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STORY AND POETRY CONTEST

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# YOUNG GRADS, BIG IDEAS

Luis Jacob, 36, visual artist,  
BA 1996 University College

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PHOTOGRAPHY: KATHRYN GATEENS

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2007

VOLUME 34/NUMBER 4

**Editor and Manager:** Scott Anderson

**Managing Editor:** Stacey Gibson

**Art Direction:** Fernanda Pisani /

James Ireland Design

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**Manager:** Susan Wray

**Publisher:** Rivi Frankle,

Interim Vice-President and

Chief Advancement Officer

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Fax: (416) 978-3958

E-mail: [uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca)

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All correspondence and undeliverable copies:

*University of Toronto Magazine,*

21 King's College Circle,

Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

*University of Toronto Magazine*, with a circulation of 270,000, is published quarterly by the Division of University Advancement. All material is copyright © 2007 Governing Council, University of Toronto, and may be reprinted with written permission. Alumni of the university receive the magazine free of charge. Others may subscribe: \$30 (U.S. funds outside Canada). Please make cheque payable to University of Toronto.

**Publications Mail sales agreement**

No. 40065699

**Return undeliverable Canadian and other addresses to** *University of Toronto Magazine*

21 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

E-mail: [uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca)

**Non-profit postage paid Buffalo, NY**

Permit No. 3415. U.S. Postmaster send address

corrections to P.O. Box 29, Lewiston, NY 14092

Printed in Canada

by Transcontinental Printing Inc.

ISSN 1499-0040

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## A Shiver of Recognition

The best stories and poems reveal something about human experience that hasn't occurred to us before

WRITING IS NOT EASY. ERNEST HEMINGWAY CALLED WRITING FICTION “possibly the roughest trade of all in writing,” while American poet Ishmael Reed described writing poetry as the “hard labour of the imagination.”

I wish we could have given out more prizes in our short story and poetry contest in recognition of the sheer effort that went into the more than 300 submissions. (Entries flooded in from all over Canada and the U.S., but we also received stories and poems from Europe, Africa and Asia.)

For an amateur competition (writers who had published a book were ineligible), the quality of work was superb. Many people chose to write about life's difficulties, such as illness, abuse and relationships gone wrong, but a considerable number also focused on such pleasures as love and travel. Works that demonstrated a clear, consistent voice and resonated emotionally garnered the highest praise from the judges. The best stories and poems, they said, accomplished a lot in relatively few words, providing a fresh take on some aspect of life. “I look for a poem that will make readers stop and think and maybe shiver in recognition of what had never occurred to them before,” commented Ian Lancashire, a U of T English professor and one of our poetry judges.

The winning entries are featured in this issue, starting on page 34. Rasha Mourtada (BA 1998 New College) took first place in the story contest for “Love Story,” a tale of addiction and marital breakdown, while Carleton Wilson (BA 2000 Innis) won the poetry contest for his work, “Smart Girls Writing Something Catch the Eye at Once.”

Mourtada, a 31-year-old web editor at the *Globe and Mail*, says she's been writing ever since she was a child. “Love Story” is set in Damascus – a city she's visited with her parents, who are Syrian. “I'm fascinated by life there,” she says, “by the rhythm of the language, by the social norms and by the deep dedication to religion.”

Mourtada, who had never entered a writing contest and has taken only one creative writing class (at U of T), says she was thrilled – and very surprised – to win. “This is a true honour and also proof that taking chances, even when you're full of self-doubt, can lead to great things,” she said.

Poetry winner Carleton Wilson has been writing poems since 1993. He is working on his first book while also running Junction Books, a small publishing house. Wilson considers writing and publishing a labour of love. “I love the challenge of putting words together in order to make a kind of music that speaks to people,” he says. “To me, poetry is about the interaction of the raw material of words with the poet's heart and intellect in order to communicate an essential concept or experience.”

Martin Kofsky was named runner-up for his story “Of Schumann and Sheep Skulls,” about a teacher who reaches out to a pair of difficult students, and Brigid Elson earned second place for her poem “France August 1992.” You can read these works online at [www.magazine.utoronto.ca](http://www.magazine.utoronto.ca).

**SCOTT ANDERSON**

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Actual view from the 23rd floor of Quantum the South Tower, Oct '06.

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## The Innermost Circle

The Humanities Play a Central Role at UofT

THE FOUNDING CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO calls for the “education of youth...in the various branches of science and literature.” However, I doubt that John Strachan and his associates who helped establish U of T ever imagined that “literature” would now be taught here in more than 40 languages!

Today, as a field of scholarship, the humanities at U of T include not only the languages and literature, of course, but also philosophy, history, religion, anthropology, the classics and the visual and performing arts. U of T's humanities departments also figure prominently in such interdisciplinary teaching and research centres as the Aboriginal Studies Program, the Centre for Ethics, and the Institute of Communication and Culture at University of Toronto Mississauga, among many others.

Enrolment in our humanities courses has soared more than 80 per cent since 2000. I believe that's indicative of the excellent reputation of humanities scholars at U of T, the breadth and depth of courses available, and our world-class libraries. But one might still ask more generally: What draws students to the humanities in an era when science and technology are so prominent?

I believe the enduring appeal of the humanities lies in their encouragement of clear, critical and imaginative thought. In a world of shrinking distances and global competition, the humanities teach us much about bridging cultures and negotiating the often difficult terrain of human relationships. Many of our greatest societal challenges, not surprisingly, have a profoundly human dimension. The debate over global warming, for example, centres on climate science and economic implications, but it also raises thorny questions about individual ethics and the responsibility of developed versus developing nations.

This is why successful societies need leaders who understand humanity broadly. To name just three exemplars from among countless graduates: Adrienne Clarkson, a renowned broadcaster and former Governor General of Canada, Ted Rogers, the visionary president and CEO of Rogers Communications, and Anne Golden, the dynamic president and CEO of the Conference Board of Canada, all earned arts degrees at U of T. Tony Comper, recently retired as president and CEO of BMO Financial Group, studied

English at U of T – not business. Mr. Comper values the humanities for their diversity and has said that “one should never underemphasize the quality of the educational experience in many different disciplines.”

In short, the humanities are at once timeless, evolving and essential. We are fortunate that so many donors have been drawn to these sometimes undervalued disciplines. Two recent donations bear special notice. Five years ago, humanities at the University of Toronto received a magnificent gift of \$15 million from the Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman, then chancellor of U of T. Mr. Jackman's gift was double-matched by the univer-

sity to create a \$45-million investment, which helped establish the largest endowed program in the humanities at any Canadian university.

Now, Mr. Jackman has raised his sights even higher. Earlier this year, he donated an additional \$15 million, triggering another \$45 million in support for the humanities. This outstanding commitment will enable U of T to further strengthen humanities education and research in many important ways (see page 39).

Mr. Jackman's gifts have made an immeasurable contribution to the study of the humanities at U of T. They have also enhanced public life in the city – through the Jackman Program for the Arts. In 2005, to cite just one example, the program brought together writers, filmmakers, musicians, professors, critics

and many others for Voicing the Arts, a wonderful three-day public conference on the arts and the City of Toronto.

Former U of T president James Ham once described the university as a series of concentric circles. He placed the humanities in the central ring because, he said, they define the shape of civilization. The humanities were the beating heart of a U of T education 25 years ago when Jim Ham was president and, with the visionary support of Mr. Jackman and others like him, they will continue to play a central role for centuries to come.



“The humanities teach us much about bridging cultures and negotiating the difficult terrain of human relationships”



# EXPLORE THE WORLD

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM 2008

We are pleased to introduce our exciting tours for 2008. Each year, about 400 UofT alumni and friends explore the cultures and history of great communities around the world. Join us as we take in the wonders of the Galapagos Islands, cruise the Baltic Sea, and climb the Great Wall of China.

Prices quoted are in Canadian dollars, per person and based on double occupancy. Dates and prices are subject to change. Individual tour brochures are available approximately 4 - 6 months prior to departure. To request a brochure, please call 416-978-2367 or 1-800-463-6048 or e-mail [alumnitravel@utoronto.ca](mailto:alumnitravel@utoronto.ca) or visit us online at [www.alumnitravel.utoronto.ca](http://www.alumnitravel.utoronto.ca) or mail this coupon to: University of Toronto Alumni Travel, 21 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3J3

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|  <input type="checkbox"/> | March 7 - 20<br>Treasures of Southern Africa (South Africa & Zambia)<br>\$6095 + air |  <input type="checkbox"/> | July 2 - 15<br>Alumni College in Ukraine<br>From \$2145 + air                            |  <input type="checkbox"/> | Oct 14 - 25<br>Alumni College in Italy (Sorrento & Orvieto)<br>\$3245 + air        |
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### Great Adventure

# Celebrating 100 years of studies in education at the University of Toronto 1907-2007

## The 100th Anniversary

During 2007 the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE) will host the 100th anniversary of studies in education at the University. OISE and its antecedents: Faculty of Education, University of Toronto (FOE); University of Toronto Schools (UTS); Ontario College of Education (OCE); The Institute of Child Study (ICS); College of Education, University of Toronto (CEUT); Faculty of Education, University of Toronto (FEUT); Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE); and Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT), will gather together to participate.

### The Centennial Book

The Centennial Book, titled *Inspiring Education: Celebrating 100 Years of Studies in Education at the University of Toronto*, retraces the origins of OISE and its antecedents through pictures and stories. Priced at \$24, the book is available to order online ([www.100years.oise.utoronto.ca](http://www.100years.oise.utoronto.ca)), in the Education Commons (main floor library) at OISE, 252 Bloor St. W. and at the University of Toronto Bookstore.

### The Centennial Archival Project

OISE will showcase its remarkable heritage in a series of archival displays including photographs and artifacts from the past. These will be located in the Education Commons (main floor library) of OISE.

May to August 2007:

*Curriculum; Buildings*

September to November 2007:

*OISE around the World*

### Teacher Recognition Program Convocation June 2007

OISE will celebrate elementary and secondary school teachers in conjunction with the June 2007 Convocation. Designed to recognize teachers who have had a profound impact on students, the program builds on the idea that educators “stand on the shoulders of great teachers who came before” them.

### The Centennial Lecture Series

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

2007 Jackson Lecture

Speaker, Professor Rosemary Tannock  
Canada Research Chair, Special Education  
and Adaptive Technology, OISE and  
Hospital for Sick Children

### The Centennial Celebration Party

On Friday, November 16, 2007, OISE will host an anniversary party as a wrap-up to the full year of centennial celebrations.

### A Century of Inspiring Alumni

As part of the Archival Project, OISE will celebrate alumni - accomplished leaders who have contributed to the world of education, literature, politics, the arts and communities.

The Inspiring Alumni exhibit will feature portraits and stories of some of our outstanding alumni, celebrating their excellence.

OISE invites you to share your stories of exceptional alumni. Email [100years@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:100years@oise.utoronto.ca)

Get involved. We'd like you to be a part of the 100th Anniversary celebration.

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## The Hidden Disorder

Chronic pain exacts a costly emotional toll

### THE PAIN OF DISABILITY

Having taught students with learning disabilities for many years, I read “The Problem of Pain” (Spring 2007) with great interest. Kids with learning disabilities often feel that few can understand *their* pain because, like chronic pain sufferers, their disorder is hidden from view. Thank you for lending credence to this important topic.

*S.G. Tanner  
BEd 1979*

*Burlington, Ontario*

### PAIN AND SPIRITUALITY

Marni Jackson’s article about pain is an informative brief study of the subject, but unfortunately is almost completely

instrumentalist. Presumably her book is less so. But to write of pain without reference to its spiritual or religious impact is absurd, even given her clear medical approach. And to use without attribution the title of C.S. Lewis’s well-known book on the subject makes the omission that much more stark. Ouch!

*Brad Faught  
PhD 1996  
Toronto*

*Ed. note: The headline choice was ours.*

Thank you for Marni Jackson’s excellent article. I first heard about the problem of chronic pain several years ago from a church member. I didn’t know where he



could get help in Toronto. Now I know about the Wasser Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital.

The book *Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants*, by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey, provides a perspective similar to your article. The authors suggest that pain is God’s gift – the body’s early-warning system. However, when the system short-circuits we need Dr. Allan Gordon and his team in a big way.

*Rev. Graham A.D. Scott  
BA 1964 UC, BD 1967  
St. Catharines, Ontario*

## University of Toronto Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 18, 2007

5:30 p.m.

Great Hall of Hart House

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*(MHS 1983, Faculty of Medicine)*

Topic:

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Space is limited.

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## “Cause Celeb”

The Hollywood star as public intellectual

**P**overty, war, environmental collapse: who will be the conscience of humankind in a world gone mad?

Philosophers, activists, political leaders?

How about Leonardo DiCaprio?

That’s the question that Josée Johnston, a professor of sociology at U of T Mississauga, is raising with her research into celebrities as public intellectuals. She is looking at how celebrities are throwing their names and influence behind pet causes like never before, and the ramifications of this.

“People are looking for a vision on moral issues increasingly through celebrities,” says Johnston. She says there’s extensive research into celebrity culture, and research into “public intellectuals” (media-savvy academics who speak on social and political issues), but not much research into how those two categories of people overlap. “It seemed there was an obvious gap between those two bodies of research,” says Johnston.

“All celebrities have an issue, a cause, now,” says Kristine Chandler, a sociology student at U of T Mississauga, who assisted Johnston with initial research into DiCaprio’s public stance against conflict diamonds. DiCaprio also starred in *Blood Diamond*, which dramatized the problem of African conflicts fuelled by profits from diamond sales. It’s a serious problem with a long history, but the lens of Hollywood tends to change the view: “Are they distorting critical public issues, or are they actually shedding needed public attention on a grave and serious situation?” Johnston asks. The answer to that question is still far off, as Johnston’s research is in a very early stage.

There’s lots of potential material; with big-name celebrities such as DiCaprio, Angelina Jolie and Oprah Winfrey stumping for issues ranging from climate change to AIDS prevention to poverty reduction, every cause has its celeb. — *Graham F. Scott*





# Can a Brain Change?

A new book by Norman Doidge says the mind is far more flexible than previously thought

Until recent decades, many scientists have touted a bleak theory about our brains: they have viewed our grey matter much like a hardwired machine, with each part performing only one function. Like a computer, if one part is damaged, it's damaged for good.

Enter a new wave of science known as “neuroplasticity.”

