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AUTUMN 2006 • VOL. 34 NO. 1
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PHOTOGRAPHY: LIAM SHARP

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2006 VOLUME 34/NUMBER 1

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All correspondence and undeliverable copies:
University of Toronto Magazine,
21 King's College Circle,
Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

University of Toronto Magazine, with a circulation of 260,000, is published quarterly by the Division of University Advancement. Alumni of the university receive the magazine free of charge. Others may subscribe: $30 (U.S. funds outside Canada). Please make cheque payable to University of Toronto.
Publications Mail sales agreement No. 40065699
Return undeliverable Canadian and other addresses to *University of Toronto Magazine*
21 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3J3
E-mail: uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca
Non-profit postage paid Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 3415. U.S. Postmaster send address corrections to P.O. Box 29, Lewiston, NY 14092
Printed in Canada by Transcontinental Printing Inc.
ISSN 1499-0040

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What Inspires Us

Little things sometimes mean a lot

BEN KAPLAN, WHO WROTE OUR COVER FEATURE ABOUT AN INTERNATIONAL students' soccer team at U of T, is himself an immigrant to Canada, having arrived in Toronto two years ago from New York City. Now an editor with *Post City Magazines*, Kaplan found the international students he interviewed – who ranged in age from about 18 to 38 and hailed from at least a dozen different countries – a refreshing change from the celebrities he usually covers. "They were so pleased that someone was interested in them," he says. "And they were so happy to be here. They appreciated it. They didn't take it for granted." At one of the practices, a young Saudi Arabian player showed up wearing jeans, and the coach wouldn't let him play. Kaplan, who was wearing baggy shorts, offered to trade pants, which the player gladly accepted. It was an oddly moving moment for Kaplan, who is Jewish, because he had never met someone from Saudi Arabia. "With everything that's going on in the Middle East right now, to meet someone from 'the other side' was eye-opening," he says. He enjoyed the assignment so much, he adds, that he ended up spending more time with the players than he needed in order to write the story. "I found speaking with them inspirational."

All universities hope to inspire their students, but some students – particularly undergrads – often labour under the impression, fairly or not, that this university tends to reward inspired researchers more often than inspired teachers. President David Naylor has sought to rectify that perceived imbalance. In his installation address, almost a year ago, he announced the creation of the first U of T–wide teaching award. Margaret Webb profiles the five winners (page 20), and discovers that each is not only an excellent teacher, but has dedicated his or her career to improving pedagogic technique. Carol Rolheiser, a professor at OISE/UT, sums up her approach well: "Teaching is not about finding the magic answer and applying it," she says. "We can only be really good teachers if we're always questioning what we're doing."

The late alumna Betsy Mosbaugh didn't stay involved with the university after she graduated in 1945, and she didn't go on to take another degree. But in the brief time she attended U of T, she made an indelible impression on many of the writers and editors she worked with at the *Varsity*. It was one of this magazine's readers, George Garland, who alerted us to Mosbaugh's unusual contribution. In a letter to the editor in our spring issue, Garland described how Mosbaugh had managed to publish the *Varsity* during an especially blustery snowstorm in December 1944. The gutsy 21-year-old from Huntsville, Ontario, was the first woman to edit the *Varsity*, and was considered by her colleagues to be frank and tough – but fair. *U of T Magazine* managing editor Stacey Gibson talked to several of Mosbaugh's friends and family members and spent hours in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library and Robarts to recreate the Second World War era in her feature story about Mosbaugh (page 38).

Finally, if you feel inspired to write, please enter our Alumni Short Story and Poetry Contest (see page 54). Send us a previously unpublished story or poem by March 1, 2007, and you could win $1,000 and publication in our summer issue. Get writing!

SCOTT ANDERSON

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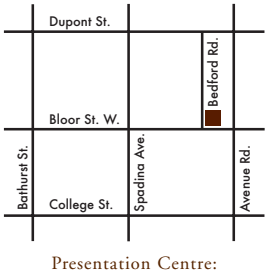

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President's Message

Canada's Research Powerhouse

A cradle for creativity, discovery and innovation

"If U of T is so concerned about improving the student experience, why does it emphasize research so much?" This question is one that alumni among others ask me from time to time.

I suppose there are occasional tensions between education and research in any university, but, in general, I believe the two core missions of U of T converge beautifully. The synergy of these missions is most obvious in professional or graduate programs where students are often required to research and write a major thesis. It is also evident in many third- and fourth-year undergraduate courses, where students are asked to undertake research projects, and increasingly apparent even in the early years of first-entry programs where students have the option of taking research electives or joining small-group seminar courses with leading scholars.

It may seem odd to emphasize research so early in the undergraduate experience. But what makes education at U of T distinct from other universities is the idea that undergraduate students need to learn not only the basics, but why the basics are believed to be the basics. We want students to graduate from U of T thinking independently and creatively – and with the ability to challenge conventional wisdom. This aspiration can be fulfilled only if our professors are at the forefront of research and scholarship in their fields.

The good news is that U of T is already Canada's research powerhouse, judged by three common measures of research performance: the level of research funding obtained from Canadian public sources; the number of publications – and citations of those publications by other researchers – reported by Thomson Scientific; and the number of research-related awards and honours received.

For many years, U of T has received more funding from the three federal granting councils than any other Canadian university. We also bring in the most infrastructure funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation – over $350 million, or about $100 million more than UBC, our nearest competitor. With our hospital partners, U of T is the largest research entity in Canada and the third-largest in North America, spending $3 million a day on creating new knowledge.

The strength of our research enterprise is perhaps best characterized by the fact that from 2000 to 2004 U of T professors produced more publications in the fields indexed by Thomson Scientific than faculty at any other public research university worldwide. Including the leading private American universities, which are extraordinarily well resourced, the University of Toronto stands second only to Harvard in publications among all private and public universities. This is an extraordinary achievement.

U of T professors have also taken far more than their proportionate share of the nation's most prestigious academic awards. Since 1980, U of T faculty members, who constitute only about seven per cent of the faculty at all Canadian universities, have won at least 25 per cent of the Steacie, Killam and Molson Prizes. They have also won 29 per cent of the highest awards given out by the federal research councils.

The gap between U of T and all other Canadian institutions is even larger when one looks at international honours and awards. U of T faculty account for more than half of all Canadian members of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. Our success is similar with Britain's renowned Royal Society of London, where 44 per cent of the Canadian members come from the University of Toronto.

What conclusions can we draw from these data? First, as a research enterprise, U of T is in a league apart from other Canadian universities, competing with some of the best research institutions on the planet. Second, most attempts at ranking or rating Canadian universities simply don't reflect our dominance in research or the pre-eminence of our graduate and professional programs. Finally, returning to "the question," research excellence – creativity, discovery and innovation – is what sets us apart. We attract the best and brightest faculty, staff and students because we are Canada's research powerhouse. If U of T is to continue to be the educational institution of choice for Canada's leaders, our enterprise must be shaped at all levels by the spirit of open inquiry. That's why, as I see it, excellence in research and education go hand in hand.

Sincerely,

DAVID NAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: LAURA ARSIÈ

Letters

To Preserve and Protect

Saving Earth's rainforests

HONOURING AN ICON

Congratulations on your feature about Robert Bateman ("The Nature of Things," Summer 2006). It's a comprehensive and wonderful article on a Canadian icon. Alas, the prophet has received too little honour in his own land. Does he not merit an honorary degree from his alma mater?

Ruth Bentley
BA 1943 Victoria
Toronto

RUNNING THROUGH TIME

Your magazine keeps getting better! Many thanks for the article on Robert Bateman. My wife and I are birdwatchers and treasure an autographed copy of his 1985 book, *The World of Robert Bateman.*

The article "Race of the Century" took me back 40 years. Like the writer Gare Joyce, I was there. I was a middle distance runner (of no distinction) who trained and ran in meets at Varsity Stadium, and the Crothers-Snell race is a precious memory of that time. A little-remembered fact is that Peter Snell never won a major race after his defeat by Crothers. He retired less than a year later.

Paul Van Loan
BA 1957 Victoria, MA 1958
Santa Cruz, California

NATURAL BEAUTY

Congratulations on switching to 100 per cent recycled paper ("Forest Friendly," Summer 2006)! More magazines need to make this change. The Amazon rainforest is amazingly diverse, but so is the temperate coastal rainforest in British Columbia. We must not forget about the plant, animal and insect species disappearing right here in our own backyard. People are fascinated by the Amazon, but, as Robert Bateman (BA 1954 Victoria) shows in his paintings, our own rainforest is something we can all love and protect.

Theresa Ryan
BScPhm 1993
St. Marys, Ontario

I find it ironic that *U of T Magazine* is "going green" a decade after U of T shut down the undergraduate program in the Faculty of Forestry. Many of the program's graduates from the 1950s and 1960s were among the country's first conservation-minded foresters. They understood the importance of sound resource management. Where is the next generation of foresters going to learn this?

Wim Vonk
BScF 1960
Qualicum Beach, B.C.

JULES VERNE'S AMAZON

I read the inspiring article "Seven Days on the Amazon" (Summer 2006) with great interest. I remembered the city of Iquitos from Jules Verne's two-part novel, *The Giant Raft* (1881), which was set in the 1850s. The first part of the novel paints a wonderful image of the

Amazon and its tributaries, and the people who live along their shores. The second part of the novel nicely demonstrates the passion of someone determined to solve a cipher and prove the innocence of a man journeying 800 leagues on the Amazon (about 3,800 kilometres). I suggest this book for anyone who went on this tour, or wishes to sign up.

Michel Gallant
BSc 1974 New College, PhD 1981
Ottawa

ATHLETES ARE AMBASSADORS

I read Tim Reid's article regarding athletics with interest ("Time to Rebuild," Summer 2006). I was not a Varsity athlete during my time at U of T, but took pride in the team's successes.

The current football program is abysmal. Those who justify its poor performance by saying that athletics fall outside of the university's core mission miss an important point. Athletes who wear the U of T jersey represent the university to future students, future staff, future faculty and financial supporters. If the football team of a large school

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Letters

with many students to draw from can't win a game, what does that say about the university? My advice to the administration: take athletics seriously!

Brian Johnston
BCom 1981 Victoria
Toronto

LATERAL THINKING

Regarding Herman Haller's objection to the cover of the spring issue, I would argue that the image of a smiling young woman with wild makeup and facial piercings has everything to do with "the academic life of a great university." It is precisely because many students dare to think (or act, or adorn themselves) in an unconventional manner that new discoveries in research can take place.

Don Link
BA 1987 Victoria,
BEd 1988, MA 2005
Toronto

IN THE DOGHOUSE

C'mon, Canadians! If I could learn that a "serviette" is a paper napkin during my years at U of T, you guys could learn that a "dogtrot" is not a house for canines ("Leading Edge," Summer 2006). It's a type of folk housing, common to the Old South, in which two single enclosed rooms are linked by an open passageway and the whole structure is covered by a common roof. *People* lived in dogtrots – especially in the first half of the 20th century. Dogtrots are practical. In the sultry climate, the passageway catches the breeze. They may be ordinary folks' adaptation of the elite Georgian mansion of the 18th century, which always featured a prominent central hallway flanked by symmetrical suites of rooms.

Karal Ann Marling
BA 1967 St. Michael's
Minneapolis

HIV ONLY PART OF THE STORY

The Leading Edge article in the summer issue about HIV is only part of the epidemiology story in Ontario. Complications arising from hepatitis C kill many more people annually in Canada than AIDS. Why hasn't an epidemiologist from the Department of Public Health

Services at U of T been hired to study this ongoing outbreak? Why are the myriad pamphlets for HIV not also covering hepatitis C?

More than 500 cases of hepatitis C have been reported monthly in Ontario since 1990. Meanwhile, successive provincial governments make empty promises and hide behind commitments to other diseases such as HIV and syphilis. Governments need to do more to raise awareness of the hundreds of Ontarians and other Canadians dying of hepatitis C-related illnesses, and wasting away while waiting for liver transplants.

Keith Nicholas
BSc 1971
Scarborough, Ontario

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION

Linda Kent rightly chastised you in her letter in the Winter 2006 issue for not finding any "female writers, inventors, historians, teachers, astronauts and scientists" in Dan Falk's Autumn 2005 story ("Eureka!"). In reply you claimed that none of the "great women scientists and innovators throughout history" had cited such a "eureka moment." Yet on page 13 of the same issue of *U of T Magazine* you quote UTSC zoology professor Maydianne Andrade saying, "I ran around the department in a sort of eureka moment." Perhaps you, or earlier biographers of women, didn't know the right question to ask? Or perhaps an author of the opposite gender would have evoked a different answer when talking to women?

Alan Ruffman
BSc 1964
Fergusons Cove, Nova Scotia

Letters may be edited to fit available space and should be addressed to *University of Toronto Magazine*, 21 King's College Circle, Toronto, M5S 3J3. Readers may also send correspondence by e-mail to uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca or fax to (416) 978-3958.

CORRECTIONS

- OxyContin is available in 5 mg pills. Incorrect information appeared in the Letters section of the Summer 2006 issue due to an editing error.
- *Sands of Dee* is a painting by Robert Harris, not Harriscome, as appeared in the Summer 2006 calendar.
- While the Toronto Junior Field Naturalists held classes at the Royal Ontario Museum, the club was affiliated with the Toronto Field Naturalists, not the ROM, as was reported in "The Nature of Things" (Summer 2006).
- U of T offers a Buddhist Studies major in the department for the study of religion. Incorrect information appeared in the summer issue ("Good Karma," Great Gifts).

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Deep Sea Excitement

There is still no machinery for sea floor mining, but Professor Steve Scott says the technology exists

"Deep Sea Excitement" was the cover story of the Winter 1984 issue of this magazine, and in it geology professor Steve Scott made a bold prediction. In the future, he said, we would mine ore deposits from the ocean floor.

More than two decades later, that future is closer than ever. The world's first successful commercial exploration for marine minerals took place this year on a deposit site Scott co-discovered in the western Pacific Ocean.

"I've been writing and talking about this possibility for a long time," says Scott, the Norman B. Keevil Professor Emeritus of Ore Genesis at U of T. "Now I may actually see it happen in my lifetime." The exploration results from the site – located 1,600 metres underwater off the coast of Papua New Guinea – exceeded his expectations. The drill cores and 15-tonne mineral sample obtained by Vancouver-based Nautilus Minerals Inc. contained very high grades of both gold and copper as well as some zinc, lead and silver. The company is now undertaking further exploration in the area.

The "deep sea excitement" described in the 1984 article sprang from Scott's role in finding underwater hot springs fed by ocean floor volcanoes off the coast of British Columbia. Scientists had first identified these ocean vents, along with the rich mineral deposits they create, just five years earlier. The deposits are formed when water seeps into cracks in the sea floor, gets heated by a volcano and then sprays up through the vents, carrying within it dissolved minerals. When this hot water meets the cold water on the sea bottom, the minerals solidify and create chimney-like towers called "black smokers" which eventually collapse and become mineral deposits.

Professor Steve Scott

Scott was the first ore deposit geologist to see a black smoker during a research trip to the Gulf of California in 1982. He went on to co-discover several more with Australian colleague Ray Binns, including, in 1991, the Nautilus site under exploration. All along, he recognized both the scientific and potential economic value of the black smokers. As a scientist, he was interested in how sea floor mineral deposits could shed light on the formation of similar deposits that are being mined on land. Yet he also saw that, with the appropriate advances in deep sea technology, the black smokers could be mined for base and precious metals.

There is still no machinery for sea floor mining operations, but Scott says the technology exists to develop deep sea robotic devices that will extract minerals from depths of up to two kilometres. So far, the potential obstacles to launching a global deep ocean mining industry are not technological, but environmental. Some conservationists have expressed serious concerns about opening up the oceans to mining companies.

However, with oceans covering 70 per cent of the world's surface and only a fraction of them having been explored for this type of deposit, Scott says sea floor mining represents a potentially huge new source of minerals to meet growing global demand – and causes less environmental damage than terrestrial mining. "This is an example of how pure, curiosity-driven research can eventually lead to a significant commercial venture."

