



# 50 Years of Excellence in Graduate Education

graduate  
studies

YORK  
UNIVERSITÉ  
UNIVERSITY







## A Message from the Dean of Graduate Studies

The 2013-2014 academic year marks an exciting milestone: the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at York University. The final reading and approval of the motion by Senate to establish the Faculty happened on September 19, 1963, and York University's first graduate programs—Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, and Physics—began accepting students in 1964. York University's first graduate cohort was comprised of just 11 students, and we conferred our first doctoral degrees in 1967.



Graduate education at York University has grown by leaps and bounds during the last 50 years. From those 11 students and five programs, the Faculty of Graduate Studies has expanded to include close to 100 graduate programs and diplomas, more than 6000 students, and the largest body of active researchers on campus. York University was the first in Canada to offer a PhD in Women's Studies, to accept doctoral dissertations in aboriginal languages without translation, and to establish an international MBA degree. Our graduate students have gone on to careers including the head of the Canadian Space Agency, the leader of Canada's official opposition, the host of the Discovery Channel's Daily Planet, the President of Ryerson University, the chief planner for the City of Toronto, the CEO of Cineplex, and the leading researchers and teachers in every major field. Our graduate faculty members are recognized worldwide for their excellence in research and their commitment to education. Every endeavor undertaken under the umbrella of Graduate Studies is supported by administrators who are dedicated, talented, and focused on promoting the success of our students. In concert with students and faculty, the staff in Graduate Studies—within the Office of the Dean, and in our graduate programs—has been pivotal to the enhancement and delivery of graduate education at York University.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies continues to be a tremendously exciting place to study and to work. We are developing new graduate diplomas, significantly expanding graduate studies in engineering, and creating a new graduate student professional development curriculum. We are continuing to seek out new ways to support the development of Canada's brightest minds, and to cultivate the skills and intellect of those who will play such an integral part in Canada's future. This brief history is intended to celebrate the many achievements of Graduate Studies at York University during the last 50 years and our hope for the next 50. I look forward to seeing what those years have in store.

Yours truly,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Barbara Crow'.

Barbara Crow  
Interim Dean and Associate Vice-President, Graduate  
York University



# the 1960s



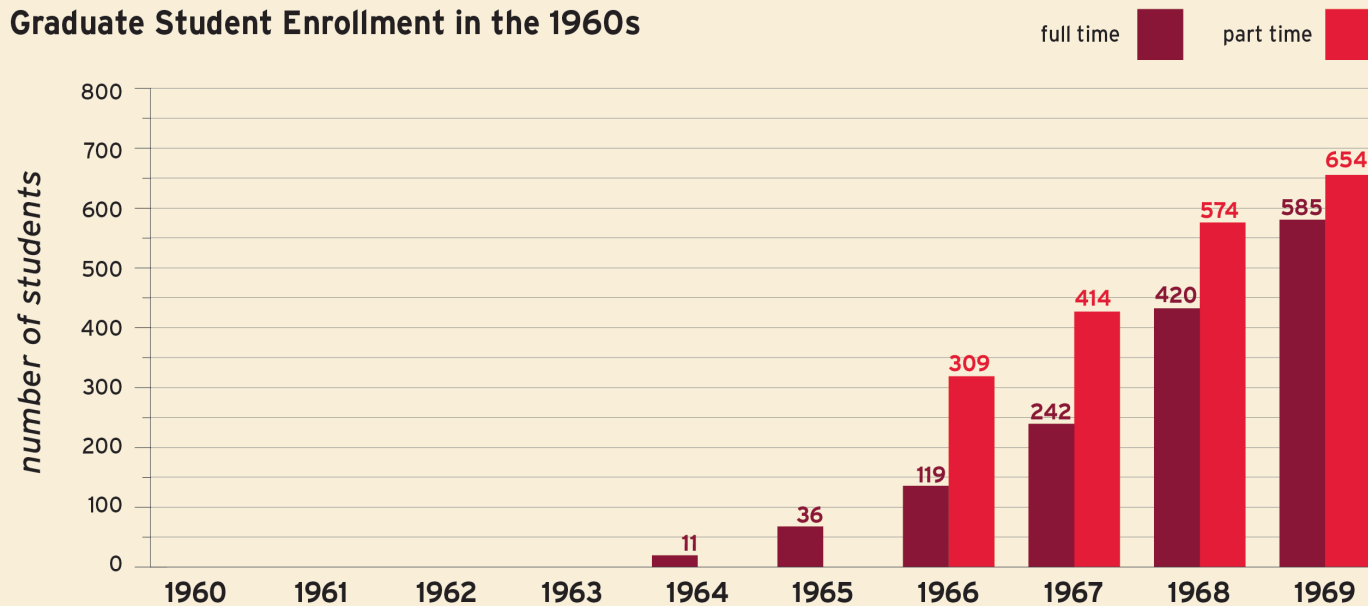
Graduate education has been established with care and thoroughness and we are now able to move forward...confident that graduate education at York has a widely recognized status.

