

Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



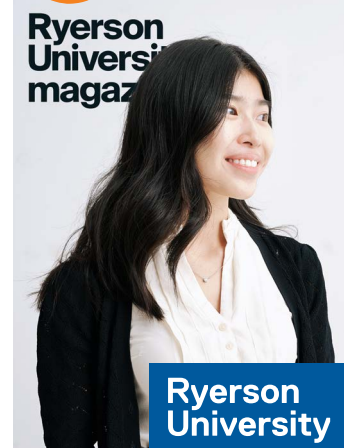
Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University magazine



Ryerson University

CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTION

Become a professor or an industry leader. Or both.

Realize your future at ryerson.ca/graduate/future-students

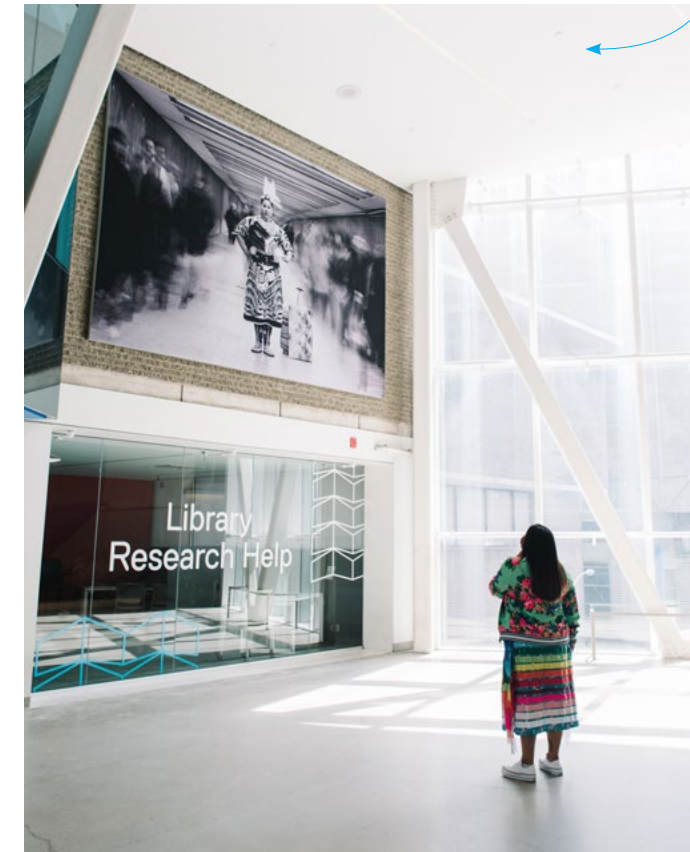
Ryerson University Graduate Studies

Gavin Ball, Master of Digital Media alumnus, Ontario Tech University professor and founder of creative consulting studio Full Circle CS.

Contents

WINTER 2021

Tee Lyn Duke looks at an art installation, a photograph of Duke in regalia, at the Library entrance.



Gould Street

- 3 President's message**
- 5 Celebrating Indigenous identity**
Library unveils new installation by Nadya Kwandibens
- 6 Special delivery**
How volunteers are making sure grads receive their diplomas
- 7 Panel on campus safety**
Finding a holistic approach to security
- 10 Anti-Black racism initiatives underway**
New committee takes action to support students, faculty and staff
- 11 Q & A**
Tony Staffieri, Ryerson's new Board chair

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (COVER) JANICK LAURENT, (TOP) STEF & ETHAN

Features

- 14 New lawyers for new times**
Creating access to justice is what we need now
By Wendy Glauser
- 20 A call to action**
Students petitioned for action on systemic racism in media. Here's what Ryerson did
By Connor Garel
- 26 Centring Indigenous voices**
Yellowhead Institute's research shapes policy
By Michelle Grady

Alumni Diary

- 29 Charting progress**
Alumni association embarks on transformation
- 30 Book club**
Three great books by Ryersonians to read this winter
- 32 Life story**
Al Ramsay empowers himself and the queer community
- 34 Alumni profiles**
Cheryll Case, Christian Hui and Ena Chadha make change
- 38 Class notes**
Updates from alumni
- 44 Remember when?**
1918 vs. 2020: A look at pandemics in Canada

Contributors and letter from the editor



KELSEY ADAMS
Journalism '17
Writer, Profile of Christian Hui (p.36)
Kelsey Adams is an arts and culture journalist born and raised in Toronto. She is a staff writer at NOW Magazine and has written for the Globe and Mail, The FADER, Complex CA and Canadian Art. She is devoted to elevating the voices of marginalized cultural creators.



NABRA BADR
Fashion Communication '18
Photographer, Alumni Profiles (p.34 to 37)
Nabra Badr is a Toronto-based photographer whose focus is to create powerful images through a fashion, beauty and portrait lens, working with clients such as The Kit and Flare Magazine.

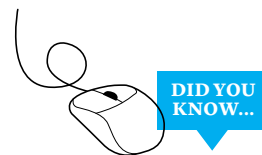


TAYO BERO
Writer, Profile of Ena Chadha, (p.37) Anti-Black Racism Campus Climate Review, (p.10)
Tayo is an award-winning culture writer and radio producer. Her work often appears in publications like Chatelaine Magazine, Teen Vogue, the Guardian and on CBC Radio. Covering issues spanning race, culture, feminism and the African diaspora, Tayo is committed to uplifting marginalized voices and telling unique stories.

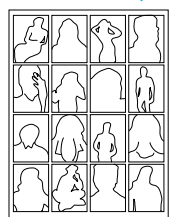


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What does change look like for you? For many of us, the past year has sparked an intense awareness of inequality in our society and a sense that if we do not take action against bias and racism we are complicit in it. In this issue, we feature some of the many Ryersonians who are making change and leading us to make a better world.
—Colleen Mellor
Journalism '86



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



ON THE COVER

(Top left to right) Tiffany Mboyo Mongu, Sarah Frazer, Heather Batista Baez, Christian Hui, Harsimran Kaur Sidhu, Eternity Martis, Ena Chadha, Dylan Gervais, Kian Rastegar, Khushi Dave, Omar Jawabri, Breanna Xavier-Carter, Kaylee Rich, Cheryl Case, Evan Brander, Brittany Mark

Volume 24, Issue 1, Winter 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* **Antoinette Mercurio** • *Staff Writers:* **Surbhi Bir, Lindsey Craig, Michelle Grady 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 January 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 aluminfo@ryerson.ca or call 1-866-428-8881. Please also see www.ryerson.ca/privacy.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELLORI CHRISTOPHER MANSON, DOCUMENTARY MEDIA '11, ADAMS ANDRE VARTY, BADRIEETI NABAG, IBEROI OSATO EREBOR

The legacy of 2020

By Mohamed Lachemi
President and Vice-Chancellor

IN AN ERA MARKED by rapid change, 2020 stands out. A year ago, we were celebrating the start of a new decade. A few months later we were all affected by a pandemic, our daily lives anything but normal.

While COVID-19 was the first obstacle, the social upheaval that followed has the potential to inspire fundamental changes in our political, economic and social landscape for generations. At Ryerson, this broader public awareness has led us to focus even more on values that are deeply embedded in the culture of the university.

This edition of Ryerson University Magazine highlights some of the ways these challenges are playing out at our university, from our Anti-Black Racism Campus Climate Review, and how we shape campus safety protocols, to the launch of our new law school, and the legacy of Egerton Ryerson's relationship to the Indigenous community and residential schools. The issue also profiles the efforts of students, faculty, staff and alumni who are pushing human rights forward in a variety of ways.

I welcome this renewed focus, as I believe that universities play an important role in shaping not only the discussion but also leading by example when it comes to justice, equity and human rights. My belief in the connection between human rights and education is the result of my own life experiences. I was born in Algeria just two days after the war of independence from France came to an end.

Living under colonial rule, my parents and grandparents had many opportunities taken from them, the greatest being access to education. National independence marked the

start of a long journey for my parents to transform the destiny of their children through education, one of the most fundamental of human rights. The sacrifices they made have inspired my life and career.

Though we have seen human rights campaigns over the years, I think this time is different. My optimism stems from the fact that change is being driven by a new generation of youth seeking real, universal change, not simply piecemeal responses to singular grievances (valid as they may be). I also see

a willingness among Canadians for transparent and honest dialogue, and a desire to understand the need for change.

At Ryerson, that translates into real action: building a law school focused on access to legal education, as well as access to justice for Canadians, taking an honest look at Indigenous issues in history, and embracing a culture of anti-racism.

It is my sincere hope that fundamental progress on human rights will be the most important legacy of 2020.

"My belief in the connection between human rights and education is the result of my own life experiences."

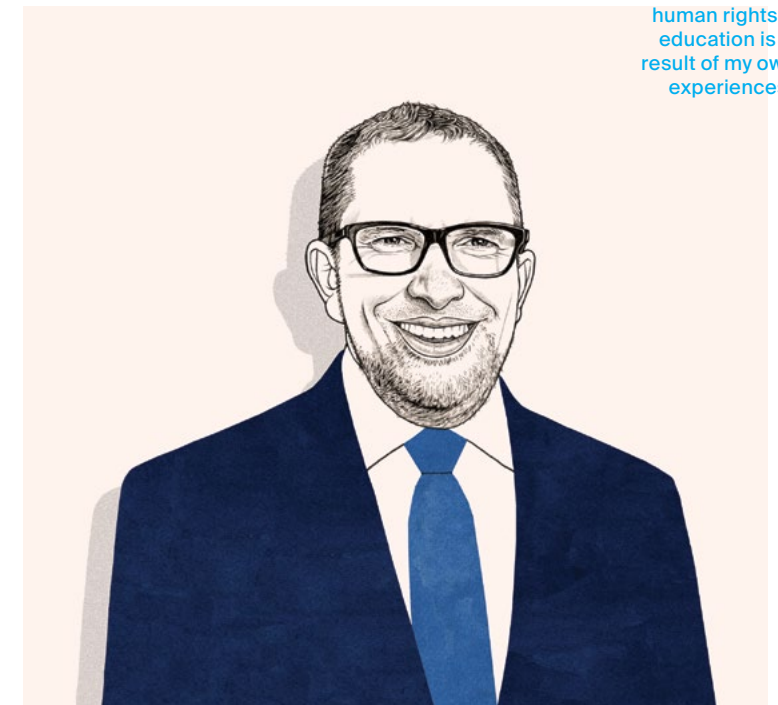


ILLUSTRATION BY ADAMI CRUFT

Learn. Build. Change.

Repeat.

Artificial intelligence, automation and a global pandemic are changing the way we work. How we approach our jobs today will be different tomorrow. One way to keep pace in the future is through continuous learning.

With over 400 online courses and dozens of in-demand certificates, you can build, change or improve your career — again and again.

Continue to adapt with the times. Start learning online this January.

**Ryerson
University**

**The Chang School
of Continuing
Education**

This way forward

continuing.ryerson.ca

UPDATES
FROM OUR
CAMPUS

gould street

/ ANTI-HATE RESOURCE / HOW AR ENHANCES VIRTUAL LABS / ANTI-BLACK RACISM / Q & A /



Artist Nadya Kwandibens (left) with Tee Lyn Duke, who is featured in the photograph.

INDIGENOUS SPACE ON CAMPUS

Celebrating Indigenous identity Art installation by photographer Nadya Kwandibens unveiled at Library entrance

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEF & ETHAN

THE RYERSON UNIVERSITY Library unveiled a large-scale public artwork by rising star Nadya Kwandibens last fall, commemorating the university's engagement with the annual Native American Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference. While the conference was cancelled due to the pandemic, the university decided to move forward with the mural. →

The 10-by-15.7-foot portrait is on display as part of the university's commitment to increase Indigenous visibility and celebration on campus, educate the whole community and inspire meaningful conversations.

Through her work, Kwandibens explores what urbanization means for Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island and how living in urban areas can affect one's cultural identity.

The woman photographed is Tee Lyn Duke, a member of an Anishinaabe dance troupe who often takes Toronto's public transit to rehearsals in her regalia. Kwandibens took her photo at Spadina subway station. "Duke stands still amongst waves of people," says Kwandibens. "The movement around her conveys a sense of existing in an entirely different world that is both past and future, as if to say, 'Despite all attempts at erasing who we are, here we still stand.'"

RECONCILIATION

Task force appointed to examine Egerton Ryerson's legacy

Over the past decade, Ryerson students, faculty and staff, the university's Aboriginal Education Council, and the Truth and Reconciliation Strategic Working Group have been deeply involved in the process of reconciling Egerton Ryerson's connection to residential schools.

Over the past months, communities around the world have been having important conversations

about their relationships with historical figures. At Ryerson, President Mohamed Lachemi appointed a Presidential Task Force to gather feedback on what the university can do to reconcile the legacy of Egerton Ryerson, fully understand his relationship with residential schools, develop principles to guide potential next steps which the university could take, and submit a final report with recommended actions for the university.

The 14 members of the task force are students, faculty, alumni and staff,

and representatives from the community. The two co-chairs are Joanne Dallaire, Elder (Ke Shay Hayo) and senior advisor Indigenous relations and reconciliation at Ryerson University, chair of the Ryerson's Aboriginal Education Council, and co-chair of the Truth and Reconciliation directive; and Catherine Ellis, chair and associate professor in the Department of History at Ryerson University and a faculty elected member on the Board of Governors.

