



of

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MAGAZINE

Ghost Worlds

The search for
other Earths

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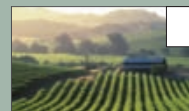
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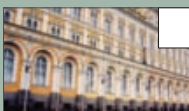
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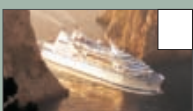
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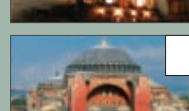
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defends the rights of Canadians
under the constitution. She's also an
author, a pianist and the mother of
two successful lawyers. "Every day
is a gift," she says. "I do what I
can to make the most of it."

by Donna Bailey Nurse



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Editor and Manager: Scott Anderson
Managing Editor: Stacey Gibson
Art Direction: Shelley Frayer/
 Ireland+Associates
**Advertising and Production
 Manager:** Susan Wray
Editorial Co-ordinator: Carla DeMarco
Publisher: Rivi Frankle,
 Interim Vice-President and
 Chief Advancement Officer

Editorial Office:

Phone: (416) 946-7575
 Fax: (416) 978-3958
 E-mail: uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca

Advertising Inquiries:

Susan Wray
 Phone: (416) 978-0838
 Fax: (416) 978-3958
 E-mail: susan.wray@utoronto.ca

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Everything Is Possible

Making the student experience count for more

FIRST, AN ADMISSION: I DID NOT ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO. I was accepted into New College and probably *would* have enrolled there, had I been able to avoid the hour-long commute to campus. Even as a high school student, I anticipated that I wouldn't want to miss what happened on campus in the evenings and on weekends – the times I'd be stuck on a bus in traffic or at home in the suburbs.

A vast number of interesting activities occur at U of T outside of the laboratory or lecture hall, and it's a particular challenge of this university to entice the three out of four students who commute to class to take advantage of them. The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), an annual assessment of student opinions at 400 universities in North America, found last year that 60 per cent of U of T's commuter students spend no time at all on co-curricular activities. This is the case even though U of T boasts more than 300 student clubs and the largest varsity and intramural sports program in Canada.

The breadth of clubs and activities available to students here is truly staggering. Some, as *The Varsity* editor Graham F. Scott discovered while researching a feature story in this issue ("U of T's Oddball Charms," p. 24), are a little out of the ordinary. The competitive jump-rope team and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group Equity Gardeners, who maintain an organic garden outside the Students' Administrative Council building, are just two examples. So it's curious that, with such a wide variety of campus clubs to choose from, so many students decide not to stick around after class.

Supreme Court of Canada judge Rosalie Silberman Abella (who is profiled beginning on p. 30) attended U of T in the 1960s. She says social events and co-curricular activities played almost as important a role in her education – and in making her aware of the full range of life's opportunities – as her classes. She played the piano for the University College Follies, an annual variety show, and had personal contact with several of her professors. Far fewer students attended U of T at that time, of course. The campus "felt very manageable," Abella says. "It was an exuberant environment. Everything was possible."

What the senior administration is proposing now for U of T is nothing short of a revolution in how the university interacts with students. In his installation address in early November, President David Naylor emphasized the importance of providing greater contact between professors and students. Professor Naylor noted that, more than a century ago, university officials believed that no honours class in arts should exceed 12 students. Today, the biggest single class at U of T has an enrolment of 1,527 students. There are six other classes with more than 1,000 students.

For students, one huge class out of five isn't necessarily a problem, especially if your professor is an excellent teacher. But the university wants to ensure that every student also has the opportunity for more personalized instruction. In the language of business, one might say U of T is now fully focused on creating a better "customer experience" – one that instills in every student the idea that "everything is possible."

SCOTT ANDERSON

The Nature of Insight

And the case of the missing gender

INVISIBLE WOMEN

I enjoyed Dan Falk's story about eureka moments (Autumn 2005), but where were the great Canadian women? Where were the female writers, inventors, historians, teachers, astronauts and scientists? I'm sure Roberta Bondar (PhD 1974) and Margaret Atwood (BA 1961 VIC) would have appreciated seeing illustrations of themselves.

Linda Kent
BEEd 1977
Etobicoke, Ontario

Ed. note: We thought of many great women scientists and innovators throughout history, but failed to come up with any who had experienced a famous "eureka moment." Nominations from readers are welcome at uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca

PHILOSOPHER'S TALK

I was delighted to read Dan Falk's article about "aha" moments. Obtaining insight into insights is important for technological, intellectual and cultural development. The Canadian philosopher Bernard Lonergan, a former U of T professor who died in 1984, explored

this subject in depth. His 1957 book *Insight: A Study of Human Understanding* is a thoroughgoing exploration of how intellectual breakthroughs occur. University of Toronto Press published a critical edition of the book in 1992, and continues to issue *The Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan* in collaboration with The Lonergan Research Institute, whose archives are housed just a stone's throw from the St. George campus.

Mark D. Morelli
PhD 1979
Los Angeles

WIND POWER

In reference to John Lorinc's article on renewable energy ("A Cleaner Future," Summer 2005), F.H. Kim Krenz criti-

cizes wind energy for being "notoriously unreliable" (Letters, Autumn 2005). Electricity generated from wind is *variable*, not unreliable, and its variability can be estimated from historical weather patterns. If apologists for nuclear energy spent more time describing how new Ontario nuclear plants would be more reliable than the province's existing unreliable ones, and less time taking a swipe at alternative energy technology, they would be doing us all a great service.

Mark Bell
BSc 1979
Toronto

SAVING TREES

I was pleased to read about your recent switch to recycled paper (Editor's Note, Spring 2005). The faster you can increase the percentage of post-consumer recycled content, the better. I'm sure many readers are willing to accept less glossy paper if it means more trees standing and fewer landfill sites.

Donald McMaster
BA 1966 VIC, MA 1968
Chevy Chase, Maryland

CORRECTION

The article "New Alumni Governors" (Alumni Notes, Summer 2005) may have left readers with the impression that only three alumni governors sit on the university's Governing Council. In fact, eight positions are allocated for alumni representatives, but, because their terms are staggered, only two or three positions come up for election in a given year.



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

A Great Legacy, a Great Future

COUNTLESS STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS and benefactors have helped the University of Toronto become a great public institution. Today, after 178 years, the University of Toronto matters to Canada and Canadians more than ever.

Our strength is our students. Exceedingly bright and diverse, they draw on the breadth of ambitions in this country. Our faculty are outstanding. They produce more publications and are cited more often in academic literature than the faculty of most universities in North America. Our dedicated staff support a superb environment for faculty and students.

Now, after years in which Ontario lagged in funding post-secondary education, the provincial government has made a remarkable \$6.2-billion, five-year commitment to universities and colleges. In fact, all three levels of government are promoting innovation as a vital part of our culture. This innovation agenda holds huge promise for future generations, provided that we support fundamental research more generously and preserve the essential role of the humanities and social sciences.

Without a balance of disciplines, we cannot address the many challenges facing humankind – from the global crises of HIV/AIDS and environmental degradation to widespread sectarian strife. Our students need the broadest education we can give them for the simple reason that today's challenges are also their inheritance from us.

U of T remains fully committed to admitting the best and brightest students, regardless of their personal or financial circumstances. Fifty per cent of our undergraduates report a total family income of less than \$50,000. We spend \$150 million in university-derived funds each year on student support. And we are working hard to open U of T to all students who deserve to be with us, but who have felt excluded or unwelcome, or who need a second chance at university. Counted in the latter group must be new Canadians who bring their dreams and skills to Toronto, Scarborough and Mississauga more often than anywhere else in Canada.

Once here, every student – undergraduate and graduate – deserves an experience worthy of a great institution. Unfortunately, chronic underfunding has taken a toll. Today, our student-to-faculty ratio is 34 to one – about 50 per cent higher than the average for our peer institutions in the United States. The McGuinty government's investment in post-secondary education should help us begin to correct this imbalance.

We can do more. Enhancing the student experience is the University of Toronto's number one priority, and all divisions

are working hard on four fronts. First, our university is big and sometimes overwhelming for new students. We will create more intimate neighbourhoods, in partnership with our excellent colleges and federated universities. We will find more ways to encourage small-group learning. And we will enhance student activity spaces for our large population of commuting students.

Second, we are reducing our reliance on traditional classroom instruction. Through partnerships with businesses and community agencies, and the generosity of countless alumni who serve as student mentors, we are creating more opportunities for students to learn through hands-on experiences.

Third, we will provide more recognition and support for great teaching. This includes the establishment of the first U of T-wide teaching awards and supportive coaching to enhance teaching performance.

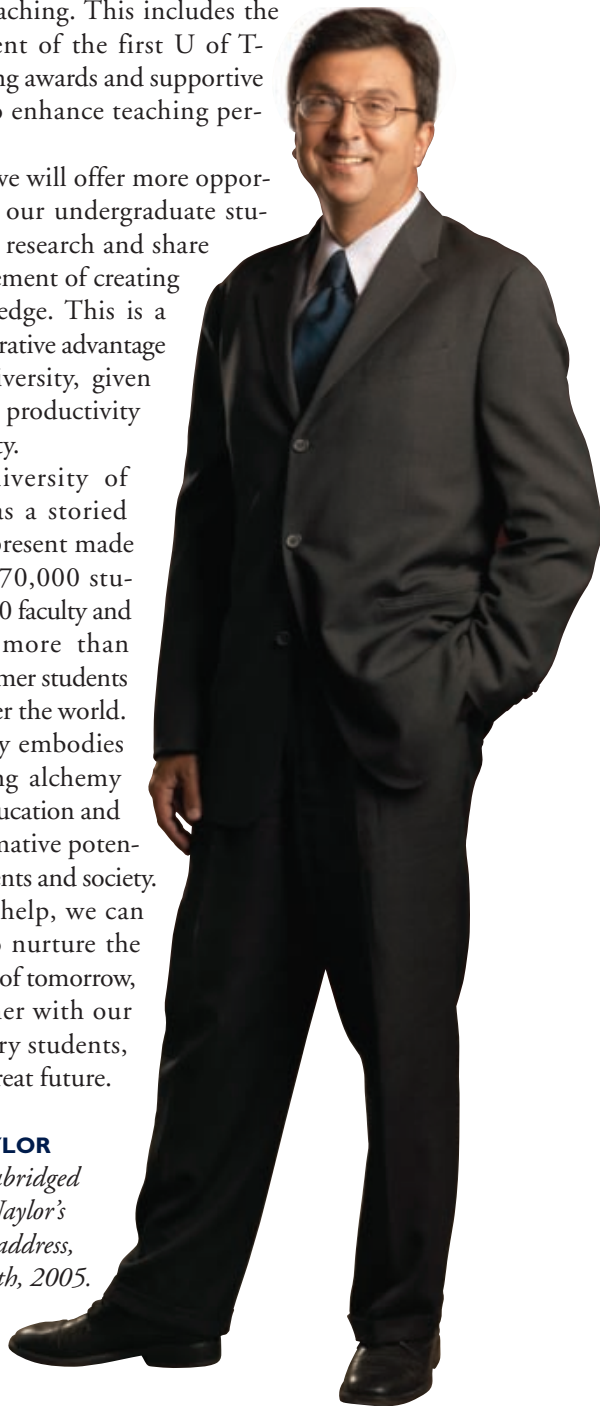
Finally, we will offer more opportunities for our undergraduate students to do research and share in the excitement of creating new knowledge. This is a huge comparative advantage for our university, given the research productivity of our faculty.

The University of Toronto has a storied past and a present made vibrant by 70,000 students, 11,000 faculty and staff, and more than 400,000 former students living all over the world. U of T truly embodies the enduring alchemy of higher education and its transformative potential for students and society. With your help, we can continue to nurture the great minds of tomorrow, and, together with our extraordinary students, imagine a great future.

Sincerely,

DAVID NAYLOR

This text is abridged from Prof. Naylor's installation address, November 7th, 2005.



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Of Mice and Men

By peering into mouse DNA, U of T researchers have answered a lingering question about the mammalian gene – and opened up new possibilities in disease research

Just two years after the completion of the Human Genome Project, U of T researchers appear to have answered the question on all life scientists' lips: Do any genes remain to be discovered?

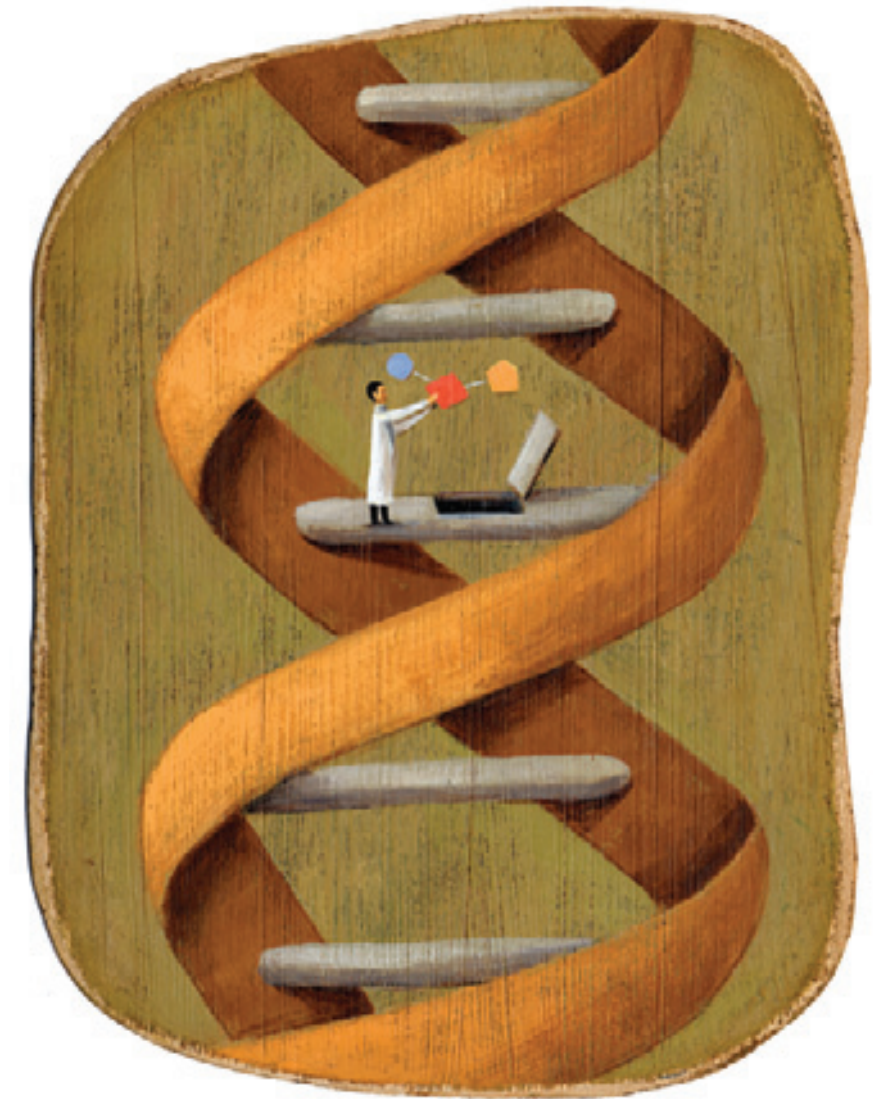
If you remember your high school biology class, you know that human DNA is made up of molecules called nucleotides – about 2.85 billion of them – arranged in a double helix configuration. Only some sections of the double helix contain genes, which serve as “instructions” for the creation of proteins. (These proteins form an essential part of all living organisms.)

Now imagine a cluster of miniature electronic probes, each containing about 60 nucleotides. Called micro-arrays, these clusters can track down the segments of DNA that hold our genetic instructions and distinguish them from the long stretches of filler DNA in between.

To the uninitiated, all this sounds very sci-fi. To U of T molecular biology professor Timothy Hughes, it's life as usual in the lab. In collaboration with Brendan Frey, a professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering, Hughes's research team has spent the past three years using micro-arrays in mouse DNA to hunt for its genes.

Hughes's team fed the nucleotide sequences collected from the micro-arrays into a spreadsheet, seeking to detect meaningful patterns. That's where Frey came in. “We developed a computer algorithm to distinguish patterns suggesting true genes from more random patterns,” explains Frey.

Crunch crunch crunch, went the numbers, yielding the startling result: “It turns out there are few, if any, protein-



coding genes remaining to be discovered,” says Hughes. “This flies in the face of research that predicted several-fold more genes than the currently known ones.” Published in *Nature Genetics*, the results also confirmed that genes that have starring roles in some tissues may play second fiddle – or remain silent – in others. “There's clearly a relationship between

the function of a tissue and the genes that get expressed in that tissue,” says Hughes.

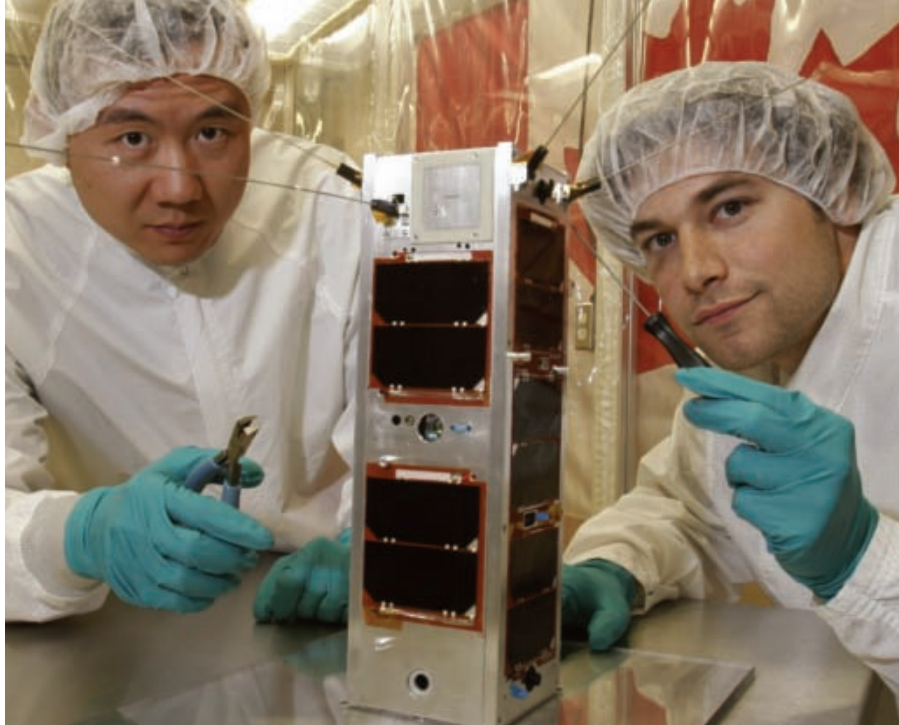
Frey says the work closes a chapter in genomic research, but leaves open the question: with only 20,000 to 25,000 genes in the human genome, where on Earth does all the human diversity come from? The upturned noses, grumpy dispositions or aptitude for chess?

