




2013-14 YEAR IN REVIEW



Yeates School of  
Graduate Studies

RYERSON  
UNIVERSITY



*WE BELIEVE GRADUATE  
EDUCATION IS ABOUT DEFINING  
MOMENTS. THOSE MOMENTS  
WHEN THE FRAME CHANGES,  
THE GAME CHANGES AND THE  
WORLD CHANGES.*



CONNECT

CREATE

TRANSCEND



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Photography for cover, dean, feature program and  
case studies by Mark Blinch.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

*Qualitative research took on a whole new meaning for me last year when I opened my office door to the community and asked for feedback on the state of graduate education at Ryerson.*



To my great surprise, people not only lined up over four days, they also came ready to share their experiences as well as their thoughts for making graduate education at Ryerson even more relevant.

Some may have wondered at first if a chat with the dean was stretching the limits of normal academic protocol, but when they left my office, there's one thing they knew for sure: That the voices and ideas of our community – students, faculty and staff – really do matter. And that it is our diversity and our interconnectedness that are our core strengths.

For me, these chats were an opportunity to share my excitement about graduate education at Ryerson and to explain the transformative effect that being connected to our community, creative in our problem-solving and entrepreneurial in our approach can have on our world.

Engagement is key. It's the foundation upon which everything else that we do in graduate education depends. No matter what form

it takes – whether it's a student video competition, a professional development conference for faculty, the new YSGS Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Education Awards, the new Board of Governors Student Leadership Award and Medal, the Ryerson Gold Medals, or this first Year in Review report – our version of engagement is all about reaching out and celebrating the remarkable story of graduate education at Ryerson.

It's a story I'm proud to tell. The examples we've chosen to highlight in this report convey not only the breadth of our programs but also underscore the many and diverse ways in which graduate education at Ryerson is thriving. More than anything, I believe they demonstrate that we are a force to be reckoned with.

Our story is also interwoven with the narrative of Ryerson's evolution as a comprehensive innovation university. In just over 14 years, we've grown from 50 students in three master's programs to 2,456 students in 35 master's and 13 PhD

programs. Our track record for earning research funding, attracting outstanding students, faculty and researchers, and connecting with community and industry partners is truly impressive and should leave no doubt about our commitment to helping Ryerson affirm its status as one of Canada's leading universities.

Last year, they came, they saw, we chatted. We have a wonderful opportunity now to leverage those conversations by spreading the word that graduate education at Ryerson is thriving. And equally, that we're part of a broader university culture where making a difference is bred in the bone.

If ever there was a good news story, this is it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Mactavish', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Jennifer Mactavish**  
Dean, Yeates School of  
Graduate Studies

# WE'RE ON A ROLL

## Graduate studies at a glance

Graduate education at Ryerson is booming.

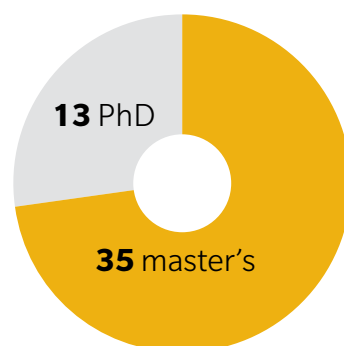
Since it was first introduced in 2000 with three master's programs, graduate education has been on a steady upward trajectory, adding strong momentum to the university's vision of becoming a comprehensive innovation university.

Ours is a story of growth and expansion. Growth in all the metrics that count: numbers of students, funding support, numbers of programs, research grants, reputation scores.

It's also a story about the incredible demand for the types of programs we offer – proof that we're not only offering programs that serve society and encouraging scholarly research and creative activity (SRC) that addresses its most pressing issues, we're doing it consistently. We're doing it boldly. We're doing it in a way that demonstrates that graduate education is both viable and vital. And we're doing it in lock step with the university's broader undergraduate and SRC priorities.

Here's a snapshot of graduate education at Ryerson. The numbers say it all.

### NUMBER OF PROGRAMS



### NEW PROGRAMS

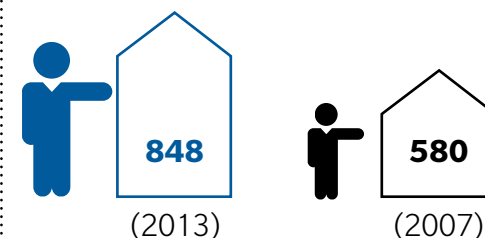
**MASTER OF DIGITAL MEDIA**  
(launched fall 2013)

**PhDs in Computer Science, Molecular Science and Biomedical Physics**

### RATIO OF APPLICATIONS TO AVAILABLE SPACES



### FACULTY (TOTAL)



### FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**244** (2013)

**91** (2008)

### STUDENT BODY



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

*Connecting with the people that matter most*

Student engagement is alive and well and thriving at Ryerson. And if associate dean Anthony Bonato has anything to do with it, that's exactly the way it's going to stay for many years to come.

"We want our graduate students to feel connected to campus life," says Bonato. "Many are returning to school after several years in the workforce, and it can be overwhelming. We actively look for ways to reach out to them and to help lay the foundation for their success."

Four different initiatives were organized last year to help bring graduate students into the fold:

## **3-Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition**

A way to share and celebrate the richness and diversity of graduate student projects, 3MT® is a national competition in which participants present their research in three minutes or less to a panel of non-specialist judges, using only one static slide. **Thomas Tiveron**, a master's student in civil engineering, and **Muhammad Ali Naqvi**, a PhD student in molecular science, were the 2013 and 2014 Ryerson winners. Naqvi placed third in the Ontario competition and won the Ontario 3MT® People's Choice Award.