In *The Brain That Changes Itself* (Viking 2007) Dr. Norman

Doidge, a research psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who teaches at U of T and Columbia University in New York, chronicles the study of neuroplasticity – which has shown that the brain is far more malleable than previously thought, and is even capable of reorganizing itself. In the case of damage caused by stroke, for example, one part of the brain can sometimes pinch-hit – taking over functions previously allocated to another area.

Like neurologist and writer Oliver Sacks, Doidge focuses heavily on medical case studies. There is the woman born with half a brain, whose right hemisphere has taken over left brain activities such as speaking and reading. And the young television producer who, after becoming paralyzed on her right side, gained back much of her mobility through constraint-induced therapy – a treatment that coaxes neurons to take on new duties. There is also “Mr. L” – a for-

mer patient of Doidge's – who was able to overcome a 40-year history of depression through psychoanalysis.

Doidge – who has won several Canadian National Magazine Awards over the years – has the exceptional gift of not only making science comprehensible, but also conveying the magic and wonder of these scientific breakthroughs. His

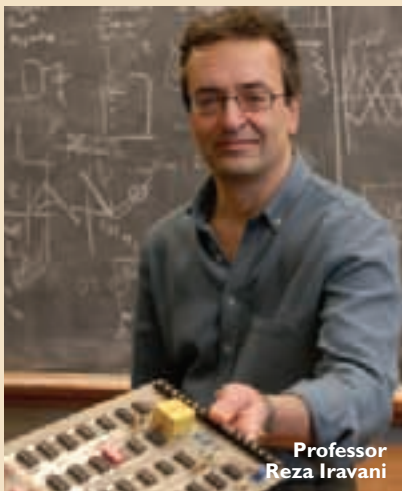
book also contains a bit of medical history: he tracks the roots of neuroplasticity by weaving in accounts of influential studies and doctors from the past century.

Doidge also provides the occasional dark glance into the politics of science – the less-than-charming reactions that humans are capable of when their egos, and theories, are on the line. One such political casualty was Edward Taub: as a PhD student arguing his thesis in the 1950s, his findings contradicted his professor's celebrated behaviourist theories. His ideas were maligned by the professor and the scientific community, and for years he received no recognition. Dr. Taub now runs a clinic that, building on his original ideas, helps stroke victims regain their mobility. His situation deftly underscores the premise of Doidge's book: an intractable stance, like an intractable brain, is just too rigid a framework to bear. – *Stacey Gibson*



**IN THE CASE**  
of damage caused by a stroke,  
one part of the brain can  
sometimes pinch-hit – taking  
over functions previously  
allocated to another area

## Under the Toronto Sun



Professor Reza Iravani

One day in the not-too-distant future, Torontonians may look forward to sunny days for more than just their warmth – more sunshine will mean more clean, renewable energy for the city, thanks to a new project led by U of T researchers.

This past winter, the university joined forces with ARISE Technologies and the Portlands Energy Centre to design the city's first solar power research facility. The centre will feature a full-fledged commercial generating unit that will begin feeding solar power into the Toronto Hydro electrical grid in 2009. This will be the first time solar energy will be introduced to a grid in Ontario on a large scale, notes Professor Reza Iravani of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, one of the project's lead researchers. The facility will be built on a four-acre parcel of land near the waterfront (in the eastern portlands near Cherry Street) that will be covered in solar panels about two-and-a-half to three metres high. Iravani says the facility will produce an estimated 1,000 kilowatts of power – enough for about 200 homes. – *Bruce Gillespie*

## Braking News!

New U of T research could prevent thousands of traffic collisions a year with a novel concept for brake lights on cars. Zhonghai Li and Professor Paul Milgram used a computer simulation to demonstrate how such a system might work.

"We're causing an optical illusion that affects how people behave," says Milgram, a professor of mechanical and industrial engineering. All drivers use subtle visual cues to determine how far they are from the car ahead of them. One of those factors is "optical looming," or how quickly the size of the car ahead appears to be changing. The quicker the size of the car ahead appears to grow, the less time drivers judge there to be before they will hit that car. When the car ahead brakes rapidly, drivers often have mere fractions of a second to react and collisions may result. Li's PhD research proposes using currently available sensing and display technology to make brake lights that change their appearance dynamically during emergency braking. Such lights would exaggerate the natural optical looming effect, but only very slightly, making the car ahead seem sufficiently closer in time. This would cause drivers to brake earlier to help them avoid a crash. In simulations, Li and Milgram saw drivers increase the inter-vehicle time separations by 100 to 300 milliseconds, under low visibility conditions. This increase, says Milgram, is potentially sufficient for "thousands of averted crashes per year worldwide." – *Graham F. Scott*

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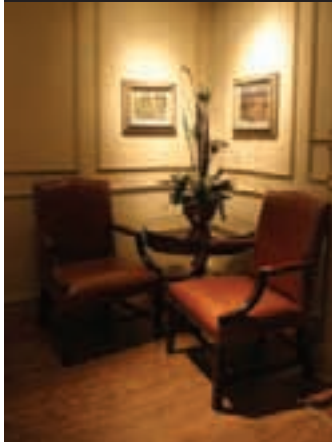
# One Step Closer to New Ovarian Cancer Treatment



PHOTOGRAPHY: MIKE ANDRECHUK

From left, Professor Christine Allen, PhD candidate Justin Grant and Professor Michelle Piquette-Miller

Researchers at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy have devised an advanced drug delivery system for the treatment of ovarian cancer: PoLi, developed by Professors Micheline Piquette-Miller and Christine Allen, is an implantable film that destroys cancer cells while minimizing the side-effects of chemotherapy. The small implant, infused with cancer-killing drugs, is inserted directly into a tumour site after surgical removal of primary tumours. It steadily releases the drug over a two-month period, and dissolves naturally – it does not have to be surgically removed. “The PoLi implant has promise in the treatment of other cancers, including head and neck,” says Piquette-Miller. “We are also developing an injectable gel-based implant formulation that could be administered directly to the tumour site without surgery. This could also be used in the treatment of breast and prostate cancers.” PoLi still requires clinical trials, and a possible partnership with industry is being explored through Innovations at U of T. – Maria Saros Leung



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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON CAMPUS

## Speakers of the House

It is usually law students and PhD candidates who win the Canadian National Debating Championship, not undergrads. But in March, two second-year U of T students took the trophy home.

“We were the underdogs,” admits Adrienne Lipsey who with Richard Lizius trumped 63 debating teams (including eight from the Hart House Debating Club). The two, both 19 at the time, are believed to be the youngest debaters to win nationals.

Over the three-day tournament at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Lipsey, now 20, and Lizius debated a range of topics – such as whether those who practise witchcraft should be prosecuted, and whether journalists should be allowed to film court proceedings. After winning seven of their eight debates, the newcomers advanced to the final round. Pitted against a team from McGill, they argued that Quebec should be a nation within Canada – and were declared the winners.

Still being debated, though, is who the better debater is: Lipsey, a political science major who attends Victoria College, or Lizius, a mechanical engineering student. Lipsey takes the podium first, warming up the crowd with her casual, conversational style. “I try for a novel take, but sometimes it blows up in my face,” she says. “You can look like a bit of an idiot when that happens, but people forgive you for it.”

Then comes Lizius, a more formal speaker whose strength is reacting to opponents’ arguments. “I’ve been showing a lot more emotion this term,” says Lizius, adding that their talents complement each other.

“He’s awesome on rebuttal,” says Lipsey. “And he has this totally charming English accent.” – *Susan Pedwell*





## Father Figure

Some families hit the TV talk-show circuit in the hope of attaining reconciliation. Bryan Friedman, on the other hand, made a documentary about his bodybuilder father – who had been absent for most of Friedman’s life – to better understand their dysfunctional relationship.

*The Bodybuilder and I*, Friedman’s first feature-length film, won Best Canadian Feature Documentary at Toronto’s Hot Docs festival in April. Last summer, the U of T law student followed his father, Bill, now 60, and three other senior bodybuilders as they prepared for an international competition by pumping iron for hours on end, attending tanning sessions and shopping for bikini briefs.



Bryan Friedman (far left) with his bodybuilder father, Bill

“I thought it was ridiculous,” says Friedman, 27, of the subculture he chronicled. “I mean, you have a mid-life crisis – buy a car.” But the film did enable Friedman to develop a relationship with his father, a former lawyer who picked up weights after he quit his job following a second divorce. “I don’t know that I’ve ever figured out why he did that. But I’m starting to see him as a father instead of some kind of obstacle.”

Friedman holds a bachelor of fine arts from New York University and previously directed a short for the National Film Board of Canada’s Momentum program. He would like to continue making films, but also enjoys the academic challenges of law school. “It’s hard to make films that mean something and still survive [financially],” he says. “I’d be lying if I said I had a master plan.” – Sarah Treleaven

## Natural Selection

“Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.” Those are the words of Jane Goodall, renowned chimpanzee researcher and environmental steward, who certainly knows of what she speaks. The international Jane Goodall Institute furthers her groundbreaking work, which connects the well-being of humans to species conservation.



In pursuit of further connections, the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada recently found new habitat at U of T through a partnership with the university’s Centre for Environment. Centre director Ingrid Stefanovic says the partnership is focused on students: there will be work study and internship opportunities, and possibly exchanges with organizations in Africa. Select students will meet with Goodall

and receive feedback on projects relating to conservation and sustainability.

The partnership came about quite organically when Goodall spoke at the Centre for Environment’s Natural City conference in spring of

last year. As the first step toward collaboration, the centre has announced a new graduate scholarship (currently in the works) named in Goodall’s honour. “When I met her last year,” says Stefanovic, “what absolutely struck me was her sense of calm and her compassion – she just exuded [these qualities]; they were contagious.” – Lisa Rundle

*Jane Goodall will be presenting a lecture at Convocation Hall, hosted by the Centre for Environment, on September 15. The centre is planning a formal launch of the partnership to coincide with her visit.*

## Shall We Dance?

U of T students Vivek Patel, Janina Kowalski, Katie Williams and Krista Biederman performed “Escape,” a modern dance piece choreographed by Shakir Haq, at the Festival of Dance in March. The three-day celebration, held at Hart House Theatre, featured an eclectic range of dance styles – from hip hop to Egyptian belly dancing to ballroom – with performances by more than 200 students from all three campuses.



# Accolades

**M**atthew Cimone, a student in his final year of international development studies at U of T Scarborough, is spreading goodwill on a global scale: he has been chosen as a United Nations goodwill youth ambassador. In his new role, Cimone will represent both Canada and the humanitarian organization Right to Play International.

The following U of T researchers are winners of the inaugural Premier's Summit Award in Medical Research, which celebrates world-class research in Ontario: University Professors **Tak Mak** of medical biophysics; **Anthony Pawson** of medical genetics and microbiology; **Peter St George-Hyslop** of medicine and the Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases; and Professor **John Dick** of medical genetics and microbiology. As well, Professor **Parham Aarabi** of electrical and computer engineering received a Premier's Catalyst Award as the best young innovator, and Professors **Spencer Bar-**



Matthew Cimone

**rett** of ecology and evolutionary biology and **Andreas Mandelis** of mechanical and industrial engineering received Premier's Discovery Awards for individual research. Each Summit Award winner will receive \$5 million over a five-year period – \$2.5 million from the program matched by \$2.5 million from their sponsoring institution. Both Dick and Mak were sponsored by the University Health Network, while Paw-

son was sponsored by Mount Sinai Hospital and St George-Hyslop jointly by U of T and the University Health Network. As a Catalyst Award winner Aarabi will receive \$200,000, and Barrett and Mandelis will each receive \$500,000 to accompany their Discovery Awards.

Five U of T faculty members have been appointed to the Order of Canada. Appointed as officers were: Professor Emeritus **Dorothy Pringle** of nursing, a senior researcher at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; Professor Emeritus **Dennis Smith** of dentistry, the founding director of U of T's Centre of Biomaterials; and Professor **Douglas Wigle**, an internationally renowned cardiologist, teacher and scientist. Named members were Professor Emeritus **Timothy Murray** of medicine, who has made significant contributions to osteoporosis research and education; and **David Young**, an instructor in the Faculty of Music and one of Canada's premier bassists. — *Ailsa Ferguson, Elaine Smith*

## Centre for Community Partnerships Launches Second Day of Service

**U** of T's Centre for Community Partnerships (CCP) is spearheading a second annual university-wide day of service for all faculty, staff and students, to take place September 8. Last year, as part of Outreach 2006, more than 1,000 U of T volunteers helped clear garbage from the city's riverbanks, serve food in homeless shelters and plant gardens, among other activities. The day of service is part of the CCP's broader mission to give students the opportunity to apply their knowledge outside the classroom, strike partnerships between the university and its surrounding communities, and underscore the university's core values of civic engagement and public service. The CCP is supported by William R. Waters and Phyllis Waters, who have established a challenge fund to match private donations. Alumni interested in contributing to the CCP should contact Jacqueline Raaflaub at (416) 978-1473 or jacqueline.raaflaub@utoronto.ca.

## Appointments



David Palmer

**D**avid Palmer has been appointed vice president and chief advancement officer of U of T, and will begin his new role on September 1. He is currently president and executive director, Royal Ontario Museum Board of Governors, and spearheaded the highly successful Renaissance ROM campaign.

**Lorna Jean Edmonds** has been named assistant vice-president, international relations. Edmonds was the director of the Office of Research Services and an assistant professor in

the School of Rehabilitation Therapy at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

**Daniel Atlin** is the new assistant vice-president, government, institutional and community relations. Atlin comes to U of T from Credit Union Central of Ontario, where he was vice-president (corporate services) and corporate secretary.

**Bill Graham** has been installed as Trinity's 12<sup>th</sup> chancellor. Graham served as minister of national defence in the government of Paul Martin. In February 2006 he was appointed leader of the official Opposition, a position he held until last December.

Professor **Rhonda Love** will begin her role as director of the Transitional Year Programme (TYP) on July 1. Love is a professor of public health sciences at University of Toronto.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOP: COURTESY MATTHEW CIMONE; BOTTOM: BRIAN BOYLE © ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

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# YOUNG GRADS BIG IDEAS

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## PROFILES BY

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Hilary Davidson

Dan Falk

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Michelle Kelly

Cynthia Macdonald

Graham F. Scott

Micah Toub

Sarah Treleaven

Derek Weiler

Carlyn Zwarenstein

**T**here's a revolution underway. Not the kind that sets guns blazing or topples governments, but the type that will have far-reaching consequences for almost everything we do.

