# Table of Contents

Message from the College Head ................................................................. 3  
Message from the Editor ........................................................................ 4  
Messages from Staff ............................................................................... 5-6  
Sneak Peak: Founders College Next Handbook for Students .... 7-8  
Messages from Our Students and Alumni ............................................. 9-15  
Around the World, Poems and Artwork .............................................. 16-19  
Community Messages ........................................................................... 20-21  
Founders in the News ............................................................................ 22-25  
Fellows’ Corner .................................................................................... 26-27  
In Memoriam .......................................................................................... 28-29  

*Cover design courtesy of Jathuri Sivanantham*
The Affinity of Local and International Connections
Prof. Pablo Idahosa, College Head

This edition of The Phoenix ought to have gone out in March. For obvious reasons, however, it was put into abeyant delay because of the obvious multiple exigencies caused by the Covid-19 virus pandemic. Poignant ironies cannot be lost on anyone when talking about the different forms of global-local connections, this issue’s: how connectivity through the global reach of a hidden RNA can be so swiftly all-encompassing, unequally transforming, disrupting and devastating personally, socially, economically and psychically.

If we now might want to re-think the facile social network meaning of “going viral”, perhaps Founders’ motto, “Self, Culture & Society”, can also be reassessed in light of the interconnected spatiality of travelling through the social, the bordered, the local, the international and the global. Distance, proximate or far-flung, social or physical also have new and differentiating local-global meanings, provoking a rethinking of our understanding of place and our ways of communicating with and learning from each other.

Despite its delay, The Phoenix is offered as a reminder not only of the different and common roots of our contributors, but also of all of us. Represented throughout, indeed often celebrated, are the varying ways people understand their origins and their relationships, or connections to others and other places, whether through affinity, historically, literally, poetically, politically, or visually. The Phoenix is also offered in celebratory memory of the lives of those who have passed.

Many thanks to all the contributors, our Office, and most especially to Desmond Poon who did exceptional work in editing The Phoenix.
A Message from the Editor
Desmond Poon, Space and Facilities Assistant

What does it mean to be a global local? What is a global local? There can be so many interpretations from so many different perspectives, cultures, walks of life that can be considered, that it is impossible to put one definition of a “Global Local”.

As an Urban Studies graduate, I studied concepts such as globalization or the flâneur for example. There are social aspects to the “Global Local”, and from my studies as an Urban Studies major, I also studied the different waves of people from all over the world coming to the city of Toronto from different periods of the 20th century, and the challenges they faced as they settled here.

Let’s take the 506 Carlton streetcar as an example. This streetcar route goes through several distinct neighbourhoods as it trundles between High Park and Main Street Station. Starting from High Park we head east. From Ossington Avenue to Bathurst Street is Little Italy. As you travel further east, past the University of Toronto and Yonge Street, you’ll reach Toronto’s “lost” China Town at the intersection of Gerrard Street and Broadview Avenue. Once you’ve passed that, Toronto’s Gerrard India Bazaar stretches between Greenwood Avenue to Coxwell Avenue. Within that 19km streetcar ride, you pass by three distinct neighbourhoods and cultures that have made a significant impact on the development and the history of the city of Toronto.

Because of the diaspora of so many cultures in this city, one does not require an aeroplane ticket to experience the different cultures as the entire world is at your fingertips. Scattered around different plazas in the inner suburbs are Vietnamese Pho restaurants, leading to many debates to which area has the best pho (If there are such debates, please let me, the editor, know!). Does anyone remember the debate over which subway station has the best Jamaican Patty?

And within these communities of diaspora are histories as rich as the places that they come from. Their reasons of settling where they did is just as important as why they chose to leave their places of origin.

I am a second generation Canadian; my parents emigrated from Hong Kong almost 30 years ago. Growing up, I was encouraged to speak my parents’ mother tongue, Cantonese, at home, not only to be able to communicate with my grandmother and parents, but also with my extended family members, and with anyone within the Hong Kong diaspora. I am always proud and grateful that I can communicate in other languages other than English (those being French and Cantonese), because that opens up so many new opportunities later in life.

Whatever your background, it’s always great to appreciate the many cultures that surround you daily. My most favourite aspect of Founders College is the fact that there are such a diverse group of programmes, professors and students that are housed here, and contribute to the life of the college. To end, please enjoy the hard work from our contributors in this edition of The Phoenix, the Global Local.
Language Roots
Erica Alusio, College Programs Assistant

Most of Canada’s great population is in some way or form, diasporic. Therefore, I understand the global local to mean the ways in which we interact with, connect and display our cultures here in Toronto, Canada.

As a second generation Italian-Canadian, since childhood, my family ensured that I not only had an appreciation of our background, but understood its culture, history and language. From a young age, I have always been exposed to the Italian language. Although my parents are both fluent in English, I was spoken to in Italian; figuring that I would grasp English through other more dominant means (tv, friends, school).

Growing up in a predominately Italian neighborhood, my elementary school language classes included Italian in addition to French. Furthermore, I was also enrolled in Italian summer school to continue progressing my competency of the language. What has learning my parent’s native tongue done for me, and why was it so important that I learned it? For one, it has contributed to my sense of cultural identity. In addition, it has allowed me to better understand and connect with my family’s heritage. Being exposed to the language and culture from a young age is what drives me to repeatedly go back and visit the country.

Often, I am questioned by people as to why I choose to visit the country so frequently, and the only answer I have is because it’s my second home. Knowing Italian has also helped strengthen ties not only with my immediate family members, but with my family overseas, who I am able to maintain constant communication with using WhatsApp. Through messaging and video chats with my family, they are able to share with me the latest Italian movies, TV shows and music, which I can then share with the rest of my family here; this helps us stay connected and up to date with what is happening, despite being over 7,000km away.

All in all, for my parents, ensuring their children were able to speak Italian was an essential way of keeping the language and our roots alive in the home, and for that, I am grateful.
Home is Home
Marco Sestito, College Administrative Coordinator

I think it would be easy in this day and age of instant communication to believe that never have we human beings ever been more connected. One glance at our cell phones and we read the latest headlines or watch the latest happenings on the ground thousands of miles away. Thanks to free wi-fi, we can also call and speak with friends and loved ones across the world without second thought or having to mentally time how long one can afford to speak.

