A TALE OF TWO PHILANTHROPISTS

Carlo Fidani, Terrence Donnelly invest in future of health care

GIVING VOICE TO THE SILENCED

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

TERRACOTTA ARMY MANOEUVRES
It is humbling but, nonetheless, exhilarating to have an opportunity to lead – in this case, to lead a campus burgeoning with promise and poised on the brink of a very bright future.

Under the guidance of my predecessors, U of T Mississauga has evolved into a dynamic mid-sized Canadian university – one that retains its student-friendly character, backed by the resources and reputation of the University of Toronto. It is now time, though, to move to our next transformative stage: to broaden the scope of our academic program offerings, to strengthen our research and graduate studies, and to enhance our civic and community ties. In short, we need to build a truly distinctive presence, nationally and internationally.

Timing has never been better. Within a few months, we will open our new Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex and Mississauga Academy of Medicine, introducing the potential for collaboration within the health, life and social science fields; with our hospital partners; and with local industry in the biomedical, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors. And as we consider future campus expansion, we may well view the creation of the medical academy as a suitable template.

Of course, all ambitious plans need support, both from within and outside the university. As you will read in the pages of this magazine, two such motivated visionaries – Terrence Donnelly and Carlo Fidani – have provided landmark gifts to the University of Toronto that will change the face of medicine in our community, and the pace of growth on our campus. I feel extremely fortunate to serve at an institution with such generous donors.

Eight months into my tenure, it has been a thrilling ride so far – hold on tight for the next four years!

DEEP SAINI
VICE-PRESIDENT
AND PRINCIPAL

> Professor John Colman, a specialist in political philosophy who helped lay the foundations for both Erindale and Scarborough Colleges, passed away on Dec. 31, 2010, in France. Colman, who studied French, economics, politics and philosophy, served as dean of Erindale College from 1966-69. The university flag on all three campuses was lowered in his memory.

NICOLLE WAHL

ASSOCIATES OF U OF T MISSISSAUGA ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 26
The Associates act as a link between the campus and the community. Proceeds from Associates activities provide funds for student scholarships.

CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES LECTURES
APRIL 28 TO MAY 26
Presented by the Associates, this Thursday-morning lecture series offers a historical perspective on current issues, and introduces new ideas and technologies that shape lives. For more information on the spring lectures, please contact Melissa Heide, alumni assistant, at m.heide@utoronto.ca.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
MAY 2011
The U of T School of Continuing Studies’ spring courses begin at U of T Mississauga. For more information and to register, visit www.learn.utoronto.ca or phone 416.978.2400.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 12
The 2011 U of T Mississauga Golf Classic will be held at Lionhead Golf & Country Club in Brampton, Ont. For more information, please contact Sue Prior, manager of alumni development, at sue.prior@utoronto.ca.

MINI-MED SCHOOL
MAY 19 TO JUNE 16
Become a more-informed patient and a better caregiver. Every Thursday evening, dynamic speakers will explore current issues in health science and answer questions. For more information and to register, visit www.learn.utoronto.ca or phone 416.978.2400.
The pageantry and tradition of academia were on full display during the installation of Professor Deep Saini as principal of U of T Mississauga and vice-president of U of T last October. The procession, led by a piper, included colourfully gowned students, staff, faculty, alumni, Chancellor David Peterson and recent honorary graduate Mayor Hazel McCallion of the City of Mississauga. Even U of T’s heavy, gold-plated and silver mace – used for formal occasions and borne on the shoulder of the dean of student affairs – played a distinctive role in the pomp and circumstance of the event.

U of T president David Naylor administered the oath of office before students and alumni representatives, and helped garb Saini in the principal’s mortar and formal gown, which is edged in green and gold and emblazoned with the Erindale College insignia.

In his address, Saini spoke of how education has transformed his life. He pledged to keep the town-gown relationship strong, focus campus sights on global impact and protect the student-friendly nature of our campus. To view the installation and hear Saini’s address, please visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/web_installation. NICOLLE WAHL
A tent sprang up in the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre this winter as two students camped out for a week as part of a cross-Canada student effort to raise $27,000 to build six libraries in India.