Call it youthful innovation, or the upending of corporate hierarchy. Many of today's young graduates, born in the 1970s, are taking the quick route to the top by setting up their own companies and using the Internet to promulgate their ideas. Their outlook is entrepreneurial and international. They thrive on change. And their ideas are now shaping how we live.

Think of Steve Chen and Chad Hurley, the twenty-something founders of popular video-sharing website YouTube, who sold their fledgling company to Google last fall for almost \$2 billion. Or Mark Zuckerberg, whose online social network, Facebook, is now used by tens of millions of people. He just turned 23.

Digital technology is creating new opportunities for young people. But this generation's "do-it-yourself" attitude has spilled over to a whole range of endeavours. While some, like Zuckerberg, are devising innovative online tools, others are using the Internet to sell (or share ideas about) music, clothing, video games, films or books they've made themselves. Never before have the tools of marketing and dis-

tribution – a computer and access to the Internet – been available to so many.

You'll find some of the faces of this revolution in the following pages – U ofT grads under 40 who have developed interesting ideas and are forging their own unique career paths. Many live in Canada, but their perspective is global; their ambitions reach beyond national borders.

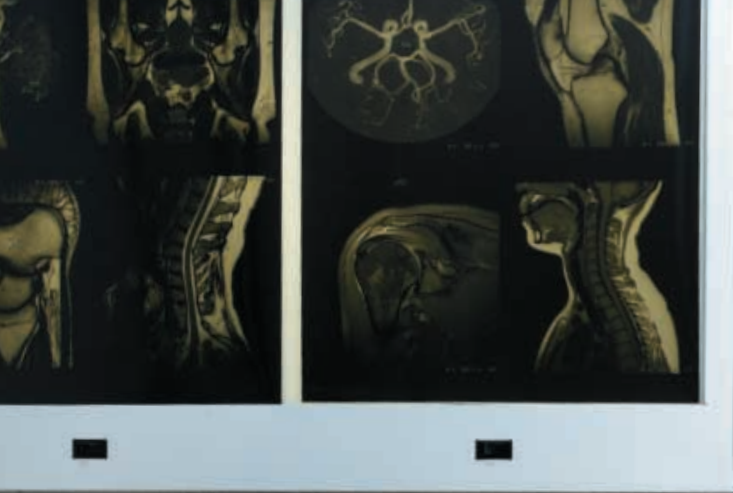
Twenty-four-year-old Ben Barry didn't like the ultra-narrow criteria used by most modeling agencies, so he set up his own business and scored a major coup with the Dove "Real Beauty" Campaign. He's now doing a PhD at Cambridge University in England.

Commerce graduate Andrea Brueckner, 30, designs and sells handbags in the highly competitive world of New York City fashion.

Raja Khanna, 34, co-founded Quick-Play Media, to bring Canadians video via their mobile phones. And Sara Seager, a 35-year-old astronomer at the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C., studies planets outside our solar system to determine whether they can support life.

Of course, there are thousands of young U ofT alumni whose intriguing ideas will shape the future of their chosen fields. The ones profiled here offer but a taste of what's to come.





“Usually, you’re an emergency doc in a set of greens with a stethoscope. It’s very anonymous. Writing is the exact opposite.”

## VINCENT LAM ● AUTHOR AND PHYSICIAN ●

Outside of battlefields and unhappy marriages, there is nothing like an emergency room to highlight extremes in human behaviour. And ER doctor (and happily married man) Vincent Lam captures those extremes in his Giller Prize-winning book, *Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures* (2006). With dark humour and sensitivity, Lam writes about everything from a medical student who loses half of a cadaver’s head to an air-evacuation doctor who drinks on the job.

By his early teens, Lam – who earned his medical degree from U of T in 1999 – knew he wanted to be a writer and wanted to emulate authors such as Hemingway, who had a large appetite for life away from the

page. “I thought, very naively, ‘Oh well – what will I do? I’ll just become a doctor.’” As he got older, he realized he wanted to pursue medicine for its own sake.

In the summer of 2002, Lam was working as a ship’s doctor for an Arctic cruise line. In a coincidence that would seem far-fetched in a fictional work, Margaret Atwood (BA 1961 Victoria) was also on the cruise. After Lam asked her if she would read his short stories, Atwood replied: “Do you want me to tell you something nice or do you want me to tell you the truth?” And he answered, “Well, the truth.” Shortly after, Lam received an e-mail from Atwood assuring him he could *indeed* write. He is now working on his first novel,

*Cholon, Near Forgotten*, about a headmaster and inveterate gambler in Saigon – a story inspired by his own grandfather.

Since winning the Giller Prize, Lam, 32, also has the role of “public figure” in common with Hemingway. Getting recognized by patients has taken a little getting used to for the modest writer. “Usually, you’re just another emergency doc in a set of greens with a stethoscope,” he says. “It’s very anonymous. And writing is the exact opposite, because you bare your soul on the page. So it’s kind of weird when you’re the emergency doc and someone’s reading your book. They actually have access to your literary soul.”

– Stacey Gibson



**BEN BARRY**  
● MODELLING AGENT ●

When he enrolled at U of T in 2001, Ben Barry was already the veteran CEO of an international modelling agency – which made for an unusual residence experience at Trinity College. “I was getting courier packages of portfolios every day. The porter must have thought I had a really supportive family,” he jokes.

Barry, now 24, founded Ben Barry Agency Inc. in his Ottawa home when he was 14 after a childhood friend – who wore a size 8 – was turned down as a model for being “too big.”

From the beginning, Barry decided his agency would represent women of all ages, shapes and sizes. But prospective clients were not always thrilled with this approach. “People would say to me, ‘We’re sorry consumers feel badly about their bodies, but that’s not our problem. They’re still buying the product.’”

Barry persevered, and landed his first major campaign in 2003 when Dove hired

him to scout models for their “Real Beauty” campaign. Now he employs a staff of 20 and counts Nike and Macy’s among his clients.

As a student at Cambridge University’s Judge Business School in England, Barry is currently working on a six-country survey of consumer reactions to models who don’t conform to the usual “under-21, size 0” demographic. “My hope,” says Barry, “is that my dissertation will provide me with concrete data I can take to the boardroom of *Vogue* and the offices of Paris designers.” In March, he published his first book, *Fashioning Reality: A New Generation of Entrepreneurship* (Key Porter Books).

Barry calls himself a “business activist,” and although he occasionally considers quitting the agency for academia, he says he won’t stop until models of all ages and sizes can find work on the runways of Milan and in the pages of fashion glossies. “It’s more attainable than we think,” he says. – *Micah Toub*

**SARA SEAGER**  
● ASTRONOMER ●

When Sara Seager was growing up, Earth and its eight siblings were the only known planets in the universe. Other worlds existed only in science fiction, and the prospect of finding life on another planet seemed like a remote dream.

But that dream has edged closer to reality, thanks to Seager (BSc 1994). A planetary scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she is examining some of the 200-plus planets that have been discovered orbiting distant stars. Seager, 35, has devised a way to assess the atmospheres of these faraway planets – a crucial step in determining whether they can support life. At the same time, she is helping with instrument design for NASA’s Terrestrial Planet Finder, a space-based observatory that likely will be launched in the next 15 years.

So far, almost all of the known extrasolar planets are more like Jupiter than Earth – gas giants inhospitable to life. The real prize will go to whoever discovers a world similar to our own blue-green orb – rocky, temperate and with an atmosphere containing water, carbon dioxide and ozone. Seager expects one to be found in her lifetime. “Every single day I wonder if there is life on another planet,” she says. “And I wonder what kind of life it might be.” – *Dan Falk*



PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIAN BRAFF





● **RAJA KHANNA** ●  
● **DIGITAL MEDIA PIONEER** ●

Until recently, a phone was just a phone. But since everyone's favourite conversation piece went mobile, there's been no stopping what it can do. These days, phones have gone way beyond mere chatter, bringing us photographs, messages, games – and now music videos and newscasts. Could Alexander Graham Bell have forecasted this?

Maybe not, but Raja Khanna (BSc 1993 UTM) could have. As chief creative officer of QuickPlay Media, the self-described “digital media pioneer” provides video downloading and streaming to the Canadian mobile phone market. In three years, the company he co-founded has won two national awards, grown from two to 80 employees and steered phones straight into the heady world of the Internet. Not everyone has phone video now, but Khanna thinks the change will happen fast. “The bottom line,” he says, “is that if you've got this powerful device in your pocket at all times that's always connected, always reliable and simple to use, of course you're going to use it for media consumption.”

But this 34-year-old tech exec doesn't just frame how content is presented – as a guitarist and composer for the band Dirty Penny, he also creates it himself. Khanna's simultaneous embrace of art and science came early, when he enrolled in genetics and philosophy at Erindale College (now University of Toronto Mississauga). He went on to obtain a law degree, but demand for one of his side talents – designing websites – led to his current career. “In our family, we had computers before most other people did, since my dad was in the industry,” he says.

Thus was born his first company, Snap Media, which ran into hard times during the dot-com crash several years ago. (“I had to fire many of my friends in order to pull through,” says Khanna ruefully.) But he rebounded, dove into the world of telecommunications – and, with offices in England and the United States, is now taking on the world.

“That excites me, because I think we can help create a hub here in Canada for digital media,” says the affable Khanna, who's surprisingly calm considering all that's happened to him in the last year (including fatherhood). “We have all the right people here, all the right skills, to make this a centre of excellence.” A sentiment with which Graham Bell – the sometime Canadian – would no doubt agree. — Cynthia Macdonald

*“I think we can help create a hub here in Canada for digital media. We have all the right people and all the right skills.”*





**DR. KELLIE LEITCH**  
 ● ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON ●

**AS** a medical student, Kellie Leitch (MD 1994) noticed what she calls “the challenges that all Canadians see in the health-care system” – long waits for patients and financial pressures for caregivers. So while doing her residency in orthopedic surgery, Leitch took time out to learn about efficiency from the business world, by taking an MBA at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Now she’s come full circle. Last fall, Leitch, 36, helped launch a new Health Sector MBA at the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario in London. The new business degree is tailored to health-care professionals – from doctors and nurses to health administrators and pharmacists. The aim is to impart leadership and management skills to both front-line workers and industry decision-makers. “We really need leaders in the system who understand the managerial side but also the clinical side of the equation,” says Leitch.

That description could apply to Leitch herself; besides serving as co-director of the Health Sector MBA, she’s the chair of pediatric surgery at Western’s Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry and chief of pediatric surgery at the Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario. She joined the hospital after a one-year fellowship at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. “It cost Canadian taxpayers almost a million dollars to train me, so the least I could do was come home and take care of Canadian kids,” she says. To that end, in March, she signed on as the federal government’s new advisor on Healthy Children and Youth; she’ll present recommendations this summer. Even with all that juggling, Leitch makes sure to maintain her own clinic hours. “I’m very fortunate – I get to fix kids who can’t play on the playground, and let them go play.” — *Derek Weiler*

PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD BAIN

**TENNIEL CHU**  
 ● GOLF MAGNATE ●

**B**usiness is booming in China, so it only makes sense that golf’s popularity is growing, too, says Tenniel Chu (BA 1999), the executive director of the Mission Hills Golf Club in Shenzhen, near Hong Kong. “Business people need places to congregate and mingle,” he says, and Mission Hills, the world’s largest golf club, is providing them. Located about an hour’s drive from Hong Kong, the club boasts 12 full-size courses, a five-star hotel and 20 restaurants.

Chu’s parents established Mission Hills in 1992, well before golf enjoyed its current popularity in China (the country’s first golf course was built just 20 years ago). Chu joined the company in 2001, after finishing his economics degree at U of T, and set about putting Mission Hills on the international map.

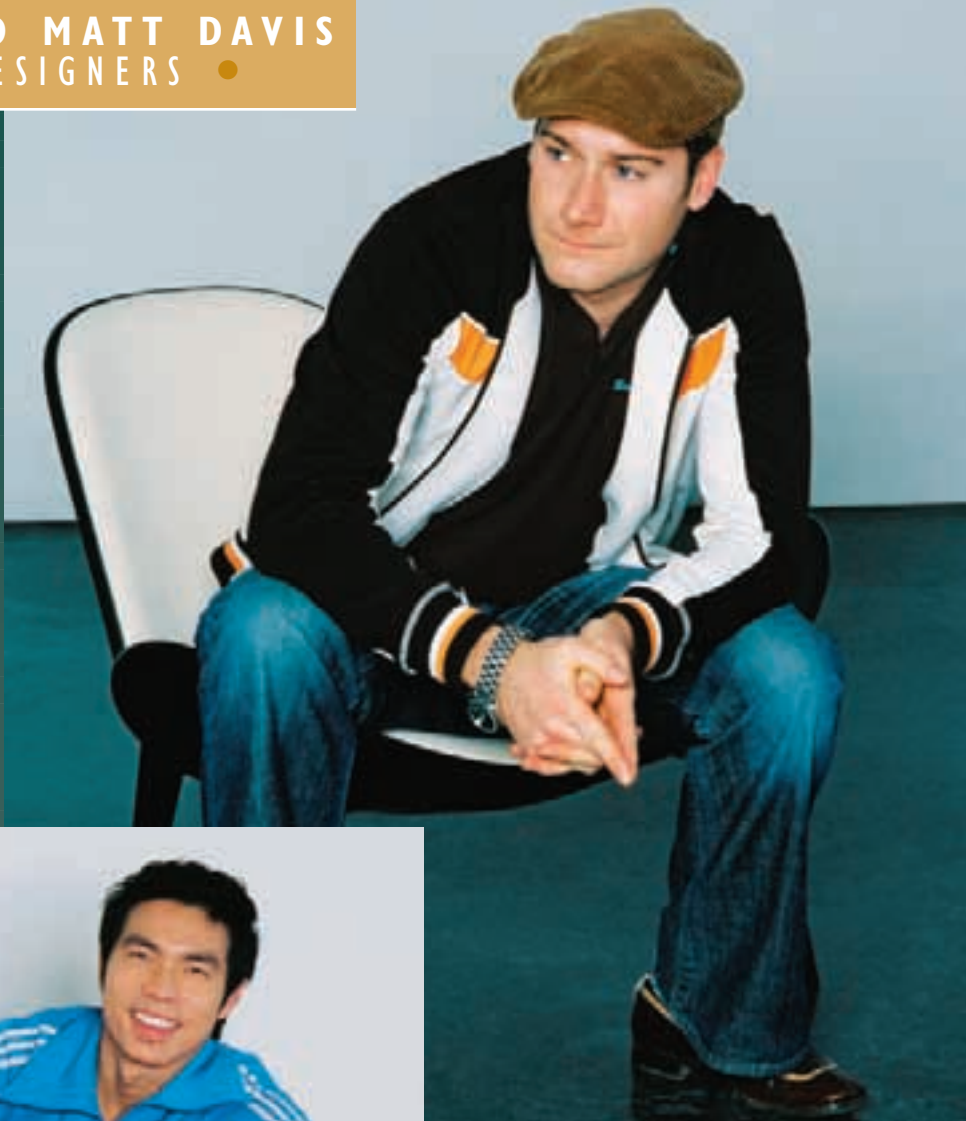


Now expansion is at the top of his to-do list. “There’s a lot of unexplored territory,” says Chu, noting that China has roughly 250 golf courses, compared with more than 20,000 in the United States. “We want to make Mission Hills the golfing capital of not only China, but also the world.”