I suppose that all of the above is true, at least in theory. You see, my childhood was during the Dark Ages — also known as the 1980s when the Internet was known only to a handful and cell phones required their own briefcase-sized battery pack to operate. Although cell phones were limited to only the most well-off of people, back then we were even more connected with what was happening across the world than we are now.

At the time, the neighbourhood of Oakwood Avenue and Rogers Road was predominantly Italian immigrants who had emigrated to Canada during the 1960s. For many of them, life in Canada meant working in factories, construction, and service industries surrounded by and sometimes for their fellow Italian immigrants. When not at work, they would shop at Italian-owned grocery stores and shops, looking for those familiar and comforting elements of a now-faraway home.

During times of leisure, they would go for a passeggiata visiting family, friends, and neighbours, watch Serie A or one of a number of Italian television programs both local and direct from Italy, while Sunday was usually the time to attend Mass in one of the many churches with Italian-speaking priests. My childhood, then, was spent not in Canada per se, but in a small corner of Italy transported a few thousand kilometres away in Toronto.

In this environment, we did not need the internet or cell phones. Our connection to home was lived every-day here in this city. Phone calls and letters from relatives back home in Italy kept us abreast of all that was happening — especially the things that would not make the news and the small everyday occurrences that made up the lives that we left behind.

In that sense, the local was the global and the global was the local. We lived here but also there, in Calabria, in Abbruzzo, in Sicilia, in Trentino, in all the places left behind but never totally nor ever forgotten.

The death of a loved one here resonated across the ocean all the way to Italy and vice-versa. The corruption of the Italian government was as discussed and argued about in Italy as it was here in our little coffee shops and around the kitchen table. Italy winning the World Cup in 1982 was an explosion of celebratory catharsis on St. Clair just as much as it was in Piazza del Popolo, Piazza Castello, Piazza del Campo and all the lesser known piazze that exist in every small town and village throughout Italy.

I miss the 1980s. I miss the world wide web of conversing with loved ones and friends over the phone or over an espresso. My grandmother knew what was happening here and abroad by conversing with her neighbours, sisters and friends while my grandfather’s vast network of fellow passaggiatori throughout Little Italy afforded him the same, so that one his way back from buying my cousins and I our favourite ice cream sandwiches, he arrived with not just sweets but with all the news of the world as well.

My case is not unique. It is, perhaps, the same tale that could be told by every immigrant or child of immigrants in Canada and throughout the world. The global is never just the global and local never just the local, for no matter the distance, home is always with you, in faces of your loved ones and fellow travelers, in a shared language and shared experiences, in the ethereal link that exists with the soil that once was home.
Turn the page to check out our Winning Entry!

Agenda Cover Contest!

Want to create a cover for the AGENDA? Winning entry will receive a PRIZE!

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This Year’s Agenda Cover Contest
Winning Entry:

Check out her cover!

Cover by Rafeena Santsarran
2nd year English
On September 27th, 2019, I attended the Global Climate Strike in downtown Toronto. This is one of the largest anti-climate change rallies to take place not only in North America, but around the world. This year, 7.6 million people worldwide participated to advocate for the environment and encourage people to take action against climate change.

Earlier the same week, Professor Martínez-Osorio mentioned the march in our SP1000 class and encouraged us to use cognates and concepts we had learned in the course to spark a discussion about the strike in Spanish. After only three weeks of learning Spanish, my classmates and I were able to translate from English into Spanish sentences such as:

- We march for our planet
- There is a global problem
- More action, less pollution
- It is time to protest
- It is time to march
- It is time to listen to our planet
- Without action, there is no solution

The sentence that stood out to me the most was “Our Planet, Our Responsibility,” which translates into Spanish “Nuestro Planeta, Nuestra Responsabilidad.” I decided that this would be the perfect slogan to write on my sign for the Climate Strike march. Since each of the friends that accompanied me on the march was learning a different language, we chose to write the same phrase in French, Mandarin, and English as well.

As we walked out of the Queens Park Subway station, we saw the large crowds that had gathered together for this great cause. There were people of all ages, races and ethnicities which really reflected the global force behind this march. Environmental organizations such as Greenpeace were giving out free vegan snack samples encouraging people to eat less meat and there was a singer performing her own music. The title of her song was “Nada,” which emphasizes the urgency behind why we were all there and the “nothing” that would be left if we didn’t take action soon.

I am a second-year student pursuing an International Business Administration degree (IBBA) at the Schulich School of Business. I attended the strike to voice my opinions about a cause as important as Climate Change. It truly is our duty to protect the planet we live on, the same planet where we have gotten all our resources from. If we do not stop pollution, deforestation, overfishing and countless other harmful environmental activities, sooner or later there will be nothing left. It is people like me and the younger generation who will have to live with the detrimental effects of climate change for the rest of our lives. We might as
well take a stand now while we still have a chance to stop it.

I believe we need to make significant changes in our daily habits in order to stop climate change, starting with something as simple as using metal straws, relying less on fossil fuels, or becoming vegetarian. These are all things I strive to do every single day. I am also a WWF Living Planet Leader which focuses on sharing strategies on bringing sustainable living to campus and the organization also hosts annual cleanups and other ways you can make a larger contribution to this cause.

Learning to communicate in Spanish, participating in the march last Fall, and being a WWF Student Leader reminds me that regardless of our differences in language, ethnicity, location or lifestyle, we all share the same Planet Earth. It is our utmost responsibility to protect it.
Reconstructing the Demography of Moçâmades, Angola, 1844-1869
Arshad Desai, History

Program of Study: History
Supervisor: Jose Curto

The Dean’s Award for Research Excellence (DARE) - Undergraduate enables our students to meaningfully engage in research projects supervised by LA&PS faculty members.

Describe your research work and what you hope to accomplish over the summer in regards to your work?

“Reconstructing the Demography of Moçâmades, Angola, 1844-1869,” is a joint faculty-undergraduate student research project seeking to redress colonialist historiography of the municipality of Moçâmades in Angola that centres Europeans and their descendants. While the population of Moçâmades between 1844-1869 was made up of more than 80% enslaved and other Africans, their contributions are unaccounted for in the municipality’s historiography. Utilising census and demographic data at archives in Lisbon, Portugal, this project will reconstruct the history of Moçâmades to include these ignored Africans. Specifically, the demographic data (age, sex, family lineage, marital status, occupation, nationality, plantation size and the number of enslaved people) will be used to compile an analysis of all people (free, freed, and enslaved) to better understand the contributions of African populations to Moçâmades’ socioeconomic development. This analysis will be used to construct the first comprehensive historical narrative about enslaved Africans in Moçâmades—the most essential human element in this colonial society.

