



No. 12
Our creativity has no limits

No. 2
How to help each other in uncertain times



No. 9
Our senior citizens deserve better care



No. 16
We can use our time in lockdown to grow



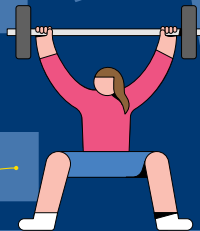
No. 10
We need better ways to support frontline workers



No. 17
How to start a business in a pandemic



No. 5
We are stronger than we think



No. 1
We need a liveable city for everyone



No. 6
Privacy and security matter even more



17 key takeaways from a year of new normals, endless pivots and calls to build a better world



Create the change you want to see in the world.

Realize your future at
[ryerson.ca/graduate/
future-students](https://ryerson.ca/graduate/future-students)



**Ryerson
University**

**Graduate
Studies**

Dr. Loree Erickson, Disability Studies
postdoctoral alumna, artist and activist.

Contents

SUMMER 2021

Sara Yacobi-Harris founded No Silence on Race to create inclusive spaces.



Gould Street

- 3 President's message**
- 5 Hybrid learning flourishes**
In-person labs and virtual hospital help nursing and midwifery students master skills
- 6 Award-winning building**
A look inside the Daphne Cockwell Health Sciences Complex
- 7 Med school ahead?**
Planning begins for a Brampton site
- 8 Research on COVID-19 testing**
Reliable new method can apply to other diseases
- 9 Q & A**
Ryerson's new provost brings whole heart and mind to role

Features

12

17 things we've learned

The last year has shed light on challenges we cannot ignore. We discovered that we have the resilience to face a worldwide crisis and look to the future

26

Navigating the risks of quantum computing

Cybersecurity Research Lab is helping protect organizations from future threats

By Sharon Aschaiek

Alumni Diary

- 29 Making a difference**
Tri-Mentoring advocate Sonny Thaker on giving back
- 30 Listen to this**
Two gifted storytellers share your next favourite podcast
- 32 Life story**
How Sara Asalya creates community for newcomers
- 34 Alumni profiles**
Sara Yacobi-Harris, Mehrnaz Shokrollahi and Christian Allaire on their calling
- 38 Class notes**
Updates from alumni
- 44 Remember when?**
A glimpse of Toronto's past

Contributors and letter from the editor



JEYAN JEGANATHAN

Journalism '13
Writer, Profile of Sara
Yacobi-Harris (p. 34)

Jeyan Jeganathan is a host and field producer for TVO's Ontario Hubs project and its flagship current affairs program, The Agenda. He graduated from Ryerson's journalism program in 2013 and lives in Hamilton, Ont.



WYNNE NEILLY

Image Arts '12
Image Arts '12
Photographer, Alumni
Profiles (p. 34 and 36)

Wynne Neilly is an award-winning photographer and visual artist. His artistic practice, most often, is an investigation into engaging with the queer and trans identity, both on an individual level and relationally within the community. His most recent achievement is shooting Elliot Page as the first trans man on the cover of Time Magazine.



K.J. AIELLO

Writer, Profiles of Peter Chiu, Rachel Kelly and startup by students Maddy Hearne and McKenzie Day (p. 18, 19 and 24)

K.J. Aiello is a Toronto-based writer whose work has been published in The Globe and Mail, Chatelaine, Toronto Life, This Magazine and West End Phoenix, among others. She was a moderator at the 41st Toronto International Festival of Authors.

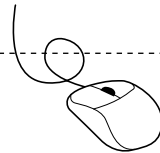


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue we explore what we've learned about surviving constant change and uncertainty, and the unequal reality of the world, revealed by the pandemic in such clarity that we cannot look away. These stories show the talent, expertise and vision of alumni, students and researchers who are ready and able to adapt, make change, and create what's next.

—Colleen Mellor
Journalism '86

You can download the online magazine at ryerson.ca/alumni/news/Ryerson-University-Magazine.



Volume 24, Issue 2, Summer 2021

Ryerson University Magazine is published twice a year for alumni and friends. Reproduction, republication or distribution of content and photographs is strictly prohibited without prior written permission of the editor. *Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations* **Ian Mishkel** • *Chief of Staff & Executive Director, Communications* **Michael Forbes** • *Executive Editor* **Karen Benner** • *Editor* **Colleen Mellor** • *Associate Editor* **Michelle Grady** • *Staff Writers:* **Surbhi Bir, Lindsey Craig and Jessica Leach** • *Art Direction & Design* **Studio Wyse**

CONTACT Ryerson University Magazine, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria St., Toronto, On, Canada M5B 2K3
Phone: 416-979-5000 ext. 5088 • Email: ryemag@ryerson.ca • Web: ryerson.ca/alumni/news/Ryerson-University-Magazine/
MEMBER Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Universities Canada, and Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)
© 2021 Ryerson University ISSN: 1713-627X • Published June 2021 **PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT NUMBER 40065112**

PRIVACY POLICY Ryerson University respects your privacy. On graduation, Ryerson will hold your contact and certain other information so that we can contact alumni to offer the benefits of our affinity programs, to provide information about social, career and educational programs and alumni activities. Ryerson discloses your personal contact information to outside organizations, such as mailing houses or telephone services, to enable them to contact alumni on behalf of Ryerson and its affinity partners but ensures it has entered into confidentiality agreements with those organizations so that alumni personal information is kept confidential. Ryerson does not rent, trade or sell its mailing or telephone lists. The university periodically contacts alumni by phone or mail about affinity programs and/or fundraising initiatives. If you would like to discontinue this contact or your free subscription, please email alumni@ryerson.ca or call 1-866-428-8881. Please also see www.ryerson.ca/privacy.



What's next for learning?

By **Mohamed Lachemi**

President and Vice-Chancellor

➔ THE PANDEMIC BROUGHT with it many challenges to post-secondary education: providing career counselling to students entirely online; developing individualized learning programs tailored to students' abilities and learning styles; and using virtual reality to deliver the lab experience in distance learning.

The truth is, COVID-19 did not force a sharp turn in the evolution of post-secondary education; it accelerated trends that were already in motion. Coping with the pandemic has meant opportunities to rethink teaching and learning for more effective, creative and more widely accessible education.

The centuries-old model of higher education was being challenged long before the pandemic. And now the stage is set for a rapid and fundamental shift. Rapid change isn't easy and comes with hurdles, but the upside for universities and for our students in the long run is huge.

In many instances there is no substitute for face-to-face learning and teaching, particularly when it comes to labs and studio work. But online and virtual learning is natural for this generation of students. We know that simply moving lectures online is not best practice, so what will the future of learning look like?


Research shows that interactive, self-paced learning is more effective than lecturing, and a hybrid model of learning is definitely in the future. Rather than simply searching for information, students will have more time to problem solve and collaborate – mirroring real world experiences.

What about curriculum? Fundamentals are always vital, however preparing students

to succeed means paying attention to developing future skills and competencies including leadership, team building, creativity, communication and resilience. These are the tools that will enable Ryerson students to innovate and push boundaries, to build better organizations, to strengthen communities, and to participate in city building and sustainability.

I believe this evolution will ultimately lead to more valuable experiences for our students and will benefit those well beyond the university campus.

We must be mindful, however, that any changes have the potential to deepen existing inequalities. We must recognize that we have a responsibility to create a more equitable, inclusive and diverse higher education sector.

The pandemic has forever changed aspects of our lives and communities. Recognizing the potential and seizing the moment will allow us to accelerate change that will deepen the impact of higher learning and open more widely the doors of opportunity for all. 

“Seizing the moment will allow us to accelerate change that will deepen the impact of higher learning.”



A better reason to stare at a screen.

Connect with old friends,
explore new ideas and
engage in conversation
with a bestselling author.

Alumni Week

September 27 - October 2, 2021

Fully online

Register at ryerson.ca/alumniweek

**Ryerson
University**

Featured session:

In conversation with Naomi Klein

Author, Filmmaker,
Journalist and Activist





gould street

/ MEDICAL SCHOOL PLANNING / LINCOLN ALEXANDER SCHOOL OF LAW / CAIRO CAMPUS / MEET THE NEW PROVOST /



Midwifery student Hannah Cole practises clinical skills during an in-person class last fall.

HEALTH CARE

Hybrid learning flourishes In-person labs and virtual hospital help nursing and midwifery students master skills

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALYSSA K. FAORO

WHILE COVID-19 RESTRICTED in-person learning at Ryerson this past year, the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing and the Midwifery Education Program in the Faculty of Community Services adapted in ways that exemplify the hybrid learning model. This year, faculty found ways to safely provide some in-person learning opportunities, while getting creative with remote learning. →

Planning for a safe return to campus started early for Daria Romaniuk, professor and associate director of the collaborative nursing degree program. She and her team made plans for three different in-person courses that maintained public health guidelines.

“Some things done in the lab could be recreated for students virtually, but not everything. We thought it best to do as much as we could in person,” she said. “We want students to get as much of the realistic experience as possible [and] the students appreciate the opportunity to be in the labs.”

When it comes to remote learning, the school of nursing had previous experience, having employed award-winning gamification teaching tools long before the pandemic. Students can access a virtual hospital in order to practise patient care.

“You can’t guarantee, even in a clinical setting, that every student will have the kinds of experiences that you want them to have,” said Romaniuk. “The virtual simulation gives us the opportunity to ensure that all students can have the same experience.”

Midwifery professor Nicole Bennett, who taught a clinical skills course with a limited in-person component on campus during the fall term, says that drawing blood, setting an IV and ascertaining a baby’s position are important skills to learn in person. In normal circumstances, students spend six hours a week in workshops learning these hands-on skills.

In the past year, some midwifery students went to campus for clinical skills assessments before they started their clinical placements.

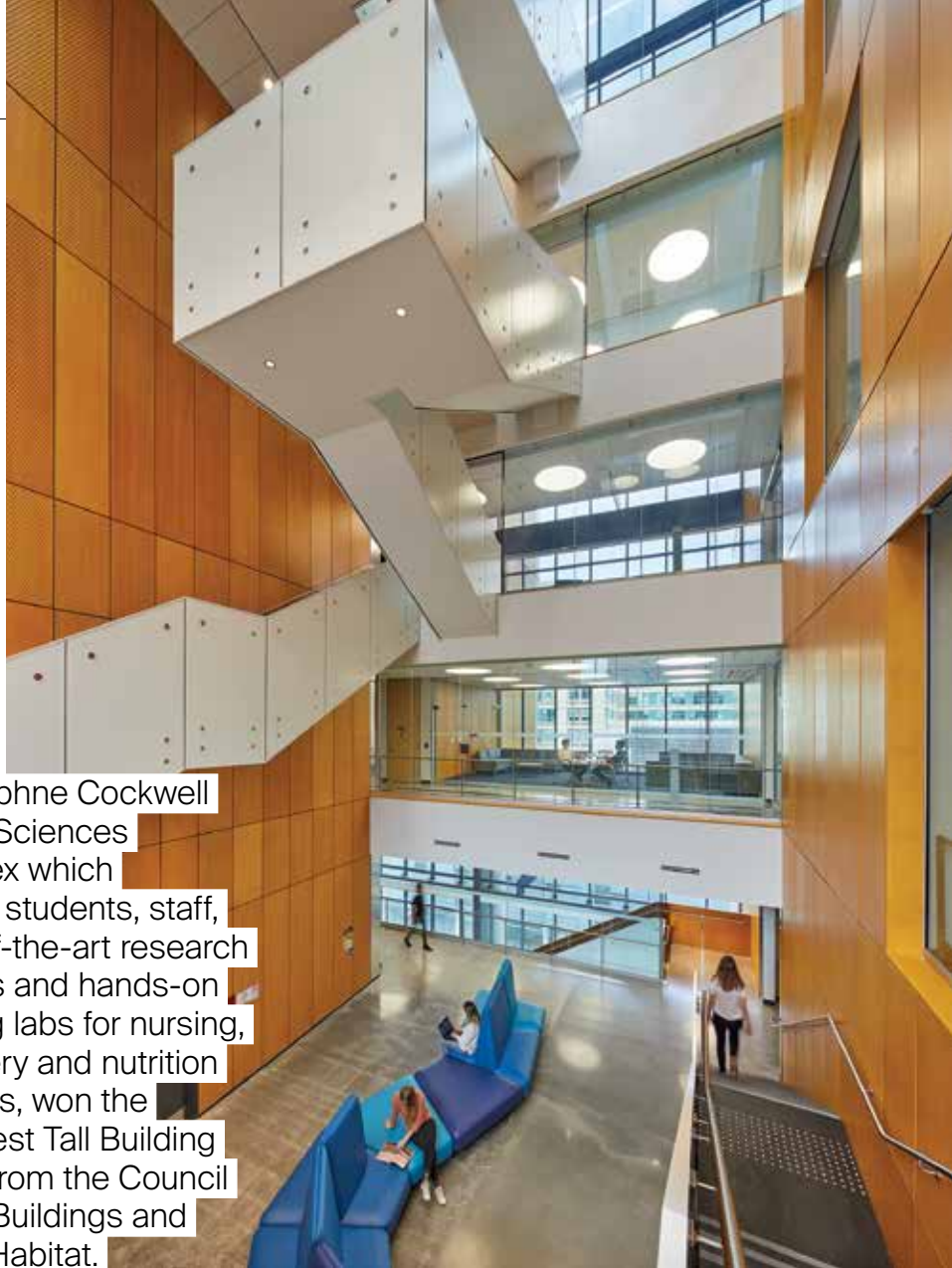
“We need to be certain that our students have learned enough to go confidently into

their placements and be safe,” she said. “With in-person assessments, we were able to do small corrections and provide additional explanations that really helped them,” said Bennett. “Students very much appreciated the face-to-face interaction.”

