

UofT Mississauga Magazine

SPRING 2014

Digitally Adept

CCIT paved path for alumna's fast-moving career

\$10 million Investment from City

New Innovation Complex will train leaders in business and science

Pen, Ink & Parody

Politicians subject to caustic cartoons as far back as 18th century



MAKING HISTORY

Alumnus Frank Falcone draws on art history to create award-winning kids' television

LETTER FROM LISLEHURST

MUNICIPALITIES AND THEIR elected officials are much in the news these days – and often for the unhappiest of reasons. Bad behavior at the highest political levels is gleefully and broadly reported by the news media. It isn't any wonder that many people have lost faith in the political process.

But what is overshadowed in all this municipal melodrama is the good news from other jurisdictions – news that doesn't

“The funding decision was a “no brainer” that will reap significant economic advantage for Mississauga.”

shock but does have extraordinary vision and leadership. Last December, Mississauga City Council voted to invest \$10 million in U of T Mississauga, a decision that will have far-reaching and long-term implications for the city's future. The funds, spread out over a 10-year period, will help to build the Innovation Complex, a facility that will house our signature Institute for Management & Innovation and our professional graduate programs. IMI, without a doubt, will be a

catalyst for developing bright and motivated young business-savvy graduates, attracting innovative industry to the city, and helping to drive economic development in the region.

It was, undeniably, a courageous decision for the city. With competing funding priorities and upcoming 2014 elections, many politicians might have opted for a more cautious approach. But led by the staunch convictions of Mayor Hazel McCallion and several very supportive councillors, the funding decision was a “no brainer” that will reap significant economic advantage for Mississauga, said one councillor.

By making the largest municipal grant ever to this campus, City Council has put its faith in UTM and IMI to lead a new phase of innovation and prosperity in Mississauga and the region. Along with enthusiastic partners in every sector across this great city, UTM will play a key role in shaping a healthy and successful future for all residents. We look forward to the challenge!

DEEP SAINI

Vice-President, University of Toronto
Principal, U of T Mississauga



Photo: Matthew Plexman

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Cover illustration courtesy Guru Studio



CAMPUS LIFE

**NEW
MONIKER
AT
NORTH
BUILDING**

**DEERFIELD
HALL**



Revamped section of existing structure gets new name BY GARETH TRICKEY / PHOTO BY CESAR MEJIA

THE OFFICIAL NAME OF PHASE ONE of the North Building reconstruction project will be Deerfield Hall. The University of Toronto's Governing Council approved the name Deerfield Hall in December 2013 following a campus-wide contest. A committee consisting of senior administrators selected the name after reviewing almost 200 submissions from students and staff.

Amanda Gallagher, formerly with Information and Instructional Technologies Services, submitted the winning entry. Gallagher's suggestion was found to best reflect U of T Mississauga's natural setting and its reputation for growing sustainably.

Deerfield Hall is the first of a planned three-phase reconstruction of the existing 1970s North Building. Construction of Deerfield Hall is now entering its final stages ahead of the opening in August 2014. Work has started on the interior of the modern four-storey academic space, with crews installing tiles in the new food services area and hall atrium. Work is also underway on the building's exterior terracotta cladding, which is expected to wrap up in spring ahead of landscaping. Once complete, Deerfield Hall will house academic departments including Mathematical and Computational Sciences, Psychology, English and Drama. The 5,220-square-metre academic space will also feature new and expanded food services, study spaces, classrooms, research laboratories and rehearsal facilities for the Theatre and Drama program. 🐾





*THE
UNIVERSITY
OF TORONTO
IS HOSTING
367
BRAZILIAN
STUDENTS
THIS YEAR*

SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS

Sharing the UTM experience with Brazilian students **BY ELAINE SMITH**

THE WORLD MAY BE heading to Brazil for this summer's World Cup of soccer, but meanwhile, Brazilian science students are leaving the country for study abroad at universities such as the University of Toronto Mississauga.

This year, UTM is hosting 87 Brazilian students – most of them undergraduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) – engaged in a Brazilian international scholarship program called Ciencia Sem Fronteiras, or Science Without Borders. It aims to expose students and researchers to what the Brazilian government calls “an environment of high competitiveness and entrepreneurship” through a year of study

abroad at government expense.

More than 100,000 participants will be spread out throughout the world in 2015, with Canada serving as one of the key program partners. The University of Toronto as a whole is hosting 367 Brazilian students this year.

Science Without Borders enriches the lives of both the Brazilian students and their U of T counterparts, said Dale Mullings, assistant dean (students and international initiatives) at UTM.

“We are bringing the world to U of T,” says Mullings. “We are increasing the global fluency of our student population with opportunities to engage in conversations

here that have been informed by students from all around the world.”

UTM places its Brazilian undergraduate students into one of two streams. Those who are fluent in English take STEM courses for eight months before undertaking a four-month independent research project. Students who are less fluent take part in the university’s Academic English and Culture program for four to eight months to improve their language and academic skills. Once they reach an acceptable level of language proficiency, they have the opportunity to take subject-area courses.

Petra Ariadne Trindade Araujo, a third-year medical student from Brasilia, is studying physiology, molecular biology and statistics at UTM and is exploring options for a summer research project.

“I had heard of the reputation of the University of Toronto and wanted to come to Canada,” she says of the program that she calls “an investment in my country’s future.”

“It’s a year to grow and discover new perspectives. It is an incredible experience.”

Trindade Araujo said that studying abroad should also enhance her career.

“The opportunity to improve my English will be very important for my career, because most scientific information is exchanged in English,” she says. “It is also an opportunity for networking; maybe in the future, I will do research with the people I meet here.

“Without any doubt, I am learning a lot.” 🐼



Photo courtesy Petra Ariadne Trindade Araujo

FEMINIST IN THE FOOTLIGHTS

Play about Doris Anderson's
crusade for women's rights
featured in CBC radio documentary

BY SHARON ASCHAIK / PHOTO BY JIM SMAGATA

THE LATE CANADIAN FEMINIST Doris Anderson championed equality and independence for women, and her life's work was revived in a stage show created by U of T Mississauga students and featured in a CBC radio documentary.

Rebel Daughter, which was produced and performed last November at UTM's Theatre Erindale by third-year Theatre and Drama Studies students, was based on an autobiography of the same name. Anderson, the editor of *Chatelaine* from 1957 to 1977, positioned the magazine in the vanguard for covering modern women's issues, and also succeeded in getting women's rights enshrined in the Canadian constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"Her book dealt with topics like feminism and inequality, which are still relevant today. I knew we could play with the ideas in Doris' memoir and in her life and make them appealing to a new audience," says student performer Hannah Vanden Boomen,

whose idea it was to bring Anderson's story to the stage.

Guided by Dora Award-winning director Heinar Piller, Vanden Boomen and her 21 classmates spent months dissecting the book and researching additional background materials on Anderson to develop scenes, and then five weeks rehearsing. They chose

"Her book dealt with topics like feminism and inequality, which are still relevant today."

minimalist costumes, props and a set to let the acting and dialogue shine. The resulting two-hour show featured about 20 vignettes about Anderson's upbringing, work at *Chatelaine*, and fight for women's rights. All 13 female students played a part of Dora's life, marking their shift into the role by passing each other a blue ribbon with a key—a nod to one definition of the word *chatelaine*.

"Our audiences felt it was one of the

most coherent adaptations we've done," says Patrick Young, artistic director of Theatre Erindale, and program coordinator of Theatre & Drama Studies. "The students had their eyes opened to a past they wouldn't have otherwise understood or identified with, and learned something about gender relationships and how they've changed over time."

The production caught the attention of Alisa Siegel, a producer with CBC's *The Sunday Edition*, who wanted to explore why 21st century theatre students were interested in doing a play on the 20th century feminist. Her radio documentary, [Daughters and Sons](#), aired in January and featured interviews with the students and Anderson's son, Stephen, rehearsal and performance scenes, and clips from archival interviews with Anderson, who died on March 2, 2007 at 85.

Says Vanden Boomen: "Alisa kept asking us what Doris was like, what does she mean to us, and what did she do for Canada. It was a nice reminder of why we were doing the play, why it was important." 🐣



INTELLIGENT I.D.

SmartCards aim to simplify job hunting **BY ELAINE SMITH**



A WAAD AAMIR has gone to the tops of skyscrapers and deep underground to ensure that his invention, the SmartCard business card, works in all possible situations.

Aamir, who will graduate from U of T Mississauga this June with a commerce degree, has always been interested in design and innovation. While attending

recruiting events at UTM, he realized that corporate recruiters were often surrounded by a cluster of students at once, making it difficult for the recruiters to remember them individually.

Where others might see a problem, Aamir recognized an opportunity – one that has become a marketable product, available now

through his fledgling company, SmartCards (www.smartcrds.com). The SmartCards are business cards with individualize QR (Quick Response) codes. A recruiter can scan a student's card on site with a cellphone and immediately have access to a variety of information the student has stored in his/her account, such as a photo, contact information, a resume and a LinkedIn profile. Students can regularly update the information linked to their cards by visiting the SmartCards website.

“I thought, ‘Why not make a system where identification is done without any hassle?’ ” says Aamir.

He found an investor, engaged some coders and produced a card with a dual-layered browser interface, a design innovation that gives him a great deal of pride.

“It's designed to be user-friendly and give information in a more concentrated manner,” he says. “The more you have to scroll, the more you skim and don't absorb the information.”

A number of UTM students use the cards already, and Aamir is preparing for a major marketing push to university faculties as job-hunting season approaches. They can be purchased and created en masse for groups of students, using data from an Excel spreadsheet completed by the buyer.

“My extracurricular activities at UTM taught me how to create and run a business,” Aamir says, “and it's something I'm very thankful for.” 🍀

ODD JOBS... ONLINE

Alumnus' company tasked with success **BY ELAINE SMITH**

EVER SINCE HE WAS in second grade, Muneeb Mushtaq (BCom UTM 2012) has been fascinated by the “inspirational stories” of corporate chief executives.

Now, 16 years later, Mushtaq is among their ranks. In 2013, he and his younger brother, Nabeel, established their own Internet company, Ask for Task (www.askfortask.com), in the basement of their parents' Mississauga home. Today, the business is based at a prestigious Yonge Street address in Toronto, employs 13 people and continues to grow.

Ask for Task matches people who need jobs done for them with people willing to do jobs for others. The tasks can be as simple as buying groceries or as complicated as reupholstering furniture.

Askers request help; taskers offer to do the work for a specific price. Ask for Task vets participants and serves as the forum that brings them together. When a task is complete, the company earns 10 per cent of the price as compensation.

“We provide a platform and an opportunity,” says Mushtaq. “We don't rip people off on cost. Our vision is to get extra jobs to people who want work.”

Initially, the company offered its service only in the Greater Toronto Area; a few months later, due to demand, it had

“Being CEO doesn't mean you get to sit at a really nice desk.”

expanded to six Canadian cities. Today, it is available nationwide, and Mushtaq is considering overseas opportunities.

He cites vision, perseverance, adaptability and willingness to do whatever it takes to get the work done as valuable traits for anyone starting a business.

“Being CEO doesn't mean you get to sit at a really nice desk,” he says.

“Up till now, it has meant Chief Everything Officer: you do everything that needs to be done.” 🐼



DIGITALLY ADEPT

CCIT paved path for alumna's fast-moving career

BY ELAINE SMITH / PHOTOS BY STEPHEN UHRANEY

ANANDA KORCHYNSKI'S current position at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation didn't exist when she entered the communications, culture and information technology (CCIT) program at U of T Mississauga in 2001.

Korchynski (BA, CCIT, 2005), a senior producer of radio digital programming for CBC, doesn't consider that an obstacle, thanks partly to a CCIT education that prepared her to adapt to a rapidly changing media environment. Her UTM courses provided her with the big picture, while

her classes at Sheridan College gave her hands-on skills.

"The skills are critical, but there was also an idea they had of preparing you more broadly," she says. "Since you don't know what the future will hold, knowledge of history and the ability to spot trends will make it more likely that you are nimble."

Nimble is a term that describes Korchynski well. She began her CBC career in its behind-the-scenes traffic department, and then moved on to scheduling before an opportunity to work in the emerging

field of digital media arose. Since turning to producing, she has worked with all 30 network shows on CBC Radio, including Q and Under the Influence, creating digital strategies and doing long-term planning to ensure the programs have an engaging social media presence.

As a student, Korchynski already understood the importance of learning and growth. She served as station manager for CFRE 91.9 FM, UTM's campus radio station, drew on resources at the career centre and participated in the co-op program. In fact, she arranged her own co-op experience, an internship with CBC Television, since CCIT had no established relationship with the broadcaster. A willingness to take the initiative has set the tone for her career.

"You have to continue your specialized learning once you get here," she says of CBC. "There is a lot to staying on top of it."

Her advice to students? "Approach your career with a learning mentality and ask a lot of questions." 🐼



"The skills are critical, but there was also an idea they had of preparing you more broadly."



COVER STORY

MAKING HISTORY

Alumnus Frank Falcone draws on art history to create award-winning kids' television

BY MARK WITTEN



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HEN UTM ALUMNUS FRANK FALCONE was developing Guru Studio's hit animated TV series *Justin Time*, broadcasters told him you can't do history for pre-school kids because they don't have a concept of time.

"I think kids understand history in the context of their imaginative play. In every episode, we make Justin's real world transform into an imagined historical place. So when he imagines himself going on a high sea adventure, his bed magically becomes a pirate ship as it does when a child plays at home. I thought if we could just ignore the horrible events and tedious dates and make a series of fictitious adventures about 'back then,' this show could become an entertaining introduction to history for kids," says Falcone, the president and creative director of Guru Studio, a Toronto-based animation company that has grown to 220 employees and over \$12-million in annual revenues.

Falcone has since proved his doubters wrong. With two seasons and 52 episodes completed, *Justin Time* now airs in over 70 countries on networks like Disney Junior Canada, Sprout, Discovery Latin America and NBC Kids, where it led the ratings in its time slot last year. The show has also earned industry recognition with a 2013 Daytime Emmy nomination for Outstanding Pre-school Animated Program, eight Annie nominations including Best Animated Television Production for Pre-school Children in both 2013 and 2014, and YMA and ACTRA nominations for performance. In March 2014, it won a Canadian Screen Award for Best Preschool Show or Series.

The series features a young boy named Justin who goes on make-believe time-travelling adventures to every corner of the globe with his gal pal Olive and sidekick Squidy. ➔



Photo and illustrations courtesy of Guru Studio

COVER STORY

As a fine arts student at UTM, Falcone enjoyed and was absorbed in his time-travelling adventures through art history. He was fascinated by the rich palette of visual styles and stories of people, cultures and societies in different places at different times around the world.

The show's stylish look today and expansive, cross-cultural global themes were influenced by his formative educational experiences two decades earlier and have helped the program to attract a broad international audience. "Justin Time is a very artistic show about history for kids. It's a simplified, illustrated approach to history. We make historical periods iconic with visual images like the Vikings discovering the New World," says the bearded, curly-haired Guru founder, who embraces his own Italian-Australian-Canadian heritage.

Falcone launched Guru Studio in 2000 and established it as a thriving animation studio in the lucrative world of commercial advertising. Guru's involvement in producing the animation for the popular children's TV series, *The Backyardigans* and *Babar*, which were developed by other companies, was a key step towards his "vision of creating a place where people could do character-driven, narrative animation and make great stories."

But the big creative and financial leap was Guru's risky decision in 2007 to start developing original content and make its own kids' TV series. "It was born of creative curiosity. I probably didn't need to do much at all apart from hire more animators, buy more computers and rent more space," says Falcone, who had shown leadership skills on campus as president of the residence council and a student council representative.

Falcone hired Canadian native Mary Bredin, a former development and acquisitions executive, who had moved back to Toronto from a long stint with Walt Disney Television in London. They told the staff they were searching for ideas and liked the look of the sketches that a newly hired animator, Brandon James Scott, showed them for a story concept called *Mike in Time*, taking kids to different places and times.

The original concept evolved, as Mike became Justin, and the

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cumbersome time machine morphed into the simpler notion of Justin travelling in time using his imagination.

The creative team of Falcone, Bredin and Scott made the leap from 30-second commercials and working from existing scripts for other people's shows to developing and producing over 100 original and engaging 11-minute narrative episodes.

Building on the commercial and critical success of *Justin Time*, Guru now has several new cartoon shows of its own in development for pre-school and older demographics, called *Nemesis*, *Hooba Jooba*, *Spaceface*, *Port Little* and *Wish Come True*.

As an art student at UTM, Falcone participated in regular group critiques of his own and other people's work. This prepared him for the intense and demanding collaborative process of creating commercials and kids' TV shows for large audiences. "The critiquing process is a very good development experience for people in the arts because your artistic output is under constant scrutiny. In this business, you need to face your audience and gauge their reaction. You learn to develop a thick skin so you can both protect the heart that drives your work and discover how to make it better," he says. 🐣



INNOVATION GENERATION

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

New institute will train leaders
in business and science

BY CHRISTINE WARD



Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion hasn't met Shantanu Mittal. But she ought to. The U of T Mississauga Master of Biotechnology graduate typifies everything the mayor and Mississauga City Council hope to achieve by investing \$10 million over 10 years in the University's new Innovation Complex.


Announced in December, the investment is the largest municipal grant ever made to U of T's Mississauga campus. The \$35 million Innovation Complex will house the Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI), a hub of undergraduate and professional graduate programs — including the biotechnology program attended by Mittal — focused on delivering the sector-specific knowledge and leadership skills to manage innovation.

“WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT COUNCIL HAS MADE THIS INVESTMENT IN U OF T MISSISSAUGA AND IN THE CITY'S KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN ECONOMY.”

“We are delighted that council has made this investment in U of T Mississauga and in the city's knowledge-driven economy,” says Professor Deep Saini, vice-president of the University of Toronto and principal of U of T Mississauga. “IMI will build substantial competitive advantage by providing great ideas and future leaders, and will play a critical role in helping the city foster a culture of innovation, attract global business and drive economic development.”

The building isn't due to open until the fall, but U of T Mississauga's innovative approach is already yielding dividends for the region.

Just ask Mittal, who graduated in 2011. In 2010, as part of his degree, he completed a year-long internship at the RIC Centre, Peel region's hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

“I was sitting with the CEO of a brand new company, a guy who had developed a technology to save fuel for trucking companies,” he recalls. “He explained his innovation, how it worked and how he discovered it. I was learning from someone with a passion to solve a particular 



FEATURE

problem and it really excited me. It opened my eyes to a whole new career opportunity.”

The experience was the launch pad for Mittal’s career. He’s now a business development manager with the provincially funded Ontario Centres of Excellence, helping companies across Peel region develop innovative technologies. Just last year, a chance second encounter with the trucking fuel entrepreneur allowed Mittal to present a new funding opportunity. He helped the local start-up secure additional venture capital from a special OCE program. The result is another burgeoning business innovation — with all the economic benefits for the region.

Graduates like Mittal and the business he helped to jumpstart are part of what McCallion says are “the economic future of not only Mississauga, but the province of Ontario and Canada.”

In its strategic plan, the City of Mississauga points to the importance of developing talent, attracting innovative business, meeting employment needs and creating partnerships for innovation — goals shared by U of T Mississauga and its IMI graduates. When complete in September 2014, the Innovation Complex is expected to create 101 full-time jobs, \$20.7 million in labour income and \$1.5 million in business income annually in Mississauga.



“HAVING A SCIENCE BACKGROUND IS GREAT, BUT TO ACTUALLY HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH BUSINESS PLANS AND MANAGING PROJECTS — THAT IS DEFINITELY AN ADVANTAGE.”

— VICKI BOUWERS

“At every focus group, survey and roundtable with business, their top issue of concern is attracting and retaining talent,” agrees Sheldon Leiba, president and CEO of the Mississauga Board of Trade. “U of T Mississauga is proving an important economic driver for our community by delivering a curriculum that is relevant to business needs and the talent businesses need to grow and sustain themselves for the future. The city’s investment shows how serious our community

is about ensuring good quality jobs for our citizens.”

Vicki Bouwers studied biomedical sciences during her undergraduate years, but knew that she wanted a career that involved business. She found a match between the two disciplines in the Master of Biotechnology program, and graduated in 2013.

“We learned how to work as part of a team towards a specific goal—and that’s how the industry works,” says



Bouwers, who did an internship at AstraZeneca before moving to a full-time position at the Mississauga offices of Novo Nordisk A/S, an international firm that focuses on diabetes, coagulation disorders and hormone replacement therapies.

She says her internship—which gave her hands-on experience within a leading organization—gave her an edge in the job market. “Having a science background is great, but to actually have experience with business plans and managing projects—that is definitely an advantage,” she says.


In addition to the biotechnology program, IMI will train management graduates in fields as varied as health care, professional accounting and environmental sustainability. All of these programs and several new initiatives now in the planning stages — including a certificate in business enterprise for PhD graduates — will come together for the first time within the Innovation Complex. The four-storey building will also feature the Li Koon Chun Finance Learning Centre, expanded space for the Departments of Economics

and Management, U of T Mississauga’s Office of the Registrar and an atrium for large-scale lectures, receptions and student gatherings.

“Our goal is to produce mission-centred managers who understand the science as well as the business for which they are being educated,” says IMI’s inaugural director Hugh Gunz. “They can hit the ground running when they arrive on the job because they fully understand how the organization and sector function.”

Over time, according to Gunz, the Innovation Complex will accommodate an increase in enrolment from 2,300 to almost 3,000 IMI students, along with approximately 30 new faculty hires from around the world.

“This is another step in a great partnership that began with the opening of the Mississauga Academy of Medicine,” says Saini. “We are very grateful for this extraordinary show of faith by Mayor McCallion and her council colleagues on behalf of the city’s residents. We can’t wait to start delivering the return on this incredible investment.” 🐦



“OUR GOAL IS TO PRODUCE MISSION-CENTRED MANAGERS WHO UNDERSTAND THE SCIENCE AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS FOR WHICH THEY ARE BEING EDUCATED.”

PEN, INK & PARODY

Politicians subject to caustic cartoons as far back as 18th century **BY ELAINE SMITH**

TORONTO MAYOR ROB FORD probably doesn't know just how lucky he is to live in 21st century Canada.

If he had been a political figure in England during the late 18th or early 19th century, the rapier-sharp pens of political cartoonists would have made him the subject of cartoons displayed publicly in shop windows throughout the country. These cartoonists had no compunction about drawing blood – figuratively speaking, of course, says Professor David Taylor, who teaches English at U of T Mississauga.

“From an 18th-century perspective, if you held a position of power, you lost immunity to certain kinds of attacks that wouldn't be allowed today,” said Taylor, noting that jabs of a sexual nature or about personal characteristics such as

“From an 18th-century perspective, if you held a position of power, you lost immunity to certain kinds of attacks that wouldn't be allowed today.”

weight would have been fair game. “The cartoon is meek and gentle with comparison to the 18th century. Cartoonists would have been utterly merciless. They delighted in satirizing people.

“Ford is exceptional in his ability to shrug off criticism. It would be interesting to see how the 18th century cartoonists would have depicted him.”

Taylor is on sabbatical in England this semester, researching the use of literary references in the British political cartoons created between 1760 and 1830. Although cartoons of that period are traditionally thought to have had a democratizing influence, Taylor believes they were “far more elitist than has generally been assumed.”

Cartoons at that time, unlike those today, were dense with words and often contained references to major literary works.

“Many people couldn't read, and even if they could, unless they knew Shakespeare or Milton, they wouldn't understand the cartoons,” he says.

British cartoons today are still more vicious than their contemporary Canadian counterparts, noted Taylor.

“Just as Britain cherishes its own stereotype of itself as a satiric nation, Canada cherishes that of Canada the good,” he says. “Certain forms of biting satire don't necessarily fit that image.” 🐦



The FALL of ICARUS.

In former days the Poet sings,
An Artist skill'd and rare
Of Wax and Feathers form'd his Wings
And made a famous pair
With which from Precipice or Tower
From Hill or highest Trees
When work'd by his mechanic power
He could descend with ease; —

Why T-p-e then wants such a store
You surely ask in vain? —
A moment of reflection more
Will make the matter plain,
With Plumes & Wax, & such like things
In quantities not small
He tries to make a pair of wings
To ease his sudden Fall! —

MATH + PRIVACY = CRYPTOGRAPHY

Prof designs equations for encryption **BY CARLA DEMARCO**

WHEN VINOD VAIKUNTANATHAN talks about his work, people probably think about updating their computer passwords. As an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematical and Computational Sciences at U of T Mississauga, his research focuses on encrypting data, which, he admits, is a formidable task given the amount of sensitive information people place online, and the carelessness with which it is sometimes stored. Vaikuntanathan is currently on a prestigious Sloan Fellowship at MIT.

“We don’t just communicate online, we store all our data out on the ‘cloud,’” says Vaikuntanathan. “When you use Gmail, Google Docs, Google Drive, etc., it’s not just on your computer. Your e-mail, documents and all your personal files are out there, which is sort of a scary thought.”

But despite some of those cyber fears, it

is clear that Vaikuntanathan is encouraged and inspired by cryptography’s path, from its origins when a system known as “Caesar’s cipher” — named after Julius Caesar — transposed letters to deliver military messages to remote troops, to the recent discovery

“When you use Gmail, Google Docs, Google Drive, etc., it’s not just on your computer. Your e-mail, documents and all your personal files are out there, which is sort of a scary thought.”

at IBM of a way to process encrypted data without ever knowing its content.

“The IBM invention came along in 2009 and there was a lot of excitement, but it was still very theoretical,” explains Vaikuntanathan. “So what we did in the last four years and my ongoing research is to

make a more powerful method of encryption and to make these systems practical.”

And there are several practical applications for these types of computations and encryptions. For example, Vaikuntanathan suggests it could be used to allow citizens to fill out and securely file their tax returns with the Canada Revenue Agency. There is also “functional encryption,” which allows for encrypting data and enabling different people access to different portions of the data.

“Cryptography is the perfect combination of doing really exciting mathematics and on top of that using it to protect privacy,” says Vaikuntanathan. 🐦



GIVING BACK

IMMERSIVE LEARNING

Field trip to Mexico mixes science, culture and cooperation **BY NICOLLE WAHL**

UOF T MISSISSAUGA STUDENTS went to Mexico last summer, but not to scuba dive or lie on a beach.

Professor Harvey Shear of the Department of Geography led students on a trip to [Jalisco, Mexico](#) as part of a field course in sustainability. It gave students valuable insights into topics such as water resource use, pollution, land use changes, health care for impoverished segments of the population, economic development and urban expansion.

“It’s also a unique opportunity to learn through the prism of a North American context, by examining how these issues differ from Canada to Mexico,” says Shear, whose research involves monitoring, rehabilitation and protection of freshwater ecosystems.

During a one-week stay in August, students visited Lake Zapotlán, collected water samples, observed the parasites that infect the fish

population and spoke with the local fishers. Braeden Krampert, one of Shear’s students, noted that the fishery cooperatives around the lake had seen their catch drop from 800 tonnes to 200–300 tonnes per year, and that it is now necessary to artificially maintain the lake’s fish population through stocking.

“I have never had the opportunity to learn directly from a vulnerable stakeholder,” says Katherine Bucko, one of the UTM students. “They were able to educate us on the social, economic and local impact of the lake.”

Back at the lab at Universidad de Guadalajara’s Centro Universitario del Sur (CUSUR) campus, the students tested the water for *E. coli*, and learned that the limited lab equipment was only one hurdle. “I entered the experience intimidated by science, and

eventually learnt that my biggest challenge was working with another culture,” says Bucko. Ultimately, the students overcame language barriers, and developed strong bonds with the CUSUR students and faculty.

While students paid for some of the travel costs, the trip to Mexico was also supported by the Annual Fund and other community members. 🐾





GIVING BACK

LIFE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Annual fund allows for full university experience **BY NICOLLE WAHL**

THERE'S NO QUESTION that making the grade in university demands long hours of study. But a truly exceptional university experience also involves the chance to interact with other students, explore extracurricular activities and pursue unique learning opportunities. For Noor Rehman, annual fund donors have made that possible.

Rehman is a fourth-year student pursuing her honours bachelor of science in molecular biology. Thanks to the support that Rehman has received from annual fund donors, she has been able to balance her course load with extracurricular activities.

“Alumni support is everywhere!” says Rehman. “Speaking in medical terms, donor support is equivalent to life support for students like me—it allows us to keep our dreams and aspirations alive, aim for the best and make a positive impact on the future,” she says.

Rehman is volunteer coordinator for the Pakistan Youth Alliance and also president of the U of T Mississauga Pre-Medical Club. She volunteers at the emergency fracture clinic at Trillium Health Partners, and is now interning in the urology department at Credit Valley Hospital, where she is assisting with cancer research.

“My internship there is probably one of the best experiences of my undergraduate career,” says Rehman. “I love the patient interaction I get, and just the overall feeling of playing a role in improving patients’ health.”

Rehman plans to become a doctor, and divide her practice between Canada and developing nations. Recently, she took a seminar that kindled her interest in the Master of Biotechnology program, a professional master’s degree that links graduate management education with real-life



“I love the patient interaction I get, and just the overall feeling of playing a role in improving patients’ health.”

experience in the biotech, medical device and biopharmaceutical industries.

“Almost every experience I have had at U of T over the past four years — whether it was my research experience in historical studies, all the time I spent in labs, or all my extracurricular activities — would not have been possible without the facilities and resources that the university provides,” she says. “And undeniably, these facilities and resources are due in part to the monetary support of alumni.” 🐾

EXAM STUDY SCHEDULE

MEANT TO BE FOLLOWED!

Monday 5/12	Tuesday 6/12	Wednesday 7/12	Thursday 8/12	Friday 9/12
BIO 370 Lec 1-5	BIO 370 Lec 6-10 BIO 304 Lec 1-4 CHM 361 Chp. 2,3	BIO 370 Lec 11-15 BIO 304 Lec 5-8 BIO 314 Lec 1-4 Lab 1-4	BIO 370 Lec 16-20 BIO 304 Lec 11-14 CHM 361 Chp. 4,5	BIO 370 Lec 21-25 BIO 304 Lec 15-18 BIO 314 Lec 6-8 Lab 5-8
Monday 10/12	Tuesday 11/12	Wednesday 12/12	Thursday 13/12	Friday 14/12
BIO 370 - referents + review! CHM 361 Chp 6, 31.	BIO 370 EXAM 1 5-7 PM 1B120 BIO 304 Lec 21-25 BIO 314 Lec 10-12 Lab 9-10.	BIO 304 - referents + review! CHM 361 Chp. 7	BIO 304 EXAM 1 1-4 pm RA...	
Saturday 15/12	Sunday			
BIO EXAM 1				

Photos courtesy Noor Rehman

BULLETIN BOARD

JOURNAL HONOURS PALEONTOLOGY PROFESSOR

Students and colleagues, past and present, have paid tribute to the ongoing work of U of T Mississauga professor **Robert Reisz** in a special edition of paleontology journal *Comptes Rendus Palevol*. The academic tribute, known as a festschrift, features an editorial chronicling Reisz's contribution to the field of paleontology as well as 11 research papers written by former students.



WALLET-SIZED ART

Celia Godkin, a former instructor in the Master of Science in Biomedical Communications program, continues to design coins for the Royal Canadian Mint. Her newest creations are part of the Wild Flower, Butterflies of Canada and Dragonflies series.



CLASS NOTES...

1990 TO 1999

Sven Spengemann (BSc, 1990) has announced his candidacy for the federal Liberal nomination in Mississauga South.

Rahnuma Panthaky (Honours BA, 1996) is currently shooting guest star spots in two television series: Syfy Channel's hit show "Being Human", shooting in Montreal and Showcase's new series, "King". Panthaky also appeared in the Tony Award-winning play "War Horse" mounted in 2012 at Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre.

2000 TO PRESENT

Mohammed Ashour (BSc, 2009) led a team of students from McGill University that won the

\$1 million Hult Prize Competition, for their plan to transform insects into a viable food source. The award, presented by former U.S. president Bill Clinton, is meant to support efforts for social change on issues such as energy, education, housing and water.



Elena Grouios (BSc 2009 Victoria, MMI 2010) may have the best job ever: chocolate scientist. She works as a product development scientist for Mondelez International, a food company that manages Cadbury brands.

Share your news with fellow alumni
—pass on your notes to:
news.utm@utoronto.ca



BLAST FROM THE PAST

View more archival photos at:
www.heritage.utoronto.ca



VISIT UTM
ON FLICKR



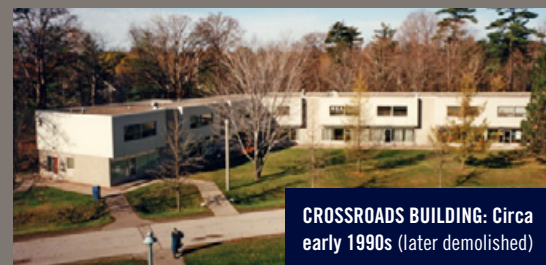
CONVOCATION & HIPPIE

Professor E.A. Robinson, Erindale graduate, and Principal J. Tuzo Wilson at an Erindale Convocation Ceremony



ARCHER: 1970-1

Archer among the trees in front of North Building



CROSSROADS BUILDING: Circa early 1990s (later demolished)



BARN: Circa 1960s

Old farm building that existed on the campus grounds



TREE TRUNK BENCH: 1980s "The tree is my seat that once lent me a shade. – W. Cowper" with representations of five trees carved into the trunk

THE MEETING PLACE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

U OF T MISSISSAUGA GOLF CLASSIC

MAY 8

Join alumni, faculty and friends at the golf classic with proceeds to the U of T Mississauga Alumni Association Scholarship. 1:15 p.m. shotgun start. \$185 (\$145 young alumni). Lionhead Golf and Country Club, 8525 Mississauga Rd.

U OF T MISSISSAUGA GRADUATION RECEPTION

MAY 27

Celebrate with our Class of 2014. 7–9 p.m. Instructional Centre Atrium, 3359 Mississauga Rd.

U OF T MISSISSAUGA ALUMNI AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

MAY 29

U of T Mississauga and the Alumni Association recognize service, creativity, success and entrepreneurial spirit among our 44,000 distinguished alumni. 6:30 p.m. at Lislehurst.

SPRING REUNION FLICKS ON THE FIELD

MAY 30

Bring your lawn chair and blankets and join us for an outdoor, family friendly movie! At dusk, front lawn of the William Davis Building, 3359 Mississauga Rd.

SPRING REUNION CLASSES WITHOUT QUIZZES

MAY 31

Be intrigued by the wonder of languages, killing cancer cells and forensic digs – guided tours and stress-free lectures. Free. 1:30–4 p.m. 3359 Mississauga Rd.

SPRING REUNION GRILLIN' FOR GRADS

MAY 31

Mingle with friends and enjoy a delicious BBQ compliments of the Alumni Association. 12:30 p.m. 3359 Mississauga Rd.

SPRING REUNION FESTIVAL ITALIANO

MAY 31

Listen as live performers take you on a tour of Italian musical history. 5–7 p.m. Room 1080, CCT Building, 3359 Mississauga Rd.

Visit the new online events calendar at:
www.utm.utoronto.ca/events

April 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

CONNECT TO UTM:



RSVP online at:

utm.utoronto.ca/alumni

**University of Toronto
Mississauga
SPRING REUNION
MAY 29-31, 2014**

Alumni Awards of Distinction
Thursday, May 29

Flicks on the Field
Friday, May 30

Classes Without Quizzes
Saturday, May 31

Grillin' for Grads BBQ
Saturday, May 31

Festival Italiano
Saturday, May 31

**A weekend of lectures
and lunches, tours and
talks, awards and
family fun.**

