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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 creaturs.

NABRA BADR
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 increased awareness of inequality in our society and a sense that 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.

@CullenMiller
Journalism ’16

ON THE COVER


DID YOU KNOW...
Ryersonians who are pushing human rights forward in a variety of ways.

For many of us, the past year has sparked an increased awareness of inequality in our society and a sense that 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.

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

By Mohamed Lachemi
President and Vice-Chancellor

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The legacy of 2020

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.

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 made have inspired my life and career.

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It is my sincere hope that fundamental progress on human rights will be made...
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.
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, 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.

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

Isaac Glowafke 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,” Glowafke 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...
The resource delves into the positive contributions of the community.

The 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 Sugman and General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors and University Privacy Officer Julia Shin Doi.

The resource includes 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 toolkit is available with a list of resources. The resource delves into the positive contributions of the community.

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 of the overall budget from Ryerson University.

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

**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.

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Michelle Grady

**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.
**Q&A**

Tony Staffieri, Ryerson’s new board chair, on changing the future of education

**Rodney Yip** is planning for students’ futures

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.

**Q: What Ryerson accomplishment are you most proud of?**

**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.

**Q: What one piece of advice would you pass on to a new Ryerson grad?**

**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, at the students choose to stay and contribute to Canada after they graduate?

**Q: Why did you choose Ryerson?**

**TS**

I’m currently reading Younger Next Year. Nature hike or gallery wander? Nature hike.

**Q: What piece of advice would you pass on to a new Ryerson grad?**

**TS**

Cooking. I became really good at making shepherd’s pie—one of my favourite dishes growing up. When the weather gets better, I started playing tennis again.

**Q: What is your vision for Ryerson and the board moving forward?**

**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.

**Q: Have you picked up any new hobbies during the pandemic?**

**TS**

What Ryerson accomplishment are you most proud of?

**RU**

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.

**Q: What is your vision for Ryerson and the board moving forward?**

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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 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

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIANA HAYERI

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.
Creating the law school society needs now

BY WENDY GLAUSER,
Journalism ’05

Photographs by
Janick Laurent

New lawyers for new times
she says. “Training lawyers who are willing to represent low-income people’s questions,” she recalls. While other law schools are working with innovative pedagogy. “It sounded like the answer to a lot of civil law cases is on the rise. Thousands of dollars in legal fees. Alarmingly, research shows that can mobilize technology to serve clients who can’t afford tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. Alarming 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 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.

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 in some ways is 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 LGBTQ2S+ 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 practice of law, Young says. “On a system level, the legal profession
will benefit enormously from an influx of people of colour, women, LGBTQ2+ folks, and people living with disabilities,” said 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.

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 existence of infrastructure and mentors, support systems, “upper-year students who can help first year students.”

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 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 forming, “upper-year 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 help shape 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

HERE’S WHAT RYERSON DID

BY

CONNOR GAREL
Journalism ’19

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
YAZMIN BUTCHER
Fashion ’14
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 recommitments 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 was sharing and signing it. Several big-name journalists and alumni of the program were sharing and signing it. 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 rock-starred past 3,000. It was viral on Twitter. When Kobe Bryant died in a plane crash last January, Breakfast Television mistakenly reported it using images of LeBron James. In 2016, CP24 chose to run a contextless mugshot

Of the program without seeing a single Black journalist 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 rock-starred 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 23-year-old rapper Houdini was shot and killed in May, the Toronto Sun fashioned his murder into a winking headline: “WHO MADE HOUDINI VANISH?”

“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 get 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. “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 23-year-old rapper Houdini was shot and killed in May, the Toronto Sun fashioned his murder into a winking headline: “WHO MADE HOUDINI VANISH?”

“Who made Houdini vanish?”
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 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.”

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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 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.”

**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
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.
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.

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 in sight, and ultimately found my place in the world.

“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 innumerable dinner parties at Mary John’s on Gerrard. And 75-cent, three-course Chinese lunches at the Kwongchow in Chinatown. Friday night square hamburgers and pineapple pie at the Coq D’Or, the occasional class, and many 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.” —Sherr Mattusub (Rodil), Secretarial & Administrative Studies ’80

“My best memory of my years at Ryerson was the amazing fashion show the fashion students produced on a regular basis.” —Johkine Sandul, Fashion ’90

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

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. 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
ALUMNI DIARY

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 reimaging 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.
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 and 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.”

