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MAY 13, 2008 61st year, number 18

# the Bulletin

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### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION Festival of the Arts Steering Group

ArtsZone is seeking  
members of a steering  
group for U of T's  
Festival of the Arts.  
Group members will be  
invited to discuss and  
advise on three main  
festival elements:  
planning, programming  
and communications.  
The steering group will  
convene regularly  
throughout June, July  
and August. Nominations  
are due by May 16. For  
more information, visit  
[www.arts.utoronto.ca/  
callboard.htm#fa09](http://www.arts.utoronto.ca/callboard.htm#fa09).

WWW.NEWS.UTORONTO.CA/  
BULLETIN.HTML

## Seven named to Top 40 Under 40

BY JENNY LASS

**Seven U of T** faculty, staff and alumni make an appearance on Canada's Top 40 Under 40 2007 list of high achievers. Founded and managed by the Caldwell Partners, the Top 40 Under 40 distinction is awarded annually to 40 people under 40 years old who are leaders in their fields.

This year's U of T-affiliated winners represent a diverse range of careers, including an economist and an engineer who makes movie special effects possible. The 2007 U of T honourees are alumnus **Brendan Caldwell**; staff member **James Fraser** from the Centre for International Health; alumnus **Atul Humar**; Professor **Mihnea Moldoveanu**, director of the Desautels Centre for Integrative Thinking at the Rotman School of Management; **Paul Salvini**, an adjunct professor in civil engineering; adjunct economics professor **Reza Satchu**; and Professor **Peter Zandstra** of the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering.

"This is just fantastic news," said Paul Young, vice-president (research). "The diversity of backgrounds among the award winners speaks to U of T's incredible breadth and depth in so many areas that are of vital concern to society. Congratulations to this very impressive group of leaders."

Fraser is an alumnus and an associate researcher at U of T's Centre for International Health who co-founded and directs Dignitas International, an agency devoted to HIV/AIDS education, treatment and prevention in Malawi, Africa. He said his hope is to "translate this honour into more support for Africa."

Moldoveanu is being acknowledged for his role as the founder and chief technical officer of technology company Redline Communications, a leading supplier of the world's most advanced wireless access and backhaul solutions. "I try to cause productive change in the world," he said.

Salvini has received this honour for his work as chief technology officer and vice-president of Canadian operations at Side Effects Software Inc. Salvini manages the evolution and promotion of Houdini, a 3D animation tool that has been used to create special effects in the Harry Potter movies and *The Golden Compass*. He

• • • SEVEN ON PAGE 4

## U OF T 'BOWLING TEAM'



Guarav Bhattacharya (left) takes his turn bowling to Bharat Srinivasa. Both students are members of the 65 Cricket Club, dedicated to promoting the game at U of T.

JAMIE BRAND

## Dalla Lana School of Public Health established

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

**U of T is set** to become a national leader in helping to create the largest network of public health researchers and educators dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion. Thanks to a 20-million dollar donation for a new school of public health, 155 College St. will become the site for cutting-edge research and education.

Named after its benefactors **Paul and Alessandra Dalla Lana**, the school will focus on some of the biggest challenges facing the Canadian healthcare system including emerging diseases like SARS and avian flu, fighting the rise of obesity and measuring the performance of Canada's healthcare system.

At its helm will be an internationally renowned epidemiologist, **Dr. Jack Mandel**, who will serve as the founding director of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, named in recognition of the largest gift to public health in Canadian history.

"I believe the new school will make an immediate and far-reaching impact.

It will have its impact through the education of current and future leaders. It will lead in research. It will foster innovation and promote quality and integration and effectiveness," said President **David Naylor**. "One of the lessons of SARS was that we can no longer separate the spheres of health protection and health promotion from the clinical care system."

"I BELIEVE THE NEW  
SCHOOL WILL MAKE AN  
IMMEDIATE AND FAR-  
REACHING IMPACT ..."

PRESIDENT DAVID NAYLOR

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health will integrate the current assets in the Department of Public Health Sciences, home to the largest network of public health researchers in Canada, to create a new system, including dentistry and nursing, Professor **Cathy Whiteside**, dean of the

• • • DALLA LANA ON PAGE 4

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# It's awards season ...

and U of T faculty members are well-represented among the winners of the major research awards such as the Killam Prize (see page 3), the nominees to august research organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences (see page 3) and the winners of notable leadership awards such as the Top 40 Under 40 (see page 1). It's welcome recognition that yes, we're good at what we do at U of T and it's no fluke that we are considered one of North America's top teaching and research institutions. Kudos to all of you whose hard work makes this a reality.

Speaking of awards, spring may be the season when they come as thick and fast as salmon swimming to their spawning grounds but they're actually a presence on campus — and in these pages — year round. The Awards & Honours section of *the Bulletin*, one of our most widely read features, comes to you courtesy of Ailsa Ferguson, our associate editor, for whom this feature is a labour of love — and I do mean labour. When we receive notification of an award from any faculty or staff member, we channel them to Ailsa. She not only files them according to when they will actually be awarded and writes the blurbs you read but she researches the awards themselves. She realizes our readers will want to know the meaning of the awards, not simply their names and the dates they'll be handed out.

Ailsa is one of the behind-the-scenes presences who brings *the Bulletin* to life and enforces a standard of quality of which we're proud. For 21 years, she has worked to ensure consistency in style and accuracy in content. We call her our grammar guru but that term only covers a fraction of her contribution. She is our best copy editor, a de facto combination of fact checker and style maven. Did Professor Christos Hatzis win his last Juno award in 2008 or 2007? Is it adviser with an e or an o? Shouldn't the font size for the headline on page 5 be larger? Ailsa can answer all these questions and more and her eagle eye spots typographical errors and incorrect word breaks like a true Daniel Webster. And when called upon, she also produces quality copy.

So next time you pick up a *Bulletin* and find it stylistically consistent and grammatically correct, remember, it doesn't happen by magic. We have an award-winning-calibre associate editor working hard to make it possible, and we're eternally grateful.

Cheers,



**Elaine Smith**

Editor  
elaine.smith@utoronto.ca



### FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

**Larry Avramidis** of physics, **Elizabeth Leesti** of the faculty registrar's office, **Tamar Mamourian** of cell and systems biology and **Anna Sousa** of Near and Middle Eastern civilizations are this year's recipients of the Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Staff Awards. Avramidis won the award for technical service, Leesti received the award for distinguished service, Mamourian garnered the award for administrative service and Sousa took home the award for student life. Winners received their awards, recognizing and celebrating outstanding performance by administrative staff in support of the faculty's mission of teaching and research excellence, at the annual ceremony May 7.

**Don Boyes**, a senior lecturer in geography, Professor **Peter King** of philosophy, **Karen Reid**, a lecturer in computer science and Professor **David Welch** of political science are this year's winners of the Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Awards. Created in 1993, the Outstanding Teaching Awards highlight the great value the faculty places on excellence in teaching. The awards are made on the basis of excellence in teaching and contributions to undergraduate education

## AWARDS & HONOURS

during the academic year. The awards were presented at the annual ceremony May 7.

### ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

**Professor Gary Latham**, Secretary of State Professor of Organizational Effectiveness, was named president of the Society for Industrial and Organization Psychology at the group's annual meeting April 10 to 12 in San Francisco; he is the first Canadian to be elected president and will serve a one-year term. The society is a division within the American Psychology Association and its mission is to enhance human well-being and performance in organizational and work settings by promoting the science, practice and teaching of industrial-organizational psychology.

