

Act of Defiance Challenging China / **World of Opportunity** The latest academic hot spots / **Spy Games** 24's new face
Poetic Justice A.F. Moritz wins the Griffin / **Pole Star** U of T's top vaulter / **Dead Sea Scrolls** Revelations from Qumran

UofT Magazine

AUTUMN 2009



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Freedom Fighters**
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democracy to Iran?



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Autumn 2009



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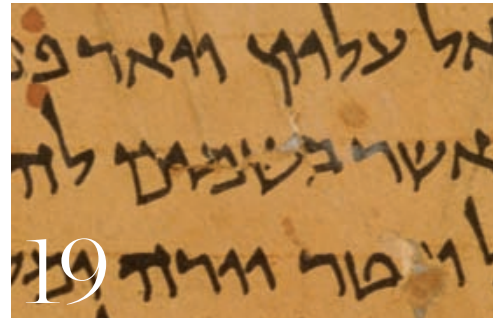
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“Canada can be a force for transparency in cyberspace”

Citizen Lab director Ron Deibert, p. 31



Architecture's newest frontier: the desert of Inner Mongolia



Ancient peoples may have viewed the Dead Sea scrolls as we see the web: fluid, social and open to change



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“I say the sooner Canada’s Armed Forces leave Afghanistan the better. Our soldiers are dying for nothing.”

– *Elliot Fine* BA 1970 NEW, BEd 1972 OISE

The Gay Lens

The beautiful, eye-catching flag on the cover of your Summer 2009 issue is an identifying symbol of the gay movement. As a Christian who considers everyone my neighbour, I’m appalled when anyone is bullied or made to be an outcast. Mistreating people can never be condoned.

Gay acceptance is a complex and important issue for our society, since it goes to the heart of who we are and what we celebrate as human beings. But I question whether anybody really understands where society is heading as a result of the freedoms and choices of the sexual revolution.

Not everything traditional, such as marriage and family, needs to be revisited and reworked. Many of us draw on these traditions for comfort and security. They connect us to history and give us hope for the future. Why do some members of the gay movement feel that they have to be part of the marriage tradition?

Regarding sexual behaviour and identity, I would like to see more discussion on what role personal choice plays in determining it and to what degree the

gay movement is influencing adolescent choices today.

Throughout the article “Out and Proud,” readers are encouraged to view the world through the lens of the gay movement. Yet what people with traditional values see through this lens is the over-sexualization of society.

– *John Mercer* BAsc 1995
WHITBY, ONTARIO

Invisible Trans

I read “Out and Proud” (Summer 2009) with great interest, but was disappointed to see no mention of transgender or transsexual people. It is as if there were no trans people active in Toronto in the past 40 years – or possibly ever.

Many trans people identify as gay or lesbian and, along with straight people of good conscience, have contributed to the rights movement the article describes. Maybe, sometime in the future, intrepid journalists or historians will unearth the interesting and, as yet, erased history of transsexual people in Toronto. Maybe then we will be able to join those whose history is told here,

and who are now formally and explicitly protected by Canadian human rights and hate crime laws.

– *Jessica Freedman* BA 1974 NEW
OTTAWA

Ed. note: We published an essay by alumna Nikki Stratigacos about being trans at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

Redefining Pride

Pride at the University of Toronto traditionally has been founded upon admission into an institute of learning known for its high academic standards. Are we now saying that the flowering of pride is rooted in the freedom of gay and lesbian students to earn a degree in the study of their own sexual practices? What a queer tautology.

– *Mike Scapillato* BA 1972 UTSC
TORONTO

Private Preferences

I generally enjoy *U of T Magazine*, but “Out and Proud” should have been left to the minority it represents. Most of us don’t feel the need to proclaim our heterosexuality, so why is homosexuality a characteristic to be bruted about? Let’s all be satisfied with our private preferences; there is no need to be “in your face.”

I am disappointed that the university has conceded so much time and space to this fringe population. I’ll keep this in mind next time I’m solicited for the Annual Fund.

– *D. R. Stoll* BA 1952 VICTORIA
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Letters

We've Come a Long Way

Anne Perdue's article captures the evolution of LGBTQ visibility at U of T over the decades very well. Around 1986, when I was a Governing Council member, I remember asking the administration if the omission of sexual orientation from the proposed anti-harassment policy was deliberate. The senior staff member presenting it said, "Not on my part." It was added on the spot. At a Governing Council meeting on "Jeans Day" in 1991, U of T president Rob Prichard and I were the only ones wearing jeans; it would be different today. And as the first openly gay president of the U of T Alumni Association for the last two years, I can say that we've come even further since then.

– Paul Cadario BSc 1973
WASHINGTON

Shameful

I am very disappointed with the Summer 2009 edition of *U of T Magazine*.

A great university like ours has thousands of events and achievements to be proud of. The one you put on the cover certainly isn't one of them.

– John Adamkovic BSc PHARM 1961
COQUITLAM, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Broad Appeal

I have been receiving *U of T Magazine* since I graduated in 2007, and I so thoroughly enjoy each issue that I am unable to say which articles have affected me the most. How you manage to appeal to both old and new alumni beats me. Keep up the good work!

– A. O. Akorede Yusuff LL.M 2007
ILE-IFE, NIGERIA

Dying in Vain

I advise Bruce Rolston ("This Is a Generational Struggle," Spring 2009) to buy Rory Stewart's *The Places in Between*, which should be required reading for all

politicians, military generals, foreign service personnel, and NGO and UN employees. A British diplomat, Stewart walked across Afghanistan in 2002. His book provides the only accurate, in-depth view of the country that I've read. According to Stewart, most Afghans could not care less about such Western ideas as human rights, freedom, a liberal education and democracy. In his view, Afghan women are never going to obtain equal rights. Western ideas about the country are based on Kabul, which is not representative of the countryside. Stewart points out that most people who work with NGOs are parachuted in for a year or two, cannot speak local dialects and restrict themselves to driving SUVs in the secure areas.

I say the sooner Canada's Armed Forces leave Afghanistan the better. Our soldiers are dying for nothing.

– Elliot Fine BA 1970 NEW, BEd 1972 OISE
TORONTO



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Maintaining Academic Integrity

As manager of the Office of Student Academic Integrity at the Faculty of Arts and Science, I was pleased to see the issue of Internet plagiarism featured in "Stolen Words" (Winter 2009). Our office resolves allegations of academic misconduct at the faculty and advises departments on resolving offences. I would like to clarify that the article's first example—where the purchase of a paper was strongly suspected but unproven, resulting in a "high mark"—is not typical.

Allegations of purchased papers, or papers where the plagiarism is not "cut and dried," are admittedly challenging to resolve, but the prognosis for these cases is far from hopeless. Even though an instructor may initially be unable to prove that an offence has occurred, help with the investigation is available at the divisional level. Our office resolves offences involving purchased papers

every year, sanctioning students with a failure in the course and usually a suspension from U of T for up to one year.

Efforts by faculty and staff to promote academic integrity and report offences when they occur are integral to encouraging proper academic behaviour and maintaining the university's strong ethical reputation.

— *Kristi Gourlay* BA 1993 TRIN,
MA 1997, PHD 2002
TORONTO

Old Building Charms

Your summer issue was excellent! "Bugs by the Bushel" (Calendar) immediately took me back to the early 1960s, to a biology lab in the old medical building. In one of our labs, we were required to dissect a cockroach. The rumour was that, to keep expenses to a minimum, the lab assistants were sent into the back halls to catch as many as were needed for the next day.

Somehow the new buildings on campus lack these old-fashioned touches, don't they?

— *Perry Bowker* BSc 1963 UC, MBA 1965
PORT CARLING, ONTARIO

Corrections

The back cover of the Summer 2009 issue contained incorrect information about honorary degree recipients. The published list of honorary graduands omitted Keren Brathwaite, an influential U of T leader highly regarded for her educational expertise, and Michael Porter, an authority on the competitiveness of nations and regions. Although Lawrence S. Bloomberg and Andrzej Wajda are honorary degree candidates, their degrees have not yet been awarded.

Former Governing Council chair C. Malim Harding played an instrumental role in the establishment and success of U of T's Committee of 1,000 and, in fact, served as its first chairman. We provided an incomplete account of the committee's origins on page 17 of the Summer 2009 issue. *U of T Magazine* regrets these errors.

Read more comments from readers at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.



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U of T's Unique Advantages

Our size and global reach offer undergrads unrivalled opportunities



AMONG THE MANY VISITORS to the University of Toronto's St. George campus recently were alumni who returned to Convocation Hall in June to celebrate the graduation of a son or daughter. While the landscape around Con Hall looks very different today, other changes at the university are less obvious but even more significant.

Students who earn a bachelor's degree from U of T today are entering the workforce or preparing for the next stage of their academic career under vastly different conditions from even a decade ago. To succeed in the new global knowledge economy, today's graduates must be creative thinkers. They must be prepared to work collaboratively with people from other cultures and other countries, draw on knowledge outside of their area of expertise and devise completely new ways of approaching the world's most pressing problems.

U of T's undergraduate degree has evolved in response to these challenges. Our vast research enterprise offers students unique academic opportunities. For example, U of T is one of the few universities in Canada that encourages undergraduates to pursue their own research projects, often under the guidance of a faculty member who is a leading expert in the field. In this way, students share in the excitement of acquiring new knowledge while developing relationships with faculty members who will act as mentors throughout their academic careers.

Of course, most undergrads will not go on to become researchers themselves, but at U of T our goal is to help them think independently, like their research mentors. Ideally, they'll learn how to identify a promising new avenue of inquiry and follow it to a successful conclusion. We also want students to become disciplined in their thinking so they can determine the best ideas to pursue, regardless of whether their field is filmmaking, marketing or cellular biology. Canada needs such graduates if our nation is to prosper in the decades ahead.

U of T's program breadth also offers students distinct advantages. Our undergraduates can study a huge range of subjects – more than at any other university in Canada. In all, U of T undergrads can mix and match courses from about 600 programs, from aboriginal to women's studies. According

to the Faculty of Arts and Science, 30 per cent of 2008 grads pursued two or more programs in different disciplines. Students themselves clearly recognize the importance of obtaining a broad education as they prepare for careers in an increasingly global economy.


Rapid technological change requires the university to frequently update its programs, and occasionally create new ones in emerging fields. Last year, for example, the faculties of Forestry and Arts and Science launched a joint undergraduate major in Forest Biomaterials Science. This innovative program combines courses from forestry, chemistry, biology, commerce, engineering and architecture. In it, students learn how scientists develop new energy sources and new products from biological material. Forest Biomaterials students also have the opportunity to work with an industrial partner to conduct original research related directly to their field. Similar industry placements and internships are available in a growing number of U of T's undergraduate programs.

Once considered a frill, international study, work or research experience has increasingly become a requirement for today's students who want to compete internationally for the best careers. The buzzword (or one of them) in post-secondary education circles these days is "global competence." Yet few Canadian universities have U of T's global reach (see "A World of Opportunity" on page 40). At the same time, U of T's student population is the most diverse in the country, so even students who don't take a semester to study or work abroad will gain from a learning environment that brings together many different cultures and languages.

Canada's future prosperity rests on our citizens' ability to devise solutions to the world's problems. Research is one engine of innovation, but nurturing talent is still the most important aspect of what your university does. That's why we're dedicated to teaching today's young people the creative and collaborative skills they will need to become tomorrow's leaders.

Sincerely,
David Naylor

Calendar of Events

 **MORE EVENTS!**
Check out the latest campus happenings at www.utoronto.ca.

OCTOBER 22



Vandana Shiva: Earth Democracy at Hart House. In celebration of World Food Day, ecologist, physicist and activist Vandana Shiva of India will speak about Earth

Democracy – her philosophy based on inclusion, non-violence, reclaiming the commons and freely sharing the Earth’s resources. Food democracy is a vital pillar of the philosophy. Shiva is vice-president of the global organization Slow Food International and the author of such books as *Soil Not Oil*, *Earth Democracy* and *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*. 7 p.m. Tickets \$15 students, \$25 non-students. Box office: (416) 978-8849 or www.uofttix.ca.

||  For more info: www.harthouse.ca/earthdemocracy.

September 14 to January 4
Robarts Library
Books that Inspire Faculty at the University of Toronto.
Robarts Library, first floor, 130 St. George St. (416) 978-8450.

September 16 to October 25
Doris McCarthy Gallery
U of T Scarborough
Liz Magor: Storage Facilities.
Magor’s sculptures challenge the viewer to discern between the real and the reproduced. Tues. to Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun., 12-5 p.m. 1265 Military Trail. (416) 287-7007, dmg@utsc.utoronto.ca or www.utsc.utoronto.ca/dmg.

September 27
Toronto
Free Contemporary Art Bus Tour. Following a tour of the Koffler Gallery’s project at the ROM at noon, bus departs to Doris McCarthy Gallery, Blackwood Gallery and Art Gallery of York University. Reserve at (416) 636-1880 ext. 270.

September 30 to December 18
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The Natural History of Charles Darwin. An exhibition of rare books curated by Richard Landon. Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 120 St. George St. (416) 978-5285 or www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/exhibitions/current.html.

October 3
Hart House
Drop Out, presented by the Blackwood Gallery and curated by Christof Migone, is the official U of T project for Nuit Blanche. The title alludes to the perennial plight of the student, as well as the 1960s (“turn on, tune in, drop out”). The video, performance, sound and installation works investigate falling and failing with a light touch.

ALUMNI

September to November
The Memorial Room
in Soldiers’ Tower is open September through November on select dates. For more information, (416) 978-0544 or soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca.

September 24
New York
All Canadian Universities Alumni Reception hosted by the Canadian Association of New York. \$30-\$60. 6-8:30 p.m. The Roosevelt Hotel, Madison Avenue and 45th Street. (416) 978-2368 or teo.salgado@utoronto.ca.

October 14
Chicago
All Canadian Universities Alumni Reception hosted by U of T. Guest speaker TBA. \$25. 6-8 p.m. Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Blvd. Registration required at www.alumni.utoronto.ca or by calling 1 (888) 738-8876. For more info, call (416) 978-2368 or email teo.salgado@utoronto.ca.

November 6
Hart House
Engineering Alumni Association Awards Ceremony. Reception at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Great Hall, Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle. For info, www.alumni.utoronto.ca/engineering or contact Mary Butera at (416) 978-4941 or butera@ecf.utoronto.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

To December 5
U of T Art Centre
Gord Peteran: Furniture Meets Its Maker. A retrospective of contemporary Canadian artist Gord Peteran. Tues. to Fri. 12-5 p.m., Sat. 12-4 p.m. 15 King’s College Circle. (416) 978-1838, www.utac.utoronto.ca.

On **Oct. 13**, UTAC director Niamh O’Laoghaire will speak on **Gord Peteran and the Conceptual Tradition**. \$5. Friends of UTAC, free. 3 p.m. UTAC art lounge. On **Nov. 16**, curator Glenn Adamson will speak on **Gord Peteran: Borderline Case**. Free. 4:30 p.m. University College, Room 140, 15 King’s College Circle.

