The Watchman Samer Muscati's quest for justice / **What's Your Scene?** A new take on cities / **Writing Contest Winners**
Prince of Protocol The UN's Desmond Parker / **Better Living** What makes life good? / **Lit Junkie** Everybody loves Nick Mount

U of T Magazine

SUMMER 2011

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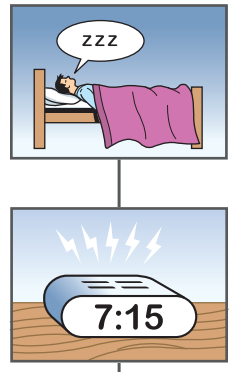

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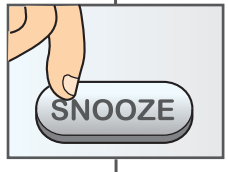
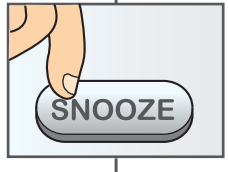
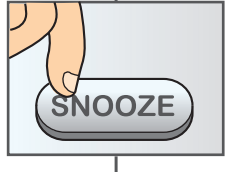
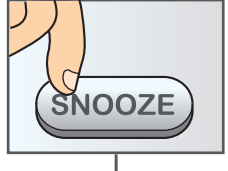
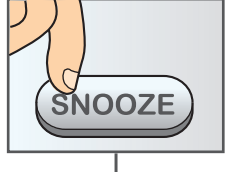
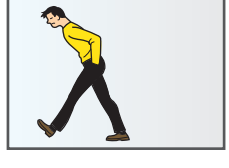




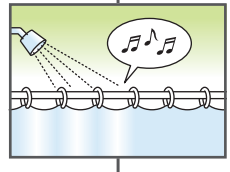


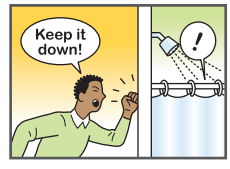


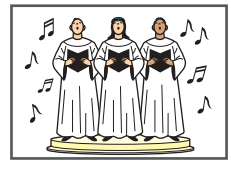


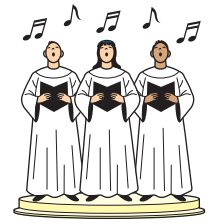


DAY OF THE CONCERT









This musical journey brought to you in part by MBNA.

University is all about the journey. It's about pursuing passions – musical or otherwise – in the lecture hall and beyond. MBNA is a big believer in life after class and that's why they sponsor programs like the Faculty of Music Concert Series through U of T affinity products.

What exactly are affinity products? Valuable services like the credit card options that MBNA provides to our friends and alumni. The revenue generated supports concerts and other initiatives for U of T students and alumni alike. More than 100,000 people now take advantage of U of T affinity products, helping our student body make the most of student life.

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AFFINITY PARTNER

Summer 2011

Volume 38, No. 4

30 The Watchman

Samer Muscati helps citizens find justice in war-weary Iraq

BY KEVIN CHARLES REDMON

COVER ILLUSTRATION: JESSE LENZ, CONTENTS PHOTO: SANDY NICHOLSON

UofTMagazine

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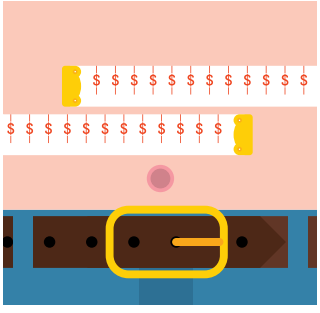
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Departments

Have a hot dog on the Sid Smith steps at 3 a.m. after a long night of dancing

– Computer-science student Peter Tran suggests something that every U of T student should do at least once before graduating, p. 14

14 "I didn't choose painting, it chose me": Governor General's Award-winning artist Shirley Wiitasalo



19 Should people get paid for losing weight and improving their health?

41 As chief of protocol, Desmond Parker brings peace of mind to United Nations' guests

Letters

My clearest memories of Mike are his attempts to explain economic theory to me in our graduating year. I must say that he was not entirely successful, but I did manage to graduate.

MORTON (MORTY) EISEN
BCOMM 1955, TORONTO

Don't Discourage Exercise
We were dismayed to read "Don't Overdo It!" (Spring 2011), which suggests that women who exercise strenuously may be at greater risk of developing dementia later in life. After reading the source research paper, by Prof. Mary Tierney, we are shocked that anyone would recommend reducing the intensity of activity on the basis of such uncertain results.

The study found weak to moderate correlations between reported physical activity and neuropsychological test scores among 90 women. A questionnaire asked the women to recall participation in strenuous activities (such as swimming laps or aerobics) and moderate activities (such as brisk walking or volleyball) from high school to menopause. This measure, however, has not been validated and reports an average of 2.5 hours of strenuous activity per week – well beyond the average amount of vigorous activity (less than 0.5 hours per week for women ages 20 to 60) reported in the Canadian Health Measures Survey.

Moreover, other research rejects increased risk with more activity. Middleton and colleagues studied more than 9,000 women and found lifetime activity actually *reduced* the risk of cognitive impairment. The amount of exercise had no effect. Another study of 1,880 people, by Scarmeas et al., found that the risk of Alzheimer's decreased by 25 per cent with some activity and by 33 per cent with much activity.

While U of T alumni appreciate lively stories of interesting research, they also appreciate nuanced discussions of careful, well-developed research – not to mention a balanced exploration of both sides of an issue. Responsible research requires much more substantive evidence before we can make a public recommendation.

PROF. SCOTT THOMAS AND DR. DOUG RICHARDS
FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

A Questionable Link
I was surprised by the discussion in "Don't Overdo It!" regarding the relationship between exercise and neuropsychological test scores, which identified estrogen deficiency as the possible mechanism. Data have demonstrated that exercise itself is not the primary cause of menstrual-cycle dysfunction; rather, it is exercise in the presence of an energy deficiency that can lead to menstrual-cycle abnormalities and estrogen deficiency. There is no supporting evidence that these women suffered from lower estrogen over their lifetime.

SARAH L. WEST
MSc 2007, TORONTO

Prof. Mary Tierney responds:
Prof. Thomas and Dr. Richards express concern that we found "weak to moderate correlations" between reported physical activity and cognition. In fact, we found significant regression coefficients, which indicated that greater amounts of strenuous activity were significantly associated with poorer performance on five of our six neuropsychological tests.

Thomas and Richards refer to two studies that supposedly refute our findings. However, Middleton et al. acknowledge that their cognitive measure was a very insensitive tool and unable to detect a response to exercise dose. We, on the other hand, used highly sensitive measures of cognitive function that allowed us to detect this relationship. Scarmeas et al. studied only older men and women and their likelihood of developing dementia whereas our study examined lifetime exposure to physical activity in women before menopause. Therefore, the two studies are not comparable to ours.

While we recognize that our measure has not been validated and is a limitation, the measure we used was the same one used in a study of 110,599 California teachers (Dallal et al.). Consistent with this study, we reported 2.5 hours of strenuous activity per week. Although this is beyond the 0.5 hours per week reported in the Canadian Health Measures Survey, our sample included healthy, well-educated women, who are known to engage in

more physical activity (for example, Lee et al.). The authors of the Canadian Health Measures Survey also caution that this tool is likely to underestimate vigorous activity.

On the issue of estrogen, lower estrogen was only one mechanism we used to explain the negative associations between lifelong strenuous activity and cognition. This is the same mechanism used to explain why strenuous activity reduces the risk of breast cancer. The other proposed mechanism was long-term elevations in circulating glucocorticoid levels, known to be toxic to the brain. We are not proposing that lower estrogen causes menstrual-cycle abnormalities as only 11 women in our sample reported amenorrhea for short durations.

Meeting Mike

I was delighted to pick up the spring issue and see the face of a man with whom I have had no contact for some 55 years: Prof. Michael Hare ("A Capital Achievement").

It was my privilege to be acquainted with Mike from 1951 to 1955, while we were enrolled in commerce and finance at U of T. We spent much of our time in the bowels of what was formerly the economics building, on Bloor Street. We last spoke at a classmate's wedding that we attended together shortly after our graduation.

My clearest memories of Mike are his attempts to explain economic theory to me in our graduating year. I must say that he was not entirely successful, but I did manage to graduate.

I ascertained from the article that he has refined his teaching skills over the years, imparting his vast knowledge to more than 32,000 students.

I can only hope that he and I will meet at least once more, with our remaining classmates, perhaps, at our 60th class reunion in 2015!

MORTON (MORTY) EISEN
BComm 1955, TORONTO

Criticisms, or Curios?

Most government ministers are capable of earning brickbats, but it takes Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird to up the stakes to "bric-a-bracs," as reported by Andrew Mitrovica in "True North" (Spring 2011).

JAMES GOW
BASc 1946, FERGUS, ONTARIO

Diminishing the Past

I was astonished to read in the spring issue that the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to the university in 1939 is to be considered a "more minor royal event" than the marriage of Prince William to Kate Middleton. Whether one is a monarchist or not, it should be obvious that a visit by the then-reigning monarch was a *very* major event – considerably more so than watching the marriage, via television, of a prince who is not even the heir to the throne. Maybe members of your staff should take a course in constitutional history.

JANICE YALDEN
BA 1952 VICTORIA, OTTAWA

Group of Eight

I wish to correct an error that appeared in the article "Body Double" (Spring 2011). Although he worked closely with the seven artists during his lifetime, Tom Thomson was not a Group of Seven artist. The original members named themselves the Group of Seven in 1920, three years after Thomson died.

EILEEN PRETTYMAN
BA 1948 VICTORIA, TORONTO

Tiny Type

The spring issue touts your new typefaces as "highly legible…for readers of all ages." One of them has "subtle quirks." These subtle quirks make it almost illegible for readers of *old* age. The print in the sidebars is microscopic, and the non-white background adds to the problem. We older graduates may have eye problems, but we like to read – if editors allow it.

JEAN SONNEFELD
BA 1950 VICTORIA, TORONTO

Meeting Global Challenges

U of T is teaching future leaders to think creatively across disciplines

THIS JUNE, MORE THAN 12,000 STUDENTS are graduating from the University of Toronto in 24 separate ceremonies. It's a joyous time of year. And seeing all those talented students cross the stage, eager to make their mark on the world, is a wonderful affirmation of the evergreen purpose of higher education.

The cycle of education and aspiration may be timeless, but our students are inheriting a world in transition at an unprecedented pace. Global economic competition and collaboration are both intensifying. The next generation will also be facing, among other challenges, the ongoing effects of climate change, stunning shifts in the political landscape and economic influence of nations and regions, and a relentless multinational quest for sustainable energy sources and raw materials.

This fast-evolving situation helps explain why the University of Toronto is working harder than ever to nurture innovation and creativity in all our students, and why we are also trying to give our students a level of global fluency that was unthinkable – and arguably unnecessary – 20 or 30 years ago.

New issues are reshaping the university's research landscape as well. Throughout U of T's history, dedicated and talented faculty members have always responded to important challenges facing humanity and, in many cases, discovered practical solutions. Today, however, the problems are more complex than ever. They require concerted effort by people who are able to think creatively and critically across subject areas and work collaboratively with colleagues from other cultures, both in Canada and around the world.

In response, we have been recruiting more international students and faculty to U of T, and creating a greater number of small-learning communities that allow for more direct interaction among students and faculty and more informal inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural exchanges. Looking ahead, we expect to expand the number of international study and research opportunities for both undergraduates and graduates alike. We are also providing more opportunities for undergraduates to conduct original research and to pursue topics, such as bioengineering or digital humanities or quantum information processing, that blur the boundaries between traditional disciplines.

These boundary-crossing initiatives will expand in the years ahead. U of T has identified several exciting areas of research where we hope to make strategic investments: early human development (featured in this issue of *U of T Magazine*), biopharmaceuticals and nanotechnology, to name a few.

To safeguard standards, we ground trans-disciplinary creativity in excellence across the full spectrum of disciplines. For example, the QS agency very recently surveyed thousands of professors worldwide to rank university performance by subject. U of T was not only in the top 15 globally in medicine, psychology, biological sciences, engineering and computer science. The university did similarly well in English, modern languages, history, philosophy, and linguistics.

These results are reassuring, but the university can't be complacent. Competition for the best faculty and students – and for financial resources – is intensifying as the market for knowledge goes global. Powerful, emerging economies such as China and India are investing heavily in post-secondary education. China alone has some 20 million university and college students.

Unfortunately, with Canadian governments fighting deficits and trying to reduce debt, universities and colleges across Canada are relying increasingly on tuitions and private support. (It may surprise some to hear that provincial grants now cover just 40 per cent of the university's annual operating budget, down from 70 per cent two decades ago.) U of T fares remarkably well compared to its international peers on a fraction of the resources, but this disadvantage is persisting and threatens to grow worse. Since 2000, a dozen universities, all from the U.S., have mounted fund-raising campaigns of $3 billion or more.

We cannot afford to fall behind. Higher education and advanced research in today's world has a massive impact that extends into every other field of human endeavor. And Canada must have universities that can do two related things: conduct the advanced research that will help surmount the grand challenges that humanity now faces, and offer the best and brightest students an education that will help them build a more successful nation and a better world. No university in Canada is better positioned to meet those objectives. In future columns, I look forward to sharing more details about how U of T intends to fulfill its leadership responsibilities.

Sincerely,
David Naylor

EXPLORE THE WORLD

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM 2012

Explore the World with University of Toronto in 2012!

Join us as we explore the archeology, natural history and contemporary politics on an expedition to Newfoundland, Labrador & Baffin Island. For those who love horticulture, don't miss the Floriade, an event that takes place once every 10 years in the Netherlands. Music lovers can experience Dresden and Berlin with UofT alumnus Rick Phillips, host and producer of *Sound Advice,* CBC Radio's weekly guide to classical music.

We are thrilled to introduce the Lifestyle Explorations series to Cuenca, Ecuador and Aix-en-Provence, France. These month-long stays allow you to immerse yourself into the lifestyle and culture enjoyed by the locals. Our Great Cities program was developed for those who love to explore all that the world's greatest cities have to offer and in 2012 we give you an Insider's Perspective of London and Berlin.

We hope you will join us as we explore the unique culture and history of communities around the world.

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- ❒ Cruise the Lesser Antilles
- ❒ Galapagos Islands
- ❒ Lifestyle Explorations: Ecuador
- ❒ Tahiti & French Polynesia
- ❒ Treasures of the Mekong
- ❒ Canary Islands & Iberian Peninsula
- ❒ Waterways of Holland & Belgium
- ❒ European Coastal Civilizations
- ❒ Alumni College in Austria
- ❒ Yunnan & Tibet
- ❒ Alumni College in Apulia
- ❒ Baltic Sea & Norwegian Fjords
- ❒ Jewels of Antiquity
- ❒ Great Journey through Europe
- ❒ Newfoundland, Labrador & Baffin Island
- ❒ Danube & Hapsburg Empire
- ❒ Lifestyle Explorations: Provence
- ❒ Alumni College in Normandy
- ❒ Alumni College in Tuscany
- ❒ Waterways of Russia
- ❒ Ancient Greece & Turkey
- ❒ Treasures of East Africa
- ❒ River Life: Rhine, Main, Mosel Rivers
- ❒ Nepal & Bhutan
- ❒ Music in Dresden & Berlin with Rick Phillips

GREAT ADVENTURE

- ❒ Haida Gwaii

GREAT CITIES

- ❒ London
- ❒ Berlin

GREAT JOURNEYS

Jan 12–24
Treasures of South America
(Argentina, Chile)
From $4595 US + air

Jan 16–23
Cruise the Lesser Antilles (Caribbean)
From $3508 US incl. air

Jan 27–Feb 4
Galapagos Islands
(Ecuador)
From $3595 US + air

Jan 29–Feb 28
Lifestyle Explorations: Ecuador
$2995 US + air

Feb 16–26
Tahiti & French Polynesia
From $4995 US incl. air

March 13–28
Treasures of the Mekong (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos)
From $3995 US + air

March 28–April 8
Canary Islands & Iberian Peninsula
(Portugal, The Canaries, Spain)
From $4895 US incl. air

April 10–18
Waterways of Holland & Belgium
From $2395 US + air

April 15–23
European Coastal Civilizations (Portugal, Spain, France, UK)
From $3695 US + air

May 7–17
Alumni College in Austria
$2895 US + air

May 26–June 12
Yunnan & Tibet
(China, Tibet)
$8988 incl. air

May 29–June 6
Alumni College in Apulia (Italy)
$2295 US + air

June 5–17
Baltic Sea & Norwegian Fjords
(Baltic Countries)
From $7695 US + air

June 8–23
Jewels of Antiquity
(France, Italy, Greece, Croatia)
From $3850 US incl. air

June 28-July 8
Great Journey through Europe (Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland)
From $3795 US + air

July 10-23
Newfoundland, Labrador & Baffin Island (Canada)
From $4995 + air

Aug 31-Sept 13
Danube & Hapsburg Empire
(Hungary to Poland)
From $3995 US + air

Sept 1-30
Lifestyle Explorations: Provence (France)
$4995 US + air

Sept 10-19
Alumni College in Normandy (France)
$2695 US + air

Sept 19-27
Alumni College in Tuscany (Italy)
$2695 US + air

Sept 26-Oct 9
Waterways of Russia
From $3995 US + air

Oct 11–19
Ancient Greece & Turkey
From $3295 US + air

Oct 18–Nov 1
Treasures of East Africa
(Tanzania, Kenya)
$5695 US + air

Oct 23-31
River Life: Rhine, Main, Mosel Rivers
(Germany)
From $3295 US + air

Oct 27- Nov 13
Nepal & Bhutan
$10,988 incl. air

Nov 2-10
Music in Dresden & Berlin with Rick Phillips (Germany)
$4595 + air

GREAT ADVENTURE

July 14-22
Haida Gwaii
(Canada)
$4400 + air

GREAT CITIES

April 11-17
London: An Insider's Perspective
(England)
$2195 US + air

July 21-28
Berlin: An Insider's Perspective
(Germany)
$2295 US + air

Prices are in Canadian dollars (unless otherwise noted), 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.

