaging and therapy, theranostics, bioheat transfer, hyperthermia, thermal therapies

Ted Rogers School of Management

Dr. Hong Yu (interim)

PhD, Apparel, Merchandising, and Design, Iowa State University

Research areas: omni-channel shopping experience, inclusive retail design, aging customers, pop-up retail strategies

Graduate Program Directors

Aerospace Engineering

Dr. Jeffrey Yokota

PhD, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Cornell University

Research areas: aerodynamics, propulsion and mathematical fluid dynamics
 jyokota@ryerson.ca
 416-979-5000, ext. 4173
 ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/aerospace-engineering

Architecture

Dr. John Cirka

PhD, Media and Communication, European Graduate School

Research areas: time, digital design, geometry, form
 jcirka@ryerson.ca
 416-979-5000, ext. 6491
 ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/architecture

Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Stephen Waldman

PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Dalhousie University

Research areas: in-vitro development of functional soft connective tissue, mechanical stimulation of cells and mechanical conditioning of the developed tissue, perfusion bioreactors for tissue engineering, influence of nutrient delivery and supply on tissue formation
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 416-979-5000, ext. 4200
 ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/biomedical-engineering

Biomedical Physics

Dr. Carl Kumaradas (outgoing)

PhD, Medical Biophysics, University of Toronto

Research areas: medical physics, thermal therapy, nanotechnology, biophotonics, computational modelling
 ckumarad@ryerson.ca
 416-979-5000, ext. 7462
 ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/biomedical-physics

Building Science**Dr. Russell Richman***PhD, Civil Engineering,
University of Toronto*

Research areas: developing a climate-specific Passive House standard for North America, innovative envelope systems and economic analysis addressing the existing energy inefficient Canadian building stock
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Chemical Engineering**Dr. Chil-Hung Cheng***PhD, Chemical Engineering,
Texas A&M University*

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Child and Youth Care**Dr. Judy Finlay***PhD, Social Work,
Wilfrid Laurier University*

Research areas: peer violence among incarcerated youth, children's rights and citizenship, narratives from elders, relationships among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples
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416-979-5000, ext. 4809
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/child-youth-care

Civil Engineering**Dr. Songnian Li***PhD, Geomatics and Geodesy,
University of New Brunswick*

Research areas: geographical information sciences with focus on geospatial big data analytics, geo-collaboration, dynamic geospatial web services, spatial decision support, moving object data, urban mobility studies using geosocial media data, and web/real-time applications
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Communication and Culture**Dr. Jeremy Shtern***PhD, Communication,
Université de Montréal*

Research areas: communication policy, digital technologies, globalization and communication, creative work, social media advertising, internet governance, communication rights and the right to communicate, regulation and political economy of Canadian media and creative industries
jshtern@ryerson.ca
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Computer Networks**Dr. Bobby Ma***PhD, Electrical Engineering,
University of Waterloo*

Research areas: network protocols, software-defined networking
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Computer Science**Dr. Kosta Derpanis (outgoing)***PhD, Computer Science,
York University*

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Criminology and Social Justice**Dr. Idil Atak***PhD, Law, Université de Montréal*

Research areas: irregular migration, refugee protection, and international and European human rights law
idil.atak@ryerson.ca
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ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/criminology-and-social-justice

Data Science and Analytics**Dr. Ayse Bener***PhD, Information Systems,
London School of Economics*

Research areas: machine learning, recommender systems and big data applications
ayse.bener@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 3155
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/data-science-analytics

Digital Media**Dr. Alex Ferworn***PhD, Systems Design Engineering,
University of Waterloo*

Research areas: computational public safety in relation to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) response, disaster management technology, mobile, field and response robotic systems, algorithms, secure and counter-covert applications
aferworn@scs.ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 6968
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/digital-media

Documentary Media**Prof. Katy McCormick (outgoing)**
*MFA, Fine Arts, School of The Art
Institute of Chicago*

Research areas: commemorative sites, narratives and social histories of landscapes
kmccormi@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 7327
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/documentary-media

Early Childhood Studies**Dr. Rachel Berman***PhD, Family Studies,
University of Guelph*

