

The Road to Reconciliation

UTM embraces the opportunity to increase Indigenous research, teaching and culture on campus **Pg. 12**



M



The Photographer
Drew Lesiuczk is the graphic designer with the Office of Communications at UTM. In 2010, he earned an honours BA from UTM in Art & Art History.

VIEWFINDER

Let's meet

The Meeting Place in the William G. Davis Building has been a popular hangout spot for the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) community since it opened in 1972. But a recent revitalization of the building that began last summer and is wrapping up this fall has made the space a much more appealing place to rest between classes, have a bite or connect with friends. With a goal to reimagine it as a student-focused hub, the renovation introduced a new food court with coffee spots, fresh salad bars, a gluten-free food station and vegetarian options. It now includes 900 seats—more than double the previous number—with fluid arrangements. Also in the works are new office space for Student Services and all-gender washrooms. A new outdoor seating area was added by the front entrance, and enhanced landscaping is in the works. UTM senior facilities planner Greg Karavelis described the project this way: “This provides a new face for the building so it has the kind of presence it deserves.”

Office of Communications
3359 Mississauga Rd.
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L5L 1C6

Executive Editor
Nicolle Wahl

Guest Editor
Sharon Aschalek

Design and Production
Hambly & Woolley Inc.

Cover Image
Maria Hupfield

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THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION

UTM embraces the opportunity to increase Indigenous research, teaching and culture on campus

On the Cover

Jingle Mask, a custom balaclava-style mask created by artist and UTM professor Maria Hupfield, Indigenous Performance + Media Arts. Made of industrial felt with a string of tin jingle cones spiralling from the top of the head, it creates a sound that recalls water and creation.

Acknowledgment of Traditional Land

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

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THE FUTURE OF MEAT IS PLANTS

UTM finance professor Lisa Kramer examines the phenomenon of plant-based foods, and what our changing eating habits mean for the future of the meat industry

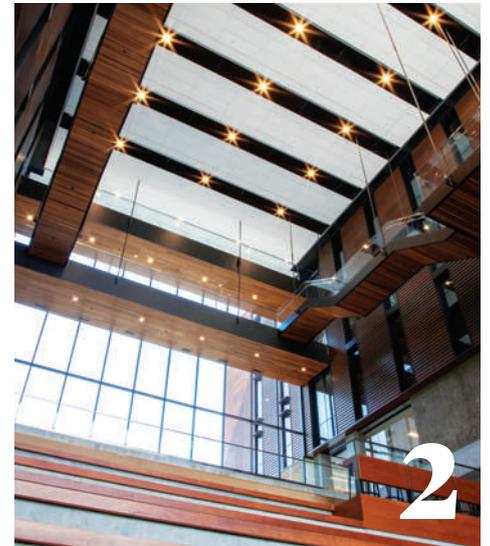


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WALKING THE WALK OF SUSTAINABILITY

Bold steps will ensure UTM policies, programs and processes support an eco-friendly campus



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Campus News



Celebrating diversity
New building's Indigenous name pays tribute to land's original inhabitants

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Name for new building embraces future

1

The name of the University of Toronto Mississauga's (UTM) newest building acknowledges the Indigenous history of the land and reflects the future of the campus.

The new building, which rose in place of the original 1967 North Building, unofficially opened its doors in September 2018. While construction crews completed landscaping and interior finishes, a university committee reviewed 700 name suggestions for the new structure.

An overwhelming number harkened to Indigenous origins, which led to a collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN), the hosts of the traditional territory upon which the campus now stands. The MCFN recommended Maanjiwe nendamowinan (pronounced MAHN-ji-WAY nen-DEM o-WIN-ahn), an Anishinaabemowin name meaning 'Gathering of Minds.'

"On behalf of the entire U of T community, I would like to thank and congratulate all those involved in the naming of this key building on the UTM campus, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation," says U of T President Meric Gertler. "It reflects our commitment to engagement with Indigenous communities as we work together to lead the process of reconciliation."

The name "captures, so perfectly, the spirit and purpose of this building, and reflects the land on which the campus operates and U of T's ongoing response to the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission," said Vice-principal Academic & Dean Amrita Daniere.

"This is a major step forward on reconciliation with the Mississaugas of the Credit and UTM," says MCFN Councillor Veronica King-Jamieson. "Through naming a building in Anishinaabemowin—Maanjiwe nendamowinan or 'the gathering place for good minds to come together'—this is what education is about. Our vision is to have an Indigenous hub at UTM that attracts Indigenous students as they seek higher education, while enabling them to stay connected and grounded to their history and identity."

Designed by Perkins+Will and built by Stuart Olson Inc., the 210,000-sq.ft. building completes the renaissance of the northern portion of the campus. It features an airy, six-storey atrium and event space, 40,000 square feet of new classroom space with cutting-edge technology, active learning classrooms and more than 500 new study spaces.

The building houses the Departments of English & Drama, Philosophy, Historical Studies, Language Studies, Political Science and Sociology, and the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre. Sustainability features, such as rain-water recycling, energy-efficient mechanical systems and green roof space, resulted in a LEED Silver designation.

PHOTO: DREW LESIUCZOK

2

STRENGTHENING
STUDENT COMMUNITY

UTM APP KEEPS STUDENTS ENGAGED

*Connect with
services, events
and peers*

Looking for an easier way to keep tabs on what's happening on campus? The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) now has an app for that.

The UTM Engage app helps students find out about and access events, activities and services organized by student organizations and student affairs departments. The new app allows users to RSVP to events and to join groups on campus. All events run by campus departments and services are displayed in a calendar that can be integrated with personal calendars.

Users can check out the interactive function to find buildings and rooms, and can also participate in campus discussions about any number of topics, such as selling textbooks or inquiring about bus routes. The feeds provide a central platform to post, ask questions and provide feedback.

One highlight of UTM Engage is that it's also a social app: students can add friends and classmates, send direct messages and grow their school network.



PHOTO: UTM ARCHIVES



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IN MEMORIAM: DESMOND MORTON, 1937-2019

REMEMBERING DESMOND MORTON

*Former principal was
accomplished author,
professor and champion
of campus' integration
into local community*

Professor Desmond Morton, a respected military historian and former principal of the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), died on Sept. 4, 2019. He was 81.

"I'm deeply saddened to lose such an important member of the U of T Mississauga community," says Acting Vice-President & Principal Ian Orchard. "Des played a critical role in building UTM's strong ties with our local community, and was a highly respected academic and teacher. He will be missed."

Born in Calgary in 1937, Morton joined the Canadian Army in 1954 as an officer cadet and retired as a captain. He was an honorary colonel of 8 Wing Trenton of the Royal Canadian Air Force and holds the Canadian Forces' Decoration. He is also a graduate of the Collège Militaire Royal de St-Jean, the Royal Military College of Canada, Oxford University (where he was a Rhodes Scholar) and the London School of Economics.

When Morton arrived at UTM (then Erindale College) in 1970, he taught Canadian history during the First World War as well as courses about subjects such as nationalism, trade unionism and collective bargaining.

He served a three-year term as Erindale's vice-principal, humanities, and became the vice-principal, academic, under his administrative mentor, Paul Fox. Morton succeeded Fox as principal in 1986 and continued to write and teach.

Morton believed strongly that the campus should be deeply involved with the local community, and he set about cultivating relationships with those who had reasons to care deeply about its success: Mississauga citizens, politicians and businesses.

It was during Morton's tenure that the Kaneff Centre, with its large lecture hall, art gallery and classroom and office space, was built. Morton also oversaw the creation of two joint programs with Sheridan College: Theatre & Drama Studies, and Art & Art History. By the time he left Erindale in 1994 for other academic opportunities, he left behind strong community ties and a thriving campus.

The author of more than 40 books on Canadian military, social and political history, Morton was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1985. In 1996, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.



Paulina Szlachta and Tom Chen won a U of T Sustainability Prize for their project on helping sports teams become more eco-friendly

4

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALISM

STUDENTS WIN SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION PRIZE

Award is part of initiative to incorporate eco-smart approaches into U of T operations

Two students from the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) are among the three winning teams of U of T’s first-ever Sustainability Innovation Prize. The \$5,000 award was introduced this year to recognize and accelerate viable sustainability-focused products or startups by U of T students, post-docs or recent alumni.

At the inaugural pitch competition on the St. George Campus, UTM undergraduates Paulina Szlachta and Tom Chen were one of 10 groups of students who delivered five-minute presentations on their innovations to a panel of judges. Their idea, which was the focus of their sustainability capstone project, is a company that helps sports teams and leagues create more eco-friendly waste-management processes and procurement

policies—including assessing stadium vendors and suppliers—and train their employees in sustainability practices.

They were compelled by some disturbing statistics: the NFL, MLB, NHL and NBA produce about 165 million pounds of waste annually, but only 25 per cent is diverted from landfills.

“There’s just so much we can do and so much waste we can optimize in these kinds of facilities,” Szlachta says. “There’s so much to be done there, and so little being done right now.”