Midwifery student Hannah Cole was in the class last fall. “It was stressful, especially at the beginning, but now I’m really comfortable with how they managed to transform the whole course,” she said. —**Jessica Leach**

→
CAMPUS

The Daphne Cockwell Health Sciences Complex which houses students, staff, state-of-the-art research facilities and hands-on learning labs for nursing, midwifery and nutrition students, won the 2021 Best Tall Building Award from the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.



LAW

Law school renamed after Lincoln Alexander

The faculty of law has been renamed the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Ryerson University.

A brilliant lawyer and distinguished public servant, **Lincoln Alexander** (1922-2012) played a key role in promoting multiculturalism, education

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP) TOM ARBAN, (LEFT) COURTESY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

and youth leadership.

“Throughout his career, Mr. Alexander demonstrated a longstanding commitment to championing education and youth initiatives and advancing racial equality,” said Ryerson University President and Vice-Chancellor Mohamed Lachemi at the law school’s year-end celebration in May. “Today’s announcement is a very fitting testament to those commitments and we hope that our students will similarly serve and support others in their future careers holding true to their values with the same fervor that he did.”

The law school’s rigorous curriculum features a collaborative co-teaching model with faculty and practitioners from a range of backgrounds and perspectives. Many of the faculty are members of equity-deserving groups – making it among the most diverse law schools in the country.

INTERNATIONAL

Satellite campus in Cairo to open this fall

In September, Ryerson will expand its programming into the Middle East and North Africa region with the launch of a satellite campus in Cairo, Egypt. The campus, in conjunction with Universities of Canada in Egypt, will give local students the opportunity to earn a Ryerson degree in an environment that emulates the Canadian university experience.

“Well known as a community and city builder, Ryerson is moving onto the world stage to deliver smart and scalable solutions to global challenges,” said Mohamed

Lachemi, president and vice-chancellor. “This exciting partnership with Universities of Canada in Egypt, and new educational model, will make Ryerson’s strong academic programming available to more students as we continue to enhance the international scope of our aspirations and influence.”

Ryerson’s Cairo campus will offer select programs through the Faculty of Communication and Design (FCAD) and the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science (FEAS). Degree programming will include media production, sport media and fashion, civil engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Planning for medical school in Brampton

In March, the government of Ontario announced a planning grant that will support Ryerson in developing a proposal for a medical school in Brampton. The proposal will detail Ryerson’s approach to health education with a focus on primary care, expanded use of technology to better meet patient needs, interprofessional practice and the provision of culturally competent care.

Planning for a medical school at Ryerson is based around five pillars: community-centric primary care and the social determinants of health; culturally competent care to communities; innovation and technology in practices to improve quality of care and patient outcomes; skill training to develop interprofessional networks of health care to achieve better outcomes →

GIVING

Law scholarships gifted by Larry and Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation



Larry Tanenbaum, chairman and CEO of Kilmer Group and chairman of MLSE



Dale Lastman, chair of Goodmans LLP and a director of MLSE

Students in the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Ryerson University received a giant boost thanks to the Larry and Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation. Their \$1 million gift to create the Dale H. Lastman Leadership Scholarships will reward excellence and leadership in law students with financial need. The \$5,500-a-year scholarship is renewable each year of the student’s program, and will be awarded to three new students every year in perpetuity. It is a milestone contribution to the school’s ability to realize its vision as a place that will increase access to justice.

“I am proud to support these scholarships, recognizing and encouraging excellence in Dale’s name,” says Larry Tanenbaum, chairman and CEO of Kilmer Group and chairman of MLSE. “He is a fitting role model for emerging lawyers, and I hope that the Dale H. Lastman Leadership Scholarships bring

his contributions to corporate law, teaching and philanthropic giving to the attention of our future lawyers.”

Responding to news of the honour, Dale Lastman, chair of Goodmans LLP and a director of MLSE, said, “I am incredibly flattered and humbled. I’m very proud of what Ryerson Law is doing to transform legal education and am excited to help share that impact more broadly with the next generation of lawyers.”

“We are so appreciative of the generosity expressed by the Tanenbaum Family – this gift will help our students to thrive in law school and equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to expand the reach of justice and innovate the legal profession itself,” said Donna E. Young, founding dean. “Milestone gifts such as this are helping chart a path for the impact that the school expects to achieve in building a more just society.”

for patients and the aging; and supporting seniors as a growing portion of our society gets older.

Ryerson's proposal will include a detailed curriculum for undergraduate and postgraduate studies, a research plan, a strategy for student placements and an operating and financial plan. The proposal will be developed in consultation with Ryerson's external health education working group, the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, the Ontario Ministry of Health and community leaders in Brampton.

RESEARCH

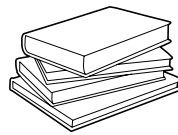
Developing ultra-sensitive testing technology for COVID-19 and beyond

Ryerson University science professor John G. Marshall and his lab led the development of an ultra-sensitive and reliable COVID-19 testing method, based on previous research, that provides patients with a highly accurate assessment of whether they have COVID-19 or have had it in the past.

Marshall and his lab, and collaborators including the Toronto-based company YYZ Pharmatech Inc., National Taiwan University (NTU) and St. Michael's Hospital, adapted the method called Enzyme Linked Mass Spectrometric Assay (ELiMSA), which was invented by professor Marshall and YYZ Pharmatech Inc. in previous research. The technique has broad applications beyond COVID-19, most notably for earlier and more reliable detection of infectious



↑
The government of Ontario has announced a planning grant that will support Ryerson in developing a proposal for a medical school in Brampton. Above, the nursing lab in Ryerson's Daphne Cockwell Health Sciences Complex.



↑
We have a virtual book club! Look for our next Book Talk at ryerson.ca/alumni

diseases, various cancers, HIV and Alzheimer's.

So far, initial demonstrations with laboratory samples have shown that ELiMSA can detect extremely small traces of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, as well as the associated antibodies. The researchers have also found that their system works without using large quantities of the expensive substances that are required for clinical testing. Professor Marshall and his team are now in the early stages of demonstrations with human samples.

Marshall says that developing a more accurate and sensitive COVID-19 test is critical to help labs avoid incorrect results, known as false negatives and false positives, which can lead to people spreading the virus without knowing it or quarantining unnecessarily.

"COVID-19 has exposed the challenges for accurate and cost-efficient disease testing with existing technology," said professor Marshall. "ELiMSA is extremely sensitive when trialled alongside other detection methods. The technology can detect and quantify the presence of as little as a single molecule with good statistical confidence.

"That extra sensitivity means

we can afford to rigorously test samples to ensure there are no false positives, while still having the detection power to avoid false negatives, even in trace samples."

The ELiMSA system is innovative because of its combined use of enzyme-based techniques and a device called a mass spectrometer, which is one of the most sensitive technologies available for substance analysis. Mass spectrometers are common in hospitals, universities and clinical labs around the world, making them suitable for use in virus testing on large scales. ELiMSA also has comparable speed to existing clinical tests that are used for COVID-19, such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Due to the ultra-high sensitivity of ELiMSA, samples do not need to be processed multiple times to provide a clear outcome. The system therefore does not use large quantities of the required testing substances, such as reagents, which have proven costly and in short supply during the pandemic. This means that ELiMSA could provide a relatively inexpensive method that could increase the testing capacity of health-care services. —Edward Grover

Q&A

Jennifer S. Simpson, Ryerson's new provost, brings mind and heart to role



↓
Fast Facts
Favourite movie?
 I'm very excited about the anthology film series *Small Axe*
Fiction or nonfiction?
 Fiction for fun.
New pandemic hobby?
 I've been cutting my own hair for a year!

A lifelong learner, Jennifer S. Simpson is mindful of one lesson that has never failed her: you need both intellect and emotion to lead change. Starting July 1 as Ryerson's provost and vice-president, academic, Simpson joins a community that mirrors her passion for equity, diversity and inclusion, and urges students to follow their hearts to make a difference.

- RU** You've said that your whole career has led you to Ryerson. What do you mean?
- JS** There's a really strong overlap with who I am, what I care about, my expertise

and Ryerson's priorities and values. I entered higher education because I'm interested in creating more equity, so there's a shared passion, capacity and vision with the university.

- RU** What difference does a university education make?
- JS** University gave me a way to hold on to my heart. I found people who care about the same issues as me, who were asking the same questions, so it helps you figure out how to connect the future you want to the world.

- RU** In what ways can universities make justice and democracy real to students?
- JS** I like to ask students what the "good life" means to them. They often say having a secure job or a nice house, but when we unpack that, they realize they want meaningful work and relationships that matter. That's what justice and democracy are: a world where everyone matters ... and we're relying on their meaningful contributions to achieve that.

- RU** Did you have a professor or teacher who stands out?
- JS** An undergrad professor showed me the role power plays in how people live, and I left his class with a totally different viewpoint. I also had wonderful champions in grad school who helped me see that my ideas matter; that what I have to offer is precious. That was such a gift.

- RU** What one piece of advice would you pass on to a new Ryerson graduate?
- JS** Hold on to what you care about and turn it into meaningful work. You have something to offer that's unique, so find support and don't give up. Also, learn to be okay with who you are and what you bring to the table. Trust your passions, your questions and your quirks!

- RU** What's the best advice you received as a student?
- JS** While in grad school, I witnessed a racist incident with a friend and deeply regretted not speaking up. I talked to my doctoral supervisor, Toinette Eugene, about it and she responded, "Racism is not a theory." Change requires us to show up for what we care about; we can't just think about things. As a leader who's interested in equity, I carry that advice with me.

- RU** What's one thing you'd like the Ryerson community to know about you?
- JS** I was a student with big dreams and I still dream big today. I want to make a difference in the world, so you can count on me to bring my head and my heart to this role.
 —Daina Astwood-George

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC BARTLETT

GRAPHIC DETAILS

A decade of innovation

Ten years on, the Centre for Urban Energy leads the industry in sustainability solutions

➔ It's been 10 years since Ryerson's Centre for Urban Energy (CUE) opened on campus, immediately becoming a leader in finding sustainable solutions to urban energy challenges. CUE researchers are dedicated to innovation and education on climate change, smart grids, electric vehicles and more.

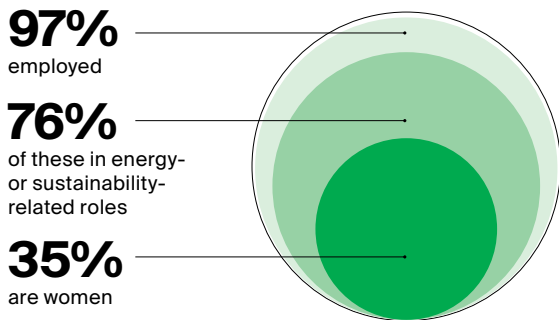
A major milestone for CUE was the inception of the Clean Energy Zone in 2012, an incubator that has fostered 44 startups. The alumni list includes SWTCH, innovators in the electric-vehicle charging landscape, which operates out of both Toronto and Brooklyn.

The research centre opened with a \$7 million investment from its founding sponsors, Toronto Hydro, Hydro One, and the Ontario Power Authority (now part of the Independent Electricity System Operator) and has been steered by academic director Bala Venkatesh.

As the future of our planet continues to depend on sustainability and innovation in the energy sector, one thing is clear: CUE will be playing an integral and innovative role for years to come. —*Jessica Leach*

ALUMNI

Over the past 10 years, 1,002 highly qualified professionals have come through the CUE's program.



