

# **YORK U** LEGACIES 2017



# Alumni support sparks young minds' curiosity in the sciences

Earle Nestmann (MSc '71, PhD '74) knows first-hand the importance of discovery. Inspired by his experience exploring the challenges and joys of research, which helped to change, shape and direct the course of his life, the York University alumnus recently provided a legacy gift in support of the Sci-X: Science Explorations Summer Camps.

"It's a gift that keeps on giving," says Nestmann, a member of York's Board of Governors. "It contributes to the education of new generations of students who can make a difference in the world."

For four years, Nestmann, a recognized authority in toxicology, has donated publicly traded stocks and securities to the explorations camps run by the Science Engagement Office at York's Faculty of Science. Designed for students in grades 3-8, the camps aim to inspire young kids to pursue science, technology, engineering or mathematics studies. The discovery and



inquiry-based program has benefited from donors such as Nestmann because 100 per cent of their donations go toward providing bursaries for kids from low-income families. Since the camps began in 2006 with 55 students, participation has increased to more than 600 in 2016.

**"I give to York because it's a gift that keeps on giving."**

– Earle Nestmann

Currently president of his own company, Health Science Consultants, Nestmann has enjoyed a multi-faceted career as consultant, principal and executive for a multinational consulting firm, pesticide regulatory manager for a multinational company, research scientist at Health Canada, and assistant professor at York. His latest contribution to the University follows a generous \$50,000 gift he made in 2008 that was matched by the provincial government to create the Nestmann Scholarship, which supports graduate biology students.

"Donating stock is no strain on my budget. The money is already invested and not part of my cash flow," he says. "More importantly, the funds help to provide young students with the opportunity to explore science."

A camp participant wrote to the donors: "Thank you for showing me how science can be important for me and for everybody in our lives. The camp got me thinking about a future in science." 🌍

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

A donation of appreciated stocks, securities, bonds or mutual fund shares is the most tax-efficient way to give to York University because you will not pay tax on the capital gain. Learn more at [alumniandfriends.yorku.ca/givestock](http://alumniandfriends.yorku.ca/givestock)



Earle Nestmann

# Sociology professor gifts legacy for students

Larry Lam's late wife used to say to him, "You are a professor. So what? You should help the students."

Having recently set up the So Pui Ching Award in Sociology in memory of his wife, Lam (PhD '83) has made a bequest of more than \$100,000 to York University in his Will and named it the beneficiary of his \$170,000 life insurance policy. The two planned gifts are designated to support students with financial need. When realized, the gifts will support about a dozen undergraduate sociology students, making the Dr. Larry Lam and So Pui Ching Award in Sociology the largest of its kind at York.

Lam, who served as York's sociology undergraduate program director for many years, knows first-hand the financial challenges faced by many students. He arrived in Toronto from Hong Kong in 1969 as an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, and worked part-time jobs during his post-secondary education.

"When I go, I can't take my possessions with me, so I will leave the students with a little something," he says.

Anthony Malone, a fifth-year sociology and criminology double-major student, is one of the So Pui Ching Award recipients.

"The award gave me the opportunity to focus more on my



Prof. Larry Lam (R) meets Anthony Malone (L), a student recipient of his named award.

**"The award gave me the opportunity to focus more on my studies."**

– Anthony Malone

studies," he says. "I was able to meet and surpass my academic goals last year, while also being given the opportunity to help others reach theirs."