Liz Magor's Bedside
at the Doris McCarthy
Gallery until October 25



PHOTO: LIZ MAGOR, BEDSIDE, 2007

From sunset on Oct. 3 to sunrise on Oct. 4, Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle. For info on Nuit Blanche at U of T, visit blackwoodgallery.ca.

FESTIVAL

October 1
U of T Scarborough
ArtSideOut showcases the work of U of T Scarborough students by opening up the entire Scarborough campus to artistic use. Works range from photography and painting to installations and sculptures. 5-11 p.m. (416) 208-4769 or aep@utsc.utoronto.ca. Visit www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aep.

LECTURES

September 24
U of T Scarborough
Douglas Coupland, author of *Generation A*, *Generation X* and *J-Pod*. Part of the Perspectives on Leadership lecture series. 7 p.m. Arts and Administration Building, AA 112, 1265 Military Trail. Free, but seating is limited. Reserve tickets at www.perspectivesonleadership.com or (416) 208-4760.

October to November
St. George Campus
The Senior Alumni Association's **Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series** runs for nine weeks starting the first week of October. Lectures by U of T faculty. Open to alumni and non-alumni over 55 years of age. \$70. (416) 978-0544 or senior.alumni@utoronto.ca.

October 15
U of T Scarborough
Monia Mazigh, author of *Hope and Despair: My Struggle to Free My Husband, Maher Arar*. Part of the Dialogues series. 6 p.m. 1265 Military Trail. Free but seating is limited.

Reserve tickets at (416) 208-4760 or www.utsc-leadership.ca.

November 3
U of T Scarborough
Thomas Homer-Dixon, author of *Carbon Shift*, *The Ingenuity Gap* and *The Upside of Down*. Chair of Global Systems, University of Waterloo. 6 p.m. 1265 Military Trail. Free, but seating is limited. Reserve tickets at (416) 208-4760 or www.utsc-leadership.ca.

MUSIC

September 25
Walter Hall
Faculty Artist Series: J. Patrick Raftery, tenor, Sandra Horst, piano. Arias and songs by Handel, Brahms, Liszt, Morowetz, Poulenc and Massenet. \$25 (\$15 seniors/students). 6:30 p.m. Pre-concert talk with performer/broadcaster Stuart Hamilton at 6 p.m. Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park. Box office: (416) 978-3744 or boxoffice.music@utoronto.ca. Info: www.music.utoronto.ca.

November 5 to 8
MacMillan Theatre
Opera Production: Il Mondo della Luna (Franz Josef Haydn). Michael Patrick Albano and Erik Thor, co-directors. \$26 (\$16 seniors/students). Nov. 5, 6, 7 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 8 at 2:30 p.m. MacMillan Theatre, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park. Box office: (416) 978-3744 or boxoffice.music@utoronto.ca. Info: www.music.utoronto.ca.

NATURE

October 18
Jokers Hill
Trees and Fungi: Friends or Foes? Nature Walk at Koffler Scientific

Reserve. Prof. John Caspersen and lecturer Ivana Stehlik reveal how mushrooms and their kind are important to the forest. Walks at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Free, but reserve starting Oct. 5 at (905) 727-3333 or ksr.info@utoronto.ca. 17000 Dufferin St. (between Hwy. 9 and 19th Sideroad), King Township.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 11
Soldiers' Tower
Service of Remembrance. Carillon prelude 10-10:15 a.m. Service 10:15-11 a.m. Reception at Hart House follows. For more information, contact (416) 978-0544 or soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca, or visit www.alumni.utoronto.ca/tower.

South Building, U of T Mississauga
Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:45-11:15 a.m. Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca.

The Meeting Place, U of T Scarborough
Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:45-11:15 a.m. Visit www.utsc.utoronto.ca.

SPORTS

September 25
Football
Toronto Blues vs. Ottawa GeeGees. 7 p.m. Varsity Centre, 299 Bloor St. W.

October 17
Football
Toronto Blues vs. Waterloo Warriors. 1 p.m. Varsity Centre, 299 Bloor St. W.

October 18 to 20
Golf
Ontario University Athletics

(OUA) golf championships hosted by U of T at Angus Glen, 10080 Kennedy Rd., Markham.

November 12 to 15
Soccer
Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) women's soccer championships hosted by U of T at Varsity Centre, 299 Bloor St. W.

Ticket info and more details about these sports events at www.varsityblues.ca.

THEATRE

September 24 to October 10
Hart House Theatre
Jerry Springer – The Opera. Back after sold-out shows at Hart House last January. This musical is recommended for mature audiences only. Mark Selby directs this remount and Byron Rouse reprises his role as Springer. Tickets \$25 (\$15 for students and seniors). \$10 for students on Wednesdays. 8 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 24 to Sat., Sept. 27; Wed., Sept. 30 to Sat., Oct. 3; Wed., Oct. 7 to Sat., Oct. 10.

November 20 to December 5
Hart House Theatre
A Midsummer Night's Dream. Shakespeare's most widely performed comedy, is directed by Jeremy Hutton. Tickets \$25 (\$15 for students and seniors). \$10 for students on Wednesdays. 8 p.m. Fri., Nov. 20 and Sat. Nov. 21; Wed., Nov. 25 to Sat., Nov. 28; Wed., Dec. 2 to Sat., Dec. 5. (2 p.m. matinee on the 5th.) Additional matinees TBA.

For tickets to Hart House Theatre performances, call (416) 978-8849 or www.uofttix.ca. For more info, www.harthousetheatre.ca or awasserman@harthousetheatre.ca.

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PHOTO: EVAN DION

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Life on Campus



Follow the Green Path

University of Toronto Scarborough program helps students from China adapt to a new culture

If only Yan Jiang's parents could have attended his convocation this spring. Their son smiled ear to ear when he stepped up to receive his bachelor of science degree.

Jiang, 24, is among the first cohort of Green Path students to graduate from U of T. The unique summer program helps students from mainland China hone their English and begin

adjusting to Toronto's vastly different culture before starting classes at University of Toronto Scarborough in the fall. The group lives in U of T Scarborough townhouse residences and takes classes together on campus. "Even though I am far away from my family, Green Path makes me feel I am not alone," says Jiang, who is looking for a job in Toronto so he can >>>

>> gain North American work experience.

When Jiang attended Green Path in 2005, there were 15 students. This summer, 148 enrolled. Chinese students come to U of T because English fluency and a degree from one of the best international universities is needed to assume a leadership role in China. In Mandarin, Green Path means “the way to success.”

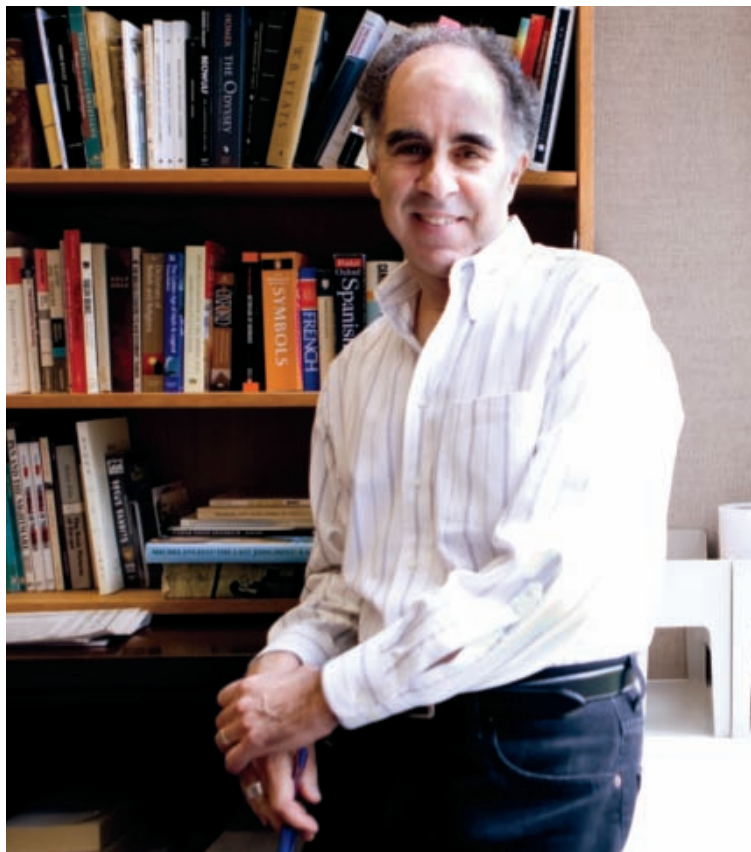
U of T, eager to enrol outstanding students, has partnered with elite high schools in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Chongqing and Tianjin. “We want the best and brightest from everywhere in the world,” says Don MacMillan, UTSC’s registrar and director of enrolment services, who helped start the program.

“[The distance is] incredibly difficult on their parents,” says MacMillan, who travels to China twice a year to interview top Grade 12 students. “Almost all of the students are from single-child families, and these kids are the apple of their parents’ eyes.” Jiang has only been able to go home to Suzhou, near Shanghai, three times. In four years, he has completed his degree (he majored in computer science) *and* a one-year co-op placement. He accomplished this feat by taking courses over the summers, studying both Saturday and Sunday and frequently pulling all-nighters to finish lab projects.

Green Path readies students for a rigorous schedule. It includes a 12-week academic preparation program, run by the School of Continuing Studies and U of T Scarborough, which requires students to take classes full days Monday to Friday and complete two to four hours of homework each night. “The focus is academic English,” explains Lisa Morgan, senior manager, academic, at Continuing Studies’ English Language Program. “The students learn to write research papers with footnotes and a bibliography. They learn about intellectual property, how to participate in class discussions. We even have profs come in and deliver lectures so they’ll know what to expect when their courses start.”

But on weekends, students visit Niagara Falls, the CN Tower and Canada’s Wonderland. And members of the Green Path Association, made up of former students, help ease the new arrivals into daily life in Toronto. In their 20-page *Life Guide*, they explain what “business casual” is, and their website gives the TTC routes to Price Chopper and Walmart.

Many students are also picking up basic life skills from Green Path, such as making dinner and doing laundry. “In almost every case, the students have never gone grocery shopping, never cooked, never cleaned,” says MacMillan. “Their parents took care of everything so their child could focus on their studies.” – *Susan Pedwell*



Poetic Justice A.F. Moritz takes home the Griffin Prize for *The Sentinel*

IT SEEMS FITTING THAT A.F. MORITZ uses vivid off-the-cuff imagery to explain how it felt to win Canada’s biggest poetry prize. “I was like someone who had been living in the dark and was pulled out into the sunshine, blinking and not quite making things out.”

Moritz, a senior lecturer at Victoria College, received the \$50,000 Griffin Poetry Prize in June for *The Sentinel* – his 15th collection of poems. “I’m used to just working,” says Moritz, 62. “To be pulled out from your hidey-hole is very flattering and wonderful, it’s a festival of exuberant experiences, but it’s sort of astonishing.” There have been other honours for his work, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in poetry, but none put him in the spotlight like the Griffin. It is one of the world’s most prestigious prizes for a single volume of poetry and is awarded annually to one Canadian and one international poet.



PHOTO: LEE TOWNDROW

Born in Niles, Ohio, Moritz earned a BA in journalism and MA and PhD in English at Marquette University in Milwaukee before moving to Toronto in 1974. (He relocated with his wife, Theresa, who came to study at U of T's Centre for Medieval Studies.) The following year, Moritz published his first book of poems, *Here*. Since then, he has not only composed his own poetry, but published several non-fiction works he wrote with Theresa, now a lecturer at Woodsworth College. Moritz has been teaching part-time at the University of Toronto since 1986; until recently, he combined this work with gigs in journalism and advertising to make a living. Moritz now has a permanent lecturer position in the humanities stream of Vic One, Victoria College's small-group learning program.

"I've never considered myself anything but a poet who is doing other things to support himself," he says. This unwavering commitment to his art took root in third grade when Moritz chanced upon some poems by Edgar Allan Poe. A precocious reader with tastes that ran from Greek mythology to the legends of King Arthur, Moritz had already decided to be a writer. But the poems were different and better than any

story he had read. "I was immediately transfixed. Right from there my idea of being a writer switched from being some kind of prose romance writer to being a poet."

Looking back now, Moritz sees that his attraction to verse actually began even earlier. "As a very young child I was intrigued by Mother Goose and parts of the Catholic liturgy. I was already interested in poetry without knowing exactly what it was." This affinity for poetry may have been bred in the bone, but the careerist aspects of being a poet – making connections in the literary world, seeking out publishers – held no interest for him. He just wanted to write.

Fortunately, Moritz's poems soon spoke for him. He gained an international reputation for his distinctive voice, described variously as ancient, mournful and magisterial. Widespread critical praise for *The Sentinel*, a collection of free verse that touches on subjects ranging from mortality and the human body to civilization and modernity, has left Moritz humbled and even self-critical. "It makes you look at your poems and say, 'Wait a minute, how good are they? I have to work harder and listen to the universe more carefully to be worthy of this.'"

– Megan Easton

Ephemera



This librarian action-figure – with push-button shushing action – was part of a Robarts Library display marking the Faculty of Information's 80th anniversary in 2008-09. The figure is modelled after real-life librarian Nancy Pearl of Seattle, Washington.

Technological advances have changed the faculty, which began as the Library School within the Ontario College of Education. Today's information graduate has learned skills that stretch beyond the Dewey Decimal Classification system and into the realm of digital archiving. Librarians are involved in the stewardship and curation of cultural heritage, and work in a variety of workplace settings – from city archives to museums to corporate settings – where shushing may or may not be required. – Nina Haikara



The Campus Guide to Architecture

This nighttime shot of the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research, the interdisciplinary research facility on College Street, captures the cutting-edge design of Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner and architectsAlliance.

It's just one of the startling Tom Arban photographs included in *University of Toronto: The Campus Guide* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2009). Author Larry Wayne Richards, a professor of architecture and former dean of U of T's John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Land-

scape, and Design, provides an architectural overview of the style, use and history of buildings on all three University of Toronto campuses. Richards outlines nine walks that invite you to explore the historical structures on St. George Campus, the buildings in the Medical and Health Sciences District, the architecture on the east and west campuses, and more.

University of Toronto: The Campus Guide is available at U of T Bookstore.

Overheard

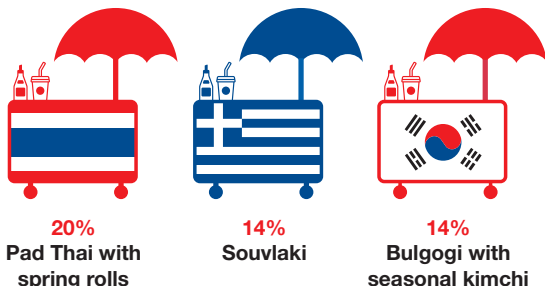


We live in a world of many narratives. A nation of many stories. And these are diverse, often alien and sometimes even antagonistic. But, ultimately, they speak to what is common to all of us and unite us.



Author **M.G. Vassanji** (DLitt Hon. 2009), honorary graduand speaker for the OISE (graduate degrees) and School of Graduate Studies convocation. June 4, Convocation Hall

Poll | What street food would you like to see on campus?