They reached out to all the leagues and teams about creating better waste-diversion solutions, and developed a working relationship with the NFL’s Atlanta Falcons. In their first case study, they found that the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta had a 45 per cent waste-diversion rate, solar power installations and a storm water management strategy. They built their startup, STP Sports, around that case study.

The prize is an initiative of the President’s Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability, which laid out a plan last year to incorporate sustainable ideas and practices into U of T’s operations.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

5

DRIVING DYNAMIC DISCOURSE

Two compelling Canadians share their stories with UTM community



Beverley McLachlin and Daniel Dale

Two accomplished and influential Canadians shared their career journeys and unique insights at special events this fall at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM).

On Sept. 24, distinguished Canadian jurist Beverley McLachlin offered a glimpse of her newly published memoir, *Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and the Law* (Simon & Schuster, September 2019). McLachlin was Canada’s first female—and longest-serving—chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, serving from 2000 to 2017. The book chronicles her journey from her upbringing on a farm in Alberta, to her training in philosophy and the law, to, ultimately, her post atop the highest court in the land.

McLachlin described how her passion for justice guided her in making decisions that fundamentally

reshaped Canadian society. She also discussed the principles she considers essential to Canadian democracy and the rule of law.

On Oct. 3, groundbreaking journalist Daniel Dale delivered UTM’s 2019 Snider Lecture by sharing his views on the media’s challenges with handling political dishonesty. The award-winning reporter for CNN and former *Toronto Star* Washington bureau chief has become internationally renowned for his rigorous fact-checking of President Donald Trump.

Dale shared stories about his time at the *Star*, where, as a reporter and, later, bureau chief at Toronto’s City Hall, he covered the administration of Mayor Rob Ford. He discussed his focus on fact-checking, the important of facts in this era, and how citizens can contribute to a public discourse based in facts.

TOP PHOTO: PERRY KING

6

GUIDING THE CAMPUS

IAN ORCHARD APPOINTED ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT & PRINCIPAL

Previous UTM leader brings extensive experience, wisdom to role

Ian Orchard, who led the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) from 2002 to 2010, has been appointed UTM's acting vice-president and principal. The appointment of the professor emeritus was effective Sept. 4, and continues to June 30, 2020.

"In 2002, when I was first appointed vice-president and principal at UTM, I thought it was the best position at the University of Toronto. I still believe this," Orchard says. "UTM has continued to thrive, grow and develop into a significant player in U of T's tri-campus system. I am humbled to have been invited to share in this journey once again, and look forward to working with the community that is UTM."

Orchard initially immigrated to Canada in 1977, and joined U of T in 1982, serving as: associate dean (sciences) in the Faculty of Arts and Science (1993-97); vice-dean in the Faculty of Arts and Science (1997-98); and vice-provost (students) (1998-2002) before becoming the vice-president of the University of Toronto and principal of UTM from 2002-2010.



8

ADVANCING BUSINESS TRAINING

HELPING MANAGERS GET AHEAD

Executive education options require small commitment but offer big rewards

Management education at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) has become more responsive and flexible with the introduction of brief training options for executives.

Earlier this year, UTM's Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI) introduced IMix, high-quality executive education programs to help managers perform more effectively, bring more value to their organizations and advance their careers. These leading-edge programs are led by 12 IMI faculty members and industry experts, and geared to executives in a wide range of disciplines.

Participants can choose from three certificate programs, plus 28 open-enrolment courses in nine areas: big data analytics; blockchain and cryptocurrency; governance and ethics; marketing; organizational behaviour; risk management; strategic management for startups; strategy; and sustainability.

IMix also offers custom-designed executive programs geared to the specific professional development needs of organizations and their employees. These interactive, tailor-made options are driven by each organization's vision, strategy, corporate culture and business/industry needs. A twice-yearly free Alumni Speaker Series features talks by leading professionals or academics who provide insights that executives can apply at their workplace.



7

HED TO GO HERE

BAAH-AAH-D MEDICINE

Goat yoga came to campus in November as a de-stressing event and a prompt for students to think about resilience-building mindfulness activities. The sessions were packed—no kidding!

TOP PHOTO: MORIYAMA & TESHIMA ARCHITECTS; BOTTOM PHOTO: MARK OVERTON

9

AWARD-WINNING
RESEARCH

VANIER VICTORY *Love, sex and relationships*

Nathan Leonhardt, a graduate student in Professor Emily Impett’s Relationships and Well-Being Lab in the Department of Psychology, was awarded a 2019–20 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Vanier CGS). The Vanier CGS provides funding of \$50,000 per year for three years during a recipient’s doctoral studies in the research areas of health, natural sciences and/or engineering, and social sciences and humanities.

Q Could you describe your area of study?

A I focus on how couples can flourish in their sexual relationship. In the social sciences, we often look at satisfaction as the main outcome in a study, which I believe is an important but incomplete part of high-quality sexual relationships. The danger of having satisfaction as the only outcome is that someone can feel satisfied from sex in a casual experience or a long-term relationship, yet these experiences often have important differences. I’m working on finding ways to capture growth, belonging, meaning, and engagement in long-term sexual relationships, which hopefully enriches our understanding of high-quality, long-term, relational sexuality.

Q Your research proposal is titled “Sexual Flourishing as a Buffer to Declines in Satisfaction during the Transition to Parenthood.” What’s it all about?

A The transition to parenthood can be a confusing time. Bodies change. Hormones fluctuate. A little person disrupts sleep. These tend to take a toll on the relationship. In our project, we aim to follow 250 couples during the transition to parenthood to better understand how couples successfully adjust.

We think that being sexually satisfied going into this period may not be a strong enough anchor on its own for confronting challenges that arise in the relationship. We think that couples who enter this

period with a sexual relationship that also is built upon a combination of growth, belonging, meaning and engagement could be better prepared to deal with this major life transition.

Q Have you come across any findings so far that you have found particularly surprising?

A So far, I’ve collected data (not specifically focused on the transition to parenthood) trying to establish measurement for sexual flourishing: the previously mentioned combination of growth, belonging, meaning and engagement. This sexual flourishing measure I created is closely connected to sexual satisfaction, but there are some interesting differences. In just one example, sexual satisfaction is linked more closely to viewing sexuality as being primarily for pleasure; sexual flourishing is linked more closely to viewing sexuality as being primarily for relationship building.



Psychology professor Nathan Leonhardt is the winner of a 2019–20 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship

Q What does winning this award mean to you?

A Receiving the Vanier increases my confidence that my ideas have value. It increases my confidence in my ability to be an influence for good. I hope this can encourage other researchers who study relationships and sexuality. It highlights that this is an important subject that can impact people’s lives.

10

RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION

POLISHING PUTNAM PLACE

The Putnam Place residence recently got a new lease on life with a comprehensive renovation. Over the course of a year, the building was revamped to include almost new everything: floors, appliances, furniture, lights, even fresh coats of paint. The building’s exterior also got an aesthetic upgrade. This was the first major residential renovation in the current long-term plan of UTM’s Department of Student Housing & Residence Life.



BOTTOM PHOTO: BRENDA SLOMIKA

UTM in the Moment

SOCIAL MEDIA

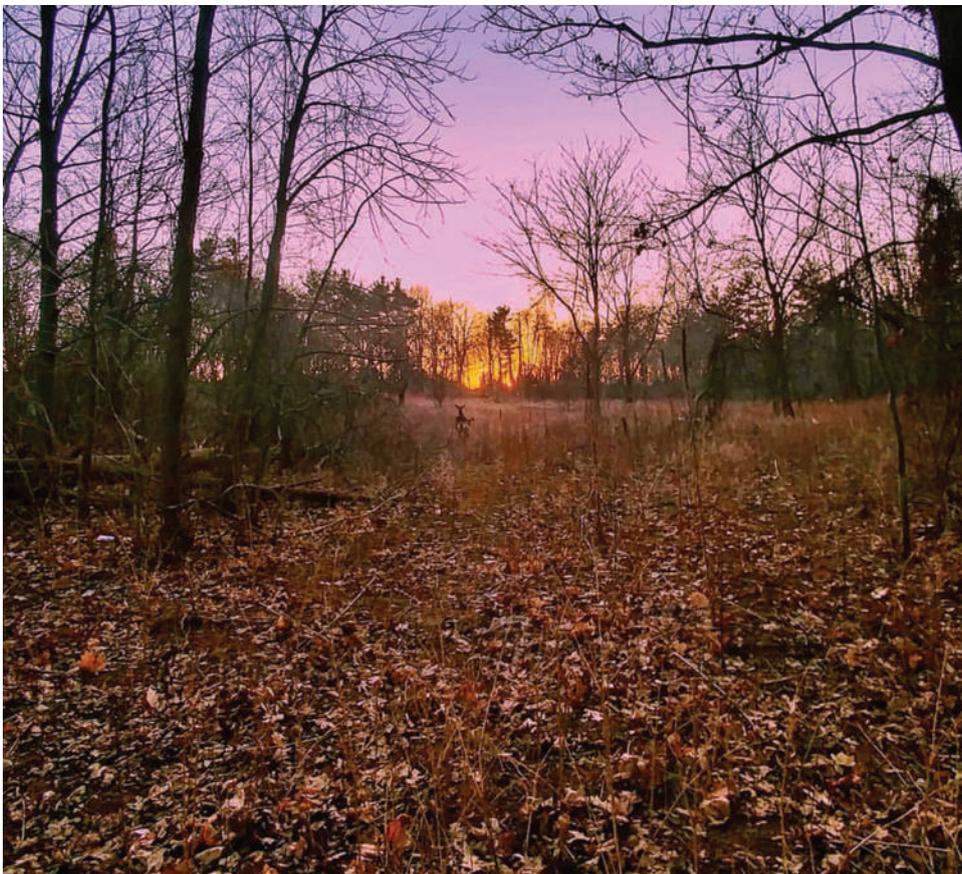
At UTM, something amazing is happening around every corner. Here are a few of the moments that caught our eye:

Follow UTM on:

Twitter @UTM

Facebook facebook.com/UTMississauga

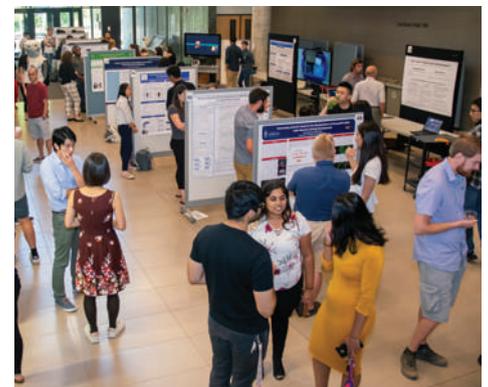
Instagram @uoftmississauga



Nature in all its glory @UofT_Ron



Varsity soccer graduating teammates share memories and laughs #ForeverAnEagle #UofTGrad19



Undergraduate students showing off their award-winning research #smartigras



High school students taking part in the Amgen Biotech Experience at UTM #STEM #youth @ABEUTM1



Students and their families celebrate graduation at #convocation #UofTGrad19



The magnolia trees blooming on campus—the beauty of spring at UTM #uoftblooms

UTMetrics



Community on Campus is a collaborative program run by the University of Toronto Mississauga and Community Living Mississauga in which students volunteer to provide a university experience to local residents who have an intellectual disability.

• This community program was established at UTM in 1996



Participants experience gains in the following **8 key areas:**

- independence
- social skills
- physical health
- emotional well-being
- maturity
- literacy
- friendships
- essential life skills



Volunteers benefit from this program in **5 key ways:**

- important life and professional experiences
- improved leadership abilities
- strong communication and listening skills
- making a difference in the community
- making a friend



Community participants are **21-30** years old



At any given time,

15

community members are being served



Altogether, volunteers commit more than **2,600** hours per year



The program provides about **120 hours** of support a week

80



students volunteer in the program each year

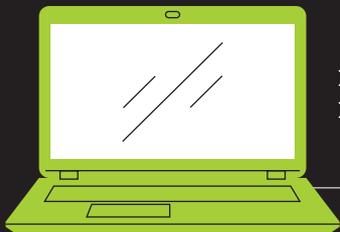
*YEARLY AVERAGE



Volunteers help participants engage in

57 activities

on campus in areas such as:

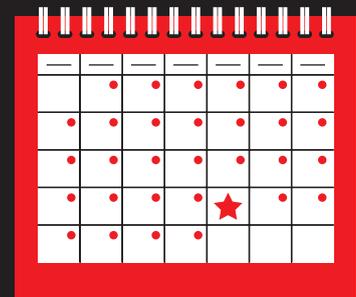
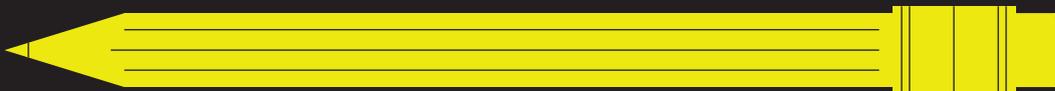


Projects and Initiatives



Volunteering for Departments

Literacy Development



Special Events

Sports and Recreation



Snapshot

EXPLORING HOW AUTISM AND RACE INTERSECT

Alumna drew on disability justice training to develop one-woman play on the social complexities of neurodevelopmental disorder

An autistic man fights against a biotech company touting a cure for autism and falls in love with his neurotypical neighbour in a new play by poet and playwright Faduma Mohamed. The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) alumna and autism advocate returns to campus this fall to debut her newest one-woman play, *Golden Mind: A Journey Through Love, Activism and the Realm of Autism*. The performance launched the 2019-20 UTM's Women and Gender Studies Feminist Lunch Series at the MiST Theatre.

Developed through an independent study course with Assistant Professor Nicole Charles of the Department of Historical Studies, *Golden Mind* is the second play by Mohamed, who studied English and Women and Gender Studies before graduating in June 2019. "It is so superbly done," Charles says. "We wanted to bring the play to a broader audience."

Mohamed's first play, *OUGH TISM*, was developed with playwright d'bi.young anitafrika at the Watah Theatre in Toronto, and debuted as part of the Audre Lorde Works-In-Progress Theatre Festival in 2016. "*OUGH TISM* follows Tariq, a Black non-verbal autistic savant, and how he navigates through school, society, family and love," Mohamed says. As Tariq falls for Reign, his neurotypical neighbour, Mohamed explores other themes including a controversial quest to "cure" autism, society's concept of normal and who is deemed to be deserving of love.

In her final year at UTM, Mohamed needed to add a credit course that fit around the hours of her part-time job with an

employment training program for at-risk youth in Toronto. "I didn't know how I was going to balance that commitment with school," Mohamed says. Charles agreed to supervise an independent study project, providing the student with the flexibility and guidance she needed.

"Faduma's passion and commitment to social justice really drove this project," says Charles, who developed a syllabus incorporating intersectional, transnational and woman of colour feminist theories and methodologies. "My goal was to get her to use her skills in critical reflection to inform her analysis of the complexities of race, biomedicine, capitalism and autism, and think about how we can have these conversations in a non-traditional way."

Golden Mind picks up the threads of the *OUGH TISM* story as the biotech organization tries to make prenatal intervention for autism mandatory, and Tariq and Reign become activists fighting against a future free of disabilities. "I knew that one chapter of that story was done, but I felt like it was capable of more," Mohamed says. "Professor Charles introduced me to theories and methodologies. Because I was more informed in the language of disability justice, I kept those ideas in mind while continuing the story of characters who I am so familiar with."

OUGH TISM and *Golden Mind* are both fictional, however, the playwright drew upon her own experiences growing up in her Somali family with younger brother Bilal, who is autistic and non-verbal. "There was no one in our family or neighbourhood who

was autistic, so there was a real lack of knowledge," she says, adding that as a child, she sometimes told people Bilal was deaf because she didn't know how to explain his behaviour to others.

Mohamed was excited to return to UTM to continue the conversation about autism in her newest work. "Whenever I talk about the challenging stuff, I always keep in mind that my happiest memories are with Bilal," she says. "He brings a light in the room that nobody else can match." —**Blake Eligh**

Faduma Mohamed

CLASS OF 2019



Snapshot

UTM student Symone Peltier during her Gr. 12 exchange trip to Australia (right) and New Zealand (below), where she learned about the countries' Indigenous peoples, wildlife and landscapes



Symone Peltier

CLASS OF 2023

A PLAN COMES TOGETHER Undergraduate hopes to advocate for Indigenous students

Symone Peltier is where she wants to be.

Her heart was set on attending the University of Toronto in Grade 9; on psychology, in Grade 10. In September, the determined 18-year-old, a member of the Anishinaabe from Manitoulin Island, started the psychology program at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM).

Peltier's ambitions go back to her childhood, when she recalls seeing photos of her mother with academic awards earned in high school. Peltier's wanted the same success.

The two lived in Ottawa while Peltier's mother worked, attended university and looked after her daughter. "I remember waking up around 3 a.m. and my mom was still at the computer, doing homework," Peltier says. "I could see how hard she worked, and I could also see the payoff—during the summer, we could come home, swim and fish. I decided that's the kind of life I'd like."

When Peltier reached high school, her mother prompted, "You should look at different universities."

She found U of T on a list of Canadian universities and visited the website. When she saw the forested UTM campus, she felt it would be similar to home. The choice of programs, the student resources, sports and clubs all sealed the deal. "I'd really like to be a part of this," she thought.

Peltier soon had a chance to confirm her choice.

In March 2018, she was accepted into the annual SOAR Indigenous Youth Gathering, hosted by the university's Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education. The week-long program helps Indigenous youth ages 14 to 17 explore the idea of post-secondary education, and understand that university life doesn't mean giving up First Nations culture.

That July, Peltier took part in U of T's student mentorship program, run through the Faculty of Medicine. Over four weeks, high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry gain hands-on experiences in health sciences, think about career choices and try out student life on campus. During the program, a presentation on mental health sparked Peltier's interest in working as a psychologist at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

While in Grade 12 at Wikwemikong High School, she challenged herself during a 20-week exchange trip to Australia and New Zealand to learn about those countries' Indigenous Peoples, as well as the different wildlife and landscape.