More detailed information is available at **www.alumnitravel.utoronto.ca**

Calendar

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


Raise a glass at the Craft Beer Festival

JULY 28

Hart House Craft Beer Festival

Celebrate summer at the fourth annual Hart House Craft Beer Festival, which will feature some of the best craft brewed ales, lagers and Pilsners from small breweries across Canada. Hart House executive chef Marco Tucci will provide guests with an assortment of barbecued fare while DJs from CIUT 89.5 spin beats in the courtyard. Admission restricted to those age 19 and over. $35 (students, $30), plus tax. Price includes eight beer samples (additional sample tickets can be bought on site). Purchase tickets at (416) 978-8849 or www.uofttix.ca. 7 p.m. 7 Hart House Circle.

For more info: Contact Nicole Pointon at (416) 978-7585 or nicole.pointon@utoronto.ca.

Alumni

July and August, Soldiers' Tower
The Memorial Room in the Soldiers' Tower will be open to visitors on select dates in July and August. A carillon recital series, sponsored by the McLean Foundation, features guest artists representing the French, Dutch and Belgian carillon schools. Evening recitals on July 6, 13 and 20. Time TBA. 7 Hart House Circle. For more information, please contact (416) 978-0544 or soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca. Visit http://alumni.utoronto.ca/tower.

Exhibitions

July 11 to September 16, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
An exhibition of books donated by Ralph Stanton. Stanton, who died in 2010, was one of the most generous donors to the Fisher Rare Book Library. His books span every time period from the age of the incunable (15th century or earlier) to modern classics. Free. Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 120 St. George St. (416) 978-5285 or www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/exhibitions/current.html

Nature

July, Koffler Scientific Reserve at Jokers Hill
July 9: Bugs, Bees and Butterflies. This 90-minute nature walk is led by Maydianne Andrade and Andrew Mason, professors of biology at U of T Scarborough. Walks at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A **kid's bug hunt** at 12:45 p.m. Free, but online registration is required. Enrolment is limited; sign up early. 17000 Dufferin St., King Township. To register: http://ksr.utoronto.ca or ksr.info@utoronto.ca.

July 16: The Secret Lives of Summer Wildflowers. This day-long workshop will focus on wildflower identification and discussions about natural history, ecology and lore. Instructor: naturalist Richard Aaron. $60 per person; includes a sandwich luncheon. 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Online registration is required. Please register each person separately. Enrolment is limited, so sign up early. 17000 Dufferin St. (between Highway 9 and 19th Sideroad), King Township. To register and for more info: http://ksr.utoronto.ca or ksr.info@utoronto.ca.

Special Events

July 15, U of T Mississauga
Flicks on the Field: How to Train Your Dragon. Free. Movie starts at dusk (approximately 9 p.m.) on the front lawn of the William G. Davis Building (South Building). In the event of rain, the movie will be shown in the CCT Building, lecture theatre 1080. Free parking in Lot 8. For info: (905) 569-4924 or m.heide@utoronto.ca.

Theatre

July 20 to August 6, Philosopher's Walk
Lysistrata: The Sex Strike. Germaine Greer's adaptation of Aristophanes' bawdy battle of the sexes, presented on an outdoor stage. One woman encourages a nation of lustful ladies to deny their husbands sexual attention until the men put a stop to civil war. Mature content warning: this is not a family show. $10 (students and seniors, $8). PWYC Wednesdays. Tickets available through the box office, or before the show (cash only). Wed. to Sat. at 8 p.m. Philosopher's Stage at Philosopher's Walk. 80 Queen's Pk. Box office: (416) 978-8849 or www.uofttix.ca.

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Literature doesn't get produced in a vacuum

English professor Nick Mount
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Literature Junkie

From street art to hip hop, Nick Mount connects English lit to pop culture

ASK NICK MOUNT WHAT MAKES A GOOD TEACHER, and he looks a little uncomfortable. It's a boilerplate question that invites the gruffly gracious English professor to blow his own horn. And it doesn't take long to figure out that cliché and self-aggrandizement are probably two of Mount's least favourite things.

But every time Mount wins an award (most recently, the prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship), the media wants to know his secret – why he has been blog-checked by some students as the best teacher they ever had; become the subject of a Facebook page called "I Heart Nick Mount;" and been showcased on TVO as a Best Lecturer finalist. "There really isn't any one right way to teach," Mount says. "But being able to remain curious about the content and the students is essential. You have to stay open, so that your lecture notes don't become dogma."

The class that Mount is best known for is the first-year survey course "Literature for Our Time," and it exemplifies his view that course material cannot be static. "When I took it over, it was primarily dead white men from the 20th century who I happened to like. I kept most of them, ›

PHOTO: DEREK SHAPTON

added a few women and condensed them all in the first term." The second term became something else entirely. Mount enthusiastically crowded it with young, living writers, such as Newfoundland author Lisa Moore (*Open*) and graphic novelist Chris Ware (*Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth*). As time and money allows, he will even bring the authors in to speak. He changes some of the books each year, he says – "which forces me to stay fresh."

"Fresh" is a word he likes; "hip," not so much. Even though Mount has received a great deal of attention for playing pop and rap music before lectures and during breaks, he's not doing it to curry favour. "I think if you're over 40 and you try to play music that you think an 18-year-old will like, you'll look like an idiot," he says. (Mount is 47.) "Students are not there so you can be cool and be their friend. They're there because you've spent a ridiculous amount of time studying the subject in which they're interested." Indeed, his song choices are connected to the work under study; prior to taking up Sylvia Plath's *Ariel*, for example, he'll play a confessional rap by Nova Scotia hip-hop artist Classified.

And there, if anything, is the secret: Mount's ability to directly connect English literature to the culture in which young people live. Informed by his past as a DJ, and as a "music junkie," he'll reference street art or popular movies, or show how Canadian poet Karen Solie has created the literary equivalent of a musical mashup. "It's a way of demonstrating that literature doesn't get produced in a vacuum," says Mount, who is also associate chair within the department.

Add to which, Mount never forgets his audience. He didn't even attend university until his late twenties ("It just didn't exist on the psychological horizon," he shrugs), and says that instructors imperil themselves when they pay more attention to their books than to the outside world and the students who will soon reshape it. Universities "miss something when they don't have people from unorthodox career backgrounds," says Mount, a former division manager for Woolco department stores. "People with a sense that there are other ways of thinking about things." – **CYNTHIA MACDONALD**

Women's Advocate

Christine Kung'u fights for abused women in her native Kenya

CHRISTINE KUNG'U, a master of laws candidate, has always seen the world through feminist eyes. Growing up in Nairobi, Kenya, she realized at an early age that women weren't treated as equals and questioned the domestic violence that was prevalent in her community. "It wasn't a secret when someone's wife was getting beaten," she says. "I'd talk to my mom and grandmother and ask why this was the case."

After graduating from the University of Nairobi's law school, Kung'u worked as a legal officer and project co-ordinator at the Women's Rights Awareness Programme in Nairobi. It was there she came to understand why women weren't fighting back. Kung'u learned that the money and time it takes to prosecute (a court case can drag on for years), along with the stereotype of a wife as sexual property, were often impossible to overcome.

Kung'u plans to return to Kenya after graduating from U of T and gaining some work experience in North America. She hopes to open a shelter for women and children, and offer services such as legal aid, legal education and advocacy work. Kung'u is writing her thesis on the criminalization of marital rape in Kenya – which is not a sexual offense in the country. "It's a norm," she says. "In Kenya, when a woman gets married she gives ongoing consent to have sexual relations with her husband. If she refuses to have sex with him, she might be beaten up and forced."

While working as a legal officer in Kenya, Kung'u repeatedly saw women try to escape their abusive spouses only to later return to them. This has informed her belief that criminalizing marital rape is necessary, but stereotypes about married women and the sexual relationship within the marriage also need to be addressed. She knows change won't be easy, but says: "If I don't help, I won't make a difference." – **SARAH ELTON**

EPHEMERA

According to Japanese legend, anyone who folds 1,000 paper cranes will be granted a wish. In the spirit of this tradition, U of T students made colourful cranes to show support for the people of Japan and the Pacific Rim after the tsunami and earthquake in March. The U of T student group FOLD (Fly with Origami, Learn to Dream) and Hart House staff created them for a public ceremony, hosted by U of T in the Multi-Faith Centre. They urged guests to write a message of hope on the birds, and also taught people how to make their own – resulting in a collection of delicate paper prayers.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHRISTINE KUNG'U

The fourth floor of the Exam Centre on the St. George Campus is certified LEED Gold, the highest level of any building at U of T

Intellectual Hubs

New instructional centres are opening at U of T's east and west campuses

U OF T'S EAST AND WEST CAMPUSES are opening state-of-the-art instructional centres that will give them each a much-needed boost in academic space, while making a relatively small impact on the environment.

U of T Scarborough is "emerging from behind the trees" with a building that will position the campus as an "intellectual and cultural hub" for the eastern GTA, says Andrew Arifuzzaman, the campus's chief strategy officer.

Designed by Diamond and Schmitt Architects, the 165,000-square-foot Instructional Centre boosts space per student on campus by 25 per cent. In practical terms, the new facility means more study space, 13 new lecture halls and classrooms, additional services such as computer labs, and a new home for the management department, co-op programs, and computer and mathematical sciences departments. It also has a restaurant and café, with street-front access and patios, designed to animate Military Trail.

The number of students attending U of T has ballooned in recent years, with a big chunk of the growth occurring at the east and west campuses. In the past decade enrolment at U of T Scarborough has doubled, to 10,400; at U of T Mississauga it has expanded almost 70 per cent, to 10,500.

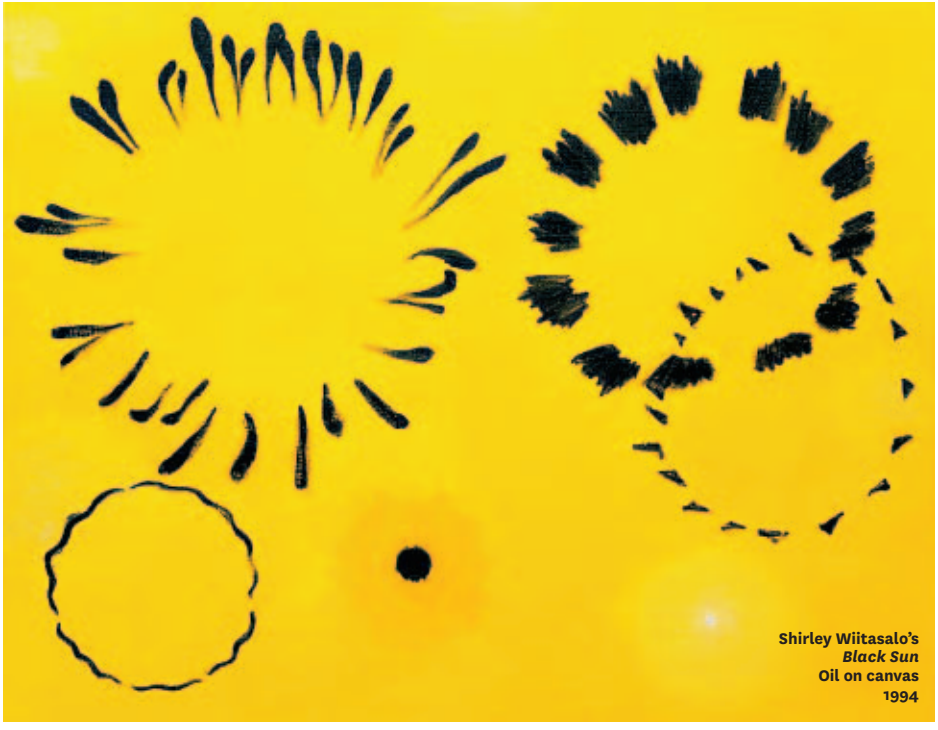
The vast majority of U of T Scarborough students commute to campus, so the architects designed the Instructional Centre to include plenty of welcoming spaces for students to congregate. The student and faculty lounges have floor-to-ceiling glass, which makes it feel "like you're standing in the [campus's] ravine," says Arifuzzaman.

The centres will give a boost in academic space, while making a relatively small impact on the environment

The building pays tribute to the environment in another way: it is designed to meet LEED Silver standards. Much of the roof is coated with photovoltaic cells.

A similar project, with a similar anticipated impact, is underway at the University of Toronto at Mississauga. The west campus's Instructional Centre, scheduled to open in September, will include a 350-seat and a 500-seat lecture theatre, and seminar rooms of all sizes. Designed by Shore Tilbe Perkins + Will, the facility will also feature a three-storey atrium, study areas, computer labs and a technology resource centre – all geared toward preparing the "next generation of leaders," says Jane Stirling, the campus's marketing and communications director. As with its Scarborough counterpart, solar panels are incorporated into the building's architecture and it is LEED-certified. The copper exterior will complement the geological look of the Communication, Culture and Technology building and the earthy, wood-clad Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre. – **SCOTT ANDERSON AND JENNY LASS**

PHOTO: KEN JONES



Shirley Wiitasalo's
Black Sun
Oil on canvas
1994

Premier Painter

During her successful career as an artist, Shirley Wiitasalo – a faculty member in the Department of Art's visual studies program – has never considered pursuing any art form other than painting. "I didn't choose painting, it chose me," Wiitasalo has said. "It's a traditional medium but it still poses challenges." For her work, Wiitasalo has received a 2011 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. Winners receive $25,000 and their work is exhibited at the National Gallery of Canada.

Wiitasalo started out painting abstracts in the 1970s, and then introduced figurative imagery to her work. Her pieces have been shown everywhere from the Art Gallery of Ontario to the Hamburger Kunsthalle in Bern, Switzerland, to the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo.

The Canada Council for the Arts, which grants the Governor General's Awards, commended her art, citing, "From her evocative imagery to her recent explorations that employ a more reductive vocabulary, Wiitasalo is interested in unravelling the mystery of the painting itself."

SOUND BITES

What one thing should students do before they graduate?

Stroll down Philosopher's Walk. Arrive at the meaning of life. Failing that, arrive at a decision over what to have for lunch.
MYOHMY

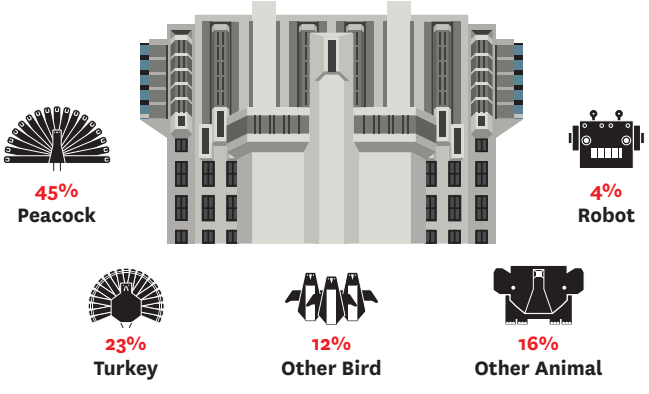
Re-enact the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet in the Hart House Great Hall's spiral tower.
HELENE GODERIS

Attend a Blues football game at Varsity Stadium and paint your face.
STUDENT STEVE MASSE

Have a hot dog on the Sid Smith steps at three in the morning after a long night of dancing.
COMPUTER-SCIENCE STUDENT PETER TRAN

Make your own suggestion at twitter.com using **#UofTMustDo**

Poll | What animal do you think the Robarts Library resembles?



Love it or hate it, the Robarts Library is one of the most talked-about buildings on campus. Designed by the firm Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde with Mathers & Haldenby and completed in 1974, it is a prime example of the Brutalist movement.

Since its inauguration, rumours have circulated that the building was designed to look like a peacock. Others have maligned its size and aesthetic by likening it to a turkey. While the building wasn't designed to look like *any* bird, the urban legends regenerate with every incoming class.

Although peacock and turkey were the most common responses, some students likened Robarts to other birds – from the graceful swan to the portlier penguin. Others thought it resembled such large creatures as the elephant or rhinoceros. Four per cent contested that it looked like an animal at all: they were adamant that Robarts most resembles a robot.

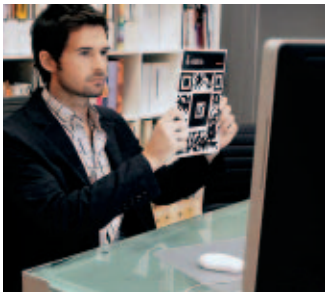
This highly unscientific poll of 100 U of T students was conducted on the St. George campus in January.

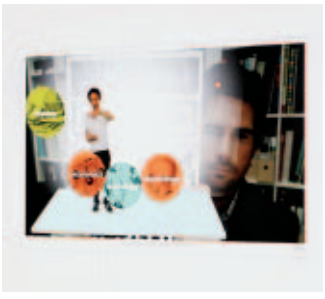
PHOTO: ROBIN COLLYER

U of T's augmented-reality video, used for student recruitment and featuring writer Malcolm Gladwell, won a 2011 Webby Award

Join Us!

U of T's high-tech recruitment strategy is yielding more top-notch applicants





A GROWING NUMBER OF Ontario high school students are making U of T their first choice for university, and university officials are crediting a new strategy for communicating with prospective students for the boost.

First-choice applications from Ontario high school students across all U of T first-entry programs have risen 15 per cent in the past three years – more than twice as fast as the provincial average. International applications to U of T have also shot up – by 40 per cent.

Among the very best applicants, the university has fared even better. While 15 per cent of all Ontario high school students apply to U of T, 22 per cent of graduates with an average of 95 or higher make U of T one of their top choices.

Jill Matus, vice-provost, students, says the improved results stem in part from a strategy that emphasizes U of T's institutional strengths, harnesses new technologies and targets top achievers. "We're less interested in the sheer volume of applications," she says. "We want excellent students who are keen to engage with all that U of T has to offer."