The City of Toronto introduced a new street-food pilot project this spring to reflect the diverse ethnic makeup of the city, and perhaps to satisfy pedestrians stifling yawns over humdrum hotdogs and fries. The eight new selections include Chapli kebabs at Metro Hall and injera at Roundhouse Park.

None of the vendors are stationed at U of T, but the university's students and staff had strong opinions on what Toronto a la Cart menu options they'd like to see on St. George campus. After the top three selections (left), the most common request may reflect the metabolism of youth: 13 per cent requested one of everything. Another three per cent preferred to steer clear of all street food, while one loyal customer gave a shout-out to the much-maligned hotdog.

This highly unscientific poll of 100 U of T students and staff members was conducted on the St. George campus in mid-July.

Redemption Songs

In July, the award-winning U of T Gospel Choir closed the Toronto Jazz Festival with a free two-hour concert at Nathan Phillips Square. The 37-member group of U of T students and alumni belted out several tracks from their album, *Send Me* (released last year), as well as “This Little Light of Mine,” a traditional children’s gospel song, which inspired the audience to clap, whoop and sing along.

Rhonda Toussaint (BA 1996 New) established the choir in February 1995 for a “one-time” concert at Hart House to celebrate Black History Month. But the group was so popular (the show sold out), and the members so keen to keep it going, that the concert became an annual event. The choir began touring and recording, and later this fall they will release a second album, of Christmas songs. Two Toronto-area concerts will follow in December. Hallelujah!



Buddhism and the Brain Foundation gives \$1.8 million to innovative New College program



A UNIQUE U OF T PROGRAM that examines how the traditional teachings of Buddha influence psychology will undergo a major expansion, thanks to a gift from the Buddhist Education Foundation for Canada.

The foundation’s recent \$1.8-million pledge will provide financial stability to New

College’s Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health program and will assist with the development of new courses, conferences, faculty exchanges and an annual speaker series.

While the majority of funds will be endowed, an annual commitment from the foundation will help kick-start many of these proposed initiatives in early 2010.

New College launched its first course in Buddhist Studies

in 2003. Since then, enrolment has grown significantly and the program now offers seven courses that explore Buddhist concepts about the self, and how Buddhism and fields such as psychotherapy and cognitive science intersect. “Buddhism is seen as a religion, but it is essentially a psychology,” says Professor Tony Toneatto, the program’s director. “There have been more than 100 studies in the past decade testing the effectiveness of the Buddhist concept of mindfulness meditation on a variety of mental disorders. The results are very promising.”

Students can now take a minor in the program, and Toneatto hopes to soon offer a major by developing new courses in neuroscience and meditation, clinical applications of Buddhist psychology and other subjects.

Established in 2001, the Buddhist Education Foundation for Canada encourages and supports a variety of Buddhist-oriented academic initiatives throughout Canada. The foundation is run by a volunteer board consisting of leaders from local Buddhist temples, as well as academics and business professionals from the Greater Toronto Area and Hong Kong. — *Krishan Mehta and Scott Anderson*

Read more about Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health at www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/programs/buddhism.htm.

Varsity Blues



Pole Star

Top-ranked pole vaulter Jason Wurster hits the European circuit

JASON WURSTER WASN'T the only University of Toronto student kicking around Europe this summer but he was possibly the most conspicuous. He was the one trying to check a five-metre-long bag at the airline counter.

Wurster, a geography major and Varsity Blues athlete, is Canada's top-ranked pole vaulter. He spent the summer competing in Europe and vaulted a personal best of 5.5 metres at an international meet in Germany in June. It's the second-

highest mark by a Canadian, and just 11 centimetres off the national record that Doug Wood set in 1991.

Europe is the summer destination of choice for elite track-and-field athletes, and the top meets draw Olympic and world champions. "For the major meets, they're inviting vaulters with 5.75 personal bests," says Wurster, 24. "I was in the next tier and was still competing against guys who I had only seen on video. It's been great to compete where track and field has a big public following. In Germany we had one event where we were vaulting in a street with people lined up watching ... you couldn't imagine something like that at home."

In 2007, Wurster broke his left ankle and tore ligaments in an accident during a competition in Louisiana. He didn't have to undergo surgery but he did spend three months on crutches, all the while wondering how the injury would affect his ability to compete.

Most athletes don't register personal bests coming off career-threatening injuries, but Wurster's athletic career hasn't followed a predictable course. In high school, he was a winger playing Major Bantam Triple A hockey. A neighbour in his hometown of Stevensville, Ontario – former vaulter George Krupa – encouraged him to try pole vaulting. A mere five weeks after he began competing, he finished second at a provincial high school track and field championship. "My future looked brighter there than in hockey," he says.

In July, Wurster finished sixth in the men's pole vault at the 25th Summer Universiade in Belgrade, Serbia. He still has some work to do to break Wood's national record and meet the standards that Athletics Canada has set for next year's world championships. But Wurster believes time is on his side. "The top vaulters peak at 28 or 29 years old and some compete well into their 30s," he says. – *Gare Joyce*

PHOTO: LEWKO HRYHORJUK

People and Places

The **Academic Retiree Centre** (ARC) opens Oct. 1 at 256 McCaul St., just south of College Street. The resource and social centre for U of T retirees will include an administrative office, an office for Retired Academics and Librarians of U of T, and a work area with Internet access, study carrels and lockers. ARC

will help retirees with pension and benefits questions, and provide administrative assistance to a new Senior College. Info at (416) 978-7553, academic.retiree@utoronto.ca or www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc.

The **St. George's Society of Toronto** – the city's oldest charity – is celebrating its 175th anniversary. Among its many activities, the society sponsors financial awards for U of T students through a matched \$1-million endowment as part of its larger mission to give youth the chance to attend

university and to enrich Toronto's cultural life. Visit www.stgeorges.to.

Matthew Mendelsohn, formerly a deputy minister in the Ontario government, has been appointed founding director of the new Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation, part of U of T's School of Public Policy and Governance.

Prof. Malcolm Campbell, an international leader in plant biology, is the new vice-principal (research) at U of T Scarborough. Campbell was formerly the associate chair of graduate studies in the Department of Cell and Systems Biology

on the St. George campus.

Prof. Shahrzad Mojab of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) was named interim principal of New College. Formerly, she was director of the Women and Gender Studies Institute.

Prof. Faye Mishna, the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Chair in Child and Family, is interim dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

Fr. Mario O. D'Souza, CSB, is the new dean of the Faculty of

World-Class Scientists Unite

In October, U of T will host the Gairdner symposium, featuring the world's top medical researchers



WHAT DO THE INVENTOR of the CT scan and one of the scientists who identified the structure of DNA have in common? Both are proud recipients of a Canada Gairdner International Award.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Gairdner Foundation, which recognizes the world's best

medical researchers. To celebrate, the foundation and the University of Toronto are hosting a symposium from October 28 to 30. They've invited Gairdner Award winners from around the globe – including 22 who are also Nobel Prize winners – to the St. George campus for a lecture series on cutting-edge science. The events are open to the public.

“James Gairdner’s decision to create awards that recognize outstanding discoveries by the world’s top scientists continues to be an act of extraordinary vision,” said U of T president David Naylor at a spring reception for the Gairdner Foundation Board.

Gairdner, who was a Toronto stockbroker, started the awards program hoping that recognizing scientific accomplishments would advance research and, ultimately, reduce

human suffering. Gairdner, who had arthritis, knew all too well about suffering.

“Winning the 2008 Gairdner Wightman Award was the highest recognition from my peers,” says Alan Bernstein, a former U of T professor of molecular and medical genetics who received the award for his contributions to health research.

U of T has chalked up a disproportionate share of Gairdner winners. “I once counted them, and there were slightly more than 20,” says Dr. John Dirks, president and scientific director of the Gairdner Foundation. U of T Professor Emeritus Endel Tulving of psychology won a Gairdner for his pioneering research in human memory. Professor Emeritus Robert Salter of surgery won for his innovative orthopaedic treatments.

The selection process is rigorous. A medical review panel makes recommendations to a medical advisory board that’s composed of scientists from around the world. After an in-depth study of each nominee, the board members select the winners by secret ballot.

Members have a knack for recognizing the early work of the scientists about to change the world. “The number of Gairdner Award winners who have gone on to win a Nobel Prize is testament to the excellence of our selection process,” says Dirks, who is also a senior fellow of Massey College. Of the 298 Gairdner winners, 73 later became Nobel laureates.

Members of the public are invited to rub elbows with the Nobel Prize winners at the 50th anniversary symposium. Nobel laureate Dr. Michael Brown – who helped revolutionize cardiac care by discovering the role of cholesterol, which led to the development of statins to help treat high cholesterol – will speak on a panel titled “Food and Fuel for Thought.” And Nobel Prize winner Dr. Harald zur Hausen of Germany, who discovered that the human papilloma virus can cause cervical cancer, presents his latest cancer findings. The symposium culminates with a panel discussion on genetic testing at Convocation Hall on the evening of Friday, October 30. The panel includes Charles Sabine, an NBC news correspondent who tested positive for the Huntington’s disease gene.

All symposium events are free, but registration is required for the Friday events; to register, visit events.cmetoronto.ca/website/index/int0930. For more information, visit gairdner.org. – Susan Pedwell

Theology at the University of St. Michael’s College. He is also an associate member of U of T’s School of Graduate Studies.

Prof. Carol Rolheiser of OISE is the new director of the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation at U of T, a new centre that combined the Office of Teaching Advancement and the Resource Centre for Academic Technology.

IT'S ALL ABOUT



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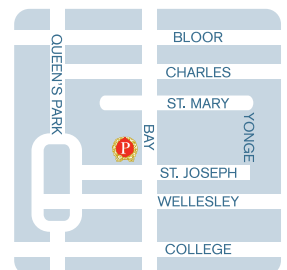
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Leading Edge



Revelations from Qumran

Ancient peoples may have viewed the Dead Sea scrolls much as we see the web – fluid, social and open to change

Today we think of a holy book as complete and inviolable. But the ancient people who wrote and preserved the Dead Sea scrolls probably saw them the way we see Wikipedia – authoritative, but also fluid and constantly open to expansion and revision.

This is the argument of Eva Mroczek, a doctoral student at the Department and Centre for the Study of Religion and

the Centre for Jewish Studies.

Our contemporary culture tends to think of a published work as the finished product of a single author. But the Internet is starting to change how we regard writing, making it a more social, co-operative act – one that is always open to expansion and revision. Mroczek's research suggests that this attitude toward text is similar to how ancient communities >>>

>> regarded the Dead Sea scrolls. “What I’m interested in is the way that the culture that is represented in the scrolls imagined text,” she says.

The Dead Sea scrolls consist of about 900 separate documents, including the earliest copies of some of the books of the Hebrew Bible. The scrolls date from about 250 BCE (before the Common Era) to 68 CE, and may have been kept by a Jewish sect that lived in the nearby settlement of Qumran.

Mroczek says the scrolls were held in high regard as physical objects. Their keepers wrapped them in linen and painstakingly repaired and carefully stored them. But at the same time, the content of the scrolls was not rigidly protected. The scribes who recopied the scrolls updated, revised and even added to the collection.

This attitude was probably partly due to the physical nature of the scrolls. While a book’s two covers suggest that the work is finite and complete, a collection of scrolls set in no particular order suggests a work you can rearrange, expand and revise. “One way of thinking about it is that less is not more,” says Mroczek. “As a scribe, the more you could write, the more you could transmit, the closer you could get to some vast divine system.”

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is running an exhibit on the Dead Sea scrolls until January 3, displaying 17 of the ancient documents. In conjunction with the exhibit, Mroczek and fellow grad student Chad Stauber are assisting with preparations for *The Dead Sea Scrolls: Transmission of Traditions and Production of Texts*, an international conference of scholars to be held from November 15 to 18.

The event is the brainchild of Hindy Najman, the director of the Centre for Jewish Studies and a professor of ancient Judaism at U of T, and Sarianna Metso, a professor at U of T Mississauga who specializes in the Hebrew Bible and Dead Sea scrolls. They enlisted the help of Judith Newman, a professor of ancient Judaism at U of T, Eileen Schuller, a professor at McMaster University, and Alex Gropper, a teacher at the Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Najman, who is also a professor in the Department and Centre for the Study of Religion, invited top scholars from Israel, Canada and the United States, to attend. She will deliver a ROM lecture on the scrolls in early December.

On the conference’s last day, eight graduate students from U of T and McMaster—including Mroczek and Stauber—will present papers. Mroczek says she’s happy the show has ignited the interest of the public, including friends and acquaintances. “Everybody wants to know what I’m doing, which is very, very unusual for me,” she says. — *Kurt Kleiner*



The Future of Regent Park

A Trudeau Scholar questions whether lowest-income tenants will benefit from the neighbourhood’s redevelopment

IN A CITY THAT VENERATED JANE JACOBS for her spirited defence of urban social diversity, Martine August’s sharp critique of Toronto’s mixed-income housing strategy is both provocative and timely.

August, a 2009 Trudeau Scholar in her third year of a PhD in planning, challenges the city’s current efforts to redevelop low-income housing projects into a mix of market and subsidized units. She argues that the strategy may not improve the lot of residents of neighbourhoods such as Regent Park, as the city has long promised.

For the past several years, Toronto Community Housing has



sought to revitalize aging complexes such as Regent Park and Don Mount Court. Its strategy: move the tenants to temporary accommodations, raze the existing buildings and replace them with a mix of townhouses and condominiums. Profits from land sales to condo developers underwrite the construction of the new subsidized housing units. Policy-makers argue that such mixed-income neighbourhoods are safer, and offer residents more social and economic opportunities.

A long line of urban reformers has embraced the “social mix” notion, and few question the concept. August, though, wonders whether the poor see their lives improve because they live in mixed-income areas. Her research into American public housing policy indicates that decision-makers should challenge the accepted wisdom.

“The empirical record suggests that low-income tenants do not tend to benefit relative to other actors in the process,” says August. She argues that gentrification and pressure from property developers are what really drive public housing redevelopment. In her view, public housing officials should aim to restore decaying apartments for existing tenants.

Lingo

Idaho Stop



Almost everywhere in the world, a stop sign means you must bring your vehicle to a complete halt. Not in Idaho. For cyclists there, a stop sign means slow down and yield. Many bicycle activists applaud the idea.

However, Baher Abdulhai, the Canada Research Chair in Intelligent Transportation Systems at U of T, warns that changing the rules of the road for just one kind of vehicle heightens the risk of accidents. He thinks all vehicles should be required to stop at a stop sign or red light.

At intersections where stop signs are needed only during peak traffic periods, Abdulhai suggests installing solar-powered signs that display stop or yield – or can turn off completely – depending on the time of day.

August surveyed American studies of public housing redevelopment schemes, both successful and not, looking for data demonstrating short- and medium-term outcomes such as improved economic circumstances, better housing, fewer instances of delinquency and improved educational achievements. In many American projects, only a handful of tenants ever return from their temporary accommodations, so they aren’t enjoying any of the benefits of the “improved” neighbourhood, she says. “I think public policy officials should be really worried about that.”

While August acknowledges that U.S. and Canadian cities respond to poverty differently, she says the American experience is “being imported with few critical questions asked.” Until now, that is. In her research, August is examining the effectiveness of Canadian projects.