Peltier graduated from high school in June 2019, earning an Ontario Scholar Award and a Governor General's Academic Medal for the highest marks in the graduating class.

Peltier's experiences helped to prepare her for university life. "At UTM, I'd like to build a network of connections and supports that will help me find a career, and figure out what I want to do if plans change. I'd also like to make a mark for myself in some way...I'd like to be the person at UTM who will advocate for more Indigenous students to come here." —By Sue Horner

BREAKING BARRIERS

Actor advocates for making performing arts more accessible

George Alevizos had just finished an audition in downtown Toronto when a man stopped him on the street. The man recognized the actor from his brief appearance on a recent episode of *Star Trek: Discovery*. “He was a huge fan of the show and wanted to thank me,” Alevizos says. “It was really cool.”

His appearance on the popular American web television series represented a big step for Alevizos, not just as an actor but also as an advocate for more inclusivity in the performing arts.

Alevizos, who has used a wheelchair his entire life due to a neuromuscular disorder of his lower limbs, discovered a passion for acting when he starred as Oliver Warbucks in his grade school’s production of *Annie*.

Less than a decade later, he was one of 20 students accepted into the Theatre & Drama Studies program run jointly by the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and Sheridan College. In his final year, he performed in two productions—*Three Sisters* by Russian writer Anton Chekhov and *Metamorphoses* by American Mary Zimmerman.

“The program prepared me to handle a busy schedule. I learned how to be disciplined and get my work done,” says Alevizos, who graduated this past spring. “The acting training got me to build my own voice for the world, and figure out what I wanted in my career. It also gave me great technique.”

In his first-ever audition, Alevizos won a role in a Hallmark television ad. Soon after, he boarded the *Star Trek* USS *Discovery* playing a wounded officer. “It was a very minor role, but just to be part of the show, and put on that *Star Trek* costume, was incredible. It was great exposure, too,” he says.

The immediate attention caught him off guard. “My Twitter account went insane as soon as the episode aired. I went from having 27 followers to 450 in the span of two hours.”

Despite his early success, the 22-year-old has faced some challenges as a disabled actor. He’s had a hard time getting some auditions because he’s in a wheelchair, and travelling to the auditions he does land is sometimes difficult because not all casting locations are wheelchair accessible.

Alevizos says there is a dearth of well-developed roles for disabled actors, and statistics bear that out. A recent report conducted by the New York-based Ford Foundation found that people with disabilities are grossly underrepresented on screen and behind the camera in film and television. The report calls for proportional representation. A quarter of adults are living with disabilities, it says, so a quarter of people working in the industry should have disabilities.

Alevizos is doing his part to make that happen. He is working with ACTRA, the

Canadian actors’ union, to improve accessibility in the entertainment industry. He and union representatives have been visiting casting facilities in Toronto to identify possible physical barriers to actors with disabilities. As a result, some casting calls have been moved to locations that are fully accessible.

“With the help of ACTRA, I’m hoping to open the conversation even more and make sure the [performing arts] are more inclusive,” says Alevizos, who was recently cast in a television commercial for a big financial institution. “Acting is showing human emotion. You can cast anyone for that. My main goal is for disabled actors to play all kinds of characters, not just disabled characters. What matters is, you’re doing the job and doing it well.”—**Randi Druzin**

George Alevizos has performed in a few episodes of the web TV series *Star Trek: Discovery*



THE RO



RECONCI



UTM embraces the opportunity to increase Indigenous research, teaching and culture on campus

By **Suzanne Bowness**

Artwork by Anishinaabek artist and UTM professor Maria Hupfield: a jingle spiral, left, symbolizes falling and rippling water; and a video still from her art exhibit, "The One Who Keeps on Giving"

Kaeliana Smoke is photographed in her senior year in high school at the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation in New York. She is wearing a traditional hand-beaded Indigenous outfit, and holding eagle feathers and standing in front of a white pine, both of which are symbols of peace in First Nations culture.



Kaeliana Smoke is a third-year biology and anthropology major at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). When she arrived at the university, she came to the big city from a smaller community, one that had always provided strong support and instilled the value of taking her roots with her. And not just any small town—Smoke is Indigenous, a Mohawk raised on the Awkwesasne First Nation in eastern Ontario near Cornwall. So besides looking for connection with her fellow students, she also wanted to maintain and build the connection with her heritage. She was happy, therefore, to discover that UTM offers courses in Indigenous culture, and she discovered mentors in faculty members such as anthropology professor *Sherry Fukuzawa* and inspiration in meeting new Indigenous faculty hires such as *Jennifer Adese* and *Robin Gray* in the Department of Sociology, and *Maria Hupfield* in the Department of Visual Studies.

“Personally, I feel like [the new faculty] have become like mentors to me as someone I can look up to. Seeing female Indigenous teaching staff here at UTM who have their master’s and PhDs is just amazing because it shows me what’s possible. It gives me an example of what I can be, that I can do that as an Indigenous woman,” Smoke says.

Smoke’s observations reflect some of the intentional steps UTM has been taking lately to prioritize Indigenous research, welcome Indigenous students and strengthen the university’s relationship with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, who recently provided a name for the reconstructed north building: *Maanjiwe nendamowinan* (Gathering of Minds).

At UTM, the Indigenous Centre has been in place since 2017 as part of the Equity & Diversity Office. The centre works to create a welcoming community for Indigenous students, staff and faculty at UTM. Programs and services to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, staff and faculty are facilitated by Indigenous Advisor Cat Criger. In the coming year, the centre will grow in staff and size as part of the university's commitment to *Answering the Call Wecheehetowin*, The Final Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

U of T has also created an Office of Indigenous Initiatives to co-ordinate and oversee efforts at reconciliation across the university's three campuses. Cultural competency workshops are offered to faculty, staff and student groups across the university. The workshops' goal is to expose people to Indigenous cultures, histories and belief systems while giving participants a chance to reflect on possible implicit biases. Nearly 650 U of T community members completed the training by the end of summer 2019. By taking these steps, the university hopes to move beyond simple land acknowledgement towards investments that aim to attract a greater Indigenous population, support Indigenous research by Indigenous scholars and learn from the local Indigenous community.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

One of UTM's first steps towards embracing Indigenous research is hiring more Indigenous faculty. **Maria Hupfield** is UTM's first Canada Research Chair in Transdisciplinary Indigenous Arts and an assistant professor in Indigenous digital arts and performance, cross-appointed between Visual Arts and English and Drama. A graduate of UTM's joint program with Sheridan College in art and art history, she arrived on campus after nine years of working as an artist in Brooklyn, New York and, before that, as a teacher at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, B.C. She is the daughter of a settler father and Anishinaabe mother, and hails from Wasauksing First Nation in Ontario.

Hupfield calls her new position a dream job, because it enabled her to return to Canada while simultaneously engaging students in Indigenous art approaches, which cross over between dance, theatre and storytelling. She has already begun teaching an introduction to Indigenous art in Canada as well as a graduate studies course. She's also tasked with establishing an Indigenous creation studio and looking for outdoor spaces on campus where she and others can create gathering and learning areas for Indigenous culture. Finally, she's planning to set up an online digital art space as a way to celebrate and record Indigenous material culture.

As an artist, Hupfield creates objects and then incorporates them into performances, often working with artists in other fields (collaborators have included a poet and a singer). She was awarded the Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Award for outstanding achievement by a Canadian mid-career artist in 2018, and her first major institutional solo exhibition, "The One Who Keeps on Giving," was a production of The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto in partnership with several other institutions. Her work has shown at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., among many others.

In a creation studio, Hupfield hopes to motivate students to reflect on the larger questions that accompany art making. "The creation studio becomes a site to consider how to make work that is ethical, that looks at our relations with our environment and with other people in a way that holds us accountable to knowledge and to each other," Hupfield says.

Sociology also made multiple Indigenous hires this past year: both **Robin Gray** and Jennifer Adese joined the department in 2018. Gray is an assistant professor of sociology and a Ts'msyen and Mikisew Cree. She arrived at UTM following a two-year President's Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California Santa Cruz after completing her master's and doctoral work in anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Besides being an academic, Gray has also been a member of an urban Ts'msyen dance group called Lax Kxeen for 20 years, and her personal and professional worlds collided when her fellow dancers asked her to look for songs from her Ts'msyen community. Since then, Gray has discovered 41 sound recordings in a collection housed at Columbia University's Center for Ethnomusicology with three elders singing in 1942 in Gray's home nation in Lax Kw'alaams, B.C. and also in Prince Rupert, B.C.

She took them back to her community for a listening party (the first of many) on the occasion of her family's hosting its first house feast (popularly known as a "potlatch") in 75 years. With more than 50 listeners in attendance, Gray not only played the songs, but started consulting with her peers on next steps. "It's about meeting my people where they are," Gray says. "I'm trying to connect our communities across time and space. So I don't just extract knowledge from people, it's a constant feedback loop."