## **Student video competition**

Shining the spotlight on graduate students' talent and their perspectives on what makes the Ryerson graduate experience unique, the student video competition invites students to submit videos that are one to two minutes in length, illustrating the attributes that define graduate education at Ryerson University: creative, connected and entrepreneurial.

1st place: **Michael Murphy**, MBA

2nd place: **Anna MacLean**, Documentary Media

3rd place: **Daniel Bokun**, MBA

Honourable mention: **Patrick de Sousa Lahey**,  
**Amanda Taylor**, Media Production

## **Future Smart**

Designed to help graduate students develop and enhance the in-demand professional skills that will facilitate their transition into a career, the Future Smart program provides hands-on workshops and seminars in areas such as communication and personal effectiveness, teaching and presentation skills, and information management.

## **GRADCafé**

A new initiative launched last year, GRADCafé is a way for the dean and associate dean to keep a finger on the pulse of graduate education at Ryerson. This informal social event engages graduate students in an ongoing conversation about how to make their experience relevant and enlists their help in finding solutions to issues that need to be addressed in order for them to feel valued and productive.



# MASTERING THE ART, SCIENCE AND BUSINESS OF DIGITAL MEDIA

*2013 will go down in history as the year in which the very first academic program became fully embedded into Ryerson University's Digital Media Zone (DMZ). With full access to the DMZ's incubator culture, Master of Digital Media students are getting hands-on experience, as well as exposure to some of the brightest minds in the country*

Evelyn Chan's passion is wedding photography. Phil Raffi's is 3-D printing.

Different as they are, one goal they share with their classmates is to learn as much as they can about digital media and entrepreneurship in the new 12-month Master of Digital Media (MDM) program.

"This isn't your typical academic program where you're getting lectured at and then they expect you to go and figure it out for yourself," says Maria-Gabriella Khoury. "It's a great program for someone who really wants to get their hands dirty."

More like total immersion into the world of entrepreneurship. According to Matt Kyan, graduate program director of the MDM, the goal is to expose students to everything they'll need

to know to succeed in the world of digital media, including art, design, technology and, of course, business. "The multi-disciplinary approach of the MDM program is critical because it replicates the conditions our students are going to face later on, and the experiential approach we take is both effective and highly productive."

With full access to the Digital Media Zone, the opportunity to learn from internal faculty and leading industry experts, as well as the chance to collaborate with students from a wide variety of backgrounds, the students in the MDM's first cohort are learning first-hand what it takes to develop, incubate and deliver a new business designed for the digital world.

"It's really learning on demand," says Raffi. "That's really what sold me. To be able to come here, integrate with new people, and create something."

Through close links with industry, MDM students also learn what it's like to collaborate with industry. "If students decide at the end of the program to start a business, that's great," says Michael Carter, co-director and director of industry. "But others may decide on a different path, by providing thought leadership to existing businesses. They're both valid options. Our program teaches students how to talk with businesses about their challenges. They learn the art of consulting and how to deliver practical solutions."

As quickly as news travels on Twitter, interest in the new MDM program is trending. From 30 applications and 19 students last year, it will accept 35 in 2014-15, meaning almost 50 new entrepreneurs trained and ready to create jobs and boost Ontario's prosperity.





Materialyze was conceived by students in Ryerson's new Master of Digital Media program, launched last September. Shown here accepting their award are: From left: Roger Wilson, judge and partner, IT Fund; Matt Saunders, judge, and president and managing director, Ryerson Futures; Ian Portsmouth, judge, and publisher and editor, PROFIT Magazine; Daniel Siegel, Materialyze; Chris Gray, Materialyze; Phillip Raffi, Materialyze; Tyler Sures, Materialyze; Sean Wise, entrepreneurship professor; and Rhandy Adolphe, Materialyze. The team had eight minutes to make their pitch to the judging panel. Photo courtesy of Enactus Ryerson.



## STUDENT

# Rubina Quadri

**Master of arts, Early Childhood Studies**

Faculty of Community Services

After working for 10 years in early childhood education, Rubina Quadri decided to take her career to the next level and fulfill a long-standing desire to become a social entrepreneur.

The first important step in that transition was gaining acceptance mid-way during her undergraduate studies into Ryerson's Experiential Design and Gaming Environment (EDGE) Lab – a trans-disciplinary lab that allows researchers to develop and test prototypes in a virtual world before introducing them into the real world. While working at the EDGE Lab, she decided to pursue a master of arts degree in Early Childhood Studies (ongoing), and along the way to cofound a venture called

Adaptive Designers. It was in this capacity that Quadri designed a new Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) device called "Talking Buttons."

Developed for children aged four to six who have speech disabilities (difficulty speaking or being understood), this wearable, customizable device helps children to interact with others using language in an independent way, at a point in their development when their need to communicate with people outside their family increases dramatically.

"My primary interest is research in the area of adaptive design," says Quadri. "And working at the EDGE Lab was the perfect

place for me. At Ryerson, I've had amazing opportunities, beyond what I even knew existed. I thought I was coming here to learn about research, which I did, but there was so much more, including the opportunity to start a social venture. Ryerson has been a place where I've been able to shape my life, not just prepare myself for a job."