- Murray Ross, *These Ten Years*

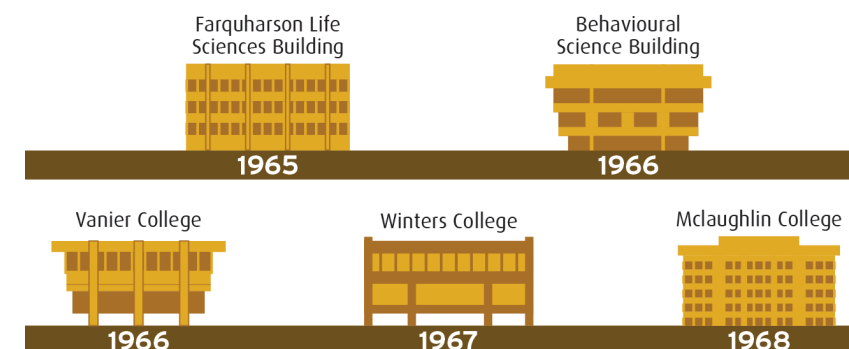
Murray Ross names the 1960s a “volatile decade”, certainly a difficult time to establish a new and thriving post-secondary institution. Yet York University, founded in 1959, managed to grow considerably during the sixties, establishing its Faculty of Graduate Studies early in the decade. In February of 1963, discussions began

in regards to creating graduate programs at York in order to encourage higher learning and attract a greater number of students. By Fall 1963, the establishment of FGS was approved and York worked quickly to build its new Faculty, adding more than fifteen programs in the first ten years of its existence.

## Graduate Student Enrollment in the 1960s



Opened in the 1960s, the Keele campus began to grow with the addition of several buildings still notable today.



Murray Ross and two students with a model of the proposed campus extension, 1960.

## Murray Ross *Founding President - York University*



Murray Ross was instrumental in the creation and implementation of graduate studies at York University. During his time as President, he advocated for the inclusion of graduate programs to attract the best and brightest learners. His reflections in *The*

*Way Must be Tried: Memoirs of a University Man* provide interesting insights into the history of York University and the development of its Faculty of Graduate Studies.

## New Programs Added in the 1960s

- MA/PhD – Psychology, Philosophy, Political Science, History, Sociology, English
- MSc – Biology
- MSc/PhD – Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Physics
- MBA – Business
- MA – Geography, Economics, Math
- MPA – Public Administration
- MEs – Environmental Studies
- LL/M/PhD – Law

York University opens its doors

1959

First graduate students enroll

1964

1963

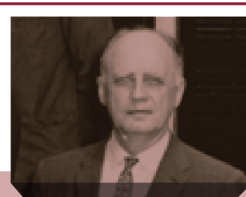
Faculty of Graduate Studies is approved

1964

First meeting of the FGS Council

Dean: Edgar McInnis

1965-66



First PhD is awarded (in psychology)

1967

1966-67

Dean: Mort Appley



Acting Dean: John Yolton

1967-68

1968-69

Acting Dean: Frank Elkin

Construction of Osgoode Hall

1969



1969-73

Dean: Michael Collie





# the 1970s

“York will go on being fresh, innovative, and somehow always right for its time.”