Research areas: methods of inquiry, equity and "race" in early childhood settings
rberman@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 7695
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/early-childhood-studies

Economics**Dr. Halis Yildiz (outgoing)***PhD, Economics,
Southern Methodist University*

Research areas: international trade, industrial organization, game theory, economic development
hyildiz@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 6689
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/economics-graduate

Electrical and Computer Engineering**Dr. Amirnaser Yazdani***PhD, Electrical Engineering,
University of Toronto*

Research areas: modelling and control of high-power electronic converter systems, application of power electronics in power systems, grid integration of electronically interfaced distributed generation and energy storage systems, microgrids and active distribution systems, and renewable energy systems
yazdani@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 6178
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/electrical-computer-engineering

Environmental Applied Science and Management**Dr. Andrew Laursen***PhD, Biology,
University of Notre Dame*

Research areas: the study of natural ecosystem functions and how they respond to disturbances; biogeochemistry in aquatic ecosystems, production of biogenic greenhouse gases in ecosystems, bioremediation and water treatment using natural or engineered ecosystems
alaursen@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 3389
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/environmental-applied-science-management

Fashion**Dr. Kimberly Wahl***PhD, Art History, Queen's University*

Research areas: examining the complex intersections between academic feminism and the histories and theories of fashion, visual culture and the body, from the late 19th century to the present
kwahl@ryerson.ca
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ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/fashion

Film + Photography Preservation and Collections Management**Dr. Thierry Gervais***PhD, History, L'École des Hautes
Études en Sciences Sociales*

Research areas: the use of photography in magazines and the first photojournalists
gervais@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 2779
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/film-photography-preservation

Immigration and Settlement Studies**Dr. Harald Bauder***PhD, Geography,
Wilfrid Laurier University*

Research areas: migrant labour; sanctuary cities, immigration policies and discourses; ethnic economies (i.e., Toronto's Little India); critical borders studies; critical geographies; Canada; Germany
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ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/immigration-settlement-studies

Journalism**Prof. Asmaa Malik**

MA, *Journalism*,
University of Maryland
Research areas: how people find
and share news digitally, who gets
left behind in the digital divide
asmaa.malik@ryerson.ca
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ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/
journalism

Literatures of Modernity**Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks**

PhD, *English Literature*,
McGill University
Research areas: modernism,
life writing, women's literature,
popular/celebrity culture,
scholarly editing, and digital
humanities
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ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/
literatures-modernity

**Master of Engineering
Innovation and
Entrepreneurship****Dr. Yaser Dahman**

PhD, *Chemical Engineering*,
Western University
MBA, *Ryerson University*
Research areas: biosynthesis and
testing of nanomaterials for
biotechnology and biomedical
applications, bioseparations and
primary recovery of high-value
biopolymers using nanofibers
affinity membranes, design of
airlift bioreactors for biosynthesis
and bioseparation purposes
ydahman@ryerson.ca
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engineering-innovation-
entrepreneurship

**Master of Health
Administration
(Community Care)****Dr. Karen Spalding**

PhD, *Health Policy*,
University of Toronto
Research areas: health-care policy,
health services research, patient
outcomes, home and community
care organization and delivery
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graduate-program

**Master of Science in
Management****Dr. Yuanshun Li**

PhD, *Finance*, *University of Calgary*
Research areas: real option
investment decisions, corporate
governance, structured financial
products, project finance,
cryptocurrency
yuli@ryerson.ca
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master-science-management

Mathematics**Dr. Silvana Ilie**

PhD, *Applied Mathematics*,
Western University
Research areas: computational
biology, development and
analysis of simulation methods
for biochemical systems,
numerical methods, analysis
and computation
silvana@ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 4870
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mathematics

**Mechanical and Industrial
Engineering****Dr. Ahmad Ghasempoor**

PhD, *Mechanical Engineering*,
Queen's University
Research areas: intelligent
manufacturing systems, tool-wear
monitoring systems, optimization
of machining processes
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mechanical-industrial-
engineering

Media Production**Dr. Laurie Petrou**

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Ryerson University
Research areas: fiction writing,
breaking gender conventions,
digital culture
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ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/
media-production