In 2013, Quadri was awarded a \$27,000 Ryerson Social Enterprise Fellowship Federal Development Grant that she used to develop and market test "Talking Buttons." Now that her market research is completed, the next step for this determined and driven social entrepreneur will be to fine-tune the prototype and start commercializing it.





## STUDENT

## Afshin Rahimi

**PhD, Aerospace Engineering**

Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science

What Afshin Rahimi really wants to know is when satellites will fall from the sky and when prosthetic arms will malfunction. He's as curious to know when it's going to rain as he is to know if unmanned delivery machines called "quadcopters" can be used to help blind people see.

A second-year doctoral student in Aerospace Engineering who recently won a prestigious Vanier Scholarship, Afshin is in many ways a typical engineer: He likes building things. And more than that, he likes making sure the systems inside those things function properly.

In other words, he's anything but your typical graduate student. It's true, he builds satellites. But what interests him most is predicting when bad things will happen and mitigating the risks. That makes him as much an engineer as a humanist, as open to a career in industry as one in research.

"If I can figure out how a satellite's operating system might malfunction, then I can apply that knowledge to any other type of system," says Afshin. "There are lots of other applications, including health network systems and the robotic systems found inside artificial arms and legs. Ever since I

saw the first satellite re-entry on television, I've been trying to figure out how to put the mathematical, problem-solving side of my brain to practical use. Doing my doctoral work at Ryerson is the perfect place for me because it's so focused on problem-solving for complex applications."

Afshin may not have figured it all out yet. But at 25, he's a creative thinker with an entrepreneurial bent who's trying to keep all his options open. That makes him anything but predictable.



## STUDENT

# Vincenzo Pietropaolo

**Master of fine arts, Documentary Media**

Faculty of Communication & Design

After 25 years as an award-winning freelance documentary photographer specializing in social justice issues, one day Vincenzo Pietropaolo had a professional awakening.

"I realized that even though I had been quite successful as a photographer, with several books to my name and a solid client list, I simply would not be able to compete much longer with the Internet," Pietropaolo says. "The world we live in is highly image-driven. Online images, stock photography and a viewing approach that values quick consumption over more thoughtful deliberation were all telling me that I needed to re-invent myself."

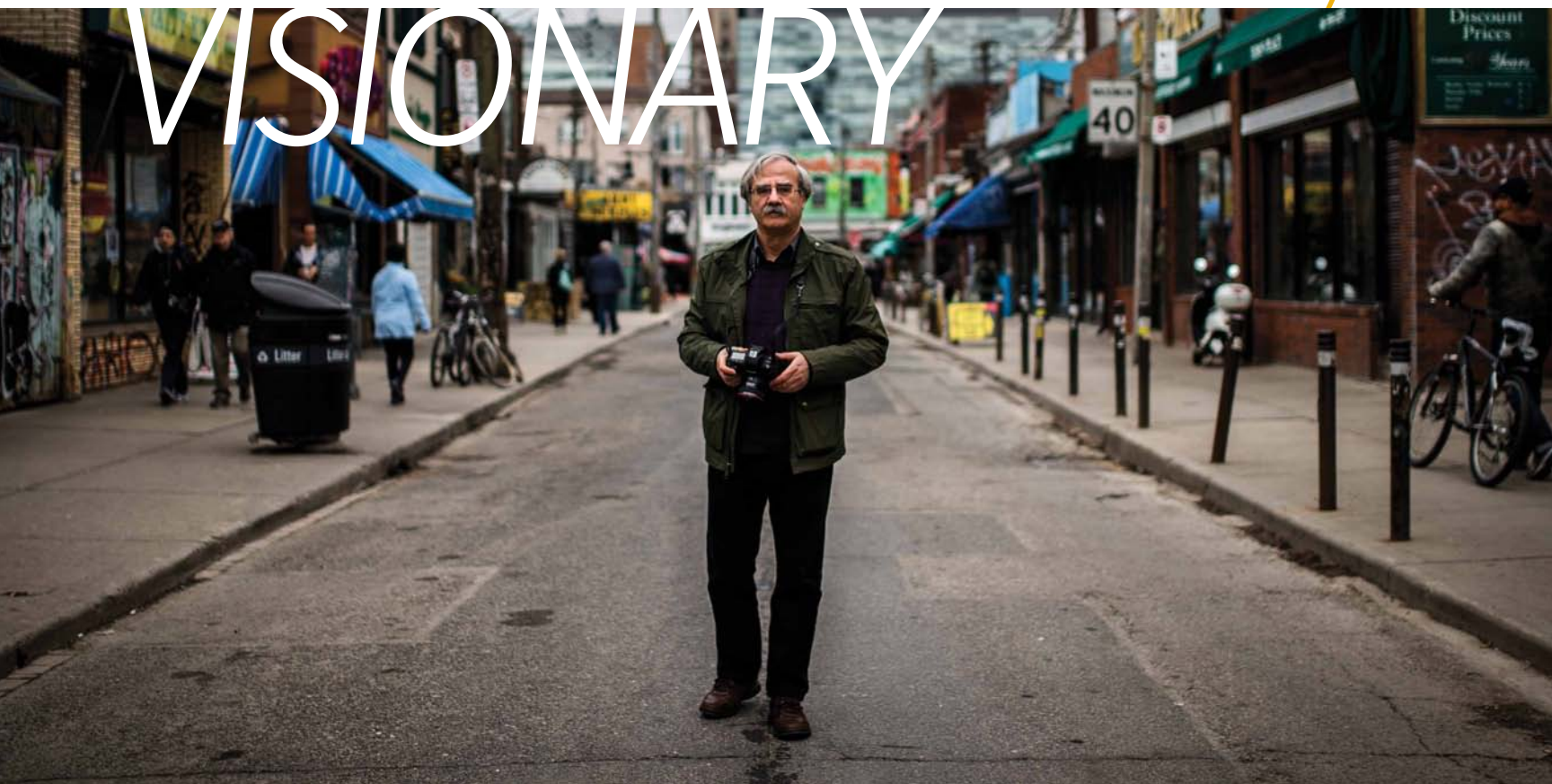
A year later, and half-way through a two-year master of fine arts degree, Pietropaolo is now thriving in a completely new world. The curriculum is production-based and its interdisciplinary focus is helping to stimulate new ways of thinking. The exposure it offers to art, literature, art history and sociology is adding a whole new dimension to his work.

