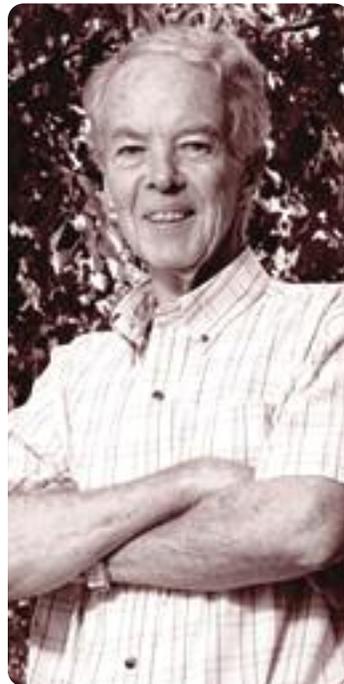


# LIFELONG COMMITMENTS

There are many wonderful stories of partners who either met at York University or spent fulfilling careers working here together. The depth of their commitment to each other and to the University is often demonstrated by a joint decision to include York in their estate plans.

It is this kind of commitment to the long-term success of the University from faculty, staff and retirees that allowed York's Family Campaign to surpass its goal earlier this year (see sidebar).

The following are the stories of two couples and their decision to leave a legacy that honours their lifelong relationship to each other and to York University.



Barrie Coukell

hiring policies of the funding agency Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and York, Barrie was able to hire Anne as his personal technician and lab manager, and they worked together for 28 years. "We tried to keep work separate from home," says Barrie. "It wouldn't work for everybody but it worked for us." Their major research interest was how the movement of calcium between and within cells regulates cell function.

Now both are retired and in considering their legacy, were agreed on the importance of education. "It's important to train people to think for themselves; to think critically and scientifically. I can't think of anything more important," says Barrie. (cont'd on pg 2)

## BARRIE AND ANNE COUKELL

When Barrie and Anne Coukell say their marriage is based on good chemistry, they really mean it. The two met 48 years ago at the University of British Columbia when they both found themselves sharing the same bench in a microbiology lab.

Toward the end of Barrie's postdoctoral studies at Stanford University, Anne was offered an exciting research opportunity at Oxford University so Barrie did a second postdoc at that institution. In 1972, Barrie accepted a faculty position in biology at York. Soon after arriving in Toronto, their family expanded with the birth of their daughter, Suzanne.

Thanks to amendments to the

## YORK TO THE POWER OF 50

York's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising campaign is in the final stretch—now more than \$190 million toward its \$200 million goal.

So far, 2,178 faculty, staff and retirees have contributed, surpassing our Family Campaign goal of 2,009 supporters by the end of 2009.

"Our faculty, staff and retirees are York's champions, its ambassadors, and I know you will continue to stand behind York as we build the University of the future," said President and Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri.

In this issue of YorkU Legacies, we highlight contributions by these members of the York family to the University's vision.

[www.yorku.ca/foundation](http://www.yorku.ca/foundation)

### INSIDE:

- Lifelong Commitments
- Generous Estate Gifts
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
- Adapting to Circumstances and Giving Back
- Safeguarding Your Wishes
- York Highlights

## LIFELONG COMMITMENTS CONTINUED...

The couple has created the Barrie and Anne Coukell Scholarships. Half of the funds from the residue of their estate will support undergraduate students in science and engineering with the other half going to support graduate students in the biology program. "This gift theoretically could go on forever supporting students," says Barrie.

### SUSAN PROKOPENKO AND GEOFFREY HUNTER

"Life is a journey, not a destination," says Susan Prokopenko (MSc '70, PhD '73). "People think that they are going to arrive at a pinnacle and happiness is going to burst out. It's not like that. The journey has potholes in the road and flat tires but there are also beautiful views."

Her belief was put to its greatest test this past year with the passing of her

**"I'm doing what I can—paying forward what people have paid me in the past."**



Susan Prokopenko

husband of more than 30 years, York Chemistry Professor Geoffrey Hunter.

They met at York where Susan earned her PhD in science by the time she was 23—the age she also married Geoffrey. Susan went on to help build Air Canada's operating systems and networks while Geoffrey pursued research in quantum chemistry. Outside interests for Geoffrey included piano, flying gliders and beekeeping while Susan also has her pilot's and scuba diving licenses. Travel to areas around the world was a shared passion.