GIVING

Raising support for Black entrepreneurs in tech

Last fall, the DMZ at Ryerson University welcomed several new partners supporting the expansion of its Black Innovation Fellowship (BIF) program. With contributors like Scotiabank, Accenture, TELUS Ventures and Magna

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOPHALIA YOUSSEF; IMAGE ARTS 17; DOCUMENTARY MEDIA '20; (RIGHT) ALYSSA K. FAORO

International, the DMZ aims to raise the profile of the program, broaden its scope to reach Black youth, and create more opportunities for Black women in tech and entrepreneurship in Canada.

Launched in May 2019, the BIF program creates opportunities for Black founders in the tech industry and improves Black representation within Canada's entrepreneurship ecosystem. The additional partners will also enable founders within existing programs to receive more



DID YOU KNOW...

Ryerson has a new Strategic Vision to guide the university through 2030: vision.ryerson.ca

SPECIAL DELIVERY

When COVID-19 hit, 20 staff and student volunteers stepped up to ensure 7,700 diplomas were safely sealed and delivered to spring 2020 graduates.



A new panel will develop an intersectional approach to campus safety.

direct support, including time with DMZ's entrepreneurs-in-residence and better access to grant opportunities and dedicated resources.

Isaac Olowolafe Jr., founder of Dream Maker Ventures Inc., and BIF founding partner, explains the need to keep up the momentum. "The events of 2020 have been heartbreaking and tragic, but they've also led to the creation of a perfect storm for activism and social change. Why stop now? We will continuously encourage those who are looking for ways to promote a more diverse and inclusive startup ecosystem, and stand in solidarity against racial injustice," Olowolafe said.

"As an institution dedicated to equity, diversity and inclusion, providing support, improving access and removing barriers for our Black community members is a key part of creating a more equitable campus community," said Mohamed Lachemi, Ryerson's president and vice-chancellor. "The Black Innovation Fellowship is a prime example of that kind of commitment in action—both educating leaders and allowing them

to make a tangible impact in helping underrepresented entrepreneurs."

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Expert panel to address campus safety

An independent External Panel on Campus Safety and Security has been established to direct research, engage in fulsome consultations and provide its conclusions to the president. A statement by President Mohamed Lachemi noted that the panel is undertaking the critical work of determining a holistic approach to enhancing safety and security at Ryerson and addressing the unique challenges the university faces.

The safety and security of the Ryerson community continues to be one of the university's top priorities in order to maintain an inclusive, people-friendly and safe environment for all. The key challenge is to establish an intersectional, interdisciplinary campus safety service-delivery model that is firmly rooted

in Ryerson’s commitment to values of equity, diversity and inclusion and to confronting and disrupting racism, including anti-Black racism.

The panel includes the Honourable Harry LaForme (Chair), Annamaria Enenajor, Hamlin Grange, Arleen Huggins and Shawn Richard.

ANTI-HATE RESOURCE

New toolkit combats anti-Asian discrimination

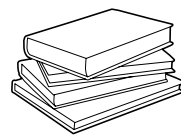
According to Statistics Canada, more than 30 per cent of Canadians who identify as Chinese and 27 per cent who identify as Korean have experienced racial discrimination since the pandemic. To address these growing incidents of violence and hate, a group of prominent Asian Canadian leaders came together to launch the “Responding to Hate” toolkit, aiming to improve incident reporting and ultimately change the narrative by highlighting the positive contributions of the community.

The group’s founding members include Judge Maryka Omatsu, the first East Asian woman to be appointed a judge in Canada, Ryerson University’s Chancellor Janice Fukakusa, Dean of Arts Pamela Sugiman and General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors and University Privacy Officer Julia Shin Doi.

The resource delves into the differences between hate crimes, hate incidents and acts of discrimination, and directs victims and witnesses on how to respond to each with a list of resources. The toolkit is available for download in Chinese,



↑ The Campus Core Revitalization project added new accessibility features to Nelson Mandela Way (above) and Gould Street.



DID YOU KNOW...

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

Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese at ryerson.ca/responding-to-hate/. Ryerson University also continues to address this issue through an advisory committee of academic researchers and faculty members. By examining the effects of anti-Asian racism, it provides ongoing ideas and recommendations to stop the discrimination.

CAMPUS UPGRADE

New look for Gould Street and Nelson Mandela Way

Over the past year, Ryerson University has completed major upgrades along Nelson Mandela Way, Victoria Street and Gould Street as part of the Campus Public Realm Plan. Some of the new features include a concrete ramp and automated door at the north

end of Kerr Hall to create an accessible entrance, an additional ramp to Jorgenson Hall and one to Kerr Hall West. Gould Street and part of Victoria Street roadways were raised to sidewalk level and paving stones were installed over a bed of concrete to make the pedestrian zone permanent and more accessible, and permanent furniture has been added along Gould Street and Nelson Mandela Way. New plants and upgraded lighting were also installed. Below the surface, cable duct banks were installed to provide pathways for future technology advancements. This work supports connectivity improvements as the campus grows. The Campus Core Revitalization project was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of \$7 million in funding towards the overall budget from the City of Toronto and support from Toronto City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP LEFT) DEANNA KRUEGER, (TOP RIGHT) NEXTECH AR SOLUTIONS

VIRTUAL CLASS

Faculty of Science creates immersive learning experience with AR

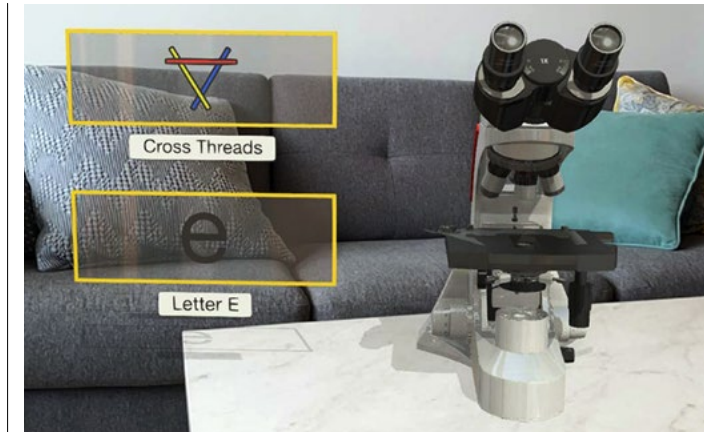
As students prepared for remote learning last fall, the Faculty of Science introduced augmented reality and holograms to biology and chemistry online labs. It partnered with alumnus Paul Duffy (Applied Computer Science '89), president of NexTech AR Solutions, to create an augmented reality remote education platform called Ryerson Augmented Learning Experience (RALE).

The RALE virtual labs include collaborative Zoom sessions with lab technicians

and student lab partners, along with AR lab exercises that allow students to project into their home the materials required for experiments.

“Students were trying to reach behind their phones to grab the objects. It gave them a greater sense of what was going on,” said Faculty of Science Dean David Cramb. “At least in Western education, we’re so visually based that anything we can do to simulate the tactile nature of the material will enhance the experience for students. Everyone would agree that you have to do science to understand it for real.”

Incorporating some form of AR in student labs is here to stay, as Cramb says the platform can be used to enhance textbook readings and lab manuals, making teaching and learning a more visual experience.



↑ The Ryerson Augmented Learning Experience (RALE) uses AR to enhance virtual labs in the post-pandemic world.

“The RALE platform allows students to transcend time and geography,” says Duffy—something that’s become a necessity in the post-pandemic culture. RALE allows faculty members to transform what would have been a 2D experience into a lab with

an experiential component. What’s more, the format and flow of the learning can iteratively improve since it uses machine learning based on the data it gathers to deep learn which experiences are best for students. —Michelle Grady

The future of education at Ryerson starts with you



Ryerson Senate call for nominations

You can help ensure that the quality of a Ryerson education continues to rise. Ryerson’s Senate is the body that regulates the university’s academic policies and oversees changes to its curriculum. Two alumni Senator seats are up for election for 2021-2022. You may nominate another alumnus or express interest in running yourself.

For more information or to register a nomination, contact Donna Bell, Secretary of Senate at dbell@ryerson.ca. Nominations must be received by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

ryerson.ca/senate

CAMPUS

Anti-Black racism initiatives underway on campus

A new committee set up to develop programs and strategies for tackling anti-Black racism at Ryerson says its work is well underway to address issues relating to students, faculty and staff.

Convened by President Mohamed Lachemi, the Presidential Implementation Committee to Confront Anti-Black Racism was announced last summer to help actualize and execute the 14 recommendations laid out in the university's most recent Anti-Black Racism Campus Climate Review Report.

"For students, it ranges from issues of belonging, safety, curriculum, programming, to dedicated space for Black students," said Denise O'Neil Green, Ryerson's Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion,



↑ Multi-pronged approach aims to address curriculum and programming that centres Black students.

and one of the co-chairs of the committee. "For staff and faculty, it focuses on recruitment, promotion, the ability to move up the ranks, and their contributions being valued."

One of the key areas for students specifically, Green said, is the academic

curriculum, and how to better integrate content that engages Black faculty and staff, and that draws on the work of Black scholars.

"Our strategy is to engage individuals across campus who have the decision-making responsibility to actually implement these various

recommendations," she said. "This includes, for example, meeting with the vice-provost, academic, to discuss proposed curriculum changes."

Some of the changes outlined in the campus review are already underway, said Green. One of the recommendations of the anti-Black racism report was to increase funding, create and develop various events, meetings and information sessions that specifically support Black students.

"My team has been supporting a cross-campus committee on Black excellence that creates initiatives that specifically centre Black students, including the first virtual Black graduation ceremony, a Black students, faculty and staff mixer, and the first Black student achievement award ceremony," Green said.

She noted that the university also continues to support and champion Black women through initiatives such as the popular Viola Desmond Awards and Bursary Program, which is now in its 13th year.

—Tayo Bero

Rodney Yip is planning for students' futures



Ryerson University

Rodney Yip (Computer Science '82) believes alumni have three things to give: "Time, talent and treasure." The retired disaster recovery and business continuity product manager has shared all three with Ryerson, volunteering as a mentor, connecting students and faculty to industry, creating an award for nursing students, and more. Rodney is also leaving a gift in his will that promises to continue his generous support well into the future.

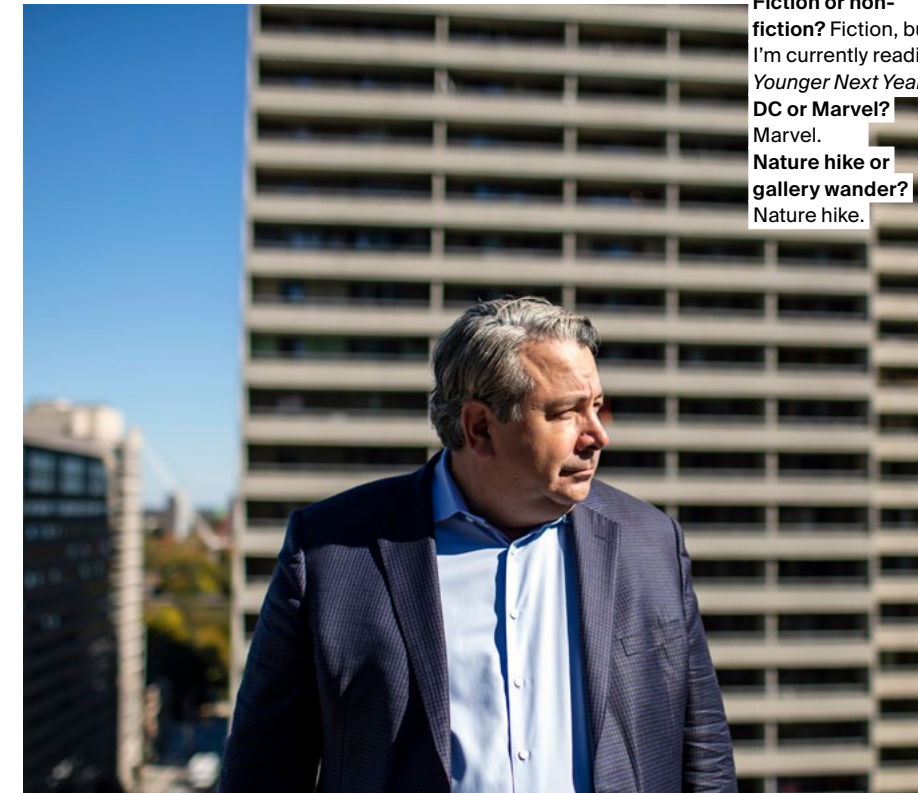
"Ryerson enabled me to hit the ground running," says Rodney. "It prepares students, not just for jobs, but to influence society."

Rodney is leaving a legacy through a planned gift. You can too. Contact us to find out how.

Mira Claxton
416-979-5000 ext. 553793 | mira.claxton@ryerson.ca
ryerson.ca/plannedgiving

PHOTOGRAPH BY NESABY MAKERSUNSPASH

Q&A Tony Staffieri, Ryerson's new board chair, on changing the future of education



↓ **Fast Facts**
Fiction or non-fiction? Fiction, but I'm currently reading *Younger Next Year*.
DC or Marvel? Marvel.
Nature hike or gallery wander? Nature hike.

Change the rules. Make your own way. This never-settle attitude shaped Tony Staffieri's career path to Rogers' C-suite, where he serves as chief financial officer and head of Rogers Bank. He is also a board director for the Toronto Blue Jays and Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment. Now, as chair of Ryerson's Board of Governors, he's bringing that same approach to Ryerson, helping the university build the campus of tomorrow.

RU What interested you about Ryerson when you joined the board in 2016?
TS Ryerson is about real education for a real city. It's not a campus in the middle

of nowhere pondering the higher order of things. You can still think about that, but you're also considering how that relates to where we live and work.