- Toronto Life Magazine, October 1970

Growth continued within York's graduate programs in the 1970s, with more programs being offered and continued increases in enrolment. The attitude of rebellion that had characterized the campus in the earlier decade was replaced by a generation of students concerned with self-discovery and establishing

a successful future for themselves. Early on, York's FGS adopted an interdisciplinary approach to graduate learning that continues to inform research and learning today. This emphasis on interdisciplinarity has made York a unique and sought-after institution for graduate studies.

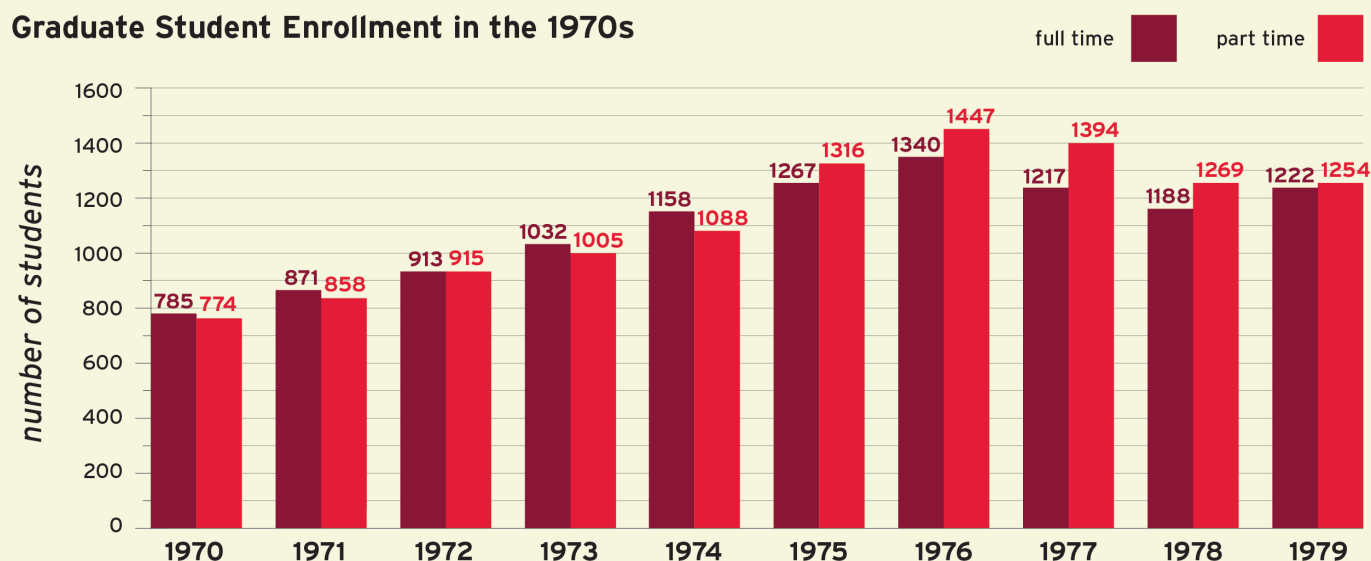
In 1975, there were approximately 40 100 full-time graduate students in Canada.

**Agricultural & Biological Sciences** 2 646  
**Education** 3 401  
**Engineering & Applied Sciences** 3 585  
**Fine & Applied Arts** 552  
**Health Professions** 5 867  
**Humanities** 6 795  
**Math & Physical Sciences** 4 023  
**Social Sciences** 12 227  
**Other** 1 012



Curtis Lecture Halls being constructed, 1970.

## Graduate Student Enrollment in the 1970s



## Diane Jenner

*Graduate Program Assistant, History;  
 Graduate Program Administrator, Communication & Culture*



As Program Assistant, Diane was essential in coordinating the graduate program in history and helping it run smoothly. During her 20 years with the History Department, Diane was a figure of encouragement for graduate students and continues to be for students in the Communication and Culture program.

She has guided students through their graduate degrees from the application process to convocation, all the while providing support, advising, and enthusiasm.

