



theYorksSchool

YAA! Alumni Newsletter

February 2009

Drop by during your
February Reading Week.
We'd love to see you!

MENTOR PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

The York School is pleased to announce the launch of a **Mentor Programme** for all alumni. Connecting alumni with each other and with current York students, mentors and mentees can contact each other to create one-on-one mentor relationships for support and guidance toward career, education or life goals.

This opt-in programme features a Professional Development mentor programme launched on December 16, 2008 and a University Transition mentor programme launched in January 2009.

Registering for the Professional Development mentor programme gives alumni access to Industry groups such as Healthcare & Medicine, Engineering, Arts & Media plus many more! These group pages include links to useful websites, mentoring tips, plus areas to share photos and post messages.

The University Transition mentor programme will allow current York students in Grades 10 through 12 to search for alumni advice on the transition to university, college or options other than university such as apprenticeship or a Gap year.

Registration for this programme is now open, so don't hesitate – sign up today at www.yorksSchool.com!

"I have learned a lot since graduating, something I am sure that we have all done as we slowly make our way into the real world. I feel we could all benefit by becoming involved in this Mentor Programme and in establishing a strong network of York Alumni to grow into the future."
Ryan Cole '04, YAA Chair- Mentoring



1ST ANNUAL YAA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NIGHT

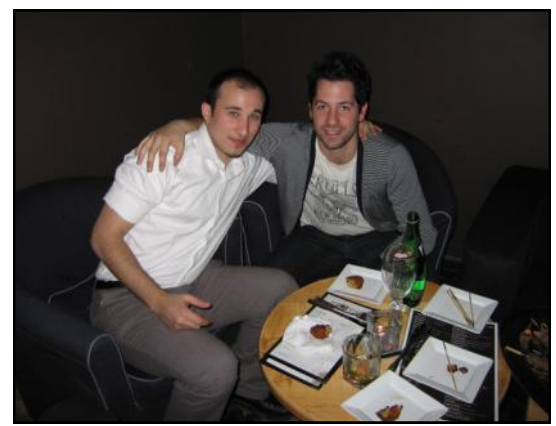
The first annual YAA Young Professionals event on December 16, 2008 brought together many familiar faces from the 2000-2004 York graduating classes.

Gathering at Insomnia Lounge in Toronto, the YAA Young Professionals also celebrated the launch of the York Mentor Programme.



Many thanks to Adil Dhalla '01 for chairing this event and also to Matt Greyson '04 for helping to make it a huge success.

Special mention to Adil and David Hamilton, Principal of the Upper School for sporting their York School blazers!



THE CLASS OF 2007 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED FOR THE FIRST TIME!



Shahnaz Fard, scholarship recipient with Robbie Lee '07 and Keon Maleki '07

“We must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is ripe to do right.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

During their final year, the Class of 2007 established a scholarship as their parting gift to future generations of York students. Inspired by class time spent learning of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his belief that everyone can make a difference in their community, they pledged to put King's ideas into action at The York School.

The Class of 2007 Scholarship was awarded for the first time at the Upper School Closing Ceremonies in June 2008 to Shahnaz Fard, who had just finished her first year at The York School in Grade 9.

2007 Grad Committee members, Robbie Lee and Keon Maleki returned to award the Scholarship on behalf of their class.

Robbie Lee '07, Myles Kaufman '07, Keon Maleki '07 and Alex McIntyre '07 spearheaded the fundraising efforts to create the Scholarship during their final year.

The vision at The York School is to expand the current scholarship programme to increase

the number of students on scholarships as well as increase the value of each award. Recognizing that there are varied talents, strengths and gifts that students possess, The Class of 2007 has enabled The York School to attract and retain the brightest and most well-rounded students from a variety of backgrounds.

If you would like to help grow this Scholarship further, please send your donations to The York School, Advancement Department– The Class of 2007, 1320 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4T 1X2.

MESSAGE FROM SHAHNAZ FARD, RECIPIENT OF THE CLASS OF 2007 SCHOLARSHIP & GR. 10 STUDENT

Shahnaz came to York from the Philippines in 2007. She recently joined the Model United Nations peacekeeping team and will be representing Niger this February at Berkeley. The York School is sending a total of 18 delegates this year. Visit www.bmun.net for more details.

Last year was my first year at York; it was a time when I wanted to settle in first, get to know the school, my classmates and teachers. The ICE program, in grade nine, was definitely a great opportunity for me to get to know my classmates more, and also acquaint myself with Canada's geography and history. As the new school year approached, and I felt more settled in, I wanted to increase my involvement with the school's activities. As a result, I am now part of the Community Service Committee, the Arts Committee and the Badminton Team and I was elected a Classroom Representative.

Even though it has already been seven months since then, I can still recall the closing ceremonies last year where Mr. Hamilton was introducing and briefly describing a scholarship. Whilst he was speaking, I remember thinking that it was unlikely for me to get this. However, when he called my name, it took some time for me to finally realize that I received the award, I was extremely surprised and deeply grateful. From the bottom of my heart, I am truly honoured and thankful to receive this scholarship from the 2007 graduates. It was and is such a morale boost to know that people believe I am deserving of an award like this.