RU What's the best/most surprising thing you've learned about Ryerson during your time on the board?

TS I see Ryerson as the disruptor in education. The university is always looking for the next relevant program. It's focused on the upside of what's possible. Ryerson also blew me away in terms of the diversity of people here and the diversity of thought and experiences they bring with them.

RU What Ryerson accomplishment are you most proud of?

TS Its innovation and the pace at which it executes it. Ryerson, working with the private sector and government, quickly got the cyber security centre up and running. It will be a high-demand, relevant program where students will work with real companies as they get their education. The law school is another example of the speed of innovation at Ryerson. And then there's the DMZ and entrepreneurial innovation. These aren't university case studies that end up going nowhere. These are real solutions that end up being apps on our phones.

RU What is your vision for Ryerson and the board moving forward?

TS I'd like to focus on three areas. First, ensuring we stay relevant. That's about innovation and disrupting conventional education. Second, improving student life by creating the campus of tomorrow. Third, maintaining accessibility and affordability. How do we attract students from all over the world in a way that is thoughtful about integrating different world views, so that the students choose to stay and contribute to Canada after they graduate?

RU Did you have a professor or teacher who changed your life or made a lasting impact?

TS One of my university professors, Al Rosen, stands out. His message was: Change the rules. Figure out your own way of excelling at your career. For a young person, that was inspiring.

RU What one piece of advice would you pass on to a new Ryerson grad?

TS Most people want to help. Take advantage of that; in a good way. Find mentors and leaders willing to take the time to help you.

RU Have you picked up any new hobbies during the pandemic?

TS Cooking. I became really good at making shepherd's pie—one of my favourites growing up. When the weather got better, I started playing tennis again.
—Mary Teresa Bitti

This interview has been edited and condensed.

GRAPHIC DETAILS

On campus during the COVID-19 pandemic

We asked award-winning photographer Kiana Hayeri, Image Arts '11, to document the campus one day in early October. Here's what she saw

➔ WHEN THE UNIVERSITY moved to essential services status last March in response to the pandemic, every faculty and department began to adjust to the new reality. The Mattamy Athletic Centre (MAC) was no different. When it closed along with all the gyms in the city, the Ryerson Athletics and Recreation team organized virtual recreation programming (Move Everywhere: Online) and began researching safety protocols for when the facility could reopen.

On Aug. 10, after the city moved to Stage 3, the MAC was ready to open. The team had put together a 130-page reopening plan and a 36-page risk assessment report. The plan was so thorough that other universities and colleges travelled to the facility and consulted with Athletics and Recreation on how to prepare their facilities for potential openings, said Chris Nadavallil, manager of facilities, operations and risk management for Athletics and Recreation.

When the facility was open (it closed again during further lockdowns), gym equipment was spaced six to eight feet apart. Members could book a 90- or 70-minute session to



At left: No dine-in is allowed inside Pitman Hall cafeteria but around lunch time, students show up with their green to-go containers in hand to pick up lunch and take it back to their rooms or outside; Below: Receptionist at the entrance of one of the student residences; working out while physically distancing at the Mattamy Athletic Centre.



work out and numbers per session are based on provincial health requirements. After each session, the gym was disinfected with multiple electrostatic sprayers. There were no group fitness programs onsite and the change rooms were closed.

“Our students that come in are so grateful to have this,” said Nadavallil last September when the facility was open. “As a mental, emotional, physical and spiritual release for them, they have a place to come and do this. And they know it’s a safe place where people care about their well-being and safety, maintaining our protocols and making sure our environment is tip top all the time.”

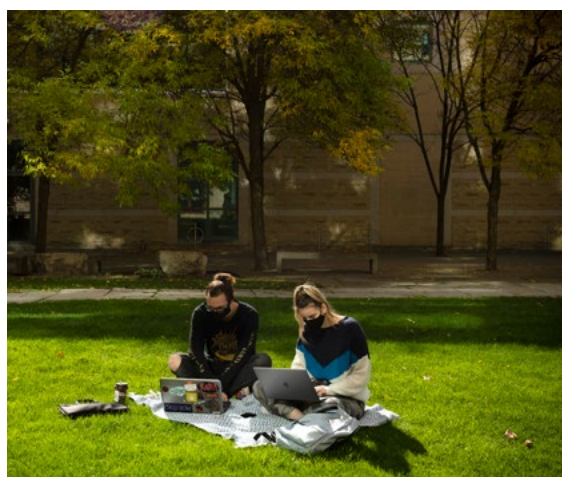
The university has restricted the number of people on campus, asking people to come to campus only for essential purposes. Still some necessary services opened in September under strict protocols. Students and researchers were able to book time in the Library and the Student Learning Centre for study and research space.

Three residences opened in September with fewer students to allow for physical distancing. Only about 350 students—mostly first year, and far fewer than last year’s roughly 1,144 students—lived on campus in the fall term. Safety measures include a no-guest policy, a mandatory face-mask policy, closed common areas, increased cleaning protocols, and hand-sanitizer stations.

The majority of Ryerson’s classes are online, however, a few offered in-person opportunities during the fall term. For example, Image Arts held a first-year Image Arts studio class, with students coming to the Image Arts building for a six-hour class once a month.

A number of research labs on campus have opened since March, after detailed planning for how each space would adhere to public health directives. Elements of the plans include physical distancing provisions and enhanced cleaning. Building systems, facilities and services continue to support essential research activities.

Campus life carries on during the pandemic, but in a minimal way, with most activity taking place in the virtual world. —Colleen Mellor



Two first-year students take their online class while sitting in the sun in front of Pitman Hall residence; first-year photography students practise strobe lighting in Image Arts photo studio at Ryerson; graduate students Jessica Phulchand, Malek el-Alooti and Veronica Hislop, of the Food and Soft Materials Research Group, work in the lab at the Centre for Urban Innovation.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIANA HAYERI

New lawyers for new times

Creating the law school society needs now



BY WENDY GLAUSER,
Journalism '05

Photographs by
Janick Laurent



It's

the week before the very first courses begin at Ryerson's Faculty of Law and the inaugural class of 170 students are gathered for a Zoom session on leadership. The panel includes a dozen guest speakers, who are advocating for changes in criminal law, disability accommodations in the workplace, Black representation in legal leadership and more. A student asks Jordana Goldlist, a criminal defence lawyer who was once homeless and now fights for youth in the justice system, how she would define a leader. Leadership comes down to "character, as opposed to skills," she replies, and that for her, a leader is simply someone who is "fed up with the status quo and won't back down, even if the cause is unpopular." She reminds the class that 100 years ago, as a woman, she wouldn't have been able to go to law school. "We've made changes in society because people have stood up and ignored the noise and focused on doing what was right."

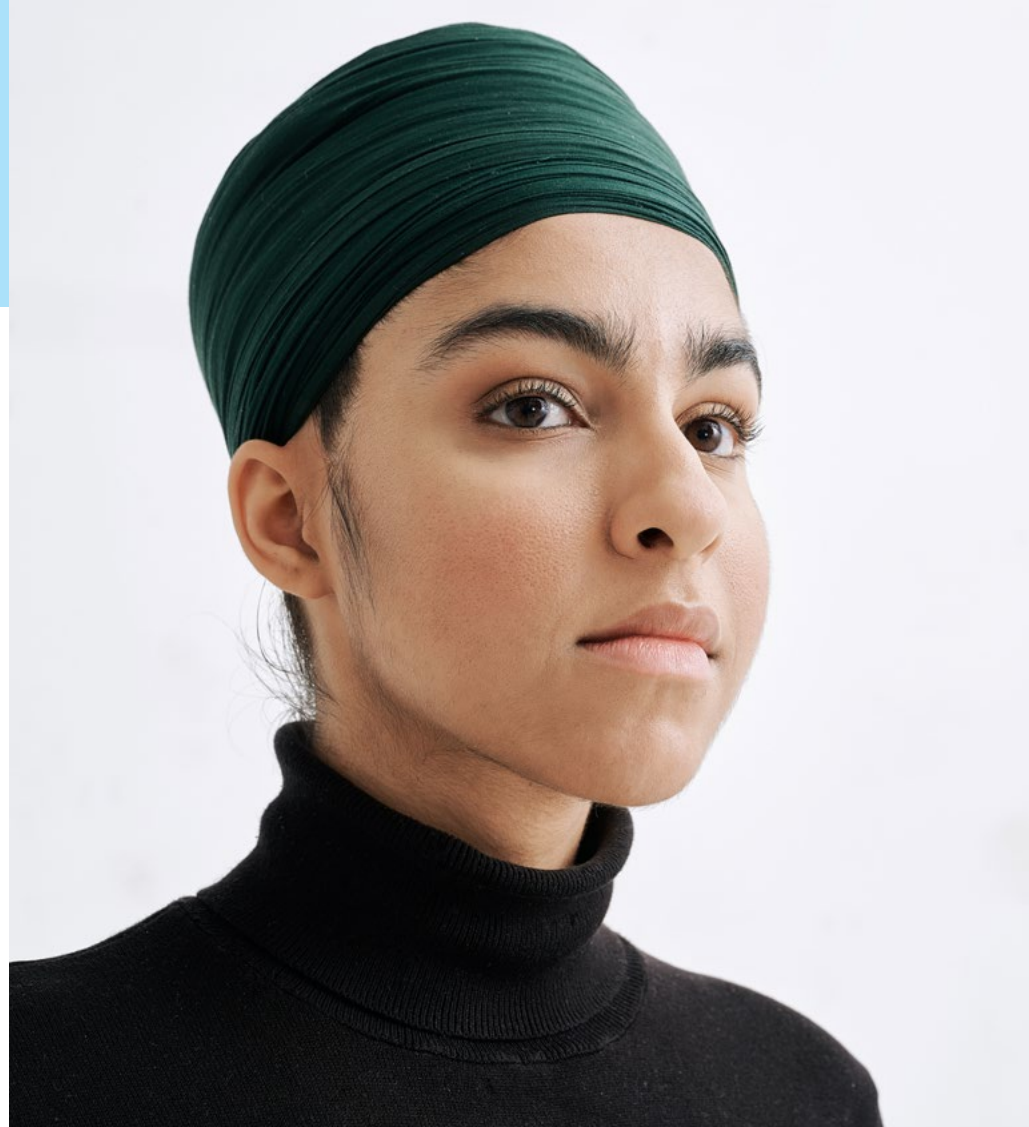
Ryerson's law school wants to educate students to be more than just lawyers, and its inaugural class is a diverse group of future leaders who have a passion for social innovation. The aim of the school is to train lawyers who will advocate for reforms and increase access to legal representation using technology and entrepreneurship.

While some in the profession have worried about an overabundance of lawyers, Anver Saloojee, assistant vice-president, international at Ryerson, who took on the project of designing the law school back in 2015, found that there is a vital need for lawyers who represent marginalized people in society, and can mobilize technology to serve clients who can't afford tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. Alarming, research shows that more than half of Canadians self-represent in family court, and the number of Canadian defendants without lawyers in criminal and civil law cases is on the rise.

Why the next generation of lawyers need a solid grounding in technology and entrepreneurship

Donna Young, the founding dean of the law school, was drawn to the school's four pillars: equity, diversity and inclusion; access to justice; innovation and entrepreneurship; and sound academics with innovative pedagogy. "It sounded like the answer to a lot of people's questions," she recalls. While other law schools are working to incorporate innovative business models and social justice, "it's hard to move an established institution," says Young. "If this is built into your founding principles and documents, then you don't have to push against any cultural norms. That was really attractive."

Young has grappled with law's access problem throughout her career. When she worked at the Ontario Human Rights Commission, there was a two-year wait for a case to proceed. "That's not access," she says. "Training lawyers who are willing to represent low-income



and marginalized clients is vital to increasing access." But providing services has to make financial sense to be sustainable, which is why Ryerson is teaching law students about socially innovative business models.

"We believe that combining our focus on legal technology and access to law enables us to train lawyers who think differently about providing legal services to clients, to make it more affordable," explains Saloojee. Ryerson's ability to instruct students on the opportunities posed by technology is bolstered by the Legal Innovation Zone, the world's first legal tech incubator, which was developed by Ryerson and other partners in 2015 and is housed at the university.

The law school incorporates a coding intensive, a mandatory social innovation course, and small mentoring groups with legal practitioners. While the school won't expect students to code their own programs, it's designed to offer skills that can help them promote access to justice. Students will learn to answer questions like, "What kind of data do you need to collect and process in order to arrive at proper conclusions in legal software? What kind of



→ THIS PAGE: (from top left to right) HARSIMRAN

KAUR SIDHU // NICK CHAI-TANG // SARAH FRAZER // NATALIE GISELLE CABALLERO //

people and people with disabilities are woefully underrepresented.

To attract students with diverse life experiences, Ryerson decided to take the top two years of students' GPAs, rather than all four years. The move recognizes the reality that students who are less privileged are more likely to face circumstances, like health or family issues, that can affect their performance in school.

In addition, the admissions process puts emphasis on students' attitude toward equity, diversity and inclusion. The school also interviewed candidates, becoming the first law school in Canada to use a mandatory online interview, which very few law schools in North America do. Among the questions asked was, "What role does privilege play in people's lives?" says Saloojee. Along with their LSAT, GPA, letters of recommendation and personal statement, the interview "enabled us to have a much more comprehensive and holistic understanding of the applicant."

