A PLACE FOR ALL:
Living, Learning and Building Community

Monday, April 29, 2013
4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Tribute Recital Hall
Accolade East Building
York University

Join us as we celebrate our 2012-2013 NOISE Fellows and share lessons from their collaborative social action projects!

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Rahul Bhardwaj, President and CEO
Toronto Community Foundation

LIVE PERFORMANCES
BBOYS and Samba Kidz

FOOD, FUN AND LOTS MORE!

NOISE
NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATIVE
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

NOISE HAS TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY & HOW ANYONE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE MEANINGFUL SOCIAL CHANGE. ~ BSW

IF I COULD CHANGE SOMETHING IT WOULD BE TO BRING RIVAL COMMUNITIES TOGETHER. ~ GR. 9

MY EXPERIENCE WITH NOISE IS THAT IT FEELS LIKE A SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMP! IT'S A GOOD LEARNING OPPORTUNITY. ~ GA

I AM NOISE FELLOW BECAUSE I AM A BIG CONTRIBUTOR TO COMMUNAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL INNOVATION. ~ GR. 12

I WOULD SUM UP MY EXPERIENCE OF THE NOISE PROGRAM AS "WOW". ~ BSW

I AM A NOISE FELLOW BECAUSE I WANT MY VOICE HEARD. ~ GR. 9

IT'S BEEN A REWARDING EXPERIENCE; I'VE ENJOYED MEETING MY FELLOWS, MAKING CONNECTIONS AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER. ~GA

THE NOISE PROGRAM HAS MADE ME REALIZE THAT THE POWER OF SELF-AWARENESS ALWAYS BRINGS A GREATER IMPACT. ~ BSW

AGENDA

4:30 – 5:00	**Opening Reception** CIBC Lobby, Accolade East Building Registration, Refreshments, and Social Action Displays
5:00 – 5:15	**Performance** BBOYS: Patrick Lum, Weidong Yuan, and Weiming Yuan
5:15 - 5:22	**Welcome** Martin Singer, Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Barbara Heron, Director, School of Social Work Dr. Monday Gala, Principal, C.W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute
5:22 – 5:30	**Our NOISE Story** Talisha Ramsaroop, Youth Research Assistant NOISE Project
5:30 – 5:50	**Keynote Address** *Toronto's Vital Signs – Building a Happy City* Rahul K. Bhardwaj, President and CEO Toronto Community Foundation
5:50 – 6:30	**Social Action Presentations: Part One**
6:30 – 6:45	**Performance** Samba Kids
6:45 – 7:25	**Social Action Presentations: Part Two**
7:25 – 7:30	**Closing** Hana Gartner - Former Host, The Fifth Estate, CBC
7:30 – 8:00	**Closing Reception** CIBC Lobby, Accolade East Building Refreshments, Social Action Projects Displays, Networking

Rahul K. Bhardwaj
President and CEO, Toronto Community Foundation
Toronto's Vital Signs - Building a "Happy" City

In his role as the President & CEO of the Toronto Community Foundation, Rahul Bhardwaj has been working to engage philanthropy to improve the quality of life in Toronto. Formerly a corporate lawyer with a leading Canadian law firm, he was also Vice President of the Toronto 2008 Olympic Bid.

As part of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Fiscal review panel in 2008, Rahul was involved in identifying efficiencies for the City of Toronto. A year later the Province of Ontario appointed him to the Board of Metrolinx, an organization developing and implementing an overall transit strategy for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. More recently, Rahul was Chair of the 2012 Ontario Summer Games, the first multi-sport games to be held in Toronto. He is the past Chair of the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival and his board commitments, past and present, include Upper Canada College, George Brown College, Community Foundations of Canada, Stratford Festival of Canada and United Way Toronto, among others.

In 2012, Rahul's commitment to city building was recognized as he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and was named one of "The 50 Most Influential" people in the city by *Toronto Life* magazine. His vision for Toronto has made him a popular presenter and speaker, particularly on issues relating to the city, community and leadership as well as Toronto's Vital Signs®. Rahul is a frequent contributor on TV, radio, and print in Toronto, and has been featured on CBC News Network, and internationally on CNN and China's National Daily News.

Kizzy Bedeau
Service Integration & Development Leader
Academic Services and Student Affairs
George Brown College

Kizzy Bedeau is known for her infectious smile, flare, and charisma. She brings a young and fresh perspective to her leadership roles and coaching practice. Holding several progressive leadership positions from a young age, Kizzy is the Operations & Research Manager of the Community Partnerships Office at George Brown College, responsible for the oversight of research and evaluation initiatives on community, social, and human rights issues. She also provides operational and strategic leadership to the Office to identify and implement multi-stakeholder partnerships that further its educational access mandate. She is currently on a year's secondment as the Service Integration and Development Leader for the college's Academic Services and Student Affairs Division. In this role, she provides leadership in the area of divisional service effectiveness, integration and change management to support wider college goals and strategies.

Kizzy is committed to community and economic development through education and has an in-depth understanding of the barriers to education that non-traditional students face. She is a Certified Professional Coach (CPC), where she draws on her experience as a sociology instructor and leader to develop and deliver numerous training workshops on employment re-training, pathways to post-secondary education, and motivation.

Kizzy has a BA in Sociology from York University in Toronto, MA in Sociology from University of Windsor, and graduated as a CPC from the Fowler Wainwright International Institute of Professional Coaching.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2012 – 2013 NOISE COMMUNITY!

YOUTH FELLOWS
Emery Collegiate Institute Students

Grade 9
Deopaul Baneswari
Howayne Blackwood
Farad Boodhoo
Joshua Chadee
Disha Chaterjee
Brion Clarke
Francis Duodu
Timothy Fagu
Kevin Hemmings
Andy Ho
Alia Hoosein
Dillan Joseph
Jimmy LY
Mona Mahant
Tasheka Mitchell
Javon Myers
Randy Ramlal
Alex Than
Rohan Thomas
Cameron Williams-Young

Grade 12
Rumna Amir
Afaq Ansari
Laila Ansari
Daniel Coley
Cindy Duong
Halima Farah
Alexis Graham-Donalds
Istahil Ismail
Omar Khan
Ladan Kite
Jenny Lam

Sadia Nur
Rebecca Persaud
Radhika Prashar
Faisal Qureshi
Aneet Sahota
Supriya Singh
Kiranjot Singh
Avneet Singh

SOCIAL WORK STUDENT FELLOWS
School Of Social Work, York University

BSW Fellows
Sevgi Arslan
Keresa Bailey
Sarah Bashir
Melissa Bos
Julian Bubb
Hatice Celik
Sikha Dube
Jennetta Edwards
Sarah Embaye
Rachel Hilton
Tianna Makhurane-Clunis
Aliah Moakha
Sarah Myers
Kathryn Noonan
Katarina Puljak
Guillermo Reluz
Traian Rusu
Samantha Satya-Charan
Gloria Segovia
Irina Shestakova
Rachel Shin
Nayanthi Wijesuriya
Munira Yusuf

MSW Fellows
Merona Abbas
Eden Abraham
Natasha Brien
Chiara Padovani
Adam Rop
Kelly West

SOCIAL WORK ALUM FELLOWS
Zenia Castanos
 // MSW, 2009, Sistering; A Woman's Place

Kate Francombe Pridham
 // MSW, 2012, St. Michael's Hospital, Centre
    for Research on Inner City Health

Helen Leung
 // MSW, 2009, COMPASS (Community
    Partners with Schools)

Ibitoru Miadonye
 // MSW, 2008, Governement of Ontario

Dena Rabinowich
 // BSW, 2006, The Look at My Life Project
Cheyanne Ratnam
 // BSW, 2012, Office of the Provincial
    Advocate for Children and Youth

Erinn Michele Treff
 // MSW, 2008, University of Toronto

Carol Wade
 // MSW, 1998, Catholic Children's Aid Society
    of Toronto

POD FACILITATORS
MSW Graduate Assistants
Janelle Anderson
Miriam Charendoff
Euna Heo
Christina Hyland
Sarah MacDonald
Jessamyn Needham
Anna Simone Tennent-Riddell
Shannon Vassos
Erik Wexler

FACULTY ADVISERS
School Of Social Work
Harjeet Badwall - Assistant Professor
Chris Chapman - Assistant Professor
Luann Good Gingrich - Associate Professor
Wilburn Hayden - Professor
Tara LaRose - Lecturer
Maria Liegghio - Lecturer
Grant Macdonald - Associate Professor
Narda Razack - Associate Professor and
Associate Dean (External), LA&PS

COMMUNITY ACTION PODS

ACTIION : ARTS & CULTURE TRANSFORMING IDEAS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

This pod will develop and implement an arts and culture youth-led workshop in which each student will lead an element of the workshop related to what is important in his/her life. They hope to encourage youth to participate, facilitating civic engagement, addressing the gap between rich and poor, encouraging youth who don't really get involved to participate, and motivating youth to create change in their neighbourhood by showcasing their talent.