## New Programs Added in the 1970s

- MFA – Theatre, Visual Arts, Film
- MA – Social Anthropology, Music, Dance, Interdisciplinary Studies, Film
- MA/PhD – Social and Political Thought
- PhD – Biology, Administrative Studies, Economics
- MA/MSc – Physical Education (now Kinesiology & Health Sciences)
- MSc/PhD – Geography

Toronto Life Magazine calls York U “the happiest campus in Canada”

1970

Paul Anisef and Clifford Jansen of York U's Department of Sociology publish a study concerning student experiences in graduate school

1972

1971-72

**Acting Dean:**  
Richard Storr

1972

Jack Layton, former NDP leader, earns his MA in Political Science



York U now offers MA and PhD degrees in all major fields of study

1972

1973-81

**Dean:**  
Graham F. Reed



**Acting Dean:**  
Barry Argyle

1975-76



# the 1980s



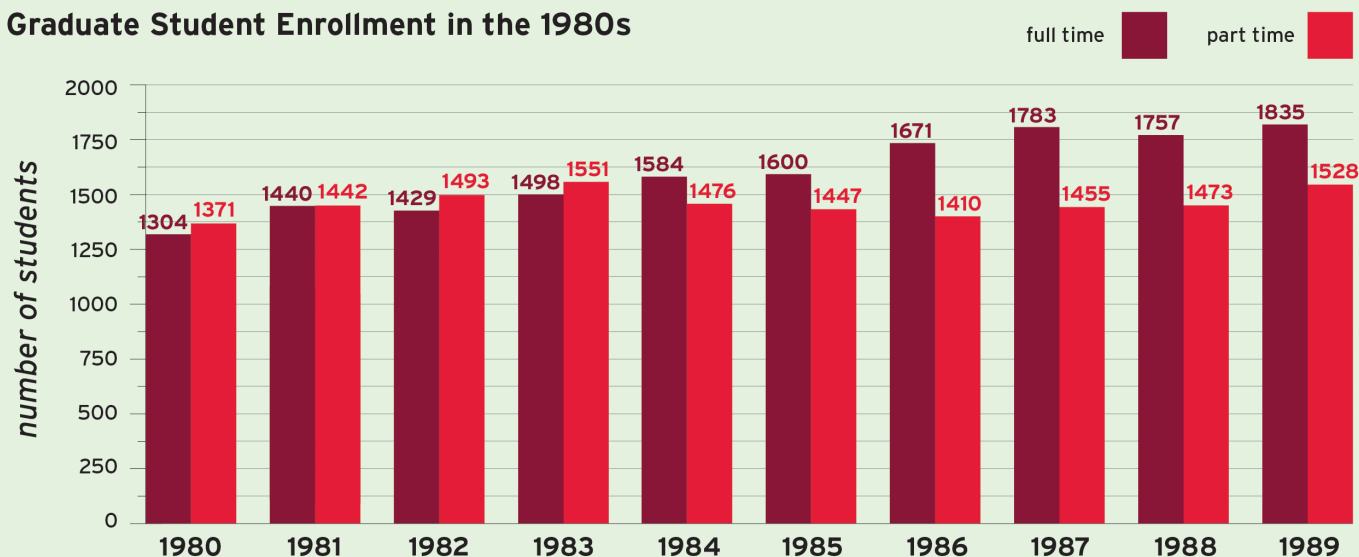
In universities generally, courses focusing on women and their concerns began to be taught in the very early 1970s. York was in the vanguard in developing this field.

- Michiel Horn, York University: The Way Must Be Tried

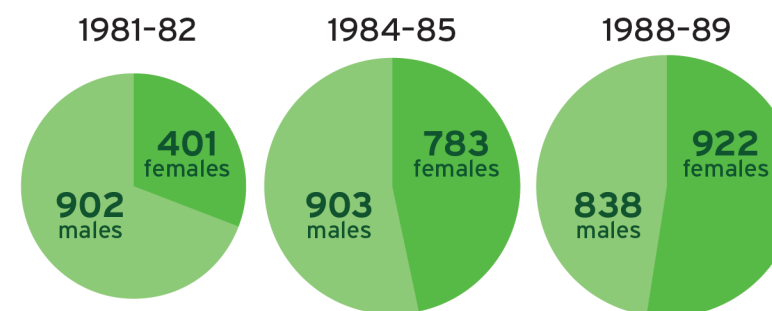
The 1980s were characterized by change amid the growing influence of feminism on campus and the reshaping of gender roles as the decade wore on. Unhappy with the lack of female instructors on campus, there was a widespread movement to work towards equality and many important developments made in the early part of the decade, including

movements supporting a degree-based Women's Studies program, which would launch early in the following decade. Another milestone of gender equality at York was the publication in 1988 of *Canadian Women: A History*, an influential work that included contributions from five female professors from York, including FGS Dean Sandra Pyke.