To alleviate some of the financial burden associated with law school, Ryerson is actively building a robust scholarship program with a goal to provide some financial assistance to at least half of its law students in the coming years. Most of the available awards and scholarships are for people from historically underrepresented groups, including Indigenous and first-generation students, while others are available for those who demonstrate an interest in entrepreneurship and social justice issues.

Having lawyers who know what it's like to be discriminated against will bring more comprehensive perspectives into the practise of law, Young says. "On a system level, the legal profession

protections will you build into an AI (artificial intelligence) system to ensure a claim isn't wrongly denied?" explains Sari Graben, associate dean for academic, research and graduate studies at the law school.

One first-year student, Upama Poudyal, is already in the process of rolling out an app that connects people to lawyers. Rather than simply searching for lawyers online or asking for referrals, users will be able to fill out a digital form with questions such as what language they want their lawyer to speak, how much they can spend, and more. Based on the answers, the app will recommend a lawyer. "If we're going to live in a fair society, then everyone should be able to access legal resources, especially when they're going through traumatic events such as divorce, criminal proceedings, or even real estate transaction issues," Poudyal says.

Young says that society also needs more lawyers who understand technology to help the government regulate fast-growing technologies. "Facebook has become this kind of behemoth that is in some ways more powerful than government. It's also been responsible for enabling misinformation on the grandest scale, and is just one example of a technology company trying to avoid regulation," she says. "We need tech-savvy lawyers to figure out legislative ways of dealing with newer technologies."

Lawyers who represent the population they serve

The law profession's diversity problem is well known. Only 19 per cent of Ontario lawyers consider themselves racialized, despite racialized Ontarians comprising nearly 30 per cent of the population; women represent less than a third of judges; Indigenous and LGBTQ2+



will benefit enormously from an influx of people of colour, women, LGBTQ2+ folks, and people living with disabilities.”

Shanté Brown, a first-year student and the recipient of the McCarthy Tétrault LLP entrance scholarship, recalls the adults in her life telling her she should be a lawyer since the age of nine. When she took a law class in high school, she “fell in love with it” and was fascinated by how people have pushed lawmakers over the years to adapt and change laws with changes in societal values.

As a Black woman, Brown is part of an underrepresented minority in law. While Black people represent one per cent of the student population at many established law schools in Canada, in Ryerson’s first-year class, 8.3 per cent identify as Black. Brown’s perspective is also unique because one of her family members was incarcerated. “I have a different understanding for the situations and circumstances that might have led people down a certain path in life, an understanding that a person’s actions might even be more reflective of the society that we built, rather than reflective of an individual’s characteristics,” she says.

Launching amid a pandemic

Young admits she had many sleepless nights when it became clear in the early summer that Ryerson would be launching its law school almost entirely remotely. “The fear was that we would not be able to develop the kind of community that we really need when building a new law school,” she said. With established schools, there is the existing infrastructure of clubs, mentorship supports, “upper year students who can help first year students.”



Those who have been championing the school want to ensure they’re not creating a competitive culture, but a team-based one. After all, this next crop of lawyers will need to work together to collaborate on innovation, progressive reforms, and needed regulation for big tech. “My biggest concern was building a socially conscious and academically rigorous community – how to build that from scratch and how to do it remotely,” she says.

A LONG JOURNEY TO A NEW VISION

Ryerson’s law school has been a long time coming. Over the past decade, the university has worked on proposals addressing concerns that there were enough law schools in Ontario and demonstrating need for a different approach.

Anver Saloojee, assistant vice-president, international at Ryerson and one of the founders of the law school, launched a project in 2015 that showed that many Canadians were going unrepresented in legal matters due to financial barriers. With its focus on advancing social justice, entrepreneurship and technology, the university is well-positioned to train the next generation of lawyers who can innovate on cost-effective models for representation.

Lawyers have also been calling for schools to produce graduates that were ready for practice as many law schools typically don’t teach the practical matters such as filing a motion or drafting a contract. “When we researched legal education in the United States and other countries, we found there have been growing calls for changes in how legal education is being delivered,” says Saloojee. Building on Ryerson’s signature model of melding academic and applied knowledge,

the school breaks from others by using a co-teaching model, where law practitioners co-teach with legal professors.

Ryerson Law’s Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC) offers an attractive option for students as it fulfils the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) articling requirement for licensing. The IPC weaves professional skills training directly into the three-year academic program through the co-teaching structure of each course, the intensive programs offered at the beginning of each semester and the professional placement during the third year. Upon graduation, Ryerson law students are immediately eligible to write the licensing exams to gain entry into practice. Graduates don’t need to article since the experiential requirements for licensing will have already been fulfilled.

Julia Shin Doi, Ryerson’s general counsel and secretary of the Board of Governors, played a key role in garnering support for the vision. In a strategic meeting with around 50 legal leaders from across the GTA she remembers that “there was a lot of enthusiasm in the room for our vision.”

Preparing law students for an array of career options, from running

an independent practice to working for a non-profit organization, is one of the goals of the school. “A legal career can include practising in a law firm, legal aid clinic, government or corporation,” says Shin Doi.

In 2017 and 2018, Ryerson received approval from three key accreditation bodies for the law school: the Quality Assurance Council, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, and the LSO.

In an effort to make the Ryerson Law program more accessible to applicants from underrepresented communities, the university has set tuition at just over \$21,000, well below the cost of the other law schools in the city. In collaboration with law firms, advocacy groups and community and business leaders, Ryerson is also offering numerous scholarships and awards to students. Law firms supporting scholarships include Torys LLP, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP, Gardiner Roberts LLP and Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storie LLP. Scholarships have also been created by the John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton Foundation, Andrew and Valerie Pringle, and Nadir and Shabin Mohamed in honour of Dale H. Lastman.



→ THIS PAGE: From bottom left: YANA FOX //

Brown. And their speakers’ enthusiasm for the school has been palpable. “I feel like everybody here wants us to succeed.”

“Usually, a law school’s orientation is three days ... but Toni put together small groups, she would meet with 10 students at a time, and she brought in external speakers who talked about different aspects of the law. Our orientation program started in July,” says Young. Over the summer, Young heard about student-led clubs form-

The answer came from Assistant Dean Toni De Mello who put together a virtual orientation program that spanned six weeks and included panels on the Black Lives Matter movement, opportunities in legal innovation and more. From top judges to disability rights advocates, “the people that have come in to speak with us have been extremely impressive,” says

ing, including a social club that organized some distanced meetings in parks, a student-led Facebook group and an initiative to profile each one of the inaugural class members. “Our students were getting to know each other outside of law school, and they were bringing that enthusiasm into our orientation program,” says Young. “I thought to myself, ‘Okay, it’s not exactly the way I envisioned it. But yeah, we can do this. We absolutely can build this community.’”

Help shape Ryerson’s future



Call for nominations: Ryerson Board of Governors

Serving on the Ryerson Board of Governors is an exciting opportunity to participate in shaping the financial and strategic priorities of the university. In the summer of 2021, Ryerson alumni will elect one of three alumni-member representatives on the 24-member Board. Nominations will be reviewed by the Ryerson University Alumni Association, who will produce the final roster of candidates based on a Board-approved skills matrix. Get involved and make your voice heard.

For more information about the nomination and election process, please visit ryerson.ca/governors/elections. Nomination period closes on Wednesday, February 10th, 2021 at 12 p.m. (EST).

ryerson.ca/governors

STUDENTS PETITIONED FOR ACTION ON SYSTEMIC RACISM IN MEDIA

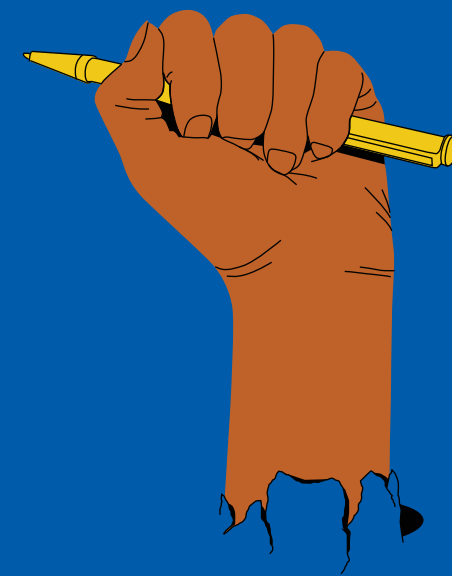
BY

CONNOR GAREL
Journalism '19

+

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
YAZMIN BUTCHER
Fashion '14

HERE'S
WHAT
RYERSON
DID

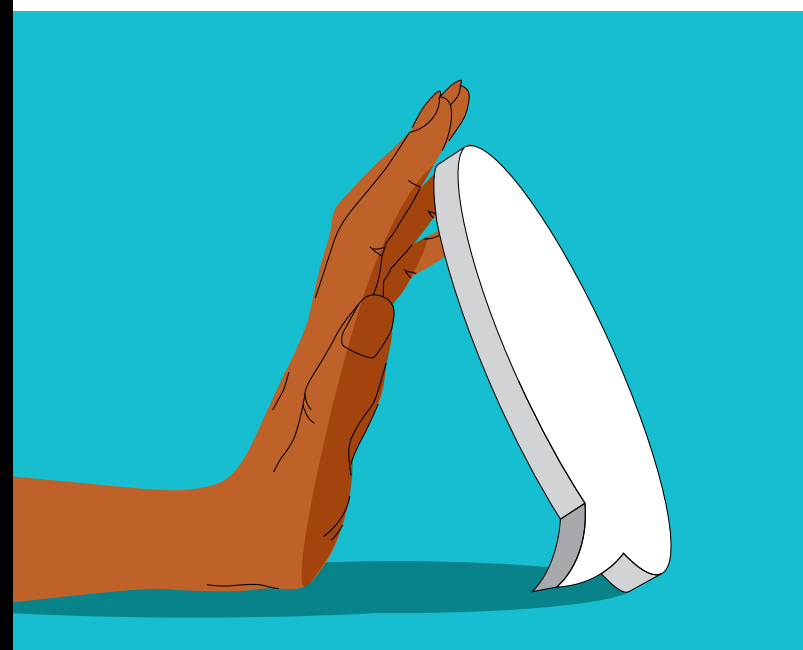


THE STUDENTS HAD GROWN DISILLUSIONED.

Corporations and other institutions, in the wake of George Floyd's murder, were deploying their empty platitudes in the face of social unrest: the black boxes on Instagram, the commitments to diversity, the promises to listen more closely. A revolution was unfolding in the streets and the professional response was comfortably lethargic, all these oaths to "have more conversations" sounding more like pledges to inertia than to material, actionable change.

Ryerson's School of Journalism tried a different approach. Janice Neil, chair of the program, saw these criticisms of institutional passivity and, sensitive to their gravity, wrote an email to students asking how the program could be improved.

"I felt the most realistic answer was to have some sort of class, some real education on how racism works in the media," says Breanna Xavier-Carter, who, at the time, was in her final year. "I thought we should learn how to identify and change the narratives in how Black people and our communities are being reported on in Canada."



Xavier-Carter had long witnessed the mainstream media's active perpetuation of racial biases and systemic racism, and named it a symptom of white reporters, who make up the better part of Canada's media sphere, lacking a vital sense of compassion and an understanding of anti-Black racism. "It's just not in their psyche," she says. "They're living in their whiteness and have certain biases that may eventually turn up in their reporting."

Worried that her voice might not be enough, Xavier-Carter reached out to a few other students—Tiffany Mongu, Rosemary Akpan and Sara Jabakhanji—to ask how they felt about Neil's email. The four began texting, then FaceTiming, then wrote a letter outlining their shared concerns with the program and some strategies for redress. Then, they published a petition.

"We demand that a Black-Canadian reporting course be implemented into the journalism curriculum at Ryerson," the petition read. To illustrate the urgency of the situation, it cited a 2010 Ryerson study which found a wealth of racist, stereotypical narratives in national print media and a dearth of Black journalists in leadership roles. When I first saw the petition, about an hour after it was published June 9, 2020, on change.org, it had already amassed 1,000 signatures; days later, it had rocketed past 3,000. It was viral on Twitter. Several big-name journalists and alumni of the program were sharing and signing it. Former students, from Ryerson and elsewhere, were leaving comments beneath the petition about their own experiences in school, with many describing the course as "long overdue."

Mongu wasn't surprised by the response. "There's such a lack of care in how our stories are so often reported," she explains, before launching into a catalogue of recent examples. When Kobe Bryant died in a plane crash last January, Breakfast Television mistakenly reported it using images of LeBron James.

When a friend of hers, a young Black man named Mohamed Sow, was killed in a drive-by shooting last summer, CP24 chose to run a contextless mugshot of the victim rather than wait for a more appropriate image, criminalizing him even in death. "What will people think about this young man when they see that?" Mongu asks. "That he deserved to die because he supposedly had a criminal record?" And when the 21-year-old rapper Houdini was shot and killed in May, the Toronto Sun fashioned his murder into a winking headline: "WHO MADE HOUDINI VANISH?"



"IDEALLY, BLACK STUDENTS WILL LEAVE THIS COURSE FEELING SEEN AND VALIDATED."

ETERNITY MARTIS

understanding the complexities of systematic racism and its roots here in Canada, I think students taking this course will be better equipped as storytellers to do their jobs and understand the history of injustices in this country," says Neil. The ambition of the course, according to its syllabus, would be not only to examine how the media produces and upholds negative stereotypes about Black people that can irrevocably shape the public imagination, but also to disabuse students of the pervasive myth that Canada has no history of racism and slavery.

"Ideally," Martis says, "Black students will leave this course feeling seen and validated, and everyone will come away with the confidence, accountability and critical lens to examine and report on Black communities ethically, with the analytical and practical skills to see when something isn't right."