Video still from Maria Hupfield's art exhibit, "The One Who Keeps on Giving"



She is also deciphering “metadata” attached to the recording, such as the collector’s (sometimes racist) notes about the context of the recording (for example, a song might be labelled “a drinking song” due to misinterpretation). “It’s a generation when singers were subjects of the anthropological gaze. Missionaries and adventure travelers and amateur collectors all participated in this salvage anthropology, based on a racist ideology that Indigenous peoples would somehow disappear,” Gray explains. Gray recently received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant to support the final phase of the project: investigating legal ownership of the songs and the potential for repatriating ownership to the community.

Sociologist **Jennifer Adese**, an Otipemisiw/Métis and associate professor, joined UTM from Carleton University, where she was associate professor and program coordinator of Indigenous Studies in the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies. Her new position seemed like a good opportunity. “I grew up in the Niagara region and always felt a sense of responsibility to the people on whose territories I grew up, because even though I was outside of my family’s traditional territories, I got decent exposure to other Indigenous cultures that gave me an important foundation for how to live my life. Coming back was the opportunity to help shift things at UTM, to pay it forward to the people who supported me.”

Adese is currently working on several book projects. One examines at Indigenous experiences with celebrity culture and fame, which is a continuation of her ongoing research on questions of how Indigenous peoples represent themselves or are represented in arenas from visual art to the Olympics to government. Adese is also investigating representation of Indigenous peoples in tourism, particularly focusing on the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics and in airports. A third project involves the national political advocacy body Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak – Women of the Métis Nation, which explores women’s political organizing, especially how Métis women have tried to address multi-dimensional layers of colonialism.

Non-Indigenous scholars are also tackling Indigenous projects at UTM. Assistant professor of anthropology **Tracey Galloway** has undertaken an independent evaluation of Canada’s northern food subsidy policy and a multi-year study on cancer service delivery for people who live in Nunavut.

For all of her projects, Galloway uses an approach called community-based participatory research, which involves developing research questions within Indigenous communities and then asking members to guide and participate in the research. “All along the way, the community determines the process,” she says. She adds that her interest in working with these communities was sparked when she got the opportunity to incorporate an Inuit context in her post-doctoral research. “I just took that opportunity and started developing relationships in the north, and now it’s the relationships that keep me going,” she says.



Her approach has, in turn, attracted the attention of graduate students such as Darci Belmore, a student of Ojibway-Irish background from the Lac Seul First Nation near Sioux Lookout, Ont. Belmore recently started her master’s degree in anthropology (with a collaborative specialization in Indigenous health). “The big reason why I wanted to work with Tracey was the way she spoke about these communities. With community research, researchers can go in and out, but Tracey is really building relationships,” says Belmore, who met Galloway at an eight-week Indigenous Summer Research Scholars Program at McMaster University.

“It’s a generation when singers were subjects of the anthropological gaze. Missionaries and adventure travelers and amateur collectors all participated in this salvage anthropology, based on a racist ideology that Indigenous peoples would somehow disappear.”

Robin Grey



Video installations from Maria Hupfield's exhibit "The One Who Keeps on Giving" about mobility of culture and how we carry place

“He said to never speak for them, never speak about them, and never speak at them. Listen to them, because the communities hold the answers. And he was so right.”

Sherry Fukuzawa

INDIGENOUS-INFUSED TEACHING

Fukuzawa calls herself a “facilitator” for the community-engaged learning course she teaches, Anthropology & Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island. She teaches the course with a collective called the Indigenous Action Group, which consists of members of the Mississaugas of the Credit and other Indigenous scholars from across the university. “I feel very strongly that there has to be respected local indigenous community partnerships in the academy,” Fukuzawa says. “It’s important for us to value pluralistic ontologies, and that’s what we’re trying to do with this course.”

In her courses on Indigenous-Canadian relations, Adese tries to get students to think about the long history of the relationship of Indigenous peoples to Canada, going back to Britain and France. She says that changes to the Ontario curriculum mean that students now have basic exposure to topics such as residential schools, but there are many gaps in understanding. “You have to talk to students about how every strand today can be traced backwards, do quite a bit of talking about historical context,” Adese says. Gray agrees on the need to teach deeply. “Most people have little to no knowledge about Indigenous history and cultures. So I try to give students as much information and foundation as possible in my Indigenous Studies courses so they can think critically.”

Adese adds that she likes to use media in her classroom, such as artwork and film, and to foster a sense of connectedness and responsibility, or “wahkotowin,” as it is described in Cree language. “It’s helping [students] understand how everything is interconnected around them, and how this relates back to the responsibilities and obligations that they inherit as Canadians to Indigenous people.”

Gray engages students in her comparative Indigenous politics course by starting each class with a segment on “Indigi-news,” where students bring in news articles related to Indigenous people or politics and discuss the settler-colonial context. She also uses a technique borrowed from health disciplines called “photovoice,” where students represent issues through sharing images.

Sherry Fukuzawa, assistant professor, teaching stream and associate chair in the Department of Anthropology, is a non-Indigenous scholar who has been a strong advocate for greater recognition of Indigenous culture on campus and developing a partnership of mutual respect with the Mississaugas of the Credit. “As a non-Indigenous ‘settler ally,’ I feel our role is to use our place of privilege and our position to open the window for Indigenous scholarship in the institution,” Fukuzawa says.

She recalls that she was personally spurred into action after hearing a lecture by senator and First Nations lawyer Murray Sinclair, urging listeners to develop relationships with Indigenous communities. “He said to never speak for them, never speak about them, and never speak at them. Listen to them, because the communities hold the answers. And he was so right,” Fukuzawa recalls.

She formed a relationship with Veronica King-Jamieson, councillor and pillar lead for education and awareness for the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and partnered with her to organize the Symposium on the Importance of Indigenous Education in Ontario Classrooms in 2018. It attracted more than 500 registrants from across the province to learn from keynote speakers Senator Sinclair and retired Ontario Court of Appeal judge and Mississaugas of the Credit member Harry LaForme, as well as Indigenous scholars from across Ontario and Indigenous youth.

BUILDING PRESENCE

New Indigenous faculty bring a sense of optimism for the Indigenous cultural presence on campus, and an enthusiasm to build on the positive changes. “I think this was a really good moment,” Hupfield says. “A lot of that heavy lifting is happening already, so I’m not starting from scratch coming in, in terms of forging new connections,” she says.

Adese appreciates that UTM has been respectful by not expecting new Indigenous faculty to assume responsibility for everything Indigenous. “I think the good thing about UTM is at the outset, it was very clear that they don’t expect one person to do everything. In places where there are only one or two Indigenous people, there can be a lot of pressure placed on them to be on every committee. There is a sense of urgency, like we need to do something to address the TRC calls to action. But there’s a recognition that they want us to be around in the long term, not to burn us out before we have the opportunity to make more meaningful contributions.”

Gray agrees, adding that knowing Adese was being hired at the same time really boosted her enthusiasm to come to UTM. “I’ve heard stories time and again of how young Indigenous faculty get overburdened with a lot of service-oriented, emotional labour with students, bombarded to be on every committee or to consult on everything Indigenous,” Gray says. “As a junior Indigenous faculty member, coming in with another Indigenous faculty at the same time definitely alleviates a lot of the pressure that I would have faced, and maybe even alleviates some of the tokenism that comes along with being the first Indigenous faculty in any department.”

So what’s next for the development of Indigenous culture at UTM? Adese says she’d like to see even more Indigenous scholars hired, and for more Indigenous staff to be hired alongside faculty, so that students see themselves not only in the teaching staff but in all employment areas. She adds that having Indigenous staff in places such as residences or the financial aid office can increase understanding of Indigenous issues.

Gray would also like to see UTM recruit more Indigenous students. She sees UTM as being on the upside of a paradigm shift that’s affecting all universities. “This is a steep learning curve for institutions who have been around for 100+ years and are only now in the last five to 10 years actively thinking about how to rectify nearly a century of invisibility at all levels of institutional culture,” she says. “I think that UTM is in a position to really contribute to this paradigm shift.”



Jiimaan, a life-sized birch bark-style canoe made of industrial felt, by Maria Hupfield

Hupfield agrees. “I think there’s a lot of love, appreciation and respect happening across our faculties on campus, and that offers strength at that level where we’re looking nation to nation as Indigenous scholars, and shoulder to shoulder with colleagues in our departments.” **M**



RESTAURANTS, GROCERS OFFER PLANT-BASED FOODS

Adapting to shifting consumer preferences, several Canadian restaurant chains have introduced plant-based items to their traditionally meat-laden menus. When A&W Canada launched the Beyond Meat Burger last fall, restaurants across the country sold out within days and took months to restock sufficient supplies to ensure a smooth relaunch.

Tim Hortons now sells vegan breakfast sausages, Quesada introduced tacos made with veggie meat and Earl's has launched its own Beyond Burger as well as a new vegan menu.

Canadian grocery stores are also catering to consumers' predilection for plant-based meats. Last month, mainstream supermarkets across the country began carrying the Beyond Burger, with some opting to place the product not in the health food aisles but instead in the butcher section alongside steaks and ribs.