## Graduate Student Enrollment in the 1980s



## The number of female students enrolled in graduate studies at York greatly increased during the 1980s.



Clara Thomas and John Lennox following their work on *William Arthur Deacon: A Canadian Literary Life*, 1982.

## Sandra Pyke Dean of FGS 1987 - 1992



Sandra Pyke, the first female Dean of FGS, is an acclaimed feminist researcher.

Her work is regarded as extremely important in the development of feminist psychology. During her time at York, she established a graduate program in

Women's Studies, making York the first institution in Canada to offer such a program. She also participated in the influential Task Force on Women in Psychology and has been published in various international journals.

## New Programs Added in the 1980s

- MA - Art History
- MEd - Education
- MSc - Computer Science
- PhD - Math, Social Anthropology
- MSW - Social Work

Dean:  
David V.J. Bell

1981-87



Steve MacLean, former head of the CSA, earns his PhD in Physics

1983



1983

YUGSA, the York U Graduate Student Association, is officially initiated as a voice and advocate for graduate students

Wendy E. Alger wins York U's first Governor General's Gold Medal for academic excellence in graduate studies

1985

1985

"Equity for Women: The First Decade", an important document regarding the status of women at York U is published

1987-92

Dean:  
Sandra Pyke





# the 1990s

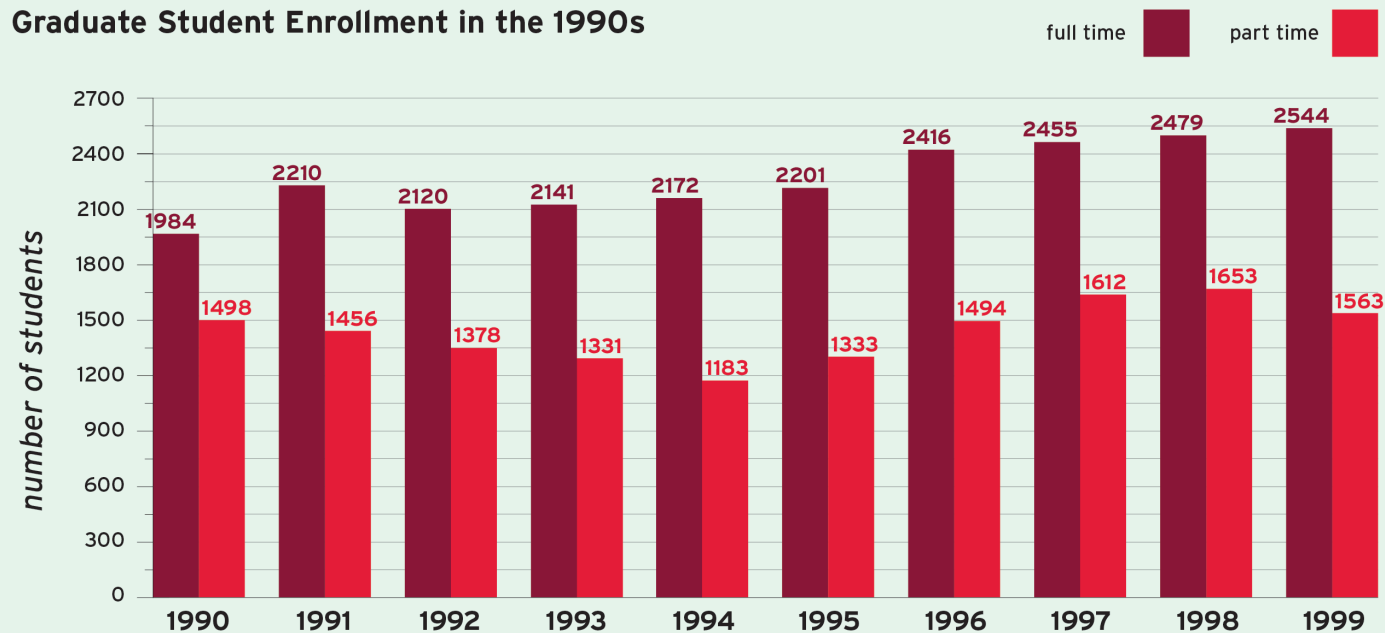
Student accomplishments are recognized around the world, but above all, it's the staff who work in Graduate Studies that really distinguish it.