The Trudeau Foundation, established in 2001 by the former prime minister’s friends and colleagues, announced 15 winners of its annual scholarships in May. Recipients receive a bursary worth up to \$180,000 over three years to conduct research.

– *John Lorinc*

Prototype

Photo ID

Want to know where an unidentified picture was taken? A computer program being developed at U of T can help



IMAGINE A FRIEND HAS PUT TOGETHER a photo album, but hasn't labelled the pictures. As you flip through the images, you're left guessing where they were taken. You might make some fairly accurate estimates – but a new U of T computer program would probably do much better.

Computer science professor Aaron Hertzmann, PhD student Evangelos Kalogerakis and others have developed an algorithm that can analyze a series of photos and determine where they were taken. The program – the first of its kind,

Hertzmann says – isn't designed to identify individual images, although it can make a rough guess at one-off photos. Rather, its power lies in its ability to identify a whole series of images, if it knows *the sequence* in which they were taken.

Hertzmann's program exploits the enormous image database of the popular photo-sharing website, Flickr.com. On Flickr, people have the option of "tagging" photos to indicate when and where they were taken. Hertzmann's program uses these tags – mini-summaries of the photo-taking habits of thousands of Flickr users – to determine where photos were taken.

"If you take a picture of some city street, it could be anywhere in the world," Hertzmann says. "But if half an hour later you take a picture of Big Ben or the Eiffel Tower, then it becomes much clearer where that first picture was taken."

On a recent holiday, Hertzmann photographed the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, an ancient Greek amphitheatre in Athens. A day later he photographed a nearly featureless seascape off Santorini, with just a sliver of coastline showing. Taken individually, the program does just fine with the Odeon photo because many people have posted similar shots to Flickr; it puts a dot on a world map at Athens. But the seascape could be anywhere. Without any additional information, the program puts dots all over the world's seas. Feed the program *both* photos – along with the time frame in which they were shot – and suddenly it recognizes the seascape as being from the Aegean and puts a dot near Santorini. (The program knows not only that Santorini is close to Athens, but also that it's a popular target for Flickr photographers who have recently visited Athens.)

Hertzmann imagines many practical uses for the program. Tourism workers and urban planners could benefit from a detailed knowledge of the routes that people take between – and within – cities. And health-care professionals could use it to help fight epidemics, especially if the photo-taking data is combined with information such as air travel routes and cellphone usage. – *Dan Falk*

Findings



Cancer linked to child abuse

A U of T study has found that those reporting childhood physical abuse are more likely to have cancer than those who were not abused during childhood.

The study, led by Professor Esme Fuller-Thomson of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and department of family and community medicine, shows that adults who were abused as a child are 49 per cent more likely to develop cancer than those not abused in their youth.

The association between childhood abuse and cancer remains significant even after the researchers control for factors such as smoking, physical inactivity, alcohol consumption and socio-economic status.

Co-author Sarah Brennenstuhl, a U of T doctoral student, notes that future research may investigate the role of cortisol – the "stress hormone" – in the abuse-cancer relationship. The study was published in the journal *Cancer*. – *Joyann Callender*



Mood affects vision

A U of T psychology professor has found the first direct evidence that our mood literally changes the way we see. Professor Adam Anderson and his research team used functional magnetic resonance

imaging to examine how the brain's visual cortex processes information when individuals are in a good, neutral or bad mood. When people are happy, the researchers found that the visual cortex takes in more information. In contrast, a negative mood causes tunnel vision.

"Good moods enhance the literal size of the window through which we see the world," says Taylor Schmitz, a graduate student and the study's lead author. The upside of a good mood is that we see things from a more global perspective. The downside is that we may be distracted from tasks that require a narrow focus. Bad moods, on the other hand, may keep us too narrowly focused.

The study appears in the *Journal of Neuroscience* at www.jneurosci.org. – *Kim Luke*

Read more about the latest U of T research at www.research.utoronto.ca.



Professor George Dei Afrocentric Schools



Professor George Dei is the immediate past chair of the department of sociology and equity studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He was in Ghana this past summer conducting research into indigenous philosophies of education. He recently spoke with **Scott Anderson** about Toronto's

first Afrocentric school, which opened this September.

What is an Afrocentric school? The Afrocentric school is not only for Black students. While concerns about the problems of Black youth in the education system propelled the school's creation, it is defined by its principles rather than by who goes there or who teaches there. The current school system looks at the world through European eyes. We're talking about looking at the world through the eyes of African peoples – their experiences, their cultural knowledge and their history.

Afrocentric education sees schooling as a *community* endeavour, which means that parents, students, administrators, educators and governments share in the responsibility to ensure success. In the existing system, students are treated as individual learners. We want them to see themselves as a community of learners with a responsibility to those who are struggling. We want the A students to assist those who are not doing as well.

How will the school's curriculum differ? The Afrocentric paradigm provides a space for African peoples to interpret their experiences on their own terms rather than through a Eurocentric lens. Of course, students need to know about European history. But they also must understand that African history is central to the construction of European history. You

cannot present world history in a way that leaves out a group of people or says that their history doesn't matter. *Cry Freedom* is about a white man who fights apartheid. Maybe he did, but what were the Africans doing? Were they just standing there watching him fight? Or were they central to the story?

I can see how subjects such as history and English can be taught with an African point of view. What about math? There's a whole literature on ethno-mathematics and indigenous conceptions of science and mathematics. To use just one example, look at the textile patterns used by African peoples. What are their conceptions of geometry? You'd still teach students geometry as we know it. But you allow for multiple ways of knowing.

What has research indicated about the performance of Black students who attend an Afrocentric school versus those who attend a regular public school? Black students at Afrocentric schools perform better on tests, skip class less often, show greater respect for authority and elders, report feeling a greater sense of belonging in their schools, and have a greater commitment to social responsibility and community welfare.

Do a greater percentage finish high school? We need more research on that question – which is another reason why we need this school.

If Afrocentric schools are seen as a solution, what are they a solution to? High dropout rates, low motivation, teachers' low expectations of some students, stereotyping of Black, religious minority and working-class students, a lack of respect for authority and a lack of student commitment to community.

Are there other possible solutions? Definitely. Afrocentric schools are not a panacea. We need to continue to ask all schools to be more inclusive.

What evidence do we have that Toronto schools are poorly serving Black learners? A 1993 report on the old Toronto school board found that the graduation rates for Black students was 44 per cent and the dropout rate 42 per cent. Comparable figures for white students were 59 per cent and 31 per cent. This appalling situation is no different today.

Would resources be better directed at solving the problems in all schools rather than creating a separate school? It cannot be an "either/or" solution. It has to be "and/with." In 1979, I attended a meeting of the Organization of Parents of Black Children in Toronto. The parents were speaking about the school system failing their children. In 2009, parents are *still* talking about this. It was time to try a new approach.

Aquabot

During the summer, some undergrads work retail. Others plant trees. Theodore Soong, Lawrence Lee and two dozen other engineering students spent much of their summer toiling away in a basement lab, building a robotic “submarine.”

The students’ creation looks like a small, clear suitcase – with five propellers, two cameras to act as “eyes” and a digital compass. In July, the students travelled to California to enter their “aquabot” in an international competition that requires each machine to dive, perform tasks underwater and then surface – guided only by a program on its on-board computer.

The team’s biggest challenge? Keeping the internal components dry. “If there’s a way in, water will always find it,” says Lee, a mechanical-engineering student.

U of T won best new entry in the contest three years ago, and Soong had high hopes for this year’s competition. But a computer glitch foiled the team’s chance for victory. They finished a still-respectable 19th.



Exit Strategy

This fall, the City of Toronto will test a U of T program that offers youths alternatives to gang life

NEWS STORIES ABOUT PRE-DAWN POLICE RAIDS and mass arrests in Toronto’s low-income neighbourhoods have become commonplace in recent years. But this fall, the City of Toronto will open a new chapter in its fight against gangs by launching an intensive \$5-million pilot program that targets 300 adolescents who seem destined for gang life, or who are already gang members and want a way out.

This federally funded program is innovative because it was designed in close consultation with U of T criminologist Scot Wortley, a leading expert on Canada’s urban youth gangs.

The new program will offer the selected youths counselling for anger management and substance abuse; employment advice and training in marketable skills; opportunities to participate in sports and cultural programs; and support for their families. Wortley will evaluate the results while the program is operating, so officials can decide if this new approach should be used elsewhere.

Through their research, Wortley and his colleague Julian

Tanner, a sociologist at U of T Scarborough, have learned that most hard-core Toronto gang members are not young teens but adults in their late teens and 20s. Wortley observes that some teens like to adopt the gang-member pose, but may not be involved with criminal activities, such as drug dealing or possessing weapons. Contrary to the impression of many teachers and other authority figures, teens don’t often “cross the line and engage in crime for economic purposes,” says Wortley.

Wortley and Tanner will analyze whether the program successfully diverts youth from criminal activity and into the mainstream economy. Helping young adults land a job they can respect is the trickiest piece of the puzzle. As Tanner recounts, one gang member they interviewed said he deals drugs because it’s preferable to working in a running-shoe store dressed as a referee. “Many of these kids have nothing but disdain for these sorts of jobs,” he says. “That is going to be one of the challenges.” – *John Lorinc*



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By Andrew Mitrovica

A U of T centre aims to stay one step
ahead of the Internet censors



Professor Ron Deibert (centre) has emerged as a leader of a burgeoning global movement that champions free speech and human rights online

HISTORY UNFOLDED ON A BROAD thoroughfare in Tehran on an overcast day in June. At one end of the boulevard hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Iranians, had gathered. Many of the protesters appeared to be young men in jeans and T-shirts. There were a few women too, wearing black head scarves and flashes of green – the now familiar colour of defiance. Facing them was a phalanx of baton-wielding riot police, indistinguishable in their beige camouflage gear and black helmets.

In tennis-like volleys of epithets and rocks, the confrontation pitted instruments of state power against citizens angry over the outcome of a disputed presidential election. The riot police repeatedly edged toward the protesters but were beaten back until, in a spasm of energy and will, the demonstrators surged forward, forcing their adversaries to retreat for good. Finally, a roar went up, signalling the protesters' hard-fought triumph. (The dramatic scene was captured on a bystander's camcorder and immortalized after being uploaded on YouTube.)

While clashes like this were being routinely played out in Iran's turbulent cities this past summer, there was a more subtle, but no less fierce, duel being waged in the electronic ether between Tehran and the mostly youthful protesters. In this virtual arena, both sides fought for control – not of restive streets but of the flow of images and information. In cyberspace, computer filters, not batons, are an intransigent regime's weapon of choice to choke off Internet access – and the aim is to root out and silence dissenters, not bash heads. For those who challenge authority on the web, this contest requires stealth, imagination, computer literacy and, perhaps most vitally, resolve and courage.

This was certainly true in Iran, where the cleric-led government had barred most reporters from recording and showing the world the violent and bloody aftermath of the contentious election. The country's bombastic president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, declared the June 12 vote the "freest" and "healthiest" in the world. The demonstrators denounced the election as neither free nor fair, but rigged. To voice and fuel their resistance, countless Iranians turned to YouTube and social networking tools such as Facebook and the microblogging site Twitter.

The protesters had a Canadian ally in their technological corner. Propelled by an anti-authoritarian streak, University of Toronto professor and cyber-guru Ron Deibert has spent years combating online surveillance, repression and censorship.

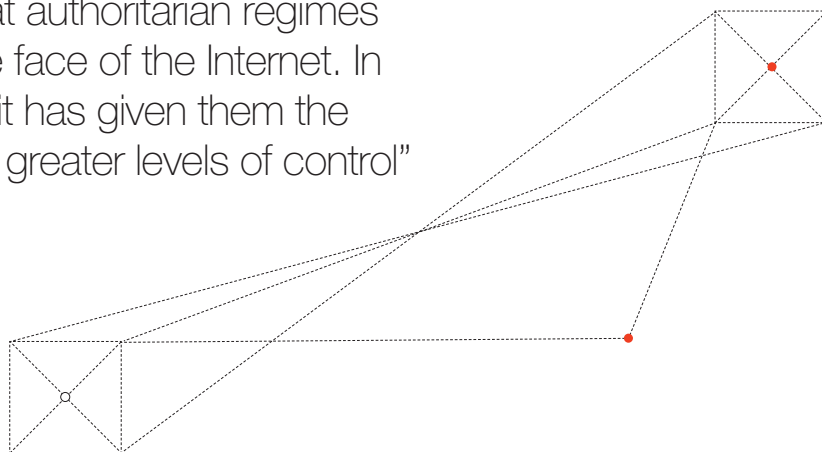
The 44-year-old widowed father of four is, not surprisingly, insanely busy. Most days, Deibert can be found in the funky subterranean offices of the Citizen Lab at the Munk Centre for International Studies, peering with laser-beam intensity at his grey laptop.

Born of Deibert's restless imagination in 2001, the Citizen Lab is now the epicentre of the political scientist's network of more than 100 cyber-sleuths in 70 countries who map, monitor and test access to thousands of websites. Deibert is the lab's director, but he is also mentor, teacher and conductor of this eclectic hothouse of political science, sociology, computer science, engineering and graphic design students, and field investigators. All of them share his mission: to tip the scales of power in cyberspace in favour of ordinary citizens.

"I'm a classic liberal," says Deibert, a punk-rock buff who sports a salt-and-pepper goatee and a thick crop of dishevelled black hair. "I don't like the power of the state looming over me." A one-time grocery store clerk who mopped floors and stocked shelves on the graveyard shift, Deibert has emerged as a headline-grabbing leader of a burgeoning global movement that champions free speech and human rights in the electronic frontier.

DEIBERT WAS IN PENANG, MALAYSIA, when Iran's streets erupted. He was there to meet researchers and field investigators from 11 Asian countries affiliated with the worldwide OpenNet Initiative. The initiative is one of Deibert's many collaborative research and business ventures, set up to monitor, analyze and, in several high-profile instances, thwart efforts by governments

“The myth was that authoritarian regimes would wither in the face of the Internet. In some respects, it has given them the means to engage in greater levels of control”



and other players to deny Internet access, spy on their citizens and wage cyber-war on political, ideological and military foes.

The web wasn't supposed to turn out this way. The Internet's commercial genesis a little more than a decade ago was an epochal technological moment. The thinking and hope – expressed in “cyber-libertarian” John Perry Barlow's Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace – was that repressive regimes would fall victim to the Internet's inherent democratic impulse. Increasingly, this notion seems fanciful. A mushrooming list of largely authoritarian governments of various political and ideological pedigrees is asserting control over the web – occasionally in the name of the so-called war on terror – with software, search engines and hardware built in large measure by North American firms. “The myth,” Deibert says, “was that authoritarian regimes would wither in the face of the Internet. In fact, in some respects, it has given them the means to engage in greater levels of control over their populations.”

That point was confirmed again when Deibert and his long-time business partner and Citizen Lab colleague, Rafal Rohozinski, unveiled an alarming report in Malaysia on an insidious Chinese software program. Called Green Dam, the program was designed to censor and filter the Internet on every new computer in China. (Green Dam was designed in part with pilfered American software, Deibert says.) But the meticulous report, completed with colleagues at Harvard University, was suddenly overwhelmed by the tumult in Iran.