"By far the most exciting aspect of this program is that it's teaching me how to produce art that is both culturally relevant and marketable. Down the road, I imagine myself continuing as an artist-scholar, writing about social justice issues and providing curatorial services

for social justice installations such as the revitalized MacKenzie House Museum in downtown Toronto."

For now, his immediate goal is to finish his course work, which includes the development of a photography e-book that can be read on a tablet.

As re-inventions go, Pietropaolo's is well underway.







# LITERARY LEADER

## FACULTY

## Irene Gammel

**Professor, English; Director, Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre**

Faculty of Arts

When Irene Gammel first received word in 2005 that her idea for a Modern Literature and Culture (MLC) Centre had received funding support through the Canada Research Chairs program, she was excited to be heading up the first university research centre of its kind in Canada. Today, with word that funding for the Centre has been extended to 2019, she is proof-positive that truly innovative ideas pay off.

The Centre is many things to many people. For students, it's an opportunity to study with a leading expert in communication and culture. A chance for experiential learning, where they are taught the basics of research, receive

valuable peer feedback and collaborate on the planning of research-driven events such as conferences and curated gallery events at the MLC Gallery at Ryerson. For employers, it represents a training ground that turns out highly skilled researchers who may then go on to pursue careers in everything from publishing to digital archives management to public relations to fundraising.

"People are surprised to discover that a degree in English can be useful. It's become somewhat counter-intuitive in our society," says Prof. Gammel. "The Centre's role is to provide hands-on experience in all aspects of research, from initial inception through

to development and publication. But there's more to it than that. We're taking students in English, in fashion, in art, in history and we're professionalizing them, meaning that we're training them in best practices so that they're ready for careers, whether that's as top-notch academics or as non-academic professionals."

## FACULTY

# Pawel Pralat

**Professor, Mathematics**

Faculty of Science

Big data is a big deal for Pawel Pralat.

It's not just that big data is a way for him to understand various types of networks, including networks of people, telecommunications networks, health and disease networks, even power grids. It's that, increasingly, analytics and big data can provide all of us with important insight into how society, commerce and culture function as interconnected structures. And that's what makes his work both topical and compelling.

At its core, big data is about relations between items in the dataset. It's the reason why Prof. Pralat has more than 60 collaborators around the world and works with industry partners, including Facebook, Blackberry, Microsoft and The Globe and Mail. It's why he's such a strong proponent for innovation and the need to build bridges between his multi-disciplinary team of mathematicians, computer scientists, social scientists and engineers, and the budding entrepreneurs at Ryerson's Digital Media Zone. And it's also why he's such a big believer in establishing a doctoral program in mathematics at Ryerson.

"The world we live in is completely networked. That won't change," says Prof. Pralat. "There is an urgent, and increasing, need for skilled people who understand analytics and who are trained to use it to solve complex problems. There's a bright future ahead for experts working in this field, and if we can prepare more graduates for these types of jobs, then we'll put Ryerson, and Canada, on the map in the world of big data."

# BIG DATA GURU







# GLOBAL CITIZEN

ALUMNI

## Adedoyin Adesemowo

**MBA, Management of Technology and Innovation**

Ted Rogers School of Management

Ask Adedoyin Adesemowo and he'll tell you that Ryerson changed his life.

Yes, he had access to talented lecturers with strong industry connections, as well as a sizable entrance scholarship based on having the highest GMAT score among incoming students. But these aren't the main reasons for his enthusiasm about his student experience at the Ted Rogers School of Management.

For Adesemowo, it was all about diversity. He was looking for a program that accepted students from a diverse range of backgrounds, hoping to challenge himself not only with course material that would deliver what he

needed to know in order to improve his job prospects but also seeking to surround himself with different cultural perspectives. He felt that by mastering cultural sensitivity, he would gain a critical skill that would help him to find a job after graduation.

A native of Nigeria, with an undergraduate degree in Electronics and Computer Engineering, Adesemowo moved to the U.K. to work in information technology before coming to Ryerson. Worlds apart, and worlds away, he now works for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo as a senior project manager, helping to make 311 calls available, seamlessly, across the municipality.

"It's no exaggeration to say that Ryerson changed my life," says Adesemowo. "When I arrived, I was disconnected, geographically and culturally, from the world I knew. My wife and I needed a network to help us adjust to life in Toronto, and I needed one in order to launch myself in a career. Ryerson helped us to integrate, thanks to various student services, and the diversity of the environment to which I was exposed has helped me to excel. It was a great training ground."