– Megan Easton

PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM PANOU

Museum of the Missing

This past June, cosmetics tycoon Ronald Lauder paid $135 million US for Gustav Klimt's *Adele Bloch-Bauer I*, setting a new record for the most expensive piece of art sold at auction. Astronomical selling prices of fine art have made headlines over the last few decades – and criminals have taken notice. For a growing number, a multimillion dollar canvas in a relatively low-security setting is too tempting to pass up.

In his book *Museum of the Missing: The High Stakes of Art Crime* (Key Porter Books, 2006), set for an October release, Simon Houpt (BA 1991 UC) chronicles the evolution of art theft from a specialty of conquering armies into the world's third largest criminal activity behind drugs and arms trading. Houpt, a *Globe and Mail* arts correspondent based in New York, says society and media have an increasing fixation on the economics of art. "Very little of the conversation is about what I think it should be about, which is culture," he says.

It is estimated that up to 100,000 works of art – from Raphaels to Monets to Warhols – are currently missing. These masterpieces represent billions of dollars, yet they also represent a lost piece of humanity's common heritage, says Houpt. "It's a cliché, but I think people do really hunger for these greater truths. When any piece of art goes missing, we all lose something."

– Megan Easton

Rooftop Invasion
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1972
In the largest theft in Canadian history, three thieves descended from a skylight in the night, tied up guards on duty and made off with 18 paintings, including Rembrandt's *Landscape with Cottages*.

Party Favour
Chácara do Céu Museum, Rio de Janeiro, 2006
Taking advantage of the celebrations in the streets during Carnival, thieves disappeared into the crowd with Henri Matisse's *Luxembourg Gardens*, as well as a Picasso, a Dali and a Monet.

Heavyweight Heist
Henry Moore Foundation, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, England, 2005
Using a crane and a stolen flatbed truck, thieves managed to lift – quite literally – a 2.1-tonne bronze Henry Moore sculpture valued at approximately $5.2 million. Authorities worry that the piece may have been melted down for scrap metal.

Cultural Booty
Iraq National Museum, Baghdad, 2003
This priceless ivory relief of a lion attacking a Nubian was one of about 14,000 objects looted following the U.S. invasion of Baghdad.

FROM *MUSEUM OF THE MISSING: THE HIGH STAKES OF ART CRIME*. PHOTOGRAPH (DETAIL): THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS; PHOTOGRAPH (DETAIL) COURTESY OF MUSEUS CASTRO MAYA, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL; PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL PHIPPS / HENRY MOORE FOUNDATION; PHOTOGRAPH: SCALA / ART RESOURCE, NY

OMG I Luv IM

Is the rise in popularity of instant messaging sounding the death knell of the English language, or adding to its rich slang? News stories take both sides, with the worriers complaining that terms such as *lol* ("laughing out loud") and *btw* ("by the way") are so common they're finding their way into teen speech and more formal writing and "bastardizing" the language.

Nonsense, says U of T linguistics professor Sali Tagliamonte. In a recent study of instant-messaging (IM) conversations of 50 Canadian teenagers – which total more than a million words – Tagliamonte found the frequency of IM terms to be far lower than the media hype would suggest. As the chart shows, even *lol*, one of the most common IM terms, appears only 195 times out of 100,000, or about 0.2 per cent of the time. It seems English purists can rest easy – for now.

– Scott Anderson

IM term	English	Frequency of IM term per 100,000 words
lol	laughing out loud	195
omg	oh my god!	107
brb	be right back	31
ttyl	talk to you later	30
btw	by the way	22
nvm	nevermind	7
gtg	gotta go	5
np	no problem	4
nm	not much	3
lmao	laughing my ass off	2

LeadingEdge

It's a Bird, It's a Plane!

Leonardo da Vinci was the first to design an airplane with mechanically operated flapping wings – but Professor Emeritus James DeLaurier was the first to make such a device take flight. The full-scale ornithopter took to the air on July 8 at Downsview Park in Toronto, with the help of test pilot Jack Sanderson, a team of U of T students and other volunteers. Equipped with a 24-horsepower engine and a model airplane turbo booster, the ornithopter flew for 14 seconds at an average speed of 88 km/h, and travelled one-third of a kilometre. The historic aircraft is now on display at the Toronto Aerospace Museum in Downsview Park.

James DeLaurier

Drug Provides Key to Halting Alzheimer's Disease in Mice

Researchers at the University of Toronto have discovered a drug that may prevent cognitive damage and memory loss in Alzheimer's patients.

A team led by Professor JoAnne McLaurin at U of T's Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases has identified a substance that stops the amyloid beta peptide – which causes toxic neural damage in brains affected by Alzheimer's disease – from accumulating. Their findings were reported in *Nature Medicine*.

When the researchers administered AZD-103 to mice that had been genetically altered to develop Alzheimer's disease, they found that the drug prevents aggregates of the amyloid beta peptides from forming – thereby reducing the toxicity in the brain and preventing additional cognitive damage or memory loss. The drug was administered to mice before they began to exhibit Alzheimer's-like symptoms and after the symptoms had begun.

"This is a significant breakthrough in drug development for Alzheimer's disease," says McLaurin. "We have effectively demonstrated improvement in memory and pathology among mice and are cautiously optimistic that the same may hold true for human patients after formal clinical trials have been conducted."

Based on the study's results, Health Canada has approved the drug for Phase 1 Clinical Trials. The trials will determine whether the drug produces side-effects in healthy humans.

Nearly 800,000 Canadians will suffer from Alzheimer's disease by 2026, according to Health Canada. The Alzheimer Society of Canada predicts the cost of caring for these people could reach $8 billion a year.

– Elizabeth Monier-Williams

The Agony of Ecstasy

Professor Konstantine Zakzanis has some good news and bad news for frequent users of the club drug ecstasy. The good news, he says, is that quitting will likely stop the progressive memory impairment caused by the drug. The bad news is it may not repair the memory damage already done.

Zakzanis, a psychology professor at the University of Toronto Scarborough, was the first researcher to launch a long-term study of the cognitive effects of regular ecstasy use in humans. In an earlier study of 15 users published in 2001, he found their performance on neuropsychological tests of learning and memory declined over one year.

His most recent study of the same 15 people at the two-year mark was slightly different, because eight of them had been abstinent for at least 32 weeks. The test scores of the continuing users had further deteriorated, while the scores of the former users were either better or the same as the previous year. Whether the quitters' scores improved or remained static depended on the frequency and duration of their former ecstasy use – the heavier users were less likely to have recovered any learning and memory abilities.

For the next stage of his research, Zakzanis hopes to get a closer look at ecstasy's impact on cognitive function. "I'd like to do a brain-imaging study of the sample group," he says. "It would be interesting to determine if there are any functional changes in the brain." *– Megan Easton*

PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID COOPER / TORONTO STAR

New & Notable

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON CAMPUS

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAYSON GALLOP

Shiny Happy People

The steps in front of Toronto's Old City Hall have witnessed a lot in their 107-year history, but probably never a bubble-blowing celebration – until now.

On July 2, more than 300 people swarmed the corner of Queen and Bay streets to blow bubbles into the sky – and at each other – in what organizers Kevin Bracken (above, in blue) and Lori Kufner (in pink) billed as a "sister-cities bubble battle." Similar events occurred that day in Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Pittsburgh and Philadephia.

For U of T students Kufner, 20, and Bracken, 19, the soapy, shimmery "battle" is part of their effort to reclaim urban public spaces for "blissful" happenings. Since March of last year, under the banner Newmindspace, the energetic duo have dreamt up wacky events nearly every month: subway costume parties, massive pillow fights in Toronto's Dundas Square and New

Continued on page 16

Will That Be a Master's or a Doctorate?

Alumni who have considered returning to U of T for a second degree may want to send in an application soon, as the university embarks on an ambitious plan to increase graduate enrolment 20 per cent by fall 2007.

About 2,000 additional grad students are expected to be admitted to U of T over the next two years as part of a provincial initiative, announced in 2005, to boost the number of graduate students studying at Ontario universities.

The expansion will provide "superb opportunities" for alumni to return to U of T for a master's or doctorate degree from among dozens of academic fields, says Susan Pfeiffer, dean of the School of Graduate Studies. "We hope alumni will seriously consider applying for U of T graduate programs and encourage others to do so."

The first wave of 400 additional grad students will arrive at U of T this fall, with an additional wave expected in the fall of 2007. At the same time, the number of undergraduates will decline slightly, as members of the double cohort finish their first degrees.

Graduate students play a central role in the university's research activities and will be crucial as U of T expands its mission to create new knowledge. "Graduate students are the lifeblood of university research," says Vivek Goel, vice-president and provost. "Sustaining and expanding our research effort depends on the availability of excellent graduate students."

Among the faculties, arts and science is expected to take the most new graduate students, followed by medicine, engineering, music, the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management and OISE/UT. Although most of the additional students will be drawn from within Canada, U of T will continue to welcome international applications. "Foreign students bring a breadth of background and experience to our programs," says Pfeiffer.

The big question facing campus planners is how to accommodate all these new scholars. New graduate research space has become available on the downtown campus in the past year with the opening of the Donnelly Centre and the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building, but more will be required. Safwat Zaky, vice-provost, planning and budget, says plans to construct new buildings or expand existing ones are underway and projects will proceed on all three campuses once the province announces the next round of capital funding for universities – likely in late August or early September.

Besides recruiting more graduate students, U of T will be offering two new master's programs this fall: in women's and gender studies, offered through arts and science, and in management of innovation, offered at UTM through the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. Other new programs proposed for fall 2007 include a PhD in planning and a master of public policy, both offered through arts and science, and a master of finance, offered by Rotman.

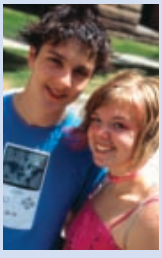
A discussion paper on graduate enrolment released last fall is available at www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Reports.html.

– Scott Anderson

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAYSON GALLOP

Continued from page 15

York's Union Square, an Easter egg hunt in Kensington Market and a 500-person game of Capture the Flag on St. George Campus. They announce the events on their website, newmindspace.com, and word spreads quickly among the 5,000 members of their online community.



It's not all fun and games for the pair. There's a serious, political side to what they're doing as members of a broader movement to reclaim public space from commercial interests, build a sense of community and make city-living friendlier, safer and happier. Bracken, who's studying political science and sociology, likes the idea of transforming urban areas in surprising ways. Kufner, who's majoring in sociology and English, calls what they do "glamour bombing" – "creating little snippets of joy in people's lives." Both cite large-scale interactive public art and Dr. Seuss as major influences.

If they manage to alter someone's daily routine, inject a little joy or inspire a new perspective, they are happy. "No one can walk through a million bubbles, or witness one of our subway parties, and be mad," Kufner notes. "What you believe is possible suddenly changes." Public transit holds special significance for the two. It's where they met – on a Queen streetcar in December 2004. They were both headed to a rave and recognized each other as being part of the same fun-loving clan by their similarly outlandish outfits.

A short documentary, "Into a Newmindspace," will be screened at the Streets to Screens Film Series at the Toronto Free Gallery this fall; the DVD is available through the group's website. A "Pirates of the Streetcarrr Parrrty" was held in August, and plans are underfoot to find a permanent place for Newmindspace – a home for "art, music and parties," called "the imaginarium," says Bracken. *– Lisa Rundle*

Spring Reunion Shakeup

Young alumni attended the Toronto portion of a four–city Global Shaker at the Ultra Supper Club in June

More than 400 young alumni and friends attended U of T's first Global Shaker event – held in Toronto, Vancouver, Hong Kong and London – on June 1. The Shaker series, launched almost two years ago, is geared to young professionals who want to see old friends and meet new ones, and perhaps do a bit of networking, in a lounge-style environment. Toronto's Global Shaker was held at the Ultra Supper Club on Queen St. West; in Vancouver, the venue was Lucy Mae Brown, a former bordello/opium den turned restaurant/-nightclub; in Hong Kong, the setting was the new club Pi; and in London, South Bank bar Zakudia played host. (For information on the next Shaker event, planned for Nov. 23, visit www.alumni.utoronto.ca/SHAKER/ or e-mail kim.tull@utoronto.ca)

Global Shaker was held to celebrate Spring Reunion, U of T's premier alumni event, which ran from June 1-4. The Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain (BSW 1955, LLD *Hon.* 1996), who served as New Brunswick's first female lieutenant-governor, was chair of the reunion. U of T's new chancellor David Peterson greeted attendees of the 50th Anniversary Luncheon at the Faculty Club, and President David Naylor shook things up at the President's Garden Party when he joined the band to play the electric piano for a few songs. All alumni also had a chance to immerse themselves in the campus arts scene, whether it was watching a student film, taking advantage of free admission at the U of T Art Centre or enjoying a photography exhibit at Hart House. Next year's Spring Reunion runs from Thursday, May 31 to Sunday, June 3, and honours those who graduated in years ending in 2 or 7.

– Megan Easton

A Starry Night

This fall, the City of Toronto will celebrate Nuit Blanche, an international all-night art extravaganza that will see hundreds of galleries and museums open from dusk on Saturday, Sept. 30 until dawn. (Paris held the first Nuit Blanche in 2002.)

To mark the occasion, the University of Toronto will hold an "Avenue of the Arts" crawl through St. George Campus. The U of T Art Centre, Justina M. Barnicke Art Gallery and the Eric Arthur Gallery will open their doors, and several colleges and departments, such as University College, the School of Continuing Studies and the Faculty of Pharmacy will be hosting events. Two Canadian artists' collectives – Fastwürms and Instant Coffee – will transform Hart House into "Dark Hart" with installations, video projections and performance-based works. For details and locations, visit www.arts.utoronto.ca

– Carla DeMarco

PHOTOGRAPHY: CATHY MAROSTICA ILLUSTRATION: GRAHAM ROUMIEU

New&Notable

Accolades

Instead of singing their way to success, the U of T students and alumni who dominated the inaugural Toronto City Idol competition presented fresh ideas about municipal politics. The winners, who are running for city councillor in the Nov. 13 election, will receive assistance with their campaigns. Three of the four candidates have U of T connections: **Bahar Aminvaziri** (BASc 2004), an engineering master's student and a Ministry of the Environment engineer, will run in North York; **Amarjeet Chhabra**, a political science and life sciences student at the University of Toronto Scarborough, will be a candidate in Scarborough; and **Arthur Roszak** (BA 2002 St. Michael's), a business development manager, will compete in Etobicoke.

Ten distinguished alumni and eight prominent faculty members – including U of T's president – were among the 77 Canadians appointed to the Order of Canada, this country's highest honour for lifetime achievement.

Four alumni were appointed officers of the order, the second highest designation after companion: **Charles Baillie** (LLB 1961, BA 1962 Trinity), chancellor, Queen's University, for industry/commerce/business; **George Butterfield** (BA 1961 Trinity), president, Butterfield and Robinson Travel, for industry/commerce/business; **Michele Landsberg** (BA 1962 UC), journalist, for communications; and **Denis Stairs** (PhD 1969), professor, Dalhousie University, for education.


Aminvaziri


Chhabra


Roszak

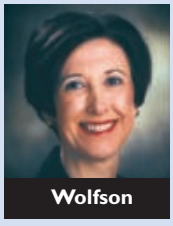
PHOTOGRAPHY: AMINVAZIRI, ROSZAK: BOB SALVERDA; COURTESY OF AMARJEET CHHABRA

Named members of the order were **Ralph Barford** (BCom 1959 Victoria), president Valford Holdings Limited, for industry/commerce/business; **Frederick Blackstein** (BASc 1961), governor, Algonquin College, for voluntary service; **Suzanne Bradshaw** (BA 1959 Victoria), former chair, Corporation of Massey Hall & Roy Thomson Hall, for arts/music; **George MacDonald** (BA 1961 Victoria), director, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, for heritage; **David Silcox** (BA 1959 Victoria, MA 1966), director, Sotheby's Canada, for arts/visual; **Otto Tucker** (DEd 1972 OISE/UT), former professor, Memorial University, for heritage; and **Norman Whitney** (PhD 1953), professor emeritus, University of New Brunswick, for education.