Frey's ongoing research might well solve this mystery. "My colleagues and I have now started an even more exhaustive project, with more probes," he says. Funded by Genome Canada, the \$22-million project compares gene expression in healthy and diseased tissue. "We're targeting common and complex diseases, such as heart disease and cancer, in hopes of discovering many discrepancies."

The project has already unearthed startling new evidence for gene variation. "We already knew that the same DNA sequence could be read in different ways, resulting in different proteins as end products," Frey explains. "What we've done is to map these different 'readings' throughout the genome." As it turns out, "a single gene can yield up to thousands of different proteins." This phenomenon helps explain how so few genes can spawn so much biological diversity, including, possibly, those upturned noses.

The long-range impact? "If we can pinpoint the gene differences in diseased tissue, we can work toward correcting these differences," says Frey. For example: "Once we identify the genes that get over-expressed in cancer, we could develop drugs to inactivate those genes."

— *Gabrielle Bauer*



IT'S as small as a milk carton, but this 3.5-kilogram "nano-satellite" is loaded with innovative experiments. Unveiled in August at U of T's Institute for Aerospace Studies, the CanX-2 (Canadian Advanced Nanospace eXperiment 2) satellite is expected to be one of the smallest research platforms in space. To be launched in 2006, it will carry and test small low-power devices, including a mini-spectrometer that measures greenhouse gases. CanX-2 lays the groundwork for flying a formation of two more advanced nano-satellites, CanX-4 and CanX-5, in 2008. Formation-flying technology could one day find large, expensive satellites replaced by groups of smaller, cheaper collaborating satellites. "With advances in microelectronics and power technologies, satellites can be made really small but still able to achieve important missions," says Robert E. Zee, manager of the institute's Space Flight Laboratory (pictured above, left, with Eric Caillibot, a second-year master's student). The price tag for CanX-2 and the CanX-4/CanX-5 formation-flying mission is \$1 million, compared with the hundreds of millions of dollars typically spent on space missions.

— *Karen Kelly*

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEVE BEHAL

The Sweetness of Fiction

At the University of Toronto at Mississauga in October, Canadian author Camilla Gibb explored in a lecture "The Truth of Fiction and the Fiction of Truth" whether fictional writing can adequately capture or speak to real-life experiences. Gibb is the 2006 U of T Jack McClelland Writer-in-Residence and the author of *Sweetness in the Belly*, nominated for the 2005 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Over the last 40 years, says Gibb (BA UC 1991), there has been a recurring lament that the novel has outlived its audience, and that literary fiction has limited cultural currency. Today, because of a strong multimedia presence, Gibb believes many people don't turn to the novel for answers in the initial instance – but that eventually fiction will

give the most sophisticated and comprehensive understanding of our time. Fiction, argues Gibb, can best capture and explain the moral climate of an era because its long-term perspective allows the public to process, reflect upon and better understand events.

Gibb cites the novel *Saturday*, by Ian McEwan, which focuses on a man's anxiety about the impending war in Iraq. The book succeeds at explaining this disquietude because by the time it was published in 2005, people had found some distance from the 9/11 attacks. "Fiction seems to me a more powerful way of truth-telling," she says, "because it makes the facts lived and felt, and allows us to empathize with the experiences of others."

— *Laura Rodger*

Meet the SIMs

In some professions, practical training for students is crucial but difficult to provide. Nursing students, for example, must perfect the ability to administer dozens of medical procedures with limited practice on real patients.

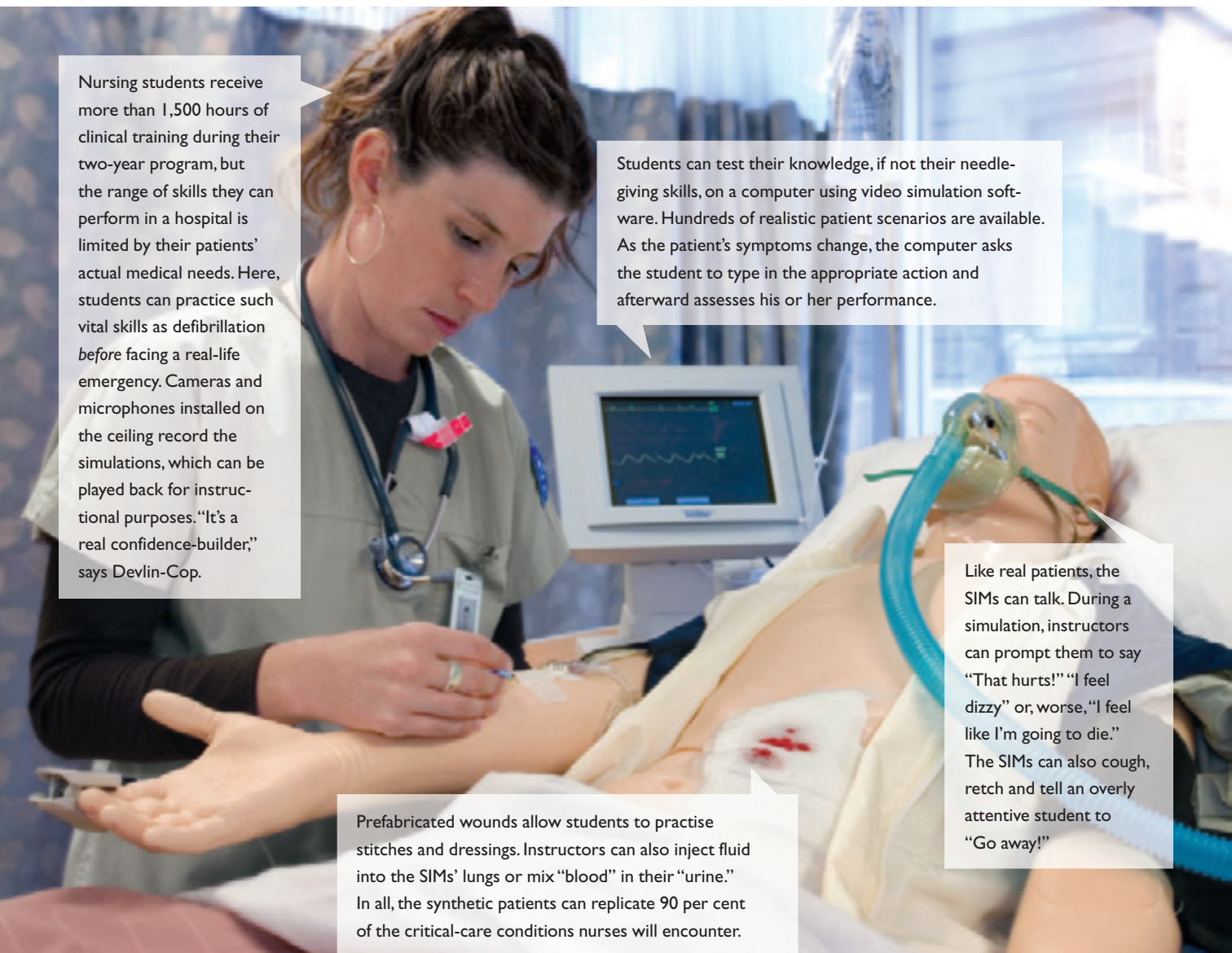
Students have traditionally learned some skills by practising on each other and on mannequins. But these approaches have drawbacks. You can't intubate a fellow student and mannequins can't experience a sudden fall in blood pressure or a racing heartbeat.

Enter the "SIM" family. Earlier this year, U of T's nursing faculty purchased five "high-fidelity," computer-operated

mannequins – four adults and one baby – that can breathe, talk, and exhibit a heartbeat and pulse. These "simulation patients" occupy beds in a million-dollar, state-of-the-art clinical lab in the faculty's new building at 155 College Street. They are used to help train more than 300 nursing undergrads, as well as to provide advanced instruction for master's students and nurse practitioners.

Because the lab can simulate almost any clinical situation, students trained at the facility will be better prepared for hospital work, says Sandra Devlin-Cop, director of clinical education for the Faculty of Nursing. "And, ultimately, that should mean better care for patients," she says. — Scott Anderson

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK STEGEL



Nursing students receive more than 1,500 hours of clinical training during their two-year program, but the range of skills they can perform in a hospital is limited by their patients' actual medical needs. Here, students can practice such vital skills as defibrillation before facing a real-life emergency. Cameras and microphones installed on the ceiling record the simulations, which can be played back for instructional purposes. "It's a real confidence-builder," says Devlin-Cop.

Students can test their knowledge, if not their needle-giving skills, on a computer using video simulation software. Hundreds of realistic patient scenarios are available. As the patient's symptoms change, the computer asks the student to type in the appropriate action and afterward assesses his or her performance.

Like real patients, the SIMs can talk. During a simulation, instructors can prompt them to say "That hurts!" "I feel dizzy" or, worse, "I feel like I'm going to die." The SIMs can also cough, retch and tell an overly attentive student to "Go away!"

Prefabricated wounds allow students to practise stitches and dressings. Instructors can also inject fluid into the SIMs' lungs or mix "blood" in their "urine." In all, the synthetic patients can replicate 90 per cent of the critical-care conditions nurses will encounter.

What Are the Odds of That?

In September, a group of 13 Faculty of Engineering staff members won \$1.75 million in the 6/49 lottery – a windfall of more than \$134,600 each. Arlene Fillatre, the faculty's business officer and lottery-pool organizer, also struck lucky with a quarter-million-dollar jackpot in 1992. What are the odds of having Fillatre's good fortune – just once?

In his new book, *Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities*, U of T prof and ace statistician Jeffrey S. Rosenthal gives us the mathematical tools to assess life's odds – whether it's winning the lotto, being involved in an airplane crash, beating the house at cards or – of course – getting zonked by lightning. He also provides a hefty dose of reality through the “Probability Perspective,” offering real-life examples for comparison – what those odds actually translate into.

You know the chances of winning the 6/49 aren't good, don't you? But don't let us ruin your day. We'll let Rosenthal do that for you, in a *Struck by Lightning* excerpt, right. — Stacey Gibson

A typical commercial lottery might involve selecting six different numbers between 1 and 49. If your six numbers match those selected, you win (or share) the big jackpot. For such a lottery, the probability is about one chance in 14 million. This is an extremely small probability. To put it in context, you are over 1,000 times more likely to die in a car crash within the year. In fact, you are more likely to die in a car crash on your way to the store to buy your lottery ticket than you are to win the jackpot. Indeed, if you bought one ticket a week, on average, you would win the jackpot less than once every 250,000 years. When picking seven numbers between 1 and 47 [for 7/47], the probability is one chance in 63 million. It may be true that someone is going to win the lottery jackpot this week, but let me assure you: that someone will not be you.



Foiling the Warren Harding Syndrome

While Malcolm Gladwell extols the power of snap judgments in his latest book, *Blink*, he also warns of its dark side. In the chapter “The Warren Harding Error,” Gladwell points out that Harding, often cited as one of the least successful U.S. presidents, was initially perceived as a man of intelligence and integrity – simply because he was tall, distinguished-looking and handsome. “It's why picking the right candidate for a job is so difficult and why, on more occasions than we may care to admit, utter mediocrities sometimes end up in positions of enormous responsibility,” he writes.

Professor David Zweig, a specialist in organizational behaviour and human resources in U of T at Scarborough's department of management, might have some suggestions on

how to avoid having a Warren working for you – and it starts with conducting a structured interview. In a recent study published in *Personnel Psychology*, Zweig and lead author Derek Chapman of the University of Calgary found that most employers conduct informal, unstructured interviews, and ask questions unrelated to the job they're recruiting for – which can impede the selection of the most qualified candidate.

“With structured interviews, you ask the same set of job-related questions to each candidate so you can make a fair comparison between them,” says Zweig. “With unstructured interviews, you have a lot of biases creeping in. If they like you, they'll throw softball questions at you and try to find ways to support their initial impression. Structured

interviews have also been shown to have up to eight times the predictive power of pinpointing the best candidate compared to unstructured interviews.”

Zweig and Chapman asked interviewers from more than 500 organizations to fill out a questionnaire examining such issues as the level of structure during the interview, and the amount and type of formal interview training they had received. Applicants filled out questionnaires before and after the interview.

The professors also found only one-third of interviewers had formal training, and this group favoured more structure during the interview process. “That's way too low,” says Zweig. “Everyone should receive formal training on how to conduct a structured interview.”

— Stacey Gibson and Suelan Toye



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us

After coming to Canada from Burundi in 2001, Natacha Nsabimana learned English, found a social network and a place to stay, and discovered her place at U of T. Having completed the Transitional Year Programme, she is entering her first year at U of T as a full-time arts student.

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Dangerous Liaisons

UTSC zoology professor Maydianne Andrade (MSc 1995) remembers the first time she witnessed the brutal mating ritual of Australian redback spiders, a close relative of the black widow. It was 12 years ago and Andrade, a graduate student, had been at the lab all night watching the spiders' extended courtship. Then the main event happened: the male deliberately positioned himself over his lover's fangs – while still copulating – and was soon consumed. “I ran around the department in a sort of eureka moment,” she says. Andrade and her research colleagues had heard about the bizarre cannibalistic act, but she was the first in her lab to witness it.

This fall, *Popular Science* magazine named Andrade, 36, one of its “Brilliant 10” young scientists in North America.

In 1996, her pioneering work on redback spiders' mating habits was published in the prestigious journal *Science*. While

Continued on page 15

Yesterday's News: A Look Back at 125 years of *The Varsity*

The group of students that launched *The Varsity* 125 years ago this fall were nothing if not ambitious. Their aim, outlined in the inaugural edition published Oct. 7, 1880, was that “the University of Toronto shall possess the best university paper in [North] America.” The modest booklet that once sold for five cents each Saturday has now grown into Canada’s largest student newspaper, with a twice-weekly circulation of more than 20,000 and an online edition that has about 12,000 visits per week.

Last year more than 300 U of T students contributed to *The Varsity* “for no money and not much glory,” says current editor-in-chief Graham F. Scott. “Our volunteers do most of the day-to-day thankless work of going out and pounding the pavement for stories that are important but not glamorous, and there are a lot of those at universities.”

One thread has persisted throughout *The Varsity’s* history – spirited criticism of the university’s administration. This censure of U of T sometimes landed editors in trouble. While the paper began as an independent venture, by the late 19th century it was owned by the university-sanctioned students’ council – which often suspended editors. The entire newspaper was axed temporarily in 1952, when editors published U of T president Sidney Smith’s speech on remedial English instruction, substituting “sex” for “English” throughout the text. *The Varsity* regained its autonomy in 1980 by forming a non-profit corporation financed partly through an annual student levy.

The Varsity has always been a barometer of wider social change. There was a female co-editor-in-chief in 1955, but it was not until 1979 that a woman held the top position on her own. In 1969, *The Varsity* published a four-line ad that marked the launch of Canada’s first gay and lesbian campus group. The late 1960s and early 1970s were activist years, with editors leading sit-ins and petitions against the administration. The 1980s saw fewer confrontations between *The Varsity* and university governance – perhaps reflecting the more conservative ethos of the “me generation.” In the late 1990s, the paper fre-

PHOTOGRAPHY: UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES; KARA DILLON



Varsity photo editor Don Forgie and assistant photo editor Walt Mackenzie pose for a *Torontonensis* yearbook photo



Varsity staff sacrifice their social lives and even delay graduation to ensure the paper gets out each Monday and Thursday

quently censured U of T for accepting corporate donations, alleging that academic freedom was at stake.

Scott says *Varsity* staff members are now expanding coverage but are choosier about the political issues they address. Like all of his predecessors, he and his staff are passionate enough that they will stay up all night, sacrifice their social lives and even delay graduation to get it on the stands each Monday and Thursday. “There’s a real feeling of heritage,” he says. “Of being part of an institution that has done great things and continues to do great things.” — Megan Easton

MEET THE (PAST) PRESS

The university’s unofficial school of journalism has seen many of its staff go on to illustrious careers.

William Lyon Mackenzie

King (BA 1895 UC, LLB 1896, MA 1897)
Varsity assistant editor, 1893-1895

Former prime minister of Canada

Peter Gzowski (DLitt Hon. 1995)

Varsity editor, 1956-1957

CBC Radio host and author

Michael Ignatieff (BA 1969

TRIN, DLitt Sac Hon. 1999)

Varsity review editor, 1968-1969

Scholar, author and the Chancellor

Jackman Visiting Professor in

Human Rights Policy at U of T

Linda McQuaig (BA 1974 UC)

Varsity co-editor, 1971-1972

Investigative journalist who

penned *It’s the Crude, Dude: War,*

Big Oil and the Fight for the Planet

Mark Kingwell

(BA 1985 St. Mike’s)

Varsity editor, 1983-1984

U of T philosophy professor. His

latest book is *Nothing for Granted:*

Tales of War, Philosophy, and Why

the Right Was Mostly Wrong

Isabel Vincent (BA 1990 UC)

Varsity editor, 1988-1989

National Post reporter and author

of *Bodies and Souls: The Tragic Plight*

of *Three Jewish Women Forced into*

Prostitution in the Americas

Naomi Klein

Varsity editor, 1992-1993

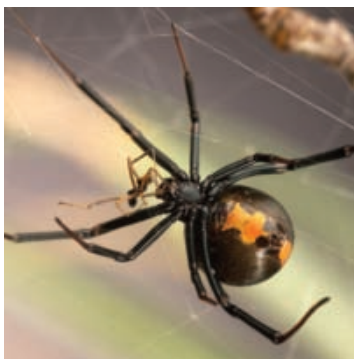
Author of *No Logo: Taking Aim at*

the Brand Bullies

— M.E.