"It's a life made possible by education" says Susan, since neither she nor Geoffrey came from wealth. That's why in 1999, upon Geoffrey's retirement, Susan came up with the idea to set up a science and engineering

award for York students in his name. Matched by the Ontario Trust for Student Support, a government matching program to encourage financial support of students, the award is a legacy of his time at York that will help students benefit from education as Susan and Geoffrey did. Now, Susan has added her name to create the Dr. Geoffrey Hunter and Dr. Susan Prokopenko Award and has made York University Foundation partial beneficiary of her RRSP to support the award once she passes on.

"It's the pay it forward principle," says Susan. "I wish I were richer but I'm not, so I'm doing what I can—paying forward what people have paid me in the past."

# GENEROUS ESTATE GIFTS

## THOMAS BATA

The estate of Thomas Bata has bequeathed \$100,000 to support international programs at the Schulich School of Business. Thomas Bata (LLD Hon. '98), who died in September 2008, became known as "Shoemaker to the World" as he built the Bata Shoe Organization into the world's leading footwear retailer and manufacturer from its headquarters in Toronto.

Bata was the founding Chair of the Dean's International Advisory Council at the Schulich School of Business and was a key figure in the globalization of the business school since the late 1980s.

## CHARLES DUBIN

The Estate of Charles Dubin (BARR '44, O.C., O.Ont., Q.C., LLD Hon. '90) has provided \$100,000 to create The Honourable Charles Dubin and Anne Dubin Entrance Award for Osgoode Hall Law School. Both Charles and his wife Anne (BARR '51) were talented lawyers who reached the top of their profession.

The endowed award, matched by the Ontario government through the Ontario Trust for Student Support, will be given annually to as many as five students entering the Juris Doctor Program at Osgoode who have a high academic standing and demonstrate financial need.

A superb jurist as well as a lawyer, Charles became a national figure after chairing the 1989-1990

royal commission into drug use in amateur sport. He also served as chief justice of Ontario from 1990 to 1996. Anne, who died the year before Charles, was a pioneering corporate lawyer at Tory, Tory, DesLauriers & Binnington (now Torsys LLP), who served on many boards including York's Board of Governors.

## BETTY ISOBEL MACKAY

Betty Isobel MacKay bequeathed \$250,000 in her will to establish the Frederick George MacKay Bursary in honour of her husband, by whom she was predeceased.

The bursary will be given annually to students at Osgoode who need financial assistance to complete their degree.



Frederick George MacKay

Frederick G. MacKay completed his law degree at Osgoode Hall Law School following World War I. He graduated in 1923 and established a law practice in Owen Sound. He was named a judge of what was then the Supreme Court of Ontario and a member of the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1952. The gift from the MacKay Estate will be matched by the Ontario Government.

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A host of events are taking place across the University as York continues to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From special lectures and performances to art and archival exhibits and symposia, York is showcasing our learning, academic and artistic accomplishments.



*The York in Concert Gala in March featured a who's who of alumni. Held at the Tribute Communities Concert Hall, one of the evening's highlights was a comic ballet entitled The Bach Duet.*

## UPCOMING 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:

**International Conference: Linguistic Diversity: The Challenge to Governance**  
Dec 1-30

**International Conference on Soccer/Football: History, Gender & Nation**  
Dec 3-5

**Transnational Feminist Encounters 2009 - Publication Launch**  
Dec 18

Visit [yorku50.ca](http://yorku50.ca) for more details and other events.

## TEST YOUR YORK TRIVIA !

- How was York's motto, *Tentanda Via (The Way Must be Tried)* established?
  - Winning contest entry
  - Board of Governors' brainstorm
  - Idea from an external advertising agency
  - Adoption of the original motto of the House of York
- Who said "York University... must devote herself with whole heart to the development of a new type of world citizen."?
  - Lorna R. Marsden
  - Murray G. Ross
  - Mamdouh Shoukri
  - Queen Elizabeth II

- What is the total number of staff and students required to stage York's annual spring convocation?
  - 75
  - 253
  - 520
  - 1,146



*York President and Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri (above) reenacts the iconic York photo featuring predecessor Murray Ross (right), in The Toronto Telegram in 1962.*



Answers:  
1) A - Winning contest entry  
2) B - Murray G. Ross  
3) C - 520



## SPEED MENTORING

In September, more than 50 accomplished alumni including Craig Kielburger (EMBA '09), founder of Free the Children, Ernie Eves (LLB '70), former Premier of Ontario, and Mark Breslin (BA Hons '74), CEO and founder of Yuk Yuk's International, counselled York students in rotating five-minute sessions.

