

ALUMNI

News:

Night of Inspiration

Five distinguished grads receive Bryden Alumni Awards

THERE WAS NO shortage of surprise moments when more than 200 alumni, faculty, staff and friends gathered on the Trading Floor at Toronto's Design Exchange on Nov. 8 to celebrate the leadership and achievements of five York graduates at the Bryden Alumni Awards dinner.

The gala featured an opening performance by jazz singer and York faculty member Rita Di Ghent (BFA '83), and some unexpected storytelling by CBC broadcaster and master of ceremonies Barbara Budd (BA '74).

"This year's event was exceptional. The music was wonderful, the winners' speeches were inspiring, and Barbara was a treat to watch. She jumped on stage during a technical glitch and told us her tale of misadventures with comedian Bill Cosby and then-Fine Arts Dean Joseph

Green when she was a student," said Naguib Gouda (MBA '84), president of the York University Alumni Association and executive director of Alumni & Advancement Services at York.

Paul Alofs' (MBA '83) groundbreaking success in both business and non-profit organizations earned him the Redefine the Possible award. After a career heading such companies as BMG Music Canada, he is now president and CEO of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation. In another off-the-wall moment, he had everyone in the room snapping their fingers to his



LOCAL HEROINE: Awardee Courtis (centre) with Gouda (left) and Alumni Association Chair Guy Burry

rendition of a "New Orleans rap" for York's Schulich School of Business. All joined in as Alofs chanted, "I sure like that Schulich School / Dezsö Horváth, he's keeping it cool / *Financial Times* says we rule." In true New Orleans style, he pronounced "sure like" as "shoo-lack", after noting that nothing rhymes with Schulich.

Karen Kraft Sloan (MES '90) is a passionate environmentalist whose work shaping

national policy earned her the Pinnacle Achievement award. The former Liberal MP and ambassador for the environment called for greater action to curb global warming, praised the social and intellectual diversity of the Faculty of Environmental Studies, and called for the involvement of northern communities in securing Canada's sovereignty over Arctic lands.

Maxwell Gotlieb (BA '72, LLB '75, LLM '97) is a highly respected senior lawyer who won the Outstanding Contribution award for his financial and volunteer contributions to York. He spoke fondly of York and thanked his spouse Heather for her partnership in his contributions – especially in co-chairing with him the 2006 Brazilian Ball, which raised \$2 million for York –

BE PART OF BRYDEN

Interested in nominating a York alumna or alumnus? Read more about the award categories, past winners, and the nomination process at yorku.ca/brydenawards or call the Alumni Office for more information at 416-650-8159 (toll-free in North America 1-866-876-2228). Nominations will open in the spring of 2008.



GREAT MOMENTS

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Alofs with son James and daughter Sarah; Corriero at the podium; Budd wings it during a technical glitch with a video; Max Gotlieb shares the limelight with wife Heather; Di Ghent sets an elegant tone for the evening; Kraft Sloan with her award.



and asked her to join him on stage to share the credit.

Charmaine Courtis (BA '72) won the Local Hero award for the remarkable skill and dedication that she has demonstrated working at the Schulich School of Business, where she is now executive director, student services & international relations. She spoke of York's tremendous accomplishments in educating the leaders of Canada's future – especially first-generation university graduates, new Canadians and female students. She also thanked her friends and family and highlighted two colleagues: Dean Dezsö J. Horváth and Professor Emeritus Thomas Beechy.

Jennifer Corriero (BA '03, MES '06) is an innovative leader whose work as the co-founder and executive director of TakingITGlobal (see *YorkU's* October 2007 cover story) earned her the One-to-Watch award. She praised the interdisciplinary program that she pursued at the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, saying that she felt that she was able to "Redefine the Possible" in her undergraduate education by crossing boundaries she might not have been able to at other institutions.

The evening closed with speeches by York President & Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri and Marshall Cohen, Chair of the Board of Governors. Shoukri congratulated the award winners on their accomplishments. "The winners of the Bryden awards are truly remarkable. Remarkable for the level of success that they have achieved, and remarkable for the diverse areas in which they have



OPENING DAY: York President Murray Ross (left), Ontario Lieutenant-Governor W. Ross Macdonald, McLaughlin and Tatham at the college's official debut in 1968

achieved it," he said. "From hospital and university administration to law and politics, from the music industry to environmentalism and international development for youth, I can't say enough about how proud I am of the winners and what they represent. This is what York is all about."

Picking up on speeches he made at the 2005 and 2006 Brydens, where he exhorted alumni to speak about their York pride, Cohen said this time he felt "a difference in the room." He also mentioned the upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations in 2009, and called for everyone to "stand up and shout, we are Yorkies!" in the birthday year.

The Alumni Office acknowledges the generous support of the 2007 Bryden Alumni Awards by lead sponsor Manulife Financial, reception sponsor MBNA and video sponsor the ClearSight Investment Program by Wellington West. For more information about each award recipient and to view their video profiles, visit yorku.ca/brydenawards. ■

McLaughlin Turns 40

Time to celebrate in '08

Alumni are invited to join in McLaughlin College's 40th anniversary celebrations in 2008.

Mark your calendar for the anniversary dinner on Friday, May 9, 2008. This event will be a wonderful way to reconnect to the college, meet old friends and past faculty, and make new connections.

McLaughlin was the fourth college established at York University and is named after Colonel Robert Samuel McLaughlin, a Canadian business pioneer who founded the McLaughlin Motor Car Company in 1907. He became a member of the board of General Motors in 1910 and when he sold his company to GM in 1918, it was incorporated as General Motors Canada with McLaughlin as founding pres-

ident. The McLaughlin Foundation provided part of the funding to build the college, and McLaughlin himself was on hand for the official opening in 1968.

George Tatham was the founding master of McLaughlin College, and his name is on the residence associated with the college, Tatham Hall. Tatham was an accomplished concert pianist, and as a result of his efforts, the McLaughlin Senior Common Room has an 1896 Bechstein grand piano. Tatham was also a strong advocate of physical fitness and McLaughlin ensured that the college had its own exercise gym. Tatham's vision was for McLaughlin College to foster the development of the "whole person" and his vision is central to the college's mission today.

Clearly, there will be plenty to reminisce about. For details and to book your seat at the anniversary dinner, visit the Web site at yorku.ca/mclaughlin or call Vicky at 416-736-5128. ■

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RESEARCH AT YORK IS DOING THE SAME THING.

York University is a leading research innovator in Canada. By working across disciplines and in collaboration with partners outside the university, researchers at York are able to develop innovative ideas and work with policy makers and practitioners to create meaningful change and a more globally competitive Canada.

Examples of York's current collaborations include the Innovation Synergy Centre in Markham (ISCM), which helps Canadian companies realize their full growth potential and become globally competitive. Similarly, YORKbiotech, a regional innovation network and not-for-profit community development corporation, uses the power of convergence in order to help its partners deliver innovative, real-world solutions to real-world challenges. A third initiative, The Consortium on New Media, Culture and Entertainment R&D in Toronto (CONCERT) will, in time, drive the creative potential of the region by facilitating innovative collaborations between the arts, technology and business.

Taken together, these three initiatives are indicative of the unique and relevant way in which York Research is helping to shape Canada's competitiveness and global influence. To learn more about how York's approach to research is redefining university research in Canada and fueling Canada's growth, visit www.research.yorku.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY: YORK UNIVERSITY, CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES, ASC01148