MEMBERS: Dena, Dillan, Keresa, Miriam, Munira, Rebecca, Supriya, Tara

#NOISEFAM: JANE/FINCH ON-STAGE!

This pod will seek to unite the Jane & Finch community through an event showcasing community members talents in the arts and raising awareness on the resources available in the community. They hope to create a sense of belongingness; debunk stereotypes of the Jane/Finch; re-image and highlight the positives of the community; and connect people with resources.

MEMBERS: Afaq, Andy, Daniel, Hatice, Janelle, Laila, Luann, Sarah, Sikha, Traian, Zenia

COMMUNITY ACTION PODS

D4C: DRIBBLE FOR CHANGE

Basketball is a way to enhance community involvement and strengthen relationships between different neighborhoods in Jane/Finch. The reason why this project is important to this pod is because it allows Jane/Finch to open up a dialogue with surrounding communities and address broader contexts and issues, including safety, protection, community, unity, justice, social change, diminishing the stereotypes, gaining leadership experiences, and becoming a better influence on an another individual.

MEMBERS: Brion, Cheyanne, Chiara, Erik, Harjeet, Howayne, Istahil, Javon, Jimmy, Ladan, Rachel, Sevgi

FRESH: FRIENDS RE-FRAMING EMERY STUDENTS HAPPILY

This pod will design and implement a mentorship program offered to grade nine students by grade twelve students, aiming to help with the transition into high school and connecting students to both each other and to the school. Students are matched based on similar interests/hobbies, and come together to celebrate once a month.

MEMBERS: Adam, Chris, Christina, Francis, Helen, Kelly, Melissa, Radhika, Randy, Rumna, Samantha, Timothy

COMMUNITY ACTION PODS

THE CREATORS: #NOISECAST

This pod will create a newscast to show a different side of the news in the Jane/Finch community - to get a different perspective across and change the dialogue. The negative representation of Jane/Finch affects people's lives. Youth will be able to pursue greater things in life when surrounded by positive messages.

MEMBERS: Aneet, Avneet, Bashir, Carol, Deopaul, Faisal, Grant, Nayanthi, Jessamyn, Sadia, Sarah, Tasheka

CRAG : CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP

This pod will investigate and research legislation that impairs the liberty and/or security of community members. They hope to implement the family systems approach and an anti-oppressive perspective to facilitate a broader awareness of the impact of Bill C-43 (An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act). If this bill comes into effect, it will further criminalize, marginalize, and oppress racialized and immigrant youth in an over-policed neighbourhood.

MEMBERS: Erinn Michele, Euna, Gloria, Merona, Mona, Narda, Natasha, Tianna

COMMUNITY ACTION PODS

SAFER: SECURITY, ACTION, FREEDOM, EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS

This pod wants to do a fundraiser for an organization that helps create safe and inclusive environments for youth. They would like to support an organization that is working to support youth, and help to build relationships in the community, as relationships are important to promoting safety.

MEMBERS: Alia, Anna Simone, Cindy, Irina, Jennetta, Jenny, Kate, Maria, Omar, Rohan, Rachel

TEAM YOLO: YOUTH OVERCOMING LIFE'S OBSTACLES

As a collective, this pod will strive to make Emery C.I. a more welcoming environment. This will increase school spirit and encourage student engagement. This project is important to pod members because it will allow students to feel safe, give them confidence, and make them proud. It encourages parents to send their children to Emery, and also allows the students to have a better learning environment, changing the way students and parents see the school in general.

MEMBERS: Alex, Alexis, Aliah, Cameron, Disha, Eden, Farad, Guillermo, Halima, Ibitoru, Joshua, Julian, Katarina, Kathryn, Kevin, Kiranjot, Sarah, Shannon, Wilburn

IMAGINE NOISE

The *New Opportunities for Innovative Student Engagement (NOISE)* project is a research-informed model for enhancing the academic success of youth from the Jane/Finch community and York University Social Work students through engaged learning opportunities that energize and support their civic engagement and psycho-social well-being. Jane/Finch youth fellows and Social Work student fellows work together in community action pods on social action projects relevant to contemporary socio-political-economic conditions in the Jane/Finch community.

Why Make NOISE for Jane/Finch youth and Social Work Students?

Youth in priority neighborhoods have a lower rate of post-secondary education compared to youth in the rest of the City of Toronto. Research shows that youth who participate in engaged learning opportunities such as NOISE – connecting what they are learning in the classroom to community action – will experience better academic results, increased enjoyment of learning, and will be more likely to pursue post-secondary opportunities.