Among the faculty named officer of the Order of Canada were President **David Naylor** (MD 1978), Professor Emeritus **Bernard Dickens** of law, Professor Emeritus **Mary Seeman** (DSc 2002 *Hon.*) of psychiatry and University Professor Emeritus **Endel Tulving** (BA 1953 UC, MA 1954, DSc 2001 *Hon.*) of psychology. Professor Emeritus **John Dirks** of medicine, Professor Emeritus **Donald Meeks** of social work, University Professor **Janice Gross Stein** of political science and Professor **Stanley Zlotkin** (BSc 1971 Innis, PhD 1981) of pediatrics and nutritional studies were named members of the order. The new appointments were announced by Governor General Michaëlle Jean July 24.

Appointments

IN July, Judith Wolfson (MSW 1972, LLB 1980) began her role as vice-president (university relations) at U of T. Wolfson has served as president and CEO of Interac Association/Acxsys Corporation, a national electronic financial services network, and spent 10 years with the Government of Ontario in several senior positions. In the newly created position, Wolfson is responsible for the university's strategic communications, and building and maintaining relationships with governments and other public sector institutions and U of T's community partners.


Wolfson


Regehr

Professor Cheryl Regehr (MSW 1980, PhD 1996) is the new dean of U of T's Faculty of Social Work. Regehr holds the Sandra Rotman Chair in Social Work.

U of T scholar Rick Halpern became principal of New College in July. Halpern, a specialist in modern U.S. history, came to the university in 2001 as the first Bissell-Heyd Associates Chair in American Studies in the department of history. He is the former director of the Centre for the Study of the United States at the Munk Centre for International Studies.


Halpern

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A Constant Quest

FOR THESE FIVE PROFESSORS, GREAT TEACHING IS LESS ABOUT SUPPLYING A "MAGIC" ANSWER THAN ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

BY MARGARET WEBB

"Italy is a rather curious place for fascism to have developed. The clear causes of the rise of totalitarianism in Germany were entirely absent from the circumstances in Italy. So why did the Italians follow Hitler?"

Admit it. You're intrigued. You want to know the answer – as do the 550 students packed into Professor Ken Bartlett's wildly popular first-year course, Development of European Civilization. It's the largest class in U of T's history department, but students still clamour to get in. Since 1984, some 10,000 students have taken Bartlett's course – including me.

I used to arrive early to get my favourite seat – right side, three rows back. It offered an excellent side view of the passionate professor relaying information as if he had just discovered it and couldn't wait to share it. "Now this," he once said, "will make a great anecdote to drop at cocktail parties."

Maybe if I'd become a historian instead of a writer I would remember the anecdote. Instead, I remember some of his narrative tricks – hooking us with an intriguing question, offering a surprise twist to the story, making an outrageous statement and following up an argument with an opposing one to force us to consider two valid perspectives.

As Bartlett explains, he engages students without wearing a clown nose or standing on his head (although he occasionally employs a Hula Hoop). He also sports a Groucho Marx moustache but it's real, and so is his wit.

KEN BARTLETT

"The lecturer doesn't just transmit knowledge but reveals how he came to his perspective"

Bartlett is one of five professors who this year won U of T's inaugural President's Teaching Award. President David Naylor announced the award at his installation address last November, explaining that its goal is to celebrate great teachers. The winners, profiled here, have each earned a spot in U of T's new Teaching Academy. Membership is exclusive. Like the title of University Professor, which recognizes scholarly achievement, the Teaching Academy will be restricted to a small percentage of U of T's entire faculty at any one time.

Recognition doesn't come without obligations, though. Members of the academy are to lead other teachers to excellence by being shining examples and mentors. Bartlett has already donned the mentorship mantle by founding the Office of Teaching Advancement in 2002. As the director, he helps other instructors meet the challenges of teaching at Canada's largest, most multicultural university. And for more than a decade, he has played a leading role in developing educational experiences that are more personal: seminars for first-year students, independent study-abroad programs and research courses that have undergrads working one-on-one with professors.

At a time when experiential learning is in vogue, Bartlett remains a passionate defender of the lecture, calling it an engaged exercise. "The lecturer doesn't just transmit knowledge but reveals how he came to his perspective," says Bartlett, an expert in Renaissance Studies. "I make it transparent. Students acquire the skills to reach their own conclusions by listening, by deciding what's important and by ordering that information in their notes."

As for the rise of fascism in Italy? "We have to cross the Alps and go back to Italy, to the time before World War I," says Bartlett. That's another trick – taking students back into his-

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIAM SHARP

DR. RICHARD REZNICK

"In the lab, students can train on machines and simulators so they can learn and practise skills without worrying about making a mistake on a patient"

tory, to have a look around and understand the world as it was.

The scene looks like the aftermath of a horrific traffic accident. The victims have been sped to hospital, and are in the operating room. Surgical teams hover over five abdomens, the shockingly red innards graphically displayed, via laparoscope, on video monitors overhead.

But, wait, look closer. There is no frenzy, no blood. The abdomens are plastic replicas. And the medical instruments are, in some cases, wildly missing their targets. Here, there is no great surgical expertise – yet.

This is U of T's Surgical Skills Centre in the bowels of Mount Sinai Hospital. The centre is the first of its kind in Canada and the brainchild of a group led by Dr. Richard Reznick, a professor in the Faculty of Medicine. Since adding an MA in education to his surgical specialization, Dr. Reznick has been developing ways to help medical students learn more effectively without, as one colleague said, putting the patient "at the butt-end of the learning curve."

A range of "students" – from surgical residents learning how to manipulate a laparoscope to professionals and faculty training on new equipment – use the Surgical Skills Centre, which is open seven days a week, often from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The centre has a video tie-in to a Mount Sinai operating theatre so trainees can observe actual operations. It also has a freezer full of turkey thighs to practise bone-marrow harvesting.

"The operating room is a stressful environment to teach skills," says Dr. Reznick, who takes my call at home during his first break of the day – nine at night. "In the lab, students can train on machines and simulators so they can learn and practise skills without worrying about making a mistake on a patient."

Dr. Reznick, who is vice-president, education, of the Uni-

KEREN RICE

"Each person has something to bring to the class. Students' ideas are constantly opening up my world views"

versity Health Network, also helped develop an exam that has transformed the way we license doctors in Canada – and hence educate them. During the exam, would-be doctors gather information from actors feigning ailments and then make an assessment. This licensing test evaluates the doctor's communication skills as well as medical knowledge and has initiated changes in the clinical curriculum, says Dr. Reznick. As a result of such testing, doctors have become much better at communicating with their patients, he says.

In one of Keren Rice's courses, the goal is to preserve life in another way – by examining languages in danger of going extinct and looking at ways of resuscitating them, along with the cultures and values that are transmitted through language.

Rice speaks urgently about the task, pointing out that about half of the world's known languages have vanished in the last 500 years and some 90 per cent of the 6,000 languages spoken today are at risk of dying within the next century. Several of Canada's once flourishing aboriginal languages are now extinct and another dozen hover on the brink of extinction.

Students in Rice's language revitalization course draw inspiration from her high-level work in the field. The U of T linguist has been a leading force in reviving the Dene language in the Northwest Territories. Over several trips, she has spent a total of about five years in the Far North, researching the structure of the Dene language, training teachers and collaborating with native speakers to create dictionaries. "The role of an outsider is an interesting one," says Rice, who, as head of U of T's Aboriginal Studies program, oversaw development of its 25 courses.

"Language isn't something you do for yourself," she says. Rice has little interest, for example, in writing dictionaries solely for academic use. She wants the reference books to be

JOHN PERCY

"When students are involved in solving practical problems in the real world, they're happier than when they're sitting in a lecture hall"

used by the community.

Rice has transposed the theme of collaboration, which is central to her work with the Dene, to her classroom. She encourages her students to work in groups and draw on each other's experiences. "Each person has something to bring to the class. Students' ideas are constantly opening up my world views."

Soft-spoken as she is, Rice is an impassioned crusader. "My mother was a social worker, and I suppose I'm driven to do academic work that can make a difference."

Rice says she tries to inspire her students to do things "they might not have thought they were capable of." At various points in our interview, she interrupts our discussion of her work to tell me about student presentations that were "tremendously creative," "fantastic" or "amazing."

In one project, students searched the Internet to find a radio station transmitting an at-risk language. For another, they interviewed people whose first language isn't English to uncover attitudes toward their native tongue as well as other languages. Students then exchanged papers to identify larger themes running through their assessments.

"I enjoyed reading those projects so much," says Rice. "I think there could be a book put together after the course is taught for a few years."

John Percy would be the first to admit that his best teaching doesn't happen in the classroom.

The astronomy professor prefers getting his students off campus to apply their knowledge. So it's not surprising that his science education program at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) includes a research project course in which the students serve the community while gaining a fourth-year credit. For example, one of Percy's students ran

CAROL ROLHEISER

"We can only be really good teachers if we're always questioning what we're doing. Great teaching is a constant quest"

focus groups in high schools to assess the teenagers' knowledge of environmental pollutants. Then the student reported his findings to the Centre for Global Research and Education on the Environment and Health. Another group of students organized the annual Girl Guide Science Day at UTM, showing 150 young women that science can be an exciting subject and career choice for them.

Percy also played the key role in developing UTM's new concurrent teacher program for science and math (in which students graduate with a teaching degree and an undergraduate degree). In one course, students gain valuable teaching experience working in UTM classrooms with professors as mentors.

"When students are involved in solving practical problems in the real world, they're happier than when they're sitting in a lecture hall digesting a lot of content," says Percy. "The research projects and courses give students the skills to analyze and interpret data, as well as to write and give oral presentations. They also learn to learn for themselves."

Percy is eligible to retire next year, but he certainly hasn't become set in his ways. He continues to challenge himself to be a better teacher. He helped form UTM's Teaching-Learning-Communication Group ("That's TLC," he says) and Astronomy Education Discussion Group, which brings instructors together to discuss common problems in teaching and to share solutions.

"Teaching is like science research," says Percy. "You test something to see what's effective. If it works, you continue; if not, you try something different. And you learn from other people rather than trying to discover everything yourself."

Probably no one at U of T has researched the elements of great teaching more than Carol Rolheiser has. The associate

dean of teacher education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto instructs both student teachers and teaching professionals. As a consultant, she has helped thousands of teachers in Central and Eastern Europe, the U.S. and Canada. With Barrie Bennett, a professor at the University of Oregon, she wrote *Beyond Monet: The Artful Science of Instructional Integration*, which examines the optimal use of instructional strategies. The book has become a must-read for educators.

A sparkplug of energy who originally wanted to be a police officer, Rolheiser considers her classroom her lab. She investigates teaching problems in the field, and then brings them to her classroom to develop and test solutions. She collaborates and experiments, involving students in evaluating the results.

For example, Rolheiser gathered a group of university colleagues to discuss different ways of assessing students. The idea that caught fire was having students develop a collection of course work similar to an artist's portfolio. Students selected the work for their portfolio based on what they wanted to learn and on criteria provided by the instructor. The students then analyzed and wrote about what they had learned. The approach helped build a classroom community, with fellow students becoming resources, says Rolheiser. "Engaging students in developing the criteria by which they would be assessed motivated them to do much better work. It makes for more powerful learning when the learners have ownership in the process."

As for using students as guinea pigs in her experiments, Rolheiser says it demonstrates what's central to teaching. "Teaching is not about finding the magic answer and applying it. We can only be really good teachers if we're always questioning what we're doing. Great teaching is a constant quest."

Margaret Webb (BA 1985 UC) is a freelance writer in Toronto who teaches journalism at Ryerson University.

Recognizing Great Teaching

As winners of the President's Teaching Award, these five professors have become members of the U of T Teaching Academy and will receive stipends of $10,000 a year for five years to further their work in education.

To be considered for the academy, candidates must demonstrate a career commitment to teaching excellence and leadership at the university level. Nominations are solicited from deans, and the winners are chosen by a six-person committee of colleagues chaired by the vice-president and provost, Vivek Goel.

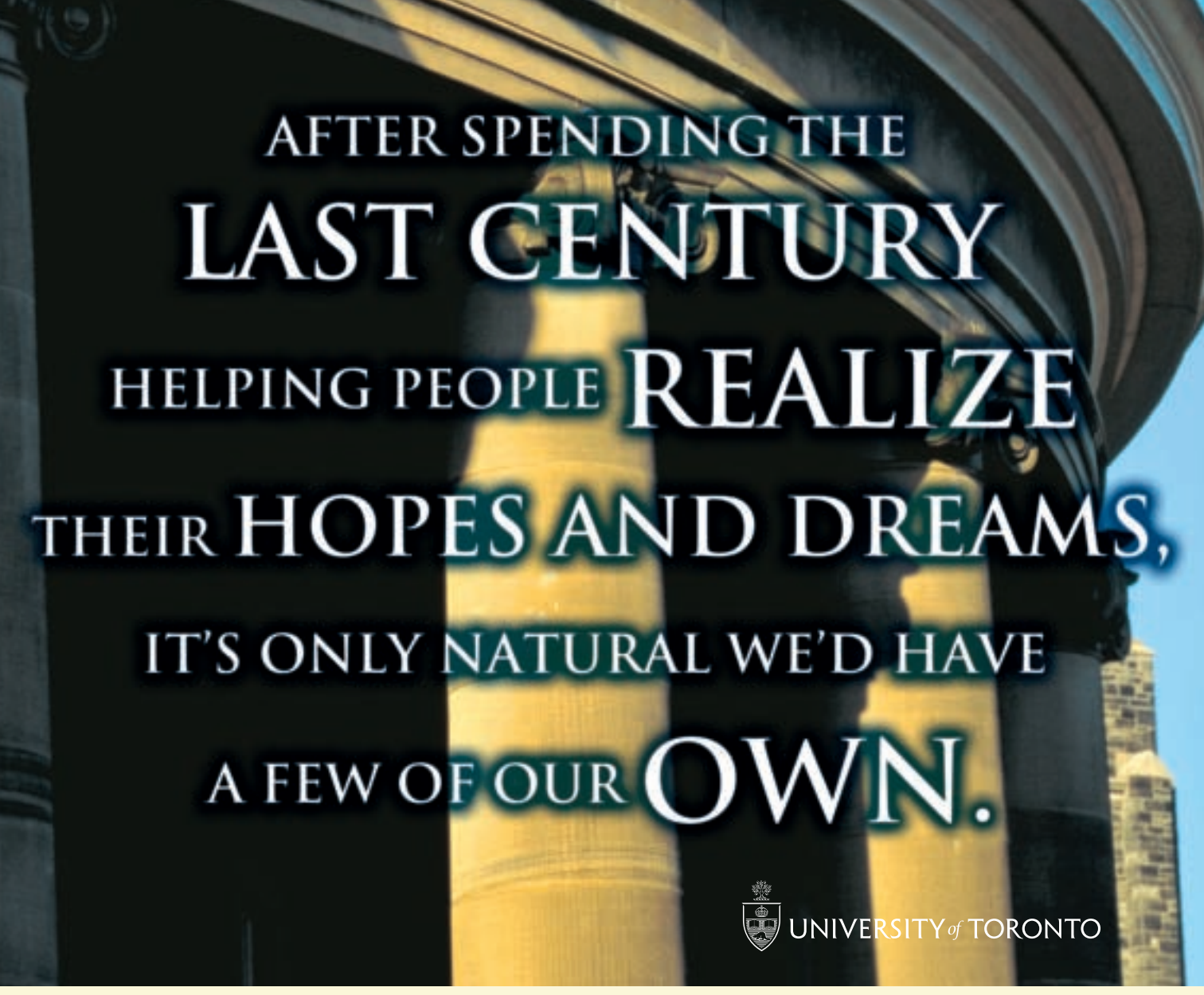
The academy members, who are appointed for a five-year term, will convene periodically to discuss teaching-related matters and to advise the provost and the Office of Teaching Advancement. They may also be asked to deliver an annual public lecture or a convocation address. Once their term has expired, academy members are eligible for renomination. "We have great teaching now, and thanks to the academy, it is going to be even better in the future," says president David Naylor.