The university has traditionally relied on printed brochures such as the "viewbook" (a publication universities use for recruitment) to tell prospective students about U of T, but in recent years has invested heavily in an online interactive presence, and has begun using social media. Last year, Matus's office created a web portal for potential students. By logging in with a university-provided password, U of T applicants can access information particular to their interests, including videos that explain student aid, how the admissions process works and how to select a residence. They can also see what other applicants are saying about U of T. More than 59,000 prospective students logged into the portal since it was introduced in January.

A complementary website, "Discover U of T," provides a broader overview of the university and highlights U of T's distinct advantages: its extracurricular and academic breadth; its highly accomplished alumni; and its location in a multicultural urban centre, with three distinct campuses.

These strengths are highlighted in both the Canadian and international editions of the viewbook, which last year included a nod to a new technological trend: augmented reality. The cover features a "quick response" code. When you hold up the cover in front of a computer's webcam, the code launches a video of writer Malcolm Gladwell (BA 1984 TRIN). He speaks about his experience at U of T and how it influenced his way of researching problems and his journalistic style: "I think I got my approach in university," he says.

The purpose of the augmented-reality experience was twofold, says Matus: to engage a well-known grad to demonstrate the value of a U of T degree; and to use new technology to pique students' interest. "It helps put U of T at the forefront," she says. – **SCOTT ANDERSON**

People

University Professor **Keren Rice** has spent her career preserving Canada's Aboriginal heritage: she is an expert on the Dene (Slavey) language of the Northwest Territories, and has worked tirelessly to revitalize it. For her outstanding career achievements, she has been awarded a 2011 Killam Prize. Rice is founding director of U of T's undergraduate Aboriginal Studies Program and the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives. She plans to use part of her prize money to support a community-based research project in Deline, Northwest Territories.

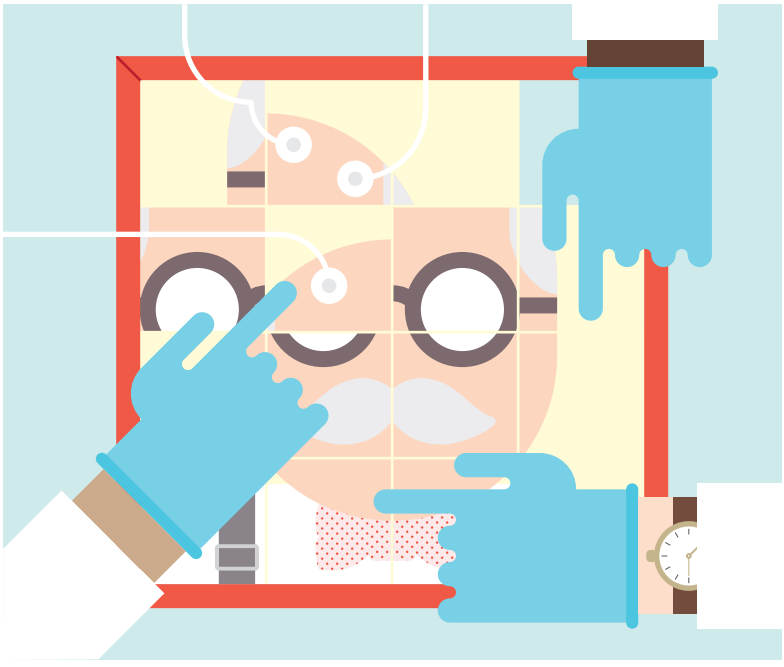
Prof. **Domenico Pietropaolo** has been named principal of St. Michael's College for a five-year term. Pietropaolo is chair of the Italian Studies department and a professor of drama.

Prof. **Roger Martin**, dean of the Rotman School of Management, has been reappointed for a third term.

Prof. **Cristina Amon**, the first female dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, has received a 2011 YWCA Women of Distinction Award for contributing to advancements of women in the field.

For the fourth consecutive year, **U of T** has been named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers. The competition is run by Mediacorp Canada Inc. in partnership with the *Globe and Mail* and recognizes employers that offer Canada's most inclusive workplaces.

PHOTO: KALDOR BRAND STRATEGY AND DESIGN



Defeating Dementia

Mark Tanz's $5-million gift will support research into Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases

HALF A MILLION CANADIANS suffer from Alzheimer's disease and dementia. As the population ages, this number is expected to double over the next 35 years, imposing an immense economic burden on the country – and exacting a huge personal toll from families and caregivers.

Although scientists are making progress uncovering the causes of Alzheimer's and dementia and understanding how they progress, no effective treatment or cure exists. Mark Tanz (BA 1952 UC) is all too aware of the tragic personal consequences of Alzheimer's, having witnessed his mother gradually lose her memory and other cognitive functions after she was diagnosed with the disease in 1983. Tanz began looking into the science of Alzheimer's, and what he found alarmed him. "I was hoping there would be a cure – something that would slow the disease down. Unfortunately there was virtually no research being done in Canada."

By the time Alzheimer's comes to clinical attention, it has been present for 10 years or more

This discovery – and a serendipitous conversation with then–U of T physiologist Donald McLachlan – prompted Tanz, in 1987, to donate $3.4 million to the university to help establish the Tanz Centre for Research into Neurodegenerative Diseases. Since then, Tanz has contributed another $6.1 million to support the centre's research.

Dr. Peter St. George-Hyslop, the director of the Tanz Centre, says his team is examining many aspects of neurodegenerative diseases, including how to diagnose Alzheimer's earlier. "We know by the time the disease comes to clinical attention, it has been present for 10 years or more," he says. "We want to be able to detect the presence of disease at the preclinical level."

St. George-Hyslop and the Tanz Centre's research scientists made international news in the 1990s and again recently for discovering genes related to the production of amyloid-beta peptide, a substance that accumulates in the brains of Alzheimer's patients and is thought to be a key factor in the progression of the disease. However, St. George-Hyslop cautions that there are processes involved besides the buildup of amyloid-beta, and these need to be understood before an effective treatment will be found.

He cites the example of tau protein – another substance that aggregates in the brain and kills neurons. Removing the amyloid after it accumulates does not eliminate the tau. St. George-Hyslop compares the situation to an arsonist who uses matches and gasoline to set a house on fire. Once the fire is lit, putting away the matches does nothing to address the problem.

St. George-Hsylop says the Tanz gift will allow the centre to recruit additional scientists and expand its investigation into the role of amyloid and tau protein in Alzheimer's disease. But he also hopes the gift will act as a catalyst for other donors by underscoring the importance of the Tanz Centre's work. "[The donation shows that] many people see Alzheimer's as a major threatening illness and are willing to give their hard-earned money to enable us to do this work," he says.

U of T's Faculty of Medicine and the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation are in the process of raising $31 million for the Tanz Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases. Tanz is co-chairing the fundraising effort with his friend Lionel Schipper (JD 1956), who also lost his mother to Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Society is a major supporter of the Tanz Centre, having contributed $11 million since the centre was established. The society has earmarked an additional $10 million for the current fundraising effort.

– **SCOTT ANDERSON**

ILLUSTRATION: EMILY TU

Leading Edge

True revolutions can only be decided at the end

History professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi on the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East
p. 21

Fighting Tooth Decay

A new way of peering inside teeth could find lesions before they become cavities and eliminate the need for "drilling and filling"

IT'S NOT EASY FOR DENTISTS TO SEE what's going on inside a patient's teeth. They've traditionally relied on X-rays, but X-ray machines emit ionizing radiation that can pose a health risk with prolonged exposure (limiting the number of X-rays a patient can have each year). Prof. Andreas Mandelis, a U of T engineer, has developed a promising alternative. His invention, known as "photothermal imaging radar," can peer inside a tooth and produce a higher-contrast image than conventional X-rays, but without the radiation risk. And it can detect dental problems before they would be visible on an X-ray.

Over time, bacteria eat away at the material inside a tooth. This process of demineralization causes lesions, known as caries; left untreated, the lesions can lead to infections, cavities and even the loss of the tooth. In photothermal imaging radar, the tooth is illuminated with a low-energy, pulsating laser beam, which penetrates several millimetres into the tooth. The tooth then emits heat that can be detected with an infrared camera. Because caries have different optical and thermal properties than healthy regions of teeth, the resulting image clearly distinguishes between healthy and damaged areas. (The tooth never heats up ›

PHOTO: IMAGES FROM THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

by more than one degree Celsius, so the patient doesn't feel anything.)

Mandelis, who teaches in the department of mechanical and industrial engineering, has spent the last 10 years developing the technology. Working with a dentist colleague, he started a spinoff company, Quantum Dental Technologies, which already markets a commercial version of a simpler device. It's called the Canary System – named for the proverbial canary in the coal mine – and provides an early warning of tooth decay. Mandelis describes the device as a "single point instrument:" The dentist uses a hand-held laser and infrared detector to examine teeth one spot at a time. It's already being used by a number of dentists in Toronto.

While the Canary System provides data for one spot, Mandelis's ultimate goal is to develop a device that can image a whole row of teeth at once, just like today's X-ray machines. With early enough detection, caries can be filled with special gels that can help remineralize the tooth. "The hope is that you will see demineralization at a very early stage, so you don't have to 'drill it and fill it,' as dentists do today," Mandelis says.

With most of the technical hurdles behind him, perhaps the greatest remaining challenge is to get the price down. Today's dental X-ray machines typically sell for about $70,000. Mandelis is aiming to have a complete photothermal imaging radar package – including the laser and the camera – available at a competitive price.

The applications may reach beyond dentistry: The same technology could aid in industrial inspection processes – looking for cracks in metal, for example – especially in the automotive and aviation sectors, Mandelis says. – **DAN FALK**

Better Living

Happiness is often a component of a good life. But it's not the only one

U OF T PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR THOMAS HURKA'S pocket-sized book, *The Best Things in Life: A Guide to What Really Matters* (Oxford University Press), tackles life's big concerns. It explores and offers answers to questions such as: How should we live? What brings us the most joy? What makes a life "good?"

In addressing these profound issues, Hurka often challenges the thinking of "high-minded" philosophers such as Aristotle, Immanuel Kant and others. Instead, Hurka provides readers with a populist philosophical guide to understanding what really matters in life.

Hurka reasons that some combination of pleasure, knowledge, achievement, virtue and personal love can be cause for anyone to deem life worthwhile and desirable. The means to create a good life is, Hurka suggests, open to everyone since there isn't just one ultimate good but many, including the satisfaction of completing a challenging task and knowing your inner self. That's why a "good" life can take a variety of forms. "There isn't one life that's best for everyone," Hurka writes.

As well, the pursuit of a good life, Hurka argues, requires that we recognize the everyday experiences and activities that will likely make us happy, while understanding that happiness isn't the paramount measure of a good life. "To live a good life you need to be happy, understand things and achieve worthwhile goals," Hurka writes.

As for love, Hurka believes that it has been "the subject of some very silly philosophy" by those who claim that the object of "genuine love" is always another's moral character. For Hurka, love is a "splendid" aspect of a good life that can spring suddenly from "animal lust" and can die just as quickly. "It can hurt and it can harm, but for most of us love's glories are worth the gamble," Hurka concludes. – **ANDREW MITROVICA**

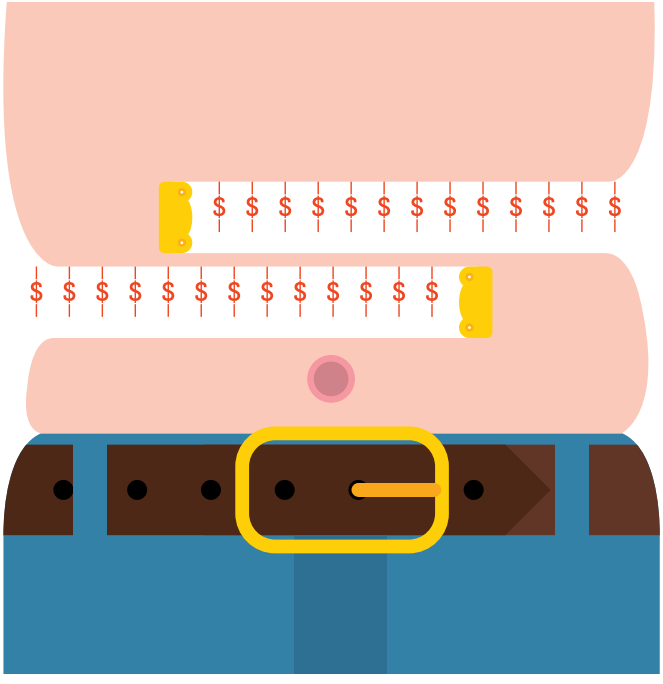
Read an excerpt from *The Best Things in Life* at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

LINGO

"Hint fiction"

In his 1846 essay "The Philosophy of Composition," Edgar Allan Poe famously noted that the ideal work of fiction was one that could be read "in one sitting." Recently, as our collective attention span has shortened, micro-storytelling formats seem to be flourishing. The 1990s brought us flash fiction and postcard stories. Now, in the age of Twitter, comes "hint fiction" – a term coined by the American writer Robert Swartwood to describe stories of 25 words or less. Although some have called the concept gimmicky, Michael Winter, an author and University of Toronto creative writing instructor, finds merit in the ultra-short form. "I was once involved in a one-word poem contest, and we had some incredible entries," he says. "The winner was the word 'despite.'" – **SCOTT ANDERSON**

1 in 4 Canadian adults is clinically obese. That's up from one in seven just 20 years ago



Neil Seeman and Patrick Luciani propose allocating $5 billion to $10 billion a year to healthy living vouchers

THE BIG IDEA

Your Loss Is Your Gain

Should people get paid for shedding weight and pursuing a healthier lifestyle?

WHAT CAN GOVERNMENTS DO to fight the escalating, and costly, health problems associated with the obesity epidemic sweeping North America and other developed countries?

The policies that have been tried so far – public education campaigns, additive bans, and taxes on high-fat and sugary foods – haven't put a dent in the problem, say Massey College fellows Neil Seeman and Patrick Luciani. If anything, they argue in their new book, *XXL: Obesity and the Limits of Shame* (University of Toronto Press), some of these approaches waste valuable resources and even may have exacerbated the crisis.

What's driving the epidemic is a complex and interconnected list of factors that includes inactivity, the widespread availability of high-fat foods, city design that leaves us dependent on cars, and society's unique genius for creating technologies that make life easier but also more sedate. It's exceedingly difficult to isolate a single cause and effect, the authors say. Every obese person has their own story and their own struggle. "If we're going to think seriously about obesity, we have to attack the problem at the individual level instead of using population-based approaches," says Seeman. "These haven't provided significant results."

The authors' alternative? "Healthy living vouchers," which would reward people for purchasing health-related goods and services such as nutritious, low-fat food and gym memberships. Participants would be required to work with their primary health-care providers to develop a regimen geared at achieving long-term weight reduction. "It's a preventative care model," says Seeman, who has fought his own diet battles. "Everyone would take advantage of it."

Currently, about two-thirds of Canada's $230-billion health budget is directed to chronic disease treatment. Seeman and Luciani propose allocating between two and four per cent of Ottawa's annual spending – $5 billion to $10 billion – to healthy living vouchers. Everyone over 16 would be entitled to participate, not just low-income people or those facing obesity problems. "The voucher is available to everyone because we want to encourage a sustained relationship between individuals and their doctors."

The authors argue that their system would provide individuals with a direct financial incentive to improve their eating habits, their fitness level and their overall health. The vouchers would also engage market forces to allocate the resources needed to combat the obesity epidemic, rather than relying on government to determine the best approach.

Yet the system could also face nagging regulatory and political issues because it involves the transfer of hundreds or possibly thousands of dollars to every Canadian.

Seeman acknowledges that health spending could actually rise in the short term if the voucher system prompts patients to spend more time with their primary health-care providers (although the proposal would allow individuals to devise health plans with non-physicians). Another potential headache: determining which services and products should be included in the voucher program. Such a system may be vulnerable to special pleading. For those living in poor neighbourhoods with no fitness facilities, for example, the authors note that vouchers should be permitted to defray the cost of transit to gyms. But then why not gas costs, if they choose to drive?

Despite these objections, the authors argue that the obesity epidemic has become so pressing that governments have no choice but to be bold in searching for solutions. "The return on investment will not necessarily be seen in year one," Seeman says. – **JOHN LORINC**

ILLUSTRATION: ROBERT SAMUEL HANSON

Still Life

Look closely at the deer in this photograph, taken in 1852 by John Dillwyn Llewelyn in the woods around his estate. Notice anything unusual?

The deer is actually stuffed, says Matthew Brower, a professor of museum studies and the author of a new book about early American wildlife photography.

While the modern viewer might consider this "faked" wildlife photography, taking pictures of a taxidermied animal in a natural setting made sense at the time as a means of representing "wild" animals, says Brower. "There was no sense of animals as part of a healthy habitat. The deer was simply an accent for the landscape." Llewelyn wouldn't have been able to capture the image of a live deer, even if he had wanted to. Cameras didn't have shutters and exposures lasted at least a minute. A wild animal wouldn't have stood still for even a fraction of the time required.

Brower's book, *Developing Animals*, looks at how photographing animals has changed through time, and how it has altered the way humans relate to animals. "We've come to see wildlife photography as 'true' representations of live animals in nature, and we think it's always been this way," says Brower. "But it hasn't. Our thinking has evolved." – **SCOTT ANDERSON**

Ontario Signs Up for Health

New long-term study could translate into better health policy and clinical practice

TAKING AN INNOVATIVE AND FAR-REACHING approach to medical research, Ontario has launched an online study that it hopes will eventually track up to 30 per cent of the province's 9.5 million adults throughout their life. Directed by Professor Lyle Palmer of U of T's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, the Ontario Health Study is the largest of its kind ever attempted in North America, and could, if successful, be the largest in the world. "No other study has attempted to engage an entire society in the way we are trying to engage the entire province of Ontario – and no one has tried to do it online before," says Palmer.