### FACULTY OF MEDICINE

**Professor John Dick** of molecular genetics is the winner of the American Association for Cancer Research's G.H.A. Clowes Memorial Award, given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to cancer research. Dick was recognized for his work on leukemia pathogenesis and anti-neoplastic therapies, which have provided a better understanding of the biological origins and development of human leukemia. Dick received the award April 15 during the annual meeting of the association in San Diego.

COMPILED BY AILSA FERGUSON

## Two elected to American academy

BY AILSA FERGUSON

**Two of U of T's** prominent faculty members have been elected honorary foreign members of the American Academy of Arts and Science, one of the oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and independent policy research centres in the United States.

The election of Professor Emeritus **John Dirks** of medicine and University Professor **Ernest Weinrib** of law was announced April 28. They join 20 other foreign honorary members and 190 new fellows who hail from 20 states and 15 countries and range in age from 37 to 86. Members of the academy are often asked to examine the pressing issues of the day and help provide solutions.

"The academy honours excellence by electing to membership remarkable men and women who have made pre-eminent contributions to their fields and to the world," said Emilio Bizzie, president of the academy. "We are pleased to welcome into the academy these new members to help advance our founders' goal of 'cherishing knowledge and shaping the future.'"

Dirks, an internationally known nephrologist, has enhanced medical education and health care as well as

promoted Canada's commitment to scientific research. As a nephrologist he has been deeply committed to improving renal care and treatment for patients throughout the world. To this end he has worked with the International Society of Nephrology to set up outreach education programs. From 1994 to 2005, he chaired the society's commission for the global advancement of nephrology, a major educational-clinical outreach program in more than 120 countries that sponsors 50 to 55 post-graduate programs each year, attended by 15,000 physicians worldwide.

A former dean of the faculty of medicine, Dirks has held senior positions at McGill University, the University of British Columbia and the Aga Khan University in Pakistan. President and scientific director of the Gairdner Foundation since 1993, Dirks has worked diligently to recognize innovation and excellence in biomedical research.

Weinrib, an outstanding scholar and the Cecil A. Wright Professor of Law, is considered among the very best legal theorists in North American and one of the few recognizable leaders

worldwide. His scholarship and teaching have concentrated in the area of legal philosophy in general and tort law in particular. For more than three decades, tort theory has been a fiercely contested field of legal scholarship. As a tort theorist, Weinrib is recognized as a central and at times controversial figure in these debates.

His research over the years culminated in broader, general expositions of private law. In 1995 his major work, *The Idea of Private Law*, published by Harvard University Press, was heralded by one reviewer as "the single most important work on the nature and basis of private law published in the last 50 years."

### CLARIFICATION

**In the story** New name, new curriculum for U of T commerce program (April 29), the author refers to "the renowned undergraduate commerce program at the University of Toronto." Rotman Commerce is only one of three commerce programs at the University of Toronto. U of T Mississauga and U of T Scarborough also offer excellent undergraduate commerce programs.

## the Bulletin

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**The top and sidebar art on the front page are composed of elements photographed in Professor Jack Greenblatt's laboratory. See the story on page 3.**

## Sefton, St George-Hyslop honoured with Killam Prizes

BY JENNY HALL

Two of U of T's most respected research innovators — University Professors **Peter St George-Hyslop** of medicine and **Michael Sefton** of chemical engineering — have won Killam Prizes. The \$100,000 prizes, administered by the Canada Council for the Arts, are Canada's highest recognition for outstanding career achievement in engineering, natural sciences, health sciences, social sciences and the humanities.

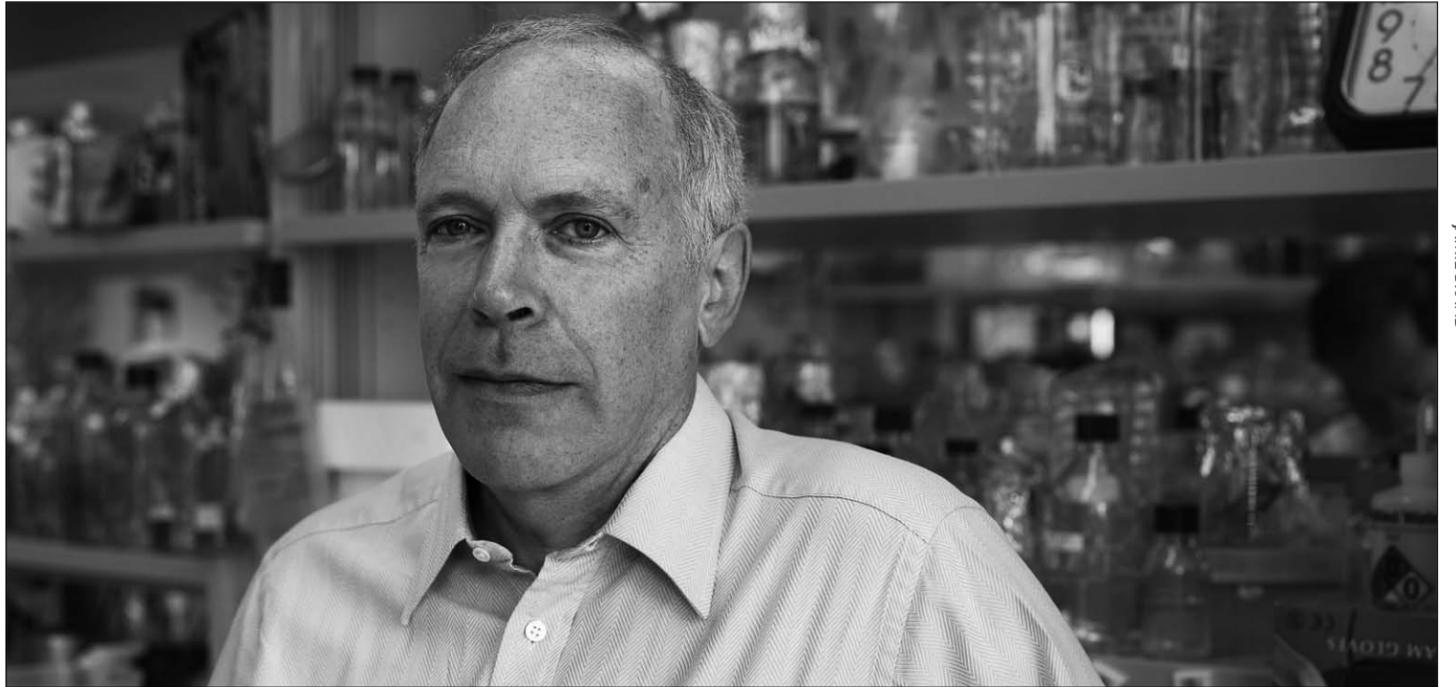
St George-Hyslop, director of the Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases, was cited for his transformative research into the causes and mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases. His work has dramatically increased our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying Alzheimer's disease.

Sefton, former director of the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, is a pioneer in the field of tissue engineering — the practice of combining living cells with synthetic substances to create artificial organs and tissues. His work today focuses on the creation of cardiac muscle to treat heart failure and pancreatic tissue to treat diabetes.

"The Killam Prize is one of the highest honours a researcher can receive because it recognizes a lifetime of work, not just a single discovery," said Professor Paul Young, vice-president (research). "Professors Sefton and St George-Hyslop embody the best that academic research can be — their sustained and creative efforts have yielded a greater understanding of science and real improvements in the lives of people all over the world. We are enormously proud of them."