The President's Teaching Award is not the only U of T award that recognizes great teaching. There are many faculty and divisional awards, as well as the following:

Faculty Award: Sponsored by the University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA), the Faculty Award, valued at $1,000, recognizes excellence in teaching, research and professional endeavours.

Joan E. Foley Quality of Student Experience Award: Given to a student, alumnus, staff or faculty member who has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of academic or extracurricular student life on campus.

Northrop Frye Awards: Co-sponsored by the provost and the UTAA, these awards are presented annually to one faculty member and one department or division in recognition of exemplary and innovative efforts to link teaching and research.



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PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM PANOU

Great Profs

TO BE ONE, I'D HAVE TO EMULATE ONE

BY JOHN FRASER

The memory of their wonderful classes back in the Pre-Jurassic Academic Era (i.e. the 1960s) came just at the right time. I was creating a new undergraduate course on Canadian newspaper history and although I have taught before, I have never created a course. As I proceeded, the whole business seemed infinitely more daunting than any of the administration work I do at Massey College, and I was in need of inspiration.

I won't embarrass myself by regaling you with the specific questions that attended the initial moments in this arduous process. I am only confessing this much to explain how welcome the memory was. It was a roll call of the mentors and teachers who helped me along my way. We all had them or we would not be what we are, but because life pushes on, we often put aside both the memories and the consequent indebtedness.

Until the moment of panic arrives.

For me, that moment came at the first concrete thought of actually standing up in front of a class of bright third-year students – enthusiastic bloggers all, I have no doubt – and trying to convince them that the history of newspapers, with all their fallible and often malicious accounts and reports, had a legitimate role in university studies. The other problem, it seemed to me, was also convincing them that the old boy standing up before them was somehow capable of getting it all across to them. And not just the chronological history of newspapering in Canada, but also the milieu, the significance, the social and economic matrix of the trade, as well as the undeniable corners of darkness and the unapologetic glaze of superficiality.

Or to put it another way: here is a course that has to travel the distance from George Brown, founder of the *Globe* and a Father of Confederation, to Leah McLaren and Jan Wong, the Scylla and Charybdis of contemporary journalism, at least at today's *Globe and Mail*. Brooding about everything in between was when the welcome spectre of my mentors arrived, in the nick of time.

They came from both my undergraduate career at Memorial University of Newfoundland and later graduate work at Exeter College, Oxford, and the University of East Anglia in Norwich. At Memorial, there were Helena F. (first-year literature) and Patrick O'F. (18th-century literature); John B. in Oxford (17th-century social comedy); Jack W. (Shakespeare) came on loan to Memorial from the University of Manitoba, while Angus W. (Dickens) in Norwich was on loan from the wider world and, belligerently and delightfully, never quite accepted his academic confinement.

The generous amongst us will acknowledge those teachers from whom we learned almost everything that experience itself didn't provide. Often, though, we take them for granted, incorporating what we learned into our own hopefully unique vantage point. When I was an arts writer for the *Globe and Mail* in the early 1970s, I once had the privilege of interviewing the great modern dance pioneer Martha Graham. At one point in the interview, I asked her if she ever resented it when younger choreographers stole her ideas or themes and incorporated them into their own work. "Look dear," she said, as she fixed me a steely gaze and reached out for my hand with badly arthritic fingers, "we all steal ideas, but in the end we are judged on who we stole them from and what we did with them." As a rough and ready definition of intellectual derivation and obligation, it can't be beat.

That's what "Shakespeare Jack" taught me in classes so absorbing and thrilling they still get me excited thinking about them. Long before the current craze for checking out The Bard's historical, religious and social milieu (*Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* by Stephen Greenblatt, for example, or *A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599* by

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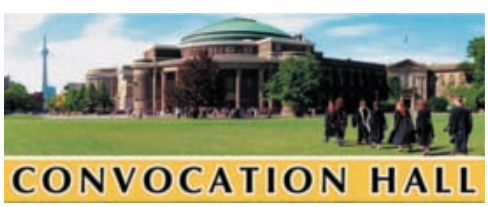


Restoring our heritage

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO

James Shapiro), I had a teacher who roamed about Tudor London not as a tour guide but as a denizen and the patience he extended to those who were willing to travel with him seemed infinite.

"To bask in the *gravitas* and empathy of a great research scholar is one of the great highs in life, never to be forgotten"

For all the heated debate about professors who follow their research stars more assiduously than they develop their teaching skills, I had the experience of all kinds. "Shakespeare Jack" had only a BA and perhaps a "doctorate (minus thesis)," as some "unfinished" scholars occasionally and comically put after their names, but his great mentor was Northrop Frye whose guiding light was passed along to me with some reverence. To this day, Jack-with-only-a-BA was the greatest classroom performer I ever encountered and a spectacularly inspiring teacher.

Oxford's John B. was one of the very top 17th-century men of his day, but if you worked hard and didn't waste his time, he was as generous a master's thesis supervisor as anyone could hope to have. To bask in the *gravitas* and empathy of a great research scholar who is also generous with his or her time and wisdom is one of the great highs in life, never to be forgotten, ever to be cherished.

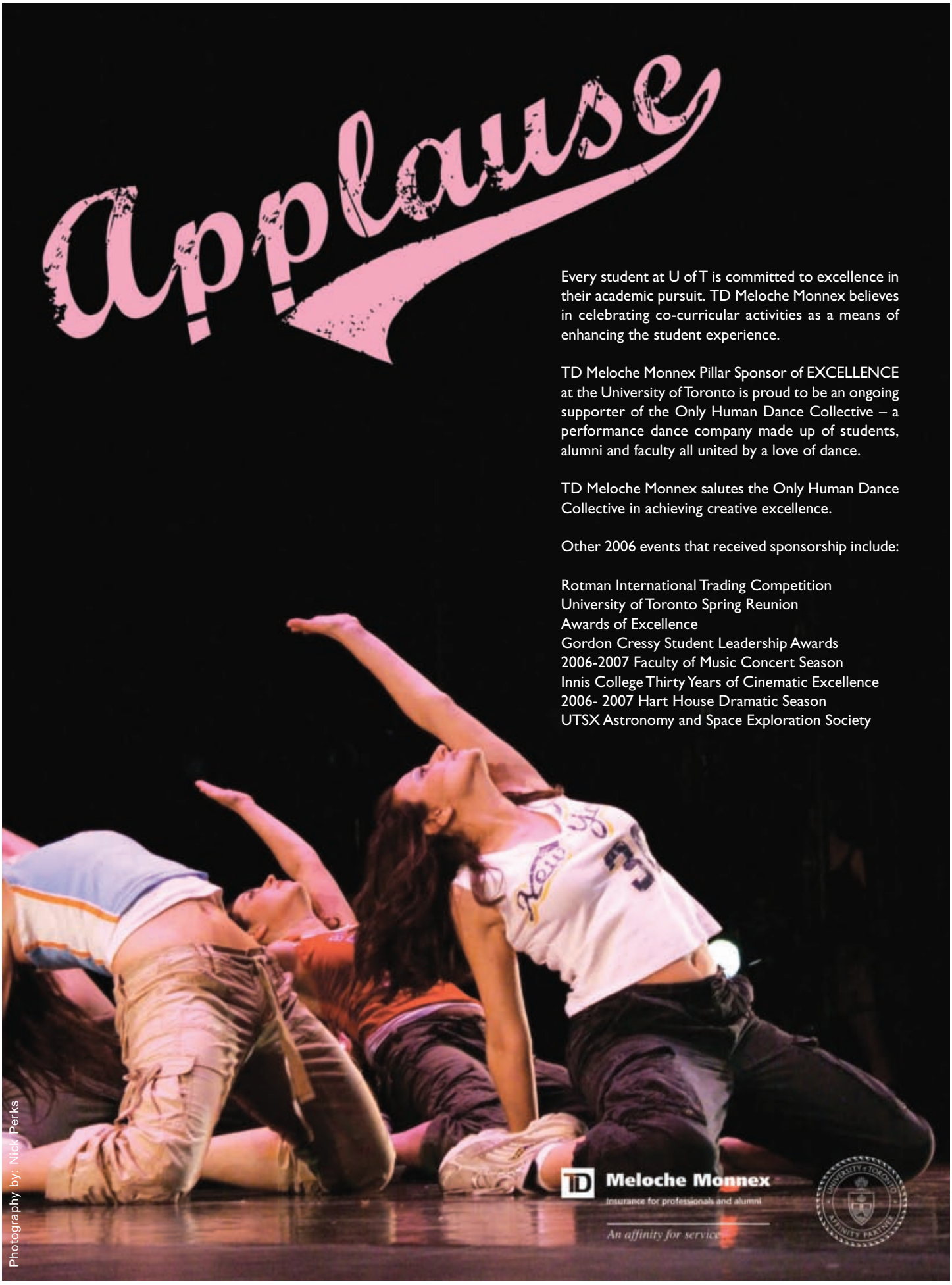
"Prof. Helena F." was married to a cabinet minister in Joey Smallwood's Newfoundland government. She raised nine children, made bread every week, read Chaucer in one hand while hoovering with the other, and made you want to do research. She had her specialty, of course (the Romantics) but to my mind her gift was to start students on their way – with confidence and heightened curiosity.

In trying to figure out if there was any common denominator amongst my best teachers that I could try to find within myself – or simply steal! – I have come up with only one and it is the obvious one: passion. Passion for their field of expertise; passion for getting it across to students; passion for the art of teaching and for the chance to teach; and passion for passing on what had been passed to them.

I also remember "Prof. George S." of Memorial, who died a few years ago to the immense loss of every single student who ever experienced his erudite and sweetly ironic way. When he walked into the classroom and looked out at us, lecture material in hand and his reputation in the field of the English metaphysical poets like a Zen mantle around his shoulders, you knew at once that the class was going to be real work, but also that it would be gripping and – am I allowed to say it? – a lot of fun.

If I can deliver a tenth of that, I will count my new course a success.

John Fraser is Master of Massey College. His new course, "The Newspaper in Canadian Society," is part of the Book and Media Studies Program at St. Michael's College.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FIELD OF DREAMS

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, SUMMER AT U OF T IS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN LEARNING ENGLISH

BY BEN KAPLAN

Hope is dwindling for the English as a Second Language men's soccer team. Down 3 to nothing, under a scorching July sun, the players are visibly tiring against a faster St. Hilda squad. Then, Chike Agbasi, from Nigeria, puts the ball in the corner of the St. Hilda net with a left-footed blast. The St. Hilda team strikes again – making the score 4-1 – but their celebration is thwarted on the ESL team's very next drive when Masoud Shabani of Iran heads the ball past a stunned St. Hilda goalie. With tempers rising, ESL nets two more goals, evening out the score.

Less than five minutes remain.

"I just want cool heads to prevail," says Bill Mboutsiadis (BA 1991 Victoria), who has coached the soccer team for the U of T School of Continuing Studies' English Language Program since 1996. "When people begin getting emotional, I call a tighter game," says Mboutsiadis, who often referees the matches. "The last thing we want is for someone to get hurt."

When St. Hilda scores another goal to win the tournament, the team's striker is offside. But the U of T players don't complain. "We do this for fun," says Mohammed Oklat Alesba, 18, from Kuwait. "In my country, soccer is like religion. Here it's not so much about if we win or lose. It's a way to meet friends, and it reminds me of home."

Ten years ago, Mboutsiadis, who also teaches English as a Second Language, was looking for a way to give students more opportunities to speak English outside of the classroom. "Language is sometimes learned best in an informal setting," he says, adding that soccer was a logical choice because it's played around the world. It's a universal language – and a good icebreaker. The students hadn't been at U of T more than a few hours before the conversation turned to their favourite sport. "An Italian guy had a soccer ball, and soon we all were laughing and playing like old friends," says Askar Abeldinov, 24, from Kazakhstan.

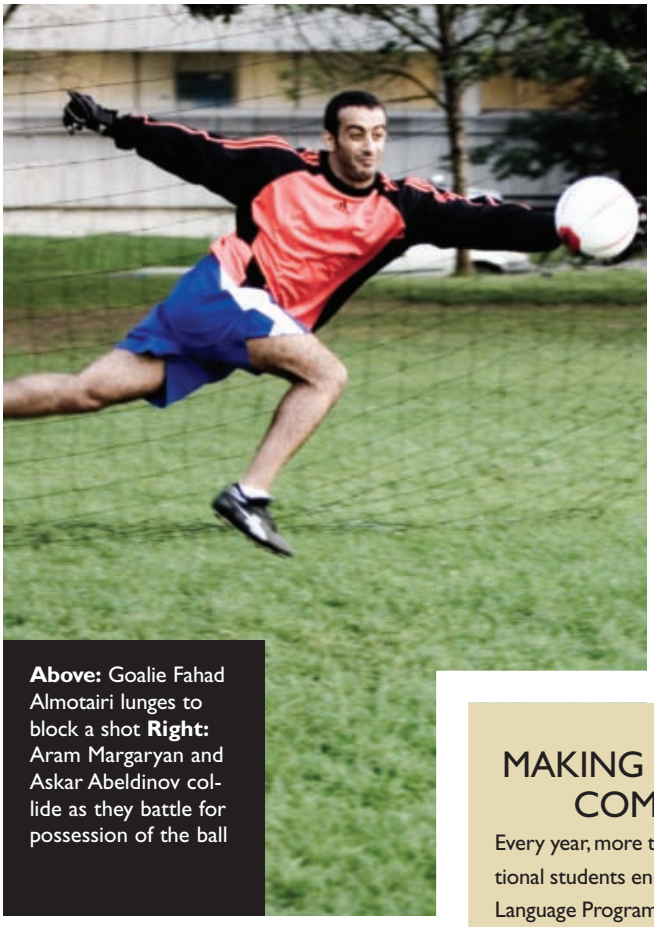
People come from around the world to attend the English Language Program at the University of Toronto. Since its launch in 1968, the program has helped thousands of individuals eager to learn English. Many of the 400 who have enrolled this summer are away from home for the first time, while a few have immigrated to Toronto to continue their research or studies. The soccer team provides a good outlet for practising English, making new friends and sharing a common passion. This summer, the players gathered regularly to watch the World Cup.

"Toronto isn't a city, it's like the world all gathered in one place," says Shabani, 38, who is researching diabetes at U of T. "In Iran, I would be rooting for the Iranian team, but here I have made friends from all over the world. If their team wins a match, I feel happy. It doesn't matter who wins."

"Everybody at home plays soccer, every day, twice a day," says Abeldinov, who is studying engineering at U of T. "When I think about home, I see myself playing soccer with my family and friends. Of course I want to play tournaments and win games, but I don't mind so much. It's nice being in Canada and part of a team."

Many members of the soccer team live in Woodsworth College residence, so they spend time together on and off the field. On a cloudy day in late June, 25 players assemble in the residence's main recreation room to watch the televised World Cup quarter-final match between Germany and Argentina. Mboutsiadis and Ennis Blentic, the ESL student services coordinator, have joined them. Stefano Di Lauro from Italy sits in the centre of the red leather sofa, sandwiched between Juan Pablo Angulo from Colombia and Mohammed Balsharaf from Saudi Arabia. The normally boisterous young men, who have known each other for only two months, sit rapt, commenting on the match in English. "Germany has too much defence, Argentina is too proud," says Di Lauro, who is decked out in the red, white and green of the Italian flag to cheer for his team in the day's second World Cup game. "This will be the game of the century," says Balsharaf. "Those

ESL assistant coach Chike Agbasi, of Nigeria



Above: Goalie Fahad Almotairi lunges to block a shot **Right:** Aram Margaryan and Askar Abeldinov collide as they battle for possession of the ball

Argentinians hate to lose."