Continued from page 13 other scientists had proposed that the males sacrificed themselves to literally feed their future offspring, Andrade proved that their suicidal behaviour is in fact an act of self-interest, allowing them to copulate for longer and fertilize more eggs. Male redbacks greatly outnumber females and only 10 to 20 per cent live long enough to find a willing mate, so any opportunity to spread their genes is worth dying for.

One of Andrade's most recent discoveries is that male redbacks actually break off their copulatory organs in females to prevent other suitors from usurping their paternity. "This is about the power and elegance of natural selection to create these amazing behavioural strategies that you would just never predict," she says.



Redback spider: a fool for love

Andrade currently has between 1,500 and 2,000 redbacks in her University of Toronto at Scarborough lab, along with a few pet tarantulas. In an adjoining workspace, her husband, Professor Andrew Mason, studies hearing systems in the parasitic fly and acoustic signalling in insects such as crickets and spiders. Not surprisingly, their three-year-old daughter "likes creepy-crawlies," although spiders were an acquired taste for Andrade. "I wasn't phobic as a child," she says, "but I wasn't a big fan." Today, though, she can't imagine ever getting bored with the eight-legged creatures. "Even now, they're always surprising me."

— Megan Easton



David Naylor (MD 1978) was installed as the 15th president of the University of Toronto at a Convocation Hall ceremony on Nov. 7. During his installation address, Naylor, the former dean of medicine and vice-provost (relations with health care institutions) at U of T, reiterated his commitment to U of T's 70,000 students. "Our strength is in our students, and our students are extraordinary," he said. "That is why enhancing the student experience is the number one priority in the university's strategic plan. And it is my number one personal priority."

Accolades

James Till (DSc Hon. 2004), a biophysicist, and **Ernest McCulloch** (MD 1948, DSc Hon. 2004), a haematologist, embarked on work at U of T and the Ontario Cancer Institute in the late 1950s that eventually earned them the title "fathers of stem cell research." Till and McCulloch were the first to identify a stem cell, laying the foundation for all current work on adult and embryonic stem cells. And in September, the University Professors Emeriti received the 2005 Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research in honour of their achievements. The Lasker Awards, known as America's Nobel Prizes, recognize scientists whose work has been seminal to understanding disease. Till and McCulloch's discoveries also explained principles of bone marrow transplantation, which now help prolong the lives of patients with leukemia and other blood cancers.

Fang Liu (MSc 1996, PhD 1999), a psychiatry professor at U of T, recently received an honourable mention from

NARSAD – the Mental Health Research Association (founded as the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression) in New York – for her research on neurotransmitters. Liu studies the interaction between two brain proteins that bind dopamine (an important neurotransmitter). These findings could help identify treatments for schizophrenia and stroke.



Fang Liu

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's *Technology Review* magazine has hailed Professor **Parham Aarabi** (BASc 1998, MASc 1999) as one of the world's top 35 innovators under 35. He was singled out for his work on an algorithm that calculates the location of a sound source – and then enhances that source while removing noise. His invention could one day filter out extraneous voices in cellphone conversations or enhance voice control in cars. Aarabi is the founder and director of U of T's Artificial Perception Laboratory, which investigates multi-sensor information systems.

PHOTOGRAPH: CAZ ZYVATKAUSKAS; KEN JONES; CHARLES HANLEY/NARSAD

Waves of Support

Tim Steinhelsner was just about to start his second year at Tulane University in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck in August, and the city issued evacuation orders. “Everyone at Tulane was sad and shocked but we didn’t have much time to think about it because we had to scramble to find a university to go to,” he says.

Steinhelsner and four other displaced students (three from Tulane, one from Dillard and one from Xavier University) accepted offers from U of T to waive tuition and find them accommodations. U of T extended its offer for the winter term, but all but one student will be returning to New Orleans.

In some of the many other Katrina relief efforts at U of T, students, faculty and staff from the faculties of pharmacy and medicine donated close to \$3,000 worth of blankets, personal items and clothing to a shelter for evacuees in Paincourtville, Louisiana. Lori May (CertBus 1996, BA 1998 WOODS, TESL 2000), former co-ordinator of the Doctor of Pharmacy program, initiated the appeal after hearing about the shelter’s dire need.

With funding and assistance from alumni affairs, the campus bookstore and its suppliers, and volunteer labour from U of T students, the university also provided 100 knapsacks full of school supplies to displaced children in Mississippi. The idea for the project came from Dr. Darren Jagessar (BSc 1998

UTM), who worked as a chiropractor in Vicksburg, Mississippi, until a planned move to Mississauga, Ont., just before the storm. At the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, a fundraising drive garnered \$2,500 for Habitat for Humanity’s rebuilding program along the Gulf Coast.

The University of Toronto also responded quickly to news of the South Asia earthquake in October. U of T student groups formed a coalition within a week of the earthquake to collect donations, setting up booths at Robarts Library, the Bahen Centre, Sidney Smith, the Medical Sciences Building and various campus residences. The number of campus groups involved was extensive, ranging from the Pakistani Students Federation to Kids in Developing Societies, the Arts and Science Students’ Union and the Muslim Students Association. Campus clubs and associations also organized fundraising alliances at both University of Toronto at Mississauga and University of Toronto at Scarborough. MBA students at the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management organized and performed in a musical stage show, which – after proceeds were matched by Dean Roger Martin and his wife, Nancy Lang, and the Canadian government – garnered more than \$14,000 for earthquake survivors.

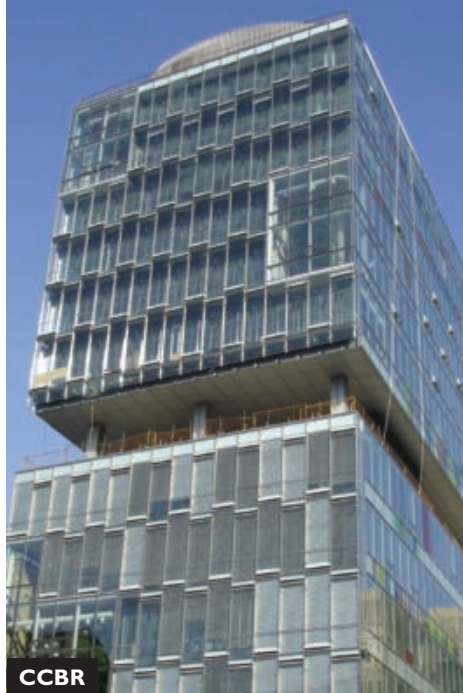
– Travis Campbell, Megan Easton and F. Michah Rynor

Tulane University student
Tim Steinhelsner at U of T

“Everyone at Tulane was shocked but we didn’t have time to think about it – we had to scramble to find a university to go to”



UTSC Arts and Administration



CCBR

Centres of Discovery

The transformation of the U of T landscape continued this fall with the opening of several facilities that provide new venues for biomedical research, public health sciences and the arts. On the St. George campus, the Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research officially opened on Nov. 3. The \$105-million facility brings together researchers from medicine, pharmacy, applied science and engineering, and arts and science to collaborate on investigations into the causes of and cures for disease. Designed by architects Alliance of Toronto and Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner of Germany, the building features 10 stories of open-concept laboratory and teaching spaces.

Across the road from the Terrence Donnelly Centre is the Health Sciences Building, a renovated office building that houses the Faculty of Nursing and the departments of Public Health Sciences and Health Policy, Management and Evaluation.

The \$20-million Arts and Administration Building at U of T at Scarborough, which officially opened on Oct. 7, is the new home of the visual and performing arts programs and contains music and fine art studios, classrooms and a 300-seat lecture theatre. The four-storey building, designed by Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc., also holds the registrar's office, a Welcome Centre and offices for faculty and staff.

For details on U of T's newest residence, Morrison Hall, see page 46. Take a virtual tour of the CCBR at www.news.utoronto.ca/photogalleries/ccbr/ – *Megan Easton*

Priority Post

In October, Rivi Frankle (BA 1968 UC) accepted the position of interim vice-president and chief advancement officer at U of T – a role she had performed in an acting capacity since July. In her former position as assistant vice-president, university advancement, Frankle oversaw the public affairs, fundraising and alumni relations activities of U of T. She also played a leading role in the Campaign for the University of Toronto, which raised \$1 billion for students, faculty and programs. Frankle, who earned a BA while attending University College, was the first woman to head the department of alumni affairs at U of T. She takes over from Jon Dellandrea (BA 1973 UTSC, MEd 1980, EdD 1987), who is now a pro-vice-chancellor at the University of Oxford.

PHOTOGRAPH: KENJONESWINSTON CHONG/ARCHITECTS ALLIANCE USA/SAKULENSKY



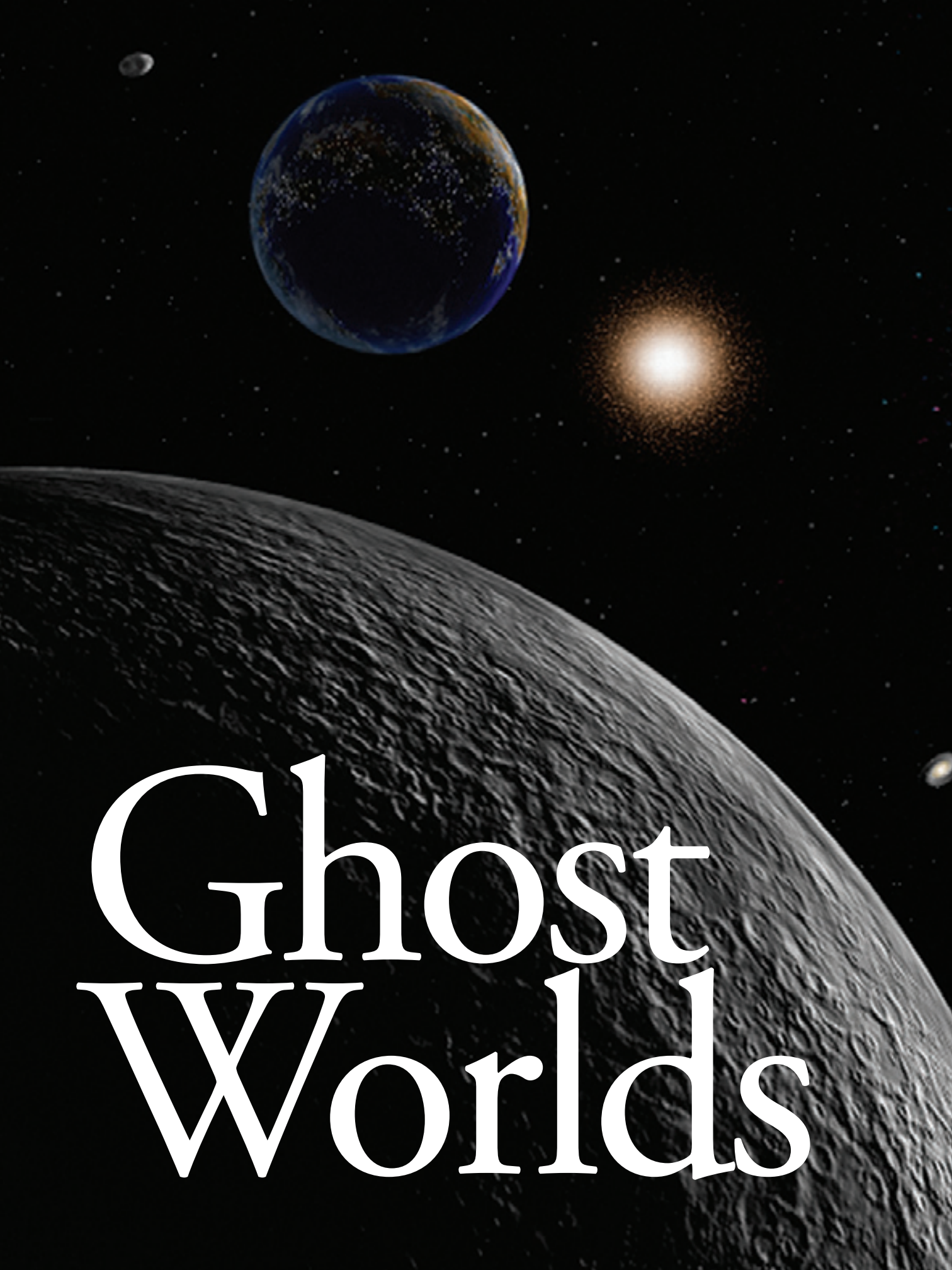
Twelve Times Tops

The University of Toronto has taken the top spot in the annual *Maclean's* university rankings for the 12th consecutive year. Overall, U of T tied with McGill University in Montreal for first place among medical-doctoral universities. U of T also earned the lead position in the magazine's national reputational survey, ranking first in the Best Overall and Leaders of Tomorrow categories.

U of T ranked 14th out of 15th in class-size range for first- and second-year level students. This confirms what the university has observed through other means, such as the National Survey on Student Engagement, which is that U of T must con-

centrate on making students feel welcome. "While I'm very pleased with the overall results, we also have to pay attention to the feedback we're getting on student experience," says U of T president David Naylor. "That's why we've made improving the student experience – while maintaining the best standards for teaching and researching – the overarching priority of our long-term academic plan, *Stepping Up*."

U of T Libraries ranked first in total holdings and expenses, and U of T professors earned second place in awards per full-time faculty. The university also finished third in student retention and fourth in student awards.



Ghost Worlds



THE SEARCH FOR OTHER EARTHS BY DAN FALK

Pawel Artymowicz recently had one of those “fiction is reality” moments. As he was crossing the border into the U.S., an immigration officer asked him what he did for a living. Artymowicz, a U of T astronomy professor, responded that he was a theoretical astrophysicist.

“And what is that?” the officer asked, a little suspiciously.

“Oh,” said Artymowicz, eschewing all technical descriptions of his work. “I study how planets outside our solar system form.”

“Ah, you mean like Class M planets,” said the official, proudly recalling how the writers of *Star Trek* denoted Earth-like planets in the far reaches of the galaxy.

This accidental conjoining of the research interests of a scientist and the enthusiasm of a science-fiction fan would

have been unlikely 20 years ago. At that time, no extra-solar planets of any sort had been discovered for Artymowicz or anyone else to study.

But in 1992, Penn State University astronomer Alexander Wolszczan published evidence of the first planet to be found outside our solar system – a distant, rocky orb circling a pulsar in the constellation of Virgo. Since then, “everything has changed,” says Debra Fischer, an astronomer at San Francisco State University and a recent guest of U of T’s department of astronomy and astrophysics. In October, Fischer delivered a public lecture at Convocation Hall on extra-solar planets as part of the department’s 100th anniversary celebrations. The study of these planets, she says, has grown from an intriguing diversion to one of the hottest fields in astronomy physics. “In

“AFTER CENTURIES OF PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT IT, WE HAVE FINALLY FOUND NOT ONE, NOT TWO, BUT MORE THAN 150 PLANETS AROUND OTHER STARS.”

the beginning, it was like stamp collecting,” she says. There was a planet here, and a planet there. But now astronomers are starting to compare our own solar system to other planetary systems and are being forced to rethink long-held theories of how stars and planets come into being. U of T researchers are among those trying to integrate these discoveries into a broader picture of stellar and planetary evolution. One day, the search for these distant celestial bodies may yield the Holy Grail of planetary astronomy – the discovery of another Earth.

Sci-fi books and movies would have us believe the galaxy is teeming with hundreds of humanoid civilizations inhabiting planets that look a lot like Earth. But the astronomical evidence to support this view is so far lacking. Almost all of the 150-plus extra-solar planets that scientists have detected are gas giants – hundreds of times bigger than Earth. Many of these immense planets hug their parent stars in tight orbits, completing a full circuit in just a few days. (Even Mercury, the speediest planet in our solar system, requires 88 days to orbit our parent star, the sun.) And while Earth and its siblings travel around the sun in near-circles, many of these newly discovered planets move in highly elliptical orbits. In the jargon of astronomy, they have “high orbital eccentricities.” The surface temperature on these planets is furnace-hot much of the time. Life almost certainly could not develop under these conditions.

Is it possible that other Earth-like planets exist, but have so far escaped our detection? The recent wave of discoveries certainly makes the existence of other Earths likely, says Artymowicz, but scientists don’t know how many smaller, rocky planets will be found in the galaxy. “I don’t think we’re at the

What Is a Planet?

The flood of planetary discoveries over the last 10 years has given astronomers more than just a treasure of exotic worlds to study. It’s forcing them to rethink the definition of the word “planet.”

Some of the massive extra-solar planets are so large that astronomers wonder if they belong in the same category as other giant gas planets, such as Jupiter. They seem to have more in common with brown dwarfs, which are cool stars that emit only feeble amounts of light (mostly at infrared wavelengths).

At the same time, astronomers are questioning the status of Pluto, long considered the outermost planet in our solar system. Recent discoveries of objects of a similar size, in orbits just as far from the sun, suggest that the number of planets in our solar system may not be nine, but 10 or more. Most of these new objects lie within a ring of rocky and icy debris known as the Kuiper Belt, which extends from the orbit of Neptune – a distance of 30 Astronomical Units (AU) from the sun – out to at least 100 AU. (One AU is the average distance from the Earth to the sun, or about 150 million kilometres.)

Some astronomers argue that the discovery of these small, distant planet-like objects simply makes Pluto less unique. Others contend that these objects – including Pluto – don’t deserve the moniker of planet at all. They would include Pluto in a relatively new class of body within our solar system called “trans-Neptunian objects” or, simply, “planetary bodies.”

– D.F.

point where we can reliably predict the number,” he says. “But there is no physical reason why terrestrial planets shouldn’t be there.”