In May, my responsibilities included a review of the current historiography identifying gaps and biases in the scholarship and establishing the framework for the archival research. In June, I collated and analysed archival research at; Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino, Arquivo Histórico da Marinha, Arquivo Histórico da Marinha, Arquivo Histórico Militar, Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa and Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal. Professor Curto and I co-authored a paper, “The Demography of Moçâmades, 1844-1869: A Preliminary Reconstruction,” that was presented at the Lusophone World: Global and Local Communities conference at the Universidade de Évora in Portugal, on June 25-29. This essay will be expanded in July and August into a joint paper for publication in the specialised scholarly journal, African Studies Review. I also moderated a panel at Universidade da Beira Interior in Covilhã, Portugal.

My learning objectives are to acquire expertise in archival research methodology, data gathering techniques, and research analysis. I will learn to locate and engage with primary sources to create new original analysis that fills a vacuum in existing research on Southern Africa. I learned how to prepare and present my research for an academic panel. Additionally, I learned how to respectfully moderate an academic panel.

What does it mean to you to be awarded the DARE Research award/how will it advance your academic goals?

Receiving the Deans Award for Research Excellence is a tremendous honour because it assisted me in my experiential learning opportunity in Portugal while contributing to the production of important new knowledge. As a Specialized Honours History Major, enrolled in the Black Canadian Studies Certificate, I plan to pursue an MA and PhD in History. This initial field visit to the archives is indispensable in giving me access to the most crucial repository of documents from Portugal’s former colonies that are unavailable elsewhere. I will further employ a critical primary research methodology to analyse the role of archival practices in impeding social justice and promoting historical silences (Caswell, et al 2017; Schwarz & Cook 2002). As a “Coloured” South African, I want my scholarship to right some of these historical wrongs. The opportunity to collaborate with Professor Curto represents a defining moment in my academic career as an aspiring Africanist historian.
Yalla, Let’s Talk!
Khadeja Elsibai; President, Association des Etudiants Francophones et Francophiles

I am a second-generation Canadian of the Arab diaspora, a diaspora that numbers 523,000 people in Canada. I started Kindergarten the year of 9/11 and grew up experiencing islamophobia and feeling the need to vocally denounce terrorism and debunk stereotypes, prejudices and myths of the Arab and Muslim communities. In 2011, at 14 years of age, the Arab Spring commenced; a series of mass protests by citizens across the Arab region that culminated in the removal of several state leaders, socio-political conflict and renewed hope. The Arab Spring marked my adolescence because to me, it was the first time people did not view the Arab world through the lens of terrorism, but as progressive and democratic societies. From my electronic devices, I saw strength and power in the citizens that mobilized and risked their lives for a better future, often faced with repression from the decades-old political structures. The Arab Spring also accelerated the displacement and emigration from the region. This has partly made Canadian Arabs one of the largest newcomer populations in Canada.

In February of 2020, I attended the first Arab youth conference under the theme of “rethinking tomorrow”. Organized by Canadian Arab millennials for millennials, the conference created a space for Arab millennials to share their experiences with mental health and identity and social conformity, amongst other subject areas. I learned that civic engagement is vital to advocating for policies and resources that address racism, social marginalisation and mental illness and to addressing issues within the diaspora. As an Arab Canadian who did not grow up in the GTA’s Arab communities, I began to realize that much of the advocacy and social engagement begins with creating space for discussions. We need to listen and learn from each other to be able to collectively heal from our pains and mobilize. With social media and electronic devices today, we shape our story and our future. The teenager in me still hopes for democracy in the Arab world given the renewed hope inspired by the periodic mass protests. Within the diaspora, we need to continue the discussion on our role in Canadian society and the future we would like for ourselves. Yalla, let’s talk!
Since the rise of xenophobia has maniacally and slyly reared its ugly head during a global pandemic, it’s important to highlight the problems associated with one-way cultural storytelling. Currently we are living through a potential chapter in upcoming history textbooks, where writers alike some odd number of years from now will write about the coronavirus that infected tens of thousands of people. And almost assuredly, some of those narratives will be told and retold through a nationalist lens. And even more assuredly, most of those narratives will be taught and retaught to students dubbed as history, literature, or another euphemistic category of writing.

The debate that has previously developed in literature studies about the issues surrounding a romanticized national framework to understand literature is a crucial one to resurrect. Nationalism is defined as “identification with one’s own nation and support for its interests, especially to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations.” This framework glamorizes particular ethnicities in history whose cultures meet the superior ideal.

Although a nationalist perspective on literary work can help broaden a nation’s identity or history, it still remains a cultural and political bubble. It entraps limited perspectives which, in reality, have far more branches than roots. History has always been written by man, and will continue to always be written by man, and as creatures of habit, we humans have preferences. Writing about culture and recounting history thus becomes lucrative. This can be both mind-opening and dangerous to a nation’s identity as it has the potential to set in motion an upheaval in the world of human thought and interaction.

Essentially, national romanticism is another way of understanding literature through a filter bubble of limited perspectives that denies readers the ability to grasp a country’s culture in its entirety. Needless to say that this incessant practice shapes identity in a potentially inaccurate and detrimental way. Through the nationalist lens of unpacking literature, texts can be directly or implicitly linked to racism, that one culture/nation is superior or inferior to others. Some of the most notable pieces of literature have accomplished this ever-so-slightly big feat, and the issues surrounding the content’s message is sometimes ignored simply because its genius, elegant writing style is enrapturing.

Rudyard Kipling’s “The White Man’s Burden” is a poem that was written in response to the U.S. takeover of the Philippines after the Spanish-American war. The poem reiterated an old cliché that with great power comes great responsibility; but in this particular narrative, it is the “White man’s burden” to liberate the colonized, lower-class people—three words that weigh a ton and each bear a heavy sense of prejudice. In other words, Kipling makes the racial assumption that White men are superior to other cultures and so they have a political obligation to “serve [their] cap-
The Filter Bubble That is Nationalism

tives’ needs,” help the “sullen, half-devil” people, and hopefully bring about peace in savage ways. Essentially he’s taking patriotism to a new level that would otherwise today receive a bulging Trumpian stamp.