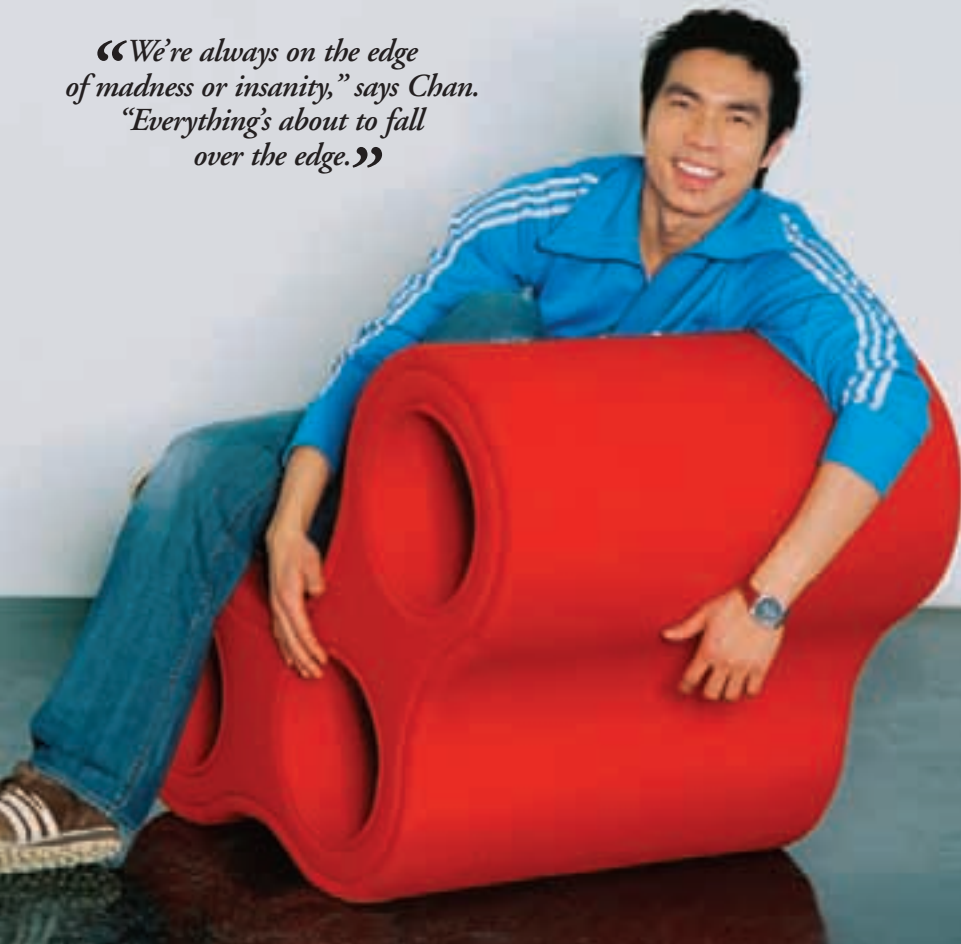
Chu balances a busy work schedule with family life, which leaves him little time to play golf himself unless entertaining government officials or attending charity events. Still, he considers it his favourite sport. “Just because you have a swimming pool in your backyard,” he says, “doesn’t mean that you swim every day.” — *Sarah Treleaven*

## ALLEN CHAN AND MATT DAVIS ● INTERIOR DESIGNERS ●

Allen Chan and Matt Davis first met while studying landscape architecture at U of T's Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. But these days, they're known for their work on the great indoors, as co-hosts of *Designer Guys*, the popular home-design show on HGTV. Each episode, Chan (BLA 1997), Davis (BLA 1997) and their colleague Anwar Mukhayesh transform their clients' dowdy surroundings into hip, modernist spaces. Past projects have ranged from a slick makeover of a 600-square-foot bachelor-pad condo to a subtle update of Pierre Berton's childhood home in the Yukon, which is now a writers' retreat. "Whether you study interior design, architecture, landscape architecture or graphic design, a lot of the core ideas can be the same," says Davis, 34. "So we took a lot of



*“We’re always on the edge of madness or insanity,” says Chan. “Everything’s about to fall over the edge.”*



our knowledge from U of T – how we dealt with space outside of buildings – and started applying it to interior spaces as well.”

Chan, Davis and Mukhayesh (who attended the University of Western Ontario) are the principal partners in Precipice Studios Inc., their Toronto-based design firm. “Precipice” was the name of Davis and Chan’s fictional design firm at U of T. “[The name] is so fitting for what we do,” says Chan, 34, who is also a part-time adjunct professor at the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. The trio, after all, has dozens of design projects underway in Canada and the U.S., and *Designer Guys* shoots 26 shows – each one a separate renovation project – during a frenetic six-month schedule. “We’re always on the edge of madness or insanity...everything’s about to fall over the edge,” says Chan. — *Graham F. Scott*

PHOTOGRAPHY: WESTWIND PICTURES



LUIS JACOB  
VISUAL ARTIST



Luis Jacob (BA 1996) is passionate about art, and wishes more of his ironically detached peers were, too.

This summer, he'll have a chance to convince them.

Jacob, 36, is one of two Canadian artists asked to participate in "documenta 12," a massive contemporary art exhibition taking place from June to September in Kassel, Germany. For Jacob, it's a rare opportunity to show his work to a huge international audience; more than 650,000 people are expected to attend.

The UC grad will unveil two pieces in mid-June as part of a single installation. One is called – take a deep breath – *A Dance for Those of Us Whose Hearts Have Turned to Ice, Based on the Choreography of Françoise Sullivan and the Sculpture of Barbara Hepworth (with Sign Language Supplements)*; the other is *Album III*, a collection of images concerning fluidity and rigidity, says Jacob.

Like its title, the first work is complex, involving video and print. The central focus is a high-definition video of fellow Toronto artist Keith Cole performing an homage to *Danse dans la neige* (1948), a choreography by Québécois artist and dancer Françoise Sullivan.

To a viewer, the dancer comes across as a metaphor for the artist in a coldly conservative milieu – the artist attempting to "melt our hearts."

Being passionate about one's art is crucial to Jacob, who laments the ironic detachment so prevalent in today's art scene. His recent work harkens back to artists of an earlier, less cynical era. "Sullivan talked passionately about art in a way that to contemporary ears would sound awkward and embarrassing," he says. "To me, it's instructive."

Jacob was born in Lima, Peru, and immigrated to Canada with his family when he was 10. Active in the Toronto anarchist community, Jacob believes non-hierarchical models of organization are the only ethical ones and tries to advance this idea in his work. "Activism has an important place in an art practice," he says.

Although he has been working single-mindedly on his "documenta" piece for several months, Jacob is also well known around Toronto as a DJ – and an energetic dancer. "Dance has been an outlet for me ever since I was old enough to go to nightclubs," he says. "It's a cathartic experience that I totally love." – *Scott Anderson*

PHOTOGRAPHY: RAINA WILSON



“Writing stories and being published was more accessible than I’d realized. The message with creative pursuits is always, ‘It’s so hard.’”



## MAGGIE MACDONALD • WRITER AND MUSICIAN

Maggie MacDonald refuses to limit her art to a single medium. The 28-year-old University College grad is probably best known around Toronto as a keyboard player and backing vocalist for the band The Hidden Cameras, but she’s currently working on a second novel and finishing up a year as Hart House writer-in-residence.

Her first book – *Kill the Robot*, published in 2005 – has a U of T connection; she worked on it in a creative-writing class. At Uni-

versity College’s afternoon teas, she met people who had already published books. “Writing stories and being published was more accessible than I’d realized,” she says. “The message with writing and creative pursuits is always, ‘It’s so hard.’ This made me realize, ‘Wow, you can do these things.’”

MacDonald’s can-do outlook infuses her musical pursuits, too. She joined The Hidden Cameras in 2001 – and only afterward learned

to play keyboards. She was later involved in two other fiercely independent bands – Republic of Safety and Barcelona Pavilion – and created the rock opera *The Rat King*, which will be remounted at New York’s fringe festival in August.

MacDonald’s new novel is very loosely inspired by her band tours, which conveniently brings two of her passions together. “You could say I’m a writer-slash-adventurer.” – *Carlyn Zwarenstein*

PHOTOGRAPHY: KATHRYN GATTENS



## MARK SCHATZKER • JOURNALIST

Journalist Mark Schatzker (BA 1996 Victoria) has flown in the back of an F-18 fighter plane over Alberta during a mock air war, scoured rural Quebec for artisanal cheese and spent five days at a swinger's convention in Las Vegas. But even the 33-year-old U of T philosophy grad was awed by his latest assignment, from *Condé Nast Traveler*: to circle the world in 80 days without boarding a single plane.

An intrepid traveller, Schatzker saw Siberia by rail, kayaked up Italy's Amalfi coast and walked across the entire country of Monaco. Avoiding air travel was a logistic challenge, but it forced him, as he puts it, to "see, feel and taste the differences in the land." While riding

horseback through Mongolia, he encountered nomadic herdsmen and discussed Buddhism with a monk.

Although parts of the journey were uncomfortable, Schatzker travelled in luxury at times. He sped from New York to California in a souped-up Mercedes-Benz, visited the world-famous five-star Raffles Hotel in Beijing and arrived back in New York City, where his trip began, after crossing the Atlantic aboard the Queen Mary 2.

Now that he's travelled around the world, does Schatzker plan to stay in one place for a while? Not on your life. "I experienced only a thin strip of it," he says. "There's still so much to see." — Michelle Kelly

## KATRINA MERREM • CHOCOLATIER

Katrina Merrem (BCom 1996) was on vacation in Switzerland when she realized that she didn't want to go back to her old life as an accountant.

And so, in the fall of 2003, she and husband Noah Houghton, who also worked in the financial sector, packed up their life in Toronto and set off in their car for the American Southwest. They settled in a suburb north of Dallas and founded Noka Chocolate, a luxury chocolate and truffles business. "I'm from a foodie family, and Noah is from an entrepreneurial family," says Merrem, 35. "And we just kept coming back to chocolate. It's

*“It's different than buying a chocolate bar. We're talking about the top five per cent of beans in the world.”*



## Z A I B S H A I K H A C T O R

Young big-city hotshot leaves Toronto, travels west, and finds a financially shaky but ultimately noble calling in a small community of lovable eccentrics. Hilarity ensues.

Are we talking about Zaib Shaikh, U of T graduate and co-founder of the Whistler Theatre Project in British Columbia? Or are we talking about Amaar Rashid, Shaikh's character, the flustered imam on the CBC comedy *Little Mosque on the Prairie*? Turns out it's a bit of both.

"The character is very similar," muses Shaikh. "This big-city kid who decides to take on something greater than himself."

Shaikh, 33, graduated from the University of Toronto Mississauga's theatre program in 1997, and has worked in stage, film and television ever since. Last year, he and two friends started the Whistler Theatre Project in a resort town better known for its skiing than stagecraft. The theatre company's inaugural production — *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — was a

something we both really enjoy."

Noka's handcrafted delicacies are not for the faint of pocketbook. The company's set of two Grand Cru single-estate dark chocolate truffles (sold in a stainless steel box) fetch \$45 US, which prompted the *New York Times* to note that, ounce for ounce, they cost more than caviar. "It's different than buying a chocolate bar," explains Merrem. "We're talking about the top five per cent of beans in the world."

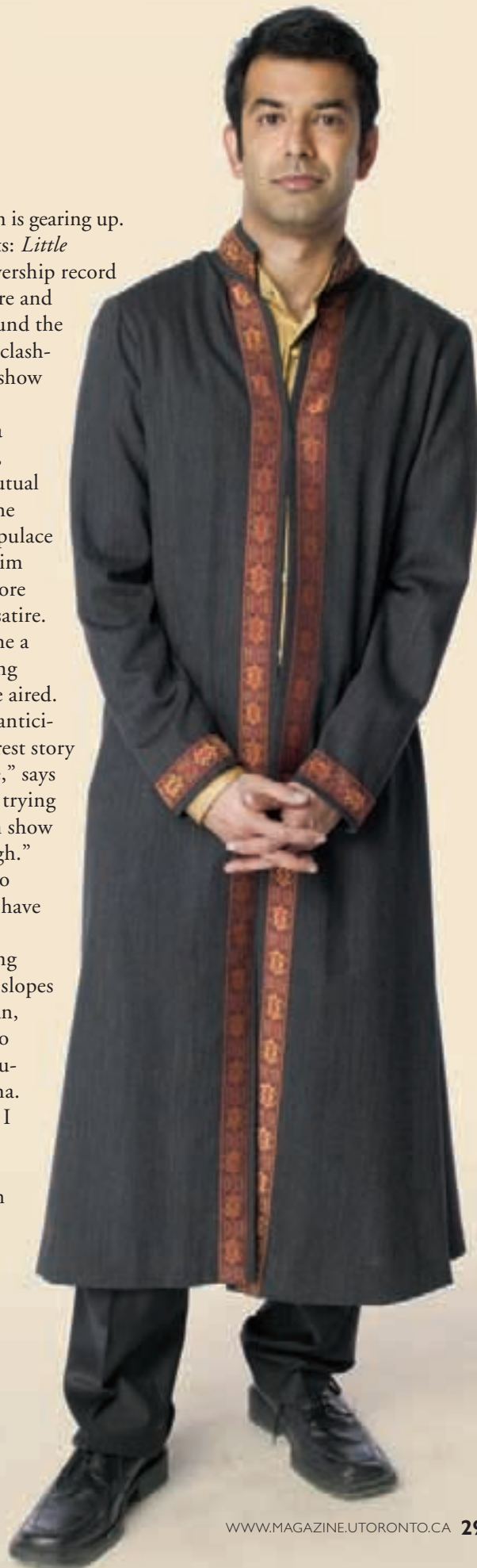
In their bid to "share the Noka Chocolate vision," the couple recently opened stores in Tokyo and Dallas. For Merrem, accounting seems like a distant memory. "It's incredible being a part of something that makes so many people happy," she says. — Sarah Treleaven

hit, and a second season is gearing up.

And speaking of hits: *Little Mosque* broke the viewership record for a CBC-TV première and grabbed headlines around the world with its culture-clash-comedy premise. The show centres on a group of Muslims establishing a mosque in small town, Saskatchewan. The mutual xenophobia, of both the town's white-bread populace and its emergent Muslim community, is at the core of the show's cultural satire. But the concept became a political hot potato long before the first episode aired. "I don't think anyone anticipated the human-interest story that we would become," says Shaikh. "We were just trying to do a good television show that makes people laugh." Turns out it did, and so *Little Mosque* will also have a second season.

Whether it's bringing Shakespeare to the ski slopes or comedy to the Koran, Shaikh says he wants to make a lasting contribution to Canadian drama. "That's very idealistic, I know, and potentially naive," he says, "but that's how I got here in the first place — by being idealistic and naive. And so far, it's working out."

— Graham F. Scott



PHOTOGRAPHY: SOPHIE GIRAUD / CBC





*“The laws of physics have a ‘logical inevitability’ that makes them appealing, says Arkani-Hamed.”*

**NIMA ARKANI-HAMED**  
● THEORETICAL PHYSICIST ●

Some people see beauty in art, others in music. Nima Arkani-Hamed (BSc 1993) sees beauty in the laws of physics. They have a “logical inevitability” that makes them instantly appealing, says the Harvard University physics professor.

The gold standard for “beauty” in physics was set by Albert Einstein, who proposed general relativity more than 80 years ago to explain how nature behaves at the scale of planets and galaxies. Einstein’s theory has stood the test of time, but physicists are now trying to figure out how to unite relativity with quantum mechanics, the set of laws that govern nature at the atomic scale.

Since the 1980s, most physicists have been placing their bets on string theory, which envisions a universe composed of tiny vibrating strings – along with unseen extra dimensions and perhaps even other universes beyond our own. Critics of this notion say these theoretical strings are so small – billions of times smaller than an atomic nucleus

– that the theory can never be tested. But Arkani-Hamed and his Harvard colleagues have imagined a different scenario: the extra dimensions could be relatively large, maybe as big as a fraction of a millimetre. That’s large enough to allow string theory to be tested using particle accelerators (such as the much-anticipated Large Hadron Collider, now under construction near Geneva, Switzerland).

Arkani-Hamed is eager to see what experiments at the Large Hadron Collider reveal about the subatomic world – and even more anxious to find a theoretical framework that will embrace those discoveries. The new theory – whether it’s an offshoot of string theory or something different – would be subject to scientific scrutiny lasting decades. But Arkani-Hamed is confident that the right theory would demonstrate the “beauty” that characterized Einstein’s discovery. “I suspect if someone found the solution, we would all recognize it,” he says. – *Dan Falk*

## ANDREA BRUECKNER ● HANDBAG MAVEN ●

Andrea Brueckner owes Lindsay Lohan a favour. After the Hollywood actress was photographed with one of Brueckner's handbags, the New York-based designer found her work in sudden demand. "A boutique called and said they wanted the bag Lindsay Lohan had," says Brueckner. "I had no idea what they were talking about. It was only later that I saw the photo in *Us Weekly*. It turned out to be the piece of press that's helped me the most."

Brueckner, 30, is no stranger to the media – her bags were already being featured in popular magazines such as *Lucky*. After earning a bachelor of commerce while attending New College in 1999 and a bachelor of fine arts from New York's prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology in 2003, Brueckner founded her eponymous handbag line in 2004. "I pounded the pavement, going store to store, asking people to stock my bags," she says. Her background in clothing design and attention to detail made her bags stand out, and her self-designed catalogues helped promote her products at trade shows. Still, now that she understands the power of celebrity, she's using it to her advantage: this spring she sent Lohan a new bag as a gift, and the actress has already been photographed with it. – *Hilary Davidson*



## RYAN PYLE ● PHOTOGRAPHER ●



A second-year course on modern China sparked a life-changing decision for photographer Ryan Pyle (BA 2001 New College). After finishing a politics degree, he embarked on a three-month trip to the world's most populous country, and found it so interesting he moved there.

Living in Shanghai, Pyle began taking pictures and scraped together money to buy film and cameras by teaching English. His first official photography job was for Cathay Pacific's in-flight magazine in 2004, shooting renovated colonial buildings in Shanghai. In November 2005, the *New York Times* commissioned Pyle, 28, to cover two stories: bird flu and the declining quality of rural health care.

Pyle and reporter Howard French travelled to Anhui province, about 500 kilometres west of Shanghai, where they found a village carrying out bird flu vaccinations. "The situation was a mess," says Pyle. Untrained men were inoculating hundreds of birds with the same needle – raising the risk of spreading the flu rather than lowering it.

Their story ran on the *Times*' front page.

On the same trip, Pyle photographed Jin Guilian, a labourer who could not afford proper treatment for a heart ailment. Pyle and French found him lying helpless in an unheated clinic outside the industrial city of Fuyang.

The stories earned Pyle recognition among photography editors, and his clients now include the *Wall Street Journal* and German news magazine *Der Spiegel*. The stories also taught him a lot about the growing disparity between rich and poor and the challenges of being a reporter in China. "There is no freedom of the press," he says. "If it weren't for foreign journalists and a handful of very brave local journalists who defy the rules, there would be almost no news about what is really happening in China."

Pyle considers himself a serious student of China and hopes to publish a book about his adopted home. "My academic work in politics at U of T taught me how to think, and how to see issues from different angles," he says. "I take pictures to record a moment in history." – *Scott Anderson*

## WENDY YU ● MARKETING WHIZ ●

Popularity of the National Basketball Association is booming in China – thanks to such star players as Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets.

But the NBA also owes its surging appeal to Wendy Yu (BCom 1998 Trinity), who since 2000 has been at the centre of the league's push into the country.

As the Beijing-based senior director of TV and digital media for the NBA's China division, Yu oversees a team of 10 people in distributing NBA games, highlights and related programming to TV stations and Internet outlets. Currently 51 stations in China are broadcasting games, up to nine each week. Other major projects have been keeping Yu and her colleagues busy, too: last year saw the relaunch of the NBA's China website and the creation of an original show, *NBA Zhi Zao* ("Made in the NBA"), focusing on local basketball stories.

Yu's path to the NBA began with the Toronto Raptors: she began following the team while at U of T, and soon became a dedicated fan. "I would go to the games, watch them on TV and even tune in to the radio," she says. After graduating, she returned to Hong Kong, where she learned of an opening in the local NBA office: "It looked to me like my dream job."

– Derek Weiler



## LAWRENCE HO ● CASINO TYCOON



He's been called the "Energizer Bunny."

And it's true – Lawrence Ho is just as vital, active and determined as a young business executive can be. But this 30-year-old is no ordinary company man: as chairman and CEO of

Melco International Development Limited, he's also poised to be king in the heady world of Asian gambling.

Son of legendary casino tycoon Stanley Ho, Lawrence is now making his own mark in Macau, an "eastern Las Vegas" located across the bay from Hong Kong. In May, he opened his first major hotel-casino: the Crown Macau, a \$580-million US complex featuring eight presidential villas and a two-level spa. Now, plans are underway for an even more ambitious project: the City of Dreams, a massive, multi-building venture centred around a 430,000-square-foot "underwater-themed" casino.

Though firmly based in Asia, Ho is also a Canadian citizen. Educated here from the age of nine, he says "it's no

surprise" that he ended up at U of T, where he earned a BA in 1999. "Canada is like my second home," he says. "My wife [Sharen Lo, BA 1998 Victoria, MA 1999] and I still visit and spend our vacations there every year – watching numerous ice-hockey games, needless to say."

Lawrence, one of 17 children, says he learned a lot from his father, who taught him to "never give up." But he admits that the 85-year-old Stanley's shadow is large, and that "being his son made it more difficult for me to prove myself." Still, Lawrence's many successes (which include bringing Melco into profit and establishing a partnership with James Packer, Australia's richest man) have given him the confidence to try anything. Including, perhaps, a casino on ice? If anyone can do it, it's this hockey-loving visionary with billion-dollar dreams. – *Cynthia Macdonald*



## JONATHAN ANSHELL ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER

While Janet Jackson's breast-baring performance during the Super Bowl halftime show in 2004 may have left the singer blushing, it created a major headache for U of T law grad Jonathan Anshell (BA 1989 UC, LLB 1992).

As executive vice-president and general counsel for CBS Television, Anshell has been engaged in a three-year legal battle with the Federal Communications Commission, which fined the network \$550,000 for airing Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction."

It's not the only job on Anshell's plate, of course. The 39-year-old Calgary native and his team of 45 lawyers negotiate contracts with actors, protect the network's intellectual property against Internet piracy, and assess legal risks for episodes of shows such as *Survivor*, *CSI*, and *60 Minutes*. Anshell says *Survivor* requires special care. "We're always trying to strike an appropriate balance between keeping the participants safe and putting them into exciting situations that make for good television."

Because of his work, Anshell has rubbed shoulders with a lot of celebrities, but one meeting in particular stands out. "The first year I went to the Emmy Awards, I was seated immediately behind David Shore, the creator of *House*," he says. After Shore accepted his trophy for Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series and returned to his seat, Anshell tapped him on the shoulder, and the two chatted about something they had in common. No, not television: U of T law school. — *Micah Toub*



PHOTOGRAPHY: IGHITI, COURTESY OF CBS TELEVISION



*“Within a few years, there will be so many features on your cellphone it really will change your life.”*

## ANTHONY LACAVERA TELECOM ENTREPRENEUR

Hold up a cellphone, and Anthony Lacavera (BASc 1997) doesn't just see a convenient way to reach family and friends. He sees an entire pocket-sized computer that will be able to do anything today's top-of-the-line desktops can do — and more.

And he's not talking about the distant future. The 33-year-old chairman and CEO of Globalive Communications Corp., a Toronto-based telecommunications company he co-founded in 1998, expects us to be carrying such devices by the end of this decade. Or, we will be, if his company has anything to do with it.

Left your wallet at home? Pay by cellphone. Delivering a multimedia presentation at a client's office? Store it on your phone. "Within a few years, there will be so many features and applications on your cellphone, it really will change your life," he says.

At the moment, Globalive, which provides telecom services to both consumers and businesses, is a tiny player in a Canadian

landscape dominated by Bell, Rogers and Telus. But it's moving up quickly, with a recent showing on *Profit* magazine's annual list of Canada's 100 fastest-growing companies. Last year, Globalive was named one of Canada's 50 best-managed companies, for the third consecutive year.

Lacavera's strategy is to build Globalive into a major-league contender by offering better customer care and innovative phone, data and wireless services tailored to customers' needs. One branch of the company provides telecom services specifically to hotels and hospitals.

Like most entrepreneurs, Lacavera — who studied computer engineering at U of T — lives and breathes his company. But it's not all about the bottom line. He makes time to golf, ski, read — and fly. He's still a student pilot, but gets airborne every week — sometimes even flying himself to business meetings. "I love the feeling of freedom," he says. — *Scott Anderson*

# LOVE

# Story

BY RASHA MOURTADA

The winners of the U of T Magazine Alumni Short Story and Poetry Contest are Rasha Mourtada, for her work of fiction “Love Story,” and Carleton Wilson, for his poem “Smart Girls Writing Something Catch the Eye at Once” (see page 37). Mourtada and Wilson each received \$1,000.

LAILA IBRAHIM ROSE EARLY, HER FEET hitting the cool marble floor before the sun’s first rays filled the sky. The imam had just made the call to prayer, his voice settling over the quiet city, like a crisp sheet falling over an empty bed.

She wasn’t surprised to find that her husband wasn’t sleeping at her side. Amir would be stretched out on the couch in the living room. She walked quickly past him, not needing to look his way to see him lying there in his stained pajamas, his glasses askew across his face.

“Wake up, Amir!” she called. She heard him grunt.

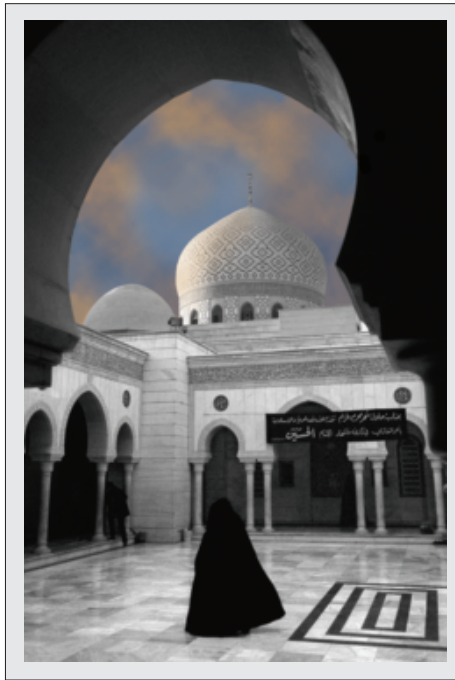
Laila went into the kitchen to begin preparing that afternoon’s lunch.

“Ya Amir!” she shouted. Amir shifted on the couch.

“What did you do with last night’s meat?” She was standing above him, her hands on her hips, an orange apron around her waist. “I can’t find it. Did you hide it somewhere to feed to those wretched cats?” Laila sighed. How many times had she told Amir only to give scraps to the strays? There were people – children – without enough to eat, and there was Amir, kneeling on the filthy sidewalk, pressing dust into his good pants, feeding leg of lamb to the cats.

Amir finally spoke, his voice gruff with sleep. “I can’t believe how petty you are. Do you seriously think I have nothing better to do than steal meat from your kitchen?”

Laila left the room without replying. When she found the leg of lamb in the very back of the fridge, she didn’t tell Amir.



SHE HAD FIRST NOTICED HIM in the bazaar, where he worked in his father’s dress shop. Her mother would drag her into the store every *Eid*. The month of fasting was behind them and the holiday about to begin. Each year they’d walk through the narrow and winding Damascus streets to the dress shop, a mother with her only daughter following closely at her side.

“Everything is pink this year?” her mother asked. Her tone made it clear she was not impressed. The storekeeper, Bashar Ibrahim, spread one dress open after another on the counter before her. Laila was 14 that year and liked pink, but she didn’t say anything.