By asking participants to answer questions about their health and personal history online (at ontariohealthstudy.ca) organizers hope to create a comprehensive database that will allow researchers to track the many different factors – social, genetic, environmental – that influence a whole spectrum of diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, asthma and Alzheimer's.

Because the data being gathered is so comprehensive and the study so large, scientists expect it to yield research findings that will translate into better health policy, health promotion and clinical practice. "If we are successful in recruiting the number of participants we are aiming for," says Palmer, "it will put Ontario at the forefront of biomedical research internationally across a broad range of disciplines."

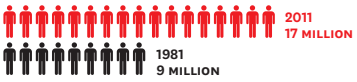
Involving more than 70 U of T faculty and clinicians, the study will track participants using followup questionnaires (there'll be at least one a year) and, in some cases, physical exams at mobile mini-clinics or a central Assessment Centre in Toronto. A pilot mini-clinic was scheduled for June and the Assessment Centre is expected to open in September.

Online study aims to track up to 30 per cent of the province's 9.5 million adults throughout their lives

At the moment, though, the study's focus is on swelling the ranks of the more than 30,000 people already enrolled. "We are currently focused on engaging as many people as possible and getting them excited about the study," says Palmer. – **BRENT LEDGER**

PHOTO: ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY/SCIENCE & SOCIETY PICTURE LIBRARY

The number of Egyptian youth aged 15–24 has almost doubled since former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak took office in 1981



Q&A

Arab Spring

Will the uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East usher in lasting change?

Earlier this year, a wave of protests across North Africa and the Middle East led to the ouster of the Tunisian and Egyptian presidents – and war in Libya. *U of T Magazine* editor **Scott Anderson** spoke with **Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi**, a professor of history and Near and Middle Eastern civilizations, about developments in the region.

What is driving these protests across North Africa and the Middle East? Arab civil society has grown in recent years, and has become increasingly cosmopolitan and invigorated. Many of the countries where protests are occurring have large, highly educated and web-savvy youth populations. With the communication revolution, these youth are breaking down the state's monopoly over information. Citizens' cellphones are like radio and television stations. People can share uncensored news and information directly with each other.

How important a role has technology played in these protests? Technology is important, but more important is the willingness of citizens to go into the public square – to physically *be* there – and face the danger of challenging the state. Technology on its own does not do much. The communication revolution no doubt helps people to create networks, which is important. But the public protests are what caused authoritarian regimes in Tunisia and Egypt to collapse.

Tell me what you mean by the "emergence of civil society." I mean neighbourhoods, students, workers and other groups coming together to articulate their interests. Since the end of the Second World War, states in the Middle East have claimed to be the singular representative of their people. Now diverse voices are emerging and wanting to assert themselves. That diversity – and the consequent discussion of what is Libyan, what is Egyptian, what is in the national interest and what is in the popular interest – constitutes the invigoration of the public sphere.

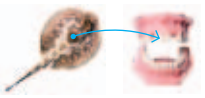
Do you think we are witnessing true revolutions? True revolutions can only be decided at the end. The uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt have elements of revolution, but to be truly revolutionary, they have to introduce radical social transformation: the rewriting of the constitution by a constituent assembly and the empowerment of parliament. Decision-making should include popular participation at all levels. So far, we're just at the beginning of this process.

What do you make of the situation in Libya? It's interesting to compare Libya with Egypt and Tunisia. The revolution in Tunisia had already happened before the Western media and governments caught on. The Egyptians managed to push out Hosni Mubarak on their own. The situation in Libya is radically different. When the rebels began to advance, the European and North American states became engaged militarily. When that happened, Moammar Gadhafi repackaged himself as the protector of Libya. This creates a crisis for the Libyan people. On the one hand they want him to go, and on the other they see that the Western states have begun attacking and their own leader representing the national interest. We have seen this before in Iraq and Afghanistan. Saddam Hussein and the Taliban had lost all legitimacy; the invasions of their countries helped re-legitimatize them.

Was there a better option for the international community? With the importance of national sovereignty in Middle Eastern political culture, it's best for external powers not to get directly involved in support of civil movements. When democracy is depicted as a gift of foreigners, it cannot become a highly cherished cultural value. It only becomes a cherished cultural value if people fight for it, protect it and institutionalize it of their own volition.

A longer version of this Q&A appears at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO

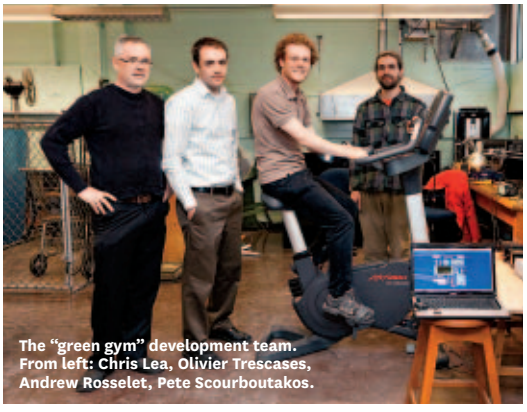


Ancient Greek dentists used the venom from the stingray's spine as an anesthetic

PROTOTYPE

Bicycle Power!

Why not use exercise bikes to supply electricity back to the grid?



The "green gym" development team. From left: Chris Lea, Olivier Trescases, Andrew Rosselet, Pete Scourboutakos.

RIDING A STATIONARY BICYCLE is great exercise. But more than one rider has wished that all that effort could be put to some use besides burning excess calories.

Now Olivier Trescases, a professor of electrical engineering, is adapting the 20 exercise bikes at Hart House to provide power to the building.

The electricity generated by each bike will be relatively modest – about enough to run two laptop computers or an incandescent light bulb, as long as someone is peddling. Nevertheless, the power will reduce the total electricity Hart House pulls off the grid. On top of that, the conversion will help keep the gym cooler, since the electricity being fed back into the building used to be vented from the bikes in the form of waste heat.

Mostly, though, the project, which got started last year, will educate gym-goers about how much physical work is required to generate even a small amount of electricity. For example, Trescases notes that it would take about 17,000 hours on the bike to create as much electricity as can be obtained by burning a single barrel of oil. "My hope is that people will walk away and think differently about how they use electricity," Trescases says.

Hart House facilities manager Chris Lea and former sustainability co-ordinator David Berliner approached Trescases with the idea last year. The group received a $10,000 Green Innovation Award from the Toronto Community Foundation to develop the prototype. Another $40,000 came from Live Green Toronto for software development, converting the bikes in the gym and creating an outreach program to educate youth about energy use. The Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative is also a partner in the project.

The prototype uses a commercial exercise bike with a built-in generator that normally powers a computerized display and controls the resistance of the pedals. Trescases attached a device to the bike called a microinverter, which converts the electricity generated by the bike into 120V alternating current that can then be fed back to the building. Each bike will also be networked to a computer server, which can calculate how much electricity was generated, and display it on a terminal. Eventually, riders might be able to compete against one another, or keep track of their stats on a smartphone.

Bicycle-generated electricity will help reduce the total electricity Hart House pulls off the grid

The Ontario Science Centre has had a bicycle that powers a light bulb for decades. Trescases says that the novel part of his project is that the bikes are modular – each individual bike can be connected independently to the grid – and that information about the amount of electricity generated for each bike is transferred wirelessly to a central computer. – **KURT KLEINER**

Findings

New Stingray Discovered

A biologist from U of T Scarborough has discovered a new genus of tropical freshwater stingray in the upper Amazon – the first such discovery from that region in more than two decades.

Nathan Lovejoy, of ecology and evolutionary biology, says the new genus has a large, pancake-like appearance and a pattern of lateral line canals on its ventral surface, which help it detect minute changes in water pressure caused by the motion of other animals.

Lovejoy has been studying aquatic species in the upper Amazon for 10 years with a colleague from the University of Sao Paolo. "This discovery tells us that there are likely other large fishes in the Amazon yet to be discovered and described," says Lovejoy. "Our understanding of the biodiversity of this region is not complete, by any stretch of the imagination."

Lovejoy's paper was published in the scientific journal *Zootaxa*. – **KAREN HO**

Rewarding the Right Kind of Growth

Research has shown that the best kind of company growth for improved shareholder value comes from increased profitability. Investment-related growth, by contrast, destroys company value.

Despite this, a new study has found that CEOs tend to be compensated more when their companies grow due to investments rather than improved profitability. The study's authors speculate that corporate boards may not realize that they're rewarding the wrong type of growth. "Most people don't look long term," says Partha Mohanram, the CGA Ontario Professor of Financial Accounting at the Rotman School, who wrote the paper with a Columbia Business School colleague. – **KEN MCGUFFIN**

The complete study is available at www.rotman.utoronto.ca/newthinking/execcompMohanram.pdf

PHOTO: TANJA TIZIANA

Setting the Scene

Looking for a tattoo parlour in Toronto? Head to Queen West. A banking office? King and Bay. In many parts of the city, specific kinds of establishments define the character of a neighbourhood; together they create a "scene." But what are the characteristics of these scenes? Using the Canadian Yellow Pages database, Daniel Silver, a sociology professor, has analyzed the amenities available in each postal code to create a cross-country "scenescape."

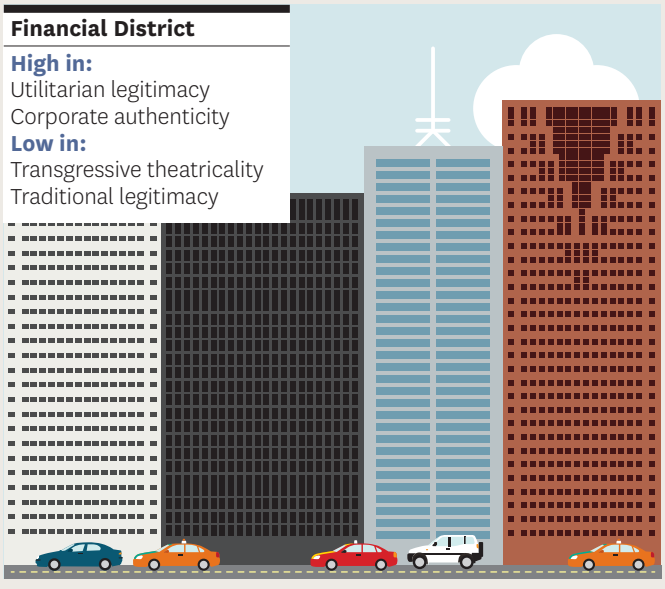
Using a classification system he developed, Silver assigns each amenity a score out of five on 15 dimensions that measure different forms of "theatricality" (presentation), "authenticity" and "legitimacy" (or what ethical vision an establishment promotes). A gas station, for example, would score low on "glamorous theatricality" but high on "utilitarian legitimacy." The reverse would be true of an independent high-fashion house. Compared to Montreal, says Silver, Toronto scores slightly higher on "self-expressive legitimacy" because of its many vintage-clothing shops, bookstores, and holistic-healing and meditation centres, but lower on "exhibitionistic theatricality" because it has fewer sex shops, leather shops and modelling agencies.

Silver is interested primarily in the sociological aspects of his research, but he says businesses might find it useful for determining where to locate a new store, individuals for choosing where to live, urban planners for city-building and politicians for predicting voting patterns.

– SCOTT ANDERSON

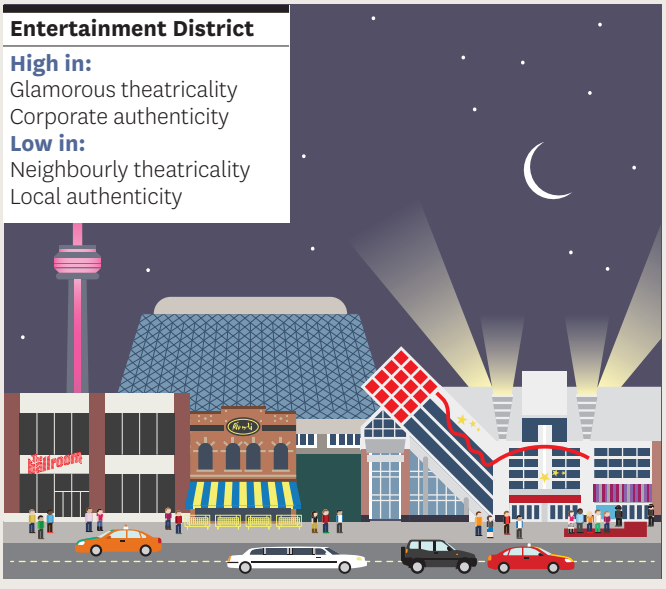
Financial District

High in:
Utilitarian legitimacy
Corporate authenticity
Low in:
Transgressive theatricality
Traditional legitimacy



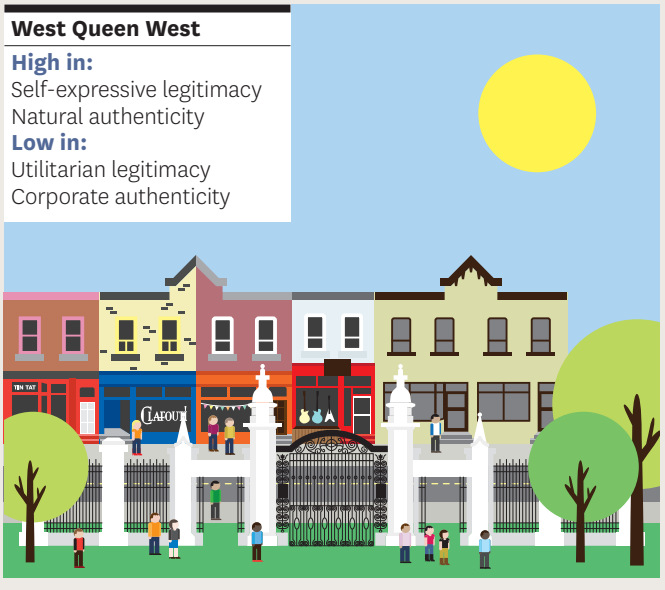
Entertainment District

High in:
Glamorous theatricality
Corporate authenticity
Low in:
Neighbourly theatricality
Local authenticity



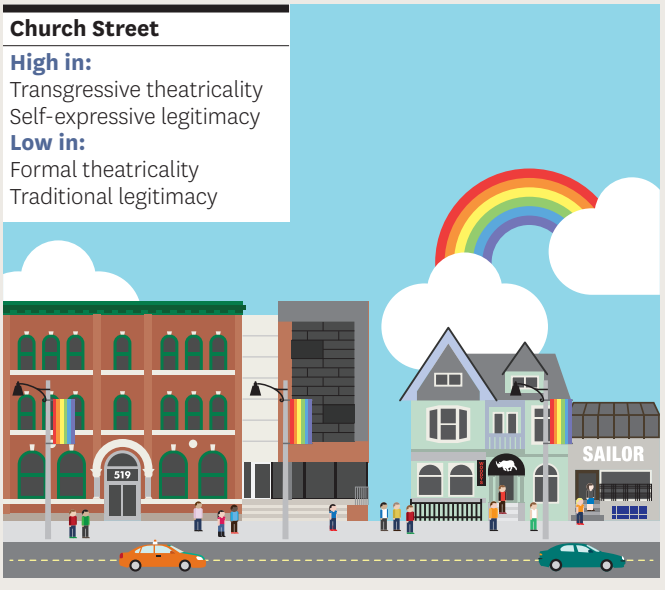
West Queen West

High in:
Self-expressive legitimacy
Natural authenticity
Low in:
Utilitarian legitimacy
Corporate authenticity



Church Street

High in:
Transgressive theatricality
Self-expressive legitimacy
Low in:
Formal theatricality
Traditional legitimacy



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Illustration by **Jesse Lenz**

Life's early years might be even more important than we thought

By **Alison Motluk**

BY THE TIME A CHILD SETS FOOT in kindergarten, much about her future life has already been set in motion – everything from her ability to concentrate and learn, to her lifetime chances of suffering from obesity or heart disease or depression. Evidence is mounting that what happens in the first four years of life can be critical to long-term well-being. However, as a society we still don't do enough to optimize this important period, or even to stave off the biggest dangers.

Now, a group of researchers at the University of Toronto from a variety of disciplines – medicine, psychology, education and genetics – is proposing to create an Institute for Human Development. Its central mission will be to investigate how to make the most of these early years. The question, the researchers agree, is no longer whether very early life is pivotal in determining later-life health and well-being – we know it is – but rather which experiences and exposures are most important, which genes, in interaction with the early environment, put a person at the greatest risks and what practical interventions can make the most difference.

The new thinking ultimately aims to change how very young children are cared for and educated. Rather than waiting for problems to appear before taking action, these researchers advocate stepping in to prevent them from developing in the first place. This will pay off down the road

Even subtle differences in the way a parent behaves toward us in the early months of our lives can alter the way we develop emotionally, socially and cognitively

in improved health. "If we know what someone's at risk for," says Stephen Lye, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology who studies fetal health at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, "maybe we can do something early enough that we can prevent it."

Scientists have understood for decades that we inherit a complement of genes that are a combined subset of the genes of our biological parents. And while these genes give detailed instructions about how we develop, we now know they will not dictate our fate. What has become increasingly clear in recent years is that our genes are in constant conversation with our environment, and they are modified by the nutrients, pathogens and even experiences that we encounter throughout our lives.

This gene-environment dialogue starts in the womb. "About 20 years ago, there was the beginning of a new understanding," says Lye. "The period of development during pregnancy and early life is not just important for a healthy baby, but also for a person's well-being later in life." In short, the kind of experience we enjoy in utero will to a significant degree influence our health and welfare for the rest of our days.

The first strong evidence of this came in 1989 from work by David Barker, a British physician and epidemiologist. Drawing from a large population in the U.K., he looked at whether birth weight affected how likely a person was eventually to die of heart disease. As babies, all the people in the study had been in the normal weight range. But it turned out that the less they had weighed at birth, the greater at risk they were for heart disease. Exactly why this happens is still a matter of speculation – perhaps a fetus is pre-programmed in the womb to use calories sparingly, only to be born into a world of plenty, or perhaps smaller babies are less able to muster the resources to construct hearts and kidneys well.

Since that landmark study, low birth weight has been associated with other features of what has now become known as "the metabolic syndrome." These include hypertension, stroke, insulin resistance, Type 2 diabetes and a combination of high blood sugar and high cholesterol. Intriguingly, psychosocial traits such as poor concentration, anxiety and depression can also be tied back to conditions in our earliest days.

Lye admits that these big epidemiological studies, while provocative, don't provide solutions for individuals. "Population risk is not much use to parents with young children," he says. "What they really want to know is how a particular environment will affect their children's genes. We have to do research to more fully appreciate what these associations are."

Not everyone who faces adversity early in life is negatively affected by it. "The same environment can have a dramatically different effect on individuals, depending on their genetic makeup," says Marla Sokolowski, a University Professor of ecology and evolution at U of T Mississauga. We used to think that a trait was the product of either nature or nurture, but research on fruit flies and other organisms has made it clear that the interplay between genes and the environment is important.

For instance, in the 1980s, Sokolowski discovered the foraging gene in fruit flies, which influences several characteristics in the fly. Like most genes, this one comes in different forms, or variants. Flies with the "rover" variant of this gene produce more of a foraging enzyme in the brain. As a result, they keep moving from food patch to food patch, eat on the go, store less fat and have a stronger short-term memory. Flies with the "sitter" variant have less of the foraging enzyme, dine longer in one place, eat more overall, store more fat and have a better long-term memory.

Sokolowski points out that it's important to remember that gene expression can be mediated by circumstances. The "rover" and "sitter" characterizations describe how the flies behave when food is plentiful. When food is scarce, however, Sokolowski and her research team found that rovers turn into sitters. This is true not only in terms of behaviour, but at the molecular level of the gene as well: less of the foraging enzyme is produced in underfed rovers. In other words, the environment and genetics interact to affect what an organism is like. What researchers working in the relatively new field of epigenetics are finding is that environmental influences can turn certain genes on or off, or modify their expression up and down like a volume control.

What we also want to know, of course, is how gene-environment interactions play out in humans. For several years, Lye has been collaborating with a team in Perth, Australia, which has been following a cohort of children since before they were born. The Raine Study, as it is known, recruited 2,900 women in week 18 of their pregnancy and collected a wealth of data about what they were eating, their mental-health status and how settled things were at home in an effort to know as much as possible about the conditions of the fetuses they were carrying.

After the children were born, data collection continued. The researchers were interested both in the inputs – how well they ate, for instance, what their schooling was like and what kind of parenting they got – but also their outcomes:

how they grew, how healthy they were, how well they fared in school and in life.

As one might expect, some kids did well despite adversity and others were hampered by it. Some were healthy, others less so. To try to explain these differences, Lye and his colleagues undertook a whole genome scan of 1,800 of the children. The kids in the study are now 19 or 20 years old – too young to have full-blown cardiovascular disease or Type 2 diabetes, but old enough to be showing tendencies toward these sorts of conditions.

As part of the investigation, the research team examined a gene called FTO, a variant of which is known to be associated with obesity. In the Raine children, those who have the gene variant linked to obesity tend to have higher body mass index. But even more intriguing was what the team found when they looked specifically at the Raine girls who had this variant of the gene but who were *not* particularly overweight. Preliminary analysis has found that the girls with a near-normal body mass index all had something in common: they were more likely to have been breastfed for at least six months. It's a fairly simple intervention, but has huge implications. "If [the analysis] is confirmed, it shows that it is possible to alter the environment of the child and have a more beneficial outcome later in life," says Lye.

But altering the environment cuts both ways. Just as simple interventions can change things for the better, so too can they change things for the worse. Stephen Matthews, a professor in the department of physiology, has been studying the effects of stress hormones on the developing fetus. On the one hand we know that a short burst of the stress hormone cortisol, which happens late in gestation, is critical to the development of the lungs. It's so important, in fact, that mothers of babies at risk of being born before the natural cortisol surge receive injections of synthetic cortisol.

On the other hand, too much cortisol may do harm. Pregnant women who experience intense stress even for short periods are more likely to give birth to children who go on to have disorders such as anxiety and learning troubles. So the researchers were curious what other effects these injections of synthetic cortisol, or highly stressful maternal experiences during pregnancy, might be having. They were particularly interested in the effects on the infant's brain.

Matthews' team used guinea pigs as their model animals, because they have similar placentas to humans and give birth to similarly developed offspring. What they found was that when a pregnant guinea pig experiences stress or gets a stress hormone injection, her pups' brains can be permanently altered. The exact effect will depend on the sex of the fetus, as well as when the hormone surge happened. But the studies showed that the control centre for hormone regulation is permanently changed, as are the brain neurotransmitter systems.

Ultimately, this may be the mechanism by which stress during fetal life can affect endocrine function and behaviour throughout the rest of the animals' existence. Matthews' research and that of others has found that adversity during pregnancy is associated with offspring that tend to be more fearful, impulsive and inattentive. Perhaps most alarming of all is Matthews' discovery that sometimes these cortisol effects can last beyond the exposed generation and affect their children – and perhaps their grandchildren. "There seems to be a trans-generational memory of adversity in early life," says Matthews.

The conversation between our genes and our environment continues after we are born. Though we are no longer in our mother's womb, we are still very much affected by her interaction with us. Even subtle differences in the way a parent behaves toward us in the early months of our lives can alter the way we develop emotionally, socially and cognitively.

Landmark animal studies by Professor Michael Meaney of McGill University found that reduced maternal care affected how certain genes in the offspring expressed themselves. To find out more about how the early environment, including maternal behaviour, can affect child development, Matthews and Meaney are co-directing a large, multidisciplinary study that follows groups of mothers and children in Ontario and Quebec.

Alison Fleming, a psychology professor at U of T Mississauga who has spent her career studying parenting behaviour, is collaborating with Matthews and Meaney on the mother-and-child study. She is interested in how a new mother's own early life experiences might interact with her genes to influence her parenting style. Over the course of more than six years, Fleming and her colleagues have paid 20 home visits to each of 204 mothers, observed their parenting, and measured hormones. The study included a session in which the researchers videotaped mother-infant interactions and then measured, among other things, how attentive the mother was to her six-month-old baby.

The researchers also took a cheek swab to do genetic analysis and inquired through questionnaires about the mother's early upbringing. When they analyzed the genetic information and put it together with the mother's own background, the findings were intriguing. The mothers with at least one copy of a particular gene variant – best known for its association with depression and anxiety – turned out to be much more attentive to their babies. Mothers who both lacked this variant and had an adverse early childhood were significantly more likely to ignore their infants. Even a mother's perceived attachment to her baby seemed to be associated with interaction between her genes and her early childhood environment.

Part of what makes the findings so provocative is that the gene variant that made for more attentive mothering has long been considered a "vulnerability" variant, because it appears to put people at greater risk for depression and

Eric Jackman

Opening Doors

Gifts totalling $8 million for the newly named Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study will help position U of T as a global leader in the study of early human development

Students from the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study

When Eric Jackman made Canada's biggest-ever private donation to early childhood development last year – a $5-million gift to the Institute of Child Study, which now bears his name – he was hoping to make a point. How we spend our early childhood, he believes, helps determine how we spend the rest of our lives. "We know more and more about the extraordinary importance of infancy and childhood to getting people off on the right start in life," he says. "I wanted to shine a spotlight on that."

Jackman has long been interested in early childhood development. He earned his undergraduate degree in economics and tried his hand in the investment business, which he describes as "not satisfying for my soul." Then, while travelling – and experiencing the cultures of Asia, the Middle East and Europe – he became fascinated with how people live. He went back to U of T for his master's in psychology, earning his degree in 1962.

But here in Canada at the time, rat mazes and pigeons pecking at dots were all the rage in psychology, he laments, and he wasn't terribly interested in that. So he set off to the University of Chicago, where, through the university's Committee on Human Development, he studied psychology, cultural anthropology, sociology and biology, becoming a "human developmentologist." He later practiced in Chicago as a clinical psychologist, both in the mental-health system and in private practice. Though Jackman eventually migrated back to the world of finance, where he currently runs Invicta Investments, he's kept his oar in psychology through philanthropy and volunteer work with organizations such as the Psychology Foundation of Canada. "That organization chose some years ago to not get involved in cures," he says. Instead it focused on prevention and health promotion, an approach championed by U of T's proposed Institute for Human Development, and by Jackman himself. "We have to start kids off as happy, resilient, energetic, motivated people, who understand their mind, their body and their soul," he says.

Jackman's own early education, and that of his siblings, began at the Institute of Child Study, which at the time was called the St. George Street nursery. He still remembers the tricycles, the little sidewalks and the sandboxes. "The thing I didn't like was naptime!" he laughs. "I wanted to play!"

Prof. Janette Pelletier, director of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, says Jackman's gift – and a $3-million contribution from Margaret McCain and the late Wallace McCain – will support building expansion and renovation, enhance community programming, and ultimately position U of T as a global centre of excellence in early human development. (Margaret McCain, a long-time children's advocate, earned a bachelor's degree in social work from U of T in 1955. She co-wrote a report for the Ontario government in 1999 that underscored the importance of life's first three years.)

The institute's new wing – the Margaret and Wallace McCain Pavilion – will feature modern classrooms and a large auditorium-gymnasium to better serve the Jackman Institute's on-site graduate program. The addition will also allow research activities in the Dr. R.G.N. Laidlaw Centre to expand, and it will provide much-needed space to strengthen physical activity and health programming for the laboratory school students in Nursery through Grade Six. The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute is one of the few places in the world where research, graduate teacher training and an elementary laboratory school occur in one place. It is seeking another $1 million to complete its fundraising campaign. – **ALISON MOTLUK**

other mental-health issues. But Fleming and others now argue that rather than predisposing people to poor mental health, this gene variant may just make someone more sensitive to environmental effects. "These gene variants are not necessarily about enhancing effects of negative environments," says Viara Mileva-Seitz, a graduate student who works with Fleming and carried out the study, "but about enhancing sensitivity to any environment, be it positive or negative. You need to look at both sides of the coin. Presumably there's a reason why these genes survived. It is unlikely that they are maladaptive in all environments."

Jennifer Jenkins, a developmental psychologist with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, is studying how family relationships interact with various genes to affect children's development. Evidence from other labs suggests that the context in which children grow up, including the family environment, can affect not only psychosocial well-being (such as how secure a child feels) but also the propensity

to develop conditions such as diabetes or obesity. "What we know about environmental effects provides us with plenty of room for intervention," says Jenkins.

The proposed Institute for Human Development has set its sights beyond health. It will also tackle a variety of issues in learning, care and education, in particular to improve how young children self-regulate, says Carl Corter, who is another of the institute's key players and a senior researcher at OISE. This ability, which encompasses skills such as self-discipline, perseverance and emotional control, has been shown to predict later-life health, wealth and involvement in crime. Three-year-old children, for instance, who had low levels of self-control, were significantly more likely at age 32 to be drug-dependent, financially struggling or convicted of a crime.

The province and the education system acknowledge the importance of good self-regulation, says Corter. Teachers confirm that kids with limited self-regulation present huge challenges to schools, and Ontario's guidelines for child care, family support programs and kindergarten all emphasize how important it is. Newer report cards even try to measure it and suggest "next steps" for how the child can improve. "There's increasingly the view that we have to think not just about how core academic content is delivered," says Corter.

But educators have not been prepared to deal with the emerging knowledge about self-regulation in children. "Early education has long recognized the importance of creating feelings of attachment and security among children. That thinking has dominated so much of academic practice," Corter says. This is still important to do but is being supplemented by new understanding about additional processes that lead to healthy development. We're now learning that what kids really need is graded challenges, he says. This fosters self-awareness in children about their own actions. Corter would like researchers to spend time observing child-care centres and full-day kindergarten classrooms to critically examine what we are currently doing and how we could improve strategies for helping kids regulate their own behaviour and make the most of their learning experiences.

Initially, Corter says, ideas about how to foster self-regulation will be tested through the university's laboratory school at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study. The institute is a hub where teachers, political and educational leaders, developmental scientists and parents all meet in the interest of putting research and ideas about education into practice. "It's a mini-institute of human development," he says.

The same approach used to study how early experiences affect physical and mental health will be used to tackle problems of self-regulation. Researchers will also work hand in hand with the Ontario Birth Study, which, once launched, will recruit pregnant women from Mount Sinai Hospital. The study will follow children starting early in their gestation and will continue to track and monitor them as they grow up. It will be similar to the Raine study, but instead of being restricted to a single cohort, it will be ongoing. With the help of DNA analysis, the researchers will explore how genes and environment work together to influence each child's life course – in terms of metabolic health, mental health and self-regulation, among other things. The goal is to use the data to inform doctors and educators about how to care for and promote well-being in the next generation and how to intervene to mitigate problems and then monitor how those interventions fare.

The proposed Institute for Human Development will bring together research scientists with the people most able to deliver interventions: clinicians, social workers and educators

In Corter's larger vision, the schools won't just be setting curriculum or determining interventions to improve kids' self-regulation. Schools will help provide parenting classes, pediatric care and social services. "We're trying to get the education system to think health," he says. "There will be more overlap in the future."

The proposed Institute for Human Development will bring together research scientists with the people most able to deliver interventions: clinicians, social workers and educators. With its scope reaching from basic scientific research into health and all the way into education, and then, uniquely, with those results channelling back into scientific research, the new institute will be unlike any other, says Sokolowski. "There's nowhere else in the world where you will find this kind of facility combining discovery and translational research on this scale," she says. The concentration of expertise is also one of a kind, she adds. Sokolowski credits the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) for bringing the importance of early human development into the mainstream. Dr. Fraser Mustard, the founder of CIFAR, has also been a driving force in this area for many years, she says.

What will distinguish the institute, according to Lye, Sokolowski, Matthews and Corter, is its focus on prevention and promotion, rather than measuring or managing risk and disease after they have already begun to unfold. "We're very determined that this isn't just a research project," says Lye. "There have got to be outcomes."

Alison Motluk (BA 1989 Trinity) is a journalist in Toronto.

Read a feature article about the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study at http://www.magazine.utoronto.ca/feature/head-of-the-class/

Photography by Sandy Nicholson

THE WATCH-MAN

Samer Muscati helps Iraqis find justice in a nation beginning to rebuild

By Kevin Charles Redmon

This spring, as the world watched Egypt's old guard capitulate to revolutionaries after weeks of social unrest, Iraq's young democracy came under fire from its own disgruntled citizens. Fanned by the popular anger seizing much of North Africa and the Arab world, raucous uprisings swept through Iraq's cities. Samer Muscati (JD 2002), a researcher for the Middle East division of Human Rights Watch and a freelance photographer, found himself amidst the tumult in the northern city of Sulamaniyah, where, for more than a month, university students and others took to the streets daily, occasionally clashing with police and armed goons. Unlike their restive neighbours in Egypt, Yemen and Bahrain, Iraqis weren't demanding regime change; they simply wanted basic public services such as electricity and water, and an end to rampant local corruption. Still, the state's response had been swift and brutal. Some protesters had been rounded up, beaten and jailed. A collection of tents, erected to shelter demonstrators in the city's central square, had been torched. Several youth showed Muscati fresh wounds that had been inflicted by

masked thugs as security forces stood idly by. "I met with two photographers who'd had their hands broken, another journalist who'd had his ribs cracked," Muscati recalls. "And these guys were just taking pictures." Earlier, he'd seen footage from Baghdad of security forces with batons beating journalists, smashing their cameras, and taking their memory cards. Even in Iraq's post–Saddam Hussein era, Muscati says, "Freedom of expression has been under attack for a while."

Muscati is still in Sulamaniyah, where it is close to midnight when I reach him on Skype. He's tired, and his voice betrays the kind of emotional exhaustion that comes with looking for truths in the dense fog of war. He spent the day meeting with victims and witnesses of the violent protest, but says this marks only the beginning of his inquiries into the abuses. In the coming days, he hopes to sit down with the city's head of security to demand, in his quiet way, some modicum of accountability: Were investigations being launched into the brutality? "It's not enough to just report on the problems," says Muscati, whose work for Human Rights Watch makes him a kind of professional witness to human suffering. "We need to make sure that change occurs as well."

Muscati, 38, is the last of his family in Iraq, a persistent leaf on a barren tree. Since the early 1970s, and then against a backdrop of invasions and civil wars, waves of Muscati's cousins, aunts and grandparents have sought refuge abroad. "They fled during the Iran-Iraq War, during the First Gulf War, during the sanctions, after the 2003 war and the last ones fled after the sectarian violence in 2006," he says. "My parents understand why I'm here, but it's difficult for them. They say, 'We came to Canada to give you a better future. Why the hell are you going back?'"

Though free from the tyrant's grip, Iraqi citizens who find themselves on the wrong side of the law – and even those who don't – have reason to fear the authorities. Torture was endemic in Iraq's shadowy legal system under Saddam, who maintained control by keeping political dissidents locked up in barbaric conditions or simply "disappearing" them. It's now eight years since Saddam was forced from power, but injustice has a long half-life. Torture – as both an interrogation technique and instrument of mass terror – was so much a part of Iraq's misrule of law that it has proved difficult to eradicate.