Applied industry research projects since inception

48 completed





Disraptor
Green fly-and-drive vehicle that can take off and land almost anywhere

CleanAir.ai
Smart indoor air purification

Argentum Electronics
Technology for smart buildings that saves energy

Plug'n Drive
A non-profit organization committed to accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles

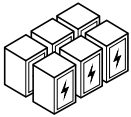
PHOTOGRAPH BY (ABOVE) TOM RYOBI; (RIGHT) JESSE MILINS



CUE's Schneider Electric Smart Grid Laboratory is one of the leading facilities in the world for testing and demonstrating clean energy technologies and solutions.

THE SPACE

7,922
square feet



6
state-of-the-art labs

THE TEAM

19
students and interns

8
researchers

5
staff

FUNDING

\$30.2M
since 2010

STUDENT AWARDS

\$1.2M
distributed on behalf of industry sponsors

298
assistantship/bursary recipients



The NSERC Energy Storage Technology Network (NESTNet), a national research project run by CUE academic director Bala Venkatesh, collaboratively explores different types of energy storage and how best to integrate these technologies into the electricity grid.

17 THINGS WE'VE LEARNED



ILLUSTRATIONS
BY TY DALE

The last year has shed light on challenges we cannot ignore. We discovered that we have the creativity and resilience to face a worldwide crisis and look to the future





PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF BIERK

Could our experience over the past year help us forge empathy and support for housing programs? ▶

No.

1

WE LEARNED

We need a liveable city for everyone.

BY WENDY GLAUSER

STILL FACING COVID after more than a year, advocacy organizations, city planners and frontline service providers are now looking ahead to picking up the pieces. COVID has shone a light on the city's desperate need for housing and shelters. We need schools with better ventilation systems, educators to make up for gaps in learning due to closures and to address classroom sizes. We need long-term care facilities where care workers aren't stretched to their limits. We need food programs, as the cost of everything continues to trend upward. And we need to address racism head-on.

The inequities laid bare by COVID are not new. Health inequities have always been with us. "We know about poverty and diabetes, we know about maternal experiences of racism and infants with low birth weight," says Josephine Wong, a registered nurse and professor of nursing at →

Ryerson who specializes in urban health. That it's only when the health of more affluent people may be at risk that we pay attention to the health of low-income marginalized people "makes me really sad," says Wong.

Pamela Robinson, director and professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson, says that while "equity-deserving communities have long known about and directly experienced the growing disparities and underfunding ... a wider range of people outside of those communities are starting to understand, in quite specific ways, where we have failed to meet the needs of all community members. I think the big question is, 'What change will follow?'"

Big-picture thinking

Street nurse Cathy Crowe (Nursing '85) says we should start with housing as it represents an investment that helps every part of someone's life: their physical and mental health, employment opportunities and social relationships. We need a national housing program, like the one created in response to veterans returning from the Second World War to make housing affordable, she says. The National Housing Program saw a massive investment in rental units, co-op housing, public housing and housing for students and seniors. Through the program, more than two million Canadians were housed from the 1950s to 1993, when it was dismantled, after decades of funding erosion.

Instead, the federal government has responded to the desperate need for housing during the pandemic with the Rapid Housing Initiative, for cities to purchase buildings that can be converted to supportive housing by the end of this year. "Probably in Toronto, we'll get one or two buildings. It's a Band-Aid, and it's not going to deal with the scope of the need," says Crowe.

Reimagined housing in the city includes reimagining our shelter system. "We just can't put everyone back into the existing shelters. There needs to be a new vision so that shelters are one room per person," says Crowe. "We've known for decades there's a high risk of infection spread in shelters, whether it's tuberculosis, SARS,

H1N1, or other flus and colds." In addition to the infection risk, people struggling with crises in their life need and deserve a quiet, private place to sleep, which is not possible when you're "sharing a room with 20 to 100 people," says Crowe.

As we face only more uncertainty, especially with issues like climate change, it's time for more innovative and big-picture thinking on how we can better build housing to support community health more generally, says Robinson. "Our post-pandemic recovery can be more than economic, we can directly tackle issues of social exclusion, and ecological justice as well." For



We need to build more inclusive communities and put forward more inclusive policies, most pressing of which is adequate housing and safe water for Indigenous Peoples.

— JOSEPHINE WONG,
REGISTERED NURSE AND PROFESSOR
OF NURSING AT RYERSON

example, the building of new infrastructure, from housing to transit, could employ local businesses and tradespeople. Housing projects can include community kitchens, as well as space for social enterprises and community organizations. We can prioritize projects that are built in such ways that they "lead to greenhouse gas emission reductions and make us more resilient to the uncertain impacts of climate change," says Robinson.

And we should focus on investing in communities that need it most. The New York City Parks Commission did an audit in 2014 and found that some parks in the city's low-income neighbourhoods hadn't received funding for maintenance or revitalization in 20 years, so they prioritized those 67 parks for reinvestment, spending more than \$300 million since. We need the same equity-focused targeted funding here, for all city investments, says Robinson.

Defining our values

Wong worries about the overt acts of racism we've seen in the pandemic year - from the murder of George Floyd, to the nurses mocking Indigenous patient Joyce Echaquan as she was dying to the vicious attacks on Asian-identified people. Community leaders in diverse cities like Toronto need to reckon with racism in all forms, more boldly than before. "I find racism is such a chameleon that inflicts different forms of violence against different groups. They attacked elderly Asian people, they sexualized Asian women, and the next time it's another target," says Wong. "I think it brings pain to people, regardless of your racial background, to witness this type of violence. We all feel so diminished, in a sense, disempowered."

As we emerge from more than a year of varying degrees of isolation, we need to build more inclusive communities and put forward more inclusive policies, most pressing of which is adequate housing and safe water for Indigenous Peoples, says Wong. That means digging deep and better defining our values. "There's a Chinese saying, 'If I truly care about my children, I would care about all children, and if I truly care about my elders, I would care about all elders,'" says Wong. "I think that



▲ Our post-pandemic recovery can be more than economic; we can tackle issues of social exclusion and ecological justice.

Canadian society also has similar values.” Wong hopes that more people get involved in reviving community connections, like Neighbourhood Houses, Community Hubs, Boys and Girls Clubs and other informal networks to look out for each other.

Already, there are signs Torontonians are doing the kind of “really strong grassroots organizing” that will help us rebuild post-pandemic, says Crowe. Community activists in Parkdale have been protesting—and even standing in the way of—evictions. And the Encampment Support Network worked throughout the pandemic to bring supplies to people forced to sleep in tents because shelters were too high-risk for COVID-19.

Coming back with compassion

Robinson points to the Parkdale Land Trust, which is funded by charitable donations and a social enterprise bank, as another example of “an emerging and encouraging trend.” The Land Trust purchased land for urban agriculture, and is hoping to purchase other properties for affordable

housing, community-based organizations and social enterprises.

When students return to Ryerson, researchers, instructors and campus organizations should consider “this incredible opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to the neighbourhood, to listen to our neighbourhood partners and to understand what’s happened while we have been gone, and to come back with generosity and with compassion,” says Robinson. She says that through research, advocacy and funding supports, Ryerson can strengthen a broad range of local initiatives and programming.

While we’re seeing flare-ups of an us-versus-them mentality of Torontonians resisting supportive housing in their neighbourhoods, Crowe thinks our experiences in the pandemic overall can be leveraged to forge empathy and support for housing programs. “I think [people] have been so affected by job loss, no matter the sector they work in. Most people have had somebody affected in their family or somebody that they know. I think there’s a heightened awareness about housing insecurity that we haven’t seen before,” says Crowe.

“For those of us who are privileged because we have a full-time job, we have housing, we have food, where’s our dignity if our society continues to allow these inequities and suffering to continue?” says Wong. ●

No. 2 WE LEARNED

WE WILL HELP EACH OTHER IN UNCERTAIN TIMES.

► Ryerson employees organized food boxes to deliver to students in need after the university shifted to essential services. Nursing students worked in ICUs, COVID test sites and vaccine clinics. A Ryerson employee started Vaccine Hunters Canada to help people line up appointments. And while the pandemic trend of baking led to a shortage of flour, one generous soul helped first-time bakers by taping sour-dough starter to telephone poles.





▲ The Pearson family of Canmore, Alta., during the 1918 flu epidemic. COVID-19 taught us that not all pandemics are the same.

No. 3

WE LEARNED

This is unlike anything we've seen before.

AS AN EXPERT on public health, professor emeritus and epidemiologist Timothy Sly is used to teaching his students about pandemics of the past. But then COVID-19 came along – a global health disaster the likes of which hasn't been seen in 100 years – and suddenly Sly found himself referring not only to history books but also to daily news reports.

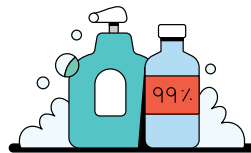
It soon became clear, however, that COVID-19 was not merely a replay of past pandemics, even those caused by coronaviruses. For starters, “as many as half, perhaps possibly even as many as 70 per cent of the virus-positive people don't have any symptoms,” says Sly. “This is why containment efforts failed in the beginning.” Even in countries where authorities worked quickly to try to stop the spread of the disease, it was still being transmitted by people who didn't know they had it. “We've never seen this before, to this degree,” he says.

COVID-19 also seemed to be attacking the body in novel ways. “Who would have thought we'd have a respiratory acute-virus disease that could affect your nervous system, your kidneys, your intestines, or your blood pressure? Who would have thought that you'd lose your sense of smell or taste?” —Dan Falk

No. 4

WE LEARNED

How often to wash our hands (a lot).



At the beginning of the pandemic, public health experts recommended handwashing as a way to prevent infection. And we complied. The healthy handwashing survey conducted by Bradely Corp. found 57 per cent of people were washing their hands more than six times a day in January 2021 compared to 37 per cent who did so before COVID. More recent research has shown that particles in the air pose a bigger risk of COVID-19 transmission than surface contamination.

No. 5

WE LEARNED

WE ARE STRONGER THAN WE THINK.

► What many initially expected to be a two-week quarantine has spanned more than a year now. And we're not out of the woods yet. So how do we keep going? Attitude and learnable skills are both core to resiliency, says Ryerson psychologist Diana Brecher, who shares some best practices on how to keep going.



Resilience defined

Think of resilience as how one bounces back from adversity, says Brecher. “Two people could have the same situation but their responses can be different, based on how they frame the experience, how mindful and optimistic they are, how they persevere through setbacks and the degree to which they forgive themselves for mistakes.”



Go with the flow

Parents are stretched to the limit and need to find self-compassion while in this impossible situation. “Take breaks. Go for a walk. Give yourself a pass in terms of strict professionalism. No one is super human. Have compassion for yourself.”



Live with purpose and hope

Take your cue from frontline workers who turn to the meaning of their work to shore up resilience. Hope is having a positive expectation that things will work out. “Be grateful for what you've had in the past, what you have now and for what is to come. I am looking forward to and feel grateful for my first swim in a lake in two years, sometime this summer.”



Stay in touch

According to The National Social Life, Health and Aging Project, older individuals are doing just as well as before the pandemic, because they've managed to stay in touch with their friends and family through regular phone and video calls.

The impact of the pandemic for the future

“We adapted to this circumstance, and hopefully, we'll adapt to whatever happens going forward. We will be more resilient.” —Mary Teresa Bitti

6

No.