“But, madame, pink is the fashion,” Bashar said. “It is what all the young girls are wearing these days.” He smiled at Laila.

“Fine. Pink it is then. The one in the window.”

“Amir! Get down here,” shouted Bashar. His son came into the room, a lock of black hair falling into his eyes.

“Yes, Baba?” he asked.

“Get the lady the dress in the window in pink. The size, madame?”

Her mother made a big show of getting her to stand in the middle of the store and turn around in front of the angled mirrors. “I don’t know, Bashar. You tell me what you think. I swear, this one is getting bigger each day but can I get her to lay off the bread? Never. No man will marry you, I keep telling her, if you turn into a fatty!”

Bashar laughed and Laila noticed Amir looking at her. He quickly looked away when their gazes locked. Laila, her cheeks flushed with embarrassment, wished he had not.

AMIR WAS STILL PASSED OUT ON THE COUCH, EVEN THOUGH IT was well after 10 a.m. She wondered how many pills he'd taken the night before. There'd be no point in asking, because he'd only make some snide remark and deny it and then they'd fight. She had lunch to prepare; there was no time for fighting.

Still in her nightgown, a piece of cloth holding her hair back, Laila went back to her chopping.

AMIR IBRAHIM KNEW THAT NO MATTER WHAT HE DID WITH his life, the one thing he would not do would be sell dresses. He'd seen the way customers talked to his father, never looking him in the eye, like he was some kind of servant.

That's why the summer he graduated from high school he told his father that he would not be helping at the dress shop any more.

Bashar Ibrahim was quiet at first. He paused to look at his son, then he looked straight ahead.

Finally he spoke. "You are my only son. The dress shop will be yours one day."

"I'm not interested in the dress shop, Baba," Amir said. He was trying to be gentle; he didn't want to make his father angry. Ever since Amir's mother had died seven years before, he'd done everything he could not to upset his father. Even today, grief filled his father's eyes.

Bashar didn't speak to his son for 16 days. He wasn't a man who got what he wanted by force. His tactic was guilt and he knew his silence would hurt Amir more than anything else he could have done.

But when Amir's decision held firm, Bashar decided to accept it. What choice did he have?

One evening, after a 12-hour day at the shop, he called Amir into the kitchen.

"Tomorrow, you'll go help Khaled at the pharmacy."

"What?" Amir asked.

"It'll be good for you to interact with men in the community. Don't argue," his father said, even though Amir hadn't objected. "Tomorrow, you go."

So Amir had begun work the very next day. At first he stocked shelves and counted out change. But then one day, when Khaled's assistant was away, Amir helped dispense pills.

"You know, you're pretty good at this," Khaled said to him at the end of the day. Khaled had been their neighbour for 18 years. Amir had loved going to his house, where Khaled's wife always had something in the kitchen that she'd offer Amir. Milk pudding laced with rosewater, sesame cookies or even just hot tea.

The next day, when Amir arrived at work, Khaled handed

him a white jacket, just like the one he wore behind the pharmacy counter every day. Amir held it in his hands. There was a hole near the elbow and a coffee stain on the front, but to him, the boxy white jacket couldn't have been more perfect.

"MERHABA! WELCOME!" ANNOUNCED LAILA, AMIR BEHIND HER, when she answered the front door. It was Amir's cousin. She'd been ignoring her husband all day as she cooked – but, still, she noticed he wasn't steady on his feet and his eyes were glassy.

Laila had left her husband seven times over the pills during their 15 years of marriage. But each time Amir promised her he was finished with the pills and she returned. So much time had passed, so many years of making excuses for him, of spending nights alone while he lay practically unconscious in the next room, that Laila really didn't know what she could do now, today, that would change anything.

"What's happened to you, Sayid!" said Amir. "I see you once a year and each time, you're twice the size!"

Laila cringed at her husband's insensitivity. But when she looked at Sayid, she could see he was right. The man was fat.

"You're telling me!" said Sayid to Amir. "The doctor says that one of these days I'm going to reach around to wipe my ass, and my heart's going to stop. Lose 100 pounds or you *will* have a heart attack, he says to me, like it's the easiest thing in the world."

Amir ushered his guest into the formal sitting room.

"My dear Laila, have you got a couple of cushions? A big man like me could use a little bit of support," said Sayid, chuckling.

"Of course!" she said cheerfully, as if all of her guests asked for a little something soft to place beneath them when they visited. She left the room and came back with two pillows. He placed them on top of each other on the settee and then lowered himself on to them.

Laila left the room to put lunch on the table. When she'd laid it all out, she called to them: "What? You're going to let me eat all of this food myself? You better come in here if you want your share!"

Sayid entered the room and took in the table. He'd always loved Laila's *kibbeh* ("Tell me, ya Laila, how do you know to make the *kibbeh* just the way I like it? Not too oily, not too dry. Just right"). He sat himself in front of the dish, another pillow beneath him.

Her mother  
made a big show  
of getting her  
to stand  
in the middle  
of the store and  
turn around  
in front  
of the angled  
mirrors



“*Ya Laila, ya Laila*, you can’t imagine how I’ve looked forward to this,” he said to her, leaning in and taking a deep breath.

WHEN LAILA AND AMIR HAD FIRST MARRIED, LAILA TAUGHT English at the American School. Amir spent his days counting pills behind the pharmacist’s counter. Their life was modest. But she looked forward to the end of each day, to spending the evening with her husband.

She’d been devastated at first when she couldn’t have children. They tried for eight years. Every month, when she emerged from the bathroom crying, the stream of red vivid in her mind, Amir held her and told her that they didn’t need children to be happy. Their blessing in life was to have each other, and for him, that was enough. But, Laila realized, for her it wasn’t.

Eventually Amir began to look away when he noticed her tears. He’d stare straight ahead at the TV and she’d cry silently beside him. After a while, he turned to her less and less in bed, and soon they stopped trying for a baby altogether.

One day, after they’d been married for 10 years, she began to notice bottles of pills in Amir’s briefcase. I’m just delivering those to a customer tomorrow morning, he’d tell her, or I must have put them in there by accident. She didn’t question him. But soon he was heading to bed as soon as he set foot in the apartment, barely grazing her forehead with his lips as he greeted her. The first time she noticed his glassy eyes and clammy skin, she thought he was sick. She leaned in to kiss his forehead to see if he felt warm and he pushed her away, so hard

that she nearly lost her balance and fell to the ground.

Later, when he thought she was busy watering the plants, she saw him lean into his briefcase and then swallow a few pills. The glassy eyes, clammy skin, incoherent speech, hot temper. It all made sense. He’d been taking pills – painkillers, she’d later discover – for months.

She cried, begged, threatened. He’d cry with her sometimes. But a day or two later, he’d take more.

AMIR COULDN’T REMEMBER HOW HE’D COME TO THIS PLACE, sitting across from a fat man and a shrill woman. His head hurt and he needed to lie down. But the woman kept looking at him angrily. So angrily. He couldn’t give her what she wanted. That’s why she stared at him like this, full of accusation. But he couldn’t think about that. He had to eat the food in front of him.

The fat man was looking at the woman. *His* woman.

Amir thought he might throw up. He left the table, went into the bathroom and leaned over the toilet. He remembered now that he’d taken three pills earlier in the day, just to help him get through his cousin’s visit.

After what felt like a long time, he splashed water on his face and returned to the table.

WHEN SAYID HAD LEFT, LAILA BROUGHT AMIR HIS LAST CUP OF tea of the evening. He’d barely spoken a word to her all day.

When she looked at him, sitting there in his raggedy pajamas, a man with nothing to look forward to, any anger

## THE RUNNERS-UP

**Martin Kofsky** (BA 1974 UC, BEd 1975 OISE/UT, MA 1977, MEd 1983, EdD 1996) won second place in the short story contest for “Of Schumann and Sheep Skulls.” Kofsky recently retired after teaching English at high schools for more than 30 years, and is working on a collection of stories drawn from his teaching experiences. Read “Of Schumann and Sheep Skulls” online at [www.magazine.utoronto.ca](http://www.magazine.utoronto.ca).

**Brigid Elson** (BA 1961 St. Mike’s, MA 1963, BEd 1971 OISE/UT, PhD 1973) is runner-up in the poetry contest for “France August 1992.” Elson’s doctorate is in French literature.

## THE JUDGES

### SHORT STORY CONTEST

**Elaine Stirling** is the author of 10 novels and several short stories. She teaches creative writing at the University of Toronto’s School of Continuing Studies and writes a weekly column, “Third Revolution,” at [www.elainestirling.com](http://www.elainestirling.com).

**James Grainger** is a contributing editor to *Quill & Quire* and a books columnist for the *Toronto Star*. He is the co-author of

*Why I Didn’t Say Anything: The Sheldon Kennedy Story* (2006). His first book of stories, *The Long Slide*, won the 2005 ReLit Award.

**Scott Anderson** is the editor of *U ofT Magazine*. He was previously editor of *Quill & Quire* and a contributor to CBC’s *Midday* book club.

### POETRY CONTEST

**Ian Lancashire** teaches in the English department at the University of Toronto, edits Representative Poetry Online at <http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca>, and believes that everyone should write poems.

**Simon J. Ortiz**, an Indigenous poet-writer from New Mexico, is a professor of English at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. He is the author of several books of poetry, including *Out There Somewhere* (2002), *After and Before the Lightning* (1994) and *Woven Stone* (1992).

**Sonnet L’Abbé** is the author of two collections of poetry: *Killaroe* (2007) and *A Strange Relief* (2001), both published by McClelland & Stewart. She teaches writing at U of T’s School of Continuing Studies, and reviews poetry for *Canadian Literature* and the *Globe and Mail*.

she felt subsided and she was overwhelmed with pity.

“Are you going to come to bed, *habibī*?” she asked.

“You think I’m going to come to bed with you? After what you did in my house today?”

Laila stared at him. This wasn’t the first time he’d turned on her after his pills had worn off.

“Of course, she’s pretending like she doesn’t know what I’m talking about.”

“What *are* you talking about, Amir?” The moment had passed; the rage had returned.

“I’m talking about Sayid.”

“Sayid? What about Sayid?”

“I saw the way he talked to you. *Ya Laila, ya Laila*,” he said, his voice high-pitched.

She looked at him in disbelief. “What are you saying?”

“Don’t pretend you don’t know what I’m talking about,” he raised his voice.

“Listen, Amir, we both know you’re not in your right mind. Let’s not discuss this now,” she said quietly.

“We’ll discuss it when I say we’ll discuss it! I can’t believe that man, coming into my house, eating my food and talking that way to my wife. Does he think I’m blind? I’m deaf? You think I didn’t see the way you smiled at him, the way you laughed at his jokes.”

“Sayid is your cousin. Sayid puts cushions under his ass he’s so fat. You think I want to have an affair with Sayid?”

“After 15 years, this is how you treat your husband? Whore.” He spat the words at her.

Laila Ibrahim stared at her husband for a moment, then rose to her feet and left the room.

WHEN AMIR WOKE THE NEXT DAY AND DISCOVERED HIS WIFE had left, he looked around for something to eat. He was starving. All he could find was some meat in the fridge; he ate it standing over the sink, cold, saving a piece for the cats downstairs.

At first he couldn’t remember what he’d done to make her so angry, and then pieces of their conversation last night came back to him. *Sayid. Affair. Whore.* Had he really said those things to Laila?

She’d be back, he knew. But something about her departure this time felt different. No clean towels in the bathroom, no food stacked in plastic containers in the fridge. He wondered if he should go after her.

But as Amir sat in the quiet apartment alone, a bottle of pills in his hand, he realized he didn’t want to follow Laila.

He swallowed a few pills, turned on the TV and fell asleep.



*Rasha Mourtada (BA 1998 New College) has a degree in English from the University of Toronto and a degree in journalism from Ryerson University. She lives in Toronto and works as a web editor at the Globe and Mail. She cannot make kibbeh, but wishes she could.*

## SMART GIRLS WRITING SOMETHING CATCH THE EYE AT ONCE

— *for Alison*

By Carleton Wilson

Been three years since and I can still picture you at that table in Robarts Library, framed before a window, the late spring campus a distant smudge dropping past your left shoulder. Maybe I’d gone

downstairs for a quick coffee or to make a phone call, but climbing back up into the stacks I caught, just in time, you giving yourself a little hug against the dusk gathering outside. Then you started writing again,

head bowed to the page, wisps of hair falling free from the bundle loose about the nape of your neck. What was it I wanted to tell you then but couldn’t? Maybe that, when I found you like this, I thought

of all the afternoons we’d spent together in Ned’s after class, how it made me smile each time you’d insist that we get our coffee in glass mugs instead of Styrofoam cups (the environment!); or our late-night conversations

in Fran’s, most times more silence than talk, how you’d carefully choose songs on the jukebox then sit across from me, and I’d watch your eyebrows wrinkle with concentration, as your fingers intently fidgeted away,

and wonder how you could be so truly wonderfully captivated by a sugar packet. Maybe this was what I wanted to tell you then but couldn’t; instead, just sat back down without a word and watched you

tuck the stray strand of hair behind your ear, then bite your bottom lip and frown slightly. This is how I want to remember you: writing up in the stacks at Robarts Library, not even noticing my return for

a few moments, until you look up at me and smile.



*Carleton Wilson (BA 2000 Innis) has an honours degree in English. He is the publisher and editor of Junction Books, and the poetry editor for Nightwood Editions. In 1998, he was awarded the E.J. Pratt Medal in Poetry for “Junction Sonnets.”*



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## Hal Jackman Doubles Gift to the Humanities

A new \$15-million gift by the Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman will double a commitment he made five years ago to the humanities at the University of Toronto. The \$30-million total donation is the largest gift to the humanities from an individual that has ever been made to a Canadian university. Double-matched by the university, it effectively triggers a \$90.5-million increase in investment in U of T's humanities departments.

"What is perhaps more significant than my gift is the fact that the university is allocating over \$60 million in additional funding. This funding will help establish a level of excellence that would not otherwise be possible," says Jackman (BA 1953 Victoria, LLB 1956). "A further motivation is the strong commitment to the humanities of my family. My wife, Maruja, taught humanities at both the University of Toronto and York University. All my five children have post-graduate degrees in the humanities and two of them teach humanities at universities."

Maruja Jackman (BA 1959 Trinity, MA 1963) says the humanities are crucial to a comprehensive education because they shape how people engage as citizens. "By examining the cultural, historical, philosophical and creative dimensions of human experience, the humanities help us to understand better the diversity and complexity of our world."