Both researchers were also recognized for their work outside the lab. Sefton has commercialized applications of his research and created partnerships with industry. St George-Hyslop founded two successful biotechnology companies and frequently speaks about Alzheimer's disease to lay audiences.

The Killam Prizes honour Canadian researchers from universities, government or industry.



JAMIE BRAND

**Professor Jack Greenblatt of the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research has published a number of recent high-impact genomics papers.**

## U of T molecular biology professor named one of biology's hottest researchers

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

One of U of T's brightest minds in molecular biology, internationally recognized biochemist **Jack Greenblatt** of the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research, is being hailed as one of the hottest research all-stars by **Sciencewatch.com**. Its recent list of authors of high-impact papers in molecular biology and genetics makes Greenblatt the only Canadian among the top 25 individual researchers who are ranked by number of high-impact papers, with the subsequent order determined by total citations. Each contributed to at least eight high-impact reports.

Greenblatt had eight high-impact papers, with over 1,200 citations from 2002 to 2006. His groundbreaking research has previously included work in transcription, protein-protein interactions and gene expression in bacteria, viruses, yeast and human cells.

"Greenblatt had a string of five years of very important, highly cited papers that were

extremely original in terms of the technologies that were being used and applied to a very hot topical area of molecular biology research," said Professor **Jim Ingles**, a colleague of Greenblatt's.

"Jack Greenblatt, in my opinion, is one of the best biological scientists in Canada," said Professor **James Friesen**, also of Banting and Best Department of Medical Research. "The kind of research that Jack does is of huge importance in terms of understanding disease."

The ranking was done to assess high-impact research in molecular biology and genetics over the last five years. **Sciencewatch.com** turned to a selection of the top one per cent of highly cited papers published between 2002 and 2006, then ranked researchers according to the number of papers they authored in that period.

In the assessment, Greenblatt and a former U of T PhD student, **Nevan Krogan**, now an assistant professor in California, collaborated on papers that were highly cited

in the Thomson Scientific Essential Science Indicators SM database. The Essential Science Indicators is a resource that enables researchers to conduct ongoing, quantitative analyses of research performance and track trends in science. Covering a multidisciplinary selection of 11,000-plus Thomson Scientific-indexed journals from around the world, this in-depth analytical tool offers data for ranking scientists, institutions, countries and journals.

"The index is important in the sense of telling the world who actually out there is doing the science that other scientists think is important. So it's an objective way of ranking scientists in the world," Friesen said.

"It was an incredibly great run of success that they had and that's how Professor Greenblatt and his student, Nevan Krogan, became the only Canadians on that list."

Greenblatt said he's extremely humbled by the ranking.

"We began to do genomic research on protein

interactions about 10 years ago. I think if you look at the people on that list of top 25 you'll find that a significant number of people were people working in the genomics area and it's an indication of how important that field has become."

**"THE KIND OF RESEARCH THAT JACK DOES IS OF HUGE IMPORTANCE IN TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING DISEASE."**

PROFESSOR JAMES FRIESEN

Greenblatt is a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He has been a faculty member at U of T since 1977 and has a long record of achievement in molecular genetics. He was the first to purify a transcriptional anti-terminator protein. His experiments are among the earliest to show the regulatory importance of protein-protein interactions.

## Rossant elected to National Academy of Sciences

BY AILSA FERGUSON

**University Professor Janet Rossant** of molecular genetics in the Faculty of Medicine is among the 18 foreign associates who were elected to the National Academy of Sciences April 29 in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievement in original research. Election to the academy is considered one of the highest honours accorded to a U.S. scientist or engineer.

A recognized world leader in mammalian developmental

biology and genetics, Rossant is one of U of T's most cited researchers. She is widely known for her work on the genes that control embryonic development in mice and has pioneered techniques for following cell fate and altering genes in embryos, work that continues to resonate in medical genetic research. Rossant's current research focuses on stem cell development and cell differentiation in the developing embryo, important areas for the study of birth defects and

regenerative medicine. As well, Rossant is chief of research at the Hospital for Sick Children and director of the Centre for Modelling Human Disease at Mount Sinai Hospital.

In addition to her many accomplishments, Rossant is a respected voice in the stem cell debate and has established U of T and its affiliated hospitals as frontrunners in genetic research.

Rossant's pioneering efforts have been repeatedly recognized by her peers: she is the recipient of the Royal Society of Canada McLaughlin

Medal, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Michael Smith Prize, the Killam Prize for outstanding career achievement in health sciences and the Robert L. Noble Prize from the National Cancer Institute of Canada. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of London and the Royal Society of Canada.

Founded in 1863, the National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to furthering science and its use for the general welfare.



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##### Dr. Frances A. Shepherd

Medical Oncologist  
Princess Margaret Hospital  
University Health Network  
(2008 award winner)

##### Dr. Tak Mak

Senior Scientist  
Princess Margaret Hospital  
University Health Network  
(2007 award winner)

#### Moderator:

Dr. David Naylor, President, University of Toronto

#### Date:

Tuesday May 27, 2008  
Noon-2PM

#### Location:

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Faculty of Medicine, told the crowd at the event marking the school's beginnings. It will benefit from the faculty's affiliated hospitals, local, provincial and federal public health units and agencies.

Donor Paul Dalla Lana, president and founder of NorthWest Value Partners Inc. and chair and founder of NorthWest HealthCare Properties REIT, is familiar with the public health landscape of the country as head of Canada's largest private owner and manager of medical office buildings and healthcare facilities.

"I was certainly very compelled by the depth and

energy behind the formation of the school and the resources and commitment from the University of Toronto and partners to making it a success," Dalla Lana said.

Mandel returns to his native Canada after a distinguished career in the U.S., most recently as chair and Rollins Professor of the Department of Epidemiology at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, close by the renowned Centres for Disease Control. There, he presided over a growing department and increased research capacity in a number of areas including cancer epidemiology.

"How well we respond to the issues of today will influence how healthy the population will be tomorrow," said Mandel. "I hope to work with faculty students and community to ensure that our school is positioned to address important public health issues and to develop future public health leaders."

The graduate Dalla Lana School will offer programs in biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental and occupational health sciences, social and behavioural health sciences, public health administration and global health. It will welcome its first students this September.

## Seven named to Top 40 Under 40

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

explained that his secret to success is "staying curious, working hard and never giving up."

Satchu co-founded and runs New York-based capital management company Stellation Asset Management and passes his unique brand of business sense on to the next generation through his wildly popular entrepreneurial course in U of T's economics

department.

Zandstra is being recognized by Top 40 for his work as a Canada Research Chair in stem cell bioengineering, which has led to advances in tissue and cellular engineering, gene therapy and organ trans-plantation. Zandstra said he is "honoured and inspired" to be included among Top 40's past and current winners and adds that he is thankful for the help of

his hard-working, "bright and energetic students."

Alumnus and honouree Caldwell is president, CEO and portfolio manager of Caldwell Securities; and fellow alumnus Atul Humar is director of transplant infectious diseases and professor of medicine at the University of Alberta.

For additional information about the Top 40 program, visit <http://www.top40award-canada.org>.

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# Doors Open features sacred spaces

BY CATHERINE NGAI

Anyone who has walked through the quiet corridors of Hart House or ventured into the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library will agree that they are architectural and historical marvels that are often overlooked. During the 10th annual Doors Open Toronto, a citywide architectural open house, U of T will reveal these hidden gems by giving the public free access May 24 and 25.