For his doctoral studies, Hui wants to build a space where his lived experiences and values that inform his research work.

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

PROFILES

PROFILE

Ena Chadha is working to enact change from the inside out.

PROFILES

Lived experience has given Christian Hui purpose in his research work.
Memorial Legion Branch 498 in active veteran in the Veterans Men’s Probus Club, and an still participating in church "At 85-years-young, I am Electrical Technology '55 flooding and downed trees." and returning home with night of Hurricane Hazel, transmitter duty at CJRT the next year. I recall being on 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 Men’s Legion Br. 498 in Grand Bend." Don Laughton Hotel, Resort and Restaurant Administration '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 have been married 55 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."

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.”

Rental 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 BR180 electric pontoon boat and finally a 2018 Tesla Model S. My sincere early belief in electric transportation has been vindicated.”

1960s

Alan Bender Business '65 "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 2009, but I still pursue my interests, including taking a seven-week trip to Australia and New Zealand this past winter, arriving home 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 for curling, now going on 65 years, participating in provincial and Canadian championships.”

DID YOU KNOW... Top 5 webinars are available on the RU Connections Youtube channel.
Ernest M. Isaac
Geodetic Sciences ’76
“After enjoying 40 years of work in the profession, completing my masters and PhD 30 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 hoping 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 Kadosh Dance 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.”

Bob Millard
Industrial Engineering ’82
“After working my way through the design, process and manufacturing engineering department at Murata Etc. I later moved back to Toronto and worked for Canada Packers. I started the Lomas Group company, with two of my former 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.”

Diana Morris
Fashion ’83
“I am a registered nurse in the field of women’s health. I currently work at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto in a maternal and child health unit.”

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.”

Rupert Pascoe
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.”

Meredith! Update your alumni record at ryerson.ca/alumni/updates

Jessica Frey
Communications and Culture ’09
Jessica has worked in the film and publishing industries, publishing dozens of award-winning novels, short stories, graphics 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 Gauva
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 Saaeda and I are proud parents of two wonderful children, Noor and Shama.”

Shahin 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

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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
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-fall: control your physical, mental and spiritual self through menopause.”

Elisa Levi Nutrition and Food ’01
Awarded the Brodie Medical 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 Chippewa of Nawash First Nation, she also helped develop the First Nations guiding principles for the use and implementation of Canada’s new food guide. Elisa has provided me with so much. 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-fall: control your physical, mental and spiritual self through menopause.

Katia Taylor Image Arts ’01
“I have been successfully running my Toronto-based photography business for the past 17 years. I specialize in weddings, families, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture. I also photograph corporate events and weddings, family, maternity, and newborn portraiture.

2010s

Mike Auki 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 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 practicing 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 Svarowski 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 us to design to maintain a desirable fashion-forward aesthetic, foster community and advocate for the importance of inclusivity in mainstream products. To learn more, follow aillestyle on Instagram and shop the collection at ailledesign.com.

Alexandra MacAulay Abdulfattah 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 masters degree in international studies in London and now work for Global Affairs Canada.”

Maggie Macpherson Radio and Television Arts ’13
Maggie is a photographer with CBC Vancouver who won the Personality Award in the 35th 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 ’09
“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.”

Phil 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 Rihimaki Graphic Communications Management ’15
With nine million subscribers on YouTube, Lauren is the host and executive producer of Crafty 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 Procite & Gamble.

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 ’85
Douglas died January 15, 2020 at age 81. Douglas and his wife were avid sailors on the Ottawa River, the Thousand Islands, and later intra-coastal waterway systems, spending several winters around the Bahama best 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 in Toronto and later in Winnipeg. He retired in 2013 after serving as the Manitoba Ombudsman.

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.

Caroline Price, Visiting Professor
Send an update to Class Notes and we’ll include your news in the next issue. Visit ryerson.ca/alumni/classnotes
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.

REMEMBER WHEN?

Children at Victoria Park Forest School in Toronto practise blowing their noses in 1913.
We’d love to hear from you!

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