WE LEARNED

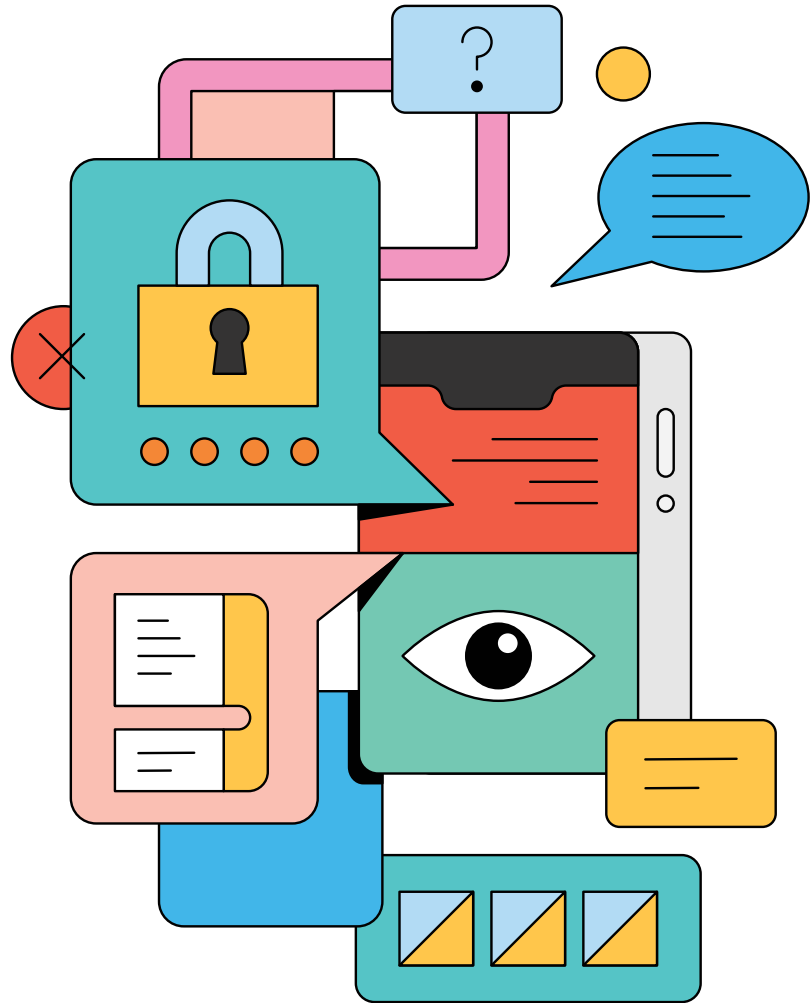
Privacy and security matter even more.

WHEN COVID-19 LED to stay-home orders across Canada, our need for connectivity ramped up rapidly and many Canadians had to adapt to living and working virtually almost overnight.

Apps and technology have been lifesavers throughout the pandemic – both in the literal and figurative sense. Many countries adopted different models of contact tracing apps to help curb the spread of the virus, and other emerging trends like remote work, distance learning, online shopping and robot deliveries, online entertainment and telehealth have allowed us to stay connected to our everyday lives. But with these major shifts, some new lines of questioning around privacy, security and consent loom.

“We’ve gone through a rapid digitization on two fronts: one is the creation of technologies for adoption and the other is the adoption by citizens,” says Sumit Bhatia, director at the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst at Ryerson. The challenge, he says, is addressing what sort of oversight can be provided as adoption accelerates and our lives move increasingly online. “The policy laws in Canada are now back under consultation. We’ve certainly seen that the privacy commissioner’s office is taking steps toward figuring out what advancement looks like.”

For citizens, this will mean that as we seek new apps for entertainment or to make our lives easier, transparency and education need to follow. “Many don’t put enough time into digging into the privacy policies of these apps to see how their data will be used,” Bhatia says. When users are faced with lengthy terms of service agreements, there’s the tendency to agree without knowing what our signatures sign away. “I always separate consent from meaningful consent, and that comes with transparency and education. At the Catalyst we’re paying attention to apps and how data is being used, because not only are we concerned about



data and privacy but also about the influence that these systems hold in guiding the narrative around the pandemic and other major global issues.”

Richard Lachman, Ryerson’s director of zone learning, says this lack of understanding can lead to mistrust in apps, including ones developed to work in the service of public health like Canada’s contact tracing app. Lower uptake rates may result. “Not everyone is treated equally by the law and when there are questions around how this data could be queried now or in the future, not everyone is going to download the contact tracing app,” Lachman says, even if Canada has done great work in terms of privacy, data minimization and transparency.

Building trust and transparency among users will be a trend to watch, and Lachman says apps that address this in myriad ways may emerge as we continue to navigate our digital world. “Something we might see that emerges from this interest in supporting local are more co-op models. As an alternative to Uber Eats, for example, if all the restaurants in Toronto got together, they could fund the development of an app that takes smaller fees from restaurants or those fees are absorbed in a membership fee or something. Many people are using those delivery apps not because they want to support Uber Eats but because they want to support their local restaurant.”

—Michelle Grady

No. 7

WE LEARNED

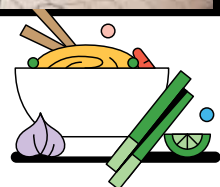
We can pivot in challenging times.

WHEN PETER CHIU (Hospitality & Tourism Management '08) opened the first Basil Box restaurant in 2015, he wanted to adapt the concept of the street markets of Southeast Asia, using authentic ingredients, but cooked for the health-conscious North American clientele. Before lockdowns started in mid-March 2020, there were 17 locations across Canada and business was strong. But that's since changed.

"Our volumes have dropped close to 90 per cent compared to what they were prior [to the pandemic]," says Chiu, who made a difficult but necessary decision to temporarily close many stores at the onset of the pandemic. This forced his team to brainstorm ideas such as frozen food preparation and fresh meal kit delivery. When these initiatives proved successful, Chiu was able to bring back some key staff. But at the time, with the future course of the pandemic unknown, Chiu still needed another solution.

"We started to accelerate our menu development plans," he says. This led to something Chiu never thought he'd venture into: comfort food, with a Basil Box twist. Chiu launched Street Kitchen by Basil Box, which includes his award-winning double fried chicken and satay mac and cheese.

Despite Street Kitchen becoming a staple in a few of their locations, things are still tough. Chiu faces the possibility of closing some locations, although the flagship location at Ryerson University will remain. "We're trying our best," he says. —K.J. Aiello





While his restaurant business began six years ago to serve healthy food with authentic Southeast Asian ingredients, Peter Chiu recently added comfort food which became a hit during the pandemic.



No. **8**

WE LEARNED

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Rachel Kelly (Image Arts '12) is the founder of Make Lemonade — a Toronto-based, co-working space that aims to establish an empowering community for women-identified entrepreneurs. When Kelly envisioned this dream, she saw a community of women entrepreneurs sharing a physical space that was welcoming and inspiring.

Since the pandemic, keeping this dream alive, and the doors open, has been a struggle. Between lockdowns and restrictions on indoor gatherings, income from her brick and mortar business plummeted. Kelly had to think quickly.

“I was beside myself,” Kelly says. “[I] found it hard to imagine what the next steps were.” If it weren’t for the pandemic, she says she wouldn’t have needed to think virtual. She and her colleagues quickly brainstormed a way to pivot: taking the community-building model of Make Lemonade online.

From that came the Get Sh*t Done Club: a virtual membership that includes daily calls so the community can connect safely from home. The calls range from accountability meet-ups, brainstorming, networking, work sprints and even quarterly retreats.

“I didn’t believe that true, deep connections could happen online,” Kelly admits. “I was proven wrong.”

Although Make Lemonade’s new offering has been incredibly successful, Kelly still faces challenges. “We’re surviving,” she says, adding that if she didn’t have the Get Sh*t Done Club, the future of Make Lemonade would be threatened.

But Kelly remains optimistic and intends to continue with the club even when life goes back to normal. “It takes sour lemons to really find an opportunity or to see where the good can come from it.” —K.J. Aiello

No. **9**

WE LEARNED

Our senior citizens deserve better care.

Dr. Samir Sinha is one of Canada's most respected doctors advocating for seniors. A leader in geriatric care, he is the director of public health policy research of the National Institute on Ageing at Ryerson, and the director of geriatrics at Sinai Health and the University Health Network.

What is the state of Canada's long-term care system?

We have 13 long-term care systems across 13 provinces and territories. The amount of care available and the qualifying criteria are different in each. The pandemic has shown we have grossly underfunded long-term care compared to other OECD countries. For example, Denmark spends 2.4 per cent of its GDP on long-term care, and two-thirds of that spending helps people age in their homes. Canada spends 1.3 per cent of our GDP on long-term care, with 87 cents of every dollar going to warehousing older people in expensive long-term care homes to provide two hours and 45 minutes of direct care per day. Our government's own research suggests people in long-term care need at least four hours of direct care per day.

What can we do to ensure better care?

We could move the needle quickly by addressing three fundamental areas. One, staffing. In addition to hiring more workers, we need to create more opportunities for full-time work and provide better training and more pay.

We also need to upgrade facilities. One-third of the rooms in Ontario's long-term care homes were built to 1972 design standards, with four beds to a room. These are infection prevention and control nightmares.

Finally, we need to implement and enforce a comprehensive inspections and compliance process. Inspections that include emergency preparedness and infection and prevention and control haven't been done in the majority of homes since 2018.

Do you think the spotlight the pandemic has placed on seniors in long-term care will lead to better care?

The pandemic has reinforced the fact we are an ageist society. We know 96 per cent of deaths have occurred among Canadians aged 60 and older, but we're not prioritizing them as we should be. Israel, the U.K. and the U.S. acted much more quickly in getting their older populations vaccinated than Canada did. COVID has made people afraid to age, and older Canadians afraid to age in long-term care homes. We clearly need to do better as a nation. —Mary Teresa Bitti

▲ Dr. Samir Sinha, a leader in geriatric care, recommends better staffing, upgraded facilities and a comprehensive inspections and compliance process to improve long-term care in Canada.



No. **10**

WE LEARNED

WE NEED BETTER WAYS TO SUPPORT FRONTLINE WORKERS.

▶ A Ryerson study, *Goodbye ... Through a Glass Door: Emotional Experiences of Working in COVID-19 Acute Care Hospital Environments*, found that the practise of nursing is shaped by the emotional experiences of those on the frontlines, nurses who have been working in dire environments.

The study recommends the following ways to better support nurses:

- increased presence of health-care leadership
- on-site access to psychological support
- greater advocacy for adequate supply of personal protective equipment
- support for the use of mental health days as sick days

"If we want to support nurses' mental health and well-being and we want them to stay in the profession and stay dedicated to a particular hospital, this is needed," says researcher Jennifer Lapum of the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing. —**Jessica Leach**

"Mental health wise, it hasn't been great. I think everyone is just tired. I don't think the public is aware of what we're dealing with inside the hospitals."

—ICU NURSE GARRETT REARDON (NURSING '08)

No. **11**

WE LEARNED

We cannot deny health inequities.

IN THE SUMMER of 2020, the City of Toronto released some startling socio-demographic data related to COVID-19 cases: 83 per cent of people who reported positive results identified with a racialized group, 51 per cent of reported cases were living in lower-income households. And yet, much of the available information to stop the spread of the virus left out these individuals.

"A lot of the messaging we were hearing wasn't targeted toward the people who were most affected by COVID," says Alisha Moosajee, a Chang School of Continuing Education student and the director of business and innovation for a grassroots organization, ON Canada Project, which has been leveraging social media to address informational gaps throughout the pandemic. "We kept hearing 'we're all in this together,' but the pandemic looks very different, depending on who you are and where you stand in society."

Pandemic aftershock

"Members of racialized communities are over-represented as essential workers, and they often have no choice but to go to work," says Usha George, director of the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement. In addition to not being able to stay home, essential workers often comprise gig workers and low-wage earners who often have no paid sick leave, live pay cheque to pay cheque and may not be able to stock up on supplies to lessen trips out of the house, which would increase their risk of exposure.

George notes that children in particular may feel the pandemic's aftershock for years to come, especially those from lower-income or racialized communities, who are experiencing greater education loss owing to many factors, including a lack of personal laptops for simultaneous learning, poor internet connections and parents who need to leave the house for work and may not be available to supervise online education.

Moosajee says her team of volunteers is hoping to mobilize knowledge around what adherence to public health recommendations could look like for those communities that have been left out of key

messaging. "We're trying to fill in the gaps and make our messaging as equitable and informed as we can. We're trying to give people the guidance they need to combat the pandemic."

The ON Canada Project's approach has included a core team of content creators and ambassadors who share their content to spread the word. "We often see upwards of 30,000 unique reaches on each post, because of the way we've mobilized our community to help share our information."

Moosajee says that what started with COVID has branched out to address major socioeconomic inequities across communities. "It was just impossible to talk about COVID in isolation – every topic is an intersectional one and we have to contextualize the existing inequities to be able to talk about COVID properly."

George agrees that as the vaccination program rolls out and some of the more immediate hurdles around the pandemic are cleared, these larger systemic issues will need to be addressed if there's hope of alleviating the magnified challenges in marginalized communities. "Focusing on systemic racism would of course address many of these things."

To support Moosajee's team's efforts, visit www.oncanadaproject.ca. —**Michelle Grady**





A series of images illustrate the process of interior design professor Linda Zhang and her research team as they worked virtually with the robot in the Creative Technology Lab.

No. **12**
WE LEARNED

Our creativity has no limits.