Some retailers have additionally developed their own in-house varieties of plant-based foods, including the President's Choice selection of veggie burgers, chicken-less fingers and beef-free crumble. Furthermore, shoppers now face an embarrassment of riches in the dairy section, with anyone seeking to avoid cow's milk enjoying a choice of beverages made from soy, almond, coconut and oat.

These developments are indicative of a sea change in the market for vegan foods, with demand coming not just from vegetarians. Meat eaters, too, are drawn by the lower health risks associated with non-animal-sourced proteins, a desire to reduce the environmental impact of their food choices and concerns about animal welfare.

A BACKLASH BY INDUSTRY

Some industry groups are attempting to push back against the plant-based food movement. In January, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency received a complaint about non-dairy products "being labelled as 'cheese' when they are allegedly not."

Likewise, the Quebec Cattle Producers Federation recently expressed concern that calling veggie burgers "plant-based meat" is misleading to consumers, noting that the regulatory definition of meat is "the carcass of a food animal, the blood of a food animal, or a product or by-product of its carcass." Yum?

But studies support the view that consumers are not the least bit confused by the use of monikers such as "milk" or "meat" in reference to plant-based foods. This makes sense, given the products' labels tend to feature prominent information about their origins. And so prudent producers and retailers are preparing for the future by catering to consumer preferences for these foods rather than fixating on the past.



—Lisa Kramer is a professor of finance at the University of Toronto Mississauga. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license.

An important lesson emerges from another industry that faced a major shift in consumer demand. When digital photography was emerging as a new technology, a then-leader of the photography sector, Kodak, faced a difficult choice.

The company could cannibalize its own camera film sales to become an early leader in the digital space, which would be painful but potentially lucrative. Or it could try to postpone the inevitable and cling to a fading technology. Kodak chose the latter path, and the competition ate their lunch.

Now tech companies like Panasonic, Sony and Samsung stand alongside Canon and Nikon to dominate the world of digital photography, leaving Kodak a mere shadow of its former self.

Forward-looking meat-producing companies must reframe their thinking to recognize that they are in the protein production business. With many consumers avoiding animal-sourced protein, the opportunity emerges to shift focus to developing and producing alternate types of food.

ADAPTING TO THE FUTURE

The federal government stands ready to facilitate such changes, recently introducing more than \$150 million in funding for the Proteins Industry Canada "supercluster," aiming to encourage farmers and entrepreneurs in the Prairies to use new technology to increase the value of Canadian crops such as canola, wheat and pulses.

Another reason such a shift makes sense is the fact that raising animals as food is expensive. To produce a pound of animal-based protein requires many more pounds of crops and litres of water than are needed to produce a pound of plant-based protein.

With a surge in demand for commodities like peas, which are a key ingredient in products like the Beyond Burger, savvy Canadian farmers and producers are pivoting to adapt. Industry giant Maple Leaf Foods, for one, recently announced an investment of US\$310 million to expand their plant-based offerings.

With all of these changes, investors in companies that are in the business of producing plant-based food stand to be winners, as does anyone who aims to enjoy the taste and texture of meat without the downsides of conventional meat. **M**

WALKING THE WALK WITH

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As the climate crisis compels campuses worldwide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, UTM is taking bold steps to ensure its policies, programs and processes support an eco-friendly campus

By **David Silverberg**

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PHOTO: MILES RUFIELDS



LOOKING OUT OVER THE CLASS OF 2020 ON AUG. 27, 2018,

Shashi Kant welcomed the new faces to the University of Toronto Mississauga's (UTM) Master of Science in Sustainability Management (MScSM) program, for which he has served as director since 2014.

In his opening remarks about the principles and philosophies of the program, Kant told students, "Sustainability, being focused on human well-being, cannot be limited to a traditional single department such as geography, environmental science or economics. It includes all disciplines and subjects, it requires multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches, and holistic, integrative and critical thinking."

He's speaking about the two-year program, but he could be talking about the cross-department approach UTM itself takes in its approach to sustainability. Various divisions of UTM, from academia to facilities to event programming to art galleries, are working to improve the campus's energy efficiency and curate conferences to stoke discussions on what everyone can do to fight the global climate change crisis.

On the faculty front, Kant speaks excitedly about the MScSM program and what it offers graduates. "What students like is how we don't treat them like commodities," he says. "We interact with them and take time to talk to them. We want to help them see sustainability through real-life problems they can solve."

← This image is one of several on the theme of climate change in the "Logics of Sense" exhibit currently on display at UTM's Blackwood Gallery.

Shashi Kant

Director
Master of Science
in Sustainability
Management



Graduates of the program end up bringing their sustainability practices into corporate and banking organizations (around 60 per cent), government (20 per cent) and consultancies (the other 20 per cent). “We want to let them know they aren’t just here to get a master’s degree,” Kant stresses. “We hope they can become leaders to make change in the environment around them.”

Kant is also the brainchild of a new sustainability conference that debuted at UTM this fall. Although the three-day conference’s title is heady— Sustainability: Transdisciplinary Theory, Practice, and Action Conference—Kant says the topics and speakers were selected to engage with environmentally conscious people at all levels.

“The idea was to bring all stakeholders onto one platform, to share what they have to say,” Kant says, noting the impact keynote speaker David Suzuki made on the UTM audience.

Often working closely with the master’s program is UTM’s Sustainability Office, formerly named the Environmental Affairs Office, which launched in 2004. The office has a broad mandate that focuses on energy and water use, campus natural areas, and waste and recycling. It also quarterbacks projects to study, say, more sustainable transportation options at UTM, or how to develop an integrated waste-management system.

“One of the core values UTM wants to become identified with is we can’t just have an intellectual discussion on what we should do, and here’s the research. We have to walk the walk as a campus,” says Vice-Principal & Dean Amrita Daniere, adding that her work is guided by a 12-member advisory board recommending sustainability best practices.

Daniere’s office was responsible for leading several Global Climate Strike Week events that took place on campus during the last week of September, such as a screening of the award-winning Edward Burtynsky documentary *ANTHROPOCENE: The Human Epoch*, and TED Talk-style climate talks followed by group discussion.

“Getting three different viewpoints on climate change, that’s fun, and it gets everyone jazzed up about the topic,” Daniere says.

“We want to let them know they aren’t just here to get a master’s degree. We hope they can become leaders to make change in the environment around them.”

This fall also saw more climate change-focused art on campus. For example, the Blackwood Gallery displayed video art exploring the relationship between people and the environment, and how we can better understand our impact on nature.

The two-part exhibition “Logics of Sense” will be on display until Dec. 7, 2019, and by the end of its run will have presented a dizzying array of views on climate change: one video dives deep below the waterline of the Lofoten Islands in Northern Norway, while another mini-doc tracks the aftermath of hurricanes that devastated Puerto Rico in 2017. A lengthy video essay presents a speculative history of the industrial revolution, and comments on its drive for success in the name of “progress.”

For students, faculty and staff on campus, perhaps the most noticeable sustainability undertaking is the many upgrades to buildings. Five buildings are currently recognized by the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

UTM has committed to reduce its emissions by

37%

below 1990 levels by 2030

UTM’s emissions* intensity in 2018 was reduced by

57.14%

compared to 2005

*EMISSIONS PER GROSS SQUARE METRE OF FLOOR SPACE





“With universities like UTM, these buildings could still be standing hundreds of years in the future, and it’s important to do it right the first time and build them to be energy efficient now,” says Chelsea Dalton, the environmental and sustainability coordinator for UTM’s Facilities Management & Planning team.

UTM buildings also sport low-energy light fixtures, green roofs and upgraded equipment, with one example being the recent replacement of inefficient pneumatic controls on the HVAC system in the Recreation, Athletics & Wellness Centre (RAWC).

Swimmers at UTM might also notice an ongoing solar thermal pool project at the RAWC. Dalton says the upgraded HVAC system and thermal pool are projected to save around 292,100 kWh of electricity per year, 40,638 m³ of natural gas per year and 90 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

She points out another helpful addition to UTM’s suite of tools is a real-time energy dashboard available in some buildings, such as at Erindale and Roy Ivor Hall residences. Resembling large digital signs displaying a slideshow, these dashboards

can tell staff the type of heating and cooling systems in place, and energy demand and consumption, all in real-time.

The university further bolstered its commitment to energy-efficient approaches and forward-thinking retrofits in 2018 when it joined the University Climate Change Coalition. Its goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030. “Even though UTM has been doing energy-reduction projects for as long as I can remember, that announcement really redoubled our efforts,” Dalton says.



PHOTO: JUSTIN LEE

Upgraded HVAC system and thermal pool at the Recreation, Athletics & Wellness Centre will save around

292,100 kWh
of electricity per year

40,638 m³
of natural gas per year

90 Tonnes of CO₂
equivalent per year

**Diesel consumption
at UTM**

2014

**15,520
litres**



2018

**5,098
litres**

**Electricity use
per UTM student**

2014

**3,550
kWh**



2016

**3,150
kWh**



On the student-centric side, Dalton's favourite recurring event is the Repair Café, where people can get their small appliances and electronics repaired for free by volunteers, instead of throwing them out and buying new products.