A 2016 graduate of Ryerson's Master of Journalism program, Martis admits she wishes this course had happened sooner. As a burgeoning journalist armed with an undergraduate degree in women's studies and feminist research, and English language and literature, she always knew she wanted to write about identity, but constantly found herself the subject of bewildered, incredulous gazes from an industry that regarded her focus as bias, rather than actual expertise.

"I had an internship where I wasn't allowed to write about Black Lives Matter because I was Black, nevermind the many white conservative columnists who can freely deny the existence of racism or discuss why people of colour should be deported without that being considered as bias," she says. "It's like, you are so politicized being Black, being a woman, being queer. That isn't bias, it's an expertise that can be used to responsibly report on these communities. But there were few people to tell me that these stories mattered."

Xavier-Carter and Mongu both completed four years of the program without seeing a single Black journalism professor. They often felt invisible. "It's frustrating to be at one of the busiest intersections in Canada, in one of the nation's most diverse cities, and not see that reflected in the student body or the faculty," says Xavier-Carter. "When you're coming into university, you want to feel validated, and that wasn't available to any of the Black students in the program."

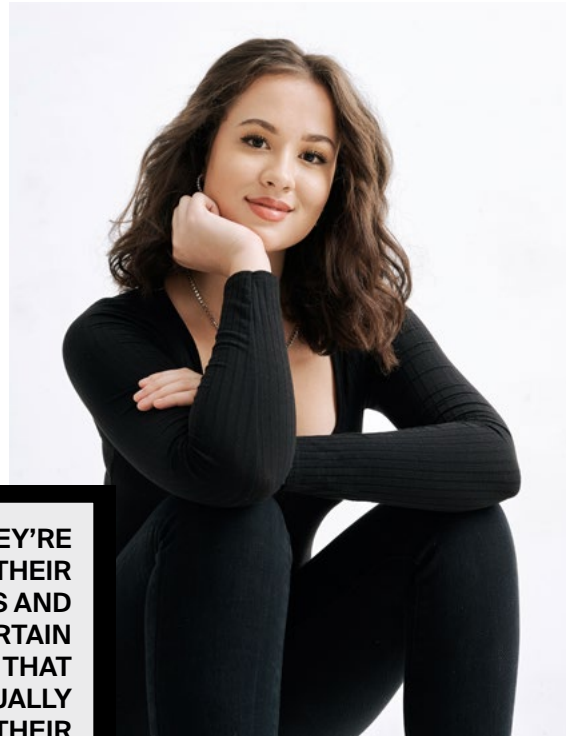
Hopefully, Martis' presence and her teaching can begin to correct this. She developed the course to fill

"None of this is new," Mongu says. "And each year, we're educating students who will be the future of journalism, who are going to go out into the field and actually do this work. So it's important to properly train them so they don't make these same mistakes. Black people shouldn't be the only ones telling these stories."

Ryerson's response to the petition was swift. A few days after it went up, the school announced that award-winning journalist and bestselling author Eternity Martis would be developing and teaching a new course called "Reporting on Race: The Black Community in the Media," which began last fall.

"Journalism can be a tool to affect change, and by

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANICK LAURENT



“THEY’RE LIVING IN THEIR WHITENESS AND HAVE CERTAIN BIASES THAT MAY EVENTUALLY TURN UP IN THEIR REPORTING.”

BREANNA XAVIER-CARTER

the gaps in public knowledge she’s observed; Patricia Hill Collins and Robyn Maynard are required reading in her syllabus. Libaan Osman, a fourth-year student, says taking the course was a “no-brainer.” Though the journalism program does offer a mandatory class that covers some material related to anti-Black racism, he never saw it pierce as deeply as he’d hoped it might. Plus, there were never any Black professors around, so as one of the few Black students in the program, he often felt his experience went unconsidered.

“At times, I’ve wondered whether this program actually sees me as a student, moments when I’ve looked around and haven’t felt recognized,” he says. The “Reporting on Race” course is one of the first times he has felt seen, and he’s found himself consistently impressed with the reading materials and guest speakers. “It’s the one course I’m always excited to go to. If you look at the world’s landscape right now, this whole [Black Lives Matter] movement is probably bigger than it ever has been. And even though it might seem like it’s dying down a bit now, I think this course helps to keep that conversation going. It keeps it alive.”

It wasn’t too long ago that I, myself, was a journalism student at Ryerson. Some moments were precious to me, but others I spent in classrooms where white professors admitted they didn’t know racism existed in Canada, or where entire lectures about photography could pass without the acknowledgement that subjects with darker



“THERE’S SUCH A LACK OF CARE IN HOW OUR STORIES ARE SO OFTEN REPORTED.”

TIFFANY MONGU

complexions require different lighting. I don’t recall any substantial lessons about anti-Black racism. The faculty is mostly a blur of white. It’s difficult to summarize the vast and many-headed consequences of this alienation: how it produces a profound sense of imposter’s syndrome, how it makes you feel perpetually out of place, how unwelcoming these rooms feel, how it obscures whatever future you might have. When I admitted to Martis that, in spite of all this, I failed to act, she commiserated with me, lamenting that acting and bringing attention to the problem never crossed her mind, either.

“But we’re in this revolutionary moment of the anti-Black racism movement right now where everyone is a whistleblower—where everyone is demanding accountability not just from police but from other institutions, too,” she says. All of these calls to action are exciting. That Ryerson even heeded the recommendations of its students, she says, speaks volumes. But there’s still more room to grow. Courses like this are still elective. The faculty is still disarmingly white. “This,” Martis says, “is just the beginning.”



Feel confident with preferred rates from TD Insurance.

Graduates could save on car, home, condo and tenant’s insurance.

Get a quote and see how much you could save!

Go to tdinsurance.com/melochemonnex

The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by Security National Insurance Company and distributed in Quebec by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc., Damage Insurance Agency, and in the rest of Canada by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. Our address: 50 Place Crémazie, 12th Floor, Montréal, Québec H2P 1B6.

Due to provincial legislation, this car and recreational insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

© The TD logo and other trademarks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its subsidiaries.

8249-0320

CENTRING INDIGENOUS VOICES

The Yellowhead Institute's Indigenous-led research shares critical perspectives and policy analysis

BY MICHELLE GRADY

SINCE ITS INAUGURATION IN JUNE 2018, the Yellowhead Institute has taken its direction from Indigenous communities and sought to fill a void of Indigenous-led critical policy perspectives in Canada. “By and large, the field of Indigenous policy and law is dominated by non-Indigenous folks. So the entire purpose for Yellowhead’s existence is to reframe those discussions and centre Indigenous voices,” says Executive Director Hayden King. The first of its kind in Canada, the think tank provides almost exclusively Indigenous perspectives to support Indigenous self-determination and influence policy.

In just over two years of operation within Ryerson University’s Faculty of Arts, the research team has been remarkably prolific. Collectively they’ve produced 90 briefs, special reports, and community tools and resources, including a major paper, *Land Back*, about how Indigenous Peoples have been dispossessed from land. The team is currently at work on *Cash Back*, which looks at economic development through a restitution lens.

For so long, says King, federal or provincial bureaucrats or consultants did the Indigenous policy work. But since the ’70s, Indigenous leaders have been calling for



BY THE NUMBERS

90%
of Yellowhead's policy briefs are written by Indigenous authors

100%
of Yellowhead's artists are Indigenous

5/6
of the institute's board members are Indigenous

100%
of the 20 research fellows are Indigenous

PHOTOGRAPH BY STAN WILLIAMS

In just over two years within Ryerson University's Faculty of Arts, the Yellowhead Institute has had a substantial impact on Indigenous policy in Canada.

an organization like Yellowhead to provide analysis and research that offered alternatives to what the federal, provincial and territorial governments were proposing. And since stepping onto the scene, the institute has done just that: create policy briefs, infographics and toolkits to function as a sense-making filter between complex policy ideas and the communities they affect.

Not only do they speak to communities, but they reflect community perspectives back at government: their analysis and research is saturated in perspectives that have gone unheard. “There’s the saying coined by disability activists in the ’80s that goes, ‘nothing about us without us.’ It’s become a cliché, but it aptly summarizes my perspective,” says King.

“You cannot be making policy without the people who are directly affected by that policy. When we do our research and analysis, it’s critically important for us to be tapped into the community for their guidance, feedback, advice and criticism on where we should allocate our resources or what topics we need to be covering.”

They’re not speaking into a vacuum, however. Officials are listening. “I’m not sure how many organizations like ours can say that they influence federal policy directly and regularly, but our inaugural research report was on the federal government’s rights framework. This was a sort of broad self-government plan, and we were a major part of the campaign that pushed back against that framework. Ultimately, that legislation was shelved. I can cite three or four more concrete examples like this. So I’m proud to say that we’ve had a substantial impact on Indigenous policy in Canada.”

As the institute moves into its third year of operation, the team is widening their scope. King says their latest associates Megan Scribe, Lindsay Nixon and Anne Spice represent Indigenous voices that will take Yellowhead in entirely new directions.

“Indigenous policy has traditionally been the realm of Indigenous male leaders and academics. So I think our new colleagues’ work, which centres Indigenous women and queer, trans and Two-Spirit young people who have really been marginalized from policy and governance discussions, is going to help reframe what we think of as policy and law. It may not be recognizable to the traditional voices in organizations and in policy, but I think it’ll be work that helps to refocus voices that rightfully belong in these discussions.” **RD**

Big problems need smart solutions. From city building and digital privacy to the future of work in this country, we're talking about the things that matter to you.



The Forefront Ideas for cities

Listen to season one on your favourite podcast player.

Listen on Apple Podcasts

Spotify

GET IT ON Google Play



ryerson.ca/alumni/podcasts

alumni diary

/ BOOK CLUB / HUMAN RIGHTS WORK / RYERSON MEMORIES / VOLUNTEER TIPS /



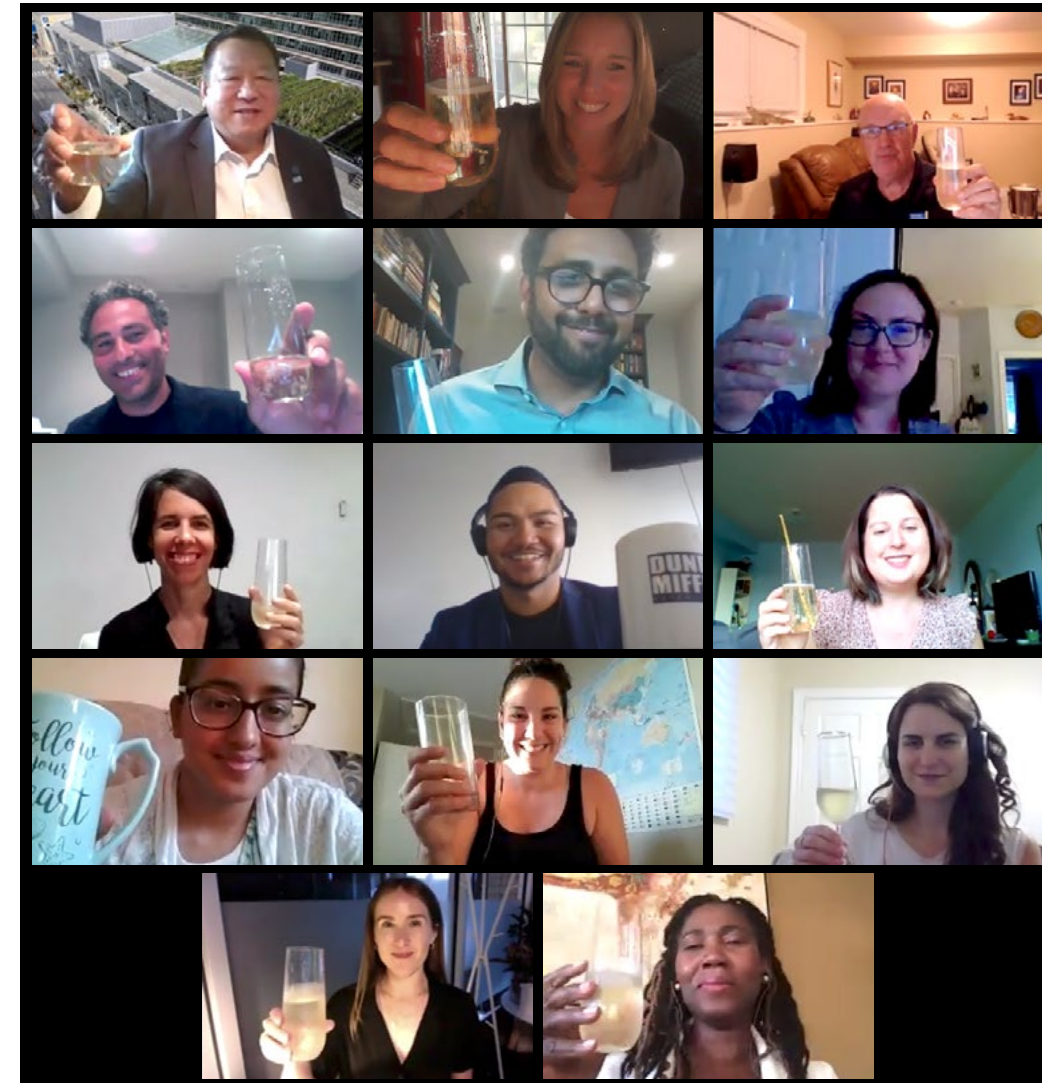
MESSAGE FROM THE RUAA

Alumni evolution

Over the last decade, the work and structure of the Ryerson University Alumni Association board has evolved based on the needs of the university—from individual director portfolios to committee-based work. At the 2020 annual general meeting, a motion was passed to establish a new and exciting alumni advisory group, transforming the scope of the working volunteer board. This new structure will allow alumni to share their perspectives on a wide array of topics and issues for the university. A transition team composed of myself and two volunteers from the 2019-20 Ryerson University Alumni Association board have been meeting monthly to explore and discuss key questions around the mandate and operations of this new body. We're looking at the issues the council addresses and how more alumni can get involved in the council and at Ryerson. To keep you informed, we've created a blog on the Alumni and Friends website where you can get regular updates on our progress.