# CELEBRATING THE BEST OF THE BEST

*Pursuing a graduate degree is challenging enough. But some students go above and beyond their academic work, becoming highly involved in their community or profession. And for that, they deserve both praise and recognition*

## Governor General's Academic Gold Medal



**Rachel Strimas, PhD, Psychology**, was awarded the highest honour for academic achievement for her 4.17 GPA, 36 published articles and conference presentations and over \$137,000 in scholarship funding. Strimas also received a Canadian Psychological Association Award of Excellence for both her master's thesis and PhD dissertation.

## C. Ravi Ravindran Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award



By the time of his doctoral defence, **Fenwick McKelvey, PhD, Communication and Culture**, had already established an international reputation as a leading researcher in digital communications infrastructures. Central to his work is the study of throttling, the controlling of data transfer rates.



## Ryerson Gold Medals



**Anne Wagner, PhD, Psychology**, received both a Ryerson Gold Medal and the prestigious Board of Governors Student Leadership Award and Medal. Wagner was part of the inaugural Psychology Graduate Students' Association, serving on committees designed to enhance research innovation and collaboration. She currently serves as a member of the Gathering of Spirits: a National Women, Trans People, and Girls' HIV Research Collaborative and is a member of the board of directors for Stand Canada, a national anti-genocide NGO.



Based on his outstanding academic and research aptitude, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council awarded **Raymond Phan, PhD, Electrical and Computer Engineering**, the Vanier Scholarship – one of Canada's most prestigious awards. An accomplished lecturer who taught, co-taught and TA-ed many engineering and mathematics undergraduate courses, Raymond is also a dedicated volunteer for the local chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.



An accomplished dietitian, **Carol Clarke, MHSc (FCS), Nutrition Communication**, draws on her depth of expertise in weight management and cardiovascular health and pursues volunteer activities through which she has helped create high-quality evidence-based practice guidelines for health professionals in support of Canadians' health. An influential and positive role model for her peers, Clarke has become a leader in nutrition knowledge translation.



**Andra Popescu, MBA, Ted Rogers School of Management** was president of the MBA Student Association, working closely with her classmates, faculty and staff to establish a mentorship program for MBA students and helping to raise money from Scotiabank to support the Ryerson team of 40 students at the MBA Games. With her help, Ryerson finished second among the 26 business schools and the Ryerson team won the Community Service Challenge Award.



**Jason O'Hara, MFA, Documentary Media**, is an exemplary graduate student, social activist and documentary filmmaker, using his skills to advocate for social justice within the larger community. His thesis film, *Rhythms of Resistance*, focuses on the favelas of Rio de Janeiro and explores music as the voice of a people rising in resistance to human rights abuses.



When **Jonathan Ward, MSc (SCI), Molecular Science**, graduated, he was already well on his way as a promising researcher. With four articles published in high-profile journals, contributing as both a lead or contributing author, and two more manuscripts underway, Ward is making significant contributions to computational modelling techniques and influencing the way research is carried out in mentor Dr. Daniel Foucher's laboratory.

# GOING THE DISTANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Honouring outstanding staff and faculty*

Students need great teachers to succeed in their academics and build a career. They also depend on a whole network of people – in classrooms, the library and archives, labs, studios, incubators and behind-the-scenes in administration – to reach their goals.

At Ryerson, every encounter that students have should add to the overall student experience. Every contact with administrative staff should make students feel valued. Every interaction with support services, every time they engage with the dean, every exchange with their professors – it all needs to add up to a positive, meaningful, supportive experience.

With this in mind, we are very pleased to recognize members who went the distance last year to uphold the values we honour in graduate education.

## STAFF

Our thanks and congratulations go to:

### **Cathy Faye, director of academic administrative services**

Cathy Faye retired after 44 years of dedicated service at Ryerson. After graduating from Ryerson's nutrition program in 1969, Faye became student advisor for the School of Nutrition in 1970. In 2000, she was appointed graduate programs officer at the Yeates School of Graduate Studies, and in 2008 was named director of Academic Administrative Services.



*"It was an amazing journey building policies and procedures and hiring an amazing staff. The people in Graduate Studies are incredible. They are like a real family to me. I won't miss the work but I will miss the people."*

### **Sonya Taccone, program administrator, Master of Digital Media**

Sonya Taccone spearheaded the production of high-quality promotional videos for programs by graduate students, providing them with the opportunity to gain important skills, build their portfolios and earn income.



*"I am fortunate to be part of such a vibrant and growing community. To have an opportunity to work with our talented students to create videos and other platforms that show what we are all about is not extra work to me."*

We also wish to thank the following new members of the 25-Year Club for their many contributions over the years, for making a difference in student life and for living up to the highest standards of professionalism:

**Elias Chu, program administrator,  
Immigration and Settlement Studies**

Elias Chu immigrated from Hong Kong in 1987 and joined Ryerson in 1988 as departmental secretary for the Faculty of Arts. When the Yeates School of Graduate Studies was established in 2000, Chu joined as program administrator for Communication and Culture, and Environmental Applied Science and Management. In 2009, she became program administrator for Immigration and Settlement Studies.

*"I've had the privilege of learning from deans and professors who are very dedicated. Their passion for education really inspires me."*

**Dawn Wright, program administrator,  
Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Dawn Wright joined Ryerson in 1988 as departmental secretary for Electrical and Computer Engineering and in 2000 was

appointed graduate program assistant at the Yeates School of Graduate Studies. Her career came full circle when she assumed her current role as program administrator, Electrical and Computer Engineering.