This year's Doors Open theme, Sacred Spaces and Sacred Circles, aims to capture all forms of sacredness — whether traditional, ritual, academic or spiritual. At U of T, four religious studies students have taken a lead role in organizing the St. George campus's contributions to Doors Open as part of the Religion in the Public Sphere initiative, a program spear-headed by the Centre for the Study of Religion.

This initiative is designed to explore the role of religion in public life and examine how religious identity is entrenched within social, moral, political, ethical and world views.

"The theme was very important because it spoke to what sacred is. It forced me to define what sacred is — it wasn't just religion or a spiritual sense. I think as a student it also begged me to think about what sacred is to

students," said religious studies senior student **Roselle Gonsalves**. "Through this initiative, the students have aimed to capture the living memory of each building."

Gonsalves, along with **Jennifer Lockie**, **Elizabeth Syrotiuk** and **Jasmine Baetz**, chose 12 unique buildings to develop a narrative that shows what sacred is on campus. These buildings have spiritual and historical value to the university and will be opened to all.

One popular site open to the public is the Soldiers' Tower, located at the west end of Hart House. Inside the Memorial Room is an intricate and beautiful stained glass window that commemorates the men and women of the university who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars.

The Newman Centre



The North Borden Building, once the site of a dairy.

on St. George Street boasts Romanesque Revival architecture and a beautiful wooden interior. The centre was constructed in 1890 and has been granted heritage status by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Other sites available for viewing are Annesley Hall, North Borden Building, the Chapel of St. Catherine at Massey College, Christie House and Fontbonne Hall, Emmanuel College, Hart House, the Multifaith Centre for Spiritual Study and Practice, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, Trinity College and Wycliffe College.

"Doors Open Toronto provides an opportunity for the university community to see the heritage buildings and recent significant buildings that are here on campus. Since it occurs on the weekend, there will be ample time to spend looking at and hearing about the history of the buildings," said

**Elizabeth Sisam**, assistant vice-president (campus and facilities planning).

"They say that sacred spaces can enlighten the mind and awaken the soul. I would like to think that the campus — its architecture and spaces — is able to provide this type of environment."

For a schedule of campus building openings, visit [www.arts.utoronto.ca/press/070508space.htm](http://www.arts.utoronto.ca/press/070508space.htm).



JAMIE BRAND

Gordon Belray, a U of T information architect, developed a tool that makes using visual aids easier.

## U of T develops image-based teaching tool

BY JENNY LASS

An image management tool developed by the University of Toronto streamlines teaching and learning for instructors and students who regularly use visual aids.

At a basic level, the tool is a sophisticated replacement for the slide projector but it offers much more than just a set of organized images. It allows instructors to archive entire lectures, post announcements and quizzes for students and create lectures by drawing on a vast repository of over 55,000 images contributed by librarians and other professors. Lecture carousels can then be exported into PowerPoint or PDF files and pictures can be displayed in class using single or multiple image projection.

This technology also makes studying easier for students

because they can access past lectures and review key images from the comfort of their own computer screens.

"Previously, [students] had to rely on quick sketches and notes taken in class or sharing of the odd study slide carousel at the library," explained **Gordon Belray**, the system's creator and a U of T information architect.

It was eight years ago that faculty members in the Department of Art on the St. George campus came up with the idea for this tool, which was eventually named Fine Art Digital Imaging System (FADIS). Its first version was

released in the fall of 2001 and by 2002 FADIS had become a centralized resource at information technology services of the University of Toronto Libraries.

However, FADIS has since branched out to reach beyond visual arts into disciplines such as classics and history. Planning is underway to modify FADIS' cataloguing structure to serve science instructors and students who are keen to take advantage of the system's many benefits, such as its ability to upload large flash files, a task that's not possible with Blackboard.

"We share it, we don't want to replicate work," said UTM resource librarian **Harriet Sonne de Torrens**.

"As soon as faculty try it, they want to use it because it works."

U of T was one of the first institutions to develop this type of pedagogical tool. The advantages

of FADIS over other systems such as Luna Imaging and ARTstor are that it is less expensive and can be customized to meet the needs of instructors who are free to request specific images. Sonne de Torrens said FADIS is unique because "it is faculty oriented and faculty driven."

Eleven other institutions across North America, are also using FADIS.

Anyone with a UTORID can access the system. To find out more, visit <http://fadis.library.utoronto.ca>.

— With files from Harriet Sonne de Torrens and Gordon Belray

TEACHING  
CONTINUED:  
OPENCOURSEWARE  
FEATURED ON P.12

## TechKnowFile geared to all users

BY JENNY LASS

Ever wanted a place to air your frustrations about computers or learn more about technology in the workplace? On May 22 you'll have your chance at the sixth annual TechKnowFile conference, which brings together U of T's IT and non-information technology faculty and staff to share their technological woes and find out how to make computing more effective and efficient.

This year's conference is centred on five themes: social networking and collaboration, green computing, identity management and security, virtualization (placing multiple systems on one machine) and cyber-infrastructure (grids for high-performance computing and storage). TechKnowFile steering committee chair **Marden Paul**, director of strategic computing in the office of the vice-president and provost, said these themes were chosen because

of their relevance to prominent global issues, such as the environment and the economy.

There will be 22 speakers offering more than 20 sessions, almost half of which are rated low on the "geek-ometer," a new scale that allows participants to easily identify the level of technical expertise each talk requires them to have. For example, **Terry Jones**, an IT analyst with computing and networking services, will give participants with more limited technical backgrounds tips on how to prevent computer security breaches. IT and communications projects co-ordinator **Cheryl Ziegler** and sexual harassment officer **Paddy Stamp** will discuss privacy protection in another presentation aimed at "non-geeks."

The conference will also introduce the green computing challenge, led by **Elah Feder** and **Vig Krishnamurthy** of the sustainability office. They will ask TechKnowFile attendees to find ways to

reduce U of T's computing energy consumption by 50 per cent within the next two years. In addition, TechKnowFile has added the birds-of-a-feather networking event to its agenda, matching participants with similar interests so they can engage in informal lunchtime discussions.

The conference will be capped off with Schmoozefest, an informal dinner for participants who want to continue networking.

According to Paul, the conference connects faculty and staff who would otherwise never meet and lets IT specialists see that their hard work is "actually contributing to the lives of people at the university." Jones said TechKnowFile also helps to "avoid the duplication of effort" that can occur across U of T's three campuses.

TechKnowFile is one of the university's largest annual conferences and is free of charge. Visit [www.techknowfile.utoronto.ca](http://www.techknowfile.utoronto.ca) to find out more or register.

## Top 5 ways to stay fit and kick off spring on campus

1. Take a quick jog around King's College Circle.
2. Play a round of pickup soccer on back campus at St. George.
3. Take up a power yoga class at UTM's Recreation and Wellness Centre.

[www1.erin.utoronto.ca/~w3physed/](http://www1.erin.utoronto.ca/~w3physed/)

4. Take a few swings at UTSC's golf cage

[www.utsc.utoronto.ca/%7Ephys-ed/golfcage.html](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/%7Ephys-ed/golfcage.html)

5. Tight on time? Take advantage of UTSC's physical education and athletics department's new and invigorating free Walkfit program every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. through Aug. 20.

[webapps.utsc.utoronto.ca/ose/story.php?id=1113](http://webapps.utsc.utoronto.ca/ose/story.php?id=1113)

COMPILED BY ANJUM NAYAR

## WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

That's why the back page of *The Bulletin* is devoted to Forum, a place where thoughts, concerns and opinions of interest to colleagues across the university find expression. Original essays by members of the community are both welcomed and encouraged. Faculty, staff and students are invited to submit or discuss ideas with:

**ELAINE SMITH, EDITOR**

*The Bulletin*  
416-978-7016  
elaine.smith@utoronto.ca

**Look forward to hearing from you!**

## He Said She Said

### When progress is invasive BY CAZ ZYVATKAUSKAS

**The same public concern** shown over invasive species in the natural world should be applied to our campuses. While no one will argue the damages being done to our pine trees by the dreaded Asian longhorned beetle, there are urban blights that deserve similar attention and outrage.

Certainly progress brings to our campus environment buildings and fixtures that cause indignation one day and nostalgia the next. I may be wrong about the Grad House but it was one of those structures that I originally loathed but now associate with a type of pride in community that is connected with having the audacity to erect something so "auteur."

However, there are a number of ubiquitous structures on this campus that cannot claim any merit as architectural eccentricities or beacons of progress. These fall into the category of invasive species. They do not add to the beauty of our environment — in fact they displace what was once there before. Where previously we had a relatively unobstructed view of some exemplary neo-Gothic buildings we now have a growing populace of Pay Here for Parking signs.

I spend a reasonable portion of my time trying to capture the quintessential university campus in pictures to promote the visual appeal of our school. Otherwise I might not have cared quite so much about these blights on what should be a sylvan cloister. These invaders were imported into the King's College Circle to perform a job. Much like those nasty cane toads that were imported into Australia to rid the land of the dreaded cane beetle, so it appears these hulking parking signs were imported to curtail the non-payment of parking fees by making it impossible for drivers to miss the tempting automated snares.

I will not be the only one to have my shot of University College

ruined by a toad-like parking sign. Visitors streaming from buses and walking through on escorted tours must all now contend with the blighters and hordes of parents will soon be asking their graduating children to "move just a bit to the left." These people might not know that the signs are merely interlopers, not realizing that there was a time when all was natural and if not car-free, then at least car-sign free.

And back again to my own selfish desires — it was becoming difficult enough to get a shot of Convocation Hall without a circle of cars and delivery vehicles around it. Now there is no getting up early enough to beat the roadsters. The parking meters waiting for their arrival have already spoiled the perfect shot.

Will we ever be able to return to those halcyon pre-automobile days? I'm not so old that I remember when Taddle Creek gurgled through campus, but I do recall once upon a time seeing a proposal to remove the cars, and presumably their attendant signage, from the circle and replace them with cobblestones and more grass.

The other day some students were playing cricket in the quad at University College. The image harkened back to an old etching I saw in an edition of *Torontonensis* dated sometime before biplanes became extinct.

Perhaps the cricket players are just the beacon we need to shed light on this dark situation. By reimporting this once natural campus activity maybe we can restore some of that nostalgic Varsity feeling and beauty and set a tone that will encourage the disappearance of the offending parking signs. Maybe the planners who once thought to rid the circle of cars will be inspired.

*Caz Zyvatkas is a U of T history student who doubles as designer of the Bulletin. She shares this space with Paul Fraumeni.*



## Frosh Diary

### SWAN SONG BY BEA PALANCA

**Before I make any** exultant proclamations, let's go back to pre-exams ... Or maybe not! Because I'm done! I'm done, done, done, done, done!

How many times can I say it without its effect wearing off?

Ho finito. J'ai fini. I have finished my exams and my first year of university! I'm glad to be alive at the end of everything. It was a tough year to get through, as any transitional year would be. I didn't think that it would be as hard as it was — but I was wrong.

All my courses were interesting in their own way: Italian was a new language to learn, French is something that I will be continuing to improve on, geology felt important to know (as the Earth is fragile on its own without our hand in matters), French Culture and Asia opened up a whole new avenue for me to explore and read about, my anthropology seminar was a fair learning environment and my physics course, Patterns from Chaos, was definitely interesting!

It's already been a week since that last time sitting in an examination room. I've been de-stressing and slowly catching up with friends. Accumulating more hours at Starbucks is a priority, as I aim to save money for the next school year. Especially since I will be taking two courses in summer school: Linguistics 100 and



French: Comparative Stylistics.

It was time to apply for a program of study (POST), and I figured that, for the time being, I'd sign on for a program in French and linguistics. I know that this particular avenue can only lead to more open doors and bigger and better things for me.

I don't think anything can compare with this past year. I am quite pleased that I learned as much as I did. I wish that I could have been more on the ball with my school work and gotten ahead with readings but I will know for the years to

come. Well, since summer school starts on May 12, I will put the lesson learned into action very soon!

I sit here and excitement runs through me, as I think of what's next: the opportunity to do well in summer school, working to save some funds, assisting the Pulang Maleta Collective in their show *Baggage* for the Toronto Fringe Festival (aaaah!), birthdays (including mine) and summer festivities, among the lot!

Now that I am logging my last Frosh Diary (cue tears now), I am reminded how fortunate I have been to be able to voice this experience. Not only am I sharing it with my family and friends but I am able to do so with just about anybody! Whereas others may never get the chance to have this first-year experience, I get to experience it *and* write about it.

How truly good it feels and how positive things look at the end of this. I'm sure it will only get better.

Many, many, many thanks.

*Bea Palanca is a University College student who has generously shared her first-year experiences with the Bulletin honestly and openly. As she moves confidently into her second year at U of T, we know our readers will join the Bulletin team in wishing her every success.*

## U of T prepared for Ontario's new innovation agenda

BY JENNY LASS

The province's new innovation agenda, unveiled April 29 by John Wilkinson, Ontario's minister of research and innovation, calls for excellence in all areas of academia and the University of Toronto is poised to answer the call.

The agenda emphasizes investing in peer-reviewed research to create jobs, produce a cleaner environment and foster better health care. The province is focused on leveraging skills and knowledge in four specific global industries to achieve its goals: bio-economy and clean technologies, advanced health technologies, pharmaceutical research and manufacturing, and digital media and information and communications technologies. These areas were chosen because of their important role in improving quality of life and their strong presence in Ontario's current economy.

"U of T is ideally positioned

**"U OF T IS IDEALLY POSITIONED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALL THE PRIORITY AREAS IN THE ONTARIO INNOVATION AGENDA."**

**PROFESSOR PAUL YOUNG**

to contribute to all the priority areas in the Ontario innovation agenda as Canada's leading research intensive university," said Professor Paul Young, vice-

president (research).

He explained that "we have huge core strengths in these areas" and have already been forming multidisciplinary research groups across all three U of T campuses "to develop new strategies for discovery and innovation" in these fields. For example, Young said that over \$100 million in research is currently devoted to digital media.

U of T will not only contribute to Ontario's eight-year, approximately \$3-billion plan but also benefit from it, thanks to the many ways that the government will cultivate closer ties among universities, colleges and industry to maximize innovation efforts.

A key feature of this approach is a tax exemption that will encourage businesses to bring university- and college-based research to the marketplace, complementing the work of the Innovations Group. The \$1.15 billion Next Generation of Jobs Fund will help to create sustainable jobs for graduates, linking academia and industry.

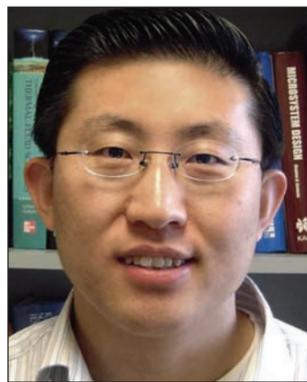
Although much of the strategy targets the science and technology sectors, it still acknowledges the crucial part that non-science-related disciplines will play in achieving Ontario's innovation objectives. The plan states that "the arts, humanities and social sciences are essential components of a creative, knowledge-based economy" and the vibrant culture that they help to create both drives the economy and attracts innovators from many different fields.

## Promoting nanomanufacturing

BY ANJUM NAYYAR

A U of T researcher has a strong grip on the future of nanomanufacturing, thanks partly to his development of microgrippers that may change the way scientists probe the properties of biomaterials or create microscale and nanoscale devices through nano assembly.

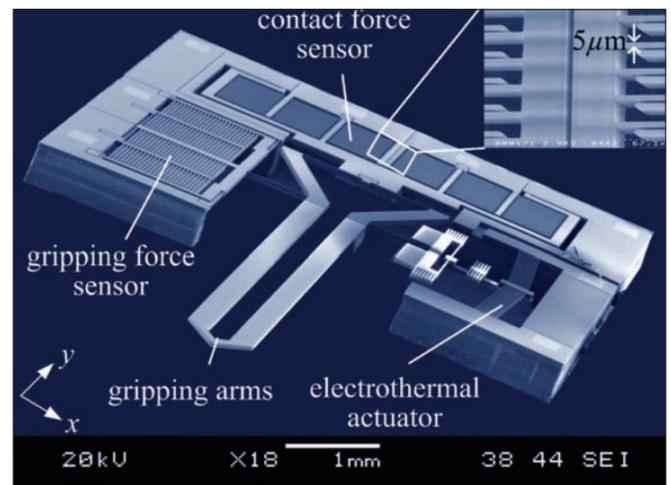
It has long been a dream for nanotechnologists to use robots in an assembly line type of process to manufacture nanodevices. Professor **Yu Sun** of the Advanced Micro and Nanosystems Laboratory in mechanical and industrial engineering believes that day might be closer than we think.



**Engineering professor Yu Sun**

Sun has focused on developing innovative micro and nano systems and devices to tackle fundamental and applied biological, biomedical and clinical problems as well as emerging engineering problems.

His team at U of T is also on the way to developing a nanofactory. As a first step, they have come up with the first closed-loop, force-controlled grasping system at the nanonewton level. The new microgrippers have the potential to revolutionize the assembly line process,



**The microgripper has the potential to revolutionize nanomanufacturing.**

allowing for the automated production of tiny devices.

"Inside a scanning electron microscope, nanorobotic manipulators operate the micro-nanogrippers to pick and transport a single nanomaterial and then place it on a micro device that will accurately quantify electrical and mechanical properties of the nanomaterial simultaneously," Sun said. "If the nanomaterial is what we desire, we can quickly assemble a device prototype. If not, guidelines are provided to material scientists for varying nanomaterial synthesis parameters until desired properties are attained."

The grippers can exert a force of 20 nanonewtons and can pick up cells as small as 10 micrometres across. Sun says control software is able to guide the grippers into the right position, allowing them to recognize cells in a matter of milliseconds. They can also be used to grip silicon parts or put things together, working a bit like a flexible hand.

Sun has also been working with Professor **Shirley Wu** of pharmacy to apply the force-feedback microgrippers to

determine whether individual hydrogel microparticles (~20 microns) that are used for drug delivery or cell encapsulation have the necessary elastic and viscoelastic properties.

"For example, they must be as deformable as red blood cells in order to deploy them into blood vessels. They must survive the stress in the needle tract during injection in the blood capillaries or in the applied tissues," Sun said. "Maintaining their integrity during processing and application is essential for preventing dose dumping, cell death and/or immunoresponse and for providing desirable release performance. Quantitative characterization of mechanical properties of microcapsules can help guide the rational design of this unique drug and cell delivery system."

Just last year, Sun filed a patent on the microgripper technology through the university's Toronto Innovations Group. He has received a grant from the Ontario Research and Commercialization Program to further develop this technology.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF YU SUN

## Four U of T researchers receive innovation awards

BY ANJALI BAICHWAL

University of Toronto researchers were in the spotlight as they took home four of the prestigious Premier's Innovation Awards April 29. The awards support and promote ideas and discoveries that build on Ontario's innovation strengths.

U of T researchers **Stephen Scherer** of molecular genetics and the Hospital for Sick Children and **Frances Shepherd** of medicine and University Health Network and Princess Margaret Hospital took home the two Summit Awards for Medical Research, which honour

internationally recognized leaders in medical research with \$5 million each over a five-year period. The Province of Ontario funds the awards with matching by the host institution.

Professors **Lewis Kay** of biochemistry and **Stuart Foster** of medical biophysics and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre won Premier's Discovery Awards in the life sciences and medicine and innovation leadership categories, respectively. Worth \$500,000, the Discovery Award celebrates Ontario's most accomplished researchers by highlighting the impact of their work and its contributions to Ontario's

economy and society, and the extent of their international recognition.

President **David Naylor** applauded the province's creation of the awards, saying, "Ontario's new suite of high-level awards has been invaluable in helping us recognize and retain our best and brightest and will also be a recruitment tool in the years to come. The award recipients are great examples of the extraordinary talent we are fortunate to have here in Toronto and in Ontario."

Scherer leads one of the world's busiest laboratories where his group has discovered numerous disease susceptibility genes and most

recently has defined genetic factors underlying autism spectrum disorder. He was part of a team that decoded human chromosome 7 and generated the first genome sequence of an individual.

Shepherd is known for her international leadership in the development of innovative therapies for lung cancer. She was part of a team credited with the first identification of gene clusters involved in lung cancer using microarray technology. She has also led a number of trials that have changed treatment for patients with lung cancer worldwide.

Kay is an internationally

renowned biochemist who has been instrumental in developing new three- and four-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) methods. Kay's work has revolutionized the field, making it possible for scientists to understand the components of individual molecules.

Foster focuses on the development of micro-imaging systems that allow scientists to study models for diseases such as glaucoma, cancer and cardiovascular disease. His work is fundamental in enhancing our understanding of developmental biology, speeding the development of new drugs and therapies.

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**• Shared •**

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**LECTURES**

**Designing Technology for a More Curious World.**  
**Tuesday, May 13**  
Prof. William Gaver, University of London, 1180 Bahen Centre for Information Technology. 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
*Knowledge Media Design Institute*

**Key Issues Facing Canadian Health Care.**  
**Thursday, May 15**  
Janet Davidson, Trillium Health Centre. Matthews Auditorium, Room 137, Kaneff Centre, U of T Mississauga. 10 a.m. Tickets \$10. *Associates of Erindale College*

**Design as a Discipline.**  
**Tuesday, May 20**  
Prof. Nigel Cross, Open University. 1220 Bahen Centre for Information Studies. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Knowledge Media Design Institute*

**The Future of Community Health Centres in Ontario.**  
**Wednesday, May 21**  
Adrianna Tetley, Association of Ontario Health Centres. 12-199 OISE/UT, 252 Bloor St. W. Noon to 1:30 p.m. *Social Economy Centre*

**Legacy of Indian Residential Schools.**  
**Thursday, May 22**  
Frank Iacobucci, a federal Indian residential schools negotiator. Matthews Auditorium, Room 137, Kaneff Centre, U of T Mississauga. 10 a.m. Tickets \$10. *Associates of Erindale College*

**SEMINARS**

**Can We Learn Anything About Autism by Studying Worms?**  
**Wednesday, May 14**  
Dr. Jim Rand, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. 968 Mt. Sinai

Hospital. Noon. *Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute*

**Acting on a Vision for Universal Child Care: Integrating Early Childhood and Support Services for Families.**  
**Wednesday, May 21**  
Panellists: Margaret Norrie McCain, former lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick; Carl Carter, Atkinson Charitable Foundation; Janet Davis, councillor; Ken Dryden, MP, York Central; Frances Lankin, United Way Toronto; Paul Tough, *New York Times Magazine*; and Justin Trudeau, Liberal candidate, Papineau; Leighton G. McCarthy memorial panel discussion. Auditorium OISE/UT, 252 Bloor St. W. 7 p.m. *Institute of Child Studies*



**MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

**Memory, Social Networks and Language: Probing the Meme Hypothesis II.**  
**Thursday, May 15 to Saturday, May 17**  
All sessions in 205 Northrop Frye Hall, Victoria College, 73 Queen's Park Cres.

**Thursday, May 15**  
What is a Meme: A Functional Definition, Robert Finkstein, University of Maryland; The Cognitive Neuroscience of Memory and Its Relevance to Meme Research, Morris Moscovitch, psychology, U of T. 2 to 5 p.m.

**Friday, March 16**  
Is It Good to Share? The Parallel Between Information Transfer and Horizontal Gene Transfer, Paul Higgs, McMaster University; Social Networks Theory: Networked Lives and Meme Fields, Barry Wellman, sociology, U of T; The Social Structure of (Memic) Diffusion, Bernie Hogan, sociology, U of T. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Putting Memetic to the Test: The Case of Historical Trends in English Phonotactics, Nikolaus Ritt, University of Vienna; Languages as Organisms: Evolutionary Perspectives, Morten Christiansen, Cornell University; Irresistible Changes in Languages: Case Studies, Domenico Pietropaolo, Italian studies, U of T. 2 to 6 p.m.

**Saturday, May 17**  
Memetics: Issues, Agenda and Prospects, a roundtable discussion.

**The Material Culture, Language and Religion of Central and Inner Asia.**  
**Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17.**  
Some 25 speakers from Canada, the U.S., Europe and elsewhere will attend, including, Stephen Bahry, OISE/UT; Craig Benjamin, Grand Valley State University, U.S.A.; Stephanie Bunn, University of St. Andrew, Scotland; Aigerim Dyikanbaeva, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan; Ayxem Eli, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany; David Jongeward, U of T; Judith Kolbas, Macquarie University, Australia; Angela Norwood, York University; Alena Oberfazerová, Charles University, Czech Republic; Manu Sobti, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, U.S.A.; and George Zhao, U of T. All sessions in Croft Chapter House, University College. Further information and registration: [www.utoronto.ca/cias/conference.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/cias/conference.html)  
*Central and Inner Asia Studies*



**PLAYS & READINGS**

**U of T Bookstore Series.**  
**Thursday, May 15**  
Mel Hurtig discusses his new book *The Truth About Canada: Some important, some astonishing and some truly appalling things all Canadian should know about our country.* Library, Hart House. 7:30 p.m.

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**Look forward to hearing from you!**

**Friday, May 16**

Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart discuss and take questions regarding their new book *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*. Library, Hart House. 7:30 p.m.



**EXHIBITIONS**

**THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY**  
**Peter Paul Series of Contemporary English Canadian Poetry.**  
**To May 16**

An exhibition celebrating the 10th bilingual title (English and Italian) published by the Peter Paul series of contemporary English-Canadian poetry. Each volume features a Canadian poet and is accompanied by images created by an Italian artist as a visual interpretation of the poet's work. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**BLACKWOOD GALLERY**  
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**Triple Bill & Cineplastic Campus.**  
**To June 1**

Triple Bill by Isabelle Pauwels, video projection, and Cineplastic Campus by Stéphane Gilot (located in the eGallery, Communication, Culture & Technology Building). Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

**JOHN W. GRAHAM LIBRARY**  
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**The G8 and Canada: An Exhibition to Mark the 20th Anniversary of the Toronto Summit and the U of T G8 Research Group.**  
**To June 30**

This exhibition features examples of documentary milestones, pictorial records and unique mementoes from the 33 summits. Saunderson Rare Books Room. Hours: Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 11:45 p.m.

**ROBARTS LIBRARY**  
**Genji Monogatari Sennenki: Celebrating a Millennium of the Tale of Genji.**  
**To August 15**

A Japanese epic masterpiece, *The Genji Monogatari* gives a vivid description of courtly life in medieval Japan. The exhibition includes related resources available in the Robarts and East Asian libraries. Chen Yu Tung East

Asian Library, 8th floor. Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.

**DEADLINES**

Please note that information for the Events listing must be received at the Bulletin offices, 21 King's College Circle, by the following times:

Issue of May 27 for events taking place May 27 to June 10: Tuesday, May 13.

Issue of June 10 for events taking place June 10 to 27: Tuesday, May 27.

We also encourage you to post events on the events calendar website ([www.events.utoronto.ca](http://www.events.utoronto.ca)). For information regarding the Events section please contact Ailsa Ferguson at 416-978-6981; [ailsa.ferguson@utoronto.ca](mailto:ailsa.ferguson@utoronto.ca).



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# HOW CAN OPENCOURSEWARE IMPROVE TEACHING?

## Lessons learned from MIT

BY EVA AMSEN

As of late 2007, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) had made the content of more than 1,800 of its undergraduate and graduate courses freely available online on its OpenCourseWare website. Anyone with an Internet connection has access to lecture notes, assignments, exams — sometimes even videos of the lectures. What's more, anyone can reuse or remix the material for his or her own purposes. When MIT first proposed the program in 2000, it was still very unusual for academic institutions to openly share information online. This was a time before Open Access publications — whatever information was available was hard to find or hidden behind paid subscriptions.

Currently more than 100 higher education institutions worldwide participate in the OpenCourseWare consortium — with B.C.'s Capilano College being Canada's only representative — but MIT is still the front-runner: they have put more course materials online than any other university and because the program has been running for several years, we can look at some of the bottlenecks and achievements of MIT's OpenCourseWare to evaluate whether it's beneficial for U of T faculty to make their course materials available through such a program.

### Who has access to what information?

It's not unusual these days for a course co-ordinator to run a course website with the syllabus and assignments. They might even post class notes after the respective lectures. These websites are meant purely for students who are enrolled in the course and are sometimes only accessible to registered students. If the material is posted on a public website, anyone can find it and see what the course is about. But these random website visitors are not actively encouraged to look at the class material — they stumble on it by accident. And if they are lecturers themselves, they are certainly not allowed to just grab these syllabi and lecture notes from the web and use them in their own classes.

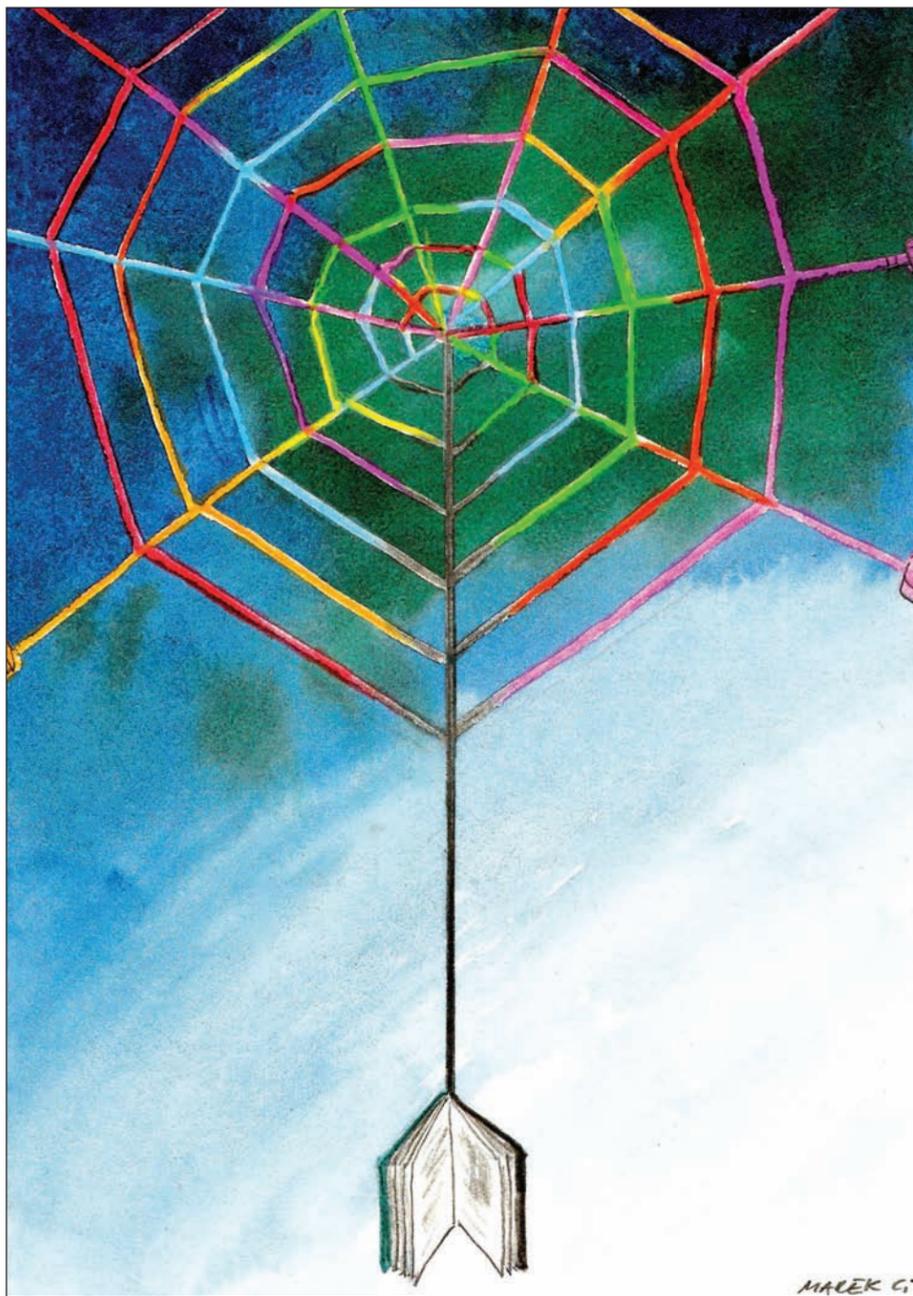
Now here is where OpenCourseWare is different: all course materials are posted on a centralized website, meant for anyone to find. But it goes further than that: all material is distributed under a Creative Commons licence, which allows other educators to take entire lectures or fragments of courses and use them in their own classes, as long as they properly credit the original creators and share their "remixed" materials under the same licence.

### Who owns the material?

Even though anyone is free to use the materials published on OpenCourseWare, the copyright is retained by the lecturer, MIT or contributing students (in the case of completed assignments).

Of course that means that the course documents can't contain otherwise copyrighted material. While it is often permitted (under the U.S. fair use policy) to use images from books or movies in a classroom setting, it is certainly not legally permissible to republish them online.

These copyright issues formed the main bottleneck that MIT encountered in running OpenCourseWare: permission from copyright owners had to be obtained



before anything could be put online and university lectures that used slides with images from a textbook, cartoon examples or fragments of movies had to be stripped of these copyright-infringing materials.

### Who uses OpenCourseWare?

Other than students enrolled in the courses at MIT, the OpenCourseWare lectures are accessed by self-learners (people who are curious about a topic or preparing to go back to school), by students who are taking similar courses at other institutions or by lecturers from other courses or other institutions. About half the educators who visit OpenCourseWare adapt the material for use in their own classrooms. This raises the question: why should lecturers bother to help their colleagues and teach students who are not even in their classes? What are the benefits for faculty in publishing their entire course content for the world to see?

### Does OpenCourseWare affect class attendance?

Before considering the benefits of putting course material online, let's rule out one obvious potential drawback. When MIT first announced their plans for OpenCourseWare, many of their lecturers feared that students would no longer come to class if all the material was available on the web. However, in the past few years of using OpenCourseWare attendance has not dropped. This might be a result of stricter guidelines for students: many course syllabi found on OpenCourseWare assign part of the final grade based on class attendance.

### Open house 24-7

At first glance it might seem counterintuitive for an elite academic institution to give their teaching

materials away for free. But, as MIT is quick to point out, OpenCourseWare is no replacement for an MIT education: it doesn't grant degrees and doesn't allow access to its faculty. In a way, OpenCourseWare is a continuous open house. While most institutions let high school students visit for a few days a year or let the public in on special public lectures, MIT's virtual doors are always open. And the transparency successfully attracts students, too: in 2005, one-third of freshman students said they were influenced by OpenCourseWare in their choice of MIT.

At a regular open house, universities lure students with lunches, gift bags and top-notch research and recreational facilities. MIT's OpenCourseWare attracts students with the content of their courses and the quality of the lecturers. They even made a short promotional video for animated professor Walter Lewin's Physics 8.01 course. The video has been watched more than 120,000 times in three months on YouTube, collecting comments such as "This professor seems awesome. Who knew physics could be so fun?" and "I should have applied at MIT ... Dr. Walter Lewin is great!" Lewin is MIT's token lively lecturer but the more conventional lecturers of Introduction to Biology 7.012 have also received great praise.

### The impact on teaching

The pressure of having one's course put in the limelight and the need to remove copyrighted material from slides or handouts means that lecturers have had to re-evaluate all their course

material before submitting it to OpenCourseWare. According to MIT's statistics, 32 per cent of faculty who participated in OpenCourseWare have said that it improved the quality of their teaching materials. Because MIT uses OpenCourseWare for all its courses, lecturers can also see what their colleagues are teaching and they have used some of that material to review in their own classes. This makes courses less isolated, leading to a more coherent overall university education.

### Conclusion

While the implementation of OpenCourseWare asks for extra work from its faculty in preparing high-quality, legally distributable course materials, this works as an incentive to produce better teaching materials. As a result, making course materials available online can not only raise an institution's visibility but also its quality.

Why is the University of Toronto, one of Canada's leading universities, not part of the OpenCourseWare Consortium? To qualify for inclusion in the program, an institution needs to provide 10 courses according to the OpenCourseWare format. U of T can easily meet these criteria: it's very likely that there are already 10 courses at U of T for which lecture slides, notes and syllabi are posted on a public website. Perhaps it is time to get organized and form a committee to identify these 10 courses, approach faculty and attempt to remove any copyright infringements. If this is done in the coming academic year, U of T could meet the criteria for the OpenCourseWare Consortium by fall 2009.

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