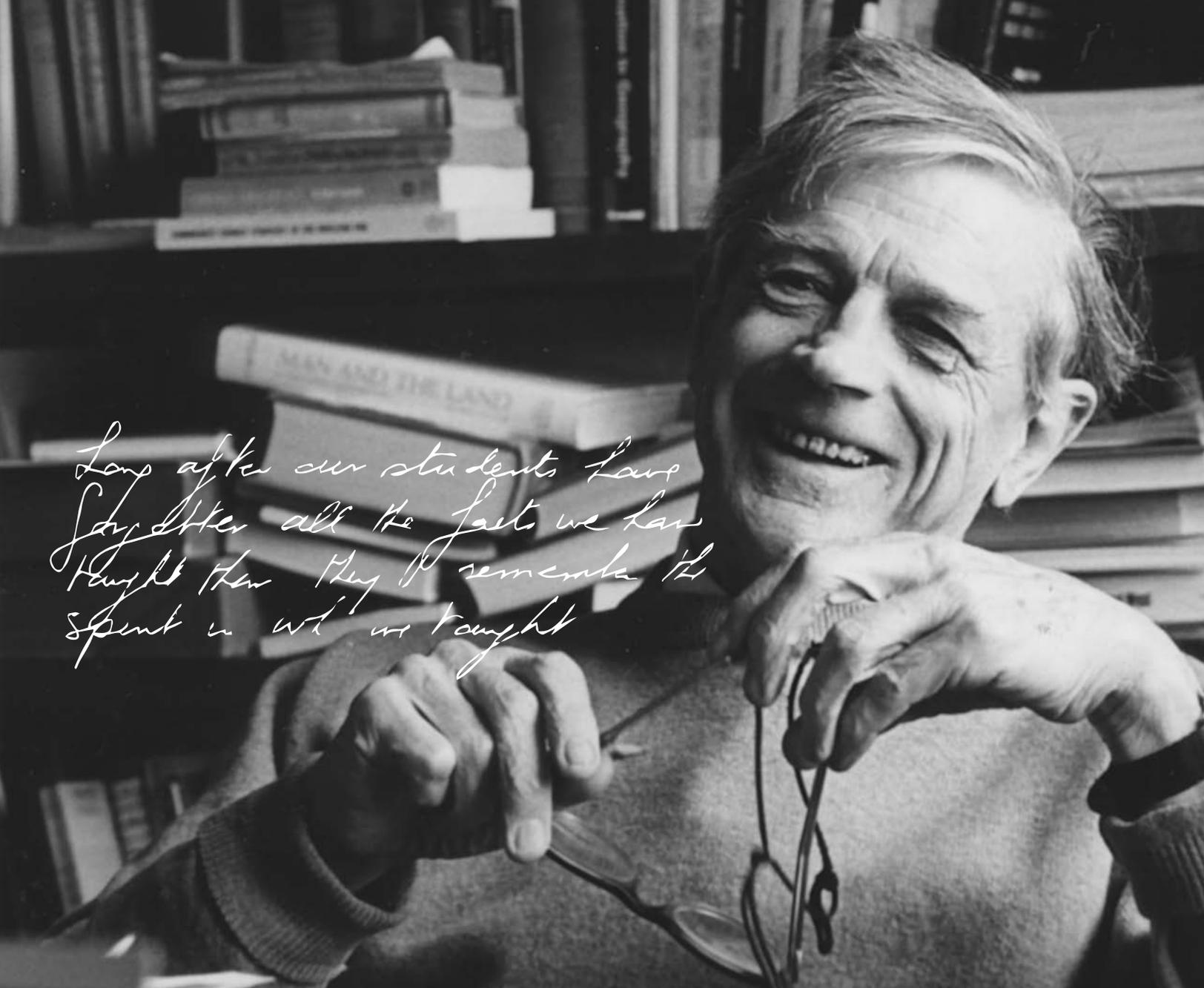
Malone organized a group called Academic Sociology Tutorials, a branch of the Sociology Undergraduate Student Association, designed to assist students in achieving their academic goals. The program is similar to the Academic Criminology Tutorials he has been involved with since 2013; each provides assistance to more than 400 students weekly.

"It has been very rewarding to work with and help incredibly bright individuals toward creating something important," Malone says. "The people I have interacted with

and the situations I have been placed in since receiving the award have allowed new opportunities to arise for me – opportunities that would not have been possible without Professor Lam's generosity." 🌟

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Naming York University as the owner and/or beneficiary of a life insurance policy is an affordable way to make a significant impact. You can receive tax benefits now or later through your estate.



*Long after our students have forgotten all the facts we have taught them they'll remember the spirit in which we taught.*

Portrait of Prof. George Tatham in his office, circa 1978. He said: "Long after our students have forgotten all the facts we have taught them they'll remember the spirit in which we taught."

## **Bursary honouring York's first dean empowers grad to give back**

Positive energy is more than just a feel-good fad for Shawnette Bankasingh (BA '14, BEd '15); it is something the York University alumna believes will impact people's lives for the better.

"Once you give good energy, it will always come back to you in

various ways," she says. "It's a good practice of paying it forward."

A recent recipient of the George Tatham Bursary Fund at York, Bankasingh doesn't just preach about good energy, she teaches it. Armed with degrees in sociology and urban diversity consecutive

education, Bankasingh is a certified primary school teacher. She is also a single mother of an eight-year-old boy, Solace. While the Tatham Bursary helped her financially when she was completing her studies, Bankasingh was quick to spend most of the money she received on

her students in marginalized communities where resources were limited.

“With such diverse students, I incorporated various teaching aids into my instruction to provide opportunities for engaging and enriched learning experiences,” she says. “I like to help out and give back, and that's something I try to teach my son and to pass along to people I encounter.”

Named in honour of York's first dean, George Tatham (LLD '78), the Tatham Bursary was established with contributions from more than 40 donors; the largest gift was made by one of Tatham's students, John Terrance “Terry” Gardner (BA '71). Gardner, who majored in geography and played varsity rugby at York, bequeathed more than \$65,000, which was matched by the province to the Tatham Bursary endowment. May 2016 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gardner's death.

While he was at York, Gardner was one of the so-called “Tatham's Toughies,” a group of exceptionally fit students who participated with Tatham in athletics, squash, tennis, boxing and weightlifting. In York's early years, Tatham, a geography professor, integrated his “whole person” philosophy into extracurricular student life and advised on the design of the physical education and athletics program. A man of many talents, he was also an accomplished concert pianist who made McLaughlin College, where he served as the master for 10 years, a centre of musical life on campus. Tatham was inducted into the York Sports Hall of Fame in 1985. He died at the age of 80 in 1987.

Since the Tatham Bursary was first awarded in

1998, around 70 students from McLaughlin College with demonstrated financial need have benefitted from it. Just as Tatham helped his students to develop as full, contributing members of society, recipients like



Shawnette Bankasingh, recipient of the George Tatham Bursary.

Bankasingh are applying what they've gained from the award to assist others.

“The bursary reminded me to always try helping others in need, even when you're not in a position to do so,” says Bankasingh, who teaches and volunteers in Toronto's Jane and Finch area.

**“I like to help out and give back, and that's something I try to teach my son and to pass along to people I encounter.”**

– Shawnette Bankasingh

“Through my lived experiences and education, I've been able to develop critical-thinking skills and see the world and my purpose in it differently. It's empowering. I have a newfound sense of maturity and humility, and I want to help others believe in themselves and the power they have.” 🌍

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can set up an annual student award in memory or in honour of someone for as little as \$1,000 per year. Alternatively, a permanently named award can be created with a pledge or gift in your Will for a minimum of \$25,000.

# When Joan met Brittney

Gifts in memory of someone special make a huge impact

Joan Sinclair and Brittney Cooper's first meeting was a celebration of Professor John "Jack" McConnell (1945-2013). McConnell taught atmospheric science at York University and led the Earth and Space Science and Engineering program for more than 40 years. He wore many hats – mathematician, physicist, stratospheric chemist, Mars explorer, family man, boater, teacher and friend. Now, namesake of a memorial bursary has been added to that list.

When McConnell was a student in Belfast, Ireland, scholarship funds helped him complete his university degree. He told his family that he wanted to help students too. After his passing, his wife, Joan Sinclair, and three

children, Deirdre, Alison, and Andrew, along with family, friends and colleagues, established the John "Jack" McConnell Memorial Bursary, an award enabling students with financial need to pursue their studies. Together, more than 100 individuals raised more than \$42,000 for the bursary.

The award's inaugural recipient is Brittney Cooper, a double-major student in astronomy and atmospheric science.

**"Winning Professor McConnell's bursary really reduced my financial stress and allowed me to focus on my schoolwork."**

– Brittney Cooper

"Winning Professor McConnell's bursary really reduced my financial stress and allowed me to focus on my schoolwork," said Cooper.

"I feel privileged to have been selected. It was a wonderful surprise."

In addition to her studies, Cooper also volunteered at the observatory, works as a research assistant and participates in clubs and science outreach.

"Meeting Joan and learning about Jack's inspirational research and accomplishments pushed me to work even harder last year," she said. "I wanted to honour the award, and



Prof. Jack McConnell

by no coincidence, it was my most successful academic year so far. I'm in awe of the donors who created this bursary in Jack's honour to assist students through

their education. I can't say thank you enough."

After the encounter Sinclair said, "Given Brittney's keen interest in the atmospheres, Jack would have been so proud and happy that she received his award."

The bursary – and the generosity of the hundreds of people who made it happen – ensure that McConnell's wish to help students financially will preserve his legacy and love of learning. 🌍

## DID YOU KNOW?

Making a memorial gift to York University is a special and meaningful way to pay tribute to a loved one, friend or colleague who has passed away, while leaving a lasting imprint on future students.