*"Working in Graduate Studies has been the highlight of my Ryerson career. It's enabled me to get to know and work with fantastic people. It's been a wonderful learning experience."*

**Maria Landau, program administrator,  
Molecular Science**

Maria Landau joined Ryerson in 1988 as departmental secretary for the Faculty of Applied Arts, later becoming program administrator at the Yeates School of Graduate Studies for Architecture and Computer Science. She received the 2006 OPSEU Staff Star Award for her commitment to students. In addition to a busy working life, Maria found time to enrol in courses at The Chang School almost every year since 1978 and earned Chang School certificates in Human Resources and French.

*"The best part of my job is dealing with students. If I were to do things over again, I wouldn't change a thing."*



From left: Graduate program administrators Dawn Wright, Maria Landau and Elias Chu recently joined the Ryerson 25-Year Club.

## FACULTY

Excellence in graduate education demands exceptional commitment and skilled attention to developing the talents that graduate students need to succeed in today's world. And when our faculty members demonstrate their willingness to mentor, to provide a supportive environment, to advocate on behalf of their students, and to teach, advise and guide them through the complex process of graduate education, we think that merits celebration.

The YSGS Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Education Award recognizes excellence in all these areas and is a tribute to the ability of our faculty members to truly act in the best interests of their students.

In 2014, we were very pleased to honour the following faculty members with this important award:

**Ron Babin, MBA program, Ted Rogers School  
of Information Technology Management**

Ron Babin has taught IT management courses to MBA and undergraduate students full-time since 2006. Prior to joining Ryerson, he was a consulting partner at Accenture and KPMG, with a focus on IT strategy and planning at large client organizations. Babin recently became director of Corporate and Executive Education at Ted Rogers School of Management.

**Debora Foster, Molecular Science program,  
Department of Chemistry and Biology**

Debora Foster directs the Molecular Science graduate program and heads a vibrant research group studying host-pathogen interactions. To date, Foster has mentored 11 master's theses and one PhD dissertation, as well as serving on seven graduate committees, supporting 13 student publications and 38 scientific presentations.



**David Harris, *Film and Photographic Preservation and Collections Management program, School of Image Arts***

One of the founding members of his program, David Harris is an internationally recognized historian and curator. He is honoured by his colleagues and students for the example of his intellectual leadership, the generosity of his mentoring, his exceptional dedication to students and their professional achievements, his fostering of talent and ambition in disabled students and his proven ability to consistently provide an environment that promotes students' intellectual, personal and professional growth.

**Karen Spalding, *Master of Nursing program, Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing***

Karen Spalding has been actively involved with the Master of Nursing program since its inception, serving as the first program director and going

on to ensure the program later flourished. Her leadership in curriculum development and delivery is outstanding, and her mentorship of graduate students most valuable. Spalding is also leaving her mark at the provincial and national levels, where she is currently serving on the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing's Task Force on Nursing Master's Education.

**Monique Tschofen, *Communication and Culture program, Department of English***

Monique Tschofen has been a leading figure in doctoral education at Ryerson since the PhD program in Communication and Culture was established in 2002. A supervisor of many doctoral and master's students, an anchor in theoretical foundations teaching at the graduate level, and a constant presence on program executive and other committees, Tschofen's commitment to graduate education is undeniable, as is her dedication to research, service and teaching.

**Bin Wu, *Electrical and Computer Engineering program, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering***

Bin Wu has played a leadership role in developing a power-engineering graduate research program that is now well-recognized in Canada and internationally. He established two of the best-equipped research facilities for electric drives and renewable energies in any university in Canada. In addition to research, he has trained many graduate students and overseen a substantial amount of their published work. A gifted graduate teacher, Wu has also mentored his graduate students, working closely with industry to help them develop patented technologies which have been transferred to Canadian industry, resulting in significant economic benefits.



YSGS Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Education Award winners. Clockwise from top-left: Ron Babin, Karen Spalding, David Harris, Monique Tschofen and Debora Foster. Right: Bin Wu.





# WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, WHERE TO FIND US

## Aerospace Engineering

**Dr. Jeffrey Yokota**

*PhD, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering,  
Cornell University*

Research areas: aerodynamics, propulsion  
and mathematical fluid dynamics  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/aerospace](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/aerospace)

## Applied Mathematics

**Dr. Sebastian Ferrando**

*PhD, Mathematics,  
University of Toronto*

Research areas: ergodic theory,  
signal analysis, financial mathematics  
[math.ryerson.ca/graduate](http://math.ryerson.ca/graduate)

## Architecture

**Arthur Wrigglesworth**

*M.Arch, Southern California  
Institute of Architecture*

Research areas: architectural design  
(arts and culture, digital technologies),  
architectural practice (management, construction)  
[www.arch.ryerson.ca/architecture](http://www.arch.ryerson.ca/architecture)

## Biomedical Physics

**Dr. Carl Kumaradas**

*PhD, Medical Biophysics,  
University of Toronto*

Research areas: medical physics, thermal therapy,  
nanotechnology, bio-photonics,  
computational modelling  
[www.physics.ryerson.ca/graduate](http://www.physics.ryerson.ca/graduate)

## Building Science

**Dr. Miljana Horvat**

*PhD, Building Engineering,  
Concordia University*

Research areas: solar energy and architecture,  
advanced energy-efficient facades, sustainability  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/buildingscience](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/buildingscience)