As news of the Iranian protests hit, Deibert mobilized researchers, engineers and technical wizards in Canada and Britain, as well as trusted contacts inside Tehran, into a “virtual” base camp. They quickly established what he calls “right2know” nodes to “push” a slew of websites into Iran, thus enabling Internet users there to access previously banned sites, including Voice of America, Balatarin (an Iranian news site), Human Rights Watch and Flickr.

In fact, the complex and encrypted software behind the right2know nodes that Deibert's team engineered is the only firewall-penetrating tool that allows users to access websites through their mobile phones and that is compatible with streaming video sites.

The work paid dividends. By Deibert's count, more than 18,000 Iranians signed up for the free service at the height of the crisis in late June. Some of the videos that the Iranian government tried to bar the world from watching – of street confrontations, and bloodied and dead protesters – were, in all likelihood, uploaded onto YouTube using the right2know nodes and an iPhone.

Coincidentally, Deibert was already involved in a pilot project with the BBC: the British broadcaster used a revolutionary content-delivery service, called Psiphon, to bypass Iranian filters. Psiphon allowed people in Iran to gain Internet access to the BBC's Persian service and other banned websites – including Radio Farda, a U.S. government-funded station that broadcasts into Iran – and online social networking tools.

Created in 2006, Psiphon was the brainchild of the Citizen Lab. Deibert and his partners have since turned the service into a Canadian-based company called Psiphon Inc. A portion of the firm's profits is funnelled back into a slew of research initiatives. They need every penny. Despite the mismatch in size and resources, Deibert and his crew are trying to keep pace as governments design and deploy more sophisticated means of blocking Internet access. They're working, for example, on a faster, smarter, more reliable edition of Psiphon. In part, that has required them to capture all banned content – except, of course, pornographic websites – on servers so that the prohibited content will be conveniently and instantly available to Internet users everywhere. The updated version of Psiphon will, in effect, be a one-stop-shopping portal for all banned websites around the world. Deibert's band of ingenious



Deibert knows that his work involves risk, not so much for him but for Internet users and field investigators, who face retribution for defying government-erected firewalls

engineers is also devising ways to intercept state-launched “blockers” and shunt them into an electronic dustbin before they can infect or disable Psiphon.

Deibert knows that his work involves risk, not so much for him but for Internet users and his field investigators, who face retribution for defying or probing government-erected firewalls and bans. Indeed, one of Deibert’s associates in Uzbekistan was detained and questioned by secret police immediately after leaving an Internet café where she had been checking a website suspected of being filtered by the government. “When you push back at authority, they are going to push back with the pointy edge of the stick,” Deibert says. “So a lot of people suffer the consequences. It’s usually the brave ones who go out onto the street, not the ones who sit in their air-conditioned offices in Toronto.”

That’s why Deibert takes steps to prevent users of filter-avoiding software from getting caught. The Citizen Lab has put together and posted a detailed guide, translated into a variety of languages, explaining the risks of using Psiphon and filter-busting technology. “We are very conscious of security,” Deibert says. “But if no one took risks, we would all be living in the Middle Ages, still [under] some canonical authority.”

Predictably, Deibert’s efforts earned the wrath of the Iranian government. Tehran charged that London, and in particular the BBC, was fomenting the unrest. Later, Canada’s chargé d’affaires in Iran, Michel de Salaberry, was reprimanded by Iranian officials for Ottawa’s phantom role in “destabilizing” the regime by supporting the availability of Twitter and Facebook in Iran.

“If they are calling in the Canadian envoy, it’s got to do with us,” Deibert says. Canada’s man in Tehran, Deibert adds, must have been puzzled by the diplomatic slap on the wrist since Stephen Harper’s Conservative government played no role in keeping the information superhighway into Iran partly open.

That wasn’t the first time Deibert has felt the weight of

powerful governments. Several months earlier, Deibert and his fellow cyber-detectives, Rohozinski, Greg Walton and Nart Villeneuve, made headlines with their discovery of a pervasive computer espionage network – they dubbed it GhostNet – that had compromised more than 1,300 computers. Included were computers at the Dalai Lama’s offices in Dharamsala, India, as well as those at diplomatic missions, media outlets and a variety of international organizations across the globe.

Who precisely was doing the snooping remains a mystery. But Deibert’s investigators discovered that the still anonymous hackers, connected to servers in China, assumed control of the infected computers. Beijing was not amused at the accusations (promoted by the media) that it was behind the espionage operation and promptly dismissed them as “rumours” and “lies.” But that wasn’t the end of the story. According to Deibert, Chinese consular officials in Toronto were so incensed by the report’s findings that they “blasted” two senior Munk Centre officials at a tense lunch meeting in June.

Deibert is nonplussed by the Iranian and Chinese criticism. “We’re just an annoying little fly.”

But the “little fly’s” work on GhostNet in particular – concerned as it was with a prominent spiritual leader, intrigue and espionage – attracted a deluge of media attention. Apparently the controversy and exposure GhostNet triggered also prompted the issue of cyber-espionage to be put on the agenda in Washington and London. In the weeks following the GhostNet revelations, U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown separately announced plans to create civilian agencies, led by so-called “cyber-czars,” to defend their nations’ vast computerized infrastructure against hackers and terrorists.

However, in making his announcement, Prime Minister Brown acknowledged that his government has the ability to launch offensive cyber-attacks. President Obama made public

plans to establish a new military command for cyberspace to step up preparations by his armed forces to wage war in the electronic battlefield.

The pronouncements confirmed Deibert's long-standing fears about the militarization of cyberspace. Canada, he believes, should seize the opportunity and play its traditional diplomatic role of honest broker to help fashion an arms control agreement for the Internet. (For his part, Deibert has openly discussed his work and views on the weaponization of cyberspace with American, Russian and British military and intelligence officials. "In order to effect change," he says, "you have to have a conversation with them.")

Playing such a role would require a *volte-face* on Ottawa's part: to date, the Canadian government has taken little, if any, interest in Deibert's research, not to mention the broader issues of Internet censorship and denial of access. (Last April, Ottawa belatedly announced that it was working on "an overall cyber-security strategy.")

Nevertheless, Deibert says, "Canada can be a powerful advocate and a force for transparency and accessibility in cyberspace. It can and should work toward ensuring that cyberspace is an open commons for the world."

To do this, he says, Canada needs to be ambitious.

First, Ottawa must convene a meeting of "major powers" to craft a "Treaty of Cyberspace" that ratifies a foundational precept: Internet security is a global imperative; cyberspace must be protected and preserved for all.

To monitor and enforce that defining principle, Canada should advocate for an international authority that would set global protocols to deal with cyber-crime and espionage, as well as with denial of service attacks and viruses.

Finally, the nation's foreign policy decision-makers need to recognize that, if enacted, these proposals could be a powerful and persuasive vehicle to project core Canadian values to the world. In the meantime, Ottawa, Deibert insists, should invest human resources and money into Internet technologies that promote free speech, privacy and access to information at home and abroad. "It's about trying to help others and make the world a better place," he says.

A chorus of voices inside and outside government will likely dismiss Deibert's bold prescriptions as naive and utopian. He has little time or patience for the naysayers. True to his nature, Deibert will be too busy – hunched over his laptop, orchestrating his troop of cyber-sleuths in their David and Goliath struggle to free the Internet from forces determined to put a padlock on it.

Andrew Mitrovica (BA 1983 VIC), a former Globe and Mail investigative reporter, teaches journalism at Sheridan College and is working on his second book.

The Troublemaker



Growing up, Professor Ron Deibert wanted to be a thief, not a thinker. He was born in a rough-and-tumble corner of east Vancouver in 1964, and his idea of a good time as a kid was to break into churches to wolf down communion wafers.

In time, the sacrilegious urge to break the law passed. But Deibert's inclination to thumb his nose at authority never did. It began, Deibert says, when he attended a

"dictatorial" Catholic primary school. He often made trouble by questioning the nuns and church dogma. "I thought it was all nonsense," Deibert says. Sports and reading saved him from purgatory.

Later, he attended the University of British Columbia, where he meandered intellectually. He eventually earned a BA in 1988, after taking an eclectic menu of courses, studying everything from phys-ed to Soviet politics. But he was most happy dating, playing competitive hockey with the "dirty edge and intensity" of his hero, Philadelphia Flyer Bobby Clarke, and jamming in a reggae band.

Deibert had an epiphany while working the night shift as a grocery store clerk-cum-janitor. A co-worker, impressed by Deibert's insatiable interest in current affairs, suggested he become an academic. "I was living my life to party," Deibert says. "I didn't want to do that [anymore]."

Deibert contemplated becoming a sports reporter, but his application to study journalism at community college was rejected. So he went back to the University of British Columbia to improve his GPA. Graduate studies in international relations at Queen's University followed. "I was like a hermit – I read voraciously," Deibert recalls. A few years later, a chance encounter with a sympathetic professor helped him secure a place as a UBC doctoral student after he failed to land a spot on his first try. It was while wrestling with the focus of his dissertation that Deibert first recognized that information technology, particularly the nascent Internet, would revolutionize world politics and change his life.

He was right.

Doctorate in hand, Deibert made the short list for a teaching job at University of California, Berkeley, but he opted for U of T in 1996 because it had been the home of communications theorists Harold Innis and Marshall McLuhan. By the late 1990s, he was searching for a research vehicle to fuse his interest in world politics, the media, and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Several ideas were percolating in Deibert's mind when the Ford Foundation, an American non-profit organization, offered him a \$250,000 grant to conduct research around ICTs and international security. The money, coupled with Deibert's determination, led to the Citizen Lab's birth in 2001.

One of Deibert's Citizen Lab colleagues, Jane Gowan, also happens to be his live-in girlfriend. The university chums resurrected their relationship several years after Deibert's wife succumbed to cancer. A graphic designer and member of the rock band Spygirls, Gowan says Deibert is motivated by a profound commitment to human rights. "At his core, there is a belief in freedom of speech," she says. "He is someone who caused the world to look at the issue of Internet censorship more carefully." – A.M.

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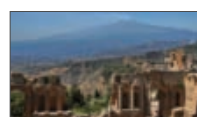
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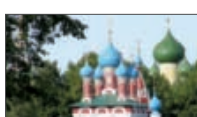
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Photography by Lee Towndrow

Act of Defiance

The title 'Act of Defiance' is rendered in a large, black, serif font. The text is centered and surrounded by various ink splatters and stains. A prominent black splatter is located near the top of the word 'of'. Another black splatter is positioned to the left of the word 'Defiance'. A bright red splatter is located to the right of the word 'Defiance'. A vertical purple stain runs down the center of the page, passing through the word 'of'.

In her new book, Denise Chong profiles one of the men who, 20 years ago, dared to lob eggs at a portrait of Mao. As Western businesses vie for access to Chinese markets, do such political gestures still matter?

By John Allemang

IT'S EASY TO MISS THE TIANANMEN MEMORIAL on Hart House Circle.

As a historical comment, this is all too appropriate. Twenty years after the crackdown on activists who gathered in Beijing's vast open square, China has done its best to make us forget that brutal act – at least if the 2008 Summer Olympics is a dependable guide to the world's snap judgments. Time may not heal *all* wounds, but a good spectacle can help you look the other way.

The Tiananmen Memorial tucked round the back of the Students' Union building makes it just a little harder to evade the painful past and the responsibilities that come with remembering. This is not the place to relive the memories of Michael Phelps' eight gold medals or the stunning opening ceremonies at the Bird's Nest. Instead, you contemplate the bronzed image of a crushed bicycle, much like those ridden by the young democracy supporters in Tiananmen Square, and the overpowering imprint of the tank treads favoured by those determined to remain in power.

And it was at this memorial on June 4, 2006, during a vigil to mark the anniversary of the 1989 massacre, that a former Chinese prisoner of conscience and recently arrived refugee named Lu Decheng stood on the grassy mound and begged us all to stop appeasing the Chinese government.

"It is like drinking poisonous water to quench one's thirst," said the man who spent nine years in a Chinese prison for engaging in his homeland's supreme act of vandalism – tossing paint-filled eggs at Tiananmen's giant portrait of Mao Zedong, just days before the tanks rolled in.

"The normal way for people to argue human rights," says Denise Chong, sipping tea in her Ottawa kitchen, "is through the voluminous treatment of cases. You catalogue the abuses, you list the interventions, you stack up all the documents until the table starts to wobble and overflow. And then, on the other half of the table, we've got economic progress, the boom, and we treat these as trade-offs. But I didn't want to do that – I wanted to see if I could write a book on human rights without actually using the phrase until my story was well down the road. I wanted to go back and examine the small, accumulating indignities that lead a society to abuse human rights."

The man who defaced the portrait in Tiananmen Square has now become the subject of that book, and the embodiment of Chong's view that a human-rights story can resonate strongly through the history of an ordinary person – one who

could never forget seeing his patriotic grandmother being bullied by Red Army members, who resisted the order to cry when Mao Zedong died, who wouldn't let the population-control busybodies prevent him from pursuing love and family on his own terms, who saw his father pressured to turn on him while he was trapped in China's Kafkaesque prison system. In the strikingly evocative *Egg on Mao*, Chong (who graduated from U of T in 1978 with a master's in economics and public policy) has written what she calls "the biography of a gesture" to explore just what drives a 25-year-old mechanic from the Hunan hinterlands to jeopardize his life for a cause he believes in.

Lu rose to fame the moment he, accompanied by two hometown friends, lobbed the eggs that splattered the Great Helmsman's likeness. The boldness of this defiance – and the worldwide publicity it generated – made it more difficult for his Chinese captors to dispose of him quietly.

By the time he found his way to Canada in 2006 – after a roundabout escape route on foot through the jungles of Burma and Thailand, ending in an 18-month stay in a Thai jail at the behest of the influential Chinese authorities – Lu was a legend in activist circles. His very arrival in Canada made the news, and within days Chong received a request from Craig Pyette, an editor at Random House Canada: would she consider writing about Lu Decheng?

There has been no shortage of books about China during its rapid modernization over the last three decades, but few would be shelved in the human-rights section. The protests in Tiananmen Square seem the relic of a different era when set beside the country's economic miracle: China is open for business, and Western politicians look like Cirque du Soleil contortionists as they try to balance their support for human rights with their zeal to penetrate the Chinese market.

"The Chinese government has proved," says Diana Lary, author of *China's Republic* (Cambridge 2007) "that if China seems to be important enough in terms of trade, China can trump concerns for human rights. Canadians have had this idea of engagement with China as a way of raising our concerns about human rights, but the Chinese government will not tolerate dissidence or disobedience."

Reading about Lu, Pyette recognized a different approach to modern China – hard-headed, uncompromising and fully Chinese. "I didn't want to do another book that projected our judgments and was firmly ensconced in the Western point of view," he says. "And with Mr. Lu, I felt Denise could capture the right perspective and tell his life story in a way



“The students were trying to show that they were law-abiding and peaceful. They didn’t want the protests to degenerate into riots. **They’re regretful now about turning Lu in, but at the time they felt they were doing the right thing**”

that caught the human-rights aspect without being a political treatise.”