U of T Mississauga was one of 10 universities participating in Live-in for Literacy, an annual campaign organized by the student organization Discover the Reality of Educating All Minds. “By promoting literacy, we assist in the development of our global community,” says Diedra Dick, a third-year commerce student, who reports they raised $1,217. Fellow camper and student Laith AlAbsi agrees: “Everyone should get equal chances in life.” Chief Librarian Mary Ann Mavrinac says, “We are proud of their initiative and honoured to support them in their mission.” TRACY MONIZ

DR. ROBERTA BONDAR
DOWN TO EARTH
ASTRONAUT’S PHOTOGRAPH OFFERS PERSPECTIVE

Visitorsto the Office of the Vice-President and Principal can now admire a prized photograph by Dr. Roberta Bondar, an astronaut, neurologist and 1974 U of T Mississauga graduate. The photograph, Tanquary Fiord, is a panoramic view that Bondar captured while visiting Quttinirpaaq National Park in Nunavut, Canada’s first woman in space, Bondar flew aboard the space shuttle Discovery in 1992. Professor Emeritus E.A. Robinson, a former principal, donated the photograph.

NICOLLE WAHL
In his first year, Aly Madhavji’s marks dropped from what they’d been in high school. While anxious about his lower average, Madhavji didn’t feel he could discuss it with his parents. They were keen about his education, never having had the opportunity to go to university themselves. “My parents just expected me to succeed,” he says.

Research shows that first-generation university students don’t always have the same “social capital” to succeed as other students, says Chris McGrath, U of T Mississauga’s assistant dean of student affairs. He points out that these students didn’t necessarily grow up learning how university works and can’t fall back on their family for help in making sense of their new experiences.

In January, the campus launched genONE to help first-generation students navigate the university with confidence. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, genONE draws together first-year students for 10 weekly seminars with a peer academic leader (PAL) in their discipline.

Madhavji, now a third-year commerce student, is one of the campus’ 20 PALs. Each PAL is an upper-year student who is also the first in his or her family to attend university. And each has at least a grade point average of 3.0 (a B average). The PALs begin by facilitating seminars on academic success and then move onto topics related to personal and professional development. Madhavji feels genONE will not only help the students academically, it’ll provide opportunities for students to build supportive friendships. “I would have really appreciated that help in my first year,” he says.

CHRISTINE LANGLOIS
U OF T MISSISSAUGA NEWS

HONOURABLE WILLIAM DAVIS
NAME CHANGE
SOUTH BUILDING RENAMED

> Thirty-seven years – to the day – after Ontario’s then-premier officially opened Erindale College, U of T Mississauga renamed the South Building the William G. Davis Building in his honour.

“For over 40 years, Bill Davis worked hard to improve the lives of people in the province of Ontario, and nowhere is this more apparent than in our post-secondary education system,” says Professor Deep Saini, vice-president and principal.

U of T president David Naylor praised Davis both for his role as “the education premier” and as a nation-builder, who earned the respect of leaders across the country.

Davis, who served as minister of education from 1962-71, helped establish Erindale College. “He paved the way for what is now the University of Toronto Mississauga,” says Saini. “Everywhere you look, we see reminders of his commitment to excellence in education.” NICOLLE WAHL

PHOTO: THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA

LEARNING TO SUCCEED AT UNIVERSITY
NEW PROGRAM HELPS FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

> In his first year, Aly Madhavji’s marks dropped from what they’d been in high school. While anxious about his lower average, Madhavji didn’t feel he could discuss it with his parents. They were keen about his education, never having had the opportunity to go to university themselves. “My parents just expected me to succeed,” he says.

Research shows that first-generation university students don’t always have the same “social capital” to succeed as other students, says Chris McGrath, U of T Mississauga’s assistant dean of student affairs. He points out that these students didn’t necessarily grow up learning how university works and can’t fall back on their family for help in making sense of their new experiences.

In January, the campus launched genONE to help first-generation students navigate the university with confidence. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, genONE draws together first-year students for 10 weekly seminars with a peer academic leader (PAL) in their discipline.

Madhavji, now a third-year commerce student, is one of the campus’ 20 PALs. Each PAL is an upper-year student who is also the first in his or her family to attend university. And each has at least a grade point average of 3.0 (a B average).