## FUTURE<sup>50</sup>

As York evolves into a comprehensive, research-intensive university, it will work to reflect the needs of society and address York's aspirations as a progressive university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With half a century of spectacular growth, imagine what can be accomplished in the next 50 years.



# ADAPTING TO CIRCUMSTANCES AND GIVING BACK

Dr. Liisa North knows what it's like to be woken up by police pounding on the door in the middle of the night.

This experience, among others early in life, laid the foundation for her remarkable life's work and her charitable giving. "I am preoccupied with what happens to people who have been displaced and who lack opportunities," says Dr. North. "What happened to my family, in one way or another, has happened and continues to happen to thousands upon thousands of others."

Her story begins at the age of nine when her family fled Finland after World War II because her father, for fear of a Soviet invasion, became involved in an illegal military movement that distributed guns to the people instead of demobilizing when the war ended. They tried to build a new life in Venezuela where her father and a friend saved up enough to launch an ice cream company, called the *Oso Blanco* or Polar Bear. Unfortunately, the business competed too successfully with an enterprise owned by the most powerful man in town. It was confiscated and the family was forced to move again, this time to the Bronx.

Liisa was now 11 and because she had been living on a farm in a remote rural area of Finland and then moving from country to country, she had attended only a few weeks of school. Although she spoke no English, she was placed in a Grade 6 class in

the Bronx and left to face the taunts of her classmates. Nonetheless, she eventually thrived at her studies, crediting her love of reading with bridging the gaps in her education. "My parents were very resilient people who adapted to very difficult situations and always remained supportive of others," says Dr. North. "The world needs people like them."

She went on to earn a PhD at the University of California, Berkeley with a thesis that examined the now ruling party of Peru from the perspective of politics at the local level.

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**"What happened to my family...continues to happen to thousands upon thousands of others."**

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She became a political science professor at York University where her fascination with Latin America resulted in her helping found the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC).

This past year, she took advantage of a York University matching program to encourage giving to students at the graduate level. Her \$50,000 donation to establish The Paavo & Aino Lukkari Human Rights Fund will be matched by York's Graduate Support Matching Program to create a



Liisa North

\$100,000 named endowment fund. York will also match the distributions on the endowment to further the impact of her gift.

The fund, which will also be supported through a bequest in her estate plans, will provide annual student awards as well as a scholarship for one graduate student per year researching human rights and issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. "The opportunity

to have a good education can do much to fulfill an individual's aspirations and to promote creative and critical thought. It is important for both the individual and society," says Dr. North.

"I am honoured to name this award after my parents because I inherited my passions from them," she says.

# SAFEGUARDING YOUR WISHES

There are many questions to consider when planning your estate: Who will be my beneficiaries? How can I make the disposition of my estate as smooth as possible for my family? Are intended beneficiaries sufficiently skilled to cope with an asset such as a business?

Estate planning allows you to achieve various financial objectives both while you are living and after death.

A fundamental element of any estate plan is a will, which is a powerful expression of your wishes.

A will, and dedicated time to plan your estate, allows you to provide for the welfare of your loved ones and to ensure your estate is administered with minimum delay, expense and court intervention. Here are some issues to consider:

- Many individuals assume that if they were to die without a will (intestate) their estate would simply pass to their spouse. In fact, while a spouse and children will likely end up with the estate's assets, this process may not unfold exactly according to your wishes. For example, a spouse, whether or not separated from the deceased, is entitled to a preferential share of \$200,000 (in Ontario) and the excess is divided between the spouse and children. A single child

receives one-half, whereas if there are more children, they share two-thirds of the estate and collect at age 18 after government administration of their funds.