Chong’s own history must have made her seem like the perfect match for Lu. As the bestselling author of *The Concubine’s Children* (about the fractured family life of her grandmother and mother in British Columbia’s Chinatowns) and *The Girl in the Picture* (the story of the iconic Vietnamese napalm victim, Kim Phuc), she had proven herself skilled at placing a deeply personal story in its complex social context.

Trained as an economist (she continues to live a separate mandarin-level existence as a public policy specialist), Chong was recruited to the federal finance department in the 1970s, and caught the attention of Pierre Trudeau when she joined the Prime Minister’s Office in 1980.

“Trudeau believed in hiring women,” she says, “and though it wasn’t the word that was used then, he also believed in diversity. With him, it was your ideas that counted, regardless of your age or background. If you could give him as good as he gave, his respect only went up.”

At 56, Chong has the determined, persistent, fearless style of argument that delighted the hyperanalytical Trudeau, who got so involved in her life that he began critiquing her novice swimming technique with the same professorial rigour he brought to her briefing notes on economic issues. “Almost everything for him could be broken down, taught and learned,” she says. “He believed in that absolutely, and it was probably his rigour that shaped me more than anything else.”

Trudeau had first visited China in 1949 and had co-written a playful travel book titled *Two Innocents in Red China* years before he pushed for recognition of the then-ostracized People’s Republic. It was at Trudeau’s urging that Chong first went to China to join her boyfriend (and now husband), CTV correspondent Roger Smith, in 1985. Innocence was no longer an option for an expatriate Canadian: the democracy movement was stirring, and she took advantage of her Chinese features to help Smith smuggle tapes off the campus of Beijing University where the activist intellectuals congregated.

In a suspicious society, Chong passed for a local, which came as something of a shock to this second-generation Canadian who couldn’t speak more than a few words of the ancestral language and who recoiled when the Chinese ambassador in Ottawa greeted her with words she found chilling: “You are a lost daughter of the motherland.”

She wanted none of it: “God, I’m so through and through a defender of myself as Canadian, I’ve never been hyphen-

ated.” Yet the two years she spent in Beijing undeniably forged a connection to the world her maternal grandmother left to start a new life as a teenage concubine in Canada. So when Chong tells Lu’s story, it’s with a sense of place and an understanding of the past that you don’t get in the urgent appeals put out by international human-rights groups.

Their cause is one she proudly believes in – she plans to advocate for human rights in China as a representative of PEN, the authors’ organization. “It’s quite clearcut, there are no grey areas here,” she says firmly. But as a writer transfixed by the richness and the power of ordinary life, she doesn’t find the standard human-rights narrative persuasive or complicated enough. “The victims start to blur into one, the senses get dulled when you read the reports because it seems like you’ve heard it all before. My idea was to push all that away and get back to the human in human rights.”

When Lu came to Toronto to make his plea behind the graceful old Students’ Union building on Hart House Circle, he also bonded with Chong in the backyard of democracy activist and filmmaker Cheuk Kwan. That began a series of marathon conversations, sometimes conducted through translators, in which Chong searched for the telling details in Lu’s past that could explain and justify his defiant act of affirmation in Tiananmen Square.

“It was a very Chinese act,” says Chong. “In the West, we would view something like this as quixotic and think how naive these men were. But in China, it’s your only gesture. Of course they were naive. But you have to balance the futil-



“The West was not able to perceive that democracy in China isn’t about the ballot box but about much more basic human rights, the freedom to choose all kinds of things that we take for granted”



ity of the gesture against the weight of repression. And this shows you what a society like China’s has produced – that people are willing to make a futile gesture for the nobility of having acted.”

Lu wasn’t a university intellectual like many of the protesters in Tiananmen, and his willingness to bypass political negotiation and move straight to direct action (however harmless) frightened the student leadership: they compliantly turned him and his friends over to the authorities.

“The students were trying to show that they were law-abiding and peaceful, that they were willing to work within limits,” says Kwan, who has interviewed many Tiananmen veterans around the world. “They didn’t want the protest to degenerate into riots. They’re regretful now about turning Lu in, but at the time they felt they were doing the right thing.”

The students’ respect for authority is critical to understanding why a deprived and poorly educated provincial such as Lu came to represent the indomitability of the human spirit. His political coming-of-age was much more basic and visceral. In her heartbreakingly humane portrait, Chong focuses in particular on the way Lu and his young wife were hounded by the authorities for conceiving a child against the law and refusing to go through with the obligatory abortion. And even after the child died in infancy (the victim of a compromised health-care system, Lu believes), the vindictive family-planning police docked Lu’s monthly salary to make him pay “a social child-raising fee” as compensation for burdening China with an unauthorized child. That very year, such is the world’s

peculiar understanding of human rights, the UN honoured China with its inaugural Population Award.

These haunting bureaucratic details are crucial for Chong’s almost novelistic storytelling, because Lu’s accumulated indignities come to explain Chinese dissent much more fully than what happened over a few weeks in Tiananmen Square 20 years ago.

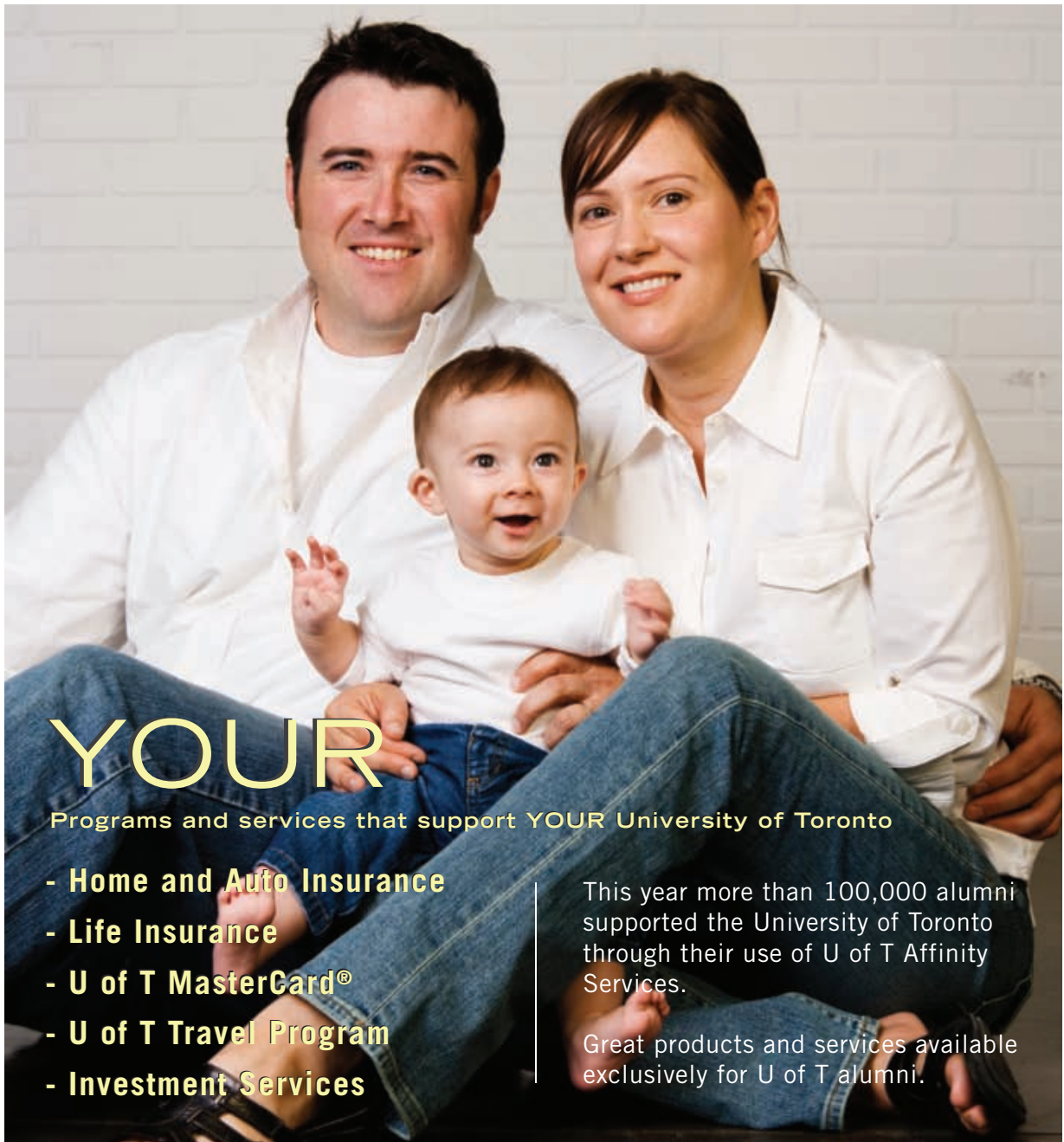
“In the West, we felt all this enthusiasm for the student protest in Tiananmen Square, but there was so much of China we didn’t see,” says Chong. “The West was not able to perceive that democracy in China isn’t about the ballot box but about much more basic human rights, the freedom to choose all kinds of things that we take for granted.”

The human-rights protests that have erupted in China over the last few years, enabled by new technologies that undermine the state’s ability to control and repress, have come much more from ordinary citizens such as Lu than from the privileged university elites or the pampered middle class. Think of the parents who lost their children in the Olympic-year earthquake and drew on the power of their grief to defy the overbearing authorities.

They are the descendants of Lu’s act, Chong believes, and this is why his story still resonates at a time when the businesslike Chinese authorities seem to have the upper hand. “China is a state that makes absolutely sure of things – the Olympics were beautiful, a spectacle to behold, and is it any surprise?” she says. “We’ve bought into this at the economic level as well, to the extent that business with China will work the way we want it to work, that contracts will go as written and deliveries will be predictable. To express it in tough terms, we’re willing to be complicit in the indignities of society that represses human rights because we want cheap dishes in our cupboard.”

Chong pauses to let her dog out into the Ottawa sunshine. For a moment, a precious moment at that, the casual cruelties of Lu’s China seem a long way away. “We have to make a decision,” she says, returning to the table, as the dog barks merrily at his canine neighbour. “We have to recognize that economic well-being isn’t always first in line, that there are some things we should value even more fundamentally. If you’re going to give any meaning to human rights, then there has to be an understanding: The denial of rights in China diminishes us here.”

John Allemang (BA 1974 Trinity) is a feature writer for The Globe and Mail. He also writes the paper’s weekly “Poetic Justice” poem.



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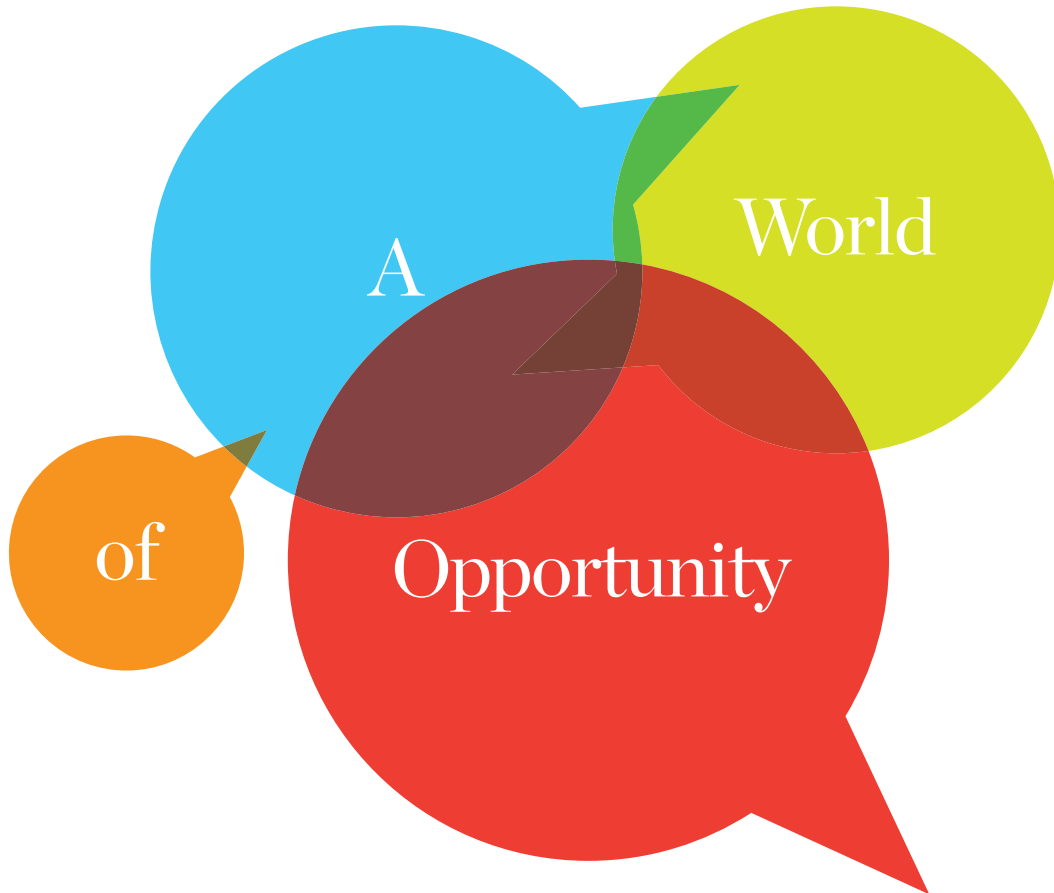
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Margi Moscoe
Bangalore, India
Business



Spending a term abroad used to be considered an expensive frill. Now many students see it as their key to a rewarding career

AS HE NEARS GRADUATION, Michael Dzamba recalls that some of his best experiences at the University of Toronto took place 12,000 kilometres away.

The fourth-year computer science student specializes in bioinformatics, in which computers are used to study aspects of human biology. Last year, Dzamba interned with Compu-

tational Research Laboratories in Pune, India, thanks to a unique new partnership between the cutting-edge information technology company and Victoria College. "I'm pretty sure most other undergraduates wouldn't have the opportunity to work on one of the fastest computers in the world," he beams. "When I was there, I had all the access I wanted."



Sandro Gianella recently spent a summer at U of T Berlin studying urban planning. For him and his fellow students, the city became a laboratory. “It wouldn’t make sense to go to Berlin and sit in a classroom all day,” he says

The company, a subsidiary of Tata Sons Ltd., paid for Dzamba’s living expenses in Pune, while Victoria College covered his airfare. At the tender age of 21, the budding scientist earned six months of invaluable work and research experience in one of the world’s fastest-growing economies – an opportunity he calls “amazing.”

Dzamba isn’t alone. A rising number of undergrads now study overseas as part of their U of T experience. Studying abroad attracts arts and language majors, as well as aspiring doctors, lawyers, engineers and business executives to a wide variety of exchange programs and internships, all targeted to their programs of study and future careers. They know that as the pace of globalization accelerates, studying abroad isn’t just a nice idea – it may well be a necessary step.

“Students are taking a different view of their careers,” says Jill Matus, U of T’s vice-provost, students. “Many students feel that their education should not just involve a course of study at the University of Toronto. It might also include an experience that integrates work, study and travel in another country.” Once, North America was the world’s job hub, the place where you got serious after dawdling in Old World museums and cafés. But as our economy cedes power to China, India and

other nations, North America has become the dawdling place. Abroad is where it’s happening.