LINDA ZHANG, a professor in the School of Interior Design, hasn't let the pandemic stop her or her research team – despite the fact that her work involves robots and cross-border collaboration. Before the pandemic, Zhang and her team, including Ryerson research students, intended to take their work to the Architectural Ceramics Assemblies Workshop (ACAW) in Buffalo in August 2020. When the border was closed and labs became inaccessible, the team had to rethink the way they were working in order to deliver by the deadline.

“Our project team is very interdisciplinary and is located around North America. We were ramping up to do several in-person intensives over the summer that would lead to the final research and prototypes that we would bring to this workshop,” says Zhang. “We were looking at how to integrate robotics into the ceramic industrial manufacturing process and researching what advantages that could bring, in terms of design or craft, to their existing processes ... and then COVID hit.”

Zhang says her team was lucky because, just prior to the shut down, they'd been to visit Boston Valley Terra Cotta, their industry partner in Buffalo, NY, which is a global leader in the manufacturing of custom architectural terracotta for restoration, and had collected two tonnes of terracotta facade panels that had been extruded from the factory. Normally, the team used the terracotta panels to experiment with robotic post-extrusion processes in Ryerson's Creative Technology Lab to see how it could be used to advance architectural ceramic manufacturing.

“The lab was very supportive and loaned everyone on the team 3D printers, and we sent everyone home with some of the clay,” says Zhang. “So we were experimenting with 3D printing to try to mimic what the robot could do and using it to test other questions as best as we could on Zoom. The Faculty of Communication and Design provided the student researchers with laptops and software, which allowed them to program and simulate robotic

movements virtually at home.”

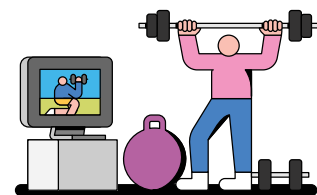
The team was approved to get back into the Creative Technology Lab in mid-June 2020. When everyone wasn't able to come in person due to border closures, they continued to use Zoom with a laptop set up just for the robot. This continued research meant the team was able to participate in the conference workshop as scheduled. “It was a cluster of people making things in different cities, which was kind of hilarious and amazing,” says Zhang.

Zhang and her team also set up a series of presentations with a VR gallery exhibit space. “We did a presentation where there was a discussion, then everyone's work was presented in this virtual space where you could have the virtual experience of walking closer to the piece and seeing it at a distance.” Zhang says though she has done many physical exhibitions in the past, putting together a parallel VR of a physical exhibition was new to her, but it's something she would like to incorporate into every show post-COVID. —Michelle Grady

No. **13**
WE LEARNED

WORKING OUT VIRTUALLY WORKS.

We couldn't get together for in-person fitness classes, but Ryerson Recreation created virtual sessions and participants attended online fitness classes 2,000 times.



No. **14**
WE LEARNED

How to use data to track infectious diseases.

Carmen Huber (master's in Spatial Analysis'18) had early insight into the pandemic in her role as a senior data analyst and spatial analytics lead for BlueDot.

The Toronto-based social enterprise develops digital technologies for public health and Huber's work even before the pandemic involved making improvements to the company's air travel-based model to anticipate the international spread of infectious disease.

"My colleagues on BlueDot's surveillance team were among the first in the world to identify

the emerging risk from COVID-19 in the Hubei province. Through our Insights product, we were able to immediately notify our clients around the world," she says. "I'm incredibly proud to be a co-author on the world's first scientific paper on COVID-19, accurately predicting eight of the first 10 cities to import the novel coronavirus."

Now her workday is dedicated to giving decision-makers, including major businesses, hospitals and all levels of government, the data and insights they need to make

smart decisions as they develop their pandemic response in a changing world. "We help them answer questions about what travel patterns look like, how well stay-at-home orders are working, and where the

pandemic is headed. I create data visualizations on the rate of change in cases per country and source additional datasets on topics such as hospitalizations and vaccination to support our clients." —Colleen Mellor



2021 Board of Governors election

June 11 – 22

Elect one representative for a three-year term. Get election information, candidate biographies and platform statements at ryerson.ca/governors/elections

- Osama Ahmed
- Syeda Jaana Ali
- Ryan Rodrigues
- Darius Sookram
- Charles Tam



You're eligible to vote if you are a graduate of a Ryerson degree, diploma, or certificate program approved by the Senate and are no longer registered as a Ryerson student.

cast your
VOTE

No. **15**
WE LEARNED

We have the power to do so much good.

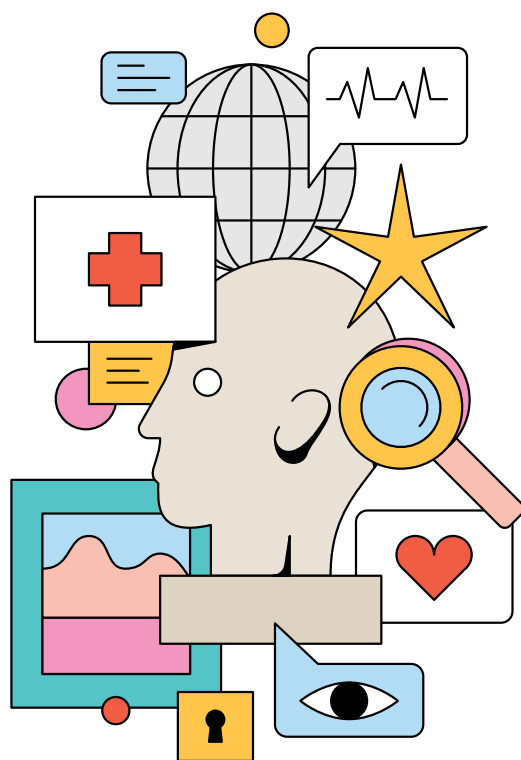
ADAM DMYTRIW (BIOLOGY '09) has always been in awe of the human brain. When it works properly, we take it for granted; when there's a problem, it can be life-changing. So he took notice a year ago when he and his colleagues started observing something strange: patients with COVID-19 – even young people in seemingly good health – were suffering strokes at an unusually high rate.

“Some of the patients we see are quarantining in place, at home, for 14 or 21 days – and then suddenly they have a debilitating stroke, sometimes with nothing more than the sniffles prior,” says Dr. Dmytriw, who is currently based at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and is the Canadian lead for the North American Neurovascular COVID-19 Consortium.

The cause of these strokes remains a subject of active research, but Dr. Dmytriw suspects it involves the ability of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to attack the walls of blood vessels in a manner not typically seen with other coronaviruses. The consortium pooled data from a number of regions, and the results strengthened the apparent connection between COVID-19 and strokes. Their findings were published in the journal *Frontiers in Neurology* last fall.

“This is often how medical science works,” says Dr. Dmytriw. “We come across something that we admit we don't fully understand; but we publish it so that it's out there and the data is available to everyone. Then our peers can also come up with ideas about what's happening.”

After graduating from Ryerson, he went on to do a master of science degree in immunology at Oxford, followed by medical school at the University of Toronto and



further graduate work at Harvard in epidemiology. His name has now appeared on more than 100 peer-reviewed papers.

The pandemic has been disruptive for Dr. Dmytriw, as it's been for everyone – but it's also led to a merger of his two great passions: treating patients and researching complex medical conditions.

“There's a temptation to think that because we're physicians or scientists, we must be deeply logical, rational people,” he says. “And of course we make logical, rational choices for our patients. But when I fell in love with this field, it was an emotional decision, based on seeing the impact of the work on families and patients. We have the power to do so much good.”

Dr. Dmytriw still thinks fondly of Ryerson, which he says allowed him to cultivate his innate curiosity. His professors, including his research supervisor, Mario Estable, spurred him to tackle challenging problems head-on. “People at Ryerson encouraged me to dream big,” he says. In turn, Dmytriw has welcomed the chance to give back to the community; he was recently awarded the G. Raymond Chang Outstanding Volunteer Award for his mentoring of students through Ryerson's Tri-Mentoring Program. —Dan Falk

No. **16**
WE LEARNED

WE CAN USE OUR TIME IN LOCKDOWN TO GROW.

► As people saw an opportunity to advance their careers through online learning, programs at The Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University saw a rise in enrolment. Popular programs include community services, engineering and architectural sciences, and the arts.

Increase in enrolment by adult learners for winter 2021 term compared to the same period the previous year

9%

COURSES DEVELOPED SINCE SPRING 2020

319

Virtual

–

63

Online

NEW ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE

Robot Arms: Mechanics of Manipulation

–

Editing Recipes and Cookbooks

New online courses available for spring 2021

55

5,054

New continuing education students started during the three terms since the pandemic started, a 3% increase



17

No. **WE LEARNED**

How to start a business in a pandemic.

When many Canadians were forced to move their work online suddenly with the onset of the pandemic, second-year business student Maddy Hearne saw an opportunity. But she couldn't have foreseen what was to come.

Hearne partnered with third-year computer science student McKenzie Day to offer online conferencing expertise to professionals who were facing a rapid pivot from in-person meetings. By the summer, Hearne and Day had a full-time business,

and by last fall they had more than 100 clients. First Class Conferencing Facilitation Inc. (FCCF) was born.

"We're looking to hire 35 to 40 more people in the next month just to satisfy demand," Day said in an interview in February. He doesn't see their business being impacted by a return to in-person work. "Even after things open up, people are so used to going online that they may not feel inclined to go back to their original way of working."



Looking back over the past year, both Hearne and Day are in awe. "We never had the intention of starting a [company] while in school," Hearne says. Until they can relax a bit, they will continue to do what they enjoy – making connections and building a business that will last. —K.J. Aiello

▲ Ryerson students Maddy Hearne and McKenzie Day started a business helping clients with online conferences as the world adapted to Zoom meetings en masse.



2021 Senate election June 11 – 22

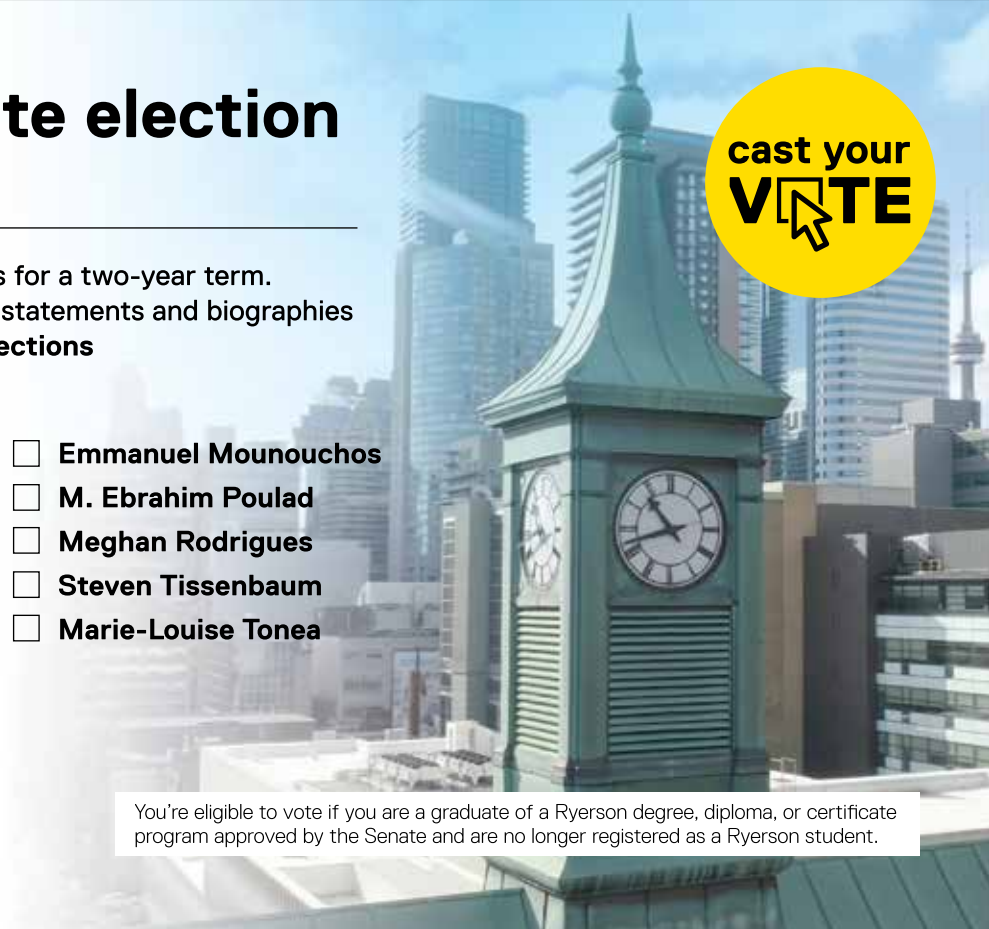
Elect two representatives for a two-year term.
Read candidate platform statements and biographies
at ryerson.ca/senate/elections