Molecular Science**Dr. Russell Viirre**

PhD, *Chemistry*, *Western University*
Research areas: synthetic organic
chemistry, enantioselective
catalysis, medicinal chemistry,
molecular probe synthesis and
properties, cystic fibrosis drugs
rviirre@ryerson.ca
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ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/
molecular-science

Nursing**Dr. Suzanne Fredericks**

PhD, *Nursing*, *University of Toronto*
Research areas: designing and
evaluating interventions to
support patients undergoing
invasive surgical procedures
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Nutrition Communication**Dr. Judy Paisley, RD**

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University of Guelph
Research areas: knowledge
translation strategies for nutrition
communication
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nutrition-communication

Philosophy**Dr. Glenn Parsons (outgoing)**

PhD, *Philosophy*,
University of Alberta
Research areas: aesthetics,
metaphysics, epistemology
and the philosophy of science
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philosophy

Policy Studies**Dr. Tuna Baskoy**

PhD, *Political Science*,
York University
Research areas: e-government,
market competition and
governance in post-Keynesian
economics, ICTs and policy
capacity, European integration
tbaskoy@politics.ryerson.ca
416-979-5000, ext. 2702
ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/
policy-studies

Professional Communication**Dr. John Shiga (outgoing)**

PhD, *Communication*,
Carleton University
Research areas: media
and environment, science
communication, environmental
communication, media history,
sound studies, music cultures
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professional-communication

Psychology**Dr. Julia Spaniol (outgoing)**

PhD, *Psychology*, *University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill*
Research areas: cognitive aging,
memory and decision making,
motivation and reward
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psychology

**Public Policy and
Administration****Dr. Duncan MacLellan (outgoing)**

PhD, *Educational Administration*,
University of Toronto
Research areas: local and
provincial educational politics
and policy making, state and
teacher relations, local and urban
governance issues
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416-979-5000, ext. 4182
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public-policy-administration

Social Work**Dr. Jennifer Poole (outgoing)**

PhD, *Public Health*,
University of Toronto
Research areas: critical
approaches to well-being;
Mad Studies; sanism in the
workplace, professional practice
and the classroom; precarious
work and its impact on health;
qualitative research
methodologies
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social-work

Spatial Analysis**Dr. Lu Wang**

PhD, *Economic Geography*,
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Research areas: health,
neighbourhood, immigration and
aging; transnational health care;
multicultural retailing; access to
healthy foods; spatial analysis;
accessibility modelling; statistical
modelling; immigration and
settlement
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spatial-analysis

**Ted Rogers Master of Business
Administration programs****Dr. Kimberly Bates**

PhD, *Business Administration*,
University of Minnesota
Research areas: innovation,
corporate governance,
the impact of an aging population
on organizations and society,
diversity and inclusion, and
social innovation
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Urban Development**Prof. Nina-Marie E. Lister, MCIP,
RPP, Hon. ASLA**

MSc, *Planning*,
University of Toronto
Research areas: landscape
ecology, ecological design,
landscape infrastructure,
planning and design for resilience,
urban waterfronts, parks and
natural heritage planning,
biodiversity conservation
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urban-development