Find out more at ryerson.ca/alumni/ruaa.

*Maurizio Rogato
Urban and Regional
Planning '02
Transition Team Chair*



NOTEWORTHY

Celebrating progress

Members of the Ryerson University Alumni Association (RUAA) board of directors raise a glass in celebration after a successful annual general meeting. This was the first virtual AGM, with participation from across Canada, including Halifax, North Bay and Vancouver.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Staying grounded

Frank Walwyn (Business Administration '89) has fond memories of his time at Ryerson, which drive his volunteer efforts. A partner at WeirFoulds LLP and one of Canada's top lawyers, Walwyn says he relies on what he learned at Ryerson in every file.

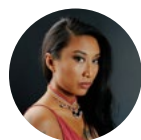
Ensuring diversity and inclusion is one of Walwyn's passions. He supports Ryerson's Diversity Institute and was on the committee recommending honorary doctorate recipients. And he is active within the legal profession, raising awareness of diversity issues and moving them forward.

"My hope is to give back and to make some small difference by doing so," he says. "I am convinced the majority of us want to do good and effect change; we only need leadership and direction to nudge us into action."

Fitting volunteer work into a busy professional environment is a challenge, but Walwyn recommends it.

"The trick is to stay focused on what is important to you. Even a half-hour a month volunteering in a food bank will make a difference. I guarantee you will feel better for it. You will learn from people with different life experiences, and they will keep you motivated. Volunteering helps you stay grounded and real."
—Sue Horner

Ryerson writes Three Ryersonians, three great books to add to your reading list



1. CATHERINE HERNANDEZ
Theatre Performance '99

Award-winning author Catherine Hernandez' latest novel, *Crosshairs* tells an unforgettable and timely dystopian story of a queer Black performer and his allies who work against an oppressive regime that is rounding up those deemed "Other."



2. ETHAN LOU
Journalism '15

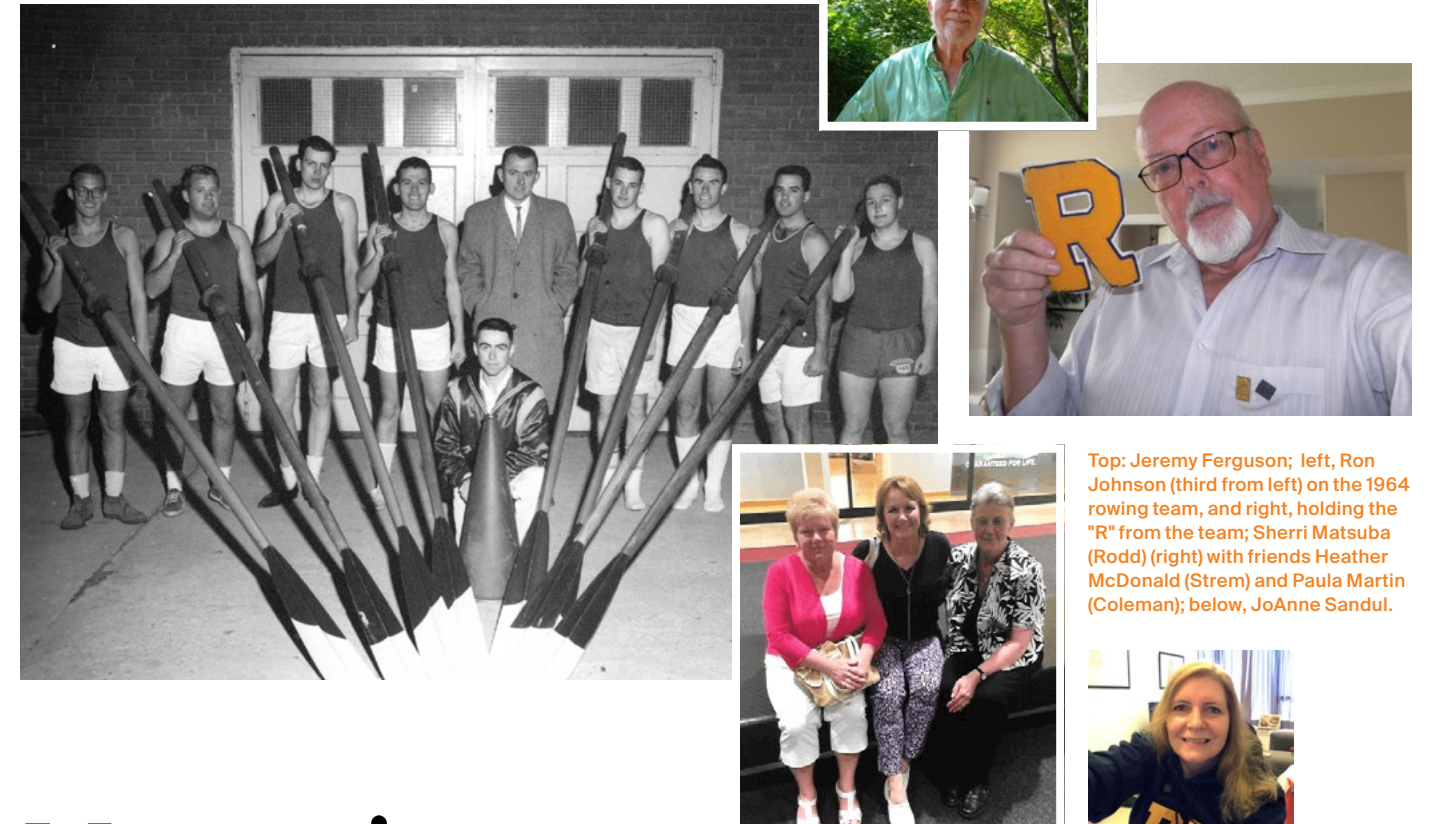
Little did he know that a visit to his ailing grandfather in China would set journalist Ethan Lou on a journey with an itinerary dictated by a global pandemic. In *Field Notes from a Pandemic*, Lou chronicles the spread of COVID-19, and why this pandemic will forever change the world.



3. MENA MASSOUD
Theatre Performance '14

The *Aladdin*, *Jack Ryan* and *Reprisal* star's new book, *Evolving Vegan*, feels almost as much like a travel guide as it does a cookbook. His mission? Massoud wants readers to know that they don't have to go "cold-turkey"—their move to a vegan lifestyle can be a gradual transition.

ILLUSTRATION BY MIMI MOFFIE; PHOTOGRAPHS BY (TOP LEFT) SID NAIDU, ARTS AND CONTEMPORARY STUDIES '10; (BOTTOM) MARKO KOVACEVIC; ANDREW ROWLEY



Top: Jeremy Ferguson; left, Ron Johnson (third from left) on the 1964 rowing team, and right, holding the "R" from the team; Sherri Matsuba (Rodd) (right) with friends Heather McDonald (Strem) and Paula Martin (Coleman); below, JoAnne Sandul.

Memories of Ryerson

While COVID-19 interrupted our plans to celebrate alumni anniversaries in 2020, we couldn't let the occasion go unmarked. We mailed anniversary pins to graduates of '55, '60, '65, '70 and '80 and asked you to share your reflections on university days gone by

› "Exiting from an authoritarian suburban high school and beginning journalism studies at Ryerson resonated like a prison break. Ryerson proved more than a school in which to shape a future. There were 75-cent, three-course Chinese lunches at the Kwongchow in Chinatown. Friday night dinners at Mary John's on Gerrard. And square hamburgers and pineapple pie at Bassel's. My instructors were stimulating in liberal arts and journalism subjects. After graduation, my first job was running Kodak Canada's publicity program. Reversing the usual trend, I went from PR to freelance, at first writing everything in sight for everyone

in sight, and ultimately found my place as a travel writer and photographer, roaming (and cherishing) more than 100 countries."
—Jeremy Ferguson, Journalism '65

› "The old guy in the picture is me—wearing the 55-year pin and the 50-year pin received five years ago at a very special anniversary. I'm holding the "R" that I received as a member of the 1964 Ryerson Rowing Team. So many fond memories of my three years near Gould Street: the "no star" Steeles Tavern, Imperial Pub, Coq D'Or, the occasional class, and many unforgettable students. I now enjoy three

volunteer positions in community and history appreciation groups."
—Ron Johnson, Business Administration '65

› "I remember how excited I was to move to Toronto and start at Ryerson in September 1977. I was coming from the small town of Lindsay, Ont., so city life was a whole new experience for me. I met two lifelong friends at Ryerson—Paula Martin (Coleman) and Heather McDonald (Strem). I also played for the Ryerson Ewes Basketball Team. This was a wonderful experience as my teammates were my family away from home and we got to travel to Quebec and from one end of Ontario to the other."
—Sherri Matsuba (Rodd), Secretarial & Administrative Studies '80

› "My best memory of my years at Ryerson was the amazing fashion shows the fashion students produced on a regular basis."
—JoAnne Sandul, Fashion '80

See more messages and memories which we are compiling into a video available on facebook.com/ryalumni/videos.

LIFE STORY

Finding my voice

How Al Ramsay empowered himself and the queer community



Al Ramsay helped launch TD's first same-sex couple ad in mainstream media.

Gaining acceptance for myself didn't happen overnight. I had my own journey of self-discovery. After arriving in Canada, I still felt ashamed about who I was and continued to live a dual life. Throughout university, I lived in Brampton with my folks and took the GO Train back and forth to Ryerson, graduating with a bachelor of commerce in 1999. When I got a job in diversity and inclusion at TD Bank, I eventually came out to my colleagues before coming out to my family and friends. In a way, I became a new person then.

I was hired by the bank in 2005 to create its community relations program, building the brand in diverse communities. I helped launch TD's first same-sex couple ad in mainstream media. Despite a lot of backlash, we stood firm in our principles, which helped us become a leader in this space.

Eventually, I led the creation of TD's LGBTQ2+ customer strategy that brought the company recognition as a leader in the financial industry across North America. As a result, I was promoted to the executive ranks to further help the organization evolve other diverse customer segments.

In my current role (associate vice-president, sales and strategy and head of LGBTQ2+ business development at TD Wealth), I'm grateful that I can lean in and use my authentic voice because of the support of my leaders. I take every chance I get at the leadership table to discuss diversity and inclusion. Not everyone has the opportunity or the environment to make a difference. My job is to make sure that we authentically embed diversity and inclusion here. As exemplified in my case, the Black experience and the LGBTQ2+ experience is unique.

Recently, I've had many conversations about the Black Lives Matter movement and have been involved in educating my colleagues. It has been especially important to support our Black employees during these traumatic times. We've made a lot of progress, but there is still more work to be done. I feel very lucky for the support I have in my personal and professional circle. I want people to be intentional in their actions, use their platform and privilege to make impactful change and help dismantle systemic racism. I remain hopeful about our ongoing fight. —Interview by Tiffany Mongu, Journalism '20

→ WHEN I MOVED to Canada from Jamaica, I was struck by how different everything was—the cold winter, the accents—it was all new to me.

When I got here, I remembered what my parents would always say to me: excellence is a great equalizer. At the time, I believed that to be true even for a Black person or a closeted gay person.

Jamaica is very homophobic. People in my community were shunned if they were suspected of being gay. I grew up as an altar boy and looking back, I realize how mentally tough I was.

I finally saw light at the end of the tunnel when my parents decided to move to Canada in search of a better life. Deep down, I knew that was my ticket to freedom!

PHOTOGRAPH BY MONICA (MO) PHUNG

Students need more help this year

Be it financial, academic, mental wellness, or otherwise, more students than ever need support. The Ryerson Fund helps students access the different tools, equipment and resources they need to be successful.

Your gift can make a difference in the life of a student. Together, we can make a challenging year a little easier.

Join your fellow alumni by giving to the Ryerson Fund today.

Ryerson
University

ryerson.ca/ryersonfund

PROFILES

Making a case for human rights in urban planning

Cheryll Case on the power planners have to make cities work

BY JEYAN JEGANATHAN, JOURNALISM '13

FOR CHERYLL CASE (Urban and Regional Planning '17), urban planning is about people, not buildings.

As founder and principal urban planner of CP Planning, an organization that specializes in community building, she helps communities reimagine spaces to work better for them.

“I feel like a lot of times in [urban] planning, there’s a lot of attention on the final product and what it’s going to be—and not enough focus on the people, the conversations that need to take place and the relationships that need to be formed,” says Case.

Since co-authoring a 2017 report, titled *Protecting the Vibrancy of Residential Neighbourhoods*, Case has been an outspoken advocate for affordable housing, inclusive planning, and applying a human-rights lens to planning projects.

She believes the core of a human rights-based approach is an understanding that inequality and marginalization denies people their rights and keeps them in poverty. She firmly believes planners have the power to shape how cities work.

There’s a shift in how the industry views affordable housing, she says, citing the federal government’s National Housing Strategy Act, which in 2019, recognized adequate housing as a fundamental human right.