Last year, Muscati and Human Rights Watch uncovered a disturbing scene that could have been lifted straight from Baathist Iraq: a secret prison, operating far beyond the Ministry of Justice's reach, where special forces reporting directly to the prime minister's office systematically tortured terrorist suspects to gain false confessions. Rumours of the prison had been swirling among the families of the disappeared for several months. In early 2010, Muscati and a colleague, following a lead from a *Los Angeles Times* story, spent hours arguing with guards for access to 300 men being held at the Al Rusafa Detention Centre (they had been moved there from the secret prison). Finally, the guards stripped Muscati and his colleague of their recorders and cameras, and told them they had three hours to speak with 42 of the men. During the interviews, as one prisoner after another showed Muscati the scars left by his interrogators, it became clear that the abuses had been as routine as they were brutal. "Security officials whipped detainees with heavy cables, pulled out fingernails and toenails, burned them with acid and cigarettes, and smashed their teeth," Muscati later wrote in his report, which captured national attention in Iraq.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki quickly denied any knowledge of the secret prison, but an internal memo from the American Embassy showed that the security forces running the site were taking their orders from his office. Worse, the memo reported, the commandos, who regularly work alongside U.S. special forces, were "involved in detaining prominent political figures as well as other Iraqis who have little apparent connection to terrorism or insurgent activities."

When American tanks rolled into Baghdad in 2003 and toppled a giant statue of Saddam in Firdos Square, the liberators were said to be tilling the soil for a liberal democracy. But widespread looting, a feckless Coalition Provisional Authority and sectarian civil war soon eroded any hopes of an Iraqi Spring. Muscati offered me this assessment: "This is a place where violence is festering. The concern is, how do you deal with it in a way that doesn't create new terrorists, alienate a large part of the population or trample on people's human rights?" It's an ugly truth that the security gains in Iraq since late 2006, when some 2,800 Iraqi civilians were being killed each month, have come at the cost of democratic principles. The consequence of al-Maliki's security trump card, Muscati says, "is less space for journalists to operate, less opportunity for protesters to dissent and harsh methods for those accused of terrorism."

As one voice of concern among Baghdad's many non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Muscati is asking Iraqi ministers to elevate human rights – the paving stones of a durable democracy – to a place alongside counterterrorism. He finds allies when and where he can. "The government may not be perfect, but it's responsive," he points out – and this makes Iraq different from other Arab states. Since his discovery at Al Rusafa, Muscati has found unambiguous evidence of torture in two more prisons, known – without apparent irony – as Camp Honor and Camp Justice. Each prison holds hundreds of men swept up in broad counter-terrorism raids that are now commonplace in Sunni neighbourhoods. The minister of justice and the minister of human rights were both willing to speak with Muscati when the new abuses came to light, and, in March, a parliamentary investigative committee forced the closure of Camp Honor. "We *are* making progress," says Muscati. "It's not all negative. It's just difficult – there's so much more that needs

to be done." The prime minister continues to stonewall reporters on human rights. And no one expects indictments against the torturers to be handed down soon, if ever.

In the face of such obstacles, Muscati possesses a kind of Herculean persistence; he has worked closely enough with the prime minister's office in Baghdad to recognize how internecine Iraqi politics can be. "Al-Maliki has one of the most difficult jobs in the world," Muscati says. He's inheriting a new institution, surrounded by religious leaders, political interests and regional neighbours who all have a vested interest in meddling. "It's a terrible predicament to be in." Though the security situation is improving, Muscati wonders how long Iraqis will tolerate a government that allows its citizens to be brutalized. Where lies the tenuous line between adolescent democracy and infant police state?

"To be honest with you, the reason I became a journalist wasn't because I had a love of writing or I wanted to be objective. I saw it as a great tool for promoting issues"

Muscati's heritage is Iraqi, but he grew up in "sleepy Ottawa," the eldest son of two ambitious young scientists who left Baghdad in the 1970s to pursue graduate school in the West. After pit stops in Iran, Germany and England, both his father (an electrical engineer) and his mother (a chemist) received their PhDs in Canada. "I joke with my brother" – also a lawyer – "that we're the least educated people in our family," Muscati says.

The boys – watched most days by their grandmother, who spoke no English – were bilingual. Owing to parental edict, Iraqi Arabic was their Canadian home's lingua franca. But if Muscati stuck out in high school, it had less to do with his language skills or skin colour than with his serious mien. "I was always kind of a nerd," he says. "I was reading books about Gandhi and non-violence and pacifism when other kids were doing what kids are supposed to do." He quit eating meat at 14, a commitment he still keeps today, and began "trying to think of peaceful revolution."

While majoring in environmental studies at Carleton University, Muscati worked on the student newspaper and became the parliamentary bureau chief for the Canadian University Press's news wire, covering Ottawa's political scene. Once out of school, he interned with Reuters then jumped to the *Globe and Mail*, where he worked as an editor for three years. "To be honest with you – and I shouldn't be saying this – the reason I became a journalist wasn't because I had a love of writing or I wanted to be objective. I saw it as a great tool for promoting issues." A mentor at the *Globe* pushed him to pursue his interest in law, telling him that editorial work could wait. He arrived at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law as a second-year transfer student interested in environmental policy. But a course in human-rights law left him deeply moved, so he turned his attention to that.

After earning his law degree, Muscati went to work as a finance lawyer for a big firm in Boston. "It was the worst year of my life," he says. "It was horrible." Telling himself that he was merely renting – not selling – his soul to the corporate world, he spent his days negotiating lending terms between banks and their commercial clients. In retrospect, he says, it provided him with a useful set of white-collar tools, such as "how to deal with difficult people." With his eye on a master's in international human-rights law at the London School of Economics and Political Science, he "tried to lead a very impoverished lifestyle" and quickly paid off his loans.

Muscati had long resolved to pursue legal work in Iraq but the dream remained an impossible one while Saddam was in power. The 2003 invasion opened the door to development, humanitarian and rights groups, and, in January 2006, after two years of hopscotching the globe with his master's now in hand, Muscati arrived in Baghdad. As part of a private consultancy firm, contracted by the U.K.'s Department for International Development, Muscati and his colleagues helped build Iraq's first Cabinet Office from scratch. Sectarian violence in the country was approaching a tenor pitch, and inhabitants of heavily fortified Baghdad lived under a siege mentality. Working out of the British Embassy, Muscati, clad in ballistics vest and helmet, travelled with bodyguards in an armoured vehicle and never left the Green Zone. Home was a concrete bunker. Getting from the compound to the airport – a distance of a few miles – required a helicopter. "Mortars were coming in daily," he says. "The security situation was horrible. Every few months, one of the people we were working with would be kidnapped or killed." Slowly, his team trained 16 new bureaucrats – the foundation of a new democracy. Then one

"To do this job, you have to be an optimist," he says. "Otherwise, at some point, you have to stop"

of the security guards blew himself up, maiming the deputy prime minister and killing a number of staff. When the Human Rights Watch position came open in Toronto in 2009, Muscati happily gave up his itinerancy and moved home.

On the ground in Iraq, Muscati's linguistic arsenal, olive complexion and reporter's instincts allow him to move easily around the country. His hair has gone silver early, perhaps from day-trading in human sorrow, but the look lends him a world-weary authority. He's as skinny as a carrot, with a strong nose and eyebrows that do enough worrying for two. His soft-spoken demeanour, bordering on shyness, may be his best weapon. "He likes to win people over with his humour," says his partner, Sandra Ka Hon Chu (LLB 2002). "And he usually does."

Muscati – who tells me he sees more of Iraq from spending a single day in the Red Zone than from living for months in the Green Zone – travels with only a satellite tracer, which registers his location every quarter-hour, for security. "It's just me and my muscles," he jokes. When a family in a far-flung province opens its door to find Muscati standing outside, notebook in hand, they often look up and down the street for his armed guards. "They're always delighted. It shows that we do care and have come all this way – and are risking something – because we want to help. It gives us some street cred." (Other NGOs often ask their Iraqi sources to make the trip to the Green Zone, "which is a horrible process for local Iraqis to go through, with all the checkpoints," says Muscati.) Most Iraqis are familiar with Human Rights Watch, which spent the Baathist years reporting on the regime's laundry list of crimes, and Muscati is often deluged with testimony and information. He may do as many as 20 interviews a day, or as few as three; because of Baghdad's maze of checkpoints, he says, it takes an hour just to get across town. Free from the capital, though, a month-long reporting trip will take him to at least a half-dozen cities. The carte blanche to travel is integral to deep investigative work, but it's a source of constant anxiety back home. Every time the media report a bomb blast, his cellphone inevitably rings. "Of course, Iraq is a very big country," he says.

Life on the road can be solitary, and a little bleak. Muscati spends six months of the year in Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, and the other half at home in Toronto, where Human Rights Watch keeps a regional office. Working with an Iraqi "fixer," a street-smart guide who knows the lay of the land, Muscati spends hours in hospitals, homes and ministry buildings, doing the exhaustive shoe-leather reporting that the news media has all but forsaken in Iraq. To formally report rights violations, he needs hard evidence: firsthand testimony, photos, police reports, medical records. He needs to interview victims or their grieving families – but he also needs to seek comment from the alleged perpetrators. And any paper he writes goes through weeks of vetting – by specialists, regionalists, in-house lawyers – before it's published. "All we have as an organization is our credibility," he says.

Human Rights Watch, whose mission is equal parts fact-finding and advocacy, has built its reputation on being apolitical and single-minded in its concern for the basic and inalienable rights a democracy promises its citizens. The group's ability to press illiberal governments on concrete policies – on female genital mutilation in Kurdistan, for example, or migrant domestic labour rights in the United Arab Emirates – depends on simultaneously enfranchising and criticizing them. Playing ally to some ministries and gadfly to others requires a certain delicacy. "Sometimes these meetings are tense," Muscati says of the advocacy work. "It's difficult to have an outside group coming in and telling you how to do your job." While the politics of the job can be challenging, the emotional toll can be especially draining. "People talk about the risks and dangers, but that's not as difficult to manage as the sadness," says Muscati. "That's what really gets to you. Given that there's been two decades of strife, conflict, turmoil and sanctions, every family has been traumatized." The miles he's travelled since leaving Boston and its plush corporate digs have clearly affected Muscati. "My idealism has been tarnished somewhat since I left law school, after working in Iraq and Rwanda and East Timor and seeing what humanity is capable of. I've lost a lot of my innocence."

And so it is that Muscati's job has become his life's work. The nine-to-five has become a courtship with human malevolence and human goodness. But he can't quit it. On an investigative trip to northern Iraq this spring, he found much of the region mired in desperate, frustrated anger: after bloody national elections in March 2010, bickering ministers put on a political sideshow that lasted more than eight months as they tried to form a government. "Iraqis are pessimistic, and they have a right to be," he says. American forces and advisers are beginning their final withdrawal, even as many of the political and social institutions they've spent eight years trying to seed have failed to take root and mature. The electricity still constantly fails, corruption pervades the government and essential goods are in chronic short supply. But Muscati's sense of possibility, of the good that may yet come, is unflagging. "To do this job, you have to be an optimist," he says. "Otherwise, at some point, you have to stop."

Kevin Charles Redmon is a freelance journalist and was a 2008 Middlebury Fellow in Environmental Journalism.

The winners of the 2011 *U of T Magazine* Alumni Short Story and Poetry Contest are Brittan Coghlin (BScN 2007) for her story "Delivered" and Emily Swinkin (BSc 2010) for her poem "The children of fishermen." Coghlin and Swinkin each received $1,000.

Delivered

by Brittan Coghlin

This story contains language that some readers may find offensive. Reader discretion is advised.

KAT PLACED HER HANDS, palms warmed, gently onto the heaving belly. *We never should have let Christina wipe the board clean*, she thought to herself as the woman before her trembled, a wave of pain rolling from her. Something was wrong. Kat looked at the fetal heart-rate monitor; everything seemed OK, not perfect, but OK. It was too much too fast, that was what nagged at her. The woman had gone from mild labour to severe pain in very little time. Kat tried to piece together what was happening. Working labour and delivery had a way of tucking doubt and magic into the fog of late-night shifts and Kat's superstitions began to rise in her.

That night had dragged on with no patients showing. Any woman that arrived was always noted on a chalkboard roster for the unit. The last patient's name had been left on the board, even though she had delivered hours before.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Her responses had become automatic over the years. Kat turned up the volume on the heartbeat monitor. It was a sound she heard in her sleep and the undertone of her waking hours. *Thump thump, thump thump, thump thump*

Christina, badly tinted hair and lips pressed firmly in a tight line, had jumped up from her stool by the bank of screens showing fetal heart rates from around the unit.

"I'm cleaning the chalkboard," she'd said. Numerous objections erupted from around the desk. Everyone believed that wiping the board was tantamount to calling forth disaster. Kat remembered the last time the board had been cleaned, a woman came in psychotic from pre-eclampsia; she'd seized and then died.

Christina had picked up the brush anyway, she'd cleaned the whole board down, it gleamed at Kat, naked and unpredictable. It was only an hour later when Serena had walked in, already five centimetres dilated and ready to crawl out of her skin from the pain.

Kat approached Serena with a practiced quiet, movement like someone coaxing a wild animal, every muscle careful. Her fingertips traced the baby's head under Serena's skin; it was low and facing down. The skin grew taut, a contraction stretching and tearing flesh within. Kat's fingertips waited, the skin did not slacken. There was no reprieve for several minutes. Kat listened to the galloping heartbeat from the fetal monitor.

"Is everything OK?" Serena's husband, Gerard, asked as he stroked his wife's hair. Serena was shaking again. "Should she be doing that?"

"Totally normal," Kat replied. Her responses had become automatic over the years. Kat turned up the volume on the heartbeat monitor. It was a sound she heard in her sleep and the undertone of her waking hours. *Thump thump, thump thump, thump thump.* A baby's heart rate is fast and insistent. The next contraction took Serena again, her back arching, her eyes distant, lost in the excruciation. The baby's heart rate dipped and formed a long U shape on Kat's monitor.

"I wanted to do this naturally," Serena said as she recovered. She looked at Kat imploringly, as if there were some secret that Kat was withholding from her. Kat watched the screen, waiting for the next contraction.

Serena's words sat lumpy and cold in Kat's stomach. Kat was tired of most everything these days. Shifts seemed to drag at her feet and pull on her lower back. Innocent questions grated on her nerves. Birth was not something you could plan, but women insisted on trying, on itemizing and prioritizing their experience. They were afraid the doctors wouldn't hear them. But life, Kat knew, was just too messy.

Kat watched Serena try to cope with the next contraction. Serena gave off a controlled scream and writhed beneath Kat's palms.

"It feels like my uterus is ripping apart!" Serena said as she jumped up towards the head of the bed, unsure of what else to do but move, as if she could outrun it.

"Take some breaths with me," Kat urged and exaggerated big deep breaths, encouraging Serena to follow along with her.

Serena was not getting through the contractions anymore, Kat could feel her starting to unravel, could see her mind starting to unhinge from the pain. Kat herself felt bloated and stiff, she felt exhausted. *Fuck Christina*, she thought as she looked at the clock.

It was 4 a.m. Kat hadn't been able to sleep that day before her shift. She recalled that at home that morning, she had bled a lot more than ever before. No clots this time, the fetus

had barely begun to form inside Kat's body. She had looked for the clots in the toilet bowl when it was all over. She couldn't see anything. She had tried, had wanted to see what she'd lost, to make it real.

The memory was searing and Kat shook her head, trying to come back to Serena and her job.

She sat on the edge of the bed. Serena's legs were bowed and pushed up around her hips. Kat reached inside Serena, her fingers grazed a small tuft of hair and slid around to find that, yes, the baby was facing down, right where it should be. Serena had also dilated even more, the baby was coming soon.

"I can feel your baby's head," she said. The couple looked at one another with awe. She heard the baby's heart rate dip again, the thumping slowed. She tickled the top of the baby's head, the heartbeat stayed slow. Kat got Serena to move around, she opened up her IV, she did everything she knew to help the heart rate recover. It continued to thud slowly, deafeningly, as another contraction drew tight around the baby. Finally, Kat rang the call bell and asked for the on-call doctor.

"What's happening?" Gerard asked.

"The baby is just having some trouble with the contractions, I want it to be checked out," she said, scribbling down the events of the last few minutes into her notes.

"It's going to be OK, right?" Gerard asked, squeezing his wife's hand as she opened up into a star shape on the bed, the pain sending her limbs in all directions. Kat pretended not to hear the question, she watched the beats on the screen. They were intuitive to her, like reading lines of music.

"The baby is a girl," Serena spoke up between gasps. "We're going to call her Cara."

THE OPERATING ROOM LIGHTS glared at Kat as she hooked up Serena's intravenous bag by the table. It was now 5 a.m. and Kat could feel the weight of sleep following her every step. She had just rushed down the hall with Serena on a stretcher. Christina was scrubbing in and Kat was preparing Serena for her C-section. Serena was crying a little now, she was scared and Kat tried to keep her calm, she held her hand and breathed audibly, in and out, it was one of the few things she could offer women. Just keep breathing.

The team splayed Serena out naked on the operating table, strapped her arms down as if laying her on a cross, her large belly continuing to tense and seethe. She started to shake again, her whole body wracked with a deep cold in the stark room. Kat took out a warm blanket and wrapped it on top of Serena's shoulders.

"The OR is cold, the shaking is normal," she soothed. Serena's eyes were darting around the room and Kat felt for the first instant a moment of empathy, a moment of

The children of fishermen

by Emily Swinkin

The children of fishermen laugh like saltwater
spilling over stony breakers. This is what they know –
overflowing, the sea
full of something it wants everyone to share.
Sometimes they watch, their eyes
like gentle gulls, to see
if speckles on the horizon might be boats
bringing home their fathers.
Wood, shells, bottles, and all scraps
of marine memory come to rest in this port –
proof the ocean never ends.
There, with the smell of brine so caught up
in their tales, the pirate poetry they fling
into the wind, they count the leagues to bed
and worship, tired, unconscious,
the moon's magic, bowing
to the shepherd of tides.

Emily Swinkin (BSc 2010 Victoria) happily split her undergraduate education between English and human biology and is now studying medicine at Queen's University. Her poems have appeared in several volumes of *ACTA Victoriana* and *The Trinity University Review*.