- Diane Jenner, Graduate Program Coordinator

The 1990s brought immense growth to the physical environment on York's Keele Campus, including the building of many iconic structures characterizing today's campus such as Vari Hall and the Student Center. Alongside the campus, York's Faculty of Graduate Studies continued to

innovate and expand in many areas. Graduate programs became more prestigious as resources for research and financial aid improved and became more accessible to a greater number of graduate students.

## Graduate Student Enrollment in the 1990s



## The 1990s saw an increase in financial support available to York graduate students.

In 1999 alone, over \$5 388 098 was provided.



## David Leyton-Brown Dean of FGS



Dean for majority of the decade, David Leyton-Brown has also served as Executive Director for the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies. During his time as Dean, Professor Leyton-Brown helped to implement a shared responsibility model

for graduate studies and brought about innovations and expansions to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, including expansion of financial assistance and the introduction of the University Teaching Practicum for doctoral students, which provided funding and important career experience.



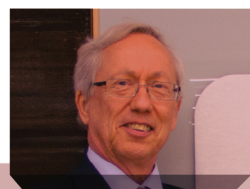
Opening of the York University bookstore, 1991.

## New Programs Added in the 1990s

- MA/PhD – Communication and Culture, Gender Feminist and Women's Studies
- PhD – Computer Science, Music, Environmental Studies, Education
- MA – Études Françaises, Linguistics, and Applied Linguistics, Translation Studies
- MSc – Kinesiology & Health Science

Dean:  
David Leyton-Brown

1992-99



1995

The Susan Mann Dissertation Scholarship is created in honour of York University's first female president

Christian Bök, author of Canada's best-selling poetry collection *Eunoia*, earns his PhD in English

1997

1997

The first doctorate in Women's Studies in Canada is awarded to Katherine Side

Dean:  
John W. Lennox

1999-2005





# the 2000s



Collegial participation marks Graduate Studies at every level and makes its well-being a case of “United We Stand.”

