A WIN-WIN-WIN

Three Schulich alumni receive York University’s prestigious Bryden Alumni Awards

Colleen Johnston (BBA ’82)
Pictured top
A distinguished business leader, Colleen Johnston has won the Bryden Award for Outstanding Achievement. Colleen is a member of Schulich’s Dean’s Advisory Council, a recipient of a Schulich Alumni Recognition Award for Outstanding Public Contribution, a prolific speaker at key Schulich events and a generous major donor.

Abdullah Merei (MBA ’15)
Pictured centre
Abdullah Merei lives up to his Bryden One to Watch Award. A trailblazer with a passion for technology, Abdullah currently serves as R&D Director at Evertz Microsystems. A student mentor, leader and philanthropist, Abdullah graduated from Schulich with an MBA specializing in Strategic and Marketing Management.

J. Mark Lievonen, CM (BBA ’79, MBA ’87, Hon LLD ’15)
Pictured bottom
Highly regarded in the biopharmaceutical industry, J. Mark Lievonen has won the Bryden Award for Outstanding Contribution. Mark is a member of Schulich’s Dean’s Advisory Council, a recipient of a Schulich Alumni Recognition Award for Outstanding Public Contribution and a generous major donor.

Congratulations!
DONOR IMPACT STORY

“For me, it’s not giving back but paying it forward. Many of us received bursaries, awards or scholarships, typically funded by alumni, and I feel it’s only fitting that we return the favour for the next generation,” stated Jared Kligerman (MBA ‘11), President of The Think Tank.

This past March, Jared joined the Dean’s Society, Schulich’s premier leadership giving society, and he also established the Jared Kligerman MBA/IMBA Award, which aims to help graduating MBA/IMBA students get a jump-start in their career after graduation. Dean Horváth presented the award to the inaugural recipient, Ace Mirali (MBA ‘17), at the Convocation breakfast this past summer.

“I was motivated to join the Dean’s Society by a fellow alumnus while we were discussing the best ways to network and connect with business leaders in Toronto. Not only does joining provide high-value networking opportunities, being able to give back really appealed to me because I received bursaries during my time at Schulich,” stated Jared.

Jared calls Schulich “the secret sauce” in his career, since it led to multi-year full-time employment and connected him with amazing people, one of whom provided him with an opportunity to become a business partner in a new industry. “Schulich was such a critical part of my development, so when it became feasible for me to contribute, it was at the top of my list. I would like to extend the same helping hand that was extended to me when I was a student,” Jared concluded.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“My Kellogg-Schulich EMBA helped me become the leader I am today. Serendipitously, every class I took had a direct impact on my work, be it strategy, finance, operations, marketing, even statistics,” said Niluka Kottemoda, who graduated with an EMBA from Schulich in October.

Recently named Vice President, Merchandising Innovation & Development at Sobeys, Niluka started her career with Sobeys as Director of Procurement Services in 2010 and she has progressively expanded her portfolio of executive roles, which also includes Merchandising and Process Integration and Business Development. “The best part of my new job is my team. I have the deepest respect for their knowledge and great admiration for each of them as people,” said Niluka.

Niluka’s passion for people and knowledge inspired her to establish the Dream Chaser Change Maker Award at Schulich, which aims to make education more accessible in Canada and around the world. In Niluka’s words, “An education allows you to open your heart and mind to doing things differently, it teaches you new ways of viewing problems, it allows you to disagree yet still respect each other, and it enlightens you with the recognition that diversity makes a team stronger and more effective every time.”
WHAT YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE

Schulich Annual Fund 2017–2018 Campaign
Annual Fund gifts of any size go toward Schulich’s $50 million Leading Change campaign.

Key funding areas

![Research Excellence](image1.png)

*Research Excellence*
Gifts of $250 – $500
Supporting groundbreaking and innovative research at Schulich.

![Program Expansion & Innovation](image2.png)

*Program Expansion & Innovation*

![Student Success](image3.png)

*Student Success*
Gifts of $500 – $1,000
Support our students so that they can become world leaders. Help provide new alumni-funded bursaries for students who need financial support.

![Life-changing Learning Experiences](image4.png)

*Life-changing Learning Experiences*
Gifts of $1,000 – $2,500
Help deliver life-changing learning experiences for our students as they participate and succeed in global and local case competitions, as well as in the National MBA Games.

![Library Renewal & Building Enhancements](image5.png)

*Library Renewal & Building Enhancements*
Gifts of $2,500 – $5,000
Help breathe new life into our library and keep improving the current building! Continuous enhancements and developments ensure that our students get the most from their learning experience.