- Creation of an estate plan avoids the spectre of your entire estate being subject to provincial probate taxes, which can be significant and devalues the funds you worked hard to build. In Ontario, probate taxes can amount to approximately 1.5% of estate assets over \$50,000.
- If you own registered accounts such as RRSPs or RRIFs, you have the opportunity to designate a beneficiary, including a registered charitable organization, on these accounts in order to minimize tax liability.
- Lastly, be sure to appoint an estate trustee in your will so that you can choose one or more individuals who are sufficiently skilled and whom you trust with the administration of your estate.

In conclusion, a will represents a legal manifestation of our freedom within Canadian society. It is available to ensure that the net financial gains of your lifetime will be disposed of wisely and efficiently.



## WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE OBVIOUS BENEFICIARIES?

If you do not have clear beneficiaries, such as a spouse, partner or children, you may wish to consider leaving all or part of a legacy gift to a charitable organization.

A bequest to a charitable institution such as York University Foundation is a strategic means to maximize your tax and estate planning benefits. The Canada Revenue Agency considers a charitable bequest as a gift made in the year of death. You are allowed to give charitable gifts or a particular asset of up to 100 per cent of your net income in your final year, including RRSP and RRIF balances. Any excess may be eligible to be carried back to the previous year, up to 100 per cent of your net income, to offset taxes payable against the prior year's income.

There are various ways to include a bequest in your will, including specifying: a certain sum of money, a percentage of the residue of your estate, or a particular asset. It presents an opportunity to benefit the institutions or programs that contributed to your success and well being, including York University, its students and its academic and research initiatives.

*YorkU Legacies welcomes the advice of Osgoode Hall Law School alumnus Martin J. Rochweg (LLB '72), partner with Miller Thomson LLP. Martin practices in the firm's Tax and Private Client Services groups and is among the most frequently recommended estate and personal tax planning lawyers in the country.*

# YORK HIGHLIGHTS

## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR STUDENTS

Fundraising continues for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bursaries and Awards Program. This one-time program has been launched to help students cope with reduced summer earnings as a result of the economic downturn and the extended school year. York received a 13% increase in bursary applications in the last academic year.

Donations are needed now to provide immediate assistance. Gifts can be made online or by phone—contact information below.



## WINE FOR A RAINFOREST

Las Nubes, a 124-hectare rainforest in Cost Rica, was donated to York University by Dr. Woody Fisher in 1998, after a visit there inspired him to preserve its immense biodiversity. For the past six years, volunteers at York have hosted an annual wine tasting and auction to help support the rainforest and the Fisher Fund for Neotropical Conservation. This year's event, held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, raised approximately \$131,000, increasing the event's overall total to approximately \$769,000.

## BEST SCORE EVER

Waterlogged but cheerful participants drove the best results ever at the ninth annual Kenaidan-York University Chair's Cup Golf Tournament on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Copper Creek Golf Club in Kleinburg, Ontario. Forty teams of golfers braved a day of occasional torrential downpours to help raise approximately \$131,000, increasing the event's overall total to more than \$750,000.



Artist's depiction of new Life Sciences Building.

## NEW LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING

York University will build a new Life Sciences Building thanks to a \$70 million investment under the Federal-Provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

The new building will help York meet the growing demand for training and research capacity in biology, chemistry, biochemistry and kinesiology. Work on the new project began in August, 2009.

## MAJOR INVESTMENT IN OSGOODE

York's Osgoode Hall Law School will undergo a massive renovation and expansion following a \$25 million investment from the federal and provincial governments. These funds, in addition to gifts from generous supporters, will allow Osgoode's physical structure to match its acknowledged excellence as one of Canada's top law schools. Design features

include space for centres and programs including The Jay and Barbara Hennick Centre for Business and Law; the Paul B. Helliwell Centre for Innovation in Dispute Resolution; and the Nathanson Centre.

## WHERE DO SONGBIRDS GO?

York University researcher Bridget Stutchbury has tracked the migration of songbirds, finding, among other things, that they fly south three times faster than expected. Using tiny "backpack" geolocators, she tracked the entire migratory trips of 14 wood thrushes and 20 purple martins.

The unprecedented study, which received extensive media coverage, is helping predict the impact of tropical habitat loss and climate change on songbirds, which have been in decline for decades.

### For more information contact

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Gift Planning

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particular circumstances. This newsletter is provided with the understanding that it does not render legal, accounting, or other professional advice.

For the purpose of legal documents, including wills, our name is York University Foundation.

**York University Foundation raises funds to help York redefine the possible.**