Margi Moscoe knows this as well as anyone. This fall, the 29-year-old begins work in New York City as a consultant with Infosys Consulting, the U.S. subsidiary of the Indian information giant Infosys Technologies. In 2007, Moscoe interned at Infosys Technologies in Bangalore while pursuing her MBA at the Rotman School of Management. For good measure, she followed up this international experience by spending her fall semester in Shanghai, China, on an exchange program.

Before entering business school, Moscoe worked for four years in the consumer packaged goods industry, at Unilever. “There was so much talk in the boardrooms about what was

going on in India and China, and every time I opened the newspaper I would see headlines saying the same thing,” she says. “I thought it would be a really interesting experience to travel to those countries so I could learn first-hand what everyone was talking about – to experience the culture and understand where the growth was coming from.” Rotman’s international study component factored strongly in Moscoe’s decision to enrol at U of T. The school offers “top-notch exchange partners, solid relationships with global companies and study tours to various countries,” she says. “A lot of these opportunities are not offered by other leading MBA programs.”

While in India, Moscoe worked at an impeccably landscaped, 80-acre IT campus. How much the offices in the facility reminded her of those in Canada initially surprised her. “I realized there were a lot of similarities between the working environment and what I was used to in North America,” she says. “I could have been in an office in Toronto and it would have felt the same. But outside of work? That’s where all the differences are.”

Moscoe quickly learned that women in India dress conservatively, favouring the traditional *salwar kameez* both in and out of the office. Moscoe stopped wearing skirts that showed her knees and avoided scoop-necked tops. At the gym, she

traded shorts for sweatpants. “Women tend to be more covered, in general, and the men were quite formal,” she says. Other cultural differences were less obvious. Moscoe is left-handed, but was told to use her right hand when passing something to someone. “By not being educated in the local customs, you feel like you might be offending people,” she says. Toronto is a cosmopolitan city, but the predominant culture is still North American. Many of the differences Moscoe experienced are not obvious in Toronto.

The chance to live in a new culture is a good reason to travel; for many students, there’s also a unique learning opportunity. Sandro Gianella, a 23-year-old native of Switzerland, recently spent a summer at U of T Berlin, a facility that the university runs in the heart of Germany’s largest city. Gianella studied urban planning under the auspices of Woodsworth College’s Summer Abroad program. “Our professor, Patricia Petersen, really did a great job of connecting us to the city,” he says. “She took us out almost every day on field trips. We really saw how Berlin was divided, how it copes with problems. It wouldn’t make sense to go to Berlin and sit in a classroom all day.”

Nabila Qureshi, a history specialist, also participated in Summer Abroad, but she studied global politics through a newly created program at Fudan University in Shanghai. Qureshi, 20, spent half her day trading ideas with local students. “They sat in class with us, giving their personal opinions and views,” she says. “Sure, you can have a conversation on the Internet, but you can’t get that kind of instant, face-to-face dialogue.” Qureshi also spent one week in Beijing on a field assignment.

The importance of providing U of T students from all disciplines, including the sciences and engineering, with work and study experiences in the world’s most rapidly developing economies became clear to members of the university’s senior administration during a mission to China led by David Naylor in November 2007. China is where the action is, where careers in research and business can be fostered and collaborations forged. “We came home with the appreciation that it’s not just about bringing students to Canada,” says Lorna Jean Edmonds, U of T’s assistant vice-president of international relations. “It’s about creating Canadian capacity to work in a global community. As future innovators, leaders, professionals and researchers, our students need to see how the global landscape is changing. And we realized we need to significantly increase the number and variety of international opportunities for our students.”

Accordingly, U of T now has exchange partnerships with about 140 leading universities around the world. Enrolment

in Woodsworth’s venerable Summer Abroad program, a staple since 1972, has nearly doubled in the last five years. The spirit is clearly willing, but the number of students participating in these programs remains lower than university administrators would like – only 1,000 or so ventured outside Canada to intern, study or conduct research last year. Finances remain a problem, says Paul Gooch, the president of Victoria College. The perceived complexity of applying for a term abroad can also be daunting. “We need a staff member on the ground to walk students through it,” he says.

Often, the students who take advantage of international study opportunities have already had significant travel experiences or have moved from country to country. Gianella, who is multilingual, says that moving is quite natural to him. It certainly is for Penny Feng, 20, a laboratory medicine and pathobiology specialist conducting cancer research under the auspices of an innovative summer exchange program between Oxford University and U of T. (Oxford students come here to study questions concerning the environment and social innovation and live at Victoria College, while Victoria College students go to Oxford to work on projects in bioinformatics and medicine.) “I grew up in Nanjing, China, but spent two years in Thailand before my family immigrated to Canada when I was 11,” says Feng. “I am very open to the possibilities of working in another country after graduation. I am looking forward to experiencing other countries and settling down wherever it suits me best.”

Whereas a previous generation of students may have viewed trotting the globe as a way of delaying entry into the “real world,” today’s youth don’t see it that way. “If you’ve spent time abroad, it only enriches your experience in Canada when you can come back,” says fourth-year political science major Phil Donelson who, like Qureshi, participated in the Fudan University exchange. They spent half the day learning about global policy issues from U of T professor Joseph Wong, and the other half being lectured on the same subject by a Fudan professor. “It was really interesting to get the Chinese perspective,” says Donelson, adding that this type of learning “helps you to understand the world.”

Moscoe agrees. “If you’re just sitting in an office in Ottawa for 25 years, you won’t be bringing as much to your career as you could,” she says. “Outside experience brings value to our country as a whole.”

Donelson and Moscoe come from two seemingly different worlds: humanities and business. Arts majors, such as Donelson, have long been involved internationally – archeology, history and modern languages have traditionally lent themselves



“If you get out of your home, your country, and have to navigate another culture in another language, it makes you realize that you’re not the centre of the universe”

to overseas study. Now, every discipline is open to cross-border exploration. A key mandate of the new Centre for Global Engineering is to prepare U of T students for the global workplace, for where the most innovative ideas are taking form. And law students, such as Nicole Simes, are venturing outside the confines of their library carrels to do internships abroad and learn about international law. While working in Geneva, Simes recently wrote, “My internship at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights consistently provides me with insight into the political and legal forces that shape the landscape of international human rights protection.”

One wonders. If students envision themselves spending years, instead of months, abroad, and treating trips as career choices instead of finite blips, will this contribute to a sense of rootlessness and social fragmentation? Will it fuel tensions that inevitably arise in dual-career marriages?

Many students are also asking these questions. “I think companies will demand more mobility of employees in the future,” says Moscoe. “But it’ll be a challenge because a lot of people just can’t move, especially later in their lives when they have certain responsibilities.”

This is why it’s all the more important that students gain international experience, in case they can’t later. “Among my peers it’s becoming very common to travel,” says Donelson. While in Shanghai, he communicated with Toronto friends stationed in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. “This is the

time to do it because it might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” he says.

It’s an opportunity that many senior administrators ultimately want to fold seamlessly into the U of T experience, so that work, travel and study do not exist separately; instead, they contribute to each other. This, of course, may mean that students spend a longer time earning a degree. “The idea of devoting an additional six months or a year to expanding one’s horizons is an excellent one,” says Matus. “Through an internship in another country students may explore their area of interest in ways they hadn’t considered before. But the added time to earn a degree and the attendant financial implications need careful consideration.”

Should every student who wants an international experience be able to have one? It’s a rousing goal, to be sure, but fiscally unattainable at this time. “Our job, at a minimum, is to make sure that students do not suffer financially as a result of an experience abroad,” says Edmonds. Alumni support for international opportunities for students would be particularly valuable for youth who can’t afford airfare and accommodation abroad.

The day may yet come when working abroad will not only be common but expected at the University of Toronto. For now, those few who can list China and India (not to mention Tanzania, Chile and Cambodia) on their resumé feel they’re at an advantage. Moscoe’s experience suggests that interning in a country with an economy that’s growing at an astronomical rate can be key to clinching a great job. She believes it was her experiences in China and India that helped her land a plum position in the middle of a global recession.


Or, perhaps any foreign country will do. Feng feels that while working in one of the world’s leading medical research facilities equipped her with terrific credentials, working far from home made her a more “independent and mature person,” something employers obviously respect. “Going abroad by yourself shows character,” agrees Gianella. “I think people look for that when they’re hiring.”

Gooch, for one, believes that an international experience is essential to a good education. “If you get out of your home, your country, and have to navigate another culture in another language, it makes you realize that you’re not the centre of the universe,” he says. “Students develop relationships and an understanding that they can draw on for the rest of their lives.”

Cynthia Macdonald (BA 1986 St. Michael’s) is a writer in Toronto. Her story about the Institute of Child Study appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of U of T Magazine.

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All about Alumni



Spy Games Actor Nazneen Contractor enters 24's world of espionage

“I’ve never really known how to identify myself,” says Nazneen Contractor. No wonder: the vivacious, 26-year-old actress was born in Mumbai, raised in Nigeria, London and Toronto, currently lives in Los Angeles and, with her flawless, mocha-coloured skin and indeterminate accent, can play both South Asian and South American characters. One thing’s for certain, however; she’s poised to

become Canada’s hottest thespian export.

Contractor has just joined the cast of the hit American espionage show *24*. On the day that we meet at Terroni, her favourite restaurant in Toronto, she’s still electrified by the development. Her acting career has been a two-steps-forward-one-step-back journey. After abandoning a promising ballet career, Contractor decided to give drama a shot. She >>>

>> envied the acting students at her high school, the Etobicoke School of the Arts, with their agents and disposable incomes. But by 17, Contractor had her own agent and, four months later, her first gig – a part on the now-defunct TV show *Starbunter*. (She met her boyfriend, Carlo Rota of *24* and *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, on her second job, *Relic Hunter*.) At 20, she answered an open call at Stratford Shakespeare Festival and subsequently spent two seasons there, starring in *Pericles* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Offered a third season she turned it down, opting for the allure of an American sitcom, written by *Borat's* Anthony Hines, about an Indian family's immigration to the U.S. The show, alas, never aired.

"Then I went through what I call my dark period," Contractor says, laughing. Always an avid reader, she went back to U of T to study drama, sociology and psychology – "Social interaction is my job, so they complement each other beautifully." Her study was strictly theoretical, however; feeling the need to "catch up," she simply wanted to analyze the Shakespeare that she had already spent years performing. (She regrets now never having appeared in any university productions, but says she was in the audience for all of them.) She worked as a server at The Drake Hotel in Toronto, and travelled a lot – through such countries as Cambodia, Belize and India. But Contractor also continued to audition and, in 2006, snagged a role on CBC's new crime show *The Border*, playing a sexy, brash Muslim-Canadian border cop.

At the end of season 2, however, Contractor's character was abruptly killed. Dismayed, she tried L.A. again. She points out, with the provocative *realpolitik* of the professional actor, that, while 9-11 was a horrible event, it also opened up a lot of doors for people "my shade." She auditioned relentlessly, as often as nine times a week. Last spring, Contractor returned to Toronto to visit family and earn the one remaining credit she needed for her U of T degree before heading back to L.A. Three days before classes started, the producers of *24* called – she had won the part of a new recurring character, the demure Muslim daughter of a Middle Eastern leader. (Contractor herself is Zoroastrian.) And she'd be playing opposite *Slumdog Millionaire's* Anil Kapoor. Cameras started rolling in May and the new season will premiere in January. "I had the best job in Canada," she says, still struck by the fairy-tale quality of it all. "And now I have the best job in America." – *Jason McBride*

My Favourite...

Sport



It was 1976 – the inaugural year for U of T's women's rowing team. Under cover of darkness, we met very early in the morning at the Don Rowing Club. Once in the water we stroked and pulled our way up and down the Credit River in perfect synchronization. Not doing so would result in the dreaded "10 hills!" reprimand that Coach Robin shouted through her red megaphone. On Saturdays we raced other university teams along the waterways, and often won – tired, but totally invigorated.



Dianne Craig
(BA 1980 UTM)

The Boy
in the Moon
Ian Brown

When Walker Brown – the son of journalists Ian Brown and Johanna Schneller – was seven months old, doctors diagnosed him with

CFC syndrome, a rare genetic mutation currently identified in only 300 people worldwide. Now 13, Walker weighs less than 60 pounds, can't speak, and mentally and developmentally falls between one and three years old. He is also a boy who lives in the moment – the state of pure being that Buddhists strive for, as one doctor points out. A great laughter who loves beautiful women, he also possesses "an often charming cocktail-party personality," writes Ian Brown.

The Boy in the Moon, which began as a series of *Globe and Mail* columns by Brown (BA 1976 Trinity), is both a quest and meditation.

Brown searches for meaning in his son's life – its value to Walker *himself* – and longs for proof that his boy has an inner life. He also explores how society views and treats the disabled, and their larger role within the community. ("The purpose of intellectually disabled people like Walker might be to free us from the stark emptiness of survival of the fittest," writes Brown.) The author finds radically different viewpoints while visiting CFC children and their parents, investigating community living for the disabled at the esteemed l'Arche in France and Montreal, and exploring the cold world of genetics testing.

By revealing his feelings of anger and hard-won moments of joy, the harrowing toll on his marriage, sanity and finances as well as his depth of love for Walker, Brown offers one of the most profoundly honest portrayals of life as a parent of a disabled



child – and perhaps of parenthood, period. "He made me stretch for him; for inexplicable reasons I am grateful to him for that, always will be," writes Brown. "Where would I have gone without him?"

Meet Your New Alumni Governors

THEIR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS MAY BE VERY DIFFERENT, but William Crothers and John Switzer both share a passion for public service – which they bring to U of T’s senior governing body, Governing Council. Their three-year terms as alumni representatives began in July.

Established in 1971, Governing Council is responsible for overseeing the academic, business and student affairs of the university, and consists of students, administrative staff, alumni, government appointees and teaching staff.

Over the last two decades, Crothers has served on boards of directors for a variety of causes and as a trustee for the York Region District School Board. Crothers says he is approaching his Governing Council responsibilities with an open mind: “I want to do whatever I can – I’m not going in with an agenda,” he explains.

Crothers sees his term on council as a way to give back to the institution that fostered his academic and athletic careers. He graduated with a bachelor of science in pharmacy in 1963 and trained at the university as a middle-distance runner, eventually running 800 metres to a silver medal in Tokyo’s 1964 Games. Crothers and his wife settled in Markham, Ontario, where he ran a successful pharmacy until his retirement in 1988.

Switzer, too, sees serving on Governing Council as a way

of giving back to his alma mater. He graduated from University of Toronto Mississauga in 1970 with a BA in economics and math, and pursued a career in the financial industry. A few years later, Switzer started volunteering on committees for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario and the United Church of Canada. Since 1996, he has also been a Principal’s Advisory Council member at University of Toronto Mississauga.

Switzer initially developed an interest in participating on Governing Council 15 years ago. When he retired last fall, he finally felt he had the time to devote to this commitment. Switzer says he is “over the moon” about the opportunity to help U of T “establish new sustainable sources of funding” through community partnerships and alumni.