If the reader chooses to understand this poem through a nationalist lens, they will fall victim to a misleading, inaccurate story of how “superior” the White man is which, ultimately, reinforces the idea that any other nation/culture is inferior and lacks civility. In this case, these other censored voices include the Philippines, Spain, and other nations the U.S. influenced its power over at the time. For those readers who decide to widen the divide between white and non-white people, they will unknowingly accept a false sense of a nation’s identity.

As scholar Sarah Corse puts it in Nationalism and Literature: The Politics of Culture in Canada and the United States, this “unproblematically assumes the existence of a collectively shared national character and post naturalistic definitions of national culture.” Once it becomes popular thought, the nation and the literature are “determined by its status as a market commodity and therefore the push towards homogenization” of one perspective is sought.

Then comes the rise of stigmas at its most extreme, especially when perceived by outsiders. Following that an outsider perceives Caucasian cultures as superior in the way Kipling represents it, then this gives way to racism from and detriments by Western patriotism.

According to another scholar, Jing Tsu’s Failure, Nationalism, and Literature: The Making of Modern Chinese Identity: “It’s difficult to say which runs deeper: an already deep-seated scepticism toward a perceived Western colonial power or an inherently passionate allegiance to [a nation’s] sovereignty. The difficulty, indeed, lies in the fact that the two are often not distinguishable.”

Although nationalism perhaps helps distinguish national identities, as previously mentioned, it doesn’t suit modern needs or trends. Said differently, can modern readers fully understand where the writer’s loyalties and biases lay? An important need to consider today is the push towards equality, objectivity, and equity. Living in a society today where silent racism runs rampant, the need for equality, the “whole story” is important for both the local and global education.

The idea of where one’s loyalties lay is also evident in a famous literary text, Jonathan Swift’s “A Modest Proposal.” Swift’s satirical essay begins by discussing the poverty that is rampant in Ireland and blames the politicians, women, the English, and Catholics for the terrible state of the country. So, the proposal is that the impoverished can lighten their economic load by designating their children as food and selling them to the rich.

Satire is never meant to solely illicit laughs, it is meant to comment on certain political and social issues. In Swift’s case, he points out the flaws inherent in politicians and the way Ireland’s problems were dealt with, and further suggesting that Irish people—for personal economic gain—would “sell out” their families and go along with such a controversial proposal. It is also a cruel mockery of the poor, as well as criticism of British policy over the Irish.

“A Modest Proposal” also reveals to the reader a biased sense of resentment towards Roman Catholics, referred to as “papists” or the “most dangerous enemies” within the essay. He writes that his proposal “will have one other collateral advantage by lessening the number of papists among us.” Also, Swift himself was an ordained Anglican priest. Since the conflict between Catholics and Protestants existed, Swift makes it seem plausible that the Catholic Church was also to blame for Ireland’s poor economy. Then there’s Swift’s use of the epithet “breeder” when referring to women which makes them seem inferior and material.

Thus far we have discussed the detriments of nationalism to cultures alike, shall we even begin to dive into the dark abyss of its effects on religion and gender equality?

As scholar Vincent Newey notes in Literature and Nationalism, problematic aspects of nationalism include ways of being nationalistic that “limits the choices readers have in accepting or rejecting the national (and other institutional) loyalties of the writer.”
The Filter Bubble That is Nationalism

Swift’s biases should, therefore, be a red flag for readers to begin questioning how accurate of a representation this satire’s message is in understanding history and, in this case, economy. According to Tsu, “The insistent will for national and cultural difference as markers of identities” are red markers indeed because “[national and] cultural differences are more often reduced and misunderstood than successfully communicated beyond political needs. Political scientists emphasize [nationalism’s] state and ideological formations as shaped by institutions and international conflicts.”

So readers must not limit themselves to such a fluid framework that would be crafted completely differently from another voice. It does not suit modern needs since one of the many aspirations of the 21st century is equality in all aspects: gender, ethnicity, religion, culture, etcetera.

The issue here lies within the idea of objectivity; every story has multiple sides and understanding literature through only one may misguide and misrepresent a nation’s true history and identity to readers—then be labelled a true narrative.

A narrative usually has a seeming protagonist and a subsequent antagonist. Storytelling traditions instruct writers to weave in a climax, which is usually a problem that needs to be resolved by the protagonist with no thanks to the antagonist. Fortunately, in literature and fiction we have the antiheroes and relatable villains who have redefined those roles. Unfortunately, that is not the case for historical literature, nationalist accounts of real-life events, or any narrative at all about the former or latter.

It’s important to note that authors aren’t expected to write from both sides, but that the onus is on the readers to understand that nationalism doesn’t represent an accurate identity of all nations involved in a plot. Readers should seek out the other voices, the global perspective, and not merely absorb a local one. The detriments of not hearing “other” voices, especially cultures either on the opposing end of a story or receiving the short stick, gives way to the idea of minority cleansing—another reason why different frames are crucial to a complete understanding of literature.
Around the World, Poems and Artwork

Don’t Go Far Off
Teresa Vivi Pham, Contributor

Oh, may your silhouette never dissolve on the beach
May your eyelids never flutter into the empty distance
Don’t leave me for a second, my dearest
Because in that moment you’ll have gone so far

Pablo Neruda

Gazing upon the night sky
starring out into the distance
looking far into the galaxy
deep, dark and blue.
every night I search for you,
my bright and shining star
although you are far, I still feel you near
you remain in my thoughts
our time has vanished, I still find bizarre
because in that moment you’ll have gone so far.

Cool winds and breezy air
sand running between our toes
sun rays warming our bodies
the waves drift back and forth
each moment with you is relaxation
you radiate joy, this is your niche
exploring life to the ends of the earth
some may call you a free spirit
that is something you cannot teach
oh, may your silhouette never dissolve on the beach.

Your energy brings a light
to any despairing situation
your laughter is euphoric
towards humorless and tense vibration
in the weakest moments you are still here
this aliment is spreading, causing friction
the hospital room has become our home
our time once spontaneous and witty
past memories will be my addiction
may your eyelids never flutter into the empty distance.