“From the bottom of my heart, I am truly honoured and thankful to receive this scholarship from the 2007 graduates.”

Shahnaz Fard, Gr. 10



REGISTER NOW FOR TYS'S DRAGON BOAT TEAM

Join TYS staff, students and alumni for another exciting season of dragon boat racing! Last year's winning team swept the Premier Mixed Final M category of the Telus International Dragon Boat Festival.

Registration Fee: \$ 100- \$ 130 (depending on how many people sign up)

Time commitment: 5 – 8 practices on Tuesday nights

Race weekend: June 20 - 21, 2009

If you are interested, please reply sooner rather than later!

We need 20-22 people.



Contact Dan Taylor, Team Captain or Lois Lewis, First Mate for details:

dan_taylor@tys.on.ca or lois_lewis@tys.on.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE YAA CHAIR

Hello York Alums,

The York Alumni Association (YAA) is reaching out to you because we need your help. Since the first year of a graduating class in 2000, York School alums have always continued a close relationship with their peers, teachers and the community as a whole. With growing traditions such as Alumni Night in May or the teachers' campus visits, YAA has continued to grow in numbers and in strength. The first ever YAA Young Professionals event on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at Insomnia Lounge in Toronto brought together many Alumni from 2000-2004 who have graduated from University. And the Mentorship Programme has created a lot of interest. But we want to do more and we need your help.

In the coming months, Alumni are welcome to take part in the creation of the YAA Executive Committee. We hope to establish a set structure through the creation of a charter which will help YAA establish set roles, long and short term goals and create a more efficient way to bring our community closer together.

If you are interested in being part of the discussion process to help build YAA's future, please contact me at

matt_greyson@hotmail.com.

Happy New Year,

Matt Greyson '04, YAA Chair



Recognize these faces?

A visit from 2008 Alums over the holidays.

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

1. Sign in to YorkNet, The York School's new and improved website! With Alumni pages created for each grad year and the new Mentor Programme! Visit www.yorkschooll.com today!
Click on YorkNet. User name is first initial, last name & last 2 digits of your grad year, eg. jdoe04. Temporary password is 12345. Email alumni@tys.on.ca if you have any questions.
2. Keep us up-to-date on your email addresses so we can keep you in the loop! Email: alumni@tys.on.ca
3. Another great way to stay in touch with the School and each other is to join our Facebook group, "The York School Alumni Association (YAA)"

SAVE THE DATE!

Reconnect with your classmates
at Alumni Night 2009 on
Thursday, May 28
at The York School. More details soon!

VISITING TYS ALUMS AT QUEEN'S & UWO

In November, Ms. Lister, Mr. Jones and Mr. Hanna once again joined the ever-boisterous Queen's crowd for a quality evening at the Kingston Brewing Company

In January, Lister & Hanna were at it again, joined this time by Mr. Hamilton, as they made the cold trek down to TJ Baxter's in London to visit TYS alum from UWO and U of Guelph.

THE WORD FROM LISTER

The Queen's branch of the YAA was as entertaining as always. Our visit in November to the Kingston Brew Pub brought out the faithful plus some new faces from York 08 who are quickly learning TYS road trip protocols! Enjoy the pics!

The first road trip west to UWO in 5 years was...AWESOME!! York grads from '06 to '08 convened at TJ Baxter's and enjoyed a super evening of pub grub, "pass the napkin" and general convivial socializing with Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Hanna and Ms. Lister. Glad we could all reconnect!



"THANK YOU!

For everything! This was great—seriously."

♡ Betsy (Heller) '08

P.S. Next time come to Guelph!



"WOOT THE YORK SCHOOL! Free food, free beer! Best high school ever! Nothing will ever beat The York School experience. Thank you all so much for everything you've done. This better be a tradition."

♡ Madison Oliver '08

CHALLENGE WEEK 2009!

Grade 7-10 students will, once again reach beyond themselves and the classroom the week of May 4-8, 2009.

This year we will be running 18 different trips to different locations in Toronto and across Canada. We always need extra skilled hands to help make the learning experience a special one.

If you are interested in helping support students on the Grade 7 & 8 trips which occur during regular school hours within the GTA, please contact Sean Mitchell, Director of Student Life at sean_mitchell@tys.on.ca or 416.926.1325 ext. 1208. Themes include outdoor pursuits, sewing, cooking, guitar, dance, magic, improv, service, and circus arts.

VOLUNTEER AT CAMP OCHIGEAS

Continue the Ooch-A-Thon spirit and join many fellow alumni who have shared their time and talents with children living with cancer. By volunteering at Ooch you will not only make a difference in a child's life but also become part of a dynamic team, have opportunities to learn, share your skills and make new friends.

Applications to volunteer this summer are available online at www.ooch.org.



SPOTTED AT THE YORK SCHOOL!

Alumna Shana Valo '03 assisted the TYS Admission team during the busy holiday season.

Shana led school tours for prospective parents before heading off to prepare for nursing school.

Thanks, Shana and good luck at school!