LOOKING AHEAD

Taking time to reflect as we move forward

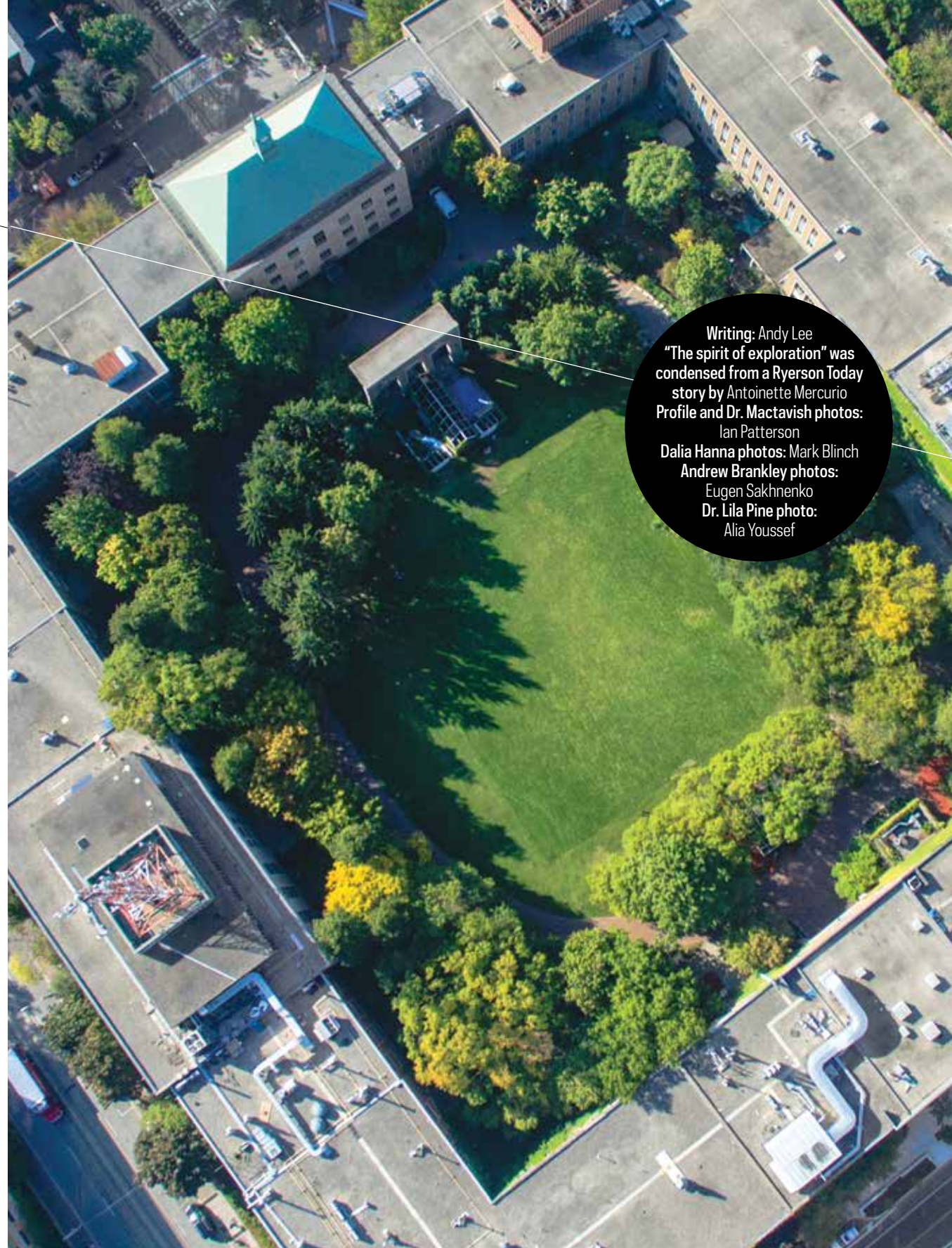
This publication is more than a look back at the previous academic year, it is a look forward into the future.

As Socrates declared, the unexamined life is not worth living. Yet all too often in today's hyperconnected world, the never-ending quest for the next big thing prevents us from pausing to reflect and critically evaluate why we do what we do. Therefore, we must be mindful of not only change, which is constant and essential, but also what kind of change we wish to effect in the world.

By looking back, we realize the totality of what we have accomplished and it inspires us as we move forward. As this Year in Review illustrates, our graduate community is highly inquisitive and driven in manifesting our vision for the future. From philosophical and esoteric to technological and concrete, our changemakers are transforming our world in powerful ways and writing new chapters of our collective story every day and, indeed, every year.




GRADUATE STUDIES



Writing: Andy Lee
"The spirit of exploration" was condensed from a Ryerson Today story by Antoinette Mercurio
Profile and Dr. Mactavish photos: Ian Patterson
Dalia Hanna photos: Mark Blinch
Andrew Brankley photos: Eugen Sakhnenko
Dr. Lila Pine photo: Alia Youssef



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Graduate education is a collaborative responsibility between YSGS and the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Communication & Design, Faculty of Community Services, Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, Faculty of Science and Ted Rogers School of Management.



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**Graduate
Studies**