Runners-Up and Readers' Choice Awards

Laura Rock (BA 1986 St. Michael's) won second place in the story contest for "Maquila Bird." Rock lives in Lakefield, Ontario, with her husband and four children. Her fiction and essays have appeared in the *Antigonish Review*, the *Globe and Mail* and the *Peterborough Examiner*.

Laboni Islam (BA 2002 UC, BEd 2003) is runner-up in the poetry contest for "The Mynah." She is both eastern and western, both teacher and student, both learning to write and writing to learn.

In online voting, readers' opinions aligned with our judges'; they chose Brittan Coghlin's "Delivered" as their favourite story and Emily Swinkins' "The children of fishermen" as their favourite poem.

Read the runners-up at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

connection. She held Serena's glance and spoke in a whisper. "Everything is fine, I'll bring Gerard in soon, we'll all meet Cara together." Serena nodded.

It was these rare moments that brought Kat in to work each day, despite her fatigue, despite how the babies made her ache, how they made her feel rejected. Her own uterus barren, empty, it often felt hollow inside like someone had scraped it clean. Sometimes she saw it in her mind, like the inside of a carved pumpkin, all the pulp scooped out. She couldn't help but feel a sense that the women she helped through birth were more worthy, they were softer somehow, plush and open. Like gardens in bloom, bursting with papery, fluttering flowers.

Kat had grown hard and closed, she found it difficult to recall her early days as a nurse, the way she had felt a kind of presence coaxing her to call forth life into the world. There had been beauty back then and power, a feminine divinity in her hands and the world a place of wonder. That was before the miscarriages, before she lost the first, the one she was going to call Grace. And then there had been three more, each one draining her of faith, sucking creation out of her.

The resident came in then and painted Serena's belly with antiseptic wash. Kat pulled up drapes around the table so Serena couldn't see when the doctors cut into her. Serena's eyes followed Kat around the room.

Christina looked over at the heart monitor. "Something is wrong?" she asked from behind her surgical mask. Kat ignored her and walked over to push the call bell.

"Can you bring the husband in now?" she asked.

The doctor swung through the OR doors with Gerard behind her. Kat knew before they even opened Serena up that Christina never should have wiped that board clean. The doctor made a small incision at the base of Serena's belly and then she and the resident reached their hands inside and pulled open the first layer of skin. It was better for tissue to be torn, rather than cut, and they proceeded in this way through each layer of flesh, down to Serena's uterus. Kat saw them tear at the uterus, shearing it like a piece of wrapping paper.

"You're going to feel a lot of pressure now," she said to Serena, warning her of the sensation of the two doctors pushing down on the top of her uterus and simultaneously pulling up on the baby.

Serena groaned then and winced, she struggled to catch her breath as if punched in the gut. Kat waited for the sound of a small cry. She still held her breath until she heard it, the first cry. She waited. The room grew silent, the air deepening into an abyss of quiet. Serena continued to groan and the doctors continued to pull and push, still, nothing.

"The baby is stuck in the pelvis," Christina whispered beside Kat.

The doctors continued to struggle, blood spilled over the sides of the table and into the plastic gutters of the drapes. The doctors remained elbow deep inside Serena fighting with her body.

"The placenta detached?" the doctor asked in a whisper, Kat met her eyes, they were serious and direct.

"I can't get her out," the resident replied.

The seconds dragged on and Serena's eyelids fluttered. Kat imagined that the baby was drowning inside and that Serena herself was bleeding out. They still couldn't get hold of the baby.

Gerard was patting Serena's cheek gently, trying to keep her eyes open. The room was so quiet you could only hear the soft whirring of the suction machine.

"Fuck Christina," Kat said under her breath.

Kat felt in her gut that the baby would die, and possibly Serena as well. In the years before she would have asked for intervention from some unnamed force that she spoke to in her head, she would have pleaded to save them both. She didn't do that this time. Her own losses bearing down on her as Serena's blood began to splatter onto the clean, white linoleum. She thought about Serena, about how she would mourn this child.

She herself had never had more than clots to mourn. When she'd lost Grace she had been in bed, the clots passing had woken her up, the sheets soaked in blood. Kat's husband had come home from work that afternoon to find her staring off the back deck, unblinking, unmoving, cradling the clots in the baby blanket her sister had mailed to her from Vancouver. When he'd tried to take it from her, she had flown into a rage. He'd cried and begged her to come inside. She wouldn't speak to him. She stayed there all night, sheltering the blanket when the summer rain had come. Kat didn't know how to mourn a clump of cells.

No, she had no faith. She didn't pray or speak to anyone as she watched Serena's body dismantle. Rather, Kat felt only the unravelling, a deep void that was swallowing the operating room and all of them in it.

"Anyone have any ideas?" the doctor asked, her face exhausted.

"Let me try to push," Kat said as she grabbed a pair of gloves. She wasn't scrubbed in, but no one else was free to do so. The doctor nodded OK, and Kat reached up through Serena's cervix, pushing Serena's knees back as far as she could make them go at the same time. She felt the same tuft of hair on the baby's head, the same rounded smoothness and she pushed and pushed. The baby's head budged, and finally unlocked.

The doctor pulled her out up through Serena's abdomen. Kat withdrew and grabbed a baby blanket, holding herself ready, knowing she'd see the baby blue and unmoving. She was ready to resuscitate.

Then there was a small cry. Kat took the baby to the warmer. She looked down, and saw her, pink and squirming,

Sometimes she saw it in her mind, like the inside of a carved pumpkin, all the pulp scooped out. She couldn't help but feel a sense that the women she helped through birth were more worthy, they were softer somehow, plush and open

she cried out strong then, as if she'd had no trouble at all coming into the world. Kat placed her stethoscope over the baby's heart and heard the reassuring, *thump thump, thump thump*. The baby reached out to Kat. She looked completely healthy.

Kat wrapped her tightly in a blanket. Serena and Gerard were holding each other and crying on the other side of the curtain. She handed the baby to them. They greeted her joyfully. Kat left them and returned to work as the doctor stapled Serena's belly. Kat dressed the surgical wound and began to clean up Serena's body.

"That was a miracle that baby came out OK," Christina said quietly to Kat as they took down the curtain from around Serena.

Kat looked at the new family, they were huddled together and caressing each other. She watched the couple and felt no sense of awe or wonder, she couldn't see a miracle. She felt only the cold creep back over her, sleep heavy on her eyelids and an ever-expanding emptiness. The baby cried.

Kat left the room and erased Serena's name from the chalkboard. In its place she scrawled: Delivered.

Brittan Coghlin (BScN 2007) is an aspiring writer and registered nurse. She finds inspiration as part of a monthly writing group in Toronto. She works at Casey House in Toronto as a community nurse for people living with HIV-AIDS.

The Judges

Poetry Contest

Catherine Graham is the author of four acclaimed poetry collections: *The Watch* (Abbey Press, Northern Ireland) and the trilogy *Pupa*, *The Red Element* and *Winterkill* (Insomniac Press). She teaches creative writing at U of T's School of Continuing Studies. Visit catherinegraham.com.

Bruce Meyer (BA 1980 Victoria, MA 1982) is the author of 31 books including 11 poetry collections, the most recent of which are *Mesopotamia* (YSP) and *Dog Days: A Comedy of Terriers* (Black Moss Press). He is a professor of English at Georgian College and the inaugural Poet Laureate for the City of Barrie.

Zoe Whittall is the author of seven books, most recently the novel *Holding Still for as Long as Possible* (House of Anansi).

Carleton Wilson (BA 2000 Innis) won the 2007 *U of T Magazine* Alumni Poetry Contest. He is a poet, editor, publisher and book designer in the Junction in Toronto.

Note: Catherine Graham helped select the finalists but due to a conflict did not help choose the winner.

Short Story Contest

Kerry Clare (BA 2002 Victoria, MA 2007) is the winner of the 2009 *U of T Magazine* Alumni Short Story Contest. Her essays, short fiction and book reviews have appeared in various wonderful places, and she writes about books and reading at her blog "Pickle Me This."

Lauren Kirshner's debut novel *Where We Have to Go* (McClelland & Stewart) was a finalist for the 2010 City of Toronto Book Award and will be published in the U.S. in 2012. Kirshner (BA 2005 Victoria) received *NOW*'s "Best Emerging Author" award of 2009 and has twice won the Hart House Poetry Competition.

Rebecca Rosenblum's fiction has been shortlisted for the Journey Prize, the National Magazine Award and the Danuta Gleed Award. Her story collection, *Once*, won the Metcalf-Rooke Award. Her second collection, *The Big Dream*, is forthcoming from Biblioasis this fall. Rosenblum (MA 2007) also writes a blog, at rebeccarosenblum.com

Mark Sedore (BA 2008 Victoria, MA 2009) is a staff writer for U of T, and has previously worked as a writer for the mayor's office in Toronto. His novel, *Snowmen* (Arsenal Pulp Press), won the 3-Day Novel Writing Contest in 2009.

Note: Mark Sedore helped select the finalists but due to a conflict did not help choose the winner.

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All About Alumni

I can't even think back to when I was talking about *The Wonder Years*

Reality-TV expert Murtz Jaffer
p. 46

Rules of Conduct

As chief of protocol, Desmond Parker brings peace of mind to United Nations' guests

DURING HIS CAREER IN FOREIGN SERVICE, Desmond Parker travelled the world. These days, the world travels to meet him.

As chief of protocol for the United Nations in New York City, Parker (BA 1976 UTM) ensures that the UN implements its protocol policies in an orderly fashion and in a way that is acceptable to all 192 member states, as well as UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations. He and his team set the ground rules for how discussions take place, how agreements are arrived at and how people interact at the UN – and, by extension, the international community. During last year's General Assembly, for example, Parker's team provided protocol accreditation for 8,500 delegates – co-ordinating meetings, photo-ops and seating arrangements, among many other functions. "We have to make sure that when they get here, they're comfortable," says Parker, who was appointed in May 2010. "Then they can focus on substantive issues, and not issues of personal well-being."

Born in Trinidad and Tobago to a police officer and homemaker, Parker decided to study languages at U of T Mississauga (then Erindale College). "I had family in Toronto, and I thought it would be one of the easier places to settle," he says. ›

PHOTO: ANDREW ROWAT

Lord of the Loaves

Steve Gibson's final MBA project has left him rolling in dough

STEVE GIBSON (MBA 1995) still wonders why he only got an A- on his business plan to start an artisanal-bread bakery. Soon after graduating from U of T's Rotman School of Management, Gibson took his 20-page school project to the bank and received financing to launch Fred's Bread. Gibson and his spouse, pastry chef Andrea Damon Gibson, have since grown Fred's Bread into a multimillion-dollar business. "I should have gotten an A+," he quips.

The Toronto enterprise employs 35 workers, including a team of bakers who twist, shape and bake 30,000 loaves a week. Every morning, trucks deliver freshly baked bread to upscale restaurants, including Hart House's Gallery Grill, and high-end grocery stores, such as Pusateri's. Several years ago, Fred's Bread started flash-freezing bread so aficionados elsewhere in Ontario and in the northeastern U.S. can enjoy the loaves.

In the mid-1990s, when Damon Gibson lamented the lack of quality bread in Toronto, Gibson noted an opportunity and developed a business plan. In their tiny apartment kitchen, Damon Gibson wrapped Concord grapes in cheesecloth and, by adding flour and water, created a sourdough starter.

The plan's marketing component emphasized all-natural, organic ingredients and the baking methods of yesteryear. "We take up to 24 hours to make a sourdough loaf, and almost no bakery will do that," says Gibson.

Last summer, he hired a farmer to grow organic Red Fife wheat. "It's called vertical integration," says Gibson, tossing out a term he learned at Rotman. "It allows you to reduce costs and have more control over the process." His wife created loaves that are rustic red and have a nutty flavour. And Gibson marketed the new line with a catchy new name: Red Fred Bread. – **SUSAN PEDWELL**

OVERHEARD

> We [at the House of Anansi] thought we might sell three or four thousand copies, but we knew that something was afoot because Britnell [Book Shop] – which was known as 'one-book Britnell' because they only ever ordered one copy of any book – ordered two.

Margaret Atwood (BA 1961 VIC), on the first sign that her seminal book, *Survival*, was to be a hit. Victoria College, March 23

Impassioned by travel and fluent in both French and Spanish, Parker earned a master's degree and started a career teaching French in Nigeria. But after 10 years, the world traveller longed to return home. "I was 35, married with four kids. I thought, 'You're a young man, and you can still do something else for yourself.'" He then accepted a post with Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Early in the 1990s, however, Parker's peaceful homecoming was interrupted. A *coup d'état* erupted in Haiti, and he joined the International Civilian Mission to monitor the human-rights situation in the region. In 1996, a move to Liberia saw him working as a UN peacekeeper in that country, then in the midst of civil war. He spent six years there, engaging in peace-building after the conflict concluded.

Parker's work has required great courage at times. He has gone for long periods without basic amenities, and endured forced separations from his family, who were in the United States during much of the time. He says it's all part of his job. "When you commit yourself to working for the United Nations, especially in peacekeeping, you have to have a passion and an appetite for working in dangerous situations far from home," says Parker, 61. "There is so much suffering in the world – and there has to be a group of people committed to public service, so that the rights of disenfranchised people are protected."

Parker's current job also affords him an extraordinary window onto different cultures and customs. "Politics plays a big role in showing the differences between people," he says. "But there is much more that unites human beings, than divides them." – **CYNTHIA MACDONALD**

PHOTO: LEFT, COURTESY OF STEVE GIBSON; RIGHT, GEORGE WHITESIDE

H Emma Ruby-Sachs writes political commentary for the *Huffington Post*, covering everything from gay rights to Big Oil

In the Name of the Daughter

In her literary debut, lawyer Emma Ruby-Sachs wonders about the personal costs of activism

HER PARENTS EMBEDDED THEIR radically different dreams for her in one name.

Emma Ruby-Sachs is the daughter of the country's ultimate legal power couple: Clayton Ruby, the most celebrated civil-liberties attorney of his generation, and Harriet Sachs, a top-tier human-rights and family lawyer elevated to the bench. "My mother says I'm named for Jane Austen's Emma," says Ruby-Sachs. "But my father claims it was for Emma Goldman."

On the face of it, two more different characters are hard to imagine than this particular literary heroine, Austen's cosseted heiress, and the proto-feminist fomenter of revolutions. So which parent's dream, which vision of Emma, to follow? Well, both.

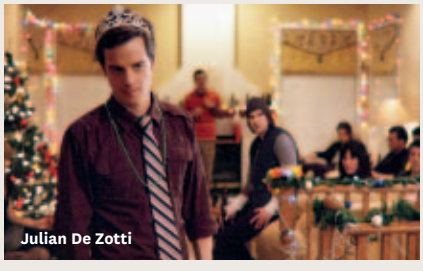
"I'm proud of both my parents. But I wanted to look at what it would be like to have a more complicated relationship"

Ruby-Sachs has just completed her first novel, *The Water Man's Daughter* (pursuing the Austen path), which explores what it's like to be an activist (a touch of Goldman). And she doesn't sequester her interest in activism between the covers: the Faculty of Law grad (JD 2008) currently works for Avaaz, the advocacy group that organizes global online petitions protesting everything from commercial whaling to Uganda's proposed anti-gay legislation (which was shelved in May).

The "water man" named in the novel's title is a Canadian executive at an international water conglomerate, who is murdered while on a business trip to South Africa. His daughter, Claire, comes to South Africa to ensure that justice is done. But seeing justice done isn't as simple as she imagines. Claire is introduced to Nomsulwa, an anti-privatization activist who fought the water company to ensure that her native townships were adequately supplied. At every turn, Claire is faced with the immoral choices her father made. For her part, Nomsulwa must struggle to understand how her own father, a hero of the anti-apartheid movement, could also have beaten her mother, and abandoned them.

"I'm lucky in that I'm proud of both my parents," Ruby-Sachs says. "But I wanted to look at what it would be like to have a more complicated relationship." She elaborates: "It's all about the public-private divide. Mandela is a perfect example – beloved by the world for what he did, but a pretty horrible father by all accounts. The costs of activism, that's what really fascinated me." In short: a Goldman question explored in an Austen forum. – **ALEC SCOTT**

Portrait of Generation Y



Julian De Zotti

You can often recognize a passion project by its lack of funding. But a tight budget didn't stop Julian De Zotti (BA 2005 St. Mike's) from turning his screenplay into a feature-length film that was selected for the 2010 Montreal World Film Festival and had a successful run at the Royal cinema in Toronto this winter.

In March 2008, in just 10 short days – with donations from friends and family – De Zotti and director Phil Borg shot the movie in De Zotti's parents' home in north Burlington.

New Year examines the universal theme of cusp-of-adulthood confusion, and follows a group of friends who reunite after university to ring in the New Year and share their anxieties. The script reflects De Zotti's internal monologue. "I wasn't completely sure about what I wanted to do," he says. "There were so many options but also this pressure to find a nine-to-five job, then settle down and have a family."

After graduating from the University College Drama Program, De Zotti started his own theatre company, the Original Norwegian. Now 29, he is working on another screenplay – a comic re-imagining of *King Lear*, inspired by Italian culture.

New Year has been released on Video-On-Demand across Canada, and will be released on pay TV networks later this year.

– **SARAH TRELEAVEN**

PHOTO: TOP, COURTESY OF McCLELLAND & STEWART; BOTTOM, COURTESY OF PHIL BORG

THE TWO OF US

Jane and Roger Brown

For Jane (MA 1952) and Roger Brown (BASc 1952) of Midland, Ontario, first love became forever love.

Jane: I asked Roger to a high school Sadie Hawkins dance in the fall of 1946. He said that he wasn't sure because he and his family sometimes went away on weekends, but I think he was holding out for a better offer. He let me stew for a few days and then said yes.