## Chemical Engineering

**Dr. Ali Lohi (interim)**

*PhD, Chemical Engineering,  
University of Waterloo*

Research areas: artificial neural networks design,  
oil/gas processing and production, bio-energy  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/chemical](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/chemical)

## Civil Engineering

**Dr. Ahmed El-Rabbany**

*PhD, Satellite Positioning,  
University of New Brunswick*

Research areas: satellite positioning and  
navigation, integrated navigation systems,  
hydrographic surveying  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/  
civil\\_engineering](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/civil_engineering)

## Communication and Culture

**Dr. Paul Moore**

*PhD, Sociology, York University*

Research areas: media history,  
communications theory, urban studies  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/comcult](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/comcult)

## Computer Networks

**Dr. Bobby Ma**

*PhD, Electrical Engineering,  
University of Waterloo*

Research areas: network protocols,  
software-defined networking  
[compnet.ryerson.ca](http://compnet.ryerson.ca)

## Computer Science

**Dr. Alex Ferworn**

*PhD, Systems Design Engineering,  
University of Waterloo*

Research areas: computational public safety in  
relation to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and  
Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear explosive  
(CBRNe) response, disaster management  
technology, mobile robotic systems, algorithms  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/computerscience](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/computerscience)

## Digital Media

**Dr. Matthew Kyan**

*PhD, Electrical Engineering,  
University of Sydney, Australia*

Research areas: audio-visual signal processing  
and informatics, multimedia summarization,  
knowledge-assisted visualization, immersive  
computing, virtual/mixed reality  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/digitalmedia](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/digitalmedia)

## Documentary Media

**Katy McCormick**

*MFA, Fine Arts, The School of The Art  
Institute of Chicago*

Research areas: commemorative sites,  
narratives and social histories of landscapes  
[ryerson.ca/graduate/documentarymedia](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/documentarymedia)

## Economics (PhD)

**Dr. Richard Chisik**

*PhD, Economics, Northwestern University*

Research areas: international trade, microeconomics

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/economics](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/economics)

## Early Childhood Studies

**Dr. Mehrunnisa Ahmad Ali**

*PhD, Teaching, Curriculum and Social Policy, Michigan State University*

Research areas: immigrant children, youth and families, preparing service providers to work with immigrants

[ryerson.ca/ecs/graduate](http://ryerson.ca/ecs/graduate)

## Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Dr. Lian Zhao**

*PhD, Electrical Engineering, University of Waterloo*

Research areas: digital communications, digital signal processing with application in communications, wireless communications

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/elec\\_eng](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/elec_eng)

## Environmental Applied Science and Management

**Dr. Michal Bardecki**

*PhD, Geography, York University*

Research areas: tourism and protected areas in Nepal, economic valuation, media and the environment, environmental education, wetlands, corporate environmental responses

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/ensciman](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/ensciman)

## Fashion

**Sandra Tullio-Pow**

*PhD candidate, Human Ecology, University of Alberta*

Research areas: inclusive and functional fashion design; sleepwear for breast cancer survivors; clothing and accessories for aging populations, women with lymphedema and people with low vision; therapeutic garments for autistic infants

[mafashion.ryerson.ca](http://mafashion.ryerson.ca)

## Film and Photography Preservation and Collections Management

**David Harris**

*MA, Art History, University of New Mexico*

Research areas: Eugène Atget, Gabor Szilasi, Eadweard Muybridge

[ryerson.ca/graduate/ppcm](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/ppcm)

## Immigration and Settlement Studies

**Dr. Francis Hare**

*PhD, Psychology, University of Toronto*

Research areas: evaluation research methods, experience of separated and refugee children, transnationalism of intercountry adoptees

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/immigration](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/immigration)

## International Economics and Finance

**Dr. Richard Chisik**

*PhD, Economics, Northwestern University*

Research areas: international trade, microeconomics

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/economics](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/economics)

## Journalism

**Bill Reynolds**

*MA, Philosophy, University of Waterloo*

Research area: literary journalism

[ryerson.ca/graduate/journalism](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/journalism)

## Literatures of Modernity

**Dr. Sophie Thomas**

*DPhil, English, University of Oxford*

Research areas: visual culture and literary texts in the late-18th and early-19th centuries, romanticism and visual culture, objects, collections and museums in the Romantic period

[ryerson.ca/english/programs/english-ma](http://ryerson.ca/english/programs/english-ma)

## Master of Business Administration and MBA in Management of Technology and Innovation

**Dr. Kimberly Bates**

*PhD, Operations and Management Science, University of Minnesota*

Research areas: manufacturing innovation, governance, institutional theory, resource theory

[ryerson.ca/mba](http://ryerson.ca/mba)

## Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

**Dr. Ahmad Ghasempour**

*PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Queen's University*

Research areas: intelligent manufacturing systems, tool-wear monitoring systems, optimization of machining processes

[ryerson.ca/graduate/mechanical](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/mechanical)

## Media Production

**Laura Nenych**

*LLM, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University*

Research areas: mobile technology in education, gamification of learning, children's interactive media products, e-commerce, copyright reform

[ryerson.ca/graduate/mediaproduction](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/mediaproduction)

## Molecular Science

**Dr. Debora Foster**

*PhD, University of Toronto*

Research areas: host-pathogen interactions, molecular basis of pathogenesis, impact of environmental stress on pathogen virulence