In 2002, the Jackmans donated \$15 million to the humanities, which was double-matched by the university to create a \$45-million endowment to support academic chairs, graduate scholarships, faculty research fellowships and a program for the arts. The new gift is similarly matched.

Part of the new gift will establish the Jackman Humanities Building, through extensive renovation of the Medical Arts Building. Located on the northwest corner of St. George Street and Bloor Street West, the art deco building will house some

*Continued on page 40*



Continued from page 39

of the university's key humanities departments and centres.

Another portion of the funds will create the Jackman Humanities Institute, providing it with the equivalent of a \$22-million endowment. This endowment will strengthen U of T's ability to recruit top graduate students in the humanities by setting up a graduate fellowship fund. It will also support research and teaching at the Jackman Humanities Institute.

"The humanities are – and have always been – central to U of T's mission of teaching and research excellence," says David Naylor, president of the University of Toronto. "We are grateful to the Honourable and Mrs. Jackman for their vision and their generosity."

Jackman, who served as chancellor of the University of Toronto from 1997 to 2003, is a former lieutenant-governor of Ontario and the honorary chairman of E-L Financial Corporation Ltd. He is chairman of The Hal Jackman Foundation and the J.P. Bickell Foundation. – *Diana Kuprel*

## Ms Patten's Opus

Music has been an important part of graduation ceremonies at U of T since the Casavant Opus 474 organ was first installed in Convocation Hall almost 100 years ago. But decades of playing have left the impressive instrument in need of major repairs – and benefactors to contribute to restoration efforts.

Earlier this year, Rose Patten, chair of Governing Council, committed \$100,000 to the cause. "The organ is a rare instrument - one of a handful of its kind - and an essential part of the convocation tradition," she says. "This gift should help ensure that the tradition continues." Covering roughly half of the project's costs, Ms Patten's donation,



Rose Patten

combined with other funds, will ensure that the organ is fully operational in time for spring 2008 convocations.

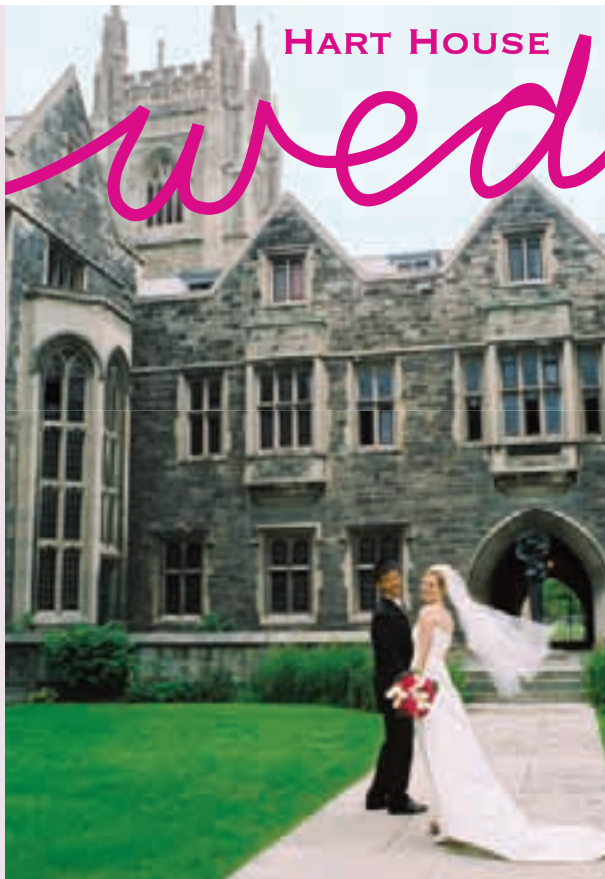
As chair, Patten has no official role at convocation, but says she tries to attend as many ceremonies as possible each year.

The refurbishment of the organ is part of a broader campaign to restore Convocation Hall in honour of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The U of T Alumni Association kicked off the campaign in 2005, with a \$500,000 gift. Anyone who pledges \$1,907 can have a dedication inscribed on a seat plaque. Including the UTAA's initial contribution, a total of \$1.2 million has been raised so far.

– *Scott Anderson*

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Members of Delta Tau Delta in front of their house on St. George Street, circa 1960

## Band of Brothers

A fraternity that operated at U of T for almost 90 years has acknowledged its long-standing ties to the university with a gift to support scholarships for incoming students.

Delta Tau Delta was a fixture on campus for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, occupying two houses on St. George Street in the 1960s and, after the university expropriated those, one on Madison Avenue. At Delta Tau Delta's peak in the early 1960s, as many as 15 fraternity brothers slept at the house, while another 25 ate meals and socialized there. For many, the experience was life-changing. "The fraternity created bonds of friendship that continue to survive after almost 50 years," says Robert Roden (BASc 1960, MA 1961), a Delta Tau Delta member. Fraternity brother Richard Harris (BA 1975 Victoria) agrees. "It was a core part of our university experience."

Delta Tau Delta's fortunes changed in the 1990s as fraternities fell out of favour and membership declined; as a result the group found it increasingly difficult to cover the costs of maintaining its property. The U of T chapter closed in 1992, sold the house on Madison and invested the proceeds.

In 2005, Delta Tau Delta alumni voted to use the investment to set up a scholarship at U of T. "Our collective view was that the university had been very good to us," says Harris. "We wanted to give back to the university and to future generations."

A donation of \$180,000 will be matched by the Ontario Trust for Student Support to create an endowment of \$360,000. The funds will likely support three annual scholarships for first-year students at any of the university's three campuses. — *Scott Anderson*

## Out of the Blue

THE Bible says, "Ask and you shall receive," but Peter Wyatt never dreamed raising money for Emmanuel College would be quite that straightforward.

At a dinner last autumn to launch a fundraising campaign for theological education and congregational leadership, the Emmanuel College principal posed a challenge to his 80 guests: raise \$1.5 million for a single endowed chair.

Much to his surprise, Rev. Jane Brushey-Martin (BMus 1972, BEd 1973, MDiv 2002) and her husband, Geoff Martin (BMus 1971), called the very next day to say that they would provide the entire amount.

"I thought, 'Hallelujah!'" says Wyatt. "It was quite out of the blue."

The decision surprised Brushey-Martin, too. "There comes a moment in our lives, at least for some of us, when a voice deep inside us prompts us to do something we had previously never considered," she says. Hearing Rev. Wyatt speak at the dinner was her catalyst. "It was as if someone had lit a fire in my soul!"

The Martins' gift prompted Wyatt to raise the bar; he's now seeking an additional \$5 million to fund two more endowed chairs – in church music and theology of religions – and scholarships for doctoral students.

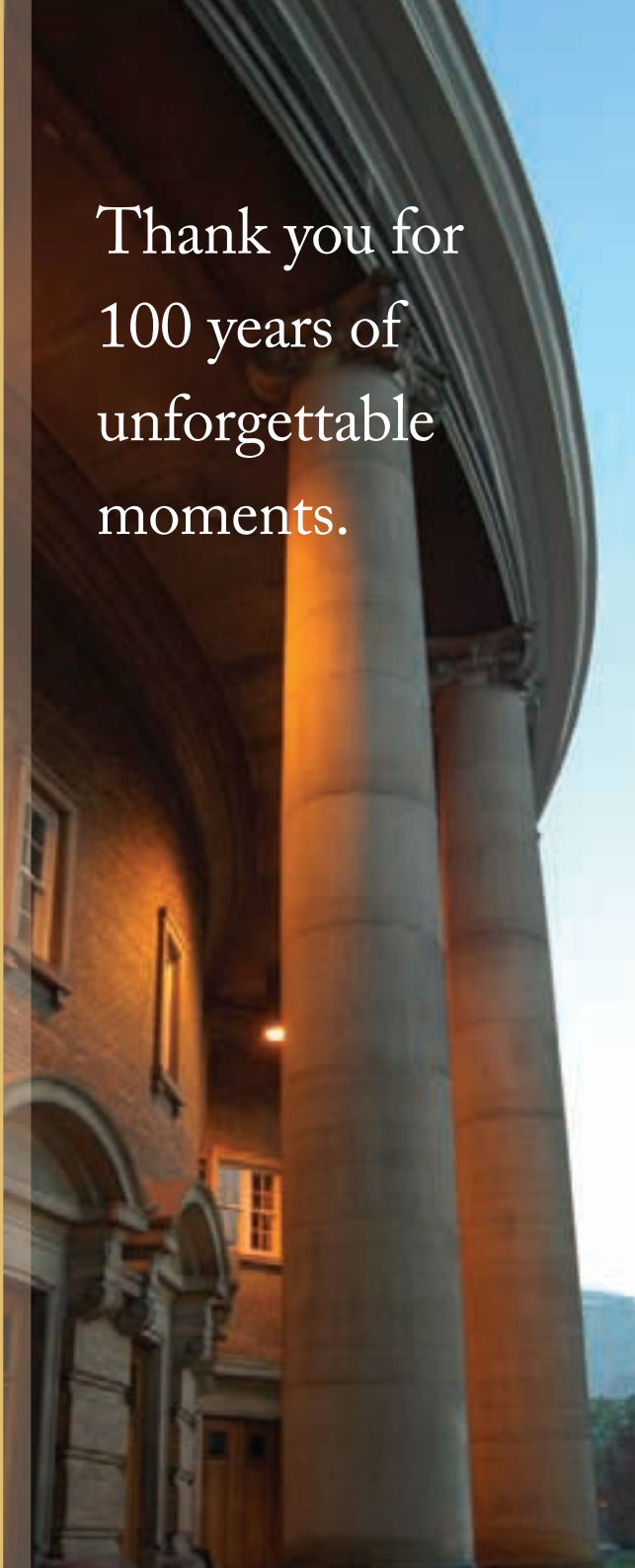
With church attendance declining in Canada, Wyatt says graduates of Emmanuel College need to be able to touch the constituencies they serve with greater imagination and power. "It takes a more entrepreneurial style of ministry," he says.

Wyatt hopes the campaign will raise the college's profile and make theological education attractive for more people. "I see the campaign unfolding as when a pebble is thrown into a pond," he says. "The pebble is the energy to endow a chair. As this news spreads, more people will be touched, fresh thoughts about theological education will ripple out and the number of candidates excited about the challenge of leadership will grow." — *Scott Anderson and Carrie Brodi*





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## The Cabbage Patch Kid

Last year, Mike Wood (BAsc 2003) performed at the World Buskers Festival in Christchurch, New Zealand, catching a catapulted cabbage on top of his head with a spiked motorcycle helmet. He has performed throughout Canada, and in countries such as Ireland, Belgium and Spain. Now an investment analyst in London, England, Wood is breaking into the city's comedy scene. Writer Graham F. Scott spoke with him by phone. *Continued on page 44*



Continued from page 43

**Where did the idea for your act come from?**

I put myself through university as a street performer. In the early days I was a juggler, and my partner and I would juggle five bowling balls between the two of us. It's hard to start juggling five 10-pin bowling balls. The fifth bowling ball needed to come in from somewhere, so I built this little coffee table-sized catapult with a friend from engineering. When my juggling partner left, I had a delicious prop with which to experiment.

**Why a cabbage?**

A melon is too messy; an endive is too small and it flies like a badminton birdie. Lettuce explodes on impact. In the end, after destroying easily a dozen different vegetables, I settled on cabbage. It's roughly spherical, it's available everywhere, it's cheap and it's easy to spike.

**How did you discover that you had this talent?**

I think everybody has this talent, but not everybody has a catapult. It's not particularly hard, I just thought of it first.

**How much do you usually make in an evening?**

Well, that's something that street performers don't like to discuss. It's certainly enough to put gas in the Ferrari – let's leave it at that.

**I notice you use the term "street performer." Is "busker" no longer fashionable? Is it pejorative?**

I don't know that it's pejorative. I think that "street performer" is more descriptive. Because most people, if you say the word "busker" – you know, "my daughter's boyfriend is a busker" – they think, "oh, he's homeless but he still owns a guitar and a hat." So for me, to prevent having to explain myself over and over again, I just say street performer, and people get the idea.

**What's your annual cabbage budget?**

Last year, I deducted \$478 worth of cabbages on my taxes.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOP: GRAHAM F. SCOTT; CENTRE: DOUG FORSTER

## Our Dinner with Harvey



Alumnus Harvey Botting hosts a "Dinner with 12 Strangers" for new U of T students

**D**on't talk to strangers, the childhood dictum goes. U of T students, however, aren't just talking to strangers now – they're sitting down to dinner with them.

Over the past few months, the department of alumni affairs in the division of university advancement has been organizing "Dinner with 12 Strangers" – a program that brings together U of T students, alumni and professors for informal dinner parties. The concept is based on a tradition from UCLA, which threw the first such dinner in 1968. The idea then, as now, was to make a large campus smaller for new students by fostering friendships. Dinners will take place throughout the school year, and will eventually involve most colleges and faculties.



Bonnie Stern

On this particular March evening, 10 people sit around the table in the candlelit dining room of Harvey Botting (BA 1967, MBA 1985), a U of T Alumni Association board member and a former senior vice-president with Rogers Media. Professor Margot Mackay (Dip AAMed 1966, BSc 1967) of medicine is the faculty guest, and cookbook author Bonnie Stern (BA 1969) is pouring the (non-alcoholic) sangria when the students arrive.

The conversation is hesitant at first, as the students figure out each others' majors, years of study and colleges. But over the shaved fennel and orange salad, the conversation loosens up as the talk turns to the current state of Chinese cin-

ema (several of the guests are international students from China), where to get the best ice cream and the vagaries of hunting for a summer job. By the time the remnants of the tiramisu sit before each guest, the chatter flows freely.

It's Stern who sums up the evening as everyone sips their tea and coffee and the candles burn low. The group has been discussing restaurants again – with one of the country's foremost cooking pros at the table, it's a popular topic – and the best places in the city to sample Japanese,

Chinese, Indian, Hungarian and Mexican cooking. "Toronto's really changed from when we were at university," she says. "The whole food culture has developed tremendously. Now you can get any food in the world here." The

diversity of the city, like the university, has blossomed – and this evening, with its globe-trotting conversation and easy rapport, is one more reminder of that.

Soon enough, the cabs arrive to take the students back to campus, and amid a chaos of coats and backpacks, e-mail addresses are hastily scribbled and exchanged. Ambling down the front walk, the students call goodbyes and thanks to their host, and pile into the waiting taxis, strangers no more.