UTM can uniquely bolster its sustainability initiatives by immersing students and staff in a natural environment teeming with more than 475 species of animals and plants. Ten minutes away by bike is the Riverwood Conservancy, a sprawling 150-acre property nestled beside the banks of the Credit River. Professors and graduate students lead environmental studies and projects, such as examining the population trends of white-tailed deer.



Professors and graduate students lead environmental education initiatives at the nearby Riverwood Conservancy.

“Youth can be taught about the connection between the Indigenous [Peoples] and the land we are physically on, and how nature demonstrates resiliency, and how that’s a metaphor for our resiliency.”

Riverwood executive director Douglas Markoff highlights one particular program for students. In the Indigenous Spirit Journey, students and staff mentor Indigenous high school youth in Peel Region, teaching them “to appreciate nature, all through an Indigenous lens,” Markoff says.

“Youth can be taught about the connection between the Indigenous [Peoples] and the land we are physically on, and how nature demonstrates resiliency, and how that’s a metaphor for our resiliency,” Markoff notes.

Toward the end of Shashi Kant’s address to the 45 students on that August day in 2018, he delivered a poignant quote that could be a mantra for all post-secondary schools on how to approach energy-reduction projects and open discussions on responding to the climate crisis: “Love sustainability by heart and serve sustainability by mind.” **M**

Spark



PROBING THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF STAR WARS

New book by historical studies professor makes connections between the films, religion and myth

In a galaxy not so far away, religion scholars have taken a closer look at the story of *Star Wars*. *The Myth Awakens: Canon, Conservatism, and Fan Reception of Star Wars* is a new collection of essays that examines the *Star Wars* film franchise through the lens of theology and myth.

“This is the first book, ever, about *Star Wars* written by religion scholars,” says Ken Derry, an associate professor, teaching stream, with the University of Toronto Mississauga’s (UTM) Department of Historical Studies. Derry co-edited *The Myth Awakens* with liberal arts professor John Lyden of Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. The collection features nine essays by religion scholars who explore the idea of myth in the 2016 film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. In their analyses, the authors reflect on fan responses to various elements of—and changes to—the *Star Wars* canon, including toys, video games and novels, as well as several of the films through the critical lenses of gender, race, psychology, politics, authority, music, ritual and memory.

In 2015, Derry, who specializes in the history of religions, was co-chair of the American Academy of Religion’s religion, film and visual culture unit, and was planning for an upcoming conference when the first trailer for *The Force Awakens* was released.

“The trailers were out and there was already backlash from fans,” Derry remembers. “People were upset about a Black stormtrooper, and that it appeared a woman might be the hero of the story.”

Derry, who often uses film and popular culture as a jumping-off point to discuss religion in his lectures, soon realized the newest instalment in the film series would make great fodder for further discussion.

“I’m interested in how things that we don’t think of as specifically religious are very like religions,” he says. “Some religious people pay very close attention to the word of God. You can draw a parallel with the scrutiny that some *Star Wars* fans apply to their reading of the films and other products. We’re looking at how people relate to both *Star Wars* and myth—what is it, how does *Star Wars* function as a myth for people, what does it do in people’s lives and how do people relate to it?”

Derry says that it’s important to take the study of popular culture and films like the *Star Wars* saga seriously because it offers an opportunity to discuss subjects that are sometimes ignored by theologians.

“What we study impacts how we think about it,” he says. “Stepping away from sacred texts permits more creative thinking, more inclusion of groups who are often sidelined, including women and children, and encourages a more lateral and playful approach.”

“The essays also use *Star Wars* to address questions about the academic study of religion itself,” he adds. “There’s a real advantage in academia to the notion of play. We shouldn’t take ourselves too seriously.” —Blake Eligh



THE REALITY OF DISPLACEMENT

Researcher defines migrant experience as “confinement in motion”

Newscasts have been filled with their faces during the past few years: weary men, women and children carrying some basic belongings as they trudge towards the United States from Latin America, crossing the vast expanse of Mexico, desperate for lives of stability and promise.

Martha Balaguera, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), knows these faces well. She began meeting them and studying their experiences even before U.S. President Donald Trump, with his administration’s restrictive—and arguably cruel—immigration policies, came to power.

Her aim is to explore the politics in the interactions between these migrants and civilians—the Mexican citizens and civil society organizations that step up to assist the migrants when the government fails them.

“Because they are undocumented, they aren’t protected, so civil society has become very responsive to their needs, advocating for their rights and providing direct assistance,” she says, noting that Mexico has an entire civil society network of shelters and donors that assist the migrants in their march to better lives.

Balaguera says everyday politics are enmeshed in the interactions between citizens and non-citizens.

“What my research finds is that a lot of struggles, conflicts and politics are reinvented through encounters between citizens and non-citizens,” she says. “There are relationships forged between human rights advocates and non-citizens that are filled with tensions and negotiations.

“While they [migrants] empower themselves as rights-bearing subjects, they also negotiate with their benefactors the more appropriate ways to claim rights from states. For example, when migrants organize themselves through caravans, they are assuming their own agency as speaking subjects in the public sphere, instead of letting others, namely, migrant human rights defenders, advocate on their behalf.”

Her exploration of the everyday practices of care and hospitality in local communities also shines a spotlight on transgendered women migrants, gender and sexuality.

“I look at these issues in the sense that the experience of these trans women migrants reveals in a stark manner what is happening to everyone,” Balaguera says. “Stark examples are very useful for understanding larger phenomena.”

Balaguera’s research into migration has led her to develop the concept of “confinement in motion” to characterize the current migrant experience worldwide.

“It’s a concept that resonates with scholars who study migration,” she says. “These people are confined even when they are moving. They don’t need to be detained or bound in order to feel institutionalized and confined. It’s a psychological state of subjective feelings that I think is common to migrants all over the world.”

No longer are migrants across the globe “stuck in cycles of displacement, detention and deportation,” Balaguera says. “Being a migrant has become a permanent state; even if you become a permanent resident, you can be rendered deportable.”

She cites the example of Afro-Mexicans who have been racially profiled and deported to Haiti. This new reality is a sharp contrast to the North American immigrant experience of the 1900s.

“Citizenship doesn’t necessarily protect you anymore,” Balaguera says. “I’ve discovered that framing the migration experience as the tradition of leaving a place, settling somewhere else and being absorbed doesn’t hold.”

Still, Balaguera forges ahead with her research, hoping that “my critical analysis can be useful in creating practices of care and hospitality for migrants, because migration is not going away at all.”

—Elaine Smith

UTM Geography Professor Trevor Porter (right) and his colleagues in the Yukon, using a gas-powered drill to obtain permafrost core samples, which provide rich information about historical climate patterns in the region



YUKON WARMING AT EXCEPTIONAL RATE

Paleoclimate research on ancient summer temperatures helps explain current destabilizing of permafrost in Northern Canada

A new study from the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) used new research techniques to reveal alarming information about climate change in Canada's North.

Funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and published in *Nature Communications* this year, the study confirmed that recent climate warming in the central Yukon region has surpassed the warmest temperatures experienced in the previous 13,600 years, a finding that could have important implications in the context of current global warming trends.

Paleoclimatologist and lead author Trevor Porter, a professor of geography, studies climate indicators such as water isotopes, tree rings and plant waxes for signs of climate patterns in the Holocene, a period of time that spans the past 11,700 years. In glaciated regions, paleoclimate research often relies on water isotopes measured from ice core samples taken from glaciers. But in the central Yukon, where glaciers have long since receded, researchers must rely on other indicators such as plant pollen and small, winged insects known as midges preserved in layers of lake sediment. Pollen and midges act as proxies for ancient temperatures, but sometimes offer conflicting information.

In a first for the field, Porter and his colleagues used radiocarbon dating and water isotopes preserved in permafrost beneath a central Yukon peatland to reconstruct summer temperatures over the last 13,600 years. Each summer, new peat moss accumulates at the surface, and the top of permafrost, which lies at a constant depth of 58 cm below ground, adjusts to the new surface. It simultaneously preserves precipitation that filtered through the ground and froze at the top of permafrost during previous summers.

"Each centimeter of permafrost holds roughly 20 to 30 years of precipitation, which settles into well-blended layers of information. Water isotope records from ice cores are one of the most valued climate proxies, but can only be developed in glaciated regions," Porter says.

"This project demonstrates that we can develop ice core-like records in non-glaciated permafrost regions. This type of permafrost offers a unique archive for water isotopes that could be used to advance our understanding of Holocene climate change in other northern regions, which would be a major benefit to the climate science community."

The results of the permafrost analysis confirm information provided by previous midge studies, and shows that early Holocene summers in the central Yukon were mostly warmer than the average Holocene summer. The study further concludes that industrial-era warming has led to current summer temperatures that are unprecedented in the Holocene context, and exceeds all previous maximum temperatures by nearly 2°C.