Brittney Cooper (L) thanks Joan Sinclair (R) for the award.

# The Five C's of Effective Estate Planning



Effective estate planning has to answer three questions: What does financial independence mean (how much is enough)? What is an appropriate legacy for my family? What kind of social capital legacy do I wish to leave, directed (gifts and philanthropy) or non-directed (taxation)? In conversations with clients, I see five barriers to effective estate and gift planning. I call these the “Five C’s”.



**Peter R. Bennett** (BA '77) is the principal of Blueprint Wealth & Estate Planning Inc. in Toronto. He has been in the financial services business for almost 35 years, and has provided gift planning advice to clients and the charitable sector for almost 20 years. He is a member of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners.

**Clarity:** We enter into financial planning with little clarity about what we want our estate or philanthropic plan to accomplish. We don't know how much money we'll need in the future, so we hoard or procrastinate, waiting for clarity.

**Complexity:** Blended families, holding companies, private businesses, personal Wills and taxation can add to the complexity of future planning. There are simple ways to accomplish your philanthropic goals. For example, bypass the Will by naming your spouse as successor annuitant of your RRIF/TFSA and a charitable organization like York University as your beneficiary.

**Control:** Effective gift planning often involves the irrevocable transfer of assets that we have spent a lifetime accumulating. It's difficult to give up this control. Estate replacement assets, such as life insurance, can make it easier because we can replace the capital we donate.

**Confidence:** Educating yourself about one of your passions and finding a program or interest area that aligns with yours, will give you the confidence that your designated beneficiary will be a good steward of your gift for this generation and the next.

**Conflict:** Your spouse, children, multiple charities and different professional advisors may have competing demands and goals. Take the time to talk it through with your loved ones. Prioritize your philanthropic goals. If your goals are evolving, consider using a donor-advised fund or a community foundation, naming your preferred charitable organization as an income beneficiary. You can always change your mind as you gain more clarity.

Address the five C's, and my guess is that you'll discover another C: Capacity. It will allow you to give more – joyfully! 🌟

**Impact: The Campaign for York University** is a \$500-million fundraising and alumni engagement effort – the most ambitious in our history – aimed at preparing engaged global citizens, building stronger communities and mobilizing new ways of thinking. The Campaign celebrates the many achievements of York's students, faculty, staff and 295,000+ alumni worldwide, and challenges our community to do even more. By building on our many successes and leveraging our greatest strengths, York University is showcasing its commitment to being progressive, diverse and ambitious, while demonstrating how we are changing the world. Learn more at [yorku.ca/impact](https://yorku.ca/impact)



## White Rose Legacy Circle Afternoon Tea

Warm feelings of gratitude paired with an intimate afternoon tea is the way York recognized a special growing group of White Rose Legacy Circle members, comprised of 167 alumni, faculty, staff, retirees and friends who have made future gifts to the University in their Wills. These visionary supporters will provide perpetual support and lasting legacies for generations to come.

Reasons for giving are multitude and bequests of all sizes make a tremendous impact. Many choose to support students through scholarships and bursaries, ground-breaking research, teaching excellence or an academic program close to their heart. These thoughtful and special future legacy gifts will help York students receive the education they need to create big ideas that change the world. 🌍



Top: (L-R) Dr. Harvey Skinner, Dr. Barbara Crow, Dr. Robert Drummond. Bottom: (L-R) Shawnette Bankasingh, Dr. Lorna Marsden, Shankri Fabian.

York University is grateful to our supporters and all they make possible for our students. If you would like more information about making a gift in your Will, honouring someone special or tax-wise gifts of securities, please contact us. You may also visit our website, or complete and return the enclosed confidential response form.



**Marisa Barlas**  
Senior Development Officer, Gift Planning

Division of Advancement  
West Office Building  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

Tel.: 416-650-8210  
Fax: 416-650-8220  
legacy@yorku.ca  
[myyorklegacy.com](http://myyorklegacy.com)  
Charitable Registration Number / BN: 11930 6736 RR0001

The information provided in this newsletter is based on Canadian regulation and is general in nature. It does not constitute legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice. We strongly encourage you to seek professional legal, estate planning and/or financial advice before deciding upon your course of action. For the purpose of legal documents, including Wills, our name is York University.