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/molecular\\_science](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/molecular_science)

## Nursing

**Dr. Karen Spalding**

*PhD, Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto*

Research areas: role of government in health care, consequences of health system changes, delivery and organization of pediatric home care

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/nursing](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/nursing)

## Nutrition Communication

**Fiona Yeudall, PhD RD**

*PhD, Human Nutrition,*

*University of Otago, New Zealand*

*Member, College of Dietitians of Ontario*

Research areas: nutrition, food security, urban agriculture

[ryerson.ca/graduate/nutrition](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/nutrition)

## Philosophy

**Dr. David Hunter**

*PhD, Philosophy,*

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Research areas: early modern philosophy, history of analytical philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology and the philosophy of science, philosophy of mind and embodiment, philosophy of language, agency and autonomy

[ryerson.ca/philosophy/programs/graduate.html](http://ryerson.ca/philosophy/programs/graduate.html)

## Policy Studies

**Dr. Tuna Baskoy**

*PhD, Political Science,*

*York University*

Research areas: e-government, market competition and governance in post-Keynesian economics, ICTs and policy capacity, European integration

[ryerson.ca/graduate/policystudies](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/policystudies)

## Professional Communication

**Dr. Wendy Freeman**

*PhD, Educational Technology, University of Toronto*

Research areas: use of technology to improve learning environments, socio-technical and socio-cultural theories

[procom.ryerson.ca/graduate](http://procom.ryerson.ca/graduate)

## Psychology

**Dr. Michelle Dionne**

*PhD, Psychology, York University*

Research areas: body image in young women, psychology of eating, risk factors for obesity, sociocultural barriers to women's participation in sport and exercise

[ryerson.ca/psychology/graduate](http://ryerson.ca/psychology/graduate)

## Public Policy and Administration

**Dr. Duncan MacLellan**

*PhD, Educational Administration,*

*University of Toronto*

Research areas: local and provincial educational politics and policy making, state and teacher relations, local and urban governance issues

[ryerson.ca/politics/mppa](http://ryerson.ca/politics/mppa)

## Social Work

**Dr. Henry Parada**

*PhD, Sociology and Equity Studies, OISE,*

*University of Toronto*

Research areas: analysis of institutional practices, social work epistemology, institutional ethnography methodology

[ryerson.ca/socialwork/graduate](http://ryerson.ca/socialwork/graduate)

## Spatial Analysis

**Dr. Claus Rinner**

*PhD, Geography,*

*University of Bonn, Germany*

Research areas: geographic visualization, spatial decision support systems, participatory GIS, web mapping, location-based services, geodata infrastructures, health and urban applications of GIS

[ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/spatial](http://ryerson.ca/graduate/programs/spatial)

## Urban Development

**Dr. Pamela Robinson, MCIP RPP**

*PhD, Geography, University of Toronto*

*Member, Canadian Institute of Planners,*

*Ontario Professional Planners Institute*

Research areas: urban sustainability, cities and climate change, social media use, public engagement, progressive pedagogy

[ryerson.ca/surp/current/graduate](http://ryerson.ca/surp/current/graduate)

# LOOKING AHEAD

*Ryerson's vision is to be recognized as a leading comprehensive innovation university*

Going forward, our leadership will be measured by how consistently we're able to make a difference on our culture, society and economy – and do it in ways that are unique to Ryerson.

How will graduate education contribute to Ryerson's leadership goals? We'll do it by ramping up our engagement efforts and commitment to reaching out to new and prospective students.

We'll do it by learning from the wisdom and diversity of our faculty and hearing what matters most to our community.

We'll do it by keeping the conversations alive, telling our story about how transformative graduate education and research can be for students, for faculty and for the community.

And lastly, we'll do it by creating opportunities for our graduates to become thought leaders – people who willingly accept the challenge to be innovators and game changers.

Last year, we jump-started our engagement efforts. Next year we'll shift into high gear. Supported by the university's Academic Plan, we'll continue to look for ways to connect with our stakeholders, to build bridges with our community, and to make socially, culturally and intellectually meaningful contributions. We'll maintain an unyielding focus on the importance of being catalysts for city building. And most importantly, we'll continue to look for ways to contribute to a well-educated society.

A great example of how graduate education is making its mark as city builder – and helping our students to shape the future – is a student project in "reactive architecture" designed to raise awareness about homelessness in downtown Toronto.

"In the Air, Tonight" was the brain-child of Communication and Culture PhD student **Dave Colangelo** and his creative partner, **Patrizio DaVilla**. Their project, which was installed during last February's extended deep freeze, turned the Ryerson Image Centre (RIC)/School of Image Arts building into a weather beacon. Every evening at 5:30 p.m., the RIC lit up with blue lights which changed depending on wind speeds. More importantly, whenever anyone tweeted the #homelessness hashtag, the blue lights turned red.

An exploration of how public spaces off-line intersect with public spaces online, "In the Air, Tonight" was a first for Ryerson. It was also a first for its use of social media to address this complex social issue: In the same way the RIC invites people to congregate and converse, this project asked viewers to make space in their minds for more understanding and compassion for homeless people.

Graduate education at Ryerson is about teaching students to think critically and giving them the tools and the confidence they need to go out and make a meaningful difference in the world.

This is what true leadership means. And this is what graduate education at Ryerson is committed to delivering, next month, next year and five years from now.







Yeates School of  
Graduate Studies

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