Blentic has set up folding chairs and tables topped with pop and chips. Of the 13 English Language students from Kazakhstan, five men and only one woman have come to watch the game. (For reasons of geographic proximity, they're rooting for Germany.) "The other girls are doing their homework, I think," says Abeldinov, jokingly. "We have the same amount of work as they do, but only true soccer players find time to watch the match."

Morning classes are geared to students looking to improve their conversation skills and fluency. Afternoon courses prepare students for university study, with practice in note-taking, group presentations and essay writing. But some teachers have permitted their students to take time off from class to watch the World Cup. "They know how important this is," Di Lauro says. "The last time Italy won I wasn't born yet. If they have a chance now I can't miss the game, even if I am in Toronto. It just wouldn't be fair."

MAKING LANGUAGE COME ALIVE

Every year, more than 2,000 international students enrol in U of T's English Language Program, offered through the School of Continuing Studies. Language instruction is offered on both a full- and part-time basis, and many students get a credit from their home universities for the coursework they do at U of T. Students certified through the program are not required to take a language test to qualify for admission to U of T.

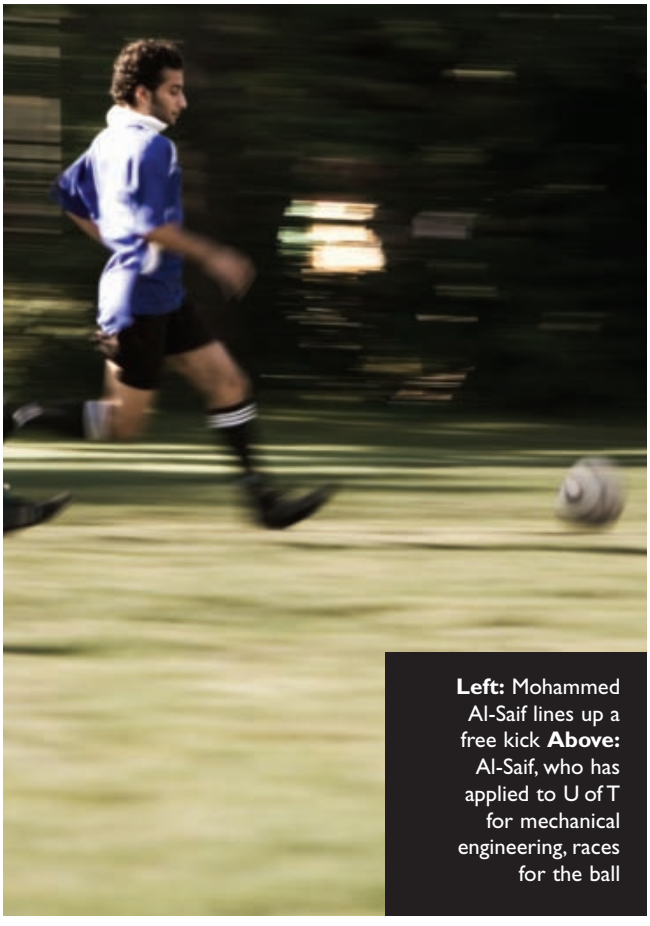
Since its launch in 1968, the program has attracted participants from dozens of countries. "Today we have children of our first graduating classes attending the school," says program director Carolyn Coté (BA 1984 Woods, TESL 1986 Woods, MEd 2006 OISE). Learning takes place both in and out of the classroom, she adds. Students produce a newspaper, go canoeing, camping and skiing, and take in opera and theatre, among other activities. "We work English into our students' everyday lives," says Coté. "Our goal is to make the language come alive."

For more information, visit www.learn.utoronto.ca. – *B.K.*

Twice Mboutsiadis has brought his students to the residence hall to practise their English with the World Cup playing in the background. On the afternoon of the Germany-Argentina match, the students have ordered three large pizzas – none with pork out of respect for the Muslim students – that are devoured faster than the Brazilian team scores goals. The ESL players jump to their feet when Germany makes a defensive mistake in the 49th minute and Argentina puts the ball in the net. The room goes wild. Even the guys from Kazakhstan cheer.

"I know how important this is to everyone," says Mboutsiadis, whose family emigrated from Greece in the 1960s. "When I was a kid and played football, my dad never came to my games. But when I played soccer, he was the first one there. In a lot of these countries, soccer is something you grow up with."

The next day, I squeeze into Le St.



Left: Mohammed Al-Saif lines up a free kick **Above:** Al-Saif, who has applied to U of T for mechanical engineering, races for the ball

Tropez restaurant on King Street West with ESL player Teu Si Nguyen to watch France's quarter-final match against Brazil. The place is jammed, with people spilling down the stairs and into the street. Nguyen, who is of Vietnamese descent and lives in Paris, has watched all of France's games here on the projection TV. He stands on a chair and chants "Zissou, Zissou" every time the French captain touches the ball. Many Saudi Arabian players on the ESL team are also cheering for France. Zinedine Zidane, the son of a Muslim Algerian, is why Balsharaf has joined Nguyen to watch the game.

The patriotism of the ESL players during the World Cup doesn't always translate into unquestioning support for their country. Nguyen's father served jail time for challenging the government in Vietnam, and the 23-year-old says he maintains a healthy skepticism of politics and politicians – and the idea that a nation can stand proudly on historic achievements alone. "I think a patriot is someone who can criticize his government. It's not enough just to stand here and say, 'France is great, France is great, look at our history.' I don't want to look at our history. I want to look at our future."

In the first half of the match, it looks as if the French team is simply content to have made it this far. They seem older and slower than the wildly popular, high-flying Brazilians. But in the second half, the tide turns. The French squad's experience keeps mighty Brazil from taking a shot. Then, in the dying minutes of the game, Zidane sets up a goal on a free kick.

"I feel crazy, it's like a dream," says Nguyen over the crowd's roar. "We'll be in the streets tonight dancing. *Vive la France!*"

Nguyen and his teammates are practising on back campus near Soldiers' Tower on the first rainless Thursday night in two weeks. Italy beat Germany 2-0 to arrive in the World Cup semi-finals and students from Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul have just arrived and joined the ESL team.

"It's not Manchester United. Whatever I've got here, I've got," says Mboutsiadis as he opens a large gym bag and hands out soccer shorts, jerseys, shin guards and cleats. He gets a small amount of money each year to outfit the team, and most of the players borrow what they can from the coach.

The team runs through passing drills and trots laps as the sun drops lower in the sky. They're listening to the coach, but it's clear they would rather be scrimmaging than running. "Pick it up, Italy!" shouts Chike Agbasi, a political science major who makes a charismatic forward.

"No man, it's too hot!" Di Lauro yells back.

The players like to point out the unusual friendships they've made on the soccer field. Mohammed Al-Harthi, 24, from Saudi Arabia, who plans to start an MBA next year, talks about encountering a student from Israel. Before coming to Toronto, he had never met an Israeli and had assumed that all Israelis hate Arabs. But while the guys passed the ball to each

other on the U of T soccer field, Al-Harthi discovered that they weren't so different after all. The two students met for coffee the next day as soccer players, not as proxies for their countries. "That would never happen back home," says Al-Harthi. "It's a different mentality in Canada. In Canada, it's like we're not our countries, we're just ourselves. I'm lucky to experience that."


Mohammed Alyami

Other players have similar stories. "We fought with Iraq for eight years," says Shabani of Iran. "Back home everyone is against Iraq, but here they're just other people far from home. We have an opportunity here to live in peace. It's an achievement to be sure."

Shabani, who is Muslim, arrived in Toronto in March 2004, but his fiancée stayed in Iran. He has attended a Christian church service here and says his views about religion are changing – so much so that he now challenges his family and friends about their beliefs. "When you come to Canada, you look at people as human beings, not as their religion," Shabani says. "When I went home, especially with my fiancée's father, our ideas clashed. The religions are actually very similar; there's a moral centre that all religions share. I know that if I could just bring them to Toronto, they would see the world as a bigger, more diverse, yet still equal place. I will bring my fiancée here someday."

Shabani says he was dismayed by the reports, in early June, that Canadian police had discovered a homegrown terrorist plot involving Muslims. "Religion is part of you, of course," he says, "but there is nothing more ignorant than plotting a terrorist attack. Anywhere in the world this is wrong. I'm a soldier fighting against that."

The last game of the World Cup pits Italy against France. Di Lauro is back in the residence hall on the red couch rooting for Italy, and Nguyen is in the Rogers Centre among 35,000 fans cheering for France. The game is a nail-biter, but Italy wins on penalty kicks. "I couldn't move, I was frozen and then I started to cry," says Nguyen.

Others were jubilant. "It was a wonderful day," exclaims Di Lauro. "I watched with my team in the residence hall, then went to Little Italy, then to Corso Italia that night. Everyone was like friends at the party. It was almost better than being in Rome. Here I could party with the whole world."

The following Thursday, the ESL soccer team was once again on U of T's back campus field. They were doing passing drills. And nobody seemed to mind.

Ben Kaplan is the features editor of Post City Magazines. *He recently wrote a two-part undercover series on the Guardian Angels for the* Globe and Mail. *This is his first story for* U of T Magazine.

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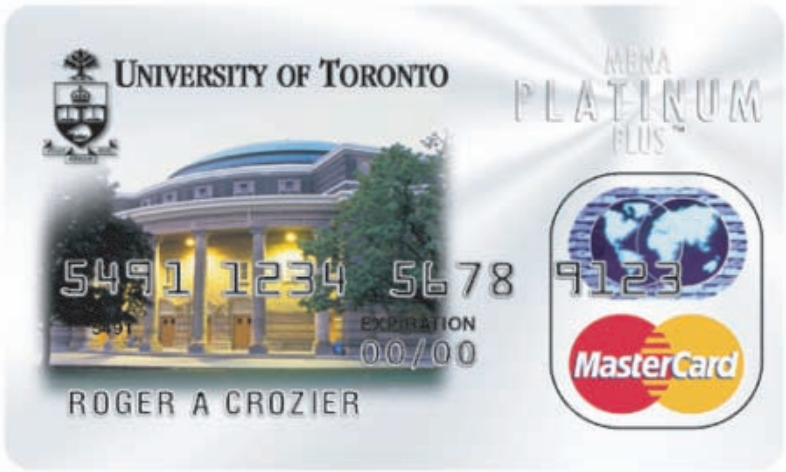

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***Varsity* editor Betsy Mosbaugh looks over a 1944 edition of the paper with assistant editor Bob Grosskurth**

A NEWSROOM OF ONE'S OWN

Betsy Mosbaugh braved the war era, snowstorms and typos as the first female editor of the *Varsity*

By Stacey Gibson

IT was the worst blizzard in Toronto's history. On Tuesday, Dec. 12, 1944, a storm from the Gulf of Mexico seethed its way north, unleashing 21 inches of snow on the city by noon. "Whole City Stopped as If by Giant Hand" blazoned the *Toronto Daily Star*'s late Tuesday edition. Twenty-one people died in the whiteout – including one killed when a Queen St. streetcar keeled over and trapped 170 people inside. Motor traffic was suspended; deliveries of bread and milk halted; and most establishments – including munitions factories – shut down.

The University of Toronto, in the centre of the storm, transformed into what the *Varsity* called "an Alaskan ghost town." Its Gothic buildings were partially buried under six-foot drifts, and the few students who had missed the 8 a.m. radio announcement of class cancellations staggered through blinding snow only to find locked doors. Residences were shut off from food supplies, and even Mac's – the famed campus sweetery – was closed for the first time in its history.

One U of T operation, however, remained open through the two-day paralysis: the *Varsity* student newspaper. Working from the U of T Press building at St. George and College streets – home of the *Varsity*'s night office and printing room – the stalwart editors churned out their eight-page Christmas literary edition. Managing editor Ken McRae, who had foot-slogged his way in, banged out the day's editorial on an Underwood typewriter. U of T staff compositor Jimmy Taylor worked the Mergenthaler linotype, with the machine's molten lead heating up the basement room. The crew not only succeeded in printing and delivering the "Green Issue" (named for its festive use of ink colour), but one-upped the *Globe and Mail* – which failed to publish a Wednesday morning edition at all. "It was the great triumph of the newspaper year," says McRae (BA 1946 Victoria).

The triumph was due in no small part to Betsy Mosbaugh, the *Varsity*'s editor-in-chief and one of the issue's night editors. Mosbaugh, 21, trumped not only the natural elements that year, but the social landscape: she was the first female editor in the paper's 64-year history. Known affectionately as "the boss-woman," "the editriss" and "dialectical Betsy," Mosbaugh was a fourth-year philosophy and English student at University College who had served as an assistant sports editor the year before. A formidable athlete, she wielded a hockey stick with the same dexterity that she spoke the English language: she had an incisive wit and was a natural punster who created high art out of wordplay. In an era when women were fussing over pin curls like starlet Gene Tierney's and pining for sweater sets, Mosbaugh brushed her wavy brown hair away from her face and sometimes donned a tweed suit and topcoat with raglan sleeves. Broad-shouldered and singularly self-possessed, she entered a space – and assumed control – by presence alone. "We were kind of in awe of her," says Barbara Michasiw (neé Jones), 83, who served as news editor. "Long before there was a feminist movement she was a very strong woman. And although she probably would not

PHOTOGRAPHY: YORK UNIVERSITY. CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES. ASC IMAGE # 1355

have been editor had it not been war years and there was a shortage of men, it wasn't because she didn't have the ability. She certainly did, and she did a great job as editor. You didn't cross Betsy. But she was fair, she was very fair."

A stringent editor, Mosbaugh arrived at the office well before 8:30 a.m. classes to check the day's paper, marking grammatical gaffes and peppering the issue with editorial appraisals. "Ohmygawd" was one of her favourite expressions, which she used after discovering a glaring typo that the night editors had missed. "She was a good, strong taskmaster," says Alex Cringan (BScF 1948, MSc 1956), 80, who was a junior staffer who wrote sports and news items. "She expected you to do the job assigned, and to do it as well as you could. If she didn't like it, she told you exactly what she didn't like about it. She was very frank, very transparent and she was tough. She could hold her own with anybody."

In the era of Linotypes, when student editors often stayed up until 4 a.m. proofing, final copy was apt to be spattered with minor errors. But the typo that caused the most turmoil struck in one of Betsy's first editorials. On October 1, 1944, U of T Chancellor Sir William Mulock died at the age of 100. That evening, Mosbaugh tapped out a eulogy entitled "The Fire of Life," in which she punctiliously relayed his journey from farmer to cabinet minister and chancellor. She ended with a quote from Mulock – "I have warmed both my hands before the fire of life" – then left the piece with the night editors for typesetting and proofing. When she reviewed the issue the following morning, however, she looked at her editorial in horror. The first line of her valedictory read, "Canada's grand old man is deal" – not dead. "Poor Betsy – she was not a bit happy," says Michasiw (BA 1945 Victoria, MA 1946, MA 1967, PhD 1974). "He was a great, grey eminence, and it was a major editorial for her. To have her first sentence demolished like that was a very bad thing." Mosbaugh's reaction? "Well, perhaps there were some unprintable words said."


The VARSITY
The Undergraduate Newspaper
VOL. LXIV — THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO — NO. 1001b
PETTICOAT FLUTTERS FROM "THE VARSITY" FLAGSTAFF
Bi-Weekly Half-Pints Mark Difficult Year For News Department
FIRST WOMAN EDITOR IN HISTORY GUIDES STUDENT NEWSPAPER POLICY
Managing Department At Wits' End
McIntosh, McRae Mak' Ready
Mosbaugh Decries, Condemns, Expostulates; the Women's Editor? Horrors!—A Schoolman!
HORRORS OF WAR

In a 1945 parody of the *Varsity*, by the *Torontonensis* yearbook staff, Mosbaugh's ascension to editor was playfully touted as a "horror of war"

Mosbaugh was born in 1923 in Huntsville, Ontario, a small rural community 220 km north of Toronto. The town was a centre for lumbering, and its picturesque harbour often teemed with thatches of freshly cut logs. Huntsville was also one of the last company towns: businessman C.O. Shaw owned just about everything in the area – from the steam train railway, to the Bigwin Inn (a high-class resort frequented by movie stars and politicians), to the residents' houses. He also owned the prosperous Anglo-Canadian Leather Company, where Mosbaugh's father, Frank, worked as superintendent and later as director. The family lived directly across from the tannery in their one-storey wooden home – and right next to C.O. Shaw (who lived in the town's only brick house).