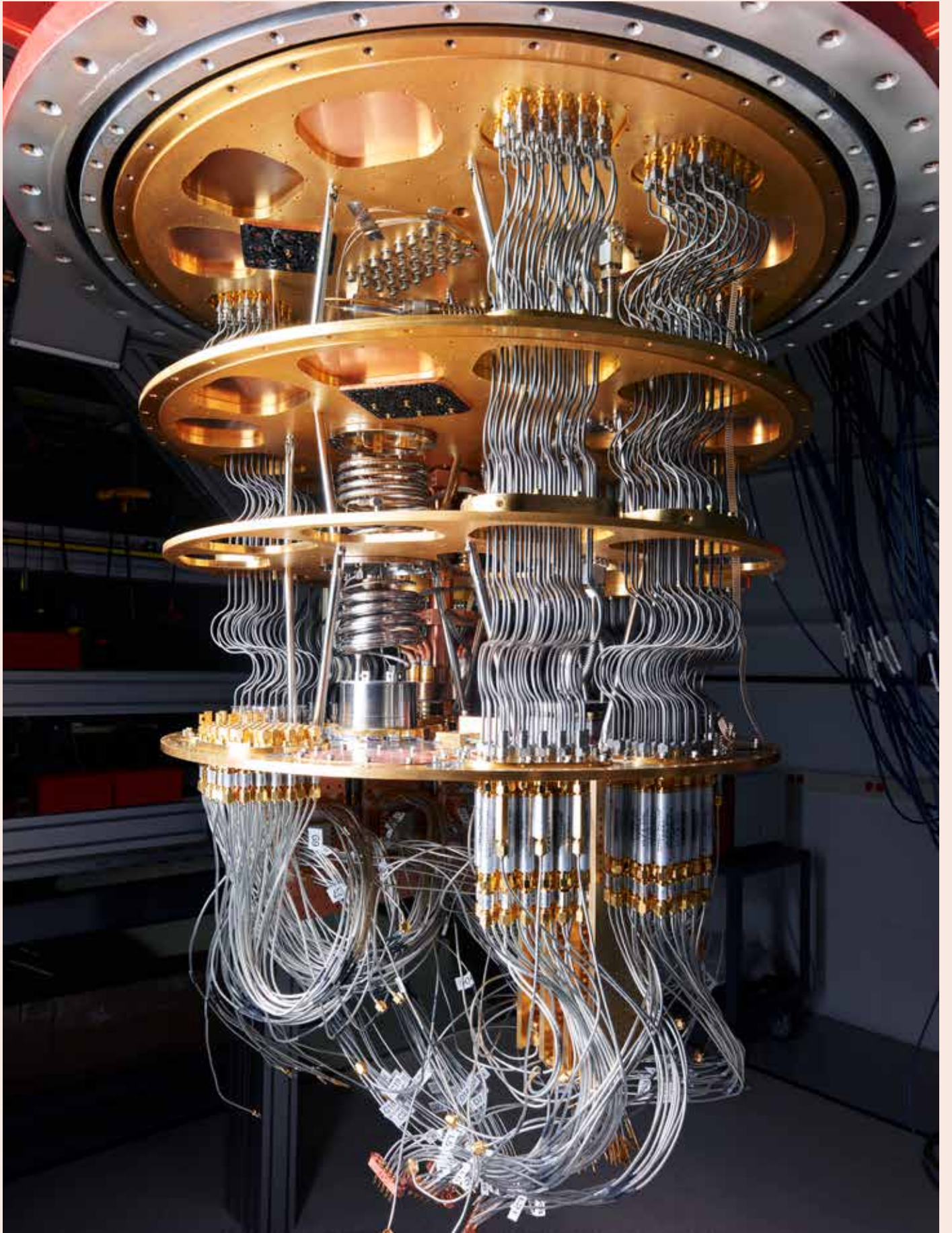
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Syeda Jaana Ali | <input type="checkbox"/> Emmanuel Mounouchos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Asmar | <input type="checkbox"/> M. Ebrahim Poulad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boris Chernyak | <input type="checkbox"/> Meghan Rodrigues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicholas Di Cuia | <input type="checkbox"/> Steven Tissenbaum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Knowland | <input type="checkbox"/> Marie-Louise Tonea |

**Ryerson
University**

You're eligible to vote if you are a graduate of a Ryerson degree, diploma, or certificate program approved by the Senate and are no longer registered as a Ryerson student.

cast your
VOTE





NAVIGATING THE RISKS OF QUANTUM COMPUTING

Cybersecurity Research Lab is helping protect organizations from future threats

BY SHARON ASCHAIK

The way we deliver health care, build self-driving cars and even plan for retirement stand to become significantly more effective in the next decade with the impending emergence of quantum computing. Approaching problem-solving in a fundamentally new way, these sophisticated machines can process vast numbers of calculations simultaneously and generate results exponentially faster than today's computers.

And yet, as with every new technology, quantum computing will also pose some risks. Primarily, our society's current information and communication technology (ICT) architecture, which uses conventional public-key cryptography, is vulnerable against attacks by quantum computers. This means organizations' sensitive data – personal information, intellectual property, credit card data, health records – could be leaked or corrupted.

"Today's most commonly used cryptographic measures will be no match for the power of quantum computers," says Atefeh Mashatan, founder and director of the Cybersecurity Research Lab at Ryerson University. "The integrity and confidentiality of our important information, which is key to the functioning of our economy, needs to be protected against these highly sophisticated computers."

A leading cybersecurity expert and former senior information security consultant for CIBC, Mashatan is on a mission to help the ICT industry in Canada prepare for the rise of quantum computers. She is facilitating the transition to quantum-resistant cryptography.

Researcher Atefeh Mashatan is facilitating the transition to quantum-resistant cryptography.

with "Strategic Implications of Quantum Computing for Enterprises," a project that arms organizations with knowledge about the nature of this complex threat and enables them to prepare for and respond to quantum cyber attacks.

How quantum computing works


Traditional computers work on millions of lines of code on computer chips featuring binary digits, or bits, with a value of either one or zero. The introduction of quantum mechanics to computing has led to quantum bits, or "qubits," which can represent a superposition of a one and a zero. This capability allows a computer to solve a certain class of problems dramatically faster than the best classical computers. How much faster? A quantum computer in China recently took minutes to complete a calculation that would have taken a supercomputer of comparable size two billion years.

This new computing paradigm holds immense promise for the field of medicine by allowing for faster analysis of medical images, which could lead to more accurate diagnoses and better understanding of drug sensitivities at the cellular level – a boon for personalized medicine. More broadly, quantum computing may yield efficiency advantages in areas such as basic scientific research; artificial intelligence and machine learning; financial modeling; traffic optimization; and climate change forecasting.

Preparing for quantum cyber threats

Commercially available quantum computers are still at least five to 10 years away, though research and development by academics, governments and companies such as Microsoft, Google, IBM, Intel and D-Wave Systems are accelerating the pace of innovation. In response, Mashatan and others are developing a quantum readiness roadmap to prepare the organizations for an impending transition. Mashatan also contributes to these efforts as a member of the academic steering committee of Quantum-Safe Canada, a not-for-profit organization focused on advancing quantum-ready cryptography research and innovation.

In the meantime, Mashatan says, organizations must start taking steps now to modernize their information security infrastructure. She noted in the May 2020 edition of Management Information Systems Quarterly Executive, that IT managers must establish a governance structure for addressing this issue; conduct a quantum risk assessment; evaluate their firm's current cryptographic footprint; and develop an appropriate transition plan.

"If and when an attack-capable quantum computer is available, the attacker who has harvested encrypted information can decrypt and achieve whatever malicious goal they have in mind," Mashatan says. "So it is imperative for organizations to understand the sensitivity and shelf life of their important assets, and to decide now which ones need complementary protection against the quantum threat." 

LIFE STORY

Feeling at home

How Sara Asalya created community for newcomers



Sara Asalya founded the Newcomer Students' Association in 2016.

➔ I'VE BEEN IN Canada for almost a decade and my first years were really harsh years. I had to start everything from scratch; I was also dealing with language, cultural and financial barriers. I lacked a support system, and I had zero network. These struggles drove me to do the work I am doing today for the immigrant community.

I badly wanted to be involved in any work that supports the immigrant community, so two or three months after coming to Canada, I started volunteering with organizations that were doing work to support the settlement and integration process. But I wasn't really happy with the way newcomers were treated as clients. It never felt like I was being 100 per cent seen, valued and

validated in terms of my complex experience as an immigrant, as a woman of colour and as someone who has faced a lot of racism and discrimination. I thought that if one day I'm able to create something, it has to be community-centred.

I founded The Newcomer Students' Association when I came to Ryerson as a student at the Chang School of Continuing Education in 2016. I was hoping that I would really fit in; that I would see different support systems, services and programming that would be offered for immigrant students. But it was lacking. I had difficulty in the classroom: I was the only one to speak English as a second language and with an accent, and I wasn't confident in my ability to participate. So I started the association as a small steering group on campus.

In 2020 we led a transformational expansion of the group and moved from being a campus-based student group into a national grassroots organization that supports immigrant and refugee students in postsecondary institutions. This came after so many students from across different Canadian campuses reached out to us to seek support. It was evident to us that universities are lacking a support system for these students, and in fact are not responding to the unique needs of this segment. We now have more than 5,000 members from different Ontario campuses.

Newcomer Women's Services (Toronto) is another agency that I accessed when I came to Canada. I was a client and needed their support and counselling. So it's coming full circle for me to come back to managing programs and initiatives that actually work to support and build leadership capacity for immigrant women. When a woman shares with me that she was able to advocate for her needs, and for her own community, this is what fulfils me and makes me happy about the work that I'm doing.

Everything that I do for the immigrant community, of which I'm a part, is really driven and informed by my own lived experiences. To be recognized as a 2021 Top 25 Women of Influence gives me the motivation to keep fighting for my community, and it reminds me to never give up. This is about the communities that I work with and serve, and any recognition I get is a recognition for the whole community. —Interview by Tayo Bero

Students still need your help

The pandemic continues to take a toll on students. More and more are struggling to get the support, equipment and resources they need, be it financial, academic, mental wellness, or otherwise.

You can help. Your gift to the Ryerson Fund can be the difference a student needs to make it through the year.

Sara Jacobi-Harris
ponders questions of
recognition and
representation.



PROFILES

'You cannot be what you cannot see'

Sara Yacobi-Harris tackles complex issues of race, identity and community through her organization No Silence on Race

BY JEYAN JEGANATHAN, JOURNALISM '13

ALUMNA SARA YACOBI-HARRIS has an accomplished resumé: the Arts and Contemporary Studies '16 graduate has produced and directed a documentary, *Who Is a Jew?*, worked at CBC's Unscripted department championing diverse voices in film, founded *No Silence on Race*, an organization pursuing racial equity and creating inclusive Jewish spaces in Canada, all while finishing her master's in education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.


Still, Yacobi-Harris says she has yet to arrive. "I'm constantly in this process of becoming," says Yacobi-Harris. Her work in anti-racism started with her personal journey as a Black Jewish woman. "The questions that I'm pondering are about recognition. I think about this specifically in the context of Jews of colour."

She credits her time at Ryerson for pushing her curiosity to exploration and activism. "Seeing myself represented in the student body in ways I hadn't seen in my upbringing was just so invigorating, so inspiring," says Yacobi-Harris. "It helped me find my voice. There will always be those that blaze new paths forward but oftentimes, you cannot be what you cannot see." In 2018 there were roughly 392,000 Jewish Canadians, making up just over one per cent of the Canadian population. "Jews of colour are like a minority within a minority," says Yacobi-Harris.

"Being a Black Jewish woman is a rich and nuanced ethnoraical identity to hold."

Following the death of George Floyd in May 2020, Yacobi-Harris says she watched closely to see what was happening within the Jewish community. "There are a lot of incredible Jewish organizations across the country that are really engaged in meaningful anti-racism and inclusion work," says Yacobi-Harris. "But what I wanted to see more of was our community having difficult conversations about how some of this might manifest in our own spaces, and how we are inadvertently misrecognizing those in our own communities."