If there is another Earth out there, astronomers are unlikely to see it just yet because of the techniques they use to detect planets. The radial velocity method, which has been used for several years, is biased toward finding large planets with tight orbits, says U of T astronomer Ray Jayawardhana. Through radial velocity, a scientist can infer the existence of a planet by observing its influence on the light of its parent star. Suppose we’re viewing a far-off star system from its edge, says Jayawardhana. An orbiting planet will spin toward us for part of its year and away from us for a similar amount of time. Its parent star will also move very slightly – tugged by its planet toward us and away from us in a regular cycle. This distinctive wobble causes subtle shifts in the light of the star. By observing the system for several orbital periods with a telescope and a spectrograph (which measures the intensity of light at different wavelengths), astronomers can pin down the distance of the planet from its sun, and estimate the planet’s mass. The radial velocity technique tends to locate large planets in close orbits because these planets cause their parent stars to wobble most. Finding smaller planets or planets moving in wider orbits is more challenging. Still, as astronomers refine the radial velocity method, they believe they’ll be able to spot planets only a few times larger than Earth (they’re already

detecting objects the size of Uranus and Neptune, which are about 15 times as massive as Earth).

At the same time, astronomers are honing another planet-detection technique, the transit method. Consider once again that we’re observing a distant planetary system edge-on. Light



U of T astronomer Ray Jayawardhana studies how planets form

from the star would seem to dim ever so slightly when a planet passed in front of it. If, for example, the planet completes an orbit every 10 days, we would have to watch the star for a month or two – noting a slight dimming of the star’s light on each pass of the planet – to be confident of the planet’s existence. The smaller the planet, the more powerful the telescope we would need to detect it.

Alien astronomers viewing our solar system edge-on could make a similar set of observations. “If you had a sensitive enough telescope, you would actually see the Earth transit the disc of the sun,” says Norman Murray, the associate director of the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics at U of T. “And a year later you’d see it transit again – and you’d know it was a planet and not a bird or something flying over your telescope.”

The transit method is a promising detection technique; so far, astronomers using it have found about a half-dozen planets. Plans call for sophisticated orbiting telescopes (successors to NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope) that will look for the periodic transits of many stars – possibly leading to the discovery of thousands of extra-solar planets in the coming decades, including, in all likelihood, some planets that resemble Earth.

In the meantime, Murray and the astrophysicist Matthew Holman of Harvard University have devised a way for astronomers to infer the existence of Earth-sized planets without actually seeing them transit their host stars. Their idea, published in the journal *Science* last winter, involves carefully timing the transits of huge planets the size of Jupiter. The key is gravity. In a system with a Jupiter-sized planet and a smaller Earth-sized planet, the smaller body will induce slight irregularities in the orbit of the larger body. (In a similar way, astronomers in the 19th and early 20th centuries were able to use irregularities in the orbit of Uranus to infer the existence of Neptune and Pluto.)

Think of our hypothetical alien astronomers dozens of light years away, watching our solar system. With powerful enough telescopes, they could detect transits of Jupiter against the sun. If these alien astronomers monitored Jupiter for several decades, they would notice that the time between successive transits was not exactly the same. They could use this discrepancy to infer the existence of at least one other planetary body. (They would likely presume the existence of Saturn, since its gravitational pull would have the greatest effect on Jupiter’s transit times.) If they had even more powerful telescopes, capable of detecting Earth’s transits, they would discover irregularities in our orbit, too. “Such astronomers would see variations in the times between transits in the order of 10 minutes, due primarily to the influence of Venus,” explains Murray.

A Whole New World of Study

U of T boasts a long tradition of astronomical research and teaching – a century’s worth, in fact. But it has never offered an academic program dedicated to the study of planets. That will soon change, with the establishment of a new concentration in planetary science at the University of Toronto at Scarborough.

Scientists will investigate how planets form – “one of the most intriguing

problems in modern astronomy and modern physics,” says Charles Dyer, an astronomy professor involved in setting up the program. UTSC has attracted two new faculty members: Pawel Artymowicz from Stockholm University and Julian Lowman from the University of Leeds in England, both experts in planetary physics. Dyer expects the program to be up and running in 2007, with two more astronomers joining soon after.

UTSC is a natural host for the

planetary science program because the campus is already home to a vibrant department of physical and environmental sciences, says Dyer. Faculty specializing in chemistry, geology, physical geography and oceanography will be encouraged to apply their knowledge of Earth to other planets, he says. And the program’s astronomers will investigate both very distant worlds and the planets that make up our own solar system. “A planet is a planet, regardless of its location,” says Dyer. – D.F.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOE TORNRENO

“A THEORY OF PLANET FORMATION WOULD TELL US, IN PRINCIPLE, WHAT FRACTION OF STARS, LIKE OUR SUN, HARBOUR EARTH-LIKE PLANETS”

Murray and Holman's technique of scrutinizing transit times would allow astronomers to determine properties of the unseen planet that they can't with radial velocity. The planet's mass can be calculated, based on its effect on the orbit of the larger planet. Astronomers could also work out the size of the orbit as well as its eccentricity. And if astronomers are really lucky, and see *both* planets transit the host star, they can also calculate the sizes of the planets. If you know the size and the mass, you can determine density. "So you can immediately say whether the planets are terrestrial or gas," says Murray. Terrestrial planets are where life is most likely to be found.

To comprehend these strange new worlds, we need to understand how these planets formed – a line of inquiry that Murray and several other U of T astronomers are actively pursuing. "A theory of planet formation would tell us, in principle, what fraction of stars, like our sun, harbour Earth-like planets," Murray explains. It would also give astronomers a better idea of where to look for them, he says. But the extra-solar planets found so far are tough to explain using our existing theories.

The prevailing view is that a planetary system begins as a slowly spinning, immense ball of gas. The hot, central part becomes the star, while the material far from the core flattens and evolves into a Frisbee-shaped cloud of debris. This cloud – the proto-planetary accretion disc – is thought to exist for about 10 million years before dissipating, and provides the raw materials from which planets eventually form. The basic scenario is still believed valid; what is hotly debated are the details of the process.

One problem with the traditional model is that it implies that giant gas planets should form far from their parent stars. After all, this is where we find them in our solar system. But it's not where we see gas giants in extra-solar planetary systems. "We had an understanding of how our system formed, how the Earth fits into the planetary system and how the conditions for life evolved in our solar system," explains Artymowicz. "There was quite a shock when we discovered that other solar systems are different."

Now, astronomers are trying to fine-tune the old model. At present, they're torn between two competing scenarios. In the core-accretion model, planets are born when small chunks of

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rock, sand-grain-sized debris and dust collide within the disc. As the rocky core grows, its gravity draws in more dust and gas from its surroundings. If it's large enough, over millions of years it will keep on gathering gas until it becomes a giant planet, like Jupiter. If it is smaller, it will become a rocky planet like Earth. A problem with this scenario is that the accretion process is too slow; giant gas planets may not have enough time to form. In a competing scenario, the disc-instability model, denser patches of gas and dust undergo a sudden collapse, causing one or more planets to form in a mere thousand years.

One U of T theorist, however, believes that gas giants *can* form according to the core-accretion model at a much faster rate than previously imagined. Roman Rafikov, recently from the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, has been examining the competing models. *The Astronomical Journal* just published his argument that a giant planet orbiting a star at a distance equivalent to Neptune's orbit in our solar system can form "on a time-scale of about 10 million years."

While the question of how planets form may seem esoteric, it bears directly on the likelihood that other Earths exist, says Murray. The disc-instability model is neutral on the formation of terrestrial planets – they may or may not form. But the core-accretion model *requires* terrestrial planets to form. Under that model, gas giants are simply terrestrial planets that, over millions of years, continued to gather gas. In other words, if the core-accretion model is correct, Earth-like planets may be commonplace.

The search for another Earth will intensify over the next several years, with the launch of a new generation of space-based telescopes and the construction of immense new telescopes on the ground. Among the most ambitious ground-based projects is the proposed Thirty Metre Telescope, which, when completed by 2015, will be the world's largest. U of T is one of 15 Canadian universities co-operating on the project, with backing from the National Research Council and several U.S. institutions. A number of U of T scientists are playing major roles in the project, including astronomers Ray Carlberg and Bob Abraham and physicist Pekka Sinervo, U of T's dean of Arts and Science.

With these new telescopes, astronomers may make their most tantalizing finding yet: a terrestrial planet orbiting within the "Goldilocks zone" of its parent star (the narrow ring that is neither too hot nor too cold for life to evolve). But the diverse and ever-increasing trove of strange new worlds that scientists have already found has triggered a revolution in astronomy.

"It has been a tremendously exciting 10 years," says Jayawardhana. "After centuries of people talking about it, we have finally found not one, not two, but more than 150 planets around other stars. It's truly remarkable." ■

Dan Falk is a Toronto science journalist and the author of Universe on a T-Shirt: The Quest for the Theory of Everything (Penguin Canada). Additional reporting by Stephen Strauss.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and SAVE THE DATE SPRING REUNION 2006, JUNE 1 – 4

Join classmates, friends and colleagues at the U of T annual Spring Reunion weekend.

Honoured class years are 1926, 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. Many faculties and colleges will be honouring alumni from 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001.

Special events are planned for graduates of 1956 (celebrating their 50th anniversary) and 1981 (celebrating their 25th anniversary).

Chancellor's Medals will be awarded to alumni celebrating their 80th, 75th, 70th, 65th, 60th and 55th year of graduation.

Spring Reunion Garden Party for all honoured year graduates.

For updates, visit www.springreunion.utoronto.ca



UofT's ODDDBALL CHARMS

16 UNUSUAL, OUTRAGEOUS AND DELIGHTFUL TALES OF CAMPUS LIFE BY GRAHAM F. SCOTT

The University of Toronto is a bustling centre of serious thought, innovation and research excellence. But that is not our concern here. • Join us for a detour *off* the academic turnpike as we explore the unusual side roads of U of T. We'll make stops at the sentimental, the supernatural and the sanguinary (that's bloody, literally) in celebration of the people and places that make the university a more fun and interesting place to be. Our list is not exhaustive, so if we've missed something, tell us. That's something we *are* serious about.

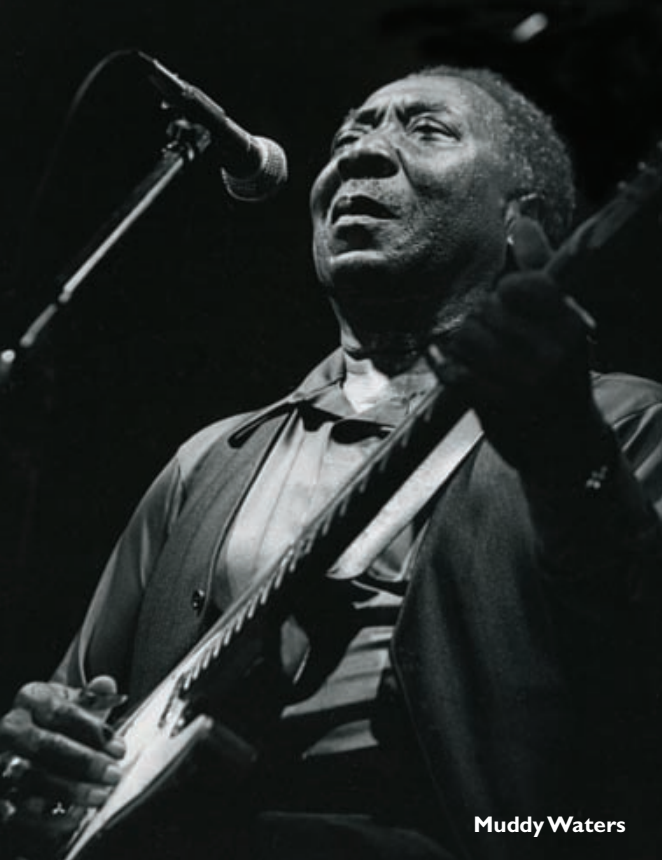


Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Every January, U of T's engineering students blow off steam with a week-long celebration of high-concept goofiness known as Godiva Week. "It's a whole second frosh week for engineers," says Chris Anderson, co-chair of the engineers' Blue and Gold Committee, which organizes the week's events. Highlights of Godiva Week, which takes its name from Lady Godiva – one of several mascots claimed by engineering students – include the Mr. Blue and Gold Pageant and Godiva's Crown, a women-only lumberjack contest.

One of the most eagerly anticipated events is the chariot race, a dash around King's College Circle on jury-rigged sleighs. Each engineering discipline fields a "chariot" team with a helmeted rider and squad of pullers and pushers. Teams are encouraged to attack and dismantle other chariots during the race, so "defenders" are deployed to keep their sled in one piece. Crossing the finish line first doesn't guarantee a win; by tradition, the declared winners are the team that bribes the judges most creatively. The week of gleeful mayhem is capped off by the more genteel Cannonball, the engineers' annual semi-formal dance and dinner. Anderson says it's "one of the times during the year when we actually dress up and look presentable."

ILLUSTRATIONS: JASON SCHNEIDER



Muddy Waters

School of Hard Knocks

Students in Professor Rick Halpern's American Studies seminar "Hellhound on my Trail: Living the Blues in the Mississippi Delta, 1890-1945," don't spend all their time with their nose in a book – they learn the history of the Deep South by listening to such blues greats as Muddy Waters, Ma Rainey, Robert Johnson and Howlin' Wolf.

"Most blues songs aren't about historic events," says Halpern, the Bissell-Heyd-Associates Chair in American Studies. "They're more about love gone wrong." But Halpern wanted to approach blues songs as texts that would help his students understand African-American history in the segregated south in the real voices of the people who lived it. His students have required readings each week, but they also have required listening. "The blues can be used to capture the voices of many black southerners who don't appear in the history books," says Halpern, who is also director of the Centre for the Study of the United States and the American Studies program at U of T.

Students often find a particular artist or song that resonates with them. "I got really attached to the Skip James song, 'Hard-Time Killing Floor Blues,'" says Erin Mandzak, a fourth-year history and political science student. "It expressed the despair of the blues, and for me was the clearest link between African-American life under segregation and blues music."

Dance Me Inside

If you dream of dancing like Fred Astaire but have the feet of Fred Flintstone, U of T's Only Human Dance Collective is there for you.

"Everyone's really nice and welcoming," says Kelly Stewart (BEd 2000), who has been with the collective for most of the time since its start in 1999. "It's very inclusive."

The collective, which doesn't hold auditions for

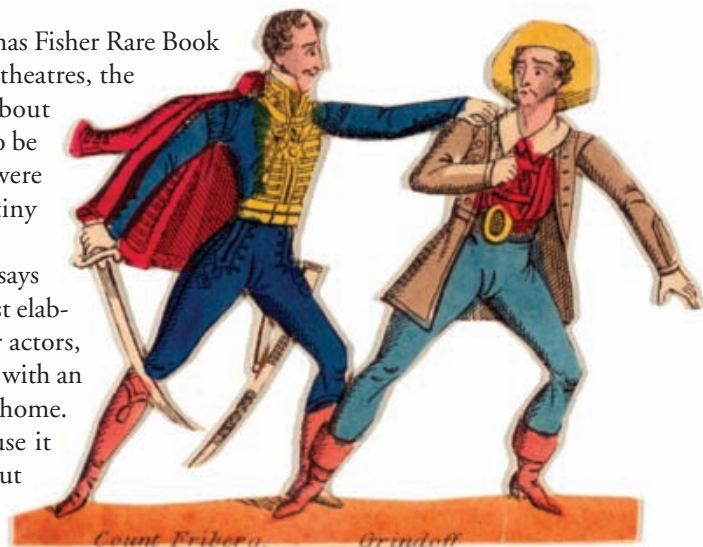
company pieces and is open to all members of the U of T community, stages a popular annual spring show at the Isabel Bader Theatre featuring more than a hundred dancers and a range of styles – from African and Indian

to jazz and hip-hop. The all-comers philosophy usually means a few toes twang rather than twinkle, but the enthusiasm of the show is infectious. "It's amazing," says Stewart. "I just feel lucky to be a part of it."

It's Only a Paper Moon, Hanging Over a Cardboard Sea...

Actors don't get more two-dimensional than this. U of T's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library is home to one of the world's largest collections of toy theatres, the Desmond Seaton Reid Juvenile Drama Collection. Totalling about 6,000 pieces, the collection consists of printed sheets designed to be coloured, cut out and mounted on card. Sets of the sheets were bought for Victorian children who assembled them to make tiny cardboard stages, scenery, backdrops and actors.

"This really is a record of performance in the 19th century," says Fisher Library director Richard Landon, explaining that the most elaborate sets were exact scale replicas of real productions and their actors, and sometimes included costume changes. Many were packaged with an abridged, half-hour script so children could perform the play at home. "It was the kind of thing you'd buy as a Christmas gift because it seemed like an improving activity for children," says Landon. "But no child has that kind of concentration. It's the model train syndrome – you buy it for your kid but end up doing it yourself."



PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL ROMANOS, COURTESY OF THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

Life on Mars?

“There are students who come to this course wanting to know if the pyramids are evidence of aliens visiting Earth,” says Professor Chris Matzner, who teaches the U of T astronomy course “Life on Other Worlds,” “but we try to get students to take a scientific view.” That means bringing the discussion back down to Earth, by focusing on how life developed on our own planet, and what that indicates about how life might form elsewhere. “Although you’re always left with the same unanswered question,” says Matzner, of whether or not extraterrestrial life exists, “what’s surprising is how much we do know.” Biologists, for instance, have found life flourishing in some of the Earth’s harshest environments, and since the early 1990s astronomers have discovered more than 150 planets outside our solar system. Matzner says that while we’re not likely to find life on other worlds anytime soon, “these recent discoveries have really increased the level of interest in astrobiology.”



Gaudy, but Never Tacky

“Ghosts are alive and well at Massey,” says John Fraser, master of the U of T graduate college. But the red-letter day for Massey’s scholarly spectres isn’t Halloween; it’s the college’s annual

Christmas Gaudy, a night of food, drink, song and storytelling to mark the end of the fall term. Massey has so many phantoms because its founding master, Canadian literary giant Robertson Davies, was constantly inventing new ones. Each year he concocted

a ghost story, usually featuring the spirit of an ancient scholar – Gutenberg, Aristotle or Newton – haunting a Massey student or faculty member. Fraser’s style is different. “I never tell ghost stories because I won’t put myself up against Robertson Davies

in that department,” he says. Instead, Fraser, a former editor of *Saturday Night*, narrates from the perspective of animals in and around the college – ducks, rats, raccoons – to create what he calls “bedtime stories suitable for adult ears.”