Her firm prioritizes cultivating relationships with marginalized communities,


non-profits and community groups before building and reimagining their neighbourhoods to ensure their input.

For example, one of the many things the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted in the city is the issue of food insecurity. Case is a big supporter of FoodShare Toronto’s push to convert the city’s golf courses into urban farms, which would allow community members to grow their own produce.

“What really drew me to planning specifically is its role as a facilitator,” says Case. Last year, she held a workshop that envisioned a city through feminist perspectives.

“What would a city look like if it was told through a feminist narrative and was built with feminist intentions and feminist interests?” she says.

Planning needs to evolve from the concept of planning in the “public interest” to a practice of planning through a human rights approach. “The concept of public interest has traditionally meant the white homeowner, the white male homeowner with the wife. Not the single woman, not the immigrant,” she says. A human rights approach, Case says, has changed planning processes that have discriminated against women and people with disabilities.

The legacy of applying this approach to improve health, equity and inclusion shows that planning is a “powerful space” that can make cities better places to live. 

Cheryll Case says planning is a “powerful space” that can make serious change with the right approach.



PHOTOGRAPH BY NABRA BADR, FASHION COMMUNICATION '18

PROFILES

Personal experience fuels policy research

PhD student aims to advance health equity for people living with HIV

BY KELSEY ADAMS, JOURNALISM '17



FOR CHRISTIAN HUI, lived experiences cannot be separated from his professional work. Instead, he leans into his identity as a racialized, queer, HIV-positive settler to inform his academic research.

A PhD student in Ryerson's Policy Studies program and a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship recipient, Hui earlier completed undergraduate and master's degrees in Ryerson's social work program.

For his doctoral studies, he is embarking on a multi-layered research process, called the Positive Health Equity Action Plan. His goal is to explore the impact of privilege on the clinical health outcomes of people living with HIV.

He also wants to build a space where his community advisory board, policy makers, researchers and representatives of AIDS

service organizations can come together to co-create sustainable health equity policies. "The core of my work is to examine the power relations and historical events that led to the oppression and marginalization of specific communities," Hui says.

Racialized and Indigenous people, trans people, people who use drugs, sex workers and even cisgender heterosexual people who make up a smaller portion of those affected by HIV will be considered in the research.

Historically, research and a lack of access to resources have done considerable harm to Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities, Hui says. In his past decade of activist work, he noticed the disparities in access and uptake of new biomedical HIV prevention such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) which had not fully benefitted

groups other than white gay men. While PrEP has become more accessible, much work remains so more can benefit from it.

Hui learned he was HIV positive when he was 25 years old. Later, he sought support from Toronto's Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS), an organization providing culturally safe services where he felt at home. "As opposed to feeling ashamed when I sought out services at mainstream organizations, I began to thrive with ACAS and started volunteering."

What some in his field might consider a bias, he considers a strength that allows him to reflect the needs of his communities. "Some people may argue I'm not objective, or that I'm biased, yet I'm proud that it's lived experiences and values that inform and fuel my work." **RU**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NABRA BADR, FASHION COMMUNICATION '18



PROFILES

Putting community at the centre of change

Ontario Human Rights Commissioner Ena Chadha takes the helm at a critical time, investigating the root of inequality in systems of power

BY TAYO BERO

BORN IN NEW DELHI and raised in Brampton, Ont., Ena Chadha remembers her family being extremely community-oriented growing up. But it was time spent at Ryerson pursuing her journalism degree that solidified the path she would eventually take—as a human rights lawyer for over 25 years and the current chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC).

"Ryerson has always been a community that was much more energetic on issues [like] social justice, poverty, immigration," she said. "Those were all issues I was interested in as well."

Chadha has taken the helm of the OHRC at a crucial time, given its inquiry into Toronto Police Services, a force that has received criticism for years of violent interactions with the city's Black, Indigenous and racialized communities, and people with mental health concerns. The OHRC recently worked extensively with researchers to examine these incidents of violence.

The goal is to enact tangible results, Chadha says, something activists and community organizers have been clamoring for over the years. "It's [about enacting] proactive change to our current policing models, and how policing interacts with other human services," she said. "Making sure that we fix the gaps in the system that are currently leading to either underservice of certain racialized groups or over policing of certain racialized groups."

Just before taking on the one-year chief commissioner position, Chadha was appointed by the province's education minister to serve as a co-reviewer of the Peel District School Board, in 2019. The review was tasked with looking at systemic discrimination in the school board, specifically, anti-Black racism.

"I think what people don't realize is the effect of systemic racism and discrimination, and how damaging and long lasting that effect is in creating many of the crises that we deal with today."

From concerns with how curriculum fails to reflect Canada's different cultures, to a lack of racialized teachers in the classroom, she and her team identified issues to remedy the inequitable dynamics they create.

When thinking about what makes her work worth doing, it comes back to community. "The most fulfilling part of my work as a human rights lawyer is when there's a positive change for an individual person, or I know it's helped a community." **RU**

Class Notes

UPDATES FROM ALUMNI ON PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES

1950s

Ralph Cameron

Electrical Technology '55
 "It's hard to believe where the time went. The changes Ryerson has undergone since 1955 are formidable. May those surviving keep well. I hope they are all enjoying retirement as I am. I've been married 53 years and plan to move to an apartment next year. I recall being on transmitter duty at CJRT the night of Hurricane Hazel, and returning home with flooding and downed trees."

William Green

Electrical Technology '55
 "At 85-years-young, I am still participating in church activities, am a member of two committees in our local Rotary Club, on the executive of our Men's Probus Club, and an active veteran in the Veterans Memorial Legion Br. 498 in Grand Bend."



DID YOU KNOW...

You could be a career mentor. Find out more at Ryerson's Tri-Mentoring. Email pmentor@ryerson.ca.

Ralph Cameron, Electrical Technology '55.

Don Laughton

Hotel, Resort and Restaurant Administration '55
 "I spent 40 years in business, then volunteered for more than 20 years, including heading up the creation of the Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre, chairing Community Living Mississauga, and volunteering full-time for 18 years at Kerry's. I was named Mississauga's Citizen of the Year in 1990."

Fred Messacar

Mechanical and Industrial Engineering '53
 "I graduated at the tender age of 19. Ryerson graduates were greatly sought after as technicians of the highest calibre. I was hired by Canada's largest paint company and became the senior systems designer, analyst and programmer of the corporate mainframe. I have been retired for 27 years. My most important successes are my three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Success and happiness do exist in the heart more so than in the workplace."

Renton Patterson

Electrical Technology '55
 "After graduation, I worked at CGE and later became a teacher of electricity. My high school students converted an MG sports car, a boat, and then a brand new 1977 Dodge Aspen station wagon to electric drive. I subsequently purchased a 2012 Nissan Leaf electric car, a Princecraft BRIOe electric pontoon boat and finally a 2018 Tesla Model 3. My sincere early belief in electric transportation has been vindicated."

1960s

Alan Bender

Business '69
 "Married, with two amazing kids, and three amazing grandchildren, I'm currently celebrating 48 years in business interiors, specializing in healthcare, corporate, commercial interior design, build, renovations and furnishings."

James (Jim) Hopkinson

Electrical Technology '65
 "I married after graduation. We raised two daughters and now have a grandson. I joined the engineering department at Allis Chalmers in Guelph and then worked in the field with their dealers, later joining one of them for the rest of my career. I've been retired for 10 years. I've enjoyed singing barber shop harmony as a hobby for the past 50 years."

Don Lawrence

Architecture '65
 "After graduation, I spent four years with various architectural firms, and branched out into sales with the manufacturer Modernfold. I later co-founded Lawrence-Paine Limited and we were the Modernfold distributor for 25 years. I sold my interest in 2003 and retired. My wife and I moved from Toronto to Lakefield, where we pursued golf, curling, boating and travel. I also drove a school bus for Lakefield schools for 13 years. Sadly, I was widowed in 2019, but I still pursue my interests, including taking a seven-week trip to Australia and New Zealand this past winter, arriving home



↑ After graduating from the Secretarial and Administrative Studies program in '80 and '81, friends Angie DiGuglielmo, Angie Bavosa, Lily Fidelj, Martha Potocnik, Anita Buna, Susie Garnicki and Patty McCarthy (and not pictured, Janice Williams and Mary Mariani) are celebrating 40 years of memorable moments together. "Through personal ups and downs, we are always there for each other. Who would have known back then that we would still be friends in 2020? Thank you, Ryerson for this great gift of friendship!" writes Anita Charlesworth.

just in time to enter 14 days of quarantine."

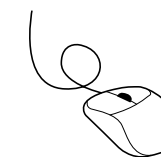
Brian MacLellan

Business '60
 "I've been retired for 25 years after a 35-year career with my first employer, John Deere Limited, in Hamilton, Ont. I married my beautiful wife, Hope, in 1962. We have two beautiful children, Sandra, and David, and are proud grandparents of five university graduates. Our grandson, Madison Trueman, recently

graduated in business from Ryerson on the president's honour list. I've continued curling, now going on 65 years, participating in provincial and Canadian championships."

Nick Prokopchuk

Mechanical Technology '65
 Nick worked at Algoma Steel and retired after 35 years of service. He drove a school bus for 15 years after retirement, and taught aviation hydraulics at Sault College for four years.



DID YOU KNOW...

Top 5 webinars are available free on the RU Connections Youtube channel

1970s

Anthony Bishop

Hotel and Restaurant '70
 Anthony retired as a business instructor at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.

Richard Boulton

Journalism '70
 "I was delighted to receive my 50th anniversary Ryerson Alumni gold pin. I worked in my chosen field for 36 years, and joined the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation department in 2006, where I am still employed at age 74, as a customer service rep. I'm also teaching chess. I worked for the Leafs for five years as editor of the souvenir program, along with the Blue Jays, Argos and Winnipeg Jets. I served 13 years as feature sportswriter with TV Guide and travelled around the world to cover eight World Cups and five European soccer championships. I still have my stories from the daily Ryersonian student newspaper from the 1960s!"



Ernest M. Isaac
Geodetic Sciences '76
“After enjoying 40 years of work in the profession, completing my masters and PhD years ago, I reached retirement and now spend time with my seven grandchildren. I’ve been accepted into medical school, and at age 72, am waiting to resume, as soon as the coronavirus departs from us!”

Ezio Osti
Business '70
“I have retired from the Ontario government. My son, Michael, also attended Ryerson, graduating in Commerce '05.”

Judi Ritter
Radio and Television Arts (RTA) '70
Judi worked at CFTO for 18 years as AD on all their productions, drama, sports, game shows and variety shows. She later worked as a freelancer for many production companies, stations and networks.

Jacqueline Simm
Theatre (Dance) '75
A retired elementary teacher, Jacqueline has returned to her passion: dance. She occasionally teaches ballet classes, assists choreographers as rehearsal director, serves on the board of KasheDance and assists various artists with their grant applications.

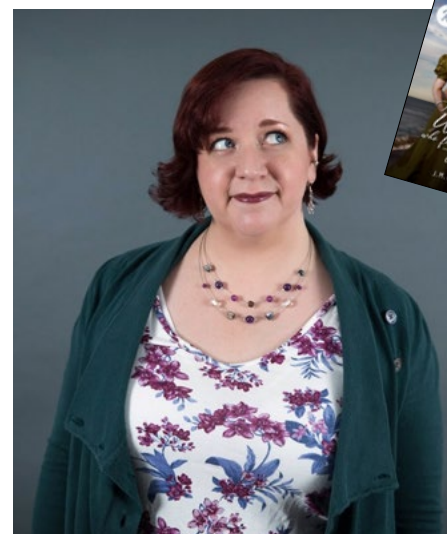
John Simpson
Urban and Regional Planning '75
Betty Phillips Simpson
Secretarial Science '76
Betty and John are retired and have returned to Sydenham Lake, Ont., after 30 years in Alberta. “We winter in Arizona and spend the rest of our time

in Ontario and PEI. We have three sons.”

1980s

Ann (Billick) Mittag
RTA '80
“I was one of the first employees hired as a server at Oakham lounge, hired before they even opened. I paid for my education with this salary. My first job after graduation was as a broadcast journalist assistant at Ryerson. I graduated 25 years after my mom Marie (Nisbet) Billick graduated from Fashion at the top of her class. My mom will be 88 this year.”

Jeff Goldhar
RTA '80
“I am entering my 30th year as a graphics designer for CBC News. I started my career with some wonderful years at CityTV in various roles. My wife and I have two adult children and now live as empty nesters in Aurora, Ont., with our rescue dog, Monty.”



← Jessica Frey, Communications and Culture '09, received a Watty award for her latest book.

Jeff Gruen
RTA '80
“I got out of the biz in 2019 after an amazing career in radio, TV and film. No regrets, only successes! Time now to relax and enjoy wine in Prince Edward County. I started Wine O’Clock Tours in 2019.”

Palvinder Kaur
Industrial Engineering '81
“In 2012, I founded an award-winning non-profit organization called Langar Seva Meal & Support Services. Our volunteers deliver a week’s worth of hot vegetarian meals at no charge to individuals who are sick and unable to cook.”

Felix Mifsud
Industrial Engineering Certificate '80
“I worked as a maintenance machinist at Sidbec Dosco in Etobicoke until 1996 when the company closed. I was then an accountant at my wife’s nursery school, helping with other duties to keep a safe and healthy environment for children. We retired in 2012.”