After we graduated from U of T, Roger found work as an engineer and I taught home economics. Then I stayed home with our adopted children. We brought home our first child, Diane, at nine months. When she was two, the adoption agency asked us to take a two-year-old boy. We had hoped for a baby, but we decided to meet Richard and when they brought this little guy in, he wanted to get right up on Roger's knee. A year-and-a-half later, we welcomed Carol at 10 days old.

Over the years, Roger has had a lot of medical issues we've had to get through. He's had a couple of brain tumours, lung cancer and diabetes. Our strong Christian faith has helped us; we believe in the power of prayer. Recently, Roger moved into an assisted-living residence and living apart hasn't been easy. But he has settled in nicely, and I enjoy visiting him every afternoon.

Roger: During my first year, I was at the Ajax campus and Jane was at Whitney Hall on main campus. Every Saturday, I would hitchhike to see her. We would spend the day going to football games and eating our meals together. Once we had a late night at a U of T dance in Ajax and I took Jane home. The timing of the train made it impossible for her to be there by 2:30 a.m. closing, so I was given the key to the women's residence – which I probably waved around a little.

Over the years, we shared a love of boating, but we're too old now. Jane was just reading me our ship's log, all about where we've been and what we saw. She would navigate for me – and Jane was a very good navigator – because I'm colour-blind and I couldn't tell whether the buoys were red or green. We ended up on the rocks once because of that.

In July, we'll be married for 59 years. We just love each other and we manage to agree on more things than we disagree on. We've had a good life.

When Sarah Wilson wanted to dig deep and plant a vegetable garden at U of T, she looked upward. She, along with fellow civil-engineering grad students Kyla Smith and Heather Wray, founded the Urban Agriculture Society and created one of the largest rooftop vegetable gardens in Toronto in 2008. Located on the Civil Engineering building, it has produced more than 200 kilograms of food for the student community.

For her volunteer work, Wilson received a Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award at Varsity Centre in March. The awards were given to 177 graduating students for outstanding extracurricular contributions to U of T and the wider community.

Wilson is also involved in issues of water access and safety. She founded the U of T chapter of WaterCan – an NGO that helps those in impoverished countries gain access to clean water and basic sanitation – and volunteered with the U of T chapter of the Ontario Water Works Association.

To read about all the 2011 Cressy Award winners, visit http://alumni.utoronto.ca/cressy.

PHOTO: BOTTOM, MARK BALSON

Caitlin Kelly's first book touched on a very different subject than retail: she wrote *Blown Away: American Women and Guns* in 2004

FIRST PERSON

At Your Service

After three decades as a reporter, Caitlin Kelly enters the low-wage world of retail

WORK DEFINES US. Whether we're a PhD, MBA, JD, DDS, MD – or a SAHM (stay at home mom) – it's often our primary identity after graduation. What happens, then, when a satisfying or well-paid job in your field eludes you?

In September 2007, I stepped away from journalism – my only career since I began writing for the *Varsity* in 1975 – and into the gruelling, low-wage world of retail work. For two years and three months, part time, I sold outdoor clothing at The North Face in a suburban New York mall.

I had never worked retail, was 20 to 30 years older than my co-workers and the only Caucasian female employee much of that time. (I had never before worked in a place where I was the visible minority.) Typical of many retail jobs, we were all poorly paid, no matter how well we sold. Yet two of my co-workers were supporting four children apiece on our wages, $9 to $11 an hour with no commission. One woman once sold $16,000 worth of goods in one shift, but there was no promotion or huge bonus for her.

Retail was the simplest choice after I was laid off from my job as a reporter at the New York *Daily News*. Weeks earlier, I'd had a front-page exclusive – "the wood" in tabloid terminology. But as 24,000 fellow journalists lost their jobs in 2007-8, finding employment at another paper seemed hopeless.

I needed cash. I also hungered for a place I would be professionally valued.How hard *could* it be to hang ski pants and meet daily sales quotas?

Retail employment taught me new definitions of (boring! repetitive! sweaty! tiring!) work. A manager inspected my handbag every time I left the store. Security cameras caught my every move. Parking at the mall cost an hour of my wages.

Writers often work alone at home, cocooned – or isolated – in silence and solitude. In retail, I had to be *on*, from the minute I clocked in and donned my plastic name badge to the second, feet burning with exhaustion, I staggered home. Retail work resembles acting: employees are minutely observed by co-workers, managers, customers – and those ever-present security cameras. Holiday-season shifts offered a Chaplinesque workplace frenzy as long lines of toe-tapping shoppers stared at us impatiently. Why couldn't we work even *faster*? And, oh, the fury when we disappointed them!

A manager inspected my handbag every time I left. Security cameras caught my every move

I had met impossibly tight deadlines at the *Globe and Mail* and *Daily News*, but being shouted at for running out of gift boxes? Our job was the classic exemplar of stress – responsibility without authority. Yet whether customers are finger-snappingly imperious or monosyllabically indecisive, the associate must inveigle them into actually *buying* something.

The U.S., where I've lived since 1988, prides itself on being a meritocracy, where education and hard work can rocket the ambitious out of the working class. Most of my 14 co-workers had attended or graduated from university, and some were studying between their retail shifts. But we were mostly assumed to be stupid, and it was deeply demoralizing to be so unvalued, by customers and the company alike. Shoppers leaned over the computer when I entered their name or address – I couldn't possibly know how to spell.

I lasted far longer than average; 50 per cent of retail workers quit within 90 days and 100 per cent, typically, within a year. I'm glad I did it. I sold well, and developed new skills through working with a much greater diversity of colleagues and customers than any newsroom I'd seen. Empathy and responsiveness, patience and charm are all crucial in sales. Not in journalism, where a writer can easily grow enormous and admiring audiences (who will never meet you face to face), even if you're a nasty little egotist. In retail, some journalists wouldn't last a week!

Now when I shop, I wonder who's really behind that counter, when they started and why they stayed. They may well be hard-working, smart, educated people. If only all managers and customers really understood that.

Caitlin Kelly (BA 1979 VIC) is the author of *Malled: My Unintentional Career in Retail* (Portfolio, 2011).

PHOTO: VICTORIA PHIPPS/GETTY IMAGES

60 SECONDS WITH

Murtz Jaffer

Reality-TV Expert

Murtz Jaffer is the ultimate reality-TV fan. He has attended more than 1,000 reality-TV premières, finales and events, and rubs shoulders with everyone from Boston Rob to Donald Trump. He is host of *Reality Obsessed*, a television show in which he re-enacts and deconstructs reality-TV scenarios, and he recently won the Reality Rocks Special Achievement in Reality Reporting Award. Murtz (BA 2003 NEW) talks with **Lisa Bryn Rundle** about all the hours of television-watching it has taken him to get where he is today – a.k.a. the self-declared World's Foremost Reality-TV Expert.

When did you first get interested in reality TV? In 2000 I read about a new show coming out where they strand 16 people on an island and they vote each other off for a million dollars. I knew immediately that the show was going to be huge.

What's your earliest *Survivor* memory? You have this cancer survivor, an older woman. She played the ukulele. And she was voted off first! In dramas the nice guy always wins. So, I was like, "Wow." People ask me: "What is the appeal?" Part of it is escape but it's also an adrenaline high-speed version of real life. Everybody's nice on the first day but as you get closer and closer to the money, the true human spirit comes out.

So people are ultimately selfish? At the end of the day, reality TV could not exist without reality. This is how people are.

Part of the entertainment of reality TV seems to be the deconstruction of strategy afterwards . . . There's no way I can even think back to the times where I was talking to people about: "Hey did you catch that episode of *The Wonder Years*?" Gimme a break. Now you can talk about: "Should Donald have fired him?" Or, "Oh my God can you believe he kept her on *The Bachelor*?" It puts the cool in watercooler. How great is that line?! I didn't even pre-write that!

You're about to receive this award for special achievement in reality reporting. Oh, I am so excited about this. I'm never going to be Halle Berry accepting an Oscar. But in my sphere, this award really means a lot. I feel like it justifies everything that I've done. There were a lot of detractors, my parents included, who were like "You just watch TV all day, that's all you do."

What does "reality reporting" entail? When I started out with the website, I figured out that I can predict the outcomes – I could break news about who is going to win *American Idol*. I think I turned reality on its head when I started doing that.

Do you consider yourself a reporter? You know, it was hard achieving a level of respect for that very reason – like "How can *you* be regarded as a reporter when you're writing about TV and we're covering wars?" But to me there's no difference between breaking the Watergate scandal and figuring out which girl is going to get proposed to at the end of *The Bachelor*.

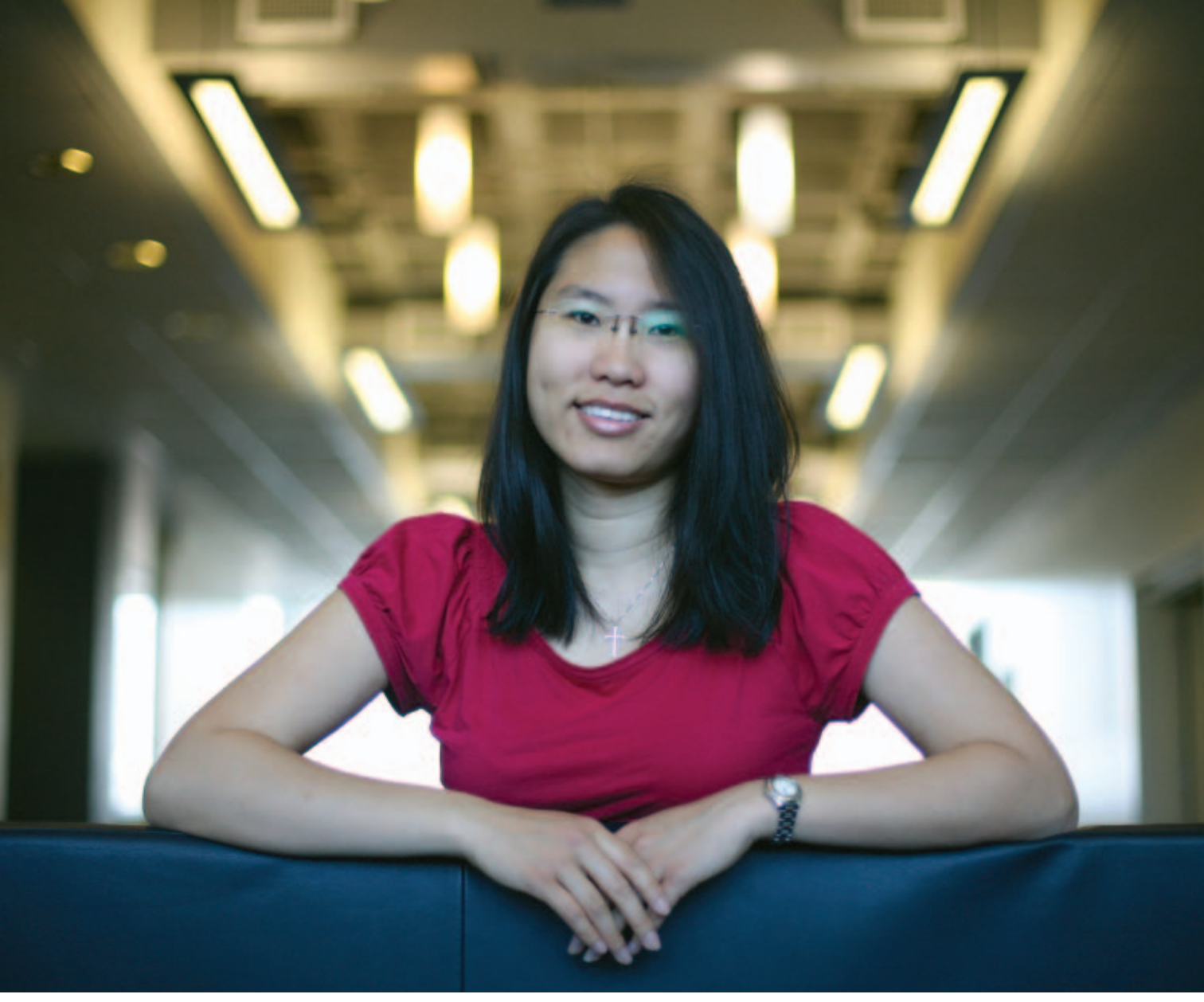
Really?! Yes, one is more serious. But I'm never going to say one is more or less important. They both appeal to people. We give the news that people want to hear about.

Milestones

Governing Council – the senior body that oversees the academic, business and student affairs of the university – has announced the election of four alumni governors. The following have terms that run until June 2014: **Celina Rayonne Caesar-Chavannes** (BSc 1998 NEW) is owner and managing director of ReSolve Research Solutions, which helps pharmaceutical companies manage clinical studies. She is a member of the U of T Research Ethics Board. **Keith Thomas** (BASc 1987, MA 1989) is CEO of Vive Nano, a nanotechnology company that is based on technology developed in U of T's chemistry department. **B. Elizabeth Vosburgh** (BA 1968 VIC) is president of E2 Enterprises. This is her third term as an alumni governor. **Donald E. Andrew** (BASc 1954), who has been elected for a one-year term, was a civil engineer in the field of road construction. He served as chairman of the Engineering Alumni Association for two years. The four other alumni governors are **Nykolaj Kuryluk** (BSc 1989 UTM), **Michael Marrus** (BA 1963 UC, MSL 2005), **Maureen Somerville** (BA 1969 UTSC, BEd 1970 OISE) and **John Switzer** (BA 1970 UTM).

The Black Business and Professional Association recently honoured several U of T alumni and one faculty member with 2011 Harry Jerome Awards for outstanding achievement. **Dr. Upton Allen**, professor of paediatrics at U of T, received the health sciences award. **G. Raymond Chang** (BASc 1970), philanthropist and director of CI Investments, was honoured with the president's award. The business award went to real-estate entrepreneur **Isaac Olowolafe Jr.** (BA 2007 UTM), who recently established the Dream Maker Realty/Olowolafe Family Award at U of T for students in the African Studies program. **Michelle McFarlane** (MSc 2010), who studied in the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience at U of T, was honoured for academics. Romance novelist **Kayla Perrin** (BA 1992 VIC) received the arts award, and the diversity award went to **John Tory** (BA 1975 TRIN), co-chair of Diverse City.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MURTZ JAFFER



“I will achieve my goals. But I realize I can’t do it alone.”

Philiz Goh
BSc in Nursing, 2010

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SAGE OF AQUARIUS

April 1973

Marshall McLuhan lectures at the Centre for Culture and Technology

While puffing on a cigar, communications guru Marshall McLuhan – once dubbed the Sage of Aquarius – holds court during one of his famous evening seminars at the Centre for Culture and Technology. The centre (of which he was director) was located in an architectural throwback: a coach house built in 1903. But McLuhan's theories were forward-thinking and prophetic: he recognized that the world had become a global village in its electronic interdependence and divined the advent of the World Wide Web in *The Gutenberg Galaxy* (1962). And in *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (1964), he first posited that "the medium is the message," pointing out that the medium's structure – *how* it relays information, as opposed to the information itself – is what shapes society and our perceptions of reality.

Few academics have infiltrated the collective psyche, intellectual realm and pop culture like McLuhan, who worked at U of T for more than 30 years. To celebrate the centenary of his birth (he was born July 21, 1911), the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, the City of Toronto and Mozilla have arranged a year-long series of events. In October, Nuit Blanche will contain a McLuhan component, and, in November, the university will host the international conference "McLuhan 100: Then, Now, Next" to discuss the professor's work and influence. The events leave no excuse for anyone to be on the receiving end of the famous McLuhan line in *Annie Hall* – when he dismisses a phoney intellectual with an exceedingly curt "You know nothing of my work." – **STACEY GIBSON**

Visit www.mcluhan100.ca for event details.

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Spring 2011 Convocation

June 2011

Over the course of a few weeks this June, some 12,000 U of T students converged on Convocation Hall, where they were officially welcomed into the university's alumni community. Joining this year's new grads as they celebrated this milestone were the 15 distinguished honorary graduands listed below and to the right. As custom dictates, each honorary degree recipient addressed their convocation. Webcasts of these presentations are available at www.convocation.utoronto.ca/webcast.htm.

Spring 2011 Honorary Degree Recipients

John H. Daniels
(BArch 1950)
Philanthropist and developer. Founder of The Daniels Corporation, a Toronto-based real estate company

David Montgomery Dunlap
(BASc 1961)
Moffat Dunlap
Volunteers and philanthropists. The Dunlaps' endowed gifts to establish the Dunlap Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics built on a legacy that began with their family's establishment of the Dunlap Observatory in 1935

Malcolm Gladwell
(BA 1984 Trinity)
Staff writer with *The New Yorker* magazine and the author of four books, most recently *What the Dog Saw*

Craig Kielburger
(BA 2006 Trinity)
Marc Kielburger
Co-founded Free the Children, an international development and youth-empowerment organization, and Me to We, a social enterprise that supports the work of Free the Children

Yong Guan Koh
(BASc 1970)
Singapore's High Commissioner to Canada, chair of Singapore's national pension fund and board member of the Singapore Cancer Sciences Research Institute

Arthur S. Labatt
Sonia Labatt
(BA 1960 UC, MA 1990, PhD 1995)
Philanthropists and volunteers. Arthur is the co-founder and former president of Trimark Financial, a financial services company. Sonia is an adjunct professor at U of T's Centre for the Environment and an author

Professor Michael Lapidge
(PhD 1971)
Author and one of the world's foremost scholars in medieval studies

The Right Hon. Paul E.P. Martin
(BA 1961 St. Michael's, JD 1964)
Canada's 21st prime minister and former finance minister

Nandan Nilekani
Co-founder of Infosys, a global technology services company, and chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India

Anne Sado
(BASc 1977, MBA 1981)
President of George Brown College in Toronto

Mladen Vranic
Professor Emeritus of the departments of physiology and medicine at U of T and an internationally renowned diabetes researcher

Bert Wasmund
(PhD 1966)
Executive director of Hatch Ltd. and an expert in making metallurgical and chemical processes for smelting metals more efficient and environmentally sustainable