Your lovely bright hazel eyes
have seen wonderous sights
biking along the golden gate bridge,
conquering the great wall of China
and watching the sunrise on the hilltops of Spain
adventures with you is gold to the lyricist
I promise you there will be more experiences
please hold on a little while longer
time is fleeting, yet you remain nearest
don’t leave me a second, my dearest.
新年快樂! (Happy New Year!)
Desmond Poon, Editor

The Year of the Rat.

“In celebration of Chinese New Year, 2020, I drew this rat (looks more like a mouse) first on paper, then later drew over with Photoshop to create this digital drawing. The end result was that it’s cuter than the paper drawing.”
Universal Narratives
Kaila Gallacher, English

to their refusal of your gravity
we will lead the way; show the world its light
and its weight
we’ll find justice on her scale
truth in our trembling words
we’ll sow new stories into our skin
conceptualizing the profound
while we paint ourselves bare
free from lies
we rewrite our world together
standing, marching
in this way
    breaking stone walls,
glass ceilings will shatter as
we reconceptualize
we are changing these universal narratives
of agony and ecstasy—of victim and victor
refusing to step over those who’ve fallen
we reach out till hand in hand,
    open hearts beat together
we are a generation that bears witness
    the skies are changing
our world, redefining itself
Beauty of Nature in Poland
Magdelena Iwachow, Contributor
I arrived at York’s Founders Residence from my home town of Chatham Ontario as a shy 17 year old in September, 1971. My father loaded up the car with most of my worldly belongings and a handy beer fridge. I settled into Room 308 of D House in first year. First year students were required to have a roommate and so I met Ted Dash of Scarborough first, followed by the first year students across the hall, Dana Randall of Elliot Lake and Dave Mendel of Ottawa. Ted had a girl friend and wasn’t around much. After the Christmas holidays he moved out so I had my double room all to myself.

My courses included two Social Sciences, one Humanities, one Natural Science and a college tutorial, Sport and Society taught by Bruce Kidd, the famous long distance runner. In first year we were required to take at least one Social Science, Humanities and Natural Science course. Fortunately for me, my lab instructor in Nat Sci, Lew Yeager lived on my hall.

In my second year I took two Political Science courses, two History courses and one Sociology course. I moved down the hall but still in D House (I think Room 301). My next door neighbor was Bob Tocchet who had been a basketball high school star at Toronto Oakwood. He was a few years older and had travelled some and even built his own log cabin home on the shores of Lake Ontario near Ompah. We became very good friends. My other best friend was Bob Pearson who was a third year Fine Arts student from Sault Ste. Marie, who came to Founders that year from Winters Residence.

One Friday during Reading week there was a huge snowstorm. We all had cabin fever and wanted to get some air so the two Bobs and I went out in Pearson’s red Fiat 128 for a drive. We had an amazing ride as Bob P. barreled through the snowdrifts where no one else dared. At one point we urged him to drive up the stairs of the Murray Ross Building. The red Fiat emerged unscathed and Bob Pearson developed a nickname from his Founders friends that survived the ages, “Parnelli” named after the race car driver, Parnelli Jones.

Parnelli, Bob (Rocket) Tocchet and I were also the founding members of the “Real Men” of D House, 3rd Floor because we were hopelessly dateless and suffering from real and/or imagined breakups. We even played in a hockey game against the Founders Women’s team led by stars Cheryl Shoji and Catherine Fry during my third year.

In year three I moved to F House 3rd Floor where I met Maurice Skivington and Danny Scott as my new neighbors. Maurice was a very charming fellow from North Bay and Danny was a very naive 18 year old son of Fundamental Baptist parents from Fredericton, New Brunswick. Maurice and I watched the evolution of Danny who had his first experiences with music (Bob Dylan in particular), alcohol and other substances and the opposite sex. A few years later Maurice and I would be co best men at Danny and Founders student, Heather Ballantyne’s wedding in Brockville.

Bob Tocchet moved off campus in my third year but he lived close by and we used to go to the pub or his apartment to have a box of beer and watch Monday night football. Parnelli was still at Founders in my 3rd year but he worked up his courage to ask the lovely Catherine Fry out on a date when she became eligible. They dated for a couple of years so this added to our social circle.

By the following year, Parnelli had graduated from Fine Arts and was accepted at U.B.C. in architecture. Since there was no internet, social media and Skype we wrote letters as our form of communication. Catherine and Parnelli had a great summer of 1974 working in Banff and then Parn left for Vancouver.

My 4th year was also spent in F House. It was my final year at York. I took on part time employment at Consumers Distributing and later on at the CN freight distribution terminal at Concord. That year my two mutual friends, Maurice Skivington and Susan Rigby started dating and a few years later they married. My best friends were Maurice, Susan, Fred Arseneault, Danny Scott, Paul Forrest, Cheryl Shoji and Raymond Ngai.

In the summer of 1975 I had an opportunity to work full time at the CN terminal afternoon shift. Minimum wage was about $1.65 hourly. The CN job paid $4.76 plus .15 shift premium so this was big money for a summer job as a 20 year old. I managed to get a sublet at Graduate Residence on Assiniboine. To my
delight, Parnelli moved back east in with Catherine at the other grad residence building for the summer. Both Parn and Cheryl Shoji were working at the Vick’s vapor plant in North York. I remember the Oil of Olay! Raymond Ngai, an Economics student was working as the night porter at Winters Residence. We would all occasionally get together at the Cock n Bull Pub in Founders or for a barbecue, a movie or for one of the delicious barbecue burgers and fries or salad in the courtyard of Founders that summer.

By August I quit CN to move back home to Chatham. I had been accepted into the MBA program at the University of Windsor. Over the years I had visits from Fred Arseneault and Danny Scott. Generally I have not been very good about keeping in touch with friends. In 1986 I attended a reunion at Paul Forrest’s house in the Beaches. I remember Paul, Al Rossman, Maurice, Susan, Cheryl, Fred and the Parishes (Steve and Rose) attending. About 12 years ago Steve and Rose stopped me as I was checking out of the Delta Chelsea in Toronto. They looked fabulous and were easily recognizable to me. Like his Dad, Steve became mayor of Ajax, Ontario and successfully served for over 20 years.

Sadly I recently learned that my good friend, Maurice passed away about six years ago. I was very saddened to hear this and wished that I had maintained contact past the mid 1980’s. He was a great guy and generous spirit.

By the time I reached out to Maurice on Facebook it was too late. However I did find Cheryl Shoji and Robert (Parnelli) Pearson on FB but was largely inactive on social media for four years.

When I announced my marriage in January on Facebook (even though the news was 5 years old) Parnelli reached out to congratulate me. Maybe he remembered those “Real Men” of D House stories?

I retired in London, Ontario in October, 2016 after over 40 years (including 25 years with the Ontario Public Service) in the private and public sectors working in financial services and economic development in Southwestern Ontario. During my last fourteen years, I held various leadership positions in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and served as a Board Member of the OPTrust, a jointly sponsored defined benefit pension plan, for seven years.

Parnelli worked as an architect primarily in Southern California and owned his own firm for over 25 years ago. He also retired a couple of years ago.

In June, Parnelli sent me a FB message that he would be visiting my area to visit an ailing relative and wanted to know if I would be available for lunch. I was absolutely thrilled at the idea.

On July 11th, 2019 after 44 years we met again. It was amazing that we recognized each other. His voice is exactly as I remembered. For the next three hours we caught up in brief and reminisced about our old Founders days. It was if time had not passed.

Too often when we have busy lives and struggle for success and survival with our careers and families, we overlook and neglect our good friends. I plead guilty to that. However now that I have entered the third chapter in retirement, I have more time to reflect on my early years including obtaining a great liberal arts education at York which engineered the career that was to follow. Living in a university residence is one of those deep bonding experiences as friends were living in close quarters like a family. I am blessed by the great memories and grateful to be reunited with my dear old friend, Bob (Parnelli) Pearson. I hope we meet again soon and it would be great to hear from other Founders friends.
“What kind of impact do I want to make and why am I passionate about it?”

This is one of the many important questions that new students were urged to reflect on at the Founders College Academic Orientation on Sept. 3. The query was posed by keynote speaker and York University alumna Larissa Crawford, who graduated in 2018 with a double honours major in international development and communications studies.

Crawford, who is of proud Métis and Jamaican heritage, made waves across the University community last year when she crossed the stage – summa cum laude – holding her one-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Zyra.

Faculty, community members, and students alike were moved by Crawford’s success and resilience.

Having grown up with few financial resources, Crawford funded her entire education through scholarships, graduated with the most acclaimed leadership award at the University, and successfully transitioned into a career in government work and public speaking.

It is thus no surprise that she had a few useful tips to share with incoming students.

“I know you guys are getting really excited about all of the parties and the new people,” Crawford said with a laugh. “But my job right now is to get you excited about the nerdy stuff, because it’s actually really fun too.”

But before doing so, she introduced herself in Michif and held space for her identity. Crawford encouraged students to do the same as they embark on their university careers.

“I really encourage you, moving forward on your journey at York University, to consider – as you sit in classrooms, as you listen to speakers – the ancestry that you bring into that space, and the ancestors of the traditional caregivers of this land.”

Crawford went on to share 10 takeaway points of what she did to make her time at York University “absolutely amazing.” They included gaining international experience, applying for scholarships throughout her university career and developing authentic relationships with mentors.

“The people that I know that are the happiest and most successful now ... didn’t just do their classes and get out,” Crawford told the audience. “That’s my message to you guys. No matter how nerdy it seems, go and figure out what you want to do and build your network, because that’s going to be the most valuable thing that you’re going to take out of your university experience.”
From Comedy to Poetry, Founders College Talent Night showcases student creativity
Caro Orlando, YFile

To call English student Tom Baird’s comedic style self-deprecating would be an understatement. Baird – who described himself to the audience as a “near-sighted Michael Cera” – gave a side-splitting stand-up comedy performance at the Founders College Talent Night.

The first-year English major was one of nine performers who shared their creativity with York University students, staff and faculty at the event held on Nov. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Baird was the only comic in the line-up, but he wasn’t alone in his ability to make people laugh. Billy Friday, a second-year mechanical engineering student who moonlights as a poet and singer, got the crowd giggling as he melodramatically tossed his notes across the stage, followed by a spontaneous rap performance – with two microphones.

The evening’s roster of acts prompted a range of emotions. Ursula Hegge’s beautiful performance of “Blue-Grey,” a song she wrote and composed in a writer’s craft class, inspired melancholic smiles from the audience. According to Hegge, the song is about the deterioration of a relationship, using metaphors of colour and weather to depict it. The first-year psychology student has been playing piano and writing songs for more than 12 years, and sounded just as soulful as her artistic inspirations, Adele and Amy Winehouse.

For Pablo Idahosa, head of Founders College, creating a space where this range of creativity can exist is important to college life.

“While colleges are communities that foster warm, welcoming environments for student academic success, they are also home to other facets of student life,” Idahosa said. “This event showcases some of our students’ wonderful performative abilities, and we encourage people to celebrate and applaud them.”

And applause there was. From Harish Mohan’s deeply personal performance of “Exodus,” a song he composed and played on the guitar, to Anjola Oyelade’s epic interpretation of Whitney Houston’s “I have nothing,” to Summer Solmes’ serene piano composition, the crowd roared with admiration and support for the talented students.

The evening ended with performances by Sabrina Fortino (guitar) and Malhar Memon (piano) and a heartfelt singalong to the Beatles’ “Hey Jude,” led by student Desmond Poon on the guitar.

In his closing remarks, Marco Sestito, college administrative coordinator at Founders College, asked the crowd if they would be keen to attend a talent night next year.

Students clapped and cheered, shouting “yes” and “we’ll be there.”
Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics celebrates student success

YFile

Students in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics (DLLL), in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), were recognized for their success during an awards reception on Oct. 24 at the Founders College Assembly Hall.

The event celebrated the academic achievement and volunteerism of 51 students and included students from the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years. Hosted and sponsored by Founders College, more than 85 guests attended the event, including: students; their support networks; DLLL faculty; Pablo Idahosa, the head of Founders College; and LA&PS Associate Dean (Faculty Affairs) Roberta Iannacito-Provenzano.

The student award recipients are:

Arabic – Ola Salama (Top Student, 2018-19)
Classical Greek – Shakeel Ahmed (GK 1000, 2017-18); Michael Tersigni (GK 1000, 2018-19)

Chinese – Claudia Ruiz (CH 1000, 2018-19)
DLLL-World Literatures – Nicolette Chambers (DLLL 1000, 2018-19)

German Studies – Edna (Valeria) Hernandez (GER 1000, 2018-19); Andy Xingyu Zhao (GER 3792, 2018-19)

Hebrew – Jiyeon Yeo (HEB1000, 2018-19)

Italian Studies – Cristina Fabrizio (IT 1000, 2018-19)

Jamaican Creole – Raziya Gabault (JC 1000, 2018-19)


Korean – Eran Imperatore (KOR 1000, 2018-19); Joe Cho (KOR 4050, 2018-19)

Latin – Elaine Slonim (LA 1000, 2017-18); Melodi Armond (LA 1000, 2018-19)

Linguistics – Alexia Daly (Top Student, 2017-18); Wenyi Cai (LING 1000, 2018-19); Matthew Mondell (Top Student, 2018-19); Kasia Mastek (LING 1000, 2018-19)

Modern Greek – Christina Tassopoulos (GKM 1000, 2017-18); Aggelos Stamos (GKM 3600, 2017-18); Jerasimos Baboulas (GKM 1000, 2018-19)

Portuguese & Luso-Brazilian Studies – Erogu Otasowie (Wings, 2017-18); Cassandra Moniz (Wings, 2017-18); Vanda Mota (Dark Stones, 2017-18); Sabrina Junqueira (POR 1000, 2018-19); Vincenzo Gruppuso (POR4620, 2018-19); Beatriz Aguiar (Wings, 2018-19); Lisa (Teixeira) Raposo (Entrance, 2018-19); Wendy Roza (Dark Stones, 2018-19)
Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics celebrates student success

**Russian** – Rosalie Reis (RU 3790, 2018-19)

**Spanish** – Natasha Sarazin (Top Student, 2018-19); Maria Naveed (SP 1000, 2018-19)

**Swahili** – Adam Faux (SWAH 1000, 2018-19)

The award winners are students from Faculties across the University. Some are majors or minors in DLLL programs, some are pursuing certificates of proficiency in several languages to enhance their professional or personal goals and some are returning to university later in life.

The volunteer award recipients are students in linguistics who are also actively involved in the Linguistics Student Association and work to promote the DLLL program at a variety of events each year such as the annual Fall Campus Day and Spring Open House.

In her welcome address, Professor Maria João Dodman, Chair of the DLLL, congratulated students on their academic success and thanked the volunteers for their contributions to the department. She told students that the department is invested in forming students who will become great world citizens who understand not only language as one of the most basic and needed elements of our humanity, but also acquire intercultural skills that narrow the space between cultures, students who think in informed, critical and empathic ways, and who dialogue in knowledgeable and respectful ways.

“May the time you’ve spent at the DLL continue to inspire you in your becoming a better version of yourselves,” Dodman said.

Professor Idahosa echoed some of the points highlighted by the Chair of the department and congratulated the DLLL on their signature event. Associate Dean Iannacito-Provenzano gave remarks on behalf of the dean and reminded all of those present of the importance of the humanities and a liberal arts education.

“Courses in language, literature, culture and linguistics give students the skills to relate to the other, no matter what life path they choose,” said Iannacito-Provenzano. “Our mission is to give students the tools to understand themselves better but also to better understand today’s world in all its complexities.”

The department also welcomed Susan Costa from Azores Airlines, who delivered a voucher for a free round trip to the Azores to Beatriz Aguiar, this year’s student award winner. Costa also spoke of the value of travelling, of experiential education and of learning about other cultures. In addition to Azores Airlines, the department also recognized other sponsored awards from Santander Totta Bank, Academia do Bacalhau de Toronto and Peter Sato.

Students receiving awards highlighted the lifelong skills they learned from their courses, and, in some cases, revealed that their experiences in the DLLL have been life-changing due to the care of their professors.

To add to an already heartwarming and inspiring evening, Adam Faux, a PhD student in music and award winner in Swahili, surprised everyone with a song in Swahili, while Claudia Ruiz, who won an award in Chinese, sang in Chinese.
International Recognition for York History Professor

YFile

York University Faculty of History Professor Jonathan Edmondson has been awarded a prestigious diploma as a new corresponding member of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI).

Edmondson was recognized by DAI for his exhaustive research on the literature, economy and culture of ancient Rome. He was nominated by the Commission for Ancient History & Epigraphy last December and presented with the diploma by the director of the foundation, Professor Christof Schuler, in Munich on May 23.

DAI is committed to documenting ancient monuments and preserving them. They have provided expert advice to governments, agencies and organizations such as UNESCO. They boast a worldwide network of departments and branches, including its long-established departments in Athens, Rome, Cairo, Istanbul and Madrid, as well as departments for the Near East. It has sponsored numerous important excavations around the world and publishes many primary archaeological journals.

Edmondson was the 2017 recipient of the Distinguished Research Professorship in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (U.K.) and the corresponding member of the Real Academia de la Historia.

Check out the Fellows’ Corner on our website!

https://founders.laps.yorku.ca/community/college-fellows/
York professor receives Insignia of Professional Merit from government of Azores

YFile

Maria João Dodman, associate professor of Portuguese & Luso-Brazilian Studies in York University’s Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, travelled to the Azores to take part in the celebrations of the Day of the Azores, where she received the Insignia do Governo Regional dos Açores – Medal for Professional Merit.

The recognition is one of the most distinguished honours given by the government of the autonomous region of Azores.

Presenting the medal to Dodman on June 10 was Vasco Cordeiro, president of the Azores.

“I’m particularly honoured to receive such recognition from the Government of the Azores,” said Dodman. “Considering that I came to Canada to search for a better life like many of those immigrant women who came before and after me, this was a surreal moment.

“There is much work to be done and I remain more committed than ever to continue to tell the stories of a people who suffered greatly from centuries of isolation and neglect, who were victimized by corruption, by extreme poverty and violence.”

Dodman immigrated to Canada from the Azores in 1989. Originally a Renaissance scholar, Dodman turned her interests in 2006 to the literature produced in the Azores, and to bringing more awareness to the archipelago’s unique identity. She developed an undergraduate discipline that focuses solely on the Azores, the only of its kind in a Canadian university.

Her research interests include Renaissance literature, colonial encounters and representations of beauty, ugliness and otherness in early modern Iberian literature.

She is also co-founder and co-director of the Canadian Centre for Azorean Research & Studies. In 2016, Dodman published Andarilha. Viagens de um Hifen (Wanderer. Voyages of a Hyphen), a book of short narratives that focuses on Azorean identity, immigrant issues and hyphenated culture. The book received high praise from literary critics in Portugal and an expanded English translation is slated for publication in spring 2019 in the United States.

It is mostly in Dodman’s creative work where the Azores appears frequently as a site of inspiration and magic steeped in açorianidade, a concept in which nature, isolation, insularity, sea and volcanic rock triumph over history. Dodman is particularly interested in rescuing marginal voices and their stories of injustice and exclusion.
In Memoriam

Passings: Jerome Ch’en

A professor in York’s Department of History from 1971 to 1987, Ch’en also served as the director of the University of Toronto -York University Joint Centre on Modern East Asia from 1983 to 1985. His work earned him numerous honours, including becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1981, before being named a Distinguished Research Professor at York in 1984.

Ch’en’s contributions to York also extended to the York University Libraries (YUL), as the Jerome Ch’en fonds are housed in the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections. The fonds consist of Ch’en’s collection of statements from delegates to the Geneva Conference of 1954, along with newspaper clippings and related material concerning the Korean War.

In addition to the materials located in the Clara Thomas Archives, items from Ch’en’s personal collection help make up part of YUL’s East Asian Studies Collection, with many of his resources available on shelves throughout the Libraries.

Ch’en’s scholarly work in Chinese history resulted in many publications, including The military-gentry coalition: China under the warlords (1979) and The Highlanders of Central China: A History, 1895-1937 (1992). His work Mao and the Chinese Revolution (1965) was translated into several languages. Ch’en also edited collections, provided several articles for journals and conference proceedings, and translated the works of other scholars.

Born in Chengdu, Sichuan, China, in 1919, Ch’en studied at Tianjin Nankai University, National Southwestern Associated University in Kunming, China. He later attended the London School of Economics, and in the 1950s he worked for the Chinese Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation. He also taught history at the University of Leeds prior to moving to Canada. He retired from York in 1987.

Passings: Noli Swatman

Noli Swatman, former director of the Office of Research Administration, died on Nov. 26 in her 79th year after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

Swatman dedicated 30 years to York University, and was the director of the Office of Research Administration (now the Office of Research Services) when she retired in 2004.

Born in Sligo, Ireland on July 8, 1940, Swatman arrived in Canada in 1962 from London, where she and her husband had met and married. She worked first for the Toronto law firm Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt. In 1969, she accepted a job at Osgoode Hall Law School after being interviewed by Harry Arthurs, former dean of Osgoode (1972-77), and president of York (1985-92).

Swatman left York briefly when she welcomed her first daughter, and when she returned to the University in 1976 she began work in research administration, where she worked in different capacities until her retirement.

During a retirement event honouring Swatman, former vice-president research and innovation Stan Shapson said she was recognized as one of the most popular research administrators in Canada, for having the “knowledge, skills and integrity to represent research skills at York.” During that same event, she was acknowledged for having an immense impact on the University’s research success, and driving the successful receipt and management of grants for York.
In Memoriam

Throughout her years of service to the University, Swatman was commended for her dedication and commitment, and in 1995 she earned The President’s Leadership Award. She also earned the title of Founders College Fellow.

Swatman was the wife of Trevor (Teb) Randolph Swatman, beloved mother of Deirdre Swatman (Josh Benish), and Carrie Swatman (Chris Miller), loving Granny to James and Lola Miller, and loving Granna to Declan Benish, doting aunt and friend to many.

The service and internment was held Dec. 3 at Holy Cross Catholic Funeral Home and Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery.

Passings: Margaret Beare

Remembered for her many contributions to Osgoode Hall Law School, the York University community is mourning the passing of Professor Margaret Beare, who died peacefully on Aug. 10.

Born in Markham, Ont., and raised on a farm near Agincourt, Ont., Beare was educated at Guelph University (BA ’68, MA ’71), Cambridge University in England (diploma in criminology, ’74) and Columbia University in New York (PhD ’87). Her career in transnational police policy and the study of organized crime began with her role as senior research officer in the Office of the Solicitor General, 1982-93. She joined the faculty of York University in the Sociology Department with a cross appointment to the Osgoode faculty in 1995. She was the founding director of the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime & Corruption (now called the Jack & Mae Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime & Security) and remained a faculty member at York until her death.

“As we know, Margaret was a wonderful colleague and a dedicated scholar, who provided mentorship and guidance to a very large number of our graduate students who were attracted to Osgoode by her presence on the faculty,” said Osgoode Dean Mary Condon. “Among her many accomplishments, she was a major contributor to the work and the success of the Nathanson Centre at Osgoode. I know you will all join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to Margaret’s family and friends at this time.”

Beare is the author of Criminal Conspiracies: Organized Crime in Canada and numerous edited and co-authored books and articles on money laundering, international policing policy, gang violence and social justice. Her work involved extensive travel throughout Southeast Asia and South America. Her consultancy work as a leading authority on criminal activity was ongoing up until her last illness.

“Margaret was a valued member of the LA&PS community,” said J.J. McMurtry, interim dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS). “We will always remember her immense contributions to the Department of Sociology and the York University community at large.”

When Beare wasn’t working or travelling, she was listening to Leonard Cohen, throwing dinner parties, walking Harley (the latest of several golden retrievers) or relaxing at her cabin on Chemong Lake.

She is survived by her daughter, Nhai Nguyen-Beare (Ryan Maleganeas) and her Peterborough sisters, Bernadine Dodge (James Driscoll) and Christine Kearsley (Robert Kearsley). She is also survived by her niece, Kathleen Burneau (Gus Burneau) of Toronto, and will be mourned by a host of friends around the world.
We Need You!

We are always seeking contributions for The Phoenix and are happy to provide a platform to showcase the work of our students, fellows, staff, and alumni!

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of The Phoenix in Fall 2020, please send your articles, artwork, poetry and photos to founders@yorku.ca