Rope Charmers

Forget everything you think you know about skipping rope. The four members of U of T’s competitive jump-rope team, the Varsity Ropers, appear to defy gravity as they run, jump and flip through the air to perform such acrobatic manoeuvres as the Transient Extended Neck Wrap or the Suburban Hemisphere. “If it uses ropes, we do it,” says team member Lindsay Williamson, who counts the Two-Footed Double Frog among her specialties. Last year the U of T team ranked first at the Ontario championships, and third nationally. Although the Ropers have proved their competitive mettle, they’ve begun organizing a recreational program for beginners. “It’s an excellent cardiovascular workout, and it’s fun,” says Williamson.



Bells of the Ball

U of T's prized carillon in Soldiers' Tower can be heard all over campus, so most listeners never get close enough to see that the real show is how the 51-bell instrument is played. The bells range in size from 23 pounds to four tons and are controlled by a six-foot-wide keyboard of wooden levers. Performers get quite a workout, explains Michael Hart, U of T's official carillonneur. "It's physically demanding. Because the clappers all vary in weight, you have to adjust the pressure you use on each key." During carillon concerts, a staple of many U of T summer evenings, a closed-circuit TV was set up, Hart says, "so people on the ground could have a view of what we do."

The Doctor Will Feed You Now

For a cookbook written by people who are supposed to look after our health, it sure contains a lot of brownie recipes. *Eating Well: Favourite Recipes from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine* contains 80 recipes submitted by med students, faculty, staff and alumni, including three for brownies. Marilyn Heng, who is in the third year of her medical degree, edited the inaugural edition last year. "I'd say I tested half the recipes," she says, adding that she was a particular fan of a pasta recipe from a classmate's grandmother and a

PHOTOGRAPHY: MATTHEW NEUFELD



South African dessert called *melktart*.

The cookbook includes recipes from some of U of T's most notable medical researchers, such as Dr. Tak Mak (who contributed an Italian-Chinese chicken stir-fry) and Dr. Catherine Whiteside (a cheeseburger casserole). U of T's new president, Dr. David Naylor, provided a recipe for vegetarian stuffed peppers that he used to make while he was a student at Oxford University. "I tested *that* one out," Heng says. "It was really good." Proceeds from the sale of the \$10 book support a senior citizens' outreach program.

Cake and Ice Cream (and Chicken and Sardines and...)

As cakes go, it's not exactly worth fighting for. But Trinity College's annual Cake Fight has nothing to do with eating.

"The female head of first year makes the most disgusting cake possible," explains Ashutosh Jha, one of Trinity's co-heads of college. "This year the cake was made with chicken, cake mix, leftover food and pork chops. But we check for food allergies first." In a throwback to Trinity's sex-segregated days, the college's first-year men must retrieve the revolting dessert from the quad through the east gate in under a minute, while the second-year men try to block their path. "It's kind of a rivalry," says Jha. "It brings the first years together." Last September, the frosh retrieved the cake in 38 seconds, which Jha says is "a decent result."

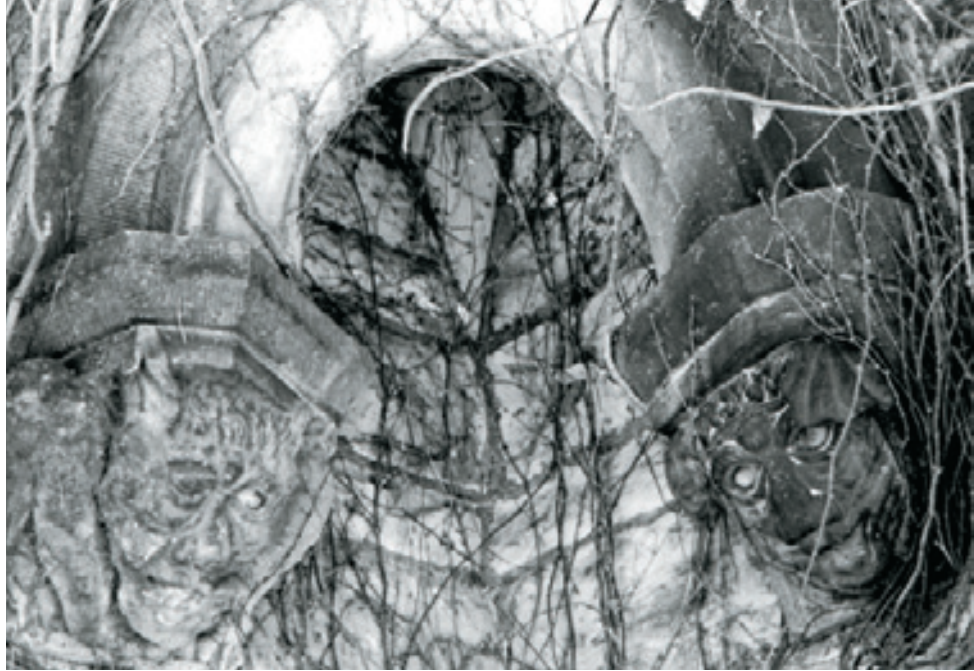


Deliciously Diabolical

The gruesome tale of Diabolos and Reznikoff, the stonemasons who fought to the death in the hallways of the half-built University College, is well known to U of T students and alumni. But the legend isn't all that remains: two gargoyles at the west end of the main UC building are reputed to be likenesses of the feuding colleagues, forever grimacing each other.

For years, a popular UC café has kept Diabolos's name alive, while Reznikoff lingered in obscurity. But in September 2005, a new café called – you guessed it – Reznikoff's opened on the ground floor of Morrison Hall, UC's new residence on St. George Street. Now the rivalry goes on, albeit in a friendlier and more delicious form.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHANNON PERSAUD TOLINAY



Aces High

When Clayton Babcock was a student at the University of Toronto at Mississauga in the late 1970s, he was one of a notorious group of students called “the loungers.”

Babcock and his fellow loungers didn't take much about university seriously – except their card games. They played Hearts, mostly, and a game of their own invention called Doughnut. “There was a little gambling going on,” says Babcock, “a nickel here, a nickel there.” The only hitch: individ-

ual loungers would sometimes forget their cards. “Then it dawned on us that we could just jump up on the radiator, punch out the ceiling tile and keep the cards up there.”

Babcock isn't a loner anymore (he graduated with a BSc in biology in 1981), but while visiting UTM a few years ago, he checked out his old haunt and couldn't resist a peek above the ceiling. “There was our deck of cards!” he says. Babcock adds there may still be one or two decks stashed in the ceiling, should any current students care to restart the tradition. Texas Hold'em anyone?

The Lies of the Land

**The Russians are coming!
The Russians are coming!
Or so you'd think from looking at this Red-scare map of Europe published in *Time* magazine in 1952. But to the students in Professor James Retallack's first-year seminar course, “Telling Lies with Maps,” the picture isn't so simple. Retallack, who teaches at the Munk Centre for**

International Studies, wants his students to think critically about the maps they see in books, on the wall or on TV.

“We try to run the gamut,” he says, “from the good elements of graphical display to the bad and the ugly. We look at spy maps, satellite maps, maps in advertisements, maps in literature and fiction...” The list goes on. “Map projections tell interesting and nuanced stories,” he says.



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The Plot Thickens

“It looks pretty small,” says Caroline Xia, surveying the community garden in front of the Students’ Administrative Council building on Hart House Circle, “but we really pack the vegetables in.” Xia is the founder of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group Equity Gardeners, the volunteer group that tends the small plot of land and encourages anyone to harvest what they’d like from it. This year’s harvest included lettuce, beets, Swiss chard, four kinds of mint, beans, kale, oregano, chives and even two small bushes growing hot peppers. “It produces a humongous

amount of food,” says Xia. “People are constantly harvesting.” The garden is pesticide-free, and the group provides most of its own compost and even some of its own seeds, sprouting them on the third floor of SAC over the winter. “We make a point of planting vegetables that grow quickly and are super producers,” says Xia. Regularly during spring, summer and fall, the volunteers harvest a crop to donate to The Scott Mission, and they’re planning an expansion next summer so they can grow more. “We just grow vegetables and people can harvest them,” says Xia with a shrug. “It’s a pretty simple concept.”



Bert and Eerie

Many students call Hart House a favourite haunt, but a former caretaker of the building seems to really mean it. Bert (last name unknown) handled custodial duties at Hart House for several years in the 1960s, until he died suddenly on his way to work. It seems he came in that day anyway and never left. “My own experience with the ghost was five or six years ago,” says Hart House Theatre manager Paul Templin. Working late one winter night, Templin decided to sleep in his office and asked the security guards not to wake him. “Sometime during the night, the door swung open and hit my cot. The door is glass-paned, so I could see there was someone standing behind it. Then the door closed again.” Templin got up to investigate and found that the room was full of smoke, the result of an electrical fire in an adjacent wall. He gathered with Hart House’s overnight staff on the sidewalk outside, and asked if anyone had been to his office; no one had. “All I saw that night was a silhouette of a person,” says Templin, but he is convinced Bert roused him to the danger. “I’d say that he saved my life.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: JIM FANOU, LAURA ARSIE



Wood Is Thicker Than Water

The ornate gryphon coiled on top of the banister in the east stairway of University College once disappeared from its perch.

During a university-wide blood drive in the 1950s, UC students had the worst participation rate at U of T. To punish the college, a group of engineering students barricaded the stairwell with the gryphon, sawed the creature from the banister and took it away. According to George Mastoras, vice-president of the UC Literary and Athletic Society, the engineers later sent UC students a message: if they wanted their beloved gryphon back, they would have to donate more blood to the drive than any other college. Which they did. “So it’s literally been paid for with the blood of UC students,” Mastoras observes. To this day, the gryphon is an academic totem for UC students, who rub it for luck on their way to exams. ■



Supreme Court Justice **Rosalie Abella** defends
the rights of Canadians under the Constitution.
She's also an author, a pianist and the mother of two
successful lawyers. "Every day is a gift," she says.
"I do what I can to make the most of it."

By Donna Bailey Nurse

'Just Rosie'

HANGING IN THE CHAMBERS OF SUPREME COURT OF CANADA Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella is an elegantly framed poster of Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday. Lady Day is leaning in toward Armstrong and beaming like she'd never met the blues. "Look how joyous that is," says Abella, noticing me admire the print. "How exuberant!" On the facing wall are several colourful artistic evocations of New York City. "I love colour and I love New York," she says. "New York is alive and raw, and it's got flair. It's not afraid and it takes risks, and it's over the top and is absolutely unabashedly what it is."

Some have said much the same of Abella – the Supreme Court judge who everyone seems to know as "Rosie."

The daughter of Holocaust survivors, Abella (BA 1967 UC) graduated from the University of Toronto Law School in 1970 and was called to the bar in 1972. She practised law for four years. In 1976, at the age of 29 and while pregnant with her second child, Abella became the youngest Canadian – and first Jewish woman – to be named to the bench. It was a groundbreaking achievement, but Abella describes it as

mostly a case of good timing. "This was [Ontario Attorney General] Roy McMurtry deciding, in the wake of International Women's Year, that there weren't enough women judges," she says. "I would like to be able to tell you that out of a field of a hundred thousand he chose me. But to be honest, there wasn't a whole lot of choice."

Abella soon became known among her colleagues for her ebullience and deep commitment to human rights. She sat for five years on the Ontario Human Rights Commission, participated in an inquiry into the conduct of the Nova Scotia judges involved in the wrongful murder conviction of Mi'kmaq youth Donald Marshall Jr., and chaired a provincial study on access to legal services by people with disabilities. "I had a chance to be part of the evolutionary changes in the law regarding women and minorities and persons with disabilities," says Abella. "Did I consciously get involved with those things? Yes, I did. I believe that the law is related to justice."

Abella's passion for human rights stems from her family history. In her chambers, she calls my attention to a photo of

PHOTOGRAPHY: TONY FOUJEE

the American troop ship *SS General Stuart Heintzelman*, which ferried her family from Bremerhaven, Germany, to Canada. Jacob and Fanny Silberman landed at Pier 21 in Halifax with their daughters, Rosalie and Toni, and Fanny's mother, on May 30, 1950. Abella studies the image. "I remember being nauseous," she says. Later, in Toronto: a new home and a new language. "What I really remember is being desperate to play with the kids. They wouldn't play with me at first because I spoke German."

She pulls a book down from a shelf and spreads open the pages before me: a little girl at the front of a train – a pigtailed pixie with a shy smile. Not quite four years old, she's instantly recognizable as Abella. "We travelled by train from Stuttgart [Germany] to Bremerhaven," she says, pointing out in the photo the metal badge attached to her clothes. "That was my tag. It was so we wouldn't get lost. We were packed in like baggage."

Hanging on the wall is also a framed certificate – her father's law degree, worn and yellowed beneath the glass. Jacob Silberman won a scholarship to study law at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland; he was one of only four Jews permitted entry under quotas. He had been born in 1910 in the Polish *shtetl* of Siemno to a bookseller and his wife. In Krakow, he earned money tutoring. In the mid-1930s, while visiting the city of Ostrowiec, he met Fanny Krongold. Fanny was the daughter of a wealthy factory owner. She had a good head for business and was running her father's operations while still in her early 20s. The two soon fell in love. "My mother felt like she had found the Holy Grail," Abella says.

Jacob and Fanny married on September 3, 1939, shortly after Jacob graduated from law school but not before Nazi Germany invaded Poland. They were separated for most of the war, and shunted off to labour and concentration camps. Their son, Julius, died at Treblinka; he was just two and a half. The couple lost parents and siblings. Later, at a displaced persons camp in Stuttgart, they began rebuilding their lives. Abella was born at the camp on July 1, 1946. Her sister, Toni, arrived two years later. Abella remembers her childhood as happy, and says she's amazed by her parents' and grandmother's resilience and optimism. "With everyone and everything they lost – and they lost so much – they still came out of that experience so nurturing, so determined that my sister and I would feel no fear," says Abella.

American officials in Stuttgart asked Jacob to participate in establishing legal services for displaced persons. He was heartened "by just how wonderful it was to be able to discover that justice was possible after what he had been through," says Abella. Until his death, just one month before her graduation from law school, Jacob and Abella shared a unique bond. "I always felt there was a man who encouraged me to believe there was nothing I couldn't do. And who loved his children so profoundly that it created a kind of protective shield against the world.

"He started treating me as an equal from the time I was 12 or 13," Abella says. "It wasn't conscious on either of our parts,

I think. But I always knew that somebody I admired was both loving and respectful. For your intellectual confidence there's nothing better." The familial shield was fortified by her mother, says Abella, whom she credits for teaching her about generosity and courage. "To this day, my mother has never complained or asked for anything," says Abella. "It was all about giving."

During their first few months in Canada, the Silberman family lived on the third floor of a house on Oxford Street in Toronto's Kensington Market. Prohibited by citizenship restrictions from practising law, Jacob was desperate to find work. He landed a factory job, but found the work difficult. A few weeks later, on a whim, he approached the Continental Life Insurance Company, located in the Tip Top Tailors building at Spadina and College. That day Jacob became an insurance salesman. The family moved into a house at Oakwood and St. Clair, and Fanny worked in the home office. The couple never looked back.

Abella describes her life at home with her parents as blissful, but structured. The television remained off from Monday

Even though there were only five women at the U of T Law School, I never felt that this was something I should not be doing. That says a lot about U of T

to Friday. Weekdays consisted of school, homework and two hours of piano practice. The girls competed at the Kiwanis Festival every February and took their Conservatory exams every June. Accomplished pianists, they performed both together and separately, and even played Massey Hall. Abella earned the designation of Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto and still enjoys playing George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter songs, particularly when she's stressed. "The more pressure I feel I'm under, the more I find myself playing love songs from that era," she says.

Reading was Abella's indulgence. Every Friday after school, the sisters visited the public library at Dufferin and St. Clair, where Abella returned the three books she had borrowed the week before and checked out three more. "Every. Single. Friday," she says. "It was a ritual." At the age of nine, Abella read a novel that she says changed her life: Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. "It's all about a man and the most extraordinary injustice – the price he has to pay for stealing a loaf of bread. I can't tell you why, but the book shook me to the core," she says. "Reading *Les Mis* was the moment when being a lawyer wasn't something I wanted to do because my parents thought it was



As a judge, says Abella, “you have to be open to the possibility that your preconceptions may be wrong”

studied, and he told her the B storey of the stacks at Sigmund Samuel Library – so that’s where she studied for the next two years, in the carrel behind his. She repeatedly asked him out. He repeatedly declined until finally, she says, he ran out of excuses. “I was entirely driven by the fact that I thought he was incredible,” Abella says. They were married in Toronto on December 8, 1968, just two days before she was scheduled to write an exam in international law.

A hard-working student all through elementary and high school, Abella says that her years at U of T were when the “rest of me caught up – the social me.” It was during this time that Abella became aware of her full potential. “Even though there were only five women at the U of T Law School, I never felt for a moment that this was something I should not be doing. That says a lot about U of T. I came out of there thinking that there was nothing I couldn’t do.” Abella is the first female U of T graduate to have been appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

In the mid-1970s, Irving and Rosie had two sons, Jacob and Zachary. The demands of home and work were challenging, but Irving arranged his academic life so he could be home when the boys

a good thing. It turned into something I wanted to do so that people would be protected from those kinds of injustices.”

Abella attended Oakwood Collegiate in Grade 9 and Bathurst Heights Secondary School from Grade 10 to 13. She recalls having plenty of friends and says they didn’t care about clothes or hairstyles. “I didn’t know how to dress properly. I didn’t know what to wear.” She rarely dated.

However, she identified her future husband the first time she laid eyes on him. It was in her second year at U of T, in the basement of University College. She was helping organize an international teach-in. Rosie was in charge of hospitality; Irving Abella, a PhD candidate in Canadian history, was co-ordinating the seminars. Six years older than Rosie, Irving had just returned from working on his master’s degree in history at the University of California, Berkeley. “I thought he was so smart and so funny and so different from people I knew my own age. I was mesmerized by him,” she says. “But he was utterly disinterested in me.”