After many conversations with fellow Black Jews and Jews of colour, Yacobi-Harris created *No Silence on Race*. Then with a few collaborators, she penned a letter to Jewish congregations, foundations and other organizations to "commit to the creation of a truly anti-racist, inclusive and equitable Jewish community." While *No Silence on Race* is still in its infancy, Yacobi-Harris hopes the conversations she is having and work the organization is doing will help create a safer place for Jews of colour in the wider Jewish community.

"When you create community for minorities within a minority, to actually recognize one another and see themselves, there's such healing power in that." 

PROFILES

An algorithm for success

Data scientist Mehrnaz Shokrollahi on forging a career in AI

BY WENDY GLAUSER



Mehrnaz Shokrollahi says “don’t be scared to get your hands dirty working on applications.”


➔ MEHRNAZ SHOKROLLAHI’S interest in artificial intelligence and machine learning was sparked in her undergraduate program in Electrical & Computer Engineering, when she took a course in biomedical signal analysis. The course opened her eyes to just how wide the applications of artificial intelligence could be, including improving medical treatments and prolonging lives.

Shokrollahi went on to do her master’s and PhD program with Sri Krishnan on developing algorithms to identify the aggressive sleep movements that typically precede a Parkinson’s diagnosis, graduating with her doctorate in 2015.

In 2020, Shokrollahi moved to the financial sector, taking a job as senior data scientist at PureFacts Financial Solutions. “There are a lot of women in my network that were very successful in the financial sector, and that made me think this was an area to pursue,” she says, noting the sector is known for a more welcoming culture for women, compared to the more male-dominated world of small tech startups. Also, that year, Shokrollahi was named as one of the 30 Influential Women Advancing AI by AI blog Re-Work.

At PureFacts, Shokrollahi develops algorithms and use cases for wealth management institutes, such as showing clients

their expected investment growth using a variety of scenarios. Her work involves numerous conversations to understand the business side, she says. “I need to know how my algorithm and my model can help them and then to go back and see whether it did indeed help them or not,” she says.

Her advice for young people is, “don’t be scared to get your hands dirty working on applications, there’s so much data available for free online. Try to come up with your own use cases,” she says. “Women, especially, often have self doubt, but I always remind myself of Newton’s first law. Once you start something, it’s kind of like a rolling ball, it’s going to get easier.” 



"You don't have to wear what's popular or trending."

→ SOME OF CHRISTIAN Allaire's first fashion memories were seeing his sister dressed in regalia for pow wows and watching his mother and aunt sew intricate, beaded jingle dresses. Now, the Ojibwe journalist is a digital fashion and style writer at the influential magazine *Vogue*.

Growing up, Allaire grappled with his mixed heritage (his mother is Ojibwe and his father is white), but moving to Toronto and going to Ryerson (Journalism '14) helped him discover a community of Indigenous people in fashion. It was this community that helped him become more comfortable expressing his Indigeneity.

"I've always struggled with the question of: 'Can I really own this culture? Am I fully native?' But I realized that in native culture, it's not about your blood quantum. I grew up on the reserve. My family is Indigenous. I am Indigenous," Allaire says over the phone from his family home in West Nipissing, Ont.

He was hired to work at a footwear magazine in New York in 2014, straight out of his undergraduate degree. He survived the Manhattan grind to get to where he is now in a full-time position at *Vogue*, covering Indigenous designers and style.

Allaire finds it genuinely surprising that more people aren't writing about the work of Indigenous designers. In 2018 Allaire started developing his book *The Power of Style* to highlight stories about Indigenous fashion, and quickly realized there were so many untold stories.

The book, out earlier this spring, is about everything from modest dressing and hijab designers to the underrepresentation of Asian women in the beauty industry. It's geared toward a younger audience as an eyeopener to other cultures but also as a reinforcement of their own identities.

"I want to show readers that you can be proud of who you are, you don't have to wear what's popular or trending. You can embrace your individuality." **RU**

PROFILES

Fashion journalist opens up a world of style

Christian Allaire's new book explores the pride of diverse identities

BY KELSEY ADAMS, JOURNALISM '17

Class Notes

UPDATES FROM ALUMNI ON PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES

1950s

John Bobyk

Mechanical and Industrial Technology (MIT) '55
“I worked for Stelco, Union Carbide/Linde in Edmonton and Ontario. I spent a great deal of time sailing with my best friend and fellow Ryerson alumnus Donald Mackenzie Green, MIT '54. I started a manufacturing/assembly plant of Oxy/acetylene and related welding products for a large U.S. multinational in Oakville. Upon retiring from Thermadyne in 1998, I served as chairman of the board of Oakville Hydro for several years, fully retiring in 2008. I am enjoying living in the snowy north with my wife Ann (nee Latimer), Fashion '56, Ryerson's first female gold medallist.”

Allan Headon

Electrical and Computer Engineering '51
“After graduation, I worked for the Ontario Hydro research division, now Kinectrics. I had a very satisfying and varied career for 40 years. After going to Tanzania, East Africa, for a short period with Manitoba Hydro, I worked for a friend for two years at his corrosion protection consulting company. I have been retired for about 30 years, enjoying life with my wife, two daughters and two

→
Ernest Tucker was inducted into the CBC Hall of Fame in December 2020.

granddaughters. To keep up with developments in electronics and the use of electricity, I drive a high-tech EV!”

James Philip Steen

Electrical and Computer Engineering '55
James worked at Westinghouse for three years before pursuing a career in electronics, enjoying a successful and fulfilling career at Motorola for 33 years. James also taught electronics as a night school teacher for 15 years at Centennial College.



Ernest Tucker

Journalism '54
Ernest was inducted into the CBC News Hall of Fame in December. Ryerson's first Black graduate in Journalism and the CBC's first Black journalist, Ernest was born in Bermuda and moved to Toronto at age 14. At Ryerson, he landed interviews for The Ryersonian with boxer Joe Lewis and entertainers Nat King Cole and Josephine Baker. He joined the CBC Toronto newsroom in 1961; when John F. Kennedy was shot in 1963, he wrote and



produced the breaking story that went to air. Ernest was promoted to producer on the afternoon news show, Across Canada, writing for announcers Alex Trebek and Lloyd Robertson. He taught radio and journalism for 36 years, and authored three books, including *Lost Boundaries*, which tackled the subject of police harassment of Black Montrealers. He died Jan. 3, 2019, at age 87.

1960s

Rudy Bies

Mechanical Technology '62
“I remember coming back to Ryerson every September after a very hard and physically exhausting summer working in the mines, construction work and pipeline construction. As exhausted students, many of us were glad to be back at old Rye. Another highlight was the train trip back home for Christmas. I remember watching the World Series games each September in the O'Keefe Brewery on campus as we quaffed pitchers of beer. Remember the standing room only tickets at Maple Leaf Gardens? You never left your spot for three periods. Wonderful years for sure!”

Peter Laughton

Civil Technology '63
“I completed my Civil Engineering degree at the University of Toronto in 1966 and pursued a rewarding 39-year career with R.V. Anderson Associates Limited, consulting engineers in Toronto, stepping down as chairman in 2005. I established a consulting environmental



DID YOU KNOW...

Find out how to be a career mentor with Ryerson's Tri-Mentoring program. Email tmentor@ryerson.ca.



Rudy Bies and wife Gloria have a passion for art collecting. They are seen in a photo by Rosalie Favell (Image Arts '84) titled *Rudy and Gloria Bies with Arthur Shilling painting* (2012).



engineering business, retiring in 2015. I received an honorary doctorate from Ryerson in 1997, received the Professional Engineers Ontario Engineering Medal, was named to the U of T Engineering Alumni Hall of Distinction, and received the Dr. Albert E. Berry Medal, granted to a 'civil engineer who has contributed significantly to the field of environmental engineering in Canada.'

Elly Bollegraaf
Medical
Laboratory
Technology '60

"After graduation, I worked for three years at the



Ontario Provincial Laboratory in enteric microbiology. I then attended Carleton University, followed by a long career at Health Canada in Ottawa, in microbial physiology, epidemiology and in the medical devices bureau. I retired in 2001 at age 60. My husband, P.E. Grattan-Bellew, an accomplished NRC research scientist, to whom I was married for 40 years and with whom I travelled the world, died last March 2020. We had a wonderful life together. I think of my days at Ryerson with fondness, the camaraderie of classmates, and the excellent and unforgettable teachers."

Brian Mackey

Graphic Arts Management '69
Brian has published a novel titled *Kings of East York*, about Toronto in the 1960s, a multi-layered story about questions, dreams, coping with tough life circumstances, anxiety and focusing on life's best possibilities.

1970s

Ann Benedek

Journalism '71
"I can't believe that 50 years have passed since my graduation; several years later my sister Laura would also graduate from Ryerson. I began my career in corporate journalism and was named editor/writer in the communications division of the Anglican Church of Canada. I later joined the Canadian Churchman (now the Anglican Journal), and became features editor. I eventually left the award-winning newspaper to become a full-time parent, while continuing to freelance. I wish Ryerson University Magazine continued success and look forward to reading many more issues as I approach my 80th year."

Rod Crombie

Radio and Television Arts (RTA) '74
"I've pretty much retired from camera operating, including news, studio, documentary and long format camera work, after 45 years in the field. I was hoping to work for at least one more year, but COVID put an end to that. I continue to teach motorcycle riding and to volunteer with various groups."

David Semel

Public Health '74
"After 34 years working for Health Canada in several provinces, I retired from the field about 10 years ago. Along the way, I completed a bachelor's and master's of business administration at the University of New Brunswick and Dalhousie University respectively. I am currently living on the ocean in Nova Scotia, where I'm enjoying time with my kids and grandkids, kayaking and auto restoration."

1980s

Janet Forman-Williamson

RTA '83
"No Return, the most recent title in my Lee Smith Mystery series, was published by Level Best Books in September. I write under the pen name Jay Forman and my series features Canadian travel writer Lee Smith. *Excess Baggage*, out this spring, is set in the Maritimes and St. Pierre and Miquelon; and *Wave Goodbye*, coming out this September, is set in Tofino, B.C."



Debbie Gilbert

Business Technology Management '88
In 2010, Debbie and her husband co-founded PRX Print, a digital label printing company located in Mississauga, Ont. The company manufactures labels for all industry sectors, but primarily serves the food and microbrewery markets. They employ several Ryerson grads from the Graphic Communications program and have been thriving during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the increased volume of product labelling and packaging.

Trevor Kruze

Interior Design '86
Trevor has been appointed CEO of the Interior Designers of Canada (IDC). Trevor has enjoyed a 35-year career as a professional interior designer along with nearly three decades of volunteer service on provincial, national and international boards, including the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario, the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, the Society of British Interior Designers and the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers.



Greg Richardson

Journalism '85
“My wife, Melody, and I are doing well and working our way through the pandemic, both serving the people of Ontario in management positions within the Ontario Public Service. We live and work in Toronto, and like many are looking forward to getting back to travelling.”



The annual reunion of the Home Economics and Fashion class of '62 was cancelled for the first time since 1986, due to the pandemic. Instead, the group held a Zoom reunion in September, writes Maureen Kennedy, Fashion '62. “The highlight of the Zoom reunion was a slideshow of all the past reunions over 58 years, which was accompanied by a special music recording by one of the graduate’s sons called ‘Best Friends.’”

Wishing health and happiness to everyone.”

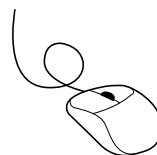
1990s

Angelina Jessica Kekich

Fashion '99
Angelina is the costume designer for Stephen King’s *The Stand*, a new CBS television series.

Sita (Singh) Singh-Rodriguez

Social Work '92
“After graduating, I worked for a financial company until 2007. In 2008 I moved to New York to marry the love of my life. I now work at a private school in Manhattan. I love travelling and have been to Italy, Spain, France, Vienna, Portugal, England, Barbados, Portugal and Curaçao.”



DID YOU KNOW...

Our webinars are available on the RU Connections Youtube channel

2000s

Janna Costanzo

Nursing '07
“I have created a YouTube cooking show to help my fellow health-care professionals and others who want to learn how to cook easy and delicious meals for their loved ones. ‘Janna’s Cooking Show’ on YouTube features my family’s favourite recipes. I share my love of cooking and help people recreate restaurant-worthy meals at home.”

Amy Doerksen

RTA '01
“I’ve published my first children’s book called *The Rubber Boot Thief!* Writing children’s stories has been a lifelong goal of mine and 2020 marked the year I made it happen. I started the story about 15 years ago when I was living in Yellowknife, N.W.T. The manuscript followed me through four moves, multiple cities, marriage and the birth of three kids! I’ve now written and illustrated a second book, *Maude the Misunderstood Musky.*”
Visit amydoerksen.com.



