TYP Symposium Carried a Strong Message

Jahmaal Francis

The Symposium for the Transitional Year Programme was a celebration for the Forty Years of Service and opportunity that it has provided to the community. Many guest speakers including the founder, Karen Brathwaite, graced us with their presence and with impassioned speeches about the programme. One such speaker was George Elliot Clarke, a University of Toronto English Professor who said that “TYP is the most important programme in University of Toronto.” One of the deductions that can be drawn from such statements is that TYP gives individuals from various walks of life an opportunity to gain a university education. This enables them to give a more in-depth analysis in regards to the problems that their community faces, as well as insightful strategies to combat them.

Unfortunately, as much as the symposium was a celebration, it was also a call for help in a time of crisis. Although the efforts to completely shut down the programme last year were averted by the valiant efforts of TYP Students and Faculty, the threat still looms over the programme in many forms. Some of these include assimilation into Woodsworth College, insufficient budget and TYP staff not being replaced. These situations put our place at the University of Toronto in jeopardy and will only get worse as time goes on.

The Transitional Year Programme, along with its rich history has opened the doors for other programs, courses and services that are utilized by all U of T students. Examples of these are writing centres, courses in Equity, Aboriginal and African Studies to name a few. The Faculty building of TYP is a place where students from various ethnic backgrounds, genders, creeds and orientations put aside their differences and work together to move forward. This is something that is missing in the entire University of Toronto and is needed in not just the institution but the entire world especially in our time.

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Reasoning in the Sciences Guest Lecturers Wow their Audiences

Kevin McCart

Reasoning in the Sciences has had, over the past two weeks, the opportunity to hear from guest lecturers. On both occasions, experts in their fields engaged their audience with the attraction of oppositely charged sub atomic particles.

On October 20th Dr. Deborah Zamble, an MIT and Harvard educated biochemist and professor at UofT who is an accredited researcher working with heavy metals, took the time to speak to a class of knowledge hungry students.

Zamble, who is soft spoken and modest, explains that “science is all about learning new things.” Her passion is driven not by the financial gains or accreditations but simply the love of learning and teaching. When asked about her experience with the TYP class she was full of praise, “I found the students very receptive and engaged, I have the utmost respect for people who go back to school and bring with them the level of enthusiasm that TYP students have.”

Dr. Zamble hopes that we “keep thinking and asking questions and choose an area of study that will keep you engaged.”

At the end of her lecture Shuaib Khan, a TYP student, presented a gift on behalf of the class to Dr. Zamble who is “always looking for thinkers like TYP students” to join her research team on the fourth floor of the Lash Miller building. She can be reached at dzable@chem.utoronto.ca by anyone interested in a scientific career.

On November 3rd Dr. Miriam Rossi M.D. who is the former dean of students for the medical school at U of T and is currently a specialist practitioner at the Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto received much the same audience.

Her Killer Kernel presentation captivated the audience’s attention and unleashed a flurry of questions.

When asked about her opinion of the Transitional Year Programme Rossi praised the TYP.

“I think that, overall, TYP is a good program, a special program and I’m thankful that, decades ago, the founders had the sense to establish and continue to support a TYP at the Univ. of Toronto.’

She further explains “I think that it is a privilege to be asked to do a TYP lecture and to interact with a classroom of young adults who are interested in learning”

Sylvia Plain presented Dr. Rossi with a gift following her lecture, on behalf of the students.

Announcements

1. TYP Progress Reports will be distributed on Nov 11th at the University Studies class

2. The deadline for First Generation grant is Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 12:00pm

3. A group of youth from Hopes Are High, a community group program, will be visiting TYP on Thursday, November 18, 2010. They will attend some TYP classes among other activities. There will be a pizza lunch at 12:00pm.

4. Steps on Campus Event is on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 from 10am-12pm

5. The last Pizza ’n Pop Day for the Fall Term is on Monday, December 6, 2010
University Survival 101
Erica Neegan PhD.

I would like to share some of my tips for navigating, surviving university and how to succeed. Getting through university can be challenging. My experience has taught me that it is good to foster a sense of community within academia, work together with your peers and share ideas. Being in an environment where you can share and exchange ideas can help you to learn and grow.

The other tip is being well prepared and understanding how the university system works, this is key to succeeding in university. It is important to stay informed. Don’t be afraid to network with other people, they may know about useful services and resources you may be able to access. In addition, you need to have good time management skills; however, if you are not adept at time management, over time and with experience you will develop the skills to do so. Also, connect with your TA’s and professors, when in need of clarification and to ask questions if necessary.

Consider getting involved in student committees this could enhance your own social, academic and spiritual growth. But, at the same time be aware of your limits, for instance consider your course load. In addition, take time for relaxation and leisure, you need a balanced life. Also, dream and plan your future, think about what you are working toward and your goals after graduating. It worked for me. When I was working on my dissertation every night I stayed up between 2 and 3 a.m. in the morning and there was a commercial that used to come on at the same

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Survival 101
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time. What I could recall vividly was the voice saying "every night you sleep, but your dreams are wide awake...Because ambitions never sleep...aspirations never sleep...goals never sleep...hopes never sleep...opportunities never sleep" and I thought well this must be for me. I was most inspired and it made me continue to work to achieve my goal of completing my PhD and pursuing my dreams despite the challenges.

In closing, try to find what works for you and just do it. There is no right or wrong, more important it is what works for you. That being, said your academic life though challenging should also be fun. As you go day by day one of your best teachers will be your own experience. So live, learn, and enjoy!

First Nations House

563 Spadina Avenue 3rd Floor. Everyone is Welcome.

2010 Native Student Association Elected
Jenn Hammond

The Native Student Association (NSA) have had their elections for this year, last month. I am happy to announce that 3 TYP students ran for positions and have been elected. The positions have been filled as follows:

Crane Clan Leader: Brian Parisee
Loon Clan Leader: Brianna Sykes
Fish Clan : Sylvia Plain
Big Bear Clan: Lynden Legault
Little Bear Clan: VACANT
Eagle Clan: Jessica Keeshig Martin
Hoof Clan: Kirk Beaver
Marten Clan: Jennifer Hammond / Tiffany Henry

We also have open membership available if there is anyone who would like to join but does not feel like taking on the responsibility of a position. Our other open members are: Cat B, Stacy T, Emily S, & Dawnis K.

The NSA is run out of FNH which is in the North Borden building. Our meetings are held Fridays at noon. So if you have questions, ideas, would like to get involved or become an open member please contact the NSA @ 416-978-1042 or nsa.exec@utoronto.ca. All are welcome.


Events to keep in mind – December – Holiday giving (watch next month’s newsletter)
Dreaming, Dancing and Feasting: The Page is “Party-Central”
Jill Carter PhD.

Words have replaced the reality of the country and have given hope to people. (Adriana Vargas)

Success depends on choice, not chance. (Kevin McCart)

I came out of foster care to live with a struggling single mother in two unheated rooms with a sagging bed, one table with two chairs, and a transistor radio upon which we would listen to the news for one half hour each day. No heat, little light, no television or phone, little food, few toys, and no visitors... But my life was a dream. My world was replete with untold richness; it positively burst with song, story and color. Our flat rang with my mother’s songs; its dingy walls hummed with her stories. And I owe my life today to the dreams my mother dreamed for me—dreams she never dared dream for herself.

Because she dreamed that I would someday attend a university, she began to prepare me early. Books were the way out of the shabby, sordid reality to which we awoke every day. Books, she had decided, were the way into the dream.

Today, I am living that dream on the stage, on the page and in the lecture hall. I live in the words that dance between generations of fallen leaves; I dance the stories that mark my body and that have written themselves into my blood. And here at the Transitional Year Programme, I have the privilege of engaging with young scholars who are entering an ancient conversation to dream new stories into action and to story new dreams into being. This month, I would like to share the words that contain and communicate some of the stories and dreams that fuel those young writers with whom I am blessed to work. I should have begun this project long ago. But no matter. We begin today. We begin together.

Here, then, are some words to live by: these bite-sized morsels are part of larger teachings that my Composition students have shared with me this term—teachings that feed, fuel and inspire me. And so I have asked them--my teachers--for permission to share their words with you.

Savor these. Roll each phrase languorously across your tongue. Feel them fill your throat until it bursts with song. Turn the phrase into an utterance and the utterance into a speech-act. Above all, enjoy! I certainly have.

I value fiction. It works for me as a form of escape, but now I prefer to read from sources that can make a significant difference in my life. That is how I learn. People cannot give what they do not have. I add daily to my life, so I can have to give. (Lestra Ikeazor)

I have been reading excerpts from the Bible every day; the books of “Psalms,” “Proverbs” and Ecclesiastes provide my sauce of inspiration every morning. (George Addo)

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Sacrifice
Gayle Carter TYP Student

Through a tunnel
Deep in the earth
Winds blow
Feeling his heartbeat
He stops
Time follows and changes
Through a tunnel
Deep in the earth
Winds blow
Streams of sunlight
Morning dew
Time changes
Day and night collide
Suddenly taken by a gust of breath
He shivers and shakes
Sensations ripple and vibrate
A secret knowledge lives in him

A knowledge
Through a tunnel
Deep in the earth
Winds blow
Sensations ripple and vibrate
Feeling his heartbeat
He stops
In a split second
He takes his own life
...and spreads it across the sky

To submit your work for the creative corner please email Cody at cj.sewall@utoronto.ca
Continued from page 5
Jill Carter PhD

One way or another, my life has been like pieces of a big puzzle. Some were dark and sad, and some had beautiful colors. But I am still searching for more, growing and learning. I am thankful for the good and the bad, because I am able to tell the difference. (Maya D. Santos)

I have a love affair with printed paper and will never trade the familiar comfort of bound pages or the musty scent of an old friend with a broken spine for the convenience of a technological gadget. (Kevin McCart)

I saw how an A, only and always, made the Ahh sound. Any other letter in its place never made any other noise in my mind. That is all I had to remember as a child and now...still. It was all I needed to know. A is “awwwwww,” aggggh!” and “ay.” Not B, which is “buh” or “bee.” It was just their shapes—the ways you could group them and make them into something absolutely profound and awesome. (Cody Sewall)

Since 2002, the Transitional Year Programme’s young scholars and artists have taught me and moved me. They have “spoken” into being fresh eyes through which to view the world and vision new denouements for ancient stories.

Chi Miig’wetch, all the generations of TYP006: you are part of the dream my mother dreamed for me. Now, I dream for you.

Volunteers Make the Grade
Kevin McCart

Last month we ran an article about the Saturday Morning Tutoring Program which featured the TYP Faculty’s involvement with youth scholars in the community. It was brought to the attention of the Editor that many volunteers make the program the success that it is so we decided to follow up with the story.

The main floor of the TYP house was organized into groups of children and youth with several volunteers working with them on subjects ranging from math to English and French. Mark Long, who has been volunteering for about a year now enthusiastically exclaimed that “I love interacting with, and helping the children, they keep me young.”

Parents were nearby observing their children’s progress. Takeisha Clarke who has been bringing her daughter for the past two years speaks highly of the program, “I have seen great improvement in her mathematics progress and I feel it is really important to have a free program that helps her so much.” She further explains that “regular teachers don’t seem to have enough time to help but the teachers here are very friendly and patient, taking all the time that my daughter needs and I will continue to bring her here as long as they will have us.”

Jamilla Nelson, a volunteer tutor was a student at the program throughout high school and has since received her undergrad degree from the U of T in 2009. When asked about her experience she told me that “it is an honour to be able to work with these children alongside the Professors and give back to something that gave me so much.”

Seneca College student Gifty Narh credits the program with helping her graduate high school and being accepted into college. “It is very encouraging and helpful in understanding my course material.” She continues to come every Saturday for assistance.
The TYP began at Innis College, University of Toronto, in September 1970, with approximately 25 students and, except for the 1976-77 academic year, has been in operation since. The Programme has its roots in the Black community in Toronto, having emerged out of two community summer program in 1969 and 1970, which served to prepare a small number of students for entry to York University. The first of these was housed at the Home Service Association on Bathurst Street; the second was administered at Innis College, which subsequently became the base for TYP from 1970-76. In 1977 TYP was restructured as a separate division within the university and was located in the Old Metro Library Building at 214 College Street until 1983, when it moved to its present location at 49 St. George Street.

The Programme has to its credit a growing list of graduates who are employed in various capacities in institutions in Toronto and elsewhere; for example, Toronto District School Board, Peel District School Board, Y.M.C.A., Ontario Ministry of Corrections, community organizations, business, and the arts. Several graduates have pursued or are pursuing graduate or professional studies in such areas as African Studies, History, English, Philosophy, Spanish, Education, Music, Fine Arts, Theatre Arts, Anthropology, Social Work, Law, Environmental Studies, Midwifery, Nursing, Nutrition, Physical Education, Public Policy, Criminology, Religious Studies, and Urban Studies. An early participant was a winner of the prestigious Moss Scholarship at the University of Toronto. A number of recent students have gone on to earn scholarships and awards in connection with their undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto.

TYP has a committed and highly qualified faculty who prepare students for university degree studies by upgrading their skills and knowledge in academic courses and by providing intensive supportive counselling. Although the Programme is demanding and rigorous, the staff maintains a social climate in which students can feel at ease and increase their confidence to make a successful transition to university degree studies.

The Programme now accepts approximately 80 students per year. It has a faculty of ten, a registrar, an administrative assistant, and a secretary.

TYPO

The TYPO is a student run free press initiative. The purpose of the TYPO is to provide a voice for TYP both within the program and throughout the University of Toronto community.

Feel free to contact us as we are always looking for submissions.
typo@utoronto.ca

History of the Transitional Year Programme

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