The Mosbaugh family was one of the "leading lights of Huntsville society," says friend George Garland (BASc 1947, MSc 1948), 80. Frank helped build the town's first golf course and immersed himself in civic activities. Betsy's mother, Laura, was a homemaker who encouraged the disparate talents of their four children. The youngest son, Frank Jr., became a CBC producer; he later moved to New York and worked at CBS, and played piano at venues such as the Drake Hotel. Marjorie (BA 1937 St. Michael's, MD 1940) – eight years older than Betsy – earned her medical degree at U of T and became a tuberculosis specialist. She also worked as a general practitioner in northern Ontario, treating patients throughout Haliburton's forested areas and living a solitary existence in a trailer stacked high with books. Marjorie continued to practise into her 80s, tugging on her army boots and paddling to remote areas to reach her patients. The oldest brother, George, became the tannery's superintendent. In 1956, he died in a failed attempt to save two workers overcome by gas fumes after a mechanical malfunction in the tannery. It fell to Marjorie, who was home at the time of the accident, to declare her brother dead.

When Mosbaugh took the *Varsity*'s helm in September 1944, the newspaper reflected the sombre tenor of the Second World War. The tone was apparent from the year's first edition, which contained a roll call of 94 young U of T men killed in action, missing or presumed dead since April 1, 1944. Issues contained updates on compulsory military training for male students and national service training for women; coverage of U of T's War Service Drive and blood donor clinics; and news on students overseas, with headlines such as "Once Sports Editor of the *Varsity*: Now Heroically Downs Nazi Planes." The masthead included a military editor, and higher wartime printing costs forced Mosbaugh to downsize to a single-sheet issue twice a week. (The paper remained a four-page issue on the remaining three weekdays). "This was the crunch year of the war and the casualties from D-Day had been coming in since the summer, so it was a fairly grim period," says McRae. "I thought that [working at a newspaper] was a very serious business to be in. We were very privileged not to be in the trenches somewhere."

The prevailing climate also led to a conservative ethos at the newspaper, and there was little student activism on campus.

PHOTOGRAPHY: 1945 *TORONTONENSIS*

"The *Varsity* at that time was more of an information paper," says McRae. "You covered meetings and associations. There were lots of meetings about the nature of the post-war world and some post-war planning, but there wouldn't be very much student debate. There wasn't a lot of student politics at the time, and there wasn't a lot of student radicalism. The war tamped these things down."

Despite the conservative atmosphere, Mosbaugh cast a critical eye on the day's issues in her editorials – and a discerning eye she did cast. She censured U.S. President Roosevelt's proposed bill for one year of compulsory military training during peacetime; criticized U of T for subjecting returning servicemen to the "undignified humiliations" of freshman initiation rituals; and offered a scathing remonstration of the McGill University Senate for prohibiting students of Japanese descent from taking courses at the university. Mosbaugh also denounced Hart House for barring admission to women (the building remained off limits to females until 1972). She argued that denying females access to Hart House propagated a system of parallel education at U of T, as opposed to an integrated "co-education." "As long as the exclusive walls of a male harem continue to provide shelter from the responsibilities of a heterosexual world, young men...will not grow into perfect citizens, because they have lacked the opportunity to develop a balanced attitude towards half of their fellow students," she wrote.

Betsy Mosbaugh and news editor Frank Rasky hold a mock editorial meeting outside after the Great Snow

The *Varsity*, however, proved to be co-education – or co-curricular recreation – at its best, with a clubhouse atmosphere and the high-spirited pell-mell of a newsroom. The staff – 14 editors and 50 part-time writers – worked from a former faculty office in University College, amidst the constant clacking din of typewriters and an ever-present brewing pot of coffee. Late on Friday afternoons, an editor would inevitably issue the standard line – "We will adjourn to the King Cole Room" – and staffers would make their way to the basement beer hall in the Park Plaza Hotel on Bloor Street. "Betsy was not averse at all to joining the boys at the King Cole Room," says Michasiw. "The Champus Cat" – a tongue-in-cheek *Varsity* gossip column that carried thinly disguised vignettes about staffers – would carry reports on the goings-on, referring to the venue as the Partly Plastered Hotel.

Mosbaugh added to the hijinks with her subversive humour. The *Varsity* newspaper actually had *two* daytime offices – one inside the female-averse Hart House. But given Mosbaugh's position as editor-in-chief, and the high number of women on the masthead that year, the Hart House office was conferred to the *Torontonensis* yearbook staff – which had a male at its helm. One *Varsity* editor mourned the situation in that year's *Torontonensis*: "A heavily feminized staff forced us to stay in the cramped [University College] office for the second consecutive year, and bequeath our commodious Hart House quarters to *Torontonensis*." To protest the misappropriation, Mosbaugh wrangled assistant news editor Frank Rasky (BA 1945 UC) into a photo shoot during the aftermath of the Great Snow. She buried herself neck-deep in the drifts in the University College quadrangle and held a mock editorial conference – claiming the tiny office was so crowded that a snow pile was the only place left to meet.

A *Toronto Telegram* article that profiled Mosbaugh when she became *Varsity* editor stated her youthful ambitions: earn a master of journalism at Columbia University, New York, and write a novel in social satire style. In the 1945 yearbook, she further outlined her expectations: "Anticipates rough knocks in journalism and politics, then hopes to retire on proceeds of memories." Her roughest battles, however, would not be fought during a Fleet Street–style newspaper war or a parliamentary debate – and could not be anticipated by a 21-year-old.

On June 5, 1945, Mosbaugh married Ralph Mackay – director of information at the Wartime Prices Board and Trade and a former *Vancouver Sun* staffer – in a simple ceremony in front of 30 guests in Ottawa. Mosbaugh worked in the National Film Board of Canada's information section, and wrote an article for *Saturday Night* magazine in 1946 about the film board's female directors and location managers. She expanded into writing dialogue for Crawley Films in Ottawa, which made educational films for such clients as McGraw-Hill Text Films. Mosbaugh and Mackay bought a small farm overlooking the Gatineau River. The rustic farmhouse had no plumbing, and the couple cooked on a wood-burning stove, tended a vegetable patch and commuted to their jobs each day by railway. The couple lived there for about three years, and had two daughters, Ellen and Ann.

The seemingly Norman Rockwell existence quickly splintered. The couple separated, and Mosbaugh returned to Toronto with her young daughters. Eventually, Mackay and the girls would move to Vancouver. Mosbaugh was battling increasingly against alcoholism – a fight that would continue throughout her life. "She was close to death several times," says her niece Mary Spence-Thomas, 60. In her mid-50s, Mosbaugh decided to try a new medical implant in its testing stages. The "anti-alcohol" device was embedded in her abdomen, and yielded dosages of medication that created an adverse physical reaction when she drank. "When she had the

PHOTOGRAPHY: 1945 *TORONTONENSIS*

implant, she found herself again," says Spence-Thomas. "I believe at that point she had nothing to lose, and she responded tremendously well to it."

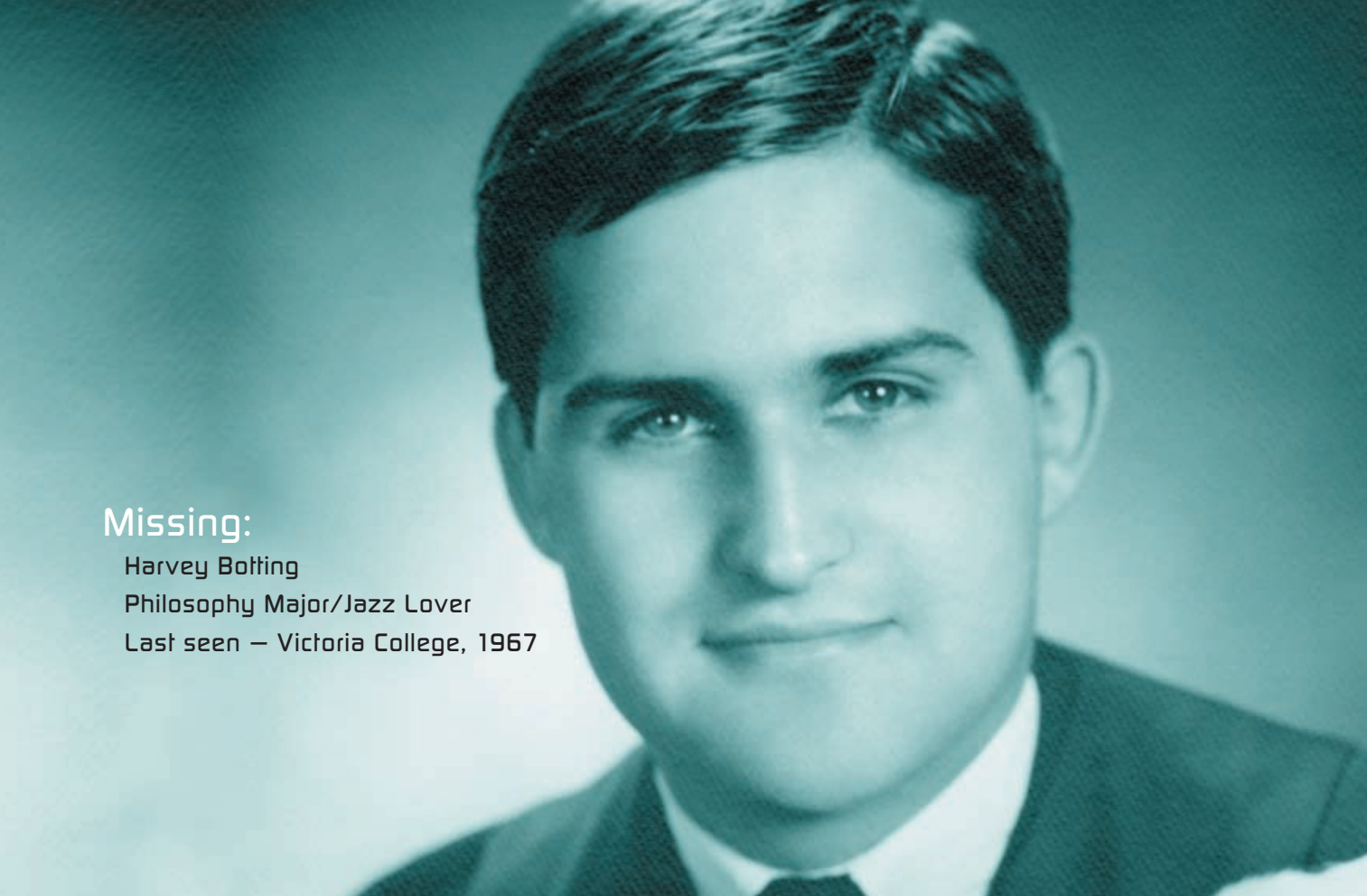
In the years following the medical procedure, Mosbaugh's life prospered. She took a job as an editor at a printing company in downtown Toronto, and lived in an apartment on Carlton Street – around the corner from the historical Cabbagetown neighbourhood. Enamoured with architecture and history, Mosbaugh delighted in taking walks with Spence-Thomas through the area and pointing out design details of the Victorian homes. However, Mosbaugh lost her footing again after the printing company moved to the suburbs and brought in new, young management. "Everything changed. There was no longer the sense of camaraderie or teamwork. She couldn't keep it together. And yet at that point she thought she was strong enough to live without the implant and she had it taken out," says Spence-Thomas. "It set her on a bad path and by the end she had to pick herself up once again."

The winter of 1992 stood in contrast to the violent season that plagued Toronto and the *Varsity* editors almost half-a-century earlier. Ferocious snow squalls were replaced with gentle temperatures and light dustings of snow on the streets. Early one December morning, in her high-rise apartment in the St. Jamestown neighbourhood, Mosbaugh faced her last struggle. While she was cooking breakfast, her nylon nightgown tipped too close to the burner's edge, and caught fire. In the flash of a moment, in what writer Joan Didion refers to as an "ordinary instant," Mosbaugh acted in her ordinary manner: she battled back. She rolled on the floor, extinguishing the flames, and struggled to the phone to call an ambulance. She was taken to the Wellesley Hospital with third-degree burns on her face and chest. Mosbaugh continued to fight for two more months, but – despite initial periods of consciousness – she remained in a coma. She died in the Ross Tilley Burn Centre at Wellesley Hospital on Thursday, February 25, 1993.

"I know that those times at the *Varsity* were good times for her. I think that she was in full stride at that time in her life. Who knows how it all got sidetracked," says Spence-Thomas. "I remember we found writings of hers, and they were passionate – beautifully passionate – and that was a side of Betsy that much later in life we didn't really see."

"Betsy was in an ever-constant battle, and I think it's hard to criticize because everybody has struggles whether they choose to admit them or not," she adds. "She would fall but then she would get back up – and that's the important part. She did it time and time again, which showed that there was a spirit there that wanted to make it happen. She kept coming back, and kept coming back, despite tumbling again. Betsy would always come back."

Stacey Gibson is managing editor of U of T Magazine.



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returning to where the stories began

Over the years, you may have lost touch with your classmates. Here's your chance to find out what happened to them.

Harvey has collected a few letters since 1967, like MBA and Senior VP. But that's not the whole story. Find out more about Harvey and other grads at Spring Reunion 2007, where we're honouring graduates of years ending in 2 or 7, and planning special events for 25th and 50th anniversaries. The President's Garden Party and Chancellor's Medal Presentation (honouring the 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, 75th and 80th anniversaries of graduation) will cap off a weekend designed to satisfy your curiosity. Get more details and register at spring.reunion@utoronto.ca, 416-978-5881, 1-888-738-8876 (toll free) or www.springreunion.utoronto.ca.