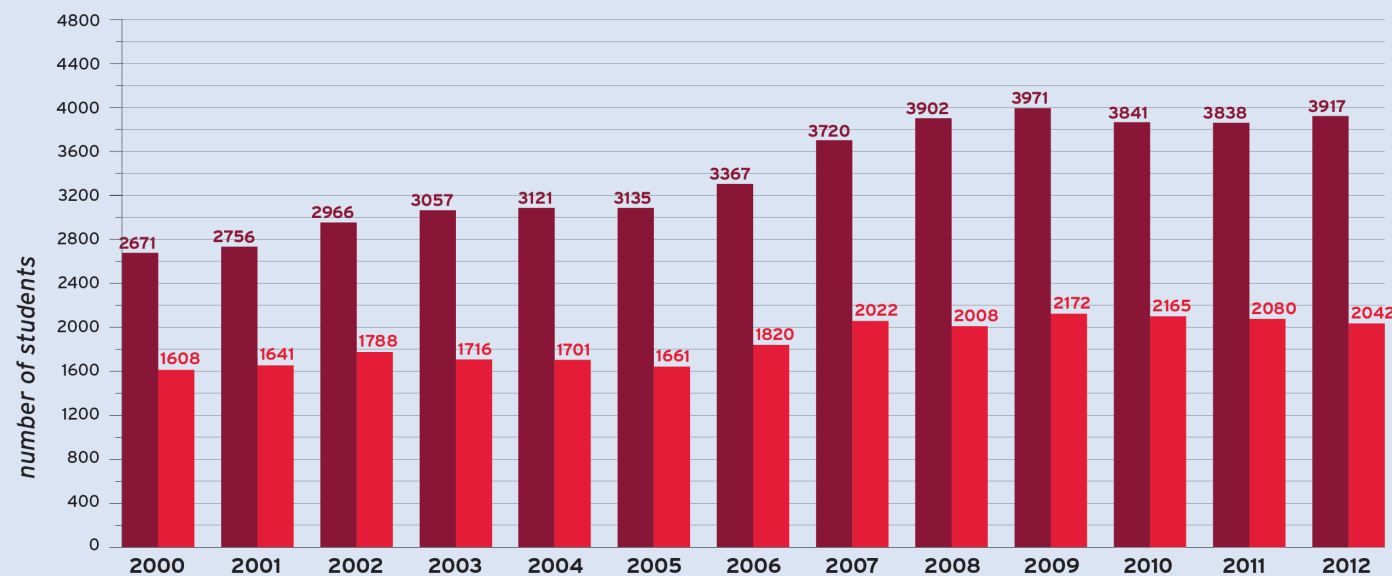
- John Lennox, Dean FGS 1999-2005

The first part of the new millennium, at York and across the province, has been characterized by significant growth in graduate program offerings, including the introduction of new degree types such as MHRM and MPIA. Today,

with over 100 degree and diploma programs, York is a centre of excellence for graduate studies, home to interesting and important research projects, dedicated faculty and ambitious graduate students.

Graduate Student Enrollment from 2000 to present day

full time part time



As of 2012, the Faculty of Graduate Studies has awarded **27 193** degrees.

10 481 MAs

3 627 PhDs

1 822 MScs

1 345 MEds

913 MFAs



The women of FGS on Red & White Day, 2013.

## New Programs Added in the 2000s

- MDes – Design
- MF – Finance
- MFA – Dance
- MScN – Nursing
- MASc – Computer Science and Engineering
- EMBA – Business Administration
- MA – Development Studies, Information Systems & Technology
- MDEM – Disaster & Emergency Management
- PhD – Art History & Visual Culture, Cinema and Media Studies, Dance Studies, Etudes Francophones, Kinesiology and Health Science, Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, Social Work, Visual Arts
- MSc – Business Analytics, Mathematics and Statistics
- MCI – Conference Interpreting
- MA/PhD – Critical Disability Studies, Health, Humanities, Theatre and Performance Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Socio-Legal Studies
- IMBA – International Business Administration
- MAcc – Accounting
- MFAC – Financial Accountability
- MHRM/PhD – Human Resources Management
- MPPAL – Public Policy and Administration
- MPIA – Public and International Affairs

## Wendy Taylor

Canada Research Chair,  
Experimental Particle Physics



Wendy Taylor is a Canada Research Chair in physics and the program director of the Graduate Program in Physics. Dr. Taylor studies the high-energy particle collisions at the CERN Large Hadron Collider and at the Fermilab Tevatron accelerator.

Her research aims to understand the smallest indivisible components of matter and the forces at play in their interactions. She is a member of the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, and supervises graduate students working on ATLAS experiments through York University's High Energy Physics Group.

Interim Dean:  
Ron Pearlman

2006-07

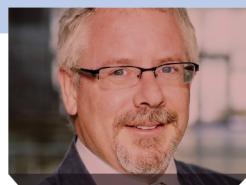
Isaak Osuoka, Jillian Ollivierre, and Yikun Zhao become the first Elia Scholars, York U's highest honour for graduate students

2008



2007-11

Dean:  
Douglas Peers



2009

Samantha A. Yamada becomes York U's first Vanier Scholar, Canada's highest doctoral award

Craig Kielburger, Co-Founder of Free The Children, earns his EMBA

2009

2010

Alfred Metallic defends the first PhD dissertation in Canada completed in an aboriginal language without translation

Dean:  
Allan C. Hutchinson

2011-2012



2012-

Interim Dean:  
Barbara Crow





# Thank you for sharing this occasion with us!

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Design by **Chloe Silver**  
Research by **Olivia Pellegrino**  
Special thanks to **Julia Holland** and the Clara Thomas Archives team.  
**FGS 50th Anniversary Committee:**  
Melissa Dalgleish, Christopher Douris, Sarah Hildebrandt, M. Michael Schiff, and Barb Wells.





celebrating

50

years of  
graduate studies