![Program Expansion & Innovation](image6.png)

*Program Expansion & Innovation*
Gifts of $5,000+
Help launch new and innovative Masters-level specializations, such as our Master of Marketing and Master of Supply Chain Management programs that will keep the School ahead of the curve.

SUPPORT THE SCHULICH ANNUAL FUND

Let’s come together in supporting Leading Change!

Your gift to the Annual Fund is a gift toward Leading Change – Schulich’s most comprehensive alumni engagement and fundraising campaign to date.

When you make a gift to Leading Change, you join an international community of Schulich alumni donors who are part of a proud Schulich tradition of giving back. Your gift, directed to the School’s Highest Priorities or Student Financial Aid, ensures students can have the most innovative and rewarding experiences at the School. Through investments in the development of new programs, outside-the-classroom student learning opportunities, continuous enhancement of student learning spaces, world-class research, community partnerships, outreach initiatives and support for our students so that they can become world leaders, your Annual Fund gift will keep the School ahead of the curve.

Join us as we lay the foundation for the future and make our school bigger, bolder and better than ever.

Give today at supportschulichannualfund.ca

DONATE TODAY!
supportschulichannualfund.ca
LEADING CHANGE

Your gift to the Annual Fund is a gift toward Leading Change–Schulich’s most comprehensive alumni engagement and fundraising campaign to date.

Gifts of any size to the Leading Change campaign will impact Schulich’s ability to:

- **FOSTER**
  an ideal environment for faculty, visiting scholars, and corporate and government leaders, as well as students and other stakeholders, to collaborate in pursuit of new research discoveries.

- **CONNECT**
  students, faculty and alumni.

- **ACCOMMODATE**
  more students, new programs and innovative specializations.

- **INTRODUCE**
  new models of collaborative learning.

- **ENSURE**
  Schulich’s learning and research spaces continue to reflect our global ranking and reputation as one of the best business schools in the world.

For more information, visit: [schulichleadingchange.ca](http://schulichleadingchange.ca)

or contact Ellinore Gomez,
Development and Alumni Relations
Tel: +1 (416) 736-5648
E-mail: advancement@schulich.yorku.ca

ALUMNI IN ACTION

MBA and marriage: taking commitment to the next level

As they ran from MBA classes and 601 meetings to book caterers and send out invitations, things could not have been more hectic for classmates (and engaged couple) Dan and Nicole Simunac (MBAs ’06) while they were students at Schulich. “We really challenged ourselves, planning a wedding while pursuing our MBAs at the same time,” said Dan.

Dan started his MBA program in January 2003 on a part-time basis while working full-time. Nicole started her MBA in January 2004 as a full-time student. The couple graduated in June 2006, one year after they got married.

Fast forward to 2017, and Dan and Nicole are both enjoying successful careers and an active family life.

Dan currently serves as Country Head at Raymond James Bank, Canada, one of North America’s leading independent full-service investment dealers. “My MBA years were very formative for my career and for who I am as a person – that period taught me about discipline, perseverance and time management.” Dan was honoured with the Executive of the Year Award by the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce in 2014. Next spring, Dan will serve as Organizing Chair of the Tournament of Stars NBA Celebrity Basketball Event in support of rebuilding West Park Hospital.

While Dan continues to expand his portfolio of corporate positions, Nicole is carving her niche in event management. After founding her own boutique agency Events & Co. in 2014, Nicole now produces events for a diverse clientele that includes Microsoft, Cidel Wealth Management and the Sundance Film Festival. “Prior to doing an MBA, I worked in pharmaceuticals, and the MBA gave me practical teachings to pivot towards a totally new career path. Aside from giving me the confidence to start my own business, many of my MBA classmates are part of my business network and have become lifelong friends,” said Nicole.

Grateful for their Schulich education and experience, Dan and Nicole joined the Dean’s Society and established the Daniel & Nicole Simunac “Most Well-Rounded” MBA/IMBA Award to support Schulich students. “Our motivation for giving back lies in our working-class upbringing and seeing that education is the great equalizer in our society – if you work hard and are knowledgeable, you become valuable and will ascend in your career,” said Dan.

Giving back to a place where they shared memories and overcame challenges together – from their first class to their engagement, from saying “I do” to graduating with MBAs – Dan and Nicole’s Schulich journey has come full circle.

THANK YOU

Schulich Annual Fund donors!

You made a tremendous difference in the lives of Schulich students last year – thank you! It is because of your support that Schulich continues to provide exceptional education and experience to our students.

Please check out our 2016–2017 Annual Fund Impact Report at [schulich.yorku.ca/donors/annual-fund](http://schulich.yorku.ca/donors/annual-fund)