Governing Council’s six other alumni governors are Stefan Larson, Timothy Reid, Stephen Smith, Maureen Somerville, John Stewart and Elizabeth Vosburgh. Read more about them at www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca.

Nominations for three alumni governor seats will open in January 2010. Anyone interested in submitting a nomination can contact the Secretary of the College of Electors at (416) 978-6576 or governing.council@utoronto.ca. – *Jenny Lass*



William Crothers



John Switzer



BOTTOM PHOTO: PAD INC.

One hundred bold experiments in architecture are about to sprout from the desert of Inner Mongolia, thanks to business tycoon Cai Jiang. He approached the Swiss architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron to commission 100 avant-garde houses designed mostly by emerging talents in architecture. The residences will be part of a new cultural district in the Ordos region.

Among the lucky 100 designers, hailing from 27 countries, are Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design grads Shadi Rahbaran (BArch 2000) and Samer Hoot (BArch 2001). Hoot’s contribution (*left*) plays with the relationship between the building and its landscape: it features a transparent middle tier that is turned out southward. The design wedds traditional Chinese architecture with a contemporary sensibility.

“With only a few major guidelines, we were allowed a degree of experimentation you typically only see in architectural competitions,” says Hoot, founder and director of PAD in Toronto. Construction is expected to start before the end of the year. – *Lisa Bryn Rundle*

|| See the design of Shadi Rahbaran, founder and director of studio-sr, at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

First Person

Breaking the Cycle

Kristen Courtney wonders when city streets will be safe for cyclists



MY MORNING COMMUTE DURING SUMMERS in high school started at 5:45 a.m. While it was still dark outside, I loaded my lunch into my backpack and cycled the gravel roads toward work: past the cows and the turkey farm, down the hill away from the unleashed dog and between the ripening cornfields. About an hour after leaving my home in Princeton, Ontario, I arrived in Brantford, 30 kilometres away, to start my 7 a.m. shift at a long-term care facility.

Many other commutes followed as I moved to Ottawa and then Gatineau, Quebec. I also spent three summers guiding bike tours around different areas of Canada. So when I first came to Toronto to attend U of T's Faculty of Law, I never dreamed my five-kilometre commute would affect me in the ways it did.

I have always loved bicycles, and the freedoms they provide: freedom from paying for gas, from bus schedules and even from my asthma symptoms as my fitness improved. Even more, I love what bicycles do for other people, for communities and for the Earth. I know that cycling helps combat obesity, heart disease and air pollution. I see people from very different walks of life lock up their bikes at the same rack while sharing a friendly good morning. I have seen others develop a respect for nature while mountain biking.

But within a few months of moving to Toronto, my trusty two-wheeled steed was knocked out from under me by a right-turning motorist, and I was sent skidding sideways down the

pavement of Bloor Street. Four more hits, scrubs and nicks occurred over the following seven months. Then, on October 19, 2006, I was struck by a car door that a driver opened into my path. I was riding on Queen Street, in that narrow space where cyclists have no other choice but to ride, between the streetcar tracks to my left and the parked cars to my right. I was thrown over the car door and landed several metres away, in a crumpled heap in the middle of the street-car tracks.

In the months that followed – as I began what would be years of physiotherapy and chiropractic treatments, battles with the insurance company and legal proceedings – I researched how and why cycling safety in Toronto is in its current state. I was shocked to learn that around 1,200 cyclists report being hit on Toronto's streets every year – and up to 90 per cent of car-bike collisions are unreported. I was even more shocked to learn that the city has mapped, charted and studied the locations and causes of these car-bike collisions for over a decade (most of which occur on the main east-west arterials). There are also studies from around the world that indicate which road measures improve cycling safety (such as physically separated bike lanes and coloured bike lanes) and which do not (such as sharrows and bike lanes delineated only by painted white lines). Yet, the City of Toronto has not used this information to truly improve safety.

The law does not allow such a failure: provincial planning laws and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe require municipalities to facilitate sustainable transportation and to plan their streets to allow for safe travel for cyclists. The City of Toronto, however, rarely makes any reference to these laws when engaging in road reconstruction projects. It simply asserts that a given redesign will improve cycling safety despite all evidence to the contrary.

Torontonians have called on their city for action. In May, 2,000 cyclists rode their bikes at Bells on Bloor, the largest cycling-advocacy ride in Toronto's history. Cyclists are out in full force at public consultations and environmental assessments for street reconstructions. But it is time cyclists began demanding more than lip service: we are not interested in painted white lines on quiet side streets – we need safe bike lanes on the streets we use. How much longer Toronto will ignore these calls for change remains to be seen. Change is inevitable. The death and injury of cyclists on Toronto streets is not.

Kristen Courtney (JD/Cert. Env. St. 2008) is a lawyer and a founding member of Bells on Bloor.

60 Seconds With

Hal Niedzviecki



IF YOU'VE HAD AN EERIE FEELING that Facebook, YouTube, blogging, Tweeting and the reality-TV revolution add up to a radically new and mostly unexamined set of social norms, your fears are hereby confirmed. In *The Peep Diaries* (City Light Publishers, 2009), Hal Niedzviecki (BA 1994 UC) argues we've created a new "peep culture" that is altering society's values. **Lisa Bryn Rundle** talks to Niedzviecki about his book and documentary, which airs on CBC next year.

What is peep culture?

In pop culture, we spent most of our leisure time watching celebrity talents. In peep culture, we're watching ourselves, our friends, our neighbours and strangers around the world go about their lives.

When did the term come to you?

I was playing with the idea of peeping Toms...and just the whole idea of peep.

And it's a really fun word to say.

Ya. Peep. Peep. The story of peeping Tom is that he peeps at Lady Godiva who's riding her horse naked through the town. Everyone else averts their eyes; only peeping Tom looks. The legend is that he's alternatively struck blind or dead.

I would have looked.

I write about this: we've moved from using Tom as an example of what we shouldn't do to an example of what we should do. Now, we not only would have looked, we would have aimed our cellphone cameras.

What's the weirdest thing you did in the name of research?

Those are still coming with the documentary. I did a lot of weird things, including having dinner with a bunch of amateur sex exhibitionists.

The book was anointed by Oprah's magazine as a "summer must-read." How did the O empire discover your book?

I really don't know. But Oprah herself is kind of the high priestess of peep. And I think she is not unaware of some of the consequences of peep culture.

What's the documentary covering?

The documentary is basically picking up where the book left off. The idea is that I become as peeped as possible. There are cameras where I sleep and eat, and I hired a private detective to investigate me.

Other than total lack of privacy, what's your biggest worry about peep culture?

The rise of pseudo-community. The more we entertain ourselves by looking at other people's lives, the less we connect to them as human beings. If everyone is an entertainment commodity, then it's very easy to just turn the channel. It's all moving so fast, it's time to talk about some of the implications and the hidden agenda of technological change.

Speaking of which, have you ever noticed that you share the name of the malevolent computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey*?

Yes, I have noticed. My father actually named me after HAL.

Shut up! HAL is one of the greatest villains of all time!

I know.

Milestones



Eleven U of T community members have received Order of Canada appointments, the highest civilian honour for life-time achievement. The following were named officers: **George Beaton** (BA 1952 TRIN, MSc 1953, PhD 1955), a professor emeritus of medicine and leader in nutritional sciences, has helped improve nutrition for children in developing countries. **Crawford Holling** (BA 1952 UC, MSc 1954) has made pioneering contributions to the field of ecology. **The Hon. Roy McMurtry** (BA 1954 TRIN) has had a distinguished career of public service, notably as chief justice of Ontario.

Named members of the order were **Prof. Ian Clark** of U of T's School of Public Policy and Governance, who has advanced Canadian public policy, public sector management and higher education in Ontario. **Dr. A. Alan Giachino** (BPHE 1967, MD 1971), a professor at the University of Ottawa, volunteers his skills as an orthopaedic surgeon in developing countries. **David Helwig** (BA 1960 UC) is the poet laureate of Prince Edward Island and founder and editor of the annual *Best Canadian Stories*. **Prof. Roderick McInnes** of pediatrics and molecular genetics is a leader in retinal and eye development, and inherited retinal degenerations. **The Hon. Edward Moxon Roberts** (BA 1960 VIC, LLB 1964) is a former cabinet minister and former lieutenant governor of Newfoundland and Labrador. **Dr. Marvin Tile** (MD 1957, BSc Med 1963), a professor emeritus of surgery at U of T, is an orthopaedic surgeon, teacher and groundbreaking researcher. **Madeline Ziniak** (BA 1978 Innis), national vice-president at OMNI Television, has helped develop multilingual and multicultural television in Canada.

The Two of Us

Melanie Moore and Brad Tapson



MELANIE MOORE (BED 2002 OISE) teaches music, sings and performs several jobs. Brad Tapson has just entered his fourth year of an architecture and visual arts degree at U of T, and attends Victoria College. Brad and Melanie have been a couple for two-and-a-half years and live together within walking distance of the St. George campus.

Melanie: Brad and I first met when he auditioned for Onoscatopoeia, the Hart House jazz choir. I was on the audition panel. He was so talented, we just had to have him. I then wanted him to try out as tenor for the Toronto All-Star Big Band, the professional big band I was directing – but I thought he was far too surly to agree to costume changes and ridiculous 1940s-style choreography. Then Onoscatopoeia got a gig at the same venue as the big band. After the performance, Brad caught up with me and said, “I wish I could be in something like that!” I’m pretty sure that was the moment I fell in love with him. I mean, honestly, he’s handsome, talented and wants to sing in a big band? That’s pretty much my dream man!

Now we both sing in the U of T a cappella group TBA. Sometimes in the evenings, Brad plays his guitar, I play the piano and we sing together. You probably think I’m kidding, but I’m not. I swear, we’ll wind up being the von Trapp family someday.



Brad: I grew up in London, Ontario, and Melanie grew up in Truro, Nova Scotia. There’s a 10-year age difference between us; she’s 32, I’m 22. Even though Mel and I grew up half a country and a whole decade apart, we have a lot of the same interests. Along with jazz and a cappella, we both like alternative and Canadian music. In high school, I really liked a folk-rock band called Moxy Frivous from Toronto; she was a big fan, too.

Mel and I are also coffee snobs. We love trying different styles of fair-trade coffee at local shops and brewing a pot at home. I’m always impressed when a person orders their coffee black. We both drink it black and are proud of it.

|| ☞ Listen to Brad and Melanie sing *Meaning* with TBA at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.



That’s One Way to Chop Lettuce... It’s Aidan Koper’s big moment. The astrophysics-and-math grad walks onto a mat, picks up an electric lawnmower, heaves it upside down in the air – and balances it on his face. As the TV cameras move in for a close-up, the studio audience of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* screams wildly. A stagehand hurls heads of lettuce at the mower’s blades to show the audience it’s indeed running. “Unbelievable,” yells DeGeneres.

Even before graduating from U of T in 2004, Koper was dazzling TV audiences. On the *Late Show with David Letterman*, in 2002, he wiggled through a string-less tennis racket while juggling two balls. He has since progressed to squeezing through a racket rigged with 13-cm torches. “I burn off some of my arm hair, and sometimes my eyelashes, but that’s about it,” says Koper, 30. To prevent his entire body from going up in flames, he spins round and round. – *Susan Pedwell*

|| ☞ Watch Koper’s May performance on *Ellen*, and read about his *Letterman* appearance at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

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Scenes from Convocation

They studied hard. They worked hard. And last June, some 11,400 graduands finally reaped the benefit of all their efforts, receiving their degrees from the University of Toronto.

The chancellor, president, deans and others who taught and inspired the students took part in the Convocation Hall ceremonies, congratulating the students, welcoming them into the U of T alumni family and ushering them to the next stage of their lives with words of wisdom and inspiration.

But the ceremony is just part of what makes each graduand's convocation special. As these pictures show it's also a day to gather with friends and family, celebrate an important milestone, and ponder what the future may bring. – *Tammy Thorne*



PHOTOS: FERNANDO MORALES/JASON KRYGIER-BALIM (PAGE 54; BOTTOM LEFT), PAGE 55; BOTTOM LEFT)





PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES/ROBERT LANSDALE PHOTOGRAPHY LTD. (B 1998-0033/731 096-2)

1857

Character Builders

Dedicated craftsmen carved the majestic entrance to University College

While it takes one talent to envision beauty, it takes quite another to execute it. University College, the architectural triumph of Frederic Cumberland and William Storm, was constructed between the fall of 1856 and 1859. This photograph, dated approximately 1857, shows some of the stone-carvers and workers who carried out the architects' vision.

The intricate carvings required the most skilled craftsmen available. According to Douglas Richardson's book *A Not Unsightly Building*, the master sculptor was a young Charles Emil Zollikofer, recruited from a German-speaking canton of Switzerland. Using the mallets seen in the front row and other tools of the trade, the carvers rendered this exquisite frontispiece, as well as the gargoyles and capitals throughout the college.

The Romanesque-revival style building has been cited as one of the most majestic academic structures in Canada. But its beauty did not guarantee it a life of ease. In February 1890, lanterns were dropped down stairs on the southeast side. Flames quickly took hold, ravaging much of University College. U of T president Sir Daniel Wilson lamented: "The work of a lifetime is swept away in a single night."

The fire did spare some of the western side of UC. (The college was rebuilt, between 1890 and 1892, under the direction of university architect D.B. Dick.) And, somehow, despite flames that licked directly inside the main doorway, this beautiful stone portal remained almost unscathed – one of the last original vestiges of these men's toil. – *Stacey Gibson*

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Life after Graduation

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You've worked hard to earn your degree. Now what? New grads considering their next steps will want to check out "Life after Graduation," a University of Toronto seminar series designed to ease the transition between university and what comes next. Gain insight from the experts about evaluating and negotiating job offers, projecting the image you want, speaking with confidence and managing your money. Now in its fourth year, Life after Graduation has helped hundreds of new U of T grads as they prepare for the next stage of their life. For seminar locations and more information, visit <http://alumni.utoronto.ca/newgrad>.

November 4, 6-8 p.m.

How to Find the Right Position for You

In an age of hyper-competition, how do you find a job that gives you both long-term security and a good quality of life? Speaker: Alan Kearns

November 9 and 18, 5-8 p.m.

Speaking with Confidence

Become a more effective, confident and polished presenter. Learn how to structure your message, handle Q-and-A and use non-verbal cues and visual aids effectively. Speaker: Melanie Novis

November 16 and 25, 6-8 p.m.

Financial Planning for New Graduates

Learn everything from handling credit and repaying student loans to saving and budgeting. Speaker: Sylvia Sarkus

November 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Evaluating and Negotiating Job Offers

Sometimes negotiating the job offer can be more nerve-racking than the job interview. This interactive session will help participants make realistic requests and determine how to get what they want. Speaker: Barb Kofman

November 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Innovative Strategies for Work Search in Today's Economy

Learn how companies hire, how to research positions and make career connections, and what role social networking plays. Speaker: Barb Kofman

For seminar locations and more information, visit the Alumni Circle website at <http://alumni.utoronto.ca/newgrad>. The seminars on November 9 and 16 are being repeated on November 18 and 25 respectively.

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