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Graduates of years ending in 2 or 7

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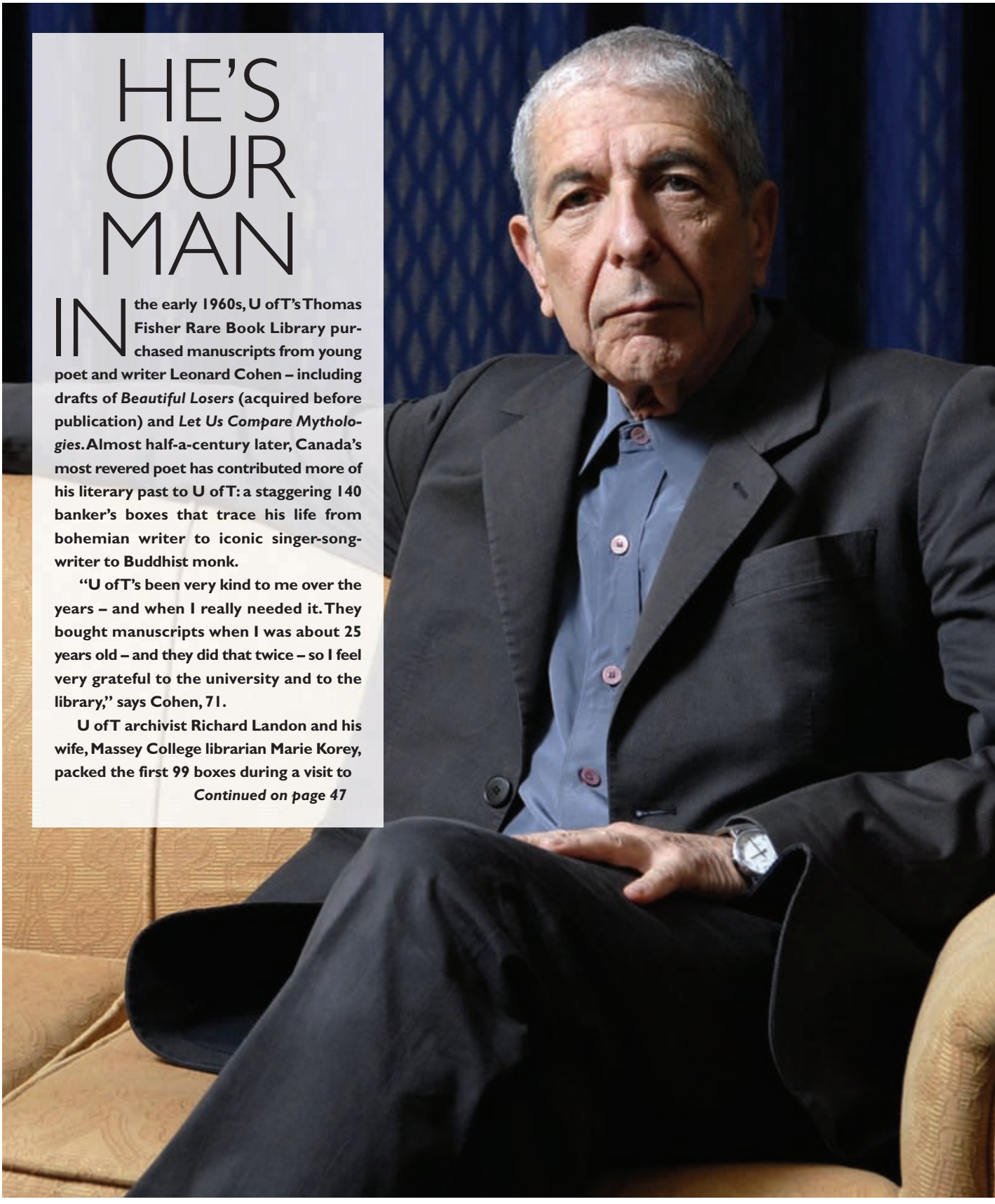


HE'S OUR MAN

IN the early 1960s, U of T's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library purchased manuscripts from young poet and writer Leonard Cohen – including drafts of *Beautiful Losers* (acquired before publication) and *Let Us Compare Mythologies*. Almost half-a-century later, Canada's most revered poet has contributed more of his literary past to U of T: a staggering 140 banker's boxes that trace his life from bohemian writer to iconic singer-songwriter to Buddhist monk.

"U of T's been very kind to me over the years – and when I really needed it. They bought manuscripts when I was about 25 years old – and they did that twice – so I feel very grateful to the university and to the library," says Cohen, 71.

U of T archivist Richard Landon and his wife, Massey College librarian Marie Korey, packed the first 99 boxes during a visit to

Continued on page 47

PHOTOGRAPHY: CP/AARON HARRIS)

Taking Stock

Dorothy McRobb says she's been making more money in the stock market since she retired than she ever did while she was working. And now, at age 75, she wants to give most of it away.

Thanks to a recent change in federal tax rules, her money will go significantly further. In May, the federal government announced the elimination of the capital gains tax on donations of publicly traded securities. Under the previous regime, a donor who had purchased shares worth $2,000 and donated them when they reached $10,000 would have been required to pay $920 in capital gains tax. With this new measure, the donor doesn't pay any tax on the gain, and still receives a donation receipt for $10,000.

Tax experts predict donations of securities to charities could rise as much as 50 per cent a year as a result of the measure. "People should know how beneficial this is," says McRobb. "When you die, your capital gains are taxed at 50 per cent. It can be quite a blow to your estate. You can give this money away now."

McRobb earned a certificate in institutional management in 1952 and a BA in 1972 from U of T while attending Woodsworth College. She recently donated shares worth $70,000 to support the Dorothy Helen McRobb Scholarship, an endowment that will provide one or more awards annually to Woodsworth students.

A former vice-chair of the Ontario Municipal Board, McRobb retired in 1991, and hired a broker to make investments for her. When he lost $15,000 in four months, she took matters into her own hands. She adhered to the philosophy of renowned investor Warren Buffett to pick well-run companies and stick with them. The approach worked well, and she hopes the money will now help students make their own wise choices. "Education is very important," she says.

– Scott Anderson

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEPHEN SIMEON

Ira Gluskin

Fortune-Building Son Honours Dad with $3.5-Million Gift to Economics

Toronto investment manager Ira Gluskin and his wife, Maxine Granovsky-Gluskin, have honoured Ira's father, Max, with a $3.5-million gift to the University of Toronto to help renovate and expand the economics building.

Max, 92, graduated from U of T's commerce and finance program in 1936 and became a chartered accountant. Ira, who finished the same program in 1964 and is now one of Canada's leading investment managers, says it was rare among his childhood peers to have a father who graduated from university.

"I signed up for that program because it was the only thing I knew anything about," says Gluskin, president and chief investment officer of Gluskin Sheff + Associates, a Toronto investment firm. "If he'd been an optometrist, or a brain surgeon, I'd have probably been that, too."

Gluskin's gift will enable the economics department to enhance an academic program that has grown significantly over the past decade. Since 1997, graduate student enrolment has increased 50 per cent, due partly to the launch of a master's degree in financial economics, while undergraduate enrolment has grown 30 per cent.

Renovation and expansion of the economics building is expected to begin this fall, with occupancy toward the end of 2007. The facility will be named Max Gluskin House, and will provide office, study and research space for all faculty and graduate students for the first time in the department's history.

Gluskin hopes his gift will attract other donors. "I hope that this gift will encourage someone to make an even bigger donation to the university," he says.

The 63-year-old philanthropist has a long involvement with U of T, having served as chairman of the University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation. In 2000, Gluskin and his wife donated $1 million to create the May Gluskin Chair in Canadian History, named for Gluskin's late mother. *– Elizabeth Raymer and Sonnet L'Abbé*

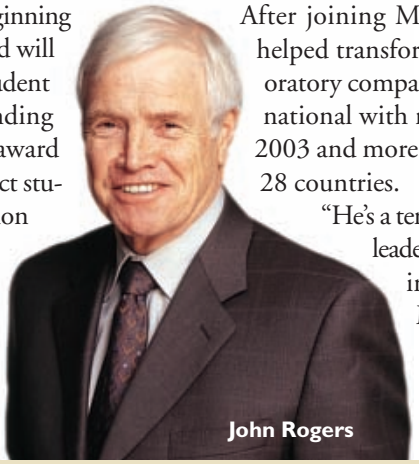
MDS and Rotman Create $30,000 Award for Leadership

MDS Inc., an international health sciences company, has donated $250,000 to the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto in honour of its past president and CEO, John Rogers (BCom 1968). The gift, which U of T has matched, will fund scholarships for Rotman students who exhibit exceptional leadership skills.

The John A. Rogers Award in Leadership "pays tribute to the extraordinary career of John Rogers," says Prof. Roger L. Martin, Rotman's dean. Beginning in 2007, the $30,000 award will be given to an incoming student who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities. The award will enable Rotman to attract students "who reflect the mission and goals of the school – integrative thinkers, leaders who will make important contributions to society," says Martin.

An awards committee composed of representatives from MDS Inc. and the Rotman School of Management will recommend a recipient to Prof. Martin each year. Applicants must submit an essay describing their approach to leadership and how their leadership will contribute to a better world. "These students will help Canada pursue the competitive advantage that is so essential to the country's long-term prosperity," says Martin.

John Rogers received the Rotman Distinguished Business Alumni Award in 2004. After joining MDS Inc. in 1973, Rogers helped transform it from an Ontario laboratory company into a diversified multinational with revenues of $1.8 billion in 2003 and more than 10,000 employees in 28 countries.



John Rogers

"He's a terrific example of the kinds of leadership skills we aspire to instil in all of our students," says Martin. "And he's a great source of pride to the University of Toronto community." – *Elizabeth Raymer*

The Origins of English

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York has awarded a $500,000 (U.S.) Challenge Grant to the *Dictionary of Old English* (DOE) at the University of Toronto.

The grant will be used to support the research and writing of dictionary entries for the earliest words in the English language.

A "challenge grant" means the funds will be released when matching amounts are obtained from other sources, says the dictionary's editor, Professor Antonette diPaolo Healey of the Centre for Medieval Studies. "Of course, we hope that we can match all the Mellon money as soon as possible," she adds.

The *DOE* defines the vocabulary of the first six centuries of English (600-1150 AD) using the technology of the 21st century. It complements both the University of Michigan's *Middle English Dictionary*, which covers the period 1100-1500, and the *Oxford English Dictionary*, which brings the story of English up to the present.

Because of its comprehensive database of Old English, the *DOE* is one of the few dictionaries of any language to be based on a full examination of the surviving evidence – including parchment writings, stone carvings and jewelry inscriptions. The total size of the DOE database is about six times the collected works of Shakespeare.

More than half the DOE is already written, and the first eight letters out of 22 will be available on the web in 2006, says Prof. Healey. Last year, the project issued a new release of the *Dictionary of Old English Corpus on the World Wide Web*, which enables scholars to search all surviving texts in Old English electronically. The project's website, at www.doe.utoronto.ca, includes a "word of the week," which invites general readers to see new entries before publication.

The DOE is also supported by the Salamander Foundation in Toronto, the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington D.C., and the British Academy in London, England. – *Elizabeth Raymer*

Continued from page 45

Los Angeles in 2005. Cohen and his partner and musical collaborator, Anjani Thomas, also sifted through the papers, which were housed at his daughter's antique store. The day before Passover, Cohen sang part of the Seder service to the U of T couple and regaled them with stories over dinner. (Cohen, who lived for many years at Mount Baldy Zen Center in L.A., said his teacher, Joshu Sasaki Roshi, taught him the art of contemplation. He, in turn, taught Roshi how to drink single malt scotch.)

The newly acquired literary treasures include manuscripts of *Death of a Lady's Man* and *Stranger Music*, and a handbound copy of *The Spice-Box of Earth* (inscribed "For Mother with love, Leonard. December 1965, Montreal"). There is correspondence with poets Irving Layton and Allen Ginsberg, and photos taken at a studio session with Phil Spector and Joni Mitchell in the 1970s. There is also an abundance of fan mail that ranges "from the serious to the seriously disturbed," jokes Landon.

When the last of the banker's boxes have been catalogued and put in order, is there anyone in particular Cohen envisions studying his literary material? "Oh, any kind person," says Cohen. "Anyone with the capacity to forgive."

– Stacey Gibson

Al Jazeera's Bridge-builder

Until 9/11, Shereen El Feki (BSc 1991 TRIN) says her Arab identity existed primarily in name. She grew up in Waterloo, Ont., where her Egyptian-born Muslim father and Welsh-born mother, who had converted to Islam, raised her with what she calls "an icing of Islam" – a handful of memorized Koranic verses and a few dietary restrictions. Yet when the world's attention shifted to Islam and the Middle East after 2001, she felt a growing need to connect to her Arab roots.

In 2004, El Feki took a leave of absence from her job as health-care correspondent for *The Economist* in London to live in Cairo for several months. She studied Arabic and learned more about Islam, and left wanting to contribute to better relations between the West and the Middle East. "There's so much misunderstanding and suspicion," she says. "I thought, 'Surely there must be a role for people who can straddle both worlds.'"

Today El Feki is back in London working at Al Jazeera International, the world's first English news channel headquartered in the Middle East. Set to launch later this year, it has broadcast hubs not only in London, but in Washington, D.C.; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Doha, Qatar. As part of her twice-weekly current affairs show, *People and Power*, El Feki will look at "who has power, who wants power, and who's on the receiving end of power around the world, including the Middle East." El Feki adds, "It's much easier to build a bridge if you have someone building from the other side. I'd like to be one of those people." – *Megan Easton*

Shereen El Feki

PHOTOGRAPHY: COLIN THOMAS

Scene Stealer

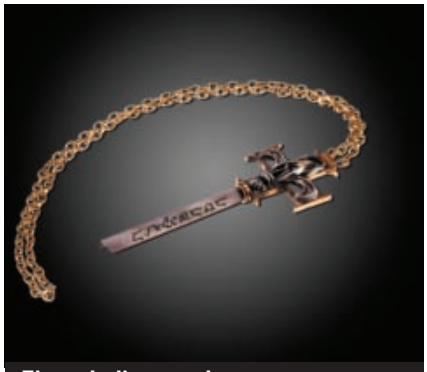
Michelle Ong's jewelry plays a starring role in *The Da Vinci Code*

IN the feverish treasure hunt at the heart of *The Da Vinci Code*, jewelry plays a central role in guiding the protagonists toward the Holy Grail. So when it came to developing the jewels for the cinematic version of Dan Brown's book, the film's creative team turned to Michelle Ong (BA 1979 New College), one of the world's leading jewelry designers.

"When I first read the book, I already had a picture of the pieces in my mind. I was excited to turn it into reality," says Ong, who produces the exclusive Hong Kong–based Carnet jewelry line worn by movie stars such as Glenn Close, Kate Winslet and Teri Hatcher. "They suggested I wait for their instructions with regard to the pieces, but I decided to send them my own interpretation." The team loved her vision, and the collaboration began.

Jewelry designer Michelle Ong

Ong has been designing and selling jewelry for more than 20 years, although she didn't open her retail boutique in Hong Kong's luxury shopping district until 2003. She says she strives to balance Eastern and Western artistic influences in her pieces, which are all handcrafted and sold in limited quantities.



Fleur-de-lis cross key

In addition to the fleur-de-lis cross key pictured here – made of steel, platinum and 18-karat gold – Ong designed a black diamond crucifix pin, a white-gold circle cross and a platinum fleur-de-lis brooch. It took three weeks of "round-the-clock" production in her Hong Kong workshop to finish in time for filming, she says.

Of all the pieces, the cross key sees the most action in the movie. Sophie Neveu, one of the main characters, discovers the key behind a Leonardo da Vinci painting in the Louvre. It is marked with the address for a Swiss bank deposit box, one of many clues leading to the Holy Grail.

Carnet hosted the movie's world première in Hong Kong on May 17 – several hours before the glitterati in Cannes saw it.

– Megan Easton

New Alumni Governors

Two alumni governors – one new and one returning – have been elected to U of T's Governing Council for a three-year term that began July 1. Newly elected member John M. Badowski (BSc 1980 New College), is a Toronto Police Marine Unit staff sergeant who served as a University Affairs Board alumni member from 2002 to 2004. He received a Meritorious Service Medal (civil division) for his tour of duty in Rwanda during the genocide in 1994. Returning member Susan Eng, first elected in 2000, is a lawyer and former chair of the Toronto Police Services Board.

Robert Bennett completed his third three-year term as an alumni governor. Bennett was a University Affairs Board member for nine years, and chair for the last two. He had also served on the Executive Committee and the Hart House Board of Stewards, and took interest in the quality of student life on campus and the enhancement of equity at U of T. Governing Council – which has eight alumni representatives – oversees the university's academic, business and institutional affairs.– *M.E.*

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF MICHELLE ONG

Top 40 Under 40

Roma Khanna (BSc 1990 Erindale) has a behind-the-scenes media job as senior vice-president of content for CHUM Television, but recently she's been the one making the news. Last year the *Hollywood Reporter* and *Variety* named Khanna one of the top female executives to watch in the entertainment industry, and this year she was among 11 members of the U of T community to make The Caldwell Partners' Top 40 Under 40 List.

The list, managed by Caldwell, an executive search firm, and published in the *Globe and Mail* each spring, includes eight alumni, two professors and one student. In addition to Khanna, the alumni honourees are: **Rudyard Griffiths** (BA 1993 Trinity), co-founder and executive director of the Dominion Institute, an organization that promotes knowledge of Canadian history and identity; **Anthony Lacavera** (BASc 1997), chair and chief executive officer of telecom firm Globalive Communications Corp.; **Patrick Luke** (MD 1993), surgical director of renal transplantation at London Health Sciences Centre and a pioneer in robotic surgery; **Erifili Morfidis** (BA 1993 Victoria), president and CEO of Teleperformance Canada, a leading call-centre company; **Karim Nader** (BSc 1989 New College, PhD 1996), a psychology professor at McGill University who researches the biological basis of traumatic memories; **Robert Palter** (BA 1992 UC), principal at the consulting firm McKinsey & Company and founding member of the Toronto Jewish Chamber of Commerce; and **Poonam Puri** (LLB 1995), an Osgoode Hall law professor recognized for her expertise in corporate and securities law.