NOISE provides youth fellows with the opportunity to build networks with other youth, and with York University students, faculty and alumni; increase their self-esteem and belief in their ability to make change; and explore university or college campuses and requirements. NOISE sees education as an intervention that allows youth to imagine new possibilities.

NOISE provides Social Work student fellows with the opportunity to work collaboratively with other students, faculty and alumni, and with youth; to build bridges between theory and practice, grounding academic concepts in real-world contexts; and earn volunteer hours or course credits.

BENEFITS OF A NOISE FELLOWSHIP

Relationships, **knowledge**, and **power** are at the heart of all social change. By bringing together youth, Social Work students, faculty and alumni, NOISE provides fellows with the chance to build relationships, develop **knowledge** of unjust and oppressive experiences and systems, and be part of meaningful change across **differences** of age and experience. NOISE also provide an excellent opportunity for York's undergraduate and graduate students and alumni to work collaboratively with local youth on projects that allow them to ground academic concepts in real-world contexts.

- **YOUTH FELLOWS** build networks with other youth, and with York University students, faculty and alumni; increase their self-esteem and belief in their ability to make change; imagine new possibilities; explore university or college campuses and requirements.

- **SOCIAL WORK STUDENT FELLOWS** work collaboratively with other York University students, faculty and alumni, and with youth to complete a social action project that addresses community issues; build bridges between theory and practice, grounding academic concepts in real-world contexts; earn volunteer hours or course credits.

- **SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI FELLOWS** stay connected to the School of Social Work; build connections with community members, current students, professional colleagues, and faculty members; participate in social action projects for social change; enhance their understanding of youth and urban issues. Alumni bring their knowledge of York's critical approach to social work, informed by a commitment to human rights, social justice, and anti-oppression, to NOISE, thereby building a stronger School of Social Work and Jane/Finch community.

What Is the Academic Component Of NOISE?

NOISE youth fellows earn the 40 hours of community service required for their Ontario Secondary School Diploma through their participation in the social action projects. NOISE Social Work fellows (first year BSW students) earn the 40 hours of volunteer service required for AP/SOWK 1010.

NOISE Social Work fellows (BSW) complete a directed reading course: AP/SOWK 4210 – Critical Youth Work: A Praxis Experience In Theory, Practice, And Policy. NOISE Graduate Assistants (MSW) complete a directed reading course: GS/SOWK 5970 – Critical Youth Work: A Praxis Experience In Theory, Practice, Policy, And Research.

What is the Experiential Component of NOISE?

The NOISE fellows learn about community-based research and use these skills to engage in reflective, hands-on social action projects in the Jane/Finch community to address one of six issue areas outlined in Toronto's Vital Signs Report – Learning; Arts and Culture; Environment; Safety; Gap Between Rich and Poor; and Leadership, Civic Engagement, and Belonging.

The social action projects ground academic concepts in real-world contexts and allow the youth and students to learn from each other and from alumni and faculty. These social action opportunities differ from traditional service learning projects in which students are conceptualized as the 'volunteers' and youth as 'recipients' thereby negating the strengths that each group possesses..

NOISE prioritizes multidirectional learning and accountability among all participants in the pod and recognizes that youth, students, alumni, and faculty all contribute important skills and experiences and mutually benefit from their multidirectional relationships. Each pod is facilitated by an MSW Graduate Assistant and includes a Social Work alum fellow and a faculty adviser.

KEY COMPONENTS OF NOISE

In August 2012, in partnership with the Assets Coming Together for Youth research project, NOISE hosted a Summer Learning Retreat (SLR) at York University for youth fellows. The SLR prepares them for their Fall and Winter pod work by providing engaged learning opportunities that focus on research methods, collaborative practices, leadership, and team-building.

In August 2013, the SLR will be opened to Social Work student fellows. At the end of the SLR, pods will be formed. Each pod will include youth, social work students, alum and a faculty adviser.

From September to December, pods meet once every week to plan and research their social action project. In December, NOISE organizes a full-day pod planning retreat in December that culminates with social action project plan presentations to the NOISE community.

From January to April, pods work on their social action project while completing the academic component of NOISE – a directed reading course on Critical Youth Work. In late April, NOISE holds a Spring Festival of Learning that showcases the lessons learned from the social action projects undertaken by the pods.

Throughout the year, NOISE holds Dialogue Circles that bring all fellows together to share stories and reflections on social change making.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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redefine THE POSSIBLE.

act
ASSETS
COMING
TOGETHER
FOR YOUTH