The PALs begin by facilitating seminars on academic success and then move onto topics related to personal and professional development. Madhavji feels genONE will not only help the students academically, it’ll provide opportunities for students to build supportive friendships. “I would have really appreciated that help in my first year,” he says.
STUDENT STORIES

THE ZAAZOU TRIPLETS

ASINGLEVISION

SISTERS SHARE DREAM OF TEACHING

Speaking with Nisreen, Nourhan and Nirvana Zaaou is like having a conversation in surround sound. The 19-year-old triplets often speak, laugh and even pause in unison. Their verbal synchronicity reflects not only their shared genes and experiences, but the closeness of sisters who are also best friends.

It’s no surprise, then, that they each decided to enrol in U of T Mississauga’s Concurrent Teacher Education Program. They inherited their passion for education from their mother, who taught at the girls’ elementary school. “We would go to her classroom during our lunch,” recalls Nourhan. “We were really impressed by how interested the children were in her.”

Despite their striking similarities, the triplets are not identical. Nisreen, self-described as “the social one,” hopes to teach high school. Nirvana, who calls herself “the cute one,” prefers working with younger children. And Nourhan, who feels she’s “the responsible one,” wants to teach middle or high school.

Now in their second year, the sisters live together but acknowledge that life may take them down separate paths. “You never know what the future holds,” says Nisreen.

“But no matter where we go, we will always be close,” adds Nirvana.

ELIZABETH GAREL
In late November, when winter’s first snow dusted campus, Abdikaadir Ali looked out the window and chuckled. He thought the white flakes were part of a celebration, or maybe a student prank. It wasn’t until later that it hit him. “Snow! It was snow!” he says, his face breaking into a wide smile.

Chalk up another momentous first for Ali since arriving from the Hagadera refugee camp in northeast Kenya. After fleeing Somalia 18 years ago to escape the bloody civil war that killed his father, Ali lived in the camp with his mother, brother and three sisters. As the eldest son, Ali felt responsible for ensuring that his family was provided for and worried constantly about money. While attending school, he took a part-time job tutoring students for $1.25 per subject, per month.

It wasn’t enough to feed his family, so Ali told his principal that he would be leaving school to work full time. His teachers wouldn’t hear of it; they saw academic promise in Ali and helped his mother find a job so he could continue his education. As an incentive, his teachers gave him a goal to work toward. “They told me if I continued, I could get a scholarship to Canada.” Finally able to concentrate on his schoolwork, Ali’s marks soared and he earned a scholarship to U of T Mississauga as part of the Student Refugee Program, a partnership between the university, its student union and World University Service of Canada.

“In Ghana, you have to be modest – your qualifications do the talking for you,” he says. This gentle approach wasn’t working here. Lukinuk coached him on how to market himself and tailor his résumé for specific jobs, and Kumaza landed a job administering a diabetes education program.

He wanted to immigrate to give his four children a wider education. “It’s easy to get discouraged, but you need to persevere because there are opportunities out there.”

CHRISTINE WARD

> When François Kumaza, a successful pharmacist in Ghana, immigrated to Canada in 2009, all of his job applications were rebuffed. But now Kumaza, 49, is making headway, thanks in part to the Pathways to Employment in Biotechnology Program.

U of T’s School of Continuing Studies launched the pilot program in partnership with U of T Mississauga and the provincial government to educate highly skilled immigrants in Canadian workplace culture and the nature of the biotechnology industry in North America, explains Donna Heslin, a mentoring manager with the program. Kumaza says that his mentor, Connie Lukinuk, a project manager at AstraZeneca Canada, “made a huge, huge difference in my career.

“In Ghana, you have to be modest – your qualifications do the talking for you,” he says. This gentle approach wasn’t working here. Lukinuk coached him on how to market himself and tailor his résumé for specific jobs, and Kumaza landed a job administering a diabetes education program.

He wanted to immigrate to give his four children a wider education. “It’s easy to get discouraged, but you need to persevere because there are opportunities out there.”

JANET PELLEY

> In late November, when winter’s first snow dusted campus, Abