

# RESEARCH AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



# WHO ARE WE?

- Sharan Johal
  - 4<sup>th</sup> year Environmental Biology major
  - Current PM, former CR
  - Currently volunteering in a lab, former Research Practicum
  - Current intramurals
- Mandy Huynh
  - 5<sup>th</sup> year Environmental Science (Life Science Stream) major
  - Current PM and Senior Student Ambassador
  - Completed 2 co-op placements
  - Treasurer of GESS@Y

# AGENDA

- Volunteer Opportunities at York
- Unpaid/Volunteer Research Opportunities
- Hospital Volunteering/Research
- Paid Opportunities
- Recreational Opportunities

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT YORK



# Student Ombuds Services (SOS)

- Peer Mentor (PM)
- Peer Tutoring (PT)
- Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)
- Class Representatives (CR)
- Student Ambassador (SA)



<http://bethune.yorku.ca/sos/>

# Bethune College Council (BCC)

- Elections in October for two First-Year reps as well as any vacant positions
- General elections in March for all other positions (President, VP, External, VP Athletics, and four General Members)
- Office: 122 Norman Bethune College ( In the basement across from JCR)

# Student Community and Leadership Development (SCLD)

- RedZone <http://redzone.sclد.yorku.ca/>
- Health Ed. <http://healthed.sclد.yorku.ca/>
- <http://leadership.sclد.yorku.ca/>
- Leadershape <http://leadership.sclد.yorku.ca/leadershape/>

# York Federation of Students (YFS)



GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS!



<http://www.yfs.ca/getinvolved/>



# YUConnect



## Find Organizations

Join a new organization and utilize discussion, news posts, and group messaging.



## Attend Events

Discover events happening on campus or in your area.



## Track Involvement

Record your activities and memberships on campus to showcase your Involvement.

<https://yorku.campuslabs.ca/engage/>



YU Connect

# Let's Talk Science

- Class room Visits → Volunteers typically go to schools during a class period and do hands-on/minds-on activity with your students.
- Workshops → Volunteers deliver workshops tailored to STEM related topics
- Now Hiring!

- Email: [yorku@letstalkscience.ca](mailto:yorku@letstalkscience.ca)  
<http://outreach.letstalkscience.ca/yorku.html>

# Unpaid/Volunteer Research



# Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

- Gain experience through field-based learning and research, and fulfill your interest in the natural world
- Research fields are located around the world (Costa Rica, Brazil, Bahamas etc.)
- Application found on website: <http://www.oupfb.ca/>
- <http://science.yorku.ca/biology/fieldcourses/>



# Research Practicum

Biology and Chemistry (Research Experience Term)

Can be taken during any year/semester of study

Taken part time while taking courses (5~10 hours/week)

**ZERO CREDITS (PASS/FAIL) ON TRANSCRIPT**

Must make arrangements with professor before enrolling

Submit personal essay/report on your work at the end of practicum

**GREAT WAY TO GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR!**

# PHYSICS/ASTRONOMY PROJECT

● PHYS 4310 3.0

Fall/Winter/Summer terms available

Usually taken when in fourth year

Example of project areas: Biophysics

- Atomic physics
- Computational electromagnetism

<http://www.yorku.ca/marko/PHYS4310/index.htm>

# Independent Study/Honors Thesis

Biology, Kinesiology, Chemistry, and Psychology Departments

Biology (BIOL 3100) and Psychology (PSYC 1010, 2020 & 2030; completion of >84 credits) have prerequisites

Kinesiology, need to be in Specialized Honours Program and completed 84 credits

Biology thesis courses: 3.0 and 8.0 credits

Chemistry thesis courses: 4.0 and 8.0 credits

Arrange project details with professor

Grading system is determined beforehand with professor **Look early!**

**(Nov/Dec/Jan of the year before)**

<http://science.yorku.ca/biology/faculty-research/>

# Volunteering in a Lab

Opportunities available depend on the Professor

Check with each professor individually (via email or in-person)

Be persistent

Don't give up easily (you will likely get many "no"s before you finally get a "yes")

Be professional and courteous when you email them

Note: Ecology-based labs usually advertise for volunteers in class



# APPROACHING/EMAILING PROFS

See Faculty profiles for a description of their research and their contact information

Familiarize yourself with their research and choose a prof whose line of research/techniques genuinely interests YOU!

Approach professors through email, class, or office hours

Be courteous and prepare to market yourself

Show the professor that you really have an interest in their research (read a few of their most recent papers)

# HOW DID YOU DO?

Dear [REDACTED]

I am an undergraduate student at York University completing a double major in psychology and biology. I will be starting my fourth year in September 2015 and would like to do my honours thesis. After volunteering in a Biology research lab for the past year and [REDACTED] realized that my research interests lie in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I found that your research on [REDACTED] was particularly interesting. Furthermore, I find it appealing that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. On that note, I would like to inquire whether you are currently accepting honours thesis students for the 2015/2016 year. If so, I was wondering if you would be available anytime next week to discuss this possibility?

I would like to mention that I have previous research experience [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My psychology GPA is [REDACTED] I have attached my unofficial transcript and resume for your consideration. I have also attached a writing sample I submitted as an assignment for the course PSYC 3260 Cognition. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

# Volunteering at a Hospital





<http://mackenziehealth.ca/>

<http://www.hrh.ca/BecomeaHumberRiverVolunteer>

<http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/volunteer/index.php>

<http://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=volunteer-application>

<https://www.mountsinai.on.ca/patients/volunteer>

# Career Fair



<http://careers.yorku.ca/career-fairs/>

# NSERC

Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada

Offers summer research assistant studentships for undergraduate students: NSERC USRA

Application deadline is mid to late January, so you must find a professor well before this deadline

Pay: \$4500 over 16 weeks + 25% co-pay from university

You can do NSERC at any university, don't feel limited to York University

At York, students can apply for NSERC starting summer of 2<sup>nd</sup> year

<http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/>



# YORK FINANCIAL AID EMPLOYMENT

**RAY (Research At York):** Through the RAY program, eligible undergraduate students will have the opportunity to participate in research projects with faculty members and/ or fellow students, while receiving compensation at a competitive rate.

**Work Study:** The Work/Study program provides on-campus part-time job opportunities for eligible full-time York University undergraduate students.

**The College Life at York (CLAY)** program focuses on enhancing the student experience within the college system on the Keele campus.

**The York Engaged Students (YES)** program supports high profile contributions and engagement activities on campus that are focused on such things as peer mentoring, ambassadorship and advising.

■ <http://sfs.yorku.ca/employment>

# Career Center website demo

## Career Centre

### CAREER CENTRE

Students & New Grads

Alumni

Employers

York Community

Educational Recruiters

Co-op & Internships

**Online System**

Calendar

About the Career Centre

Contact Us

### CAREER CENTRE ONLINE SYSTEM

#### Students & New Grads



##### **STUDENT LOGIN**

If you are logging in for the first time, you will be asked to sign up for an account **before** you can register for any workshops or appointments.

#### Employers



##### **EMPLOYER LOGIN**

If you are logging in for the first time, click on "Register" to create a new account.

**Some of the 6,000  
employers recruiting at York**

Hydro One Inc.

AlliedTek Displays

State Farm

Cadillac Fairview Corporation

AMD

<http://careers.yorku.ca/>



# Recreational Opportunities



# Intramurals

York Torch: Intramural championship for which York Colleges compete.

Two Levels:

Tier 1 – Competitive Tier2- Recreational

Register through IMLeagues: <http://www.imleagues.com/>

More information (BAC): <https://www.bethunedragons.ca/athletics.html>

# YORK U LIONS

**INTRAMURAL ASSISTANT:** Provide administrative support with statistics, standings, rules, points, staff training and evaluation.

**INTRAMURAL CONVENOR:** Hiring, training and scheduling of officials, participant identification verification, player eligibility, field/court inspection and equipment inventory as well as appropriate incident management and reporting.

**INTRAMURAL OFFICIALS/REFEREES:** Ball Hockey, Basketball, Broomball, Cricket, Flag Football, Futsal, Handball, Innertube Basketball, Innertube Water Polo, Rugby, Soccer, Volleyball

Note: These positions are part of Work Study program

<http://www.yorkulions.ca/index.aspx>



# GUEST SPEAKERS

- Jenny Tang

York University Alumni - Majored in Biomedical Science

Currently Volunteering at Humber River Hospital

Has Volunteered in Multiple Professors' Lab

- Januja Jeyarajah

Currently a Masters Student in the Geography Department

York University Undergrad - Majored in Geography

Recently completed Honours Thesis

President of GESS@Y - 2016 to 2018

# SUMMARY

There are plenty of opportunities available

Use the time now to get your resume, cover letters and reference letters ready

Start searching for projects that interest you

Approach professors early to see if they have positions available

Get good grades!