The list also includes **Brenda Banwell**, a paediatrics professor at U of T and director of the Paediatrics Multiple Sclerosis clinic at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children; **Philip Zelazo**, a psychology professor at U of T and the Canada Research Chair in Developmental Neuroscience; and **Craig Kielburger**, a peace and conflict studies student who founded the humanitarian organization Free the Children at age 12. *– M.E.*

Roma Khanna

PHOTOGRAPHY: (KHANNA) CRAIG SAMUEL

Accolades

The author known as "the father of the modern African novel" received an honorary doctor of letters degree at June convocation ceremonies. **Chinua Achebe**'s groundbreaking first novel, *Things Fall Apart*, was published in 1958 and later translated into more than 50 languages. Among the other honorary degree recipients were: **Sidney Altman**, winner

Chinua Achebe

of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Chemistry; **Jean Little** (BA 1955 VIC, DLitt Sac *Hon.* 2004), author of more than 25 children's books; and **Martha Minow**, a Harvard University law professor and human rights scholar.

Bruce Kuwabara (BArch 1972) has been awarded the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada 2006 Gold Medal – the highest honour granted a Canadian architect. Kuwabara is a founding partner of Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (KPMB), and a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design.

The momentum to phase out lawn and garden pesticides in Canada is growing, says **Gideon Forman** (BA 1987 VIC), executive director of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. The association recently won the 2006 Canadian Environment Award from the federal government and *Canadian Geographic* magazine in recognition of its work to restrict these chemicals.

An eight-part CBC Radio series produced by **Paolo Pietropaolo** (Mus Bac 1999), **Chris Brookes** and **Jowi Taylor** (BA 1990 WOODS) won a 2006 Peabody Award for excellence in radio and television broadcasting. A cross between a documentary, a remix and a music show, *The Wire* explores the impact of electricity on music. *– M.E.*

Calendar

ALUMNI EVENTS

Sept. 26. London, UK. **Network Canada Alumni Evening**. Canada House, Trafalgar Square.

Sept. 26. **Edmonton alumni reception** with Rivi Frankle, interim vice-president and chief advancement officer.

Sept. 27. **Calgary alumni reception** with U of T president David Naylor. Fairmont Palliser Hotel.

Oct. 5. **Canadian Universities Alumni Reception** in New York City. The Roosevelt Hotel.

Oct. 6. **7th Annual Canada Gala** in Seattle, Washington. Canadian and American university alumni share a night of fine dining and dancing. Seattle Westin Hotel.

For updated information on alumni events, visit www.alumni.utoronto.ca or contact Stacie Bellemare at (416) 978-5881 or stacie.bellemare@utoronto.ca

THEATRE

Hart House Theatre

Sept. 15-30. **Reefer Madness: The Musical** is a spoof of the 1936 propaganda film on the evils of marijuana. This Canadian première is directed by Elenna Mosoff. Tickets $20; seniors and students $12. Week 1: Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. Week 2 and 3: Wed. to Sat., 8 p.m. A midnight showing on Sat., Sept. 30.

Oct. 10-12. **The Strindberg Project** with John Neville and friends. Readings of the works of Swedish dramatist and novelist August Strindberg. Oct 10: *The Pelican* and *The Stronger*. Oct. 11: *The Dance of Death*; Oct. 12. Excerpts from *The Ghost Sonata* and *Miss Julie*. 8 p.m. Tickets (per evening) $20; seniors and students $12. For all three evenings, $48; seniors and students, $30.

Nov. 15-25. **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare; directed by Andrea Wasserman. A brilliant study of the human experience with questions of justice, morality, revenge, life and death all centre stage. Tickets $20; seniors and students $12. Wed. to Sat. 8 p.m. A 2 p.m. matinee on Sat., Nov. 25.

7 Hart House Circle. Box office: (416) 978-8849, or visit www.harthousetheatre.ca

Graduate Centre for Study of Drama

Nov. 2-5 and Nov 11. **Every Man Out of His Humour** by Ben Jonson. In association with the **Renaissance Drama in Action conference**, to be held Nov. 9-11.

Both at Robert Gill Theatre, 214 College Street. For more information and ticket prices, (416) 978-7986

Robert Harris's *Her Joy Has Turned into Mourning* is part of the "To a Watery Grave" exhibition at U of T Art Centre

EXHIBITIONS

University of Toronto Art Centre

To Sept. 30. **To a Watery Grave**. Artist/curator Andrew Hunter is known for his thematic exhibitions that blur the boundaries between artistic practice and traditional curating. *To a Watery Grave* examines the lore and imagery associated with doomed ships, deaths by drowning and lost souls.

Oct. 24 to Dec. 16. **Old Favourites and Recent Gifts**. In celebration of the art centre's 10th anniversary, U of T art curator Liz Wylie showcases important works from the University of Toronto Art Collection.

Oct. 24 to Dec. 16. **On Paper 2: Ideas of Order**, curated by Liz Wylie. This exhibition follows *On Paper*, mounted at the Art Centre in the fall of 2002. It explores some recent gifts created on paper, and will feature texts on each artist written by students enrolled in last year's Department of Fine Art's Art Centre Exhibition course.

General admission $5; $3 for seniors; free to all students, U of T staff and faculty and Art Centre members. 15 King's College Circle. Tuesday to Friday, 12-5 p.m.; Saturday, 12-4 p.m. (416) 978-1838.

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Sept. 25 to Dec. 22. ***Extra mures/intra mures*: A Collaborative Exhibition of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Toronto**. An exhibition highlighting the rare books and special collections at colleges and institutions in and around U of T. 120 St George St. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m-5 p.m. (416) 978-5285, www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/exhibitions/current.html

CONCERTS

Faculty of Music

Sept. 29. **To Be Sung Upon the Water. Music from the Ganges River to the Mira River**. Part of the Faculty Artist Series. Lorna MacDonald, soprano; Peter Stoll, clarinet; Cameron Stowe, piano. Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park. Tickets $22; $12 for seniors/students. 7:30 p.m. Box office: (416) 978-3744.

Oct. 21. **Celebrating 60 Years of Music Education**. Gillian MacKay conducts the Alumni Band in concert with James Campbell, clarinet and special alumni soloist. Works by von Weber, Holst and Husa. Alumni interested in participating, please contact music.alumni@utoronto.ca. MacMillan Theatre, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park. $14; $8 for seniors/students. 7:30 pm, MacMillan Theatre. Box office: (416) 978-3744.

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What the Nuns Never Knew

And other tales of residence life

TIGHT QUARTERS

Living in residence in the 1970s was a fairly economical way to attend university, but not quite inexpensive enough for my friend Helen, who strove to reduce her expenditures to the barest minimum. Rather than live in a U of T residence, Helen rented a walk-in closet in an old house near Innis College for $26 a month. The room had a small desk and a bed built on top of a chest of drawers; she hung her clothes from a rod above the bed. A small window offered some light.

The lesson in tight budgeting seems to have been a useful complement to Helen's U of T degree, as she has become quite a successful businesswoman. She now lives in a house with no fewer than four walk-in closets – none of which are occupied. Nonetheless, she assures me that her children will live in residence one day.

Allan Wax
BSc 1976 Innis
Los Angeles

TRAPPED!

I attended St. Michael's College in the early 1970s and lived at Loretto College Women's Residence. In the basement was a seldom-used lounge with a TV, a few tables and chairs, and some sofas. The summer before, long sofas had been replaced by short ones to discourage the activity that had given the room the nickname "The Passion Pit." (The change seemed only to make the couples using it more inventive and flexible.) At 11 p.m., the seminarian who guarded the residence's entryway made sure the "pit" was empty and locked the door. One night my boyfriend and I had been watching TV there. We both fell asleep – and continued sleeping as the seminarian looked cursorily into the room and shut us in. As far as I know, I am the only woman ever to have been locked in the Passion Pit overnight with my boyfriend in a women's residence run by Catholic nuns.

Sheilah O'Connor
BA 1976 St. Michael's
Toronto

RITE OF PASSAGE

In the early 1970s, my roommate and I chose to live in a lovely second-floor room in the old ivy-covered Christie mansion that was part of St. Joseph's College. The room looked out over Queen's Park, and its two windows opened onto the flat roof of the carport, which made for great, if clandestine, sunbathing. (The nuns would not have approved!)

We knew the room had been an old bathroom. The mattress of my bed rested on a loose piece of plywood covering the old bathtub. When too many of us perched on the edge of the bed, we tumbled onto the floor with mattress, bedding and plywood flipping over onto us.

What we didn't know until a few weeks into the year was that our closet had a door that led to the next room. Few residents knew this. Even the don didn't know, which would be lucky for us.

We were doing some serious studying one autumn night when we heard noises outside our window. Opening the drapes, we beheld a young male figure climbing up the ivy vines onto the carport roof. He made his way to the window, held up a bottle of wine and whispered urgently, "Let me in!" Happy to have a nocturnal visitor (since male visitors weren't permitted in girls' rooms in the evenings), we got to feeling very pleasant after a couple of glasses of wine. We must have also gotten rather loud. There was a sudden knock at the door and the don's voice said, "Open up, I know you have a man in there!" We quickly shoved our visitor into the closet and through to surprised friends in the next room. All innocence, we opened our door to the don, who grew increasingly perturbed as she inspected the room and found no man – not even in the closet!

Mary Betz
BSc 1974 St. Michael's
Auckland, New Zealand

ILLUSTRATION: FRANCIS BLAKE/THREE IN A BOX

Announcing *U of T Magazine*'s

ALUMNI SHORT STORY AND POETRY CONTEST

First prize in each category: **$1,000 and publication in the Summer 2007 issue of *U of T Magazine***

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Deadline for submissions: **March 1, 2007**

Get writing!

CONTEST RULES

U of T Magazine's Alumni Short Story and Poetry Contest is open only to alumni of the University of Toronto.*

We will consider original, **unpublished** poems of up to 50 lines and original **unpublished** short stories of up to 2,500 words. Submissions must not have been accepted for publication elsewhere. A maximum of two submissions per person is permitted.

Entrants must **not** have published a book as of July 1, 2007.

Entrant's name must **not** appear on the manuscript itself. All entries must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet with entrant's full name, address, postal code, telephone number, e-mail address, submission title(s) and category. Manuscripts will not be returned. Winners will be contacted by telephone; they agree to have their entries published in the Summer 2007 issue of *U of T Magazine*.

Entrants agree to be bound by the contest rules. Judges' decisions are final.

Entries must be postmarked no later than **March 1, 2007**, and mailed to: Alumni Short Story and Poetry Contest, c/o *U of T Magazine*, 21 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3J3.

*anyone who has completed a minimum of four credits at U of T

Secret Messages

The enduring appeal of codes

By Marcel Danesi

Cryptography is the craft of writing or solving codes or ciphers. In the fifth century BC, Spartan soldiers communicated with their field generals during battle by writing messages across a strip of parchment wrapped spirally around a staff called a "scytale." When the parchment was unwound, the message became unreadable. Only the generals could read it because they had another staff exactly the same size around which to rewrap the parchment.

The practice of encoding messages during wartime continued into the 20th century. During the First World War, British naval intelligence intercepted and deciphered a coded cable message, sent to Mexico in 1917 from the German foreign minister Arthur Zimmermann, proposing that Mexico join Germany in a military alliance against the United States. That incident caused President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. Congress to declare war on Germany.

During the Second World War, British Intelligence hired thousands of people, including Alan Turing, a mathematician and pioneer in computer science, to break codes. Because of security restrictions, Turing's role as a military cryptanalyst was not known until long after his death.

Today, cryptography has entered the computer age. Government agencies, banks and corporations now routinely encrypt confidential information before sending it electronically.

Given the extraordinary feats of ingenuity that have gone into inventing and breaking secret codes, it is little wonder that cryptography has spawned a genre of puzzles called cryptograms. Puzzle-makers employ various kinds of ciphers from cryptology. In substitution ciphers, the letters are substituted with numbers, symbols or other letters. In transposition ciphers, the order of the letters is changed in specified ways.

A common type of substitution cipher is called the "Caesar cipher," because Julius Caesar used it. To encode text, the alphabet is "shifted" by a certain number of letters. In a Caesar cipher with a shift of three, for example, D is substituted for A, E for B, F for C, and so on. Can you decode the following proverb?

j kram rw cqn qjwm rb fxacq cfx rw cqn kdbq

Sometimes keywords are used to indicate the shift. For example, if "zebras" is the keyword, then the key to solving the code is as follows:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Z E B R A S C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q T U V W X Y

Using the keyword "stripe," decipher the following slogan:

anpsq hcjio ekn s anpsq euqunp

Substitution ciphers are solved by analyzing the frequency of letters that appear in the code, and by looking for telltale words such as *a*, *the* and *an*. Code-makers sometimes send encoded messages in uniform groups of letters to make it more difficult to determine where words begin and end. For example, the above message might be sent as *anpsq hcjio eknsa npsqe uqunp*.

Alchemists in the Middle Ages used astrological symbols to encipher their messages. Here's another English proverb. Can you figure it out? Hint: The eight most commonly occurring letters in English are: *e, t, a, o, n, r, i* and *s*. Think about commonly occurring two- and three-letter words, too.

#% #@@^& # •#∫ Δ&&@$ ¢-& •*∩¢*≡ #∞#∫

Transposition ciphers are generally more difficult to solve. In the rail fence cipher, the plain text is written downward in columns, with each row corresponding to the "rails" of an imaginary fence. Nonsense letters are added at the end to round off the pattern and fool the solver.

G A I S R R T T E P
R T N F A E F U Q D
E M D O G A U R Z J

The enciphered text is created by reading the text along the "rails" or rows: *gaisr rttep rtnfa efuqd emdog aurzj*. To decipher the text, it helps to know there are three rails.

Governments and corporations are not the only ones using "secret codes" in modern times. Authors have employed them as well. In *The Gold-Bug*, for example, Edgar Allan Poe included a letter-to-symbol cipher, using numbers and punctuation marks, to indicate the location of a concealed treasure. In his Sherlock Holmes mysteries, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle frequently included ciphers for the master detective to unravel. And in Dan Brown's best-selling novel *The Da Vinci Code* the protagonist must find and interpret hidden messages presented throughout the plot to decipher the code.

Answers on page 57

ILLUSTRATION: CHRISTIANE BEAUREGARD

Classifieds

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WANTED

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Answers to Puzzle (continued from page 55)

1. *A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.* The alphabet has been shifted by nine letters, so A is replaced with J, B with K, etc. **2.** The slogan is "Great minds for a great future." **3.** *An apple a day keeps the doctor away.*

Looking Back

BY SUSAN PEDWELL

A Night at the Opera

Turn up the hem of this powder blue dress, and you'll see that the gown has been shortened since it was originally created for Frances Ginzer, an opera student from Calgary. In 1980, Ginzer wore the dress to play Countess Almaviva in a U of T production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

This fall, Ginzer (Dip Op Perf 1981) is starring as Brünnhilde in the Canadian Opera Company's production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*. A sought-after soprano, Ginzer has earned standing ovations as a guest soloist in some of the world's most hallowed opera halls.

To create this gown, costume designer Suzanne Mess studied dresses in late 18th-century oil paintings. Then she exaggerated the features of those dresses. Where the original garment might have been trimmed with delicate beads, Mess sewed on two rows of sturdy bows. There can be nothing subtle about an opera costume, as its message has to reach the back row. This richly decorated gown makes it perfectly clear that Almaviva is an aristocrat. With its full skirt and tight bodice, you certainly couldn't do any work while wearing it!

While Ginzer performs in Hamburg, Zurich, Cologne, Munich and Stuttgart, her dress remains stowed in the Faculty of Music's wardrobe room at the Edward Johnson Building along with about 50 other period dresses. The costumes are sewn with extra-wide seams so they can be taken in or let out, ready to fit the opera world's next shining star.

PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL VISSER

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