Tamara Doerksen

Project Management '06
Tamara is the CEO and founder of the Lonny’s Smile Foundation, a children’s charity launched in 2010 to honour the memory of her brother Lonny. Lonny’s Smile creates opportunities for children with congenital heart disease to attend summer camp at zero cost to their families. The charity has sent more than

120 kids to Camp Oki. Tamara was awarded the Volunteer Toronto's Legacy Award for her contributions to the community. Visit lonnyssmile.org.

Gillian Gravely

Nursing '05
Gillian was named one of the 50 most influential Torontonians of 2020 by Toronto Life magazine. She was one of the first to volunteer to help when COVID outbreaks emerged in long-term care facilities. With her ample experience as an advanced practice nurse educator, front-line nurse, manager and instructor, she spent 12 hours a day for eight weeks working at the Re kai long-term care facility, where she helped develop protocol for donning and removing PPE and cleaning rooms, while directly caring for residents.

Martin Rochon

Ted Rogers School of Management '04
"I am very proud to be working on social innovation programs during the pandemic that impact both students and seniors. I am also very proud to have been accepted as a mentor to Ryerson's wonderful Tri-Mentoring Program, where I look forward to helping develop future leaders with a strong focus on ethics and social innovation."



Kyoka Tsukamoto

Image Arts '01
Kyoka is a Montreal-based filmmaker whose first feature-length essay documentary, *My Dearest Sister*, was presented at Reelworld Film Festival in October. The film was screened at Rendez-Vous Du Cinema Quebecois in

Montreal and the Raindance Film Festival in the United Kingdom. The film was acquired to be used during graduate and undergraduate lectures at York University, where she has been invited to be a guest speaker. Visit kyokafilm.com.

Angela Wallace

Arts and Contemporary Studies '08
"In 2020, I became COO/CSO at Bogobrush, an innovative, eco-friendly oral care brand made from plants and recycled materials, launching soon in Canada. I was one of 15 women working in business selected from 315 applications to receive a female entrepreneurship grant from the City of Toronto."

Greg Wayne

RTA '09
Greg's Richard Simmons biopic script *St. Simmons* was named among the top scripts on the 16th annual Black List, an annual survey of the most liked unproduced screenplays of that year. The lists are aggregated using votes from film executives, and have included such Oscar-winners as *Juno*, *The King's Speech* and *Argo*.

Kyle Edward Wilson

Image Arts '07
"I married a fellow Ryerson grad, Stephanie Jane Wilson, Journalism '97, worked in publishing, then marketing at agencies, and went back to school for an MBA. I am now working for a great company in the mechanical contractor world helping to lower carbon emissions through better building system design."

2010s

Jesse Berger

MBA '15
Jesse has published his first book, *Magic Internet Money, A Book About Bitcoin*. "Although the title may seem playful, the book itself very sensibly addresses a number of crucial social and economic issues." Visit magicbitcoinbook.com.

Adrien Beyk

Electrical and Computer Engineering '17
Adrien combined his interest in fashion and engineering to develop a line of smart gloves (and socks) called Quanta Vici, that are connected to the user's smartphone and can be electronically heated at the touch of a button. Adrien, who is originally from Iran, conceived the idea as a Ryerson student coping with Canadian winters. The project was made possible by crowdfunding sites IndieGoGo and Kickstarter that helped raise \$700,000.

Kyle Edwards

Journalism '17
Kyle was named a 2021 Nieman Visiting Fellow and will conduct research examining how COVID-19 has impacted Indigenous culture, language and traditional knowledge. The project will include a website devoted to sharing oral histories and interviews with families affected by the virus, and a podcast series focused on Indigenous resilience during the pandemic.

Cassie Friedman

Journalism '11
"I'm thrilled to share my



Tamara Doerksen is the founder of the Lonny's Smile Foundation.



work on the new ABC trivia game show *The Hustler*, which premiered on ABC and CTV, and won its time slot. As the senior development producer on the show, my work included developing the game, pitching and selling it to the network, casting contestants, writing questions and producing the first season.”

Zahra Islam

Nursing '16

“After serving on the Ryerson Students’ Union board of directors in my third year, I realized what inspired me was the idea of shaping the policy landscape of our society and solving our world’s most pressing policy problems. I completed my master’s of public administration at Queen’s University. After working at Canada’s Foreign Ministry for a year, I am now an economist at the Department of Finance’s international trade and finance branch. I work with Canada’s Foreign Ministry to develop Canadian negotiating positions on various financial and policy issues at multilateral development banks.”



↑ Zahra Islam works on financial and policy issues with Canada’s Foreign Ministry.

Monica Kwong

Chemical Engineering Co-op '18

“When I was a co-op student at Sofina Foods in 2017, the co-op office connected me with Marzieh Baghi, Chemical Engineering Co-op '12, a project manager at the time, as a way of meeting alumni from the same program working for the same company. After graduation, I applied for the process engineering role at Sofina Foods. Marzieh is now my manager in her role as director of engineering. On another project, I connected with another Ryerson graduate, Michael Highdale, Chemical Engineering Co-op '03, who was the vice-president, operations. It was a pleasure working with two people from the same academic program.”

Taylor Lindsay-Noel

RTA '17

Taylor’s loose-leaf tea brand Cup of Té was featured as one of Oprah’s “Favourite Things” in the November 2020 issue of Oprah magazine. An elite gymnast who was training for the London Olympics when a tragic injury left her paralyzed from the neck down at age 14, Taylor developed an affinity for tea during her physical rehabilitation, when she realized her injury made it difficult to regulate her body temperature. As an RTA student pursuing her dream of being an entertainment reporter, she started her own podcast, “Tea Time with Tay,” and in 2018, launched Cup of Té.

Yusuf Naqwi

Business Technology Management '14

“I worked for a short while in Toronto before going



↑ Chemical Engineering alumna Monica Kwong and Marzieh Baghi at Sofina Foods.



DID YOU KNOW...

The Ryerson Library invites you to submit images to the COVID-19 digital archive. Visit library.ryerson.ca.

back to Saudi Arabia, where I joined IBM’s Graduate Program. Shortly afterward, I got married, and in 2018 we moved to Bahrain where I co-founded a startup, working on applications of advanced technologies such as AI and blockchain. I also work at SAP as a senior account executive, looking after the Saudi and Bahrain markets for digital supply chain.”

Renee Tessier

Hospitality & Tourism Management '14

“I own my own travel agency (under an umbrella company) and also work in the federal government. I have two daughters, born in June 2018 and March 2020.”

Andrew Alexander Roberts

Journalism '16

“After graduation, I went on to earn my master’s of teaching at the University of Toronto (OISE). Since graduating in 2018, I have been teaching with the Toronto District School

Board and I'm absolutely loving it! I also freelance for Daily Hive Toronto in my spare time as a contributing Maple Leafs writer."

Mayaan Ziv

RTA '12

Mayaan won a 2020 Governor General's Innovation Award for her work as founder of AccessNow, a mobile app that provides users with ratings and information on the accessibility features of businesses or experiences in more than 30 countries. Motivated by her own frustration at the lack of accessibility information while living with Muscular Dystrophy, Mayaan developed the crowdsourcing-fueled app to engage others to contribute to a more inclusive and accessible world.

2020s

Sarah Muncaster

Nutrition and Food '20

"I have launched the Dietitians Discovered podcast, which explores the unique career pathways within dietetics. Each week, I sit down with a registered dietitian and discuss their career and journey in the field."



In memoriam

Roberts Freimuts

Image Arts '75, and formerly of the School of Image Arts Roberts passed away on November 21 after suffering from Parkinson's disease for more than 20 years. He worked in the School of Image Arts from 1975 until his retirement in 2010. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Maruta, and two daughters.

Peter Gilbert

Formerly of the School of Interior Design Peter passed away after a brief illness on November 9, 2020, at age 84.

Denise Graham

Applied Geography '78 Denise passed away July 9, 2020, after a short battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Allan and son Ryan. Denise grew up in Don Mills, working summer jobs with the City of Toronto Planning Department in 1977 and 1978 and was hired as a city planner in 1978. She retired in December 2011.

Tom Jardin

RTA '75

Tom died September 17, 2020, at age 66. He started out as a DJ at CHOO radio in Ajax and ran his own recording studio, Earthbound Sound. He worked for more than 30 years at the Toronto District School Board as a media specialist and independently recorded music for such bands as Fathead and Jeff Healey. He was particularly proud of his live recording for the album

"It's Tight Like That" by Jeff Healey and The Jazz Wizards.

John Kitamura

Interior Design '63, and former dean of Applied Arts John died September 30, 2020. He was among the first Interior Design graduates to be hired to teach full-time at Ryerson after a short career as a practising interior designer. John's contributions to the interior design profession were numerous, as an educator, administrator and in the professional association for Interior Designers of Ontario, ARIDO.

Isaac "Ike" Morgulis

Former associate dean of Technology Ike died July 27, 2020, at age 94. A professional engineer, Ike was an instructor, chair, associate dean, director and a member of faculty at Ryerson for more than 40 years. He was involved with Ryerson International projects in

South America and Germany. He was an avid photographer, canoeist and outdoorsman, a longstanding member at Holy Blossom Temple and a lifelong learner, studying electrical engineering, acoustics, physics, teaching and photographic sciences.

Douglas Smail

Formerly of Mechanical Engineering Douglas died on December 26, 2020, at age 80. Doug was a professor of mechanical engineering at Ryerson for almost 40 years. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Nancy.

Jennifer Teeluck

Certificate in Public Relations '99 Jennifer passed away January 5, 2021. She spent more than a decade researching and pursuing her theories of the ancient civilizations, wishing to impart ancestral knowledge onto this generation. She presented her ideas at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, in 2008 and 2011. —Christine Julien Sullivan, Journalism '97

→ Isaac "Ike" Morgulis was a Ryerson faculty member for more than 40 years.



REMEMBER WHEN?

A glimpse of Toronto's past

Alumnus Avard Woolaver has extensive archive of photos of Toronto in the '80s

→ WHEN AVARD WOOLAVER (Image Arts '84) started taking photos of Toronto's cityscape back in the '80s during his degree at Ryerson, it was a big shift in focus from the rural farmland outside of Halifax where he'd grown up. "I'd have a course assignment to do, so I'd go out looking for things to capture and it would take me all over the city," says Woolaver. "I'd just turned 22, and my photos were a way of reacting to this new environment. I liked that Ryerson was right downtown; you didn't have to go far to see something interesting in the city."

Woolaver lived in Toronto from 1980-86, and looking at the thousands of photos he took during his Toronto years has been a labour of love as he assembles the photos

by year and theme into books. "Part of what this project really illustrates is all of the changes that have happened over the last 40 years. I have thousands of photos of Toronto, and going through and scanning them in batches is interesting. I've discovered a lot about myself and my former self. Some of the photos I can't remember taking, some I can remember very clearly. It's a journey of rediscovery for me," he says.

His Ryerson years were momentous, says Woolaver, because of the connections he made, the professors he had and the skills he learned. "My experience at Ryerson helped me realize that even after your interest is no longer your profession, it can still be a big part of your creative life."

—Michelle Grady

One of Avard Woolaver's photos of Ryerson: a young man rides a bicycle through Lake Devo in 1982.



PHOTOGRAPH BY AVARD WOOLAVER



Is it time to reset the way you protect your family?

Alumni Term Life Insurance can help.

2020 will go down as the year of the great reset. The year we all got back to basics and were reminded of what really matters: family and protecting it. If something were to happen to you now or in the future, would your loved ones have the financial reserves to be able to pay bills and cover living expenses?

Reset the way you protect them, with Alumni Term Life Insurance. It can be used in any way* your loved ones need and comes in two plan options – Term Life and Term 10.

Reset your protection.



Get a quote today. Call **1-888-913-6333**
or visit us at **Manulife.com/ryerson**.

Underwritten by **The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife)**.

Manulife, Stylized M Design, and Manulife & Stylized M Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under license. Available to Canadian residents only. © 2021 The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company. All rights reserved. Manulife, P.O. Box 670, Stn Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2J 4B8. Conditions, limitations and exclusions may apply. See policy for full details.

You may also contact John Kucher, CFP, CH.F.C., CLU, CHS., collect at 905-305-1144.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. Visit [Manulife.ca/accessibility](https://www.manulife.ca/accessibility) for more information.

We have more to share with you



Update your email address to keep from missing out on the latest alumni perks like discounts, podcasts, exclusive events and more.

**Ryerson
University**

Don't miss out.
ryerson.ca/alumni/alumnibenefits