Alumni interested in hosting a "Dinner with 12 Strangers" can call (416) 946-8371, or visit [www.alumni.utoronto.ca/stayconnected/volunteer\\_dinner.html](http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca/stayconnected/volunteer_dinner.html).

– Graham F. Scott



# Accolades



Raymond Moriyama



**I**N May, Canada Post issued a commemorative stamp featuring the Ontario Science Centre, designed by architect **Raymond Moriyama** (BArch 1954) in 1969. The stamp was one of four issued to celebrate the Royal

Architectural Institute of Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Moriyama, one of Canada's most respected architects, founded Moriyama & Teshima Architects in 1958, and was partner in charge of projects such as the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo and the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto.

Seven alumni and one student have been appointed to the Order of Canada, the country's highest distinction for lifetime achievement. Appointed as officers were: **Ross Campbell** (BA 1940 Trinity), senior counsel, GPC/Intercon; **Arthur Hiller** (BA 1947 UC, MA 1950), director of such films as *Love Story* and *Man of La Mancha*; and Professor **Jaymie Matthews** (BSc 1979 New College) of the University of British Columbia. Named members of the order were **Craig Kielburger**, founder and chair of Free the Children; **Hanna Newcombe** (MA 1946, PhD 1950), peace activist and researcher; **Mark Rowswell** (BA 1988 UC), one of China's most popular entertainers; **Robert Stephens** (MD 1947), director of Health Partners International of Canada; and **Setsuko Thurlow** (BSc 1956, MSW 1960), Hiroshima survivor, writer and peace activist.

## Gordon Cressy Leadership Awards

**T**his year, on the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gordon Cressy Leadership Awards, 153 students received recognition for their exceptional contributions to the university. The celebration at the Isabel Bader Theatre on March 1 was marked by a severe winter storm and a second ceremony was held on April 18 at Wycliffe College. Gordon Cressy, a former vice-president at U of T, was on hand to present the awards.

At the reception on March 1, Eleanore Gann - a French major at Innis College - was one of the honoured students. Gann is best known for her work as founder and president of the U of T chapter of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND), Canada's largest Darfur advocacy organization. Between 200,000 and 400,000 people have lost their lives in the region since 2003, as part of an ethnic-cleansing campaign backed by the

Khartoum government.

When Gann was not busy organizing demonstrations or fundraisers on campus, she was running letter-writing campaigns to the prime minister. Last November, after seeing footage of the devastation in Darfur, Gann assembled the cookbook *Cooking for a Cause: Darfur Activism in Your Kitchen*. She sold all 200, and then donated the proceeds to Médecins Sans Frontières. "It meant a lot to me to receive the award in the company of friends and staff from my college, because Innis has a warm community that fosters student involvement," says Gann. "And I hope the award will



Eleanore Gann

help to spread awareness about Darfur."

Among the many other honoured students were Anneleen Naudts, who served as president of the Victoria University Environmental Society and initiated The Human Bean, a student-run fair-trade café at Victoria; Michael Maksimowski, a psychology and zoology major who volunteered with Peace by Peace, which trains university students to teach Grade 5 children how to peacefully resolve conflict; and Tasleem Murji, who represented U of T's 800 medical students as president of the Medical Society. - Roxana Olivera

## ALUMNI EVENTS

June 8. **Victoria and the Island Branch Annual Dinner and General Meeting.** Guest speaker: Dr. Richard Beamish, U of T grad and senior scientist at Nanaimo's Pacific Biological Station. Dinner, \$35. Reception and cocktails: 6 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Main dining room, University Club, University of Victoria. Contact Beverley Straub Watkins, (250) 370-2830.

June 18. **U of T Alumni Association Annual General Meeting.** Speaker: Dr. Maria Shapiro. 5:30 p.m. Hart House. For more information, contact Sabrina Chang at (416) 978-5881 or [sm.chang@utoronto.ca](mailto:sm.chang@utoronto.ca).

June 23. **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SOAR BC Celebration for Southern Ontario Alumni Reunion.** Cocktails: 6-7 p.m. Dinner and dancing: 7 p.m. Business/formal attire. \$85/person; \$150/couple; \$600/table (seats 8). Main ballroom, Renaissance Hotel, 1133 West Hastings St., Vancouver. [www.soarbc.ca](http://www.soarbc.ca)

## EXHIBITIONS

### Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

To Aug. 31. **The Age of Guessing is Passed Away.** This exhibition forms part of the continent-wide commemoration of the bicentennials (2007-2011) of David Thompson, who has been called "the greatest practical land geographer that the world has produced." Thompson's writings will be featured in an examination of the fur trade's role in the mapping of Canada. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 120 St. George St. (416) 978-5285, [www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/exhibitions/current.html](http://www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/exhibitions/current.html)

### The Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design

To Aug. 4. **Mid-Century Icons: Architectural Photography from the Panda Collection** explores the relationship between architectural photography and the study and practice of architecture; often a photo is the first and only impression we have of a building. Panda Associates, a commercial photography firm, played a major role in documenting the

beginning and growth of modern architecture in Canada. The photographs on display capture the postwar Canadian dream – a sophisticated, leisurely and urbane lifestyle. Free admission. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Eric Arthur



*Fabergé Plant, 1950, from "Mid-Century Icons: Architectural Photography from the Panda Collection" at the Eric Arthur Gallery*

Gallery, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. 230 College St. (416) 978-5038, [enquiry.ald@utoronto.ca](mailto:enquiry.ald@utoronto.ca), [www.ald.utoronto.ca](http://www.ald.utoronto.ca)

To June 17. **Projections** is the first major survey to trace projection-based installation in contemporary art in Canada from the late 1960s to the present. The exhibition is displayed across four U of T galleries: the Blackwood Gallery at UTM, the Doris McCarthy Gallery at UTSC, and the U of T Art Centre and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery on the downtown campus. All of the works involve projection, whether in the form of light, slides, film, video or television.

Justina M. Barnicke Art Gallery: Free admission. Monday to Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. 7 Hart House Circle. (416) 978-8398, [www.utoronto.ca/gallery](http://www.utoronto.ca/gallery)

Doris McCarthy Gallery, U of T Scarborough: Free admission. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. 1265 Military Trail. (416) 287-7007, [dmg@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:dmg@utsc.utoronto.ca) or [www.utsc.utoronto.ca/dmg](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/dmg)

U of T Art Centre. Students, U of T staff and faculty, and Art Centre members are offered free admission with valid ID. General admission is

\$5; \$3 for seniors. Tuesday to Friday, 12-5 p.m.; Saturday, 12-4 p.m. 15 King's College Circle. (416) 978-1838, [www.utoronto.ca/artcentre](http://www.utoronto.ca/artcentre)

Blackwood Gallery, U of T Mississauga: Free admission. Monday to Friday, and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. 3359 Mississauga Rd. N. (905) 828-3789 or [www.blackwoodgallery.ca](http://www.blackwoodgallery.ca)

## OUTDOORS

### U of T Scarborough

June 20, July 12, week of Aug. 13. **Green Initiatives Gardening Event.** June 20: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. July 12: 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Week of August 13: time t.b.a. Front entrance of the Arts & Administration Building. [www.utsc.utoronto.ca](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca)

## CINEMA

June 15, July 19, Aug. 10, Sept. 12. **Pictures in the Parking Lot.** The University of Toronto Mississauga is holding several nights of cinema under the stars to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Free. For updated information on this event, and other 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/40thanniversary](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/40thanniversary).

## CAMPS

July and August. The Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering is offering **SCI-Camp** (grades 1 to 6) and **Jr. DEEP** (grades 7 and 8), which bring scientific and engineering concepts to life during week-long day camps. Each course focuses on a different topic, such as the solar system, the human body and aerodynamics. Camps start July 2 and run until August 24.

**DEEP** provides high school students (grades 9 to 12) the opportunity for advanced study in areas within engineering, science, business and technology. From biomedical engineering to a "mini MBA," DEEP offers one of the most diverse ranges of pre-university courses in North America. All courses are taught on the St. George campus. For a complete university experience, a residence option is also available. DEEP runs from July 9 to August 3.

For more information about SCI-Camp, Jr. DEEP or DEEP, visit [www.engineering.utoronto.ca](http://www.engineering.utoronto.ca)

## After the Last Exam

Alumni “call it a day” as summer nears

### USE THE FORCE!

In the late 1970s, there was a fad called “pyramid power.” The idea was to put a pyramid-shaped object in a place you thought required positive energy and, through some unknown force, it would give you extra insight or luck. Even the Toronto Maple Leafs tried it during the playoffs one year when Red Kelly was coach.

My second-year organic chemistry course had been very tough, and I knew I needed help if I was going to pass. I brought my molecular model kit to the final exam, but, instead of using the little tubes and connectors to build molecules, I designed myself a pyramid-shaped hat and put it on. Somehow, the pyramid conveyed special powers into my brain and I passed the exam. (And the hat looked very nice according to those around me.)

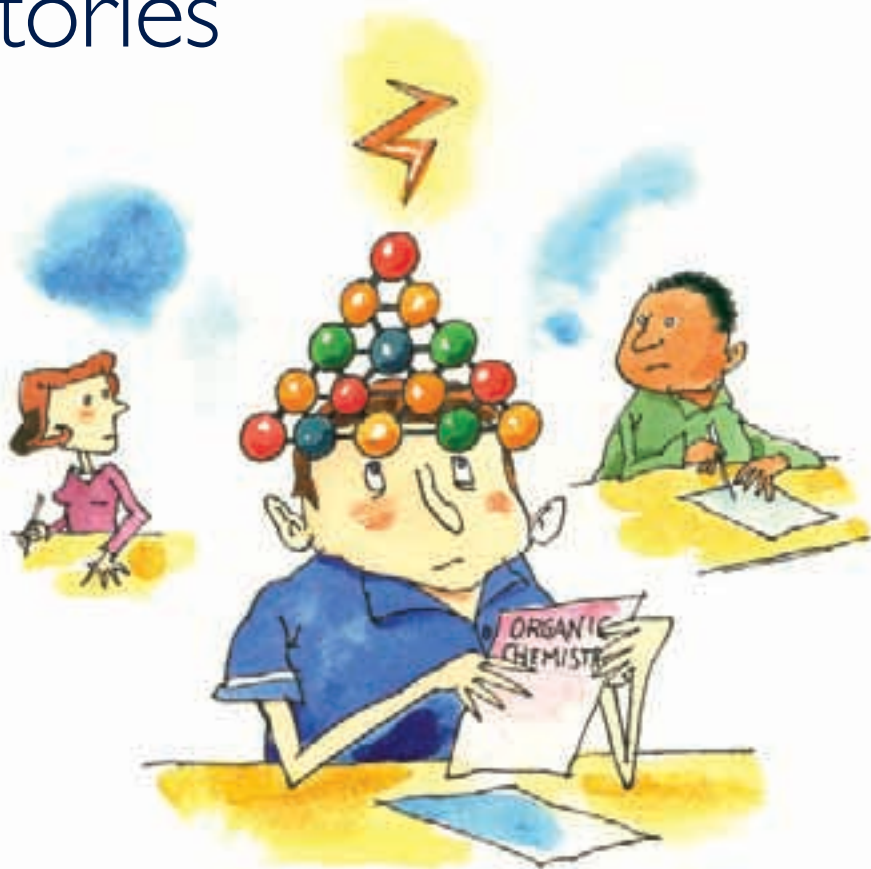
Not wanting to tempt fate, I gave the kit to a first-year student and avoided organic chemistry from then on.

*Clayton Babcock  
BSc 1981 UTM  
Toronto*

### A TELEVISION FIRST

After graduating from engineering in 1952, I got a summer job with General Electric installing audio transmission equipment at the new CBC station in Toronto. The TV station – Canada’s first – was scheduled to begin broadcasting that September.

When I had time to spare, I went over to the studios to watch rehearsals. One day, the CBC’s chief transmitter asked me why I was there. I explained that for the previous four years I’d



worked on Skule Nite at U of T. He advised me to talk to the program director. “I bet he’d love to hire someone with your experience and interest.”

He was right. I started work as a dolly pusher, manoeuvring a cameraman and large camera around the studio floor. My first assignment was opening night of the live-action drama, “Call It a Day.” Everything went fine until the last scene when I heard the director yelling in my headphones, “There’s a ladder in the shot! Strike it!” That’s how I became the first technician to be seen on Canadian TV – carrying an aluminum ladder against a black drop outside the set’s bedroom window. I was almost ready to “call it a day” myself. But I didn’t – and stayed with CBC until 1965.

*Michael Harrison  
BAsC 1952  
Collingwood, Ontario*

### A SUMMERTO SAVOUR

I was finishing up my master’s degree in English in the spring of 1980. Jobs were scarce for graduates, so I accepted a position in book publishing before

the term ended and tried to finish my papers while working full time. My hyperactive launch into a career was a spectacular failure that ended in me – normally an obedient citizen – simply not showing up to work two weeks after I started. I hid in my room at the graduate residence and even avoided my employer by putting on a British accent when he called.

But something else happened at the end of that term. After I apologized to my boss, resigned from the job and took an extension on my two remaining papers, I spent the summer playing softball on King’s College Circle with friends – an experience I almost missed, in my premature desire to be a grown-up. I now remember it as the best summer of my life. It solidified friendships that are mine to this day and made me realize how human I was and how precious our time at U of T was.

And there was a better job waiting in September.

*Barbara Wade Rose  
MA 1980  
Toronto*



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## Hark the Heraldry



This Royal Coat of Arms forms the centrepiece of the heraldic display in Hart House's Great Hall. One of the largest such displays in Canada, it was unveiled with the opening of Hart House in 1919. The Great Hall's south wall includes the British Royal Arms and the arms of the 51 universities in the Commonwealth at the time, and the north wall depicts the arms of 74 universities from British-allied countries during the First World War.

The Royal Arms and the 125 other shields were painted by Alexander Scott Carter, an English-born architect and artist who came to Toronto in 1912. Carter's heraldic works can be seen at Trinity College, Soldiers' Tower and Simcoe Hall, but the Great Hall display remains his masterpiece. The delicate raised patterns were created by layering gesso directly on the walls. Once these raised textures were finished, Carter gilded the details with gold leaf and then painted them individually.

Decades of rough treatment prompted a major restoration of the artwork in 2003. "The situation was really desperate," says Roumen Kirinkov, of Zograph Studios in Toronto. He and his team of restorers spent more than nine weeks carefully repairing each shield on the south wall, paid for by U of T alumni and universities represented on the arms. The north wall, however, awaits donations to fund a similar restoration.

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