Abella went straight home and told her parents that she had met the man she wanted to marry. She didn’t speak to Irving again for three months. When she did, she asked him where he

returned from school. As a lawyer and a judge, Abella had a gruelling schedule, but she came home for dinner every evening and together she and Irving would tuck their children into bed, before she headed back downtown to the office.

For several years, Irving’s salary as a history professor paid for a housekeeper. “That was a luxury,” says Abella. “In those days, journalists always wanted to do stories about how I was able to balance being a judge and being a wife and being a mother. But I would always say, ‘You are going after the wrong woman. I can afford help. Go after the women who are really struggling and still raising wonderful children.’” Today, Abella’s sons are both successful lawyers. Jacob (LLB 1998), 32, works in the Privy Council Office in Ottawa, and Zachary, 29, worked for the past three years on the Toronto computer leasing inquiry.

Early in her career, Abella began seeing how important the law is to helping people get justice. “I saw how I could use it in an active way to help my clients. It was the needs of my clients I was responding to,” Abella says. “I saw the way the law treated women. I saw the way the world treated women, and it took my breath away. That was when I developed the perception that there was much about the world that had been operating

unfairly, because I hadn't experienced unfairness myself."

Abella is probably best known for her role as the sole commissioner on the Royal Commission on Equality in Employment. The federal government created the commission in 1983 to seek remedies for workplace discrimination against women, aboriginal peoples, people with disabilities and visible minorities. In her report to Ottawa the following year, Abella coined the concept and the term "employment equity," which is sometimes described as the Canadian alternative to affirmative action. "Equality in the American context and everywhere else in the world had always been an Aristotelian concept: You treat likes alike," she explains. "In the royal commission report was a notion of equality that acknowledges differences, and requires people to take them into account." In other words, Abella recognized that the identical treatment of individuals may result in inequality. "Treating everyone alike means that the person in a wheelchair has the same right to work, but you're not required to do anything to get him or her into the building," she says. "If you don't acknowledge differences you can't create equality."

Abella later played an important role in another equality issue – the rights of gay couples. In 1998, while serving on the Ontario Court of Appeal, she wrote a landmark ruling that extended survivor benefits to same-sex partners. The case involved two members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The women asked the union to extend the definition of "spouse" under its pension plan. The union agreed, but Revenue Canada

refused to accept the extension for the federal Income Tax Act. In her decision, Abella wrote that the definition of "spouse" in the act violated the equality provision of the charter. "Bold and inspired," is how U of T law professor Carol Rogerson describes Abella's ruling. "It predicted the future course of the law."

Abella has strong views on a range of issues, but says her role as a judge requires her to put the law above personal considerations. "The judicial function is a public trust," she says. "You have to make sure that, as a judge, you take into account the evidence you are hearing, the public interest, the history of the issue and the principle at stake, and weigh all of this with a result that has integrity. You have to be open to the possibility that your preconceptions may be wrong or, at the least, that they can be changed by the evidence in front of you."

Despite her long track record as a jurist, the case that Abella holds dearest is one in which she was not directly involved. In 1989, the Supreme Court of Canada overturned a statute that prohibited non-citizens from practising law. It was the same kind of law that had prevented Abella's father from practising law in Ontario almost four decades earlier. In their reasoning, the Supreme Court judges drew on Abella's definition of equality. It was the court's first decision under the equality section of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "At that moment," says Abella, "I could have ended my career very happily." ■

Donna Bailey Nurse is a freelance writer in Toronto.

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Nominations for the position of Chancellor will be accepted beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2006.

Nominations must be made in writing and signed by two alumni of the University of Toronto.

Nominations should be sent in confidence to:

Andrew Drummond
Secretary, College of Electors
Simcoe Hall, Room 106
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A1
Phone: (416) 978-8794
Fax: (416) 978-8182
andrew.drummond@utoronto.ca



The deadline for receipt of nominations is 4 p.m., Monday, February 6, 2006.

Please visit the *Governing Council Web site: www.utoronto.ca/govcncl* for further information on the election process for the Chancellor.

The College of Electors invites nominations for the position of Chancellor of the University for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2006.

The present Chancellor, The Honourable Vivienne Poy, has declined to stand for another term.

The Chancellor is required by statute to be a Canadian citizen.

ROLE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Under the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, the Chancellor serves as chair of Convocation, and confers all degrees of the University. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Chancellor presides at convocation ceremonies, of which there were 23 in 2005. In addition, the Chancellor serves as Chair of the Committee for Honorary Degrees.

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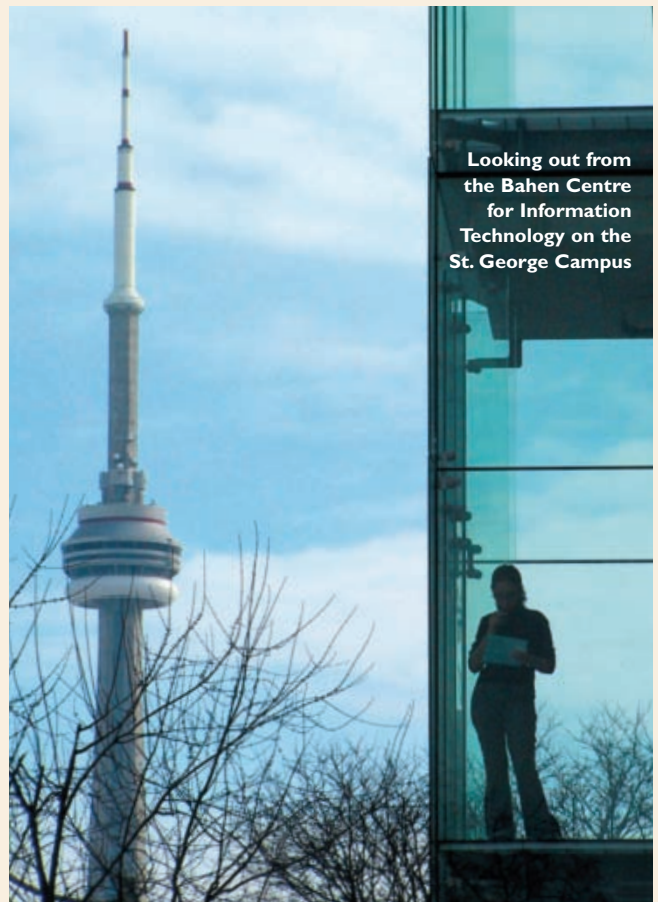
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Andrea Kleinhandler
Rose Kung
Larry Kurtz
Dalai Lama

Saul Leszcz
Eleanor L. Levine
Sheila Levine
Ann Lewis
Robert and Jeanne Liss
Enrique J. B. Lopez De Mesa
Robert J. F. Madden
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Michael E. Marmura
Michael R. Marrus
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Paul E. P. Martin
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James K. McConica
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Roy Oglesby
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Elaine Posluns
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Simon Woo
Elaine Zuckerman

In Memory

The University of Toronto recognizes individuals who have had a gift made in their memory.

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 Fay J. Aldridge
 John G. Anderson
 Howard F. Andrews
 Elaine Anisman
 Louis Applebaum
 Jim Arndt
 Marija Aukstaite
 Ethel W. Auster
 Katherine G. Baker
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 Frank Beals
 Andre Leon
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 Wilfred G. Bigelow
 Gertrude Birkett
 Nancy D. Blackburn
 Anne Blonde
 Allan Bloom
 Robert L. Booth
 Robert W. Bowcott
 Carol J. Brehaut
 John D. Breithaupt
 Debra Brick
 James Brown
 Jim Brown
 Jim Brown
 Mildred Brown
 Wilma M. Brown
 Gerhard Brunzema
 Ronald Bryden
 Gertrude Anna Bucek
 J. David F. Buller
 Sharon Butler
 Mary Buttimer
 Leon C. Bynoe
 Gina M. Caldarelli
 Lee Calderwood
 Charles Callender
 Angus Cameron
 James Cameron
 Colin K. Campbell
 George Scott Campbell
 John Campbell
 Luchio Cappola
 Steven Cerny
 Mark Y. Chan
 Paul Chan
 Colin Chase
 Molly Chester
 Julia C. Ching
 Soo Jin Chong
 Hetty C. H. Chu
 Dorothy Isabeau Chubb
 Samuel Chun
 Samuel D. Clark
 David Coffen
 Carol Cohen
 Frank Colantonio
 Louis Cole

Rowland L. Collins
 John A. Connelly
 K. Jane Conway
 Ruth Cooperstock
 Edith Cory
 John Bernard Coutu
 George B. Craig
 Eileen M.T. Crothers
 Beulah Davies
 Marnie de Kerckhove
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 Ella Gilbert
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 Albert Gnat
 E. Ray Godfrey
 Nicholas Goldschmidt
 Lillie Gorman
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 Betty C. Graham
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 Sidney Greenwald
 Michael Gregg
 Barbara Grimson
 Franciszka Grodecka
 Anne Gross
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 Giuseppe Guidoni
 Davida Guttman
 Joshua Richard Haglund
 Douglas C. Haldenby
 Robert Hale
 Lorna Hall
 Roy A. Ham
 Margaret I. Hambly
 Shannon L. Hamm
 George Hammond
 George Shearer Hammond
 W. Arthur Hand
 Madan Handa
 Mae Harman
 Diane Harris
 John E. F. Hastings
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 James S. Hausman
 Muriel E. Haynes
 Sylvia Hayward
 Richard J. Helmeste
 Ellen Henderson
 Charles E. Hendry
 Daniel R. Herbert
 Ena Herman
 Sam Hershfield
 Susan Hershfield-Verburg
 Daniel G. Hill
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 Anne Holden
 Phyllis G. Holladay
 Johannes M. Holmboe
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 Alvin Hord
 Walter Howard
 C. D. Howe
 F. Norman Hughes
 John F. M. Hunter
 Stan Hyman
 Maria landoli
 Robert J. Isaacs
 Kenneth Iverson
 Roy Ivor
 Ethel Jackson
 Enrique Jadad
 R. Warren James
 Corinne Jeffery
 Robert Latham Jeffrey
 Trayten Morgan Jensen
 S. Grace Jermy
 Hilda Jessel
 Kingsley J. Joblin
 Carol Johnson
 Kimberley A. Johnson
 Edward Johnston
 Andrzej Jus
 Oriana Kalant

Toomas Kalm
 Selvarajah Kanagaratnam
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 Christina M. McCall
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 John Meagher
 Libardo (Lee) J. Melendez
 Kim Miller
 N. Esther Mitchell
 Margaret Gertrude Moffat
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Manuel Moreira
 Clara Morris
 Donald Morrison
 Robina D. Morrison
 Clive B. Mortimer
 Ian Moss
 C. Elizabeth Mustard
 Esther Myers
 S. R. Leroy Newman
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 Madeline Nourse
 Sharney Novack
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 Dennis O'Shea
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 Thomas Luther Panton
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 Nancy Park
 Benoit Patry
 Glen Patterson
 Peter T. Patterson
 Geoffrey B. Payzant
 Jean M. Pearson
 Marjorie E. Perham
 Bram Perzow
 Peter Pint
 Joe Pleimer
 Kathryn J. Poole
 Tibor Prince
 Eva Propper
 Saeed Quazi
 Norman D. Ralston
 Margarita (Rita) Reed
 Olive-Jane Reynolds
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 Bertha Amanda Robertson
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 Wilma Swain
 Mary Swit Diamond
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 Aron Avraham Tanny
 William Tanton
 Benjamin Tanzer
 Colleen Tate
 Allan Tennen
 Jack Tephitsky
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 James Thompson
 Richard J. Thompson
 Christine Thomson
 Dorothy Thomson
 Rose Tobin
 James D. Todd
 James Toguri
 Mary Prudence Tracy
 Albert Travis
 Stephen Triantis
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 David Trott
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 George A. Wishart
 Robert Barry Wishart
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 Johnny Kar Lok Yip
 Edie F. Yolles
 May A. Yoshida
 Gleb Zekulin
 Angela Zigrossi

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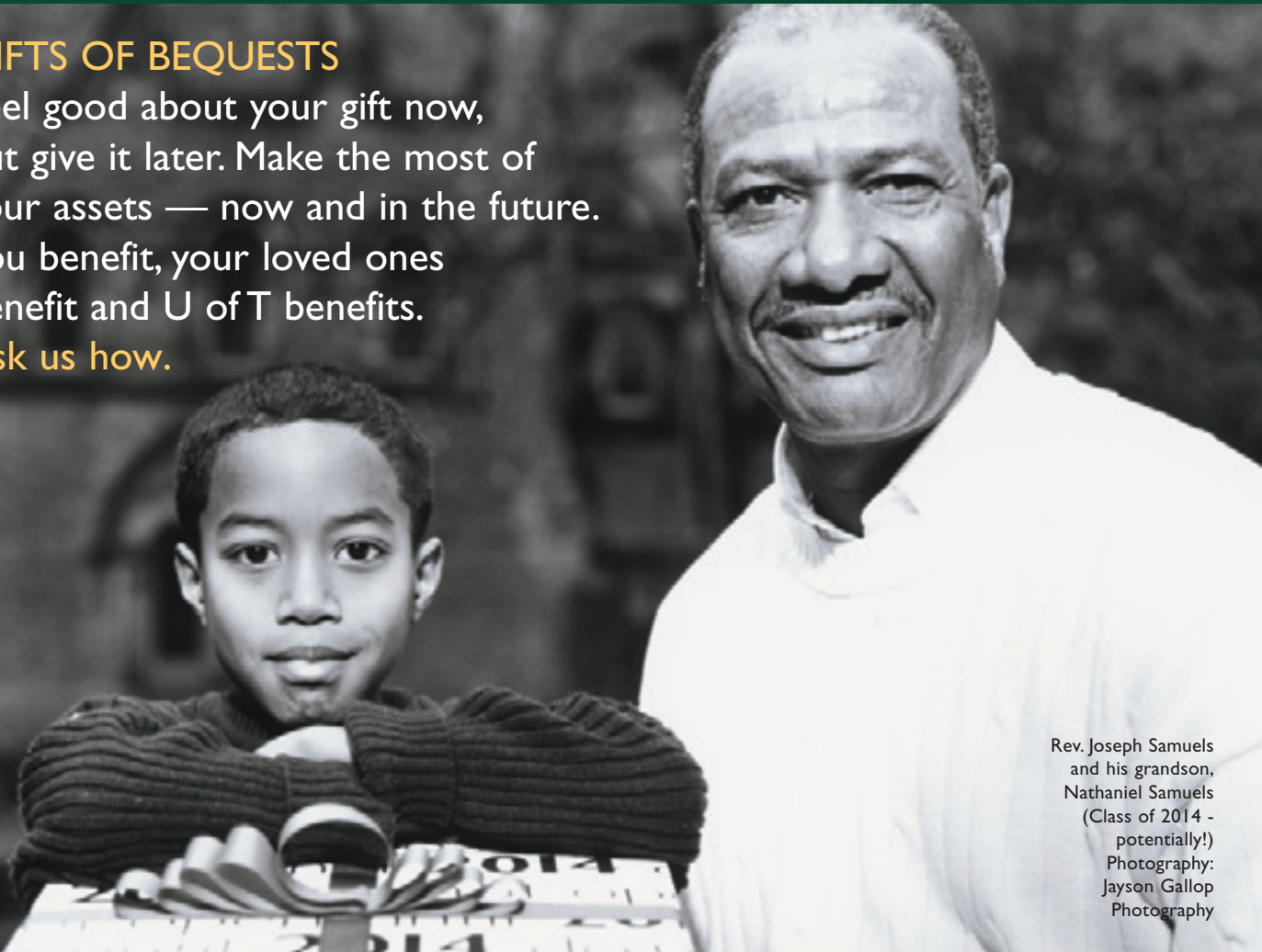


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Rev. Joseph Samuels and his grandson, Nathaniel Samuels (Class of 2014 - potentially!)
Photography: Jayson Gallop Photography

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Stepping Up

Duretti Hassen isn't certain what the future holds for her, but it may include a university degree, thanks to U of T's HSBC Steps to University program.

Hassen, a Grade 12 student at Bloor Collegiate Institute in Toronto, is taking a first-year U of T sociology course as part of Steps. Though she is still mulling over what to do next year, she says the program has encouraged her to consider post-secondary education. "I wasn't sure whether I would go to university or college," Hassen says, "so I enrolled in Steps to see if I'd fit in."

U of T established Steps in 1992 to identify high school students who were likely to succeed at university but who were, for a variety of reasons, unlikely to apply. Students are recommended to the program by their teachers and guidance counsellors. They take a U of T sociology course while they are in Grade 11 or 12 and the credit is transferable to any Canadian university.

Steps was initiated by the university's Transitional Year Programme (TYP), which helps people who lack formal educational credentials make the transition to university. In partnership with the Toronto District School Board, the HSBC Steps to University Program is offered to more than 200 students in eight Toronto high schools as well as through the Regent Park Pathways to

Continued on page 46

Morrison Hall residence



New Home for University College Students

For 270 students at University College, the start of the school year meant a new building to call home. Morrison Hall – the University of Toronto’s newest residence on the St. George campus – was officially opened in September. It is the largest development for UC since a fire destroyed much of its main building more than a century ago. The residence is named for U of T graduates Russell Morrison (MA 1947) and Katherine Morrison (PhD 1979), whose \$6-million gift made the project possible. “Katherine and I view our contribution to

the new residence as an opportunity to make a long-lasting enhancement to student life at UC,” says Russell Morrison.

The 13-storey residence features single rooms with shared bath facilities, and common lounge and study areas on each floor. There are also fully accessible accommodations on every level. “Morrison Hall is more than just a new building, it is an expression of the UC commitment to vibrant student life,” says Kent Buchanan, president of the UC Literary and Athletic Society. – *Anjali Baichwal*

PHOTOGRAPHY: BEN RAHINIA-FRAME INC.

Continued from page 45

Education program. Many Steps graduates are immigrants to Canada or first-generation Canadians. Hassen, herself a new Canadian, says she is grateful for the opportunities the Steps program has provided. “Before you get into university, it is good to know what is waiting for you,” she says.

Corporate partner HSBC Bank Canada first supported Steps in 2002 with a \$150,000 gift and renewed its commitment this fall with an additional \$240,000 over



three years. Thanks to HSBC Bank Canada’s support, the program will

continue to benefit students who might otherwise be unable to overcome barriers to university participation. “We are very fortunate to have partners like HSBC Bank Canada,” says TYP director Rona Abramovitch. “We’ve had great success with Steps. At the graduation ceremonies, you can see the looks of joy and accomplishment on the faces of students, many of whom are the first in their family to have the opportunity to access post-secondary education.” – *Jamie Harrison*

Bringing Good Skills to Life

Students seeking to brush up on their study skills are finding help at the Academic Skills Centre at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM), which offers workshops, mentoring, peer assistance and assessments of study habits.

The facility, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary next year, recently received \$500,000 from three community partners and friends of UTM to support its vital role. “The centre fills an important need that our students have identified over the years,” says Ian Orchard, vice-president and principal of UTM. “It helps them find the most effective way to learn, present their work and get more out of their university experi-

ence.” The centre also helps faculty to apply best practices in university teaching and learning methods.

The GE Foundation has contributed \$300,000 to the centre to honour GE Canada’s former president and chief executive officer, Bob Gillespie, for his leadership within the company and in the Mississauga community. Gillespie and his wife, Irene, have contributed \$100,000 toward the facility, which will be named the Bob Gillespie Academic Skills Centre. Gary Mooney (MA 1970) and Brenda Mooney (BA 1984 UTM) have given \$100,000 to establish the Gary and Brenda Mooney Award for students who use the centre and are in financial need. – *Staff*

Seeds of Hope

A man whose Czechoslovakian parents came to Toronto more than 70 years ago seeking opportunities has made a gift to U of T to help students make the most of theirs.

James Hosinec has donated \$1 million to support first-year undergraduate scholarships for students in need. The 82-year-old Toronto resident will augment his gift with a bequest of approximately \$1.5 million to increase the annual value of the scholarships over time. "I want to help ambitious students take advantage of opportunities I never had," he says.

Born in the Czechoslovakian village of Kuzmino, located in present-day Ukraine, Hosinec arrived in Canada with his mother in 1934. His father had been living in Toronto for several years, and, fearing another war, had borrowed money to bring his family out of Europe. "In my youth, I thought about becoming a doctor or lawyer," says Hosinec. "But I decided to work. My family needed the money."

Hosinec joined the Canadian Armed Forces and was stationed in British Columbia and Nova Scotia during the Second World War. After the war, he worked as a photographer before joining Ontario Hydro.

Although Hosinec had no affinity to U of T prior to his donation, he says he wanted to give money to an established institution whose graduates will make a difference. "These scholarships will help students make something of themselves," he says. "And that will benefit society as a whole."

— Elizabeth Monier-Williams



Professor Doug Reeve, with Leaders of Tomorrow Tarek Saghir and Lillian De Melo

Learning to Lead

For the past four summers, many U of T chemical engineering and applied chemistry students have spent Friday afternoons acquiring leadership and career skills as part of the department's Leaders of Tomorrow program.

The series of seminars and workshops brings alumni back to campus to share their expertise with current students, who learn how to manage conflicts in the workplace, prepare for interviews and match their personal values to an organization's.

"Participating in Leaders of Tomorrow as an undergraduate challenged me to improve my communication, listening and debating skills," says Kyla Augustine (BASc 2004), who is now pursuing a master's degree at U of T in chemical engineering. "Not everyone is a born leader, but the program helps us to develop the skills we need to enter the professional world with confidence."

A department survey found that 100 per cent of participants would recommend

the program to their peers; 90 per cent viewed it as valuable to their personal development.

Devised by department chair Doug Reeve and launched in 2002 as a summer program, Leaders of Tomorrow has expanded to include more than 30 events throughout the year. "To attend the networking breakfasts, our students living in the suburbs get up at 5 a.m. to catch the commuter train to be here by 7:30," says Reeve. "It's *that* important to them."

Alumni have participated in many of the program sessions, but one alumna and his wife have made a special gift in support of Leaders of Tomorrow. Last July, U of T received the first instalment of Bill and Kate Troost's donation of \$25,000 a year for the next 10 years. "We're delighted by the Troost's generosity. It will provide us with the resources to grow the program, reduce the waiting lists and offer new activities," says Reeve.

— Elizabeth Monier-Williams

A Farewell Gift to Last Forever

HE once joked that he was "the shortest president for the shortest time." But a donation in honour of former interim president Frank Iacobucci will provide financial assistance to U of T students long into the future.



Iacobucci

U of T Presidents Emeriti George Connell, John Evans and Robert Prichard and current president David Naylor have created the Frank

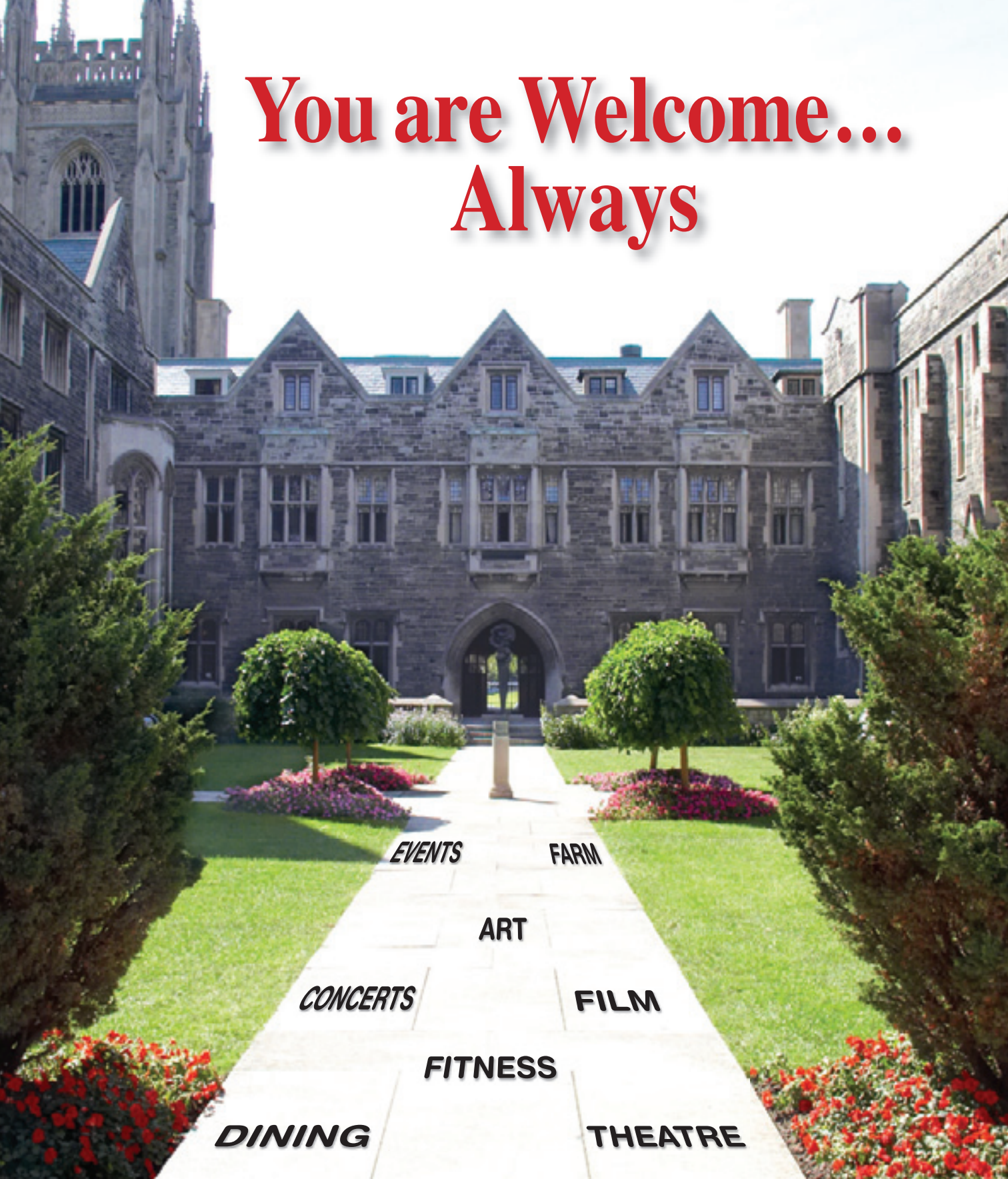
Iacobucci Transitional Year Programme Education Award. The award honours Iacobucci, U of T's interim president from September 2004 to June

2005, for his outstanding service. Iacobucci is a former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and was U of T's provost and dean of the Faculty of Law. Throughout his tenure as interim president, Iacobucci spoke often of his deep commitment to the Transitional Year Programme (TYP), which helps people who lack formal educational credentials make the transition to university.

The tribute award was matched by the William Waters Challenge Fund and the Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund, resulting in an endowment of more than \$400,000. Annual proceeds will provide bursaries to TYP students in financial need.

— Anjali Baichwal

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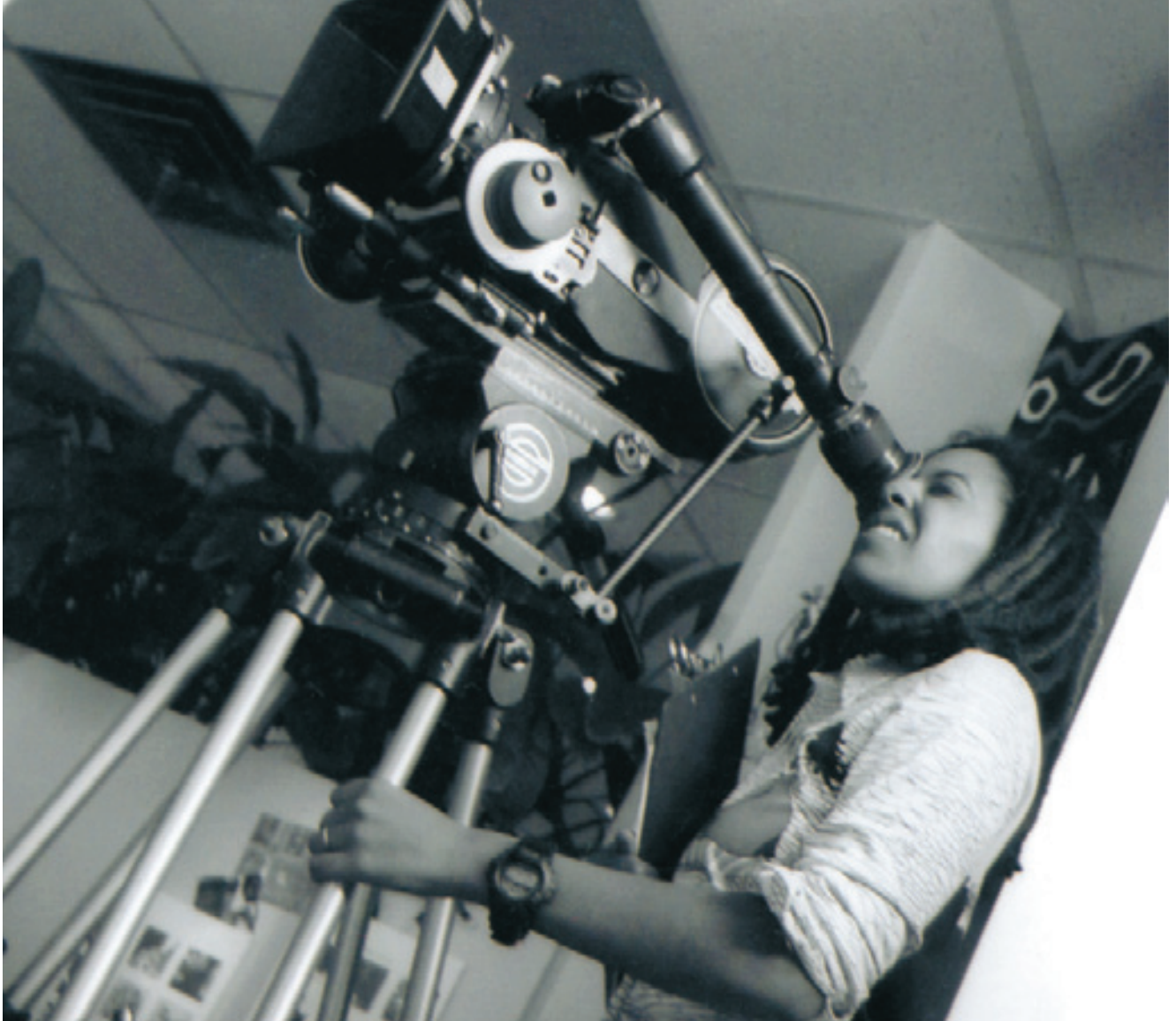
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Sweet Devotion

During her final year of a BA in Women's Studies and African Studies at U of T in 1996, Dawn Wilkinson took a one-week filmmaking workshop in Mount Forest, Ontario, that persuaded her to pursue a life behind the camera. The young writer had been crafting plenty of fiction and literary criticism in her classes, but, at the screening of her five-minute film, she was floored by the "immediacy" of the response. "Seeing people connect to my story was something I'd never fully experienced with my writing."

In 1999, Wilkinson studied at the Canadian Film Centre Directors' Lab in Toronto. She also served as a director observer (in which a young filmmaker-hopeful watches an established pro at work) during the shooting of the movie *Hurricane*, with

director Norman Jewison (BA 1949 VIC). Wilkinson had established the production company, Afterlife, in 1998, and has since made four short films, as well as several documentaries.

Her first feature, *Devotion*, recently won the Audience Award at the 2005 Reel World Film Festival in Toronto. The movie explores the concerns of belonging and alienation facing an 11-year-old biracial girl. Alice, the main character, also struggles with her mother's death, caused by her father's drunk driving. "The plot is not about being biracial; it's about her not fitting in at school, about not getting along with her dad. Being biracial is the lens she's looking through," says Wilkinson. "I wanted to show that complexity: how she saw herself wasn't how she was seen by others." — *Julia Armstrong*



Simon Pulsifer
at home in Ottawa

Wikipedia Wonderboy

Simon Pulsifer (BA 2004 VIC), 24, of Ottawa may not have a job, but that doesn't mean he has much spare time. Pulsifer spends eight to 10 hours a day contributing to Wikipedia – “the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit” – at www.wikipedia.org. The five-year-old open-access site exists in more than 100 languages, and the English version alone contains 830,000 articles – increasing by about 50,000 a month. And for that, we can thank people like Pulsifer.

Lisa Rundle: Why are we hearing so much about Wikipedia these days?

Simon Pulsifer: Its sheer popularity. So many people are using it. I don't know how many thousands of student essays Wikipedia content gets integrated into.

How's Wikipedia's accuracy? It's based on the idea that, because any person can contribute to the editing of an item, it will end up with fewer errors than what a small cadre of editors produce the traditional way.

I think it's very variable. The most popular articles, which have been edited thousands of times, are extremely accurate. But others don't get so much attention.

What's an example of a popular article?
The George W. Bush entry. I think it's been edited 21,000 times.

Is George W. Bush one of the people who's edited it?

Not that we've noticed. But there have been instances of that kind of thing.

People editing entries about themselves?
Yes. Usually lower-level politicians.

Is it good editing?

Mostly they're just taking out anything that's negative about them, true or false.

Then does it get put back in?

Usually. Yes.

What did you do to be dubbed the Wikipedia Wonderboy?

I guess it's mainly that I'm the most prolific contributor.

Give me numbers.

I think it's about 70,000 edits. But that's a misleading figure in that an edit can be anything from fixing a typo to writing a 4,000-word article. So, I've sort of written two or three thousand articles.

Which of the entries you've written are you most fond of?

There's a class of articles that are judged featured articles. I have nine of these

at the moment and I'm proud of those. My article on mercantilism was recently on the main page.

Is there a Wikipedia entry on Simon Pulsifer?

There's a strict policy against autobiography; they tend to lack neutrality. And there's also a policy against writing articles on people who aren't particularly notable.

But you're Wikipedia Wonderboy.

I'm not sure one *Ottawa Citizen* article qualifies for notoriety.

Your sourcing rigour is showing. You attended Victoria College at U of T. Are you, then, responsible for the unusual entries relating to Vic residences titled “Gate House” and “Burwash bug”?

I am, actually.

Are there any other obscure

U of T–related entries you've snuck in?

I don't think so. Those were among my earlier entries. I probably wouldn't write entries like that these days.

Now, this could just be me but when I first heard about Wikipedia I liked the word so much I found myself adding the prefix “Wiki” to other words.

Is that a common phenomenon?

Certainly for the Wikipedia community. There's a Wiktionary, Wikibooks and other parallel projects. It's sort of like the Smurfs; any word can get “Wiki” added to the front of it making a special “Wiki” variety of it.

Wikied. What's next career-wise?

This is not something you get paid for.

I'm not getting paid anything but I'm getting interviewed by people from *U of T Magazine*. And a year from now Wikipedia will be twice as noticeable, twice as popular. So I don't know where this will end up going. If I got a job I'd have to scale down the Wikipedia contributions a lot.

You won a Wikipedia award for one of your articles.

Yes, it was for a piece on the economy of Africa. I got a coffee mug and a T-shirt.

And you're going around saying you're not being paid? Was it called a Wikiward?
No.

– Lisa Rundle

Arbor Awards

When Jason Wong (BA 1994 UC) reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania this summer, he posted a University College sign in honour of his alma mater. Wong received a 2005 Arbor Award – along with 99 other recipients – in September for volunteerism at the university. In addition to serving as vice-president of the UC alumni association, he contributes to a scholarship for English students in need and helped organize UC's 150th anniversary in 2003.

Wong climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to launch his Seven Summits Challenge breast cancer fundraising endeavour in honour of his girlfriend, a breast-cancer survivor. "My plan is to eventually leave a UC banner on the seven highest peaks on seven continents," says Wong, a policy advisor at the Financial Services Commission of Ontario. – *Megan Easton*



Kudos

Is there a writer in the House? **David Shore** (LLB 1982) won an Emmy in September for "outstanding writing for



David Shore

a drama series." Shore is creator, executive producer and writer for the Fox television medical drama, *House, M.D.* In his Emmy speech, Shore thanked his parents for making him "happy and

well-adjusted" but also recognized "all the other people who have come into my life and made me miserable, cynical and angry, because this character [acerbic physician Gregory House] wouldn't be the same without them."

And for proof that math and art are not antithetical: **John Mighton** (BA 1978 VIC, MSc 1994, PhD 2000) – an adjunct professor of math at U of T – was awarded the \$100,000 Elinore and Lou Siminovitch Prize in Theatre on Oct. 25 at Hart House. Three weeks later, he won the 2005 Governor General's Literary Award for his latest play, *Half Life*. Mighton is a fellow of the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences at U of T.

Pat Hibbitts (BA 1973 VIC) was honoured with a Vancouver YWCA Women of Distinction Award. Hibbitts is vice-president, finance and administration, at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF FOX

And the Award Goes to...

U of T's Black Alumni Association held its second awards gala on October 21. Ontario Provincial Police Deputy Commissioner Jay Hope (BA 1994), an advocate on issues of recruitment and police minority relations, served as keynote speaker. Among those honoured were criminal lawyer Charles Roach (JD 1961), recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Roach is an expert in international criminal law and has been a lead defence counsel on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In 1993, he convened a Pan-

African Conference at New College.

This year's other recipients were Dr. Titus Owolabi (BSc 1968 St. Mike's, MD 1971, FRCS 1976), an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at U of T, for Professional Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; Dr. Isa Odi, a founder and principal of IntelliPharmaCeutics, for Contribution to African and Caribbean Development; the Honourable Jean Augustine (BA 1973 WOODS, MEd 1980, LLD 1994), the first African-Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons, assistant deputy

chair of committees of the whole, and a special adviser for Grenada, for Outstanding Leadership; Professor George J. Sefa Dei (PhD 1986), chair of U of T's department of sociology and equity studies in education for Excellence in Education; and Ebonnie Rowe, founder and CEO of PhemPhat Productions, for Arts and Culture. U of T English professor and poet George Elliott Clarke received the Faculty Award; and Flow 93.5 FM CEO and philanthropist Denham Jolly received the Honorary UTBAA Alumni Award. – *Julia Armstrong*

CARNIVAL

Jan. 21. **Winter Carnival at Hart House Farm.** Enjoy outdoor games, snowshoeing, great food and the Finnish sauna. The 150-acre Hart House Farm is in Caledon Hills on the Niagara Escarpment. Advance tickets (up to Jan. 19): \$24 with bus; \$19 without bus. Tickets after Jan. 19: \$29 with bus; \$24 without bus. Available at the Hall Porters' Desk at Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle. (416) 978-2452 or www.harthouse.utoronto.ca

THEATRE

University College Drama Program

Jan. 31 to Feb. 11. **The Orphan Muses** by Michel Marc Bouchard. Directed by Katka Schroth, guest German director with Theatre Berlin Magdeburg. Four siblings await the resurrection of their mother, who left them after their father's death 20 years ago. Tickets \$12; \$8 for seniors/students. The Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse, 79 A St. George St. Tuesday to Saturday, 7:30 p.m. (416) 978-1505, uc.drama@utoronto.ca or www.library.utoronto.ca/uc/ucdp/

The Graduate Centre for Study of Drama

Jan. 19 to 22, 26 to 29. **The Love of Don Perlimplin and Belisa in the Garden**, by Federico García Lorca, is the story of a middle-aged, lonely man falling in love with a young frivolous woman – a love so strong that it will lead him to death. Directed by Aktina Stathaki. Robert Gill Theatre, 214 College Street. Thursday to Saturday, 8 p.m. Tickets \$15; \$10 for seniors/students. Sunday, 2 p.m., PWYC. (416) 978-7986. <http://gradrama.sa.utoronto.ca>

Hart House Theatre

Jan. 18 to Feb. 4. **The Rocky Horror Show.** Directed by Elenna Mosoff. The cult classic features numbers such as "The Time Warp" and "Sweet Transvestite" and all of the audience participation that Rocky fanatics have come to expect. Tickets \$20; \$12 for seniors/students. Wednesday to Saturday, 8 p.m. Midnight showing on Saturday, Jan. 28. 7 Hart House Circle. (416) 978-8849, www.harthousetheatre.ca

EXHIBITIONS

University of Toronto Art Centre

Feb. 18 to June 17. **Frank Gehry Drawings**, running concurrent with Frank Gehry: Art + Architecture at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Feb. 18 to April 8. **Collecting Curiosities: The World in One Room** in collaboration with the graduating class of the Museum Studies master's degree program.

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

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Jan. 30 to April 29. **Ars Medica: Medical Illustration through the Ages.** The exhibition commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Associated Medical Services, and showcases books from the Jason A. Hannah Collection in the History of Medicine for the Fisher Library, including anatomical atlases and first editions. 120 St. George St. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (416) 978-5285, www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/index-exhibitions.html

Robarts Library

To Jan. 31. **Romanian Writers of the World** book exhibit. First floor. romanian-writers2005exhibit@yahoo.ca

Jan. 9 to Feb. 28. **A Trip to Cathay: Chinese Folk Customs.** This display includes ancient hunting materials, books, paintings and other works of art. Second floor.

130 St. George St. Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-midnight; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m.-6 p.m. (416) 978-8450

Doris McCarthy Gallery, UTSC

To Jan. 8. **Angela Leach: Shimmy.** Toronto-based painter Angela Leach's works are an amalgamation of her studies in weaving, textile design and painting. 1265 Military Trail. Tuesday

to Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, noon-5 p.m. (416) 287-7007, www.utsc.utoronto.ca/dmg

Eric Arthur Gallery

Feb. 6 to May 27. **The Work of Norman Foster.** This exhibition presents the architectural design for U of T's new Leslie L. Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, along with other projects by the London, England, firm Foster and Partners. Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, 230 College St. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 12-5 p.m. (416) 978-5038, enquiry.ald@utoronto.ca or www.ald.utoronto.ca

CONCERTS

Faculty of Music

Feb. 27. Chamber Music Series: **Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet.** Jacques Ibert: Trois pièces brèves. Darius Milhaud: Le cheminée du Roi René. Paul Taffanel: Quintet G-minor. Samuel Barber: Summer Music. Jean Françaix: Quintet No. 2. Tickets \$21; \$11 for seniors/students. 7:30 pm. Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park. (416) 978-3744, www.music.utoronto.ca

LECTURES

UTSC

Asian Theatre Lecture/Demo Series. **Classical Indian Dance** with Nova Bhat-tacharya on Jan 23; **Peking Opera** with William Lau on Feb. 13; **Japanese Music/Theatre** with Kiyoshi Nagata on March 13. All lectures at noon in the Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, UTSC. 1265 Military Trail. (416) 287-7076 or www.utsc.utoronto.ca/cultural

CONFERENCE

The Polish Language and Literature Program

Feb. 2-5. **In Search of (Creative) Diversity: New Perspectives in Polish Literary and Cultural Studies Abroad** will feature specialists in the field from Europe, the United States and Canada. St. Michael's College, Father Madden Hall, 100 St. Joseph St. (416) 926-2075 or t.trojanowska@utoronto.ca A detailed program is available at www.utoronto.ca/slavic/polish/chronicle.htm

Many Rivers to Cross

By Marcel Danesi

Charlemagne, the ninth-century founder of the Holy Roman Empire, is said to have been so intrigued by puzzles that he employed Flaccus Albinus Alcuinus, the famous English scholar and ecclesiastic, to create them. The resourceful Alcuin (as he is better known) eventually compiled more than 50 of his puzzles into a collection titled *Propositiones ad acuendos juvenes* (“Problems to Sharpen the Young”) in an attempt to interest medieval youth in mathematics. It seems math phobia has very old roots indeed.

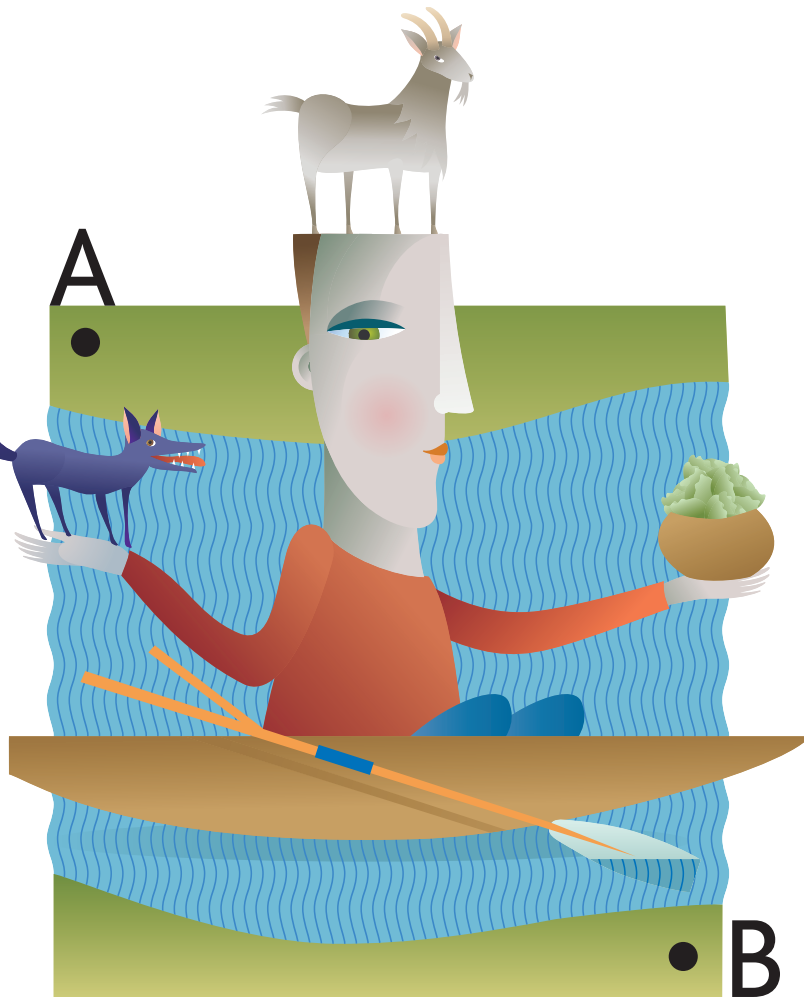
Three puzzles in Alcuin’s book involve crossing a river. They demonstrate the power of logical thinking to minimize trial and error. Here is a common version of the puzzle, which has become widely known: *A traveller with a wolf, a goat and a sack of cabbages comes to a riverbank. To his chagrin, he notes that the boat for crossing the river can carry only the traveller and one of his possessions. But if left alone together, the goat will eat the cabbage and the wolf will eat the goat. The wolf does not eat cabbage. How can the traveller transport his animals and his cabbages to the other side intact in a minimum number of back-and-forth trips?*

The variations of the “river crossing” puzzles in Alcuin’s book are less well known. One involves three men with unmarried sisters who wish to cross a river, with each man “desirous of his friend’s sister.” This version fascinated the Renaissance mathematician Niccolò Fontana, also known as Tartaglia, who reformulated it as the enigma of the “three jealous husbands.” *Three beautiful brides and their husbands come to a river. The small boat that will take them across holds only two people. To avoid any compromising situations, the crossings are to be arranged so that no woman is left alone with a man other*

than her husband. How many crossings are required, if any man or woman can be the rower?

In another version of the puzzle, the origins of which are unknown, two boys with a boat agree to help three soldiers cross the river. But the boat is so small it can support only one soldier or two boys. A soldier and a boy can’t be in the boat at the same time for fear of sinking it. How many trips does it take to ferry all the soldiers across?

Alcuin’s puzzle began as an exercise in logical thinking created for largely pedagogical purposes. But mathematical historians trace the conceptual roots of combinatorics – an important branch of mathematics – to the “river crossing” puzzle. ■



wife rows back and returns with her husband. Twelve trips are needed in the third version of the puzzle. Both boys go to the opposite bank; one of them brings the boat back to the soldiers. A soldier crosses the river; the boat returns with the other boy. Both boys cross the river and one boy returns with the boat. The second soldier crosses the river, and the other boy returns with the boat. The cycle is repeated a final time.

the goat on the original side and rows across with it. The whole process takes seven crossings. Nine crossings are required to solve Tartaglia’s “three jealous husbands” puzzle (and bank; one of them brings the boat back to the first husband and his wife cross the river. The first wife rows back and returns with the second wife. The second wife rows back and returns with her husband. The second wife rows back together and then rows back alone. He picks the

ANSWERS The traveller starts by taking the goat to the other side, leaving the wolf safely with the cabbage. He rows back alone. He picks up the wolf and carries it across, leaving the cabbage by itself. Upon reaching the other side he deposits the wolf, but rows back with the goat. Back on the original side, the traveller leaves the goat, taking the cabbage across with him. At the other side, he leaves the wolf and cabbage safely together and then rows back alone. He picks up

Those Things We Did

For alumni, the strangest aspects of student life are sometimes the most memorable

THE BUNNY PARTY

In the spring of 1942, I took a laboratory class in the anatomy of the rabbit. The course was known affectionately as “the bunny class” and was taught by Professor E. Horne Craigie, a dour Scot who seemed nervous and aloof around students.

The class was therefore surprised when, toward the end of the semester, the professor’s wife told us about the “bunny party.” The tradition, which marked the end of class, commenced with a matinee theatre performance and was followed by dinner at a restaurant and dancing at the Craigie home. For dinner, a private room was reserved and the class decorated the tables with humorous bunny-themed place cards. The party revealed an entirely different side of Professor Craigie. He clearly enjoyed the banter and laughed uninhibitedly at the students’ poems and stories. Nervously aloof he was not!

The bunny party started spontaneously in the early 1920s but ceased sometime after the Second World War. Perhaps the classes grew too large; I don’t know. I do know, however, that it was a tradition in which I was privileged to participate. It has remained fresh in my memory for more than 60 years.

*Desmond R. H. Gourley
BA 1945 UC
Roseland, Virginia*

SCRUBBING FOR SIGMA NU

During frosh week at Trinity College in the early 1960s, I was required to wear



“The party revealed an entirely different side of Professor Craigie. Nervously aloof he was not!”

my academic gown to all of my classes, together with a wire-hanger halo with two bells attached. I also had to wear bristol board signs front and back (like a sandwich board) announcing my degree program, my name and, I believe, my phone number. Performing household chores at a fraternity was mandatory. I chose Sigma Nu, as it was relatively close by. Contrary to my innocent expectations – fuelled by *Seventeen* magazine – I did not meet the man of my dreams, although I think I did a reasonable job of cleaning the kitchen!

*Sheilagh (Perkins) Dubois
BA 1965 TRIN
Rideau Lakes, Ontario*

PAINTING THE DOME RED (AND BLUE, AND GREEN AND ...)

Every September in the 1970s, engineering students used to paint the Students’ Administrative Council dome. One year, the students at University College beat them to it. I shudder now when I think about how we climbed up onto the roof in the middle of the night, using ladders that we’d perched on top of upended garbage cans. I don’t think anyone ever found out that we’d done it.

At the time, rumours circulated that the university was going to “outlaw” painting because a study had shown that the successive coats of paint were placing

too much stress on the dome. However, I always suspected that this story had been concocted by engineering students to discourage other students from painting the dome themselves.

*Margot Almond
BA 1981 UC
Mississauga, Ontario*

GETTING THE BOOT

Undergraduate forestry students used to take part in a unique tradition before the last class graduated in 1996. During orientation, the Foresters' Club executives hid a painted green boot in Queen's Park Circle. Undergrads were divided into four teams by year, and their objective was to get the boot into the fountain at the south end of the park. The challenge invariably turned into a rugby match, and many, if not all, of the students ended up soaked in the

fountain. The event, which was a great way for the frosh and students in the upper years to get to know each other, ended with a barbecue and a pub-crawl.

*Mike Simpson
BScF 1994
Williams Lake, B.C.*

GUILTY AS CHARGED

In September 1967, I began my studies at University College and took up residence at Knox College. Unbeknownst to me and the other frosh, the Knox College residents' association was collecting "evidence" against us. A few weeks into the school year, we were summoned to the upper common room and informed of our "charges." I was told that my crime had been to comment on the presence of alcohol in the residence. (Alcoholic drinks were not permitted in Knox College.)

A "judge" heard my case and pronounced me guilty. (Everyone was found guilty in this court.) My sentence was to sing nursery rhymes on the St. George subway platform and, fittingly, to squash grapes with my bare feet at the corner of Yonge and Dundas. The upper-year "wardens" accompanied me. When we arrived, they produced a white enamel tub and a large bag of purple grapes. I was ordered to remove my socks and shoes and get to work. For about 15 minutes I jumped up and down. Juice squirted around the tub and my legs turned purple. Afterward, all of the Knox College residents convened in the upper common room, where we had refreshments and laughed about our "punishments." ■

*Donald Young
BA 1971 UC, MDiv 1974
Brantford, Ontario*



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The Secretary
College of Electors
Simcoe Hall, Room 106
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416-978-8794

Deadline for receipt of nominations is 4 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2006.

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Please visit the Governing Council Web site for further information at: www.utoronto.ca/govcncl



The membership of the Governing Council should reflect the diversity of the University. Nominations are, therefore, encouraged from a wide variety of individuals.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BY F. MICHAH RYNOR

Stumbling Upon Cedar



One of the last things you would expect to see in University College, a prime example of Romanesque-style architecture, is a cedar totem pole. And what a heart-stopper it can be for those rushing up the stone staircase at UC's entrance. Totems such as this, while often used for welcoming people or marking an address, were also used as grave markers and mortuary posts. Originally from the Upper Skeena River area of British Columbia, this one was carved by a Tsimshian tribe member between 1890 and 1905. It was presented to the college in 1982 by the family, friends and former students of the late German professor Humphrey Milnes. ("Bud" was instrumental in enriching the college's art collection.) Standing guard on the east staircase, the totem pole has been involved in one of the longest staring contests on campus, facing down the bust of UC's architect Frederic Cumberland on the west – and representing a unique artistic alliance between Romanesque architecture and Native Canadian art. ■

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