Bob Millard
Industrial Engineering '82
Bob and wife Leslie Ann Muloin, Social Work '86, have three children, Emily, Olivia and Zachary. “After graduation, I worked my way through the design, process and manufacturing engineering department at Murata Erie. I later moved back to Toronto and worked for Canada Packers. I started the Lamus Group company, with two of my former Industrial Engineering classmates, David Berger and Frank Decicco. I joined Loyalist College as a business professor and did various other roles. I went on to obtain a master’s degree in adult education from St. Francis Xavier University.”

Dina Morrone
Fashion '83
“Upon graduating, I moved to Rome, Italy, where I worked as an actress, TV host, model and voiceover talent. Now in Los Angeles, I have written and performed my award-winning solo show, “The Italian in Me,” based on my time in Rome. I also wrote the play “Moose on the Loose,” which Mel Brooks saw and said “I cannot tell a lie, Moose on the Loose is really funny and surprisingly moving.” I am on the artistic board of Theatre West, a voiceover actress, and a writer and executive editor for the *Eden magazine*.”

Lori Molnar
Gerontology '87
“I own my own business, I design interiors and I am also an environmental gerontologist and a watercolour artist.”



↑ Dietitian Elisa Levi, Nutrition and Food '01, is now studying medicine.

Linda (Hayman) Murray
Journalism '83
A former business owner and municipal councillor, Linda retired and then returned to work in a residential care facility for adults with autism. The married mother of three is also a grandmother of three.

Roger Pigeon
Civil Engineering '82
“In April, I retired from the City of Niagara Falls fire department as a captain and fire prevention officer. I previously held the position of senior plan examiner with the building department.”

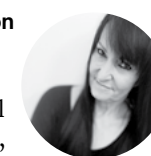
Randolph Sidoo
Chemical Engineering '86
“I spent 10 years in Trinidad and Tobago as operations manager of an edible oil processing facility. I married my wife, Rachael, and we had three kids. We then moved to Australia where I worked for a canola processing business. After 12 years, we moved to Alberta and I took on an AVP role with Richardson International. After 10 years,

my current role is AVP of corporate engineering in Winnipeg.”

Trevor Wilson
Landscape Architecture '82
“Since 1985, I have been a landscape designer providing professional landscape architectural design-build and consulting services for residential and commercial clients. I am an associate member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.”

1990s

Kate Concannon
Journalism '91
Kate received the top national editorial award, PMJA 2020 Editor of the Year, from the leading



public radio/media association in the U.S., the Public Media Journalism Association. She is the managing editor of a regional public radio collaborative across seven Mountain West states.

Derek Noble
Theatre Technical Production '96
“After touring with various acts around the world, I have settled in Orillia for the past 10 years and run the lighting department at the casino.”

Asifa Nurani
Occupational and Public Health '95
“I pursued my masters in public health at Yale and later worked as a research assistant at Sunnybrook Hospital. I also taught an international health course at Ryerson. In 2000, I secured a job with Aga Khan Foundation in Kenya. After 19 years in development, I moved to Calgary in 2017 with my husband and two sons. I have done a consultancy with the World Health Organization, Aga Khan Foundation in East Africa and am currently on a 15-month contract with Alberta Health Services.

Nicole Pearson
Fashion '94
Nicole works in film and television production as a costume supervisor.

Peter Simmons
Public Administration '97
Peter completed graduate studies at Syracuse University and Cornell University. Following a successful 25-year career in the public sector, he founded the consulting service Knox Dalton and Associates.

2000s

Jessica Frey
Communications and Culture '09
Jessica has worked in the film and publishing industries, publishing dozens of award-winning novels, short stories, graphic novels and comic scripts. Her ninth novel, *The Woman Who Fell Through Time* was awarded a Watty Award in 2019, picked up for exclusive digital distribution through the reading app Radish, and became available in print in 2019.

Zeeshan Gauba
Information Management '08
“I co-founded the Connect IT Conference, one of Canada’s largest undergraduate business technology conferences. I’ve held various consulting and management positions in the digital media, marketing, information technology, and financial services industries. In Cleveland, I am the vice-president of client success at a data analytics firm. I also volunteer for the Citizen’s Foundation to raise funds for educating underprivileged children in Pakistan. My wife Saadia and I are proud parents of two wonderful children, Noor and Shaan.”



Shakir Hussein
Geographic Analysis '05
“I was honoured to receive the Brampton Board of Trade Top 40 Under 40 Award, which celebrates the hard work of dynamic



PHOTOGRAPH BY (BOTTOM LEFT) RYAN FISHER

young leaders. I completed a masters of engineering at the University of Toronto and an executive MBA degree at Queen's University. I'm presently the director of transportation and planning at 407 ETR."

Mabel Kane

Nursing '07
"I returned to school late in life. I earned a master's in education from Yorkville University and continued to teach adult learners. I published a book for women, *Beauty-full: control your physical, mental and spiritual self through menopause*.

Elisa Levi

Nutrition and Food '01
Awarded the Brodie Medical Learner Leadership Award by the Canadian Medical Association, Elisa works as a dietitian and is in medical school to become a family physician. As an Anishinaabe member of Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, she helped develop the First Nations guiding principles for the use and implementation of Canada's new food guide. She also helped develop an Indigenous cancer strategy and plans to work with rural patients.

Liz Roelands

Theatre '08
Liz was awarded a Daytime Emmy for her work on the Canadian children's show *Dino Dana*. She shared the Best Special Effects Costume/Makeup/Hairstyling win with special effects and makeup artist Karlee Morse, and costume designer Christine Toye. The win is her second Daytime Emmy.



Alexa Jovanovic, Fashion '16, speaks at Tech Toronto, wearing the Aille Design denim jacket with Braille beading.

University of Miami. Married in France in 2018, my husband and I live in Miami and recently had a baby boy. I am working at a national litigation firm practising maritime law."

Alexa Jovanovic

Fashion '16
Alexa Jovanovic is the founder of Aille Design (pronounced: eye), an emerging fashion brand that is changing society's perspective on inclusive design by creating fashion forward pieces with Swarovski Braille beading. The Braille is fully legible and the phrases describe the garment's colour, style, fit and care content to allow Braille readers to fully envision the piece. Products are created alongside a diverse team of blind, visually impaired and sighted fashion lovers which allows the designs to maintain a desirable fashion-forward aesthetic, foster community and advocate for the importance of inclusivity in mainstream products. To learn more, follow @ailedesign on Instagram and shop the collection at ailedesign.com.

Alexandra MacAulay Abdelwahab

Journalism '11
"I have had a number of careers and travelled to 25 countries. I worked for the Toronto Star, Montreal Gazette and Global News, and moved into communications consulting where I worked with various companies, including a year in Guyana with Cuso International. I pursued a master's degree in international studies in London and now work for Global Affairs Canada."

Katia Taylor

Image Arts '01
"I have been successfully running my Toronto-based photography business for the past 17 years. I specialize in weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and headshots. I have been married for 11 years and have an eight-year-old daughter."



DID YOU KNOW...

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

2010s

Mike Auksi

Master's of Social Work '13
Mike is a PhD student at McGill University in kinesiology sciences, focusing on Indigenous ice hockey.

Danielle Gauer

Criminology '10
"After attending law school in Ottawa, I obtained my LL.M in Maritime Law at the

Maggie Macpherson

Radio and Television Arts '13
Maggie is a photojournalist with CBC Vancouver who won the Personality Award in the 13th annual National Pictures of the Year competition, for her portrait of Stephen (Red) Robinson, a former resident of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer Park tent city.

Joshua Manansala

Nursing '19
"I am a registered nurse at St. Michael's Hospital. I work in different inpatient units throughout the hospital, and am a part of St. Michael's COVID-19 Assessment Centre Team. This pandemic has provided me with so many opportunities to learn and grow, both personally and as a health-care provider."



Philip Masetti Leite

Journalism '11
Last summer, Philip fulfilled his dream to cross the Americas on horseback. He completed his eight-year journey in Calgary and served as the honorary marshal of the 2020 Calgary Stampede. He began the trip in 2012, crossing 12 countries and 26,000 kilometres.

Lauren Riihimaki

Graphic Communications Management '15
With nine million subscribers on YouTube, Lauren is the host and executive producer of *Craftopia* on HBOMax. The show follows 9- to 15-year-old contestants putting their imaginations to the test in larger-than-life challenges. Dubbed by Forbes magazine as the "millennial Martha Stewart," Lauren has also worked on projects for Disney, Starbucks and Procter & Gamble.



Lauren Riihimaki, Graphic Communications Management '15, has nine million subscribers to her YouTube channel. She is executive producer and host of HBO Max's *Craftopia*.

In memoriam

Yvonne (Bonnie) Brennan

RTA '56
Bonnie died Jan. 5, 2020. Her career began at CHCH-TV Hamilton and CBC Television in Toronto. She later served as executive director of the National Catholic Communications Centre, and director of the Office of Public Information of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. She also served as a member of the Religious Advisory Board of the CBC. Bonnie was awarded a Gabriel by the Catholic Broadcasters Association of the USA, and a Papal medal for her work in religious communications. After retiring in 1990, she continued working as a communications consultant and worked on several projects for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Douglas Leach

Electrical and Computer Engineering '58
Douglas died January 15, 2020 at age 81. Douglas and his wife were avid sailors on the Ottawa River, the Thousand Islands, and later intracoastal waterway systems, spending several winters around the Bahamas before returning to Canada. Douglas made significant contributions to Radio Amateurs of Canada as well as several Ottawa clubs.

Ken Mackay

RTA '60
Ken died April 12, 2020. After graduation, Ken joined the Canadian Forces Network at its headquarters in Metz, France, as an announcer

and producer. The network re-broadcasted CBC radio programs and produced news, weather and sports of interest to Canadian forces stationed in Europe. Later, Ken worked as an executive producer of programming for TVO. He also taught at various Ontario colleges.

Natalie (Niessink) MacLaurin

RTA '85
Natalie died April 9, 2020 at age 56. She was the beloved wife of Jay MacLaurin with whom she devotedly shared more than 35 years of friendship and marriage.

Harold Mann

Business Management '85
Harold died July 6, 2020 at age 59. He met his wife Karen Mann, Retail Management '85, at Ryerson, and they married in their second year. Harold and Karen worked seven days a week, all summer long, with Dickie Dee ice cream bikes to pay for their schooling and their wedding. Harold began his career with Imperial Tobacco, and later worked in computers and networking systems in Toronto, then in Atlanta, Georgia. The couple had three children, eventually settling in Bobcaygeon. Harold was a founding partner of OptionPay Inc. and Real Time Merchant Services.

Carol Shayne Markusoff

Urban and Regional Planning '84
Carol died on July 4, 2020. She enjoyed a long career in the public service, first in Toronto and later in Winnipeg. She retired in 2013 after serving as the Manitoba Ombudsman.
—Christine Julien-Sullivan, Journalism '97

REMEMBER WHEN?

1918 vs. 2020: A look at pandemics in Canada

History professor traces the lessons learned from previous generations

→ WHILE NO ONE can predict what will happen with the COVID-19 crisis, we can draw on history for an understanding of how previous generations survived pandemics. The 1918 “Spanish Flu” was amongst the deadliest in history: killing an estimated 50 to 100 million worldwide, roughly five per cent of the global populace, including nearly 55,000 Canadians.

Schools, businesses and public places were closed. Facemasks and social distancing were mandatory, though some refused to follow the rules. Quarantines were enforced.

Just as in 2020, marginalized populations were ravaged. Indigenous communities faced a mortality rate five times the national average. Connaught Laboratories in Toronto developed a vaccine by late 1918, but offered consumers no guarantee it would work.

When the virus dissipated, Canada emerged a different country. A federal

Department of Health was created. Some communities were destroyed, or changed forever. But Canadians also proved resilient: developing stronger senses of community through volunteerism and collective action.

Still, there are crucial differences between the pandemics. In 1918, there was no public health insurance, diets were poorer, and sanitation standards were lower. Vaccination programs were in their infancy, while antiviral drugs and other frontline technologies used today were non-existent.

And despite advances in medicine, the old ideas of basic prevention—social distancing and quarantine—remain the best defence. We’ve learned that only through patient and concerted action can we manage the historical realities of pandemics. —Arne Kislenko

Arne Kislenko is a professor of History at Ryerson University.

Children at Victoria Park Forest School in Toronto practise blowing their noses in 1913.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES



No surprise, most of us won't celebrate this many.

It might surprise you to learn that in 2016, there were over 8,000 centenarians in Canada*. As Canadians, we're fortunate to enjoy a high life expectancy, yet no one ever really knows what the future will bring.

So if something were to happen to you, would your loved ones have the financial reserves to be able to pay bills and cover living expenses? **Alumni Term Life Insurance** can help. It can be used in any way** your loved ones need and now comes in two plan options – Term Life and Term 10. That's a financial safety net for your family, any way you slice it.



Get a quote today. 1-888-913-6333
or [Manulife.com/ryerson](https://www.manulife.com/ryerson)

Underwritten by The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company.

Manulife and the Block Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under licence. ©2020 The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company. All rights reserved. Manulife, PO Box 670, Stn Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2J 4B8.

* Source: The Star, 100-Year Old Canadians Fastest-Growing Age Group In The Country, 2017.

** Conditions, Limitations, Exclusions may apply. See policy for full details.

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



We'd love to hear from you!

Send an update to Class Notes and we'll include your news in the next issue.

Online: ryerson.ca/alumni/classnotes

Email: ryemag@ryerson.ca

Update your contact info so we can tell you about alumni benefits and events.

Online: ryerson.ca/alumni/updates

Email: recordsupdatesua@ryerson.ca

To subscribe to online edition:

ryerson.ca/magazine-subscribe

Ryerson
University