"When compared with climate reconstructions from other northern areas, our data confirm that this region has been warming at an exceptional rate," Porter says. "We know, based on recent historical climate data, that this area has warmed up more than other high-latitude regions. This region has experienced warming of just over 2°C over the past century, which is above the global average and above the average of the Arctic region in general."

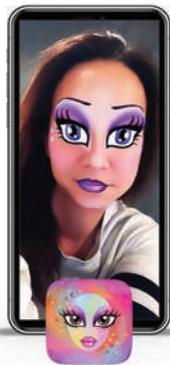
"Summer warming has major implications for permafrost landscapes. When temperatures go up, ice-rich permafrost can thaw and become unstable, and previously frozen soil carbon can be released to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide by microbes," Porter says, noting that the region experienced a deep thaw of permafrost roughly 9,000 years ago.

"Deep permafrost thaw events did occur in this region in the early Holocene, a time we now know was relatively warm compared to the Holocene average but not nearly as warm as today. This implies that ice-rich permafrost in this region is currently vulnerable to similar thaw events," he says. "We're seeing the evidence right now that climate warming is destabilizing permafrost in northern Canada and releasing greenhouse gases. This is potentially the new normal and, if it accelerates in the near future, it threatens to further amplify global climate change." —**Blake Eligh**

Class Notes



RAINHA AZUL



DOLLFACE



THOUGHT BUBBLE



RAINBOW EYES



GLOW MASK



BLACK ONYX

Instagram innovator

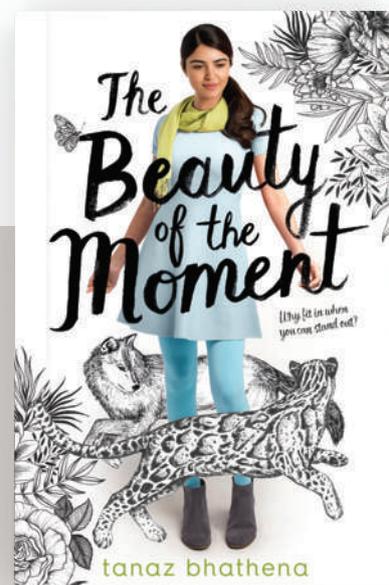
With millions using her Instagram filter designs, University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) alumna Lianne Tokey (BA, '98) has earned her place among an elite group of developers creating augmented reality filter effects for social media. In January 2019, the Oakville designer was among 300 designers—and one of just a handful of Canadians—accepted into a special beta group for Instagram effects creators.

Tokey says her undergraduate art and art history education at Erindale College (now UTM) afforded her the freedom to explore her creativity. After graduating, she worked for two decades as a graphic designer and web developer. In 2017, she began creating Facebook profile frames—they have been used more than 720 million times. In 2018, she branched out to Instagram and has created more than 20 AR filters for the platform, and has attracted 127,000 followers.

“For me, it’s important to...be a positive influence on the digital landscape,” she says. “Social media sometimes gets a bad rap, but I really want to change how people are interacting with these tools.”

Engaging young readers

The Beauty of the Moment, the newest young adult novel by Tanaz Bhathena (BCom 2007), was released earlier this year by Penguin Teen Canada. The 368-page book is about the experiences of Susan Thomas, a sharp and driven teen belonging to an Indian-Christian family who has just moved with her mother from Saudi Arabia to Mississauga. It deals with culture clashes, family expectations, a first romance—all the topics that resonate with many of today’s high schoolers. “The characters are strong, and their development is realistic and well-paced; the tone and flow of dialogue go a long way to creating a lasting connection with the story,” said *The Globe and Mail* in a review of the book. This is Bhathena’s second book, following on the heels of her 2018 YA novel *A Girl Like That*, which made several notable best-book lists. The Mississauga resident also has a forthcoming YA duology that is now available for pre-order.



Lab leader

In January 2019, Agata Gapinska-Serwin (HSc 2008) joined the forensic science program at the University of Toronto Mississauga as a full-time laboratory technician. Previously, Gapinska-Serwin worked in this role half the time in forensic science, and half the time in the Department of Chemical & Physical Sciences. In her new role, she facilitates students' practical assignments for several different courses, teaches additional materials, arranges weekly lab experiments and demonstrates proper techniques, and maintains the lab's equipment. Her job also entails conducting hands-on lab activities with visiting high school students, and helping to run the program's six-week summer camp. "I love the fact that I work in a teaching lab. I enjoy the interaction I have with the students when they are performing their chemistry labs," she says. "It is the perfect marriage of my original career paths: chemistry, forensics and education."



Her decision

How do we make choices in our life, and how do they affect our future?

This is the thought-provoking theme of *Obdurate*, a new short film by Cynthia Crofoot (BSc 1991). The film is a passion project for Crofoot, a seasoned actor who has 15 years of experience in film, television and theatre. She served as writer, producer and lead actor in the nine-minute movie, which filmed in Toronto over the May long weekend with the involvement of experienced film professionals and recent film graduates. Crofoot funded the micro-budget project herself with support from ACTRA, the union representing Canada's media performers. She hopes to attract investment in *Bracewater*, a feature film script she wrote in which she would play the lead character. Currently, Crofoot is submitting *Obdurate* to various film festivals worldwide.



IN MEMORIAM, 1988-2019

Dedicated teacher

University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) teaching assistant, course administrator and alumnus Alvin Singh (HSc 2011) has died. Singh worked at the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, and was a teaching assistant with the biology, psychology, and mathematical and computational sciences departments at UTM, and with the biology department at the University of Toronto Scarborough. As well, for seven years he served as UTM's chief presiding officer and invigilator to persons with disabilities. While working at UTM, he was known to always go above and beyond his duties to help students, TAs and course instructors. Singh is also remembered for his dedication to teaching, which was recognized with the June Scott Teaching Excellence Award in 2014.



IN MEMORIAM, 1984-2019

Dynamic and driven

Christine Buske Hone (HBSc 2007, PhD 2012), who built a rewarding career based on her diverse interests in research, entrepreneurship and technology, passed away in the Netherlands on May 22, 2019. In 2002, Buske Hone enrolled at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), where she first studied biotechnology, economics and chemistry and, later, cell and systems biology and neuroscience. Among her research endeavours was a study on the effects of alcohol on zebrafish in-utero to better understand fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Buske Hone's dynamic career included running a marketing consultancy for real estate and property management companies; providing support to research software users; and working as a product manager at a non-profit focused on scholarly communications. Buske Hone is survived by her husband, David, her mother, Nair Carmen, and many pets.



Send us your memories

m.magazine@utoronto.ca

Some of our favourite pictures of UTM have been taken by students, alumni, faculty and staff. We love to see the campus through your eyes—send your photos to m.magazine@utoronto.ca and they could be featured in the magazine or on social media!



Alumni Events

Discover the benefits of being a UTM alum! Enjoy social and learning events and activities and stay connected to your fellow alumni. Faculty, staff and friends of UTM are welcome to attend. See www.utm.utoronto.ca/alumni/events.

UTM Beyond the Campus

Join U of T alumni and friends at the Lionhead Golf Club & Conference Centre in Brampton for an intriguing talk on the topic, "Is the Future of Meat Plant-Based?" Finance professor Lisa Kramer will discuss how plant-based meat alternatives and "clean meat" could disrupt the food-production industry and impact the environment and human health.

NOV
28



Holiday Tea

Don your fascinator and join U of T alumni and friends for afternoon tea at the Old Mill Toronto. Indulge in delicious sandwiches and sweets to accompany your choice of fine tea.

DEC
1



The Nutcracker

Share the magic of The Nutcracker with the kids in your life with an afternoon performance by the National Ballet Theatre of Odessa at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. Before the show, enjoy a special holiday hot chocolate reception with alumni and their families.

DEC
8



Alumni Reunion

Save the date for U of T's largest alumni event of the year! Taking place at all three campuses, this wildly popular alumni weekend features free lectures, campus tours, parties and lots of family-friendly fun.

MAY
27
-
31



Vault

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 spaceflight, when humans took their first steps on the moon. When American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped onto the surface of the Earth's only permanent natural satellite, located almost 385,000 km away, it signified a monumental achievement by humankind that was celebrated worldwide, including at the University of Toronto Mississauga (then Erindale College). In this photo from the same year as that NASA mission, Associate Dean Irving Spiegel, geophysicist David Strangway, Principal J. Tuzo Wilson and Dean E.A. Robinson marvel at a chunk of the moon's surface that was put on display at the campus.

1969





No surprise, most of us won't celebrate this many.

It might surprise you to learn that in 2016, there were over 8,000 centenarians in Canada*. As Canadians, we're fortunate to enjoy a high life expectancy, yet no one ever really knows what the future will bring.

So if something were to happen to you, would your loved ones have the financial reserves to be able to pay bills and cover living expenses? **Alumni Term Life Insurance** can help. It can be used in any way** your loved ones need and now comes in two plan options – Term Life and Term 10. That's a financial safety net for your family, any way you slice it.



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* Source: The Star, 100-Year Old Canadians Fastest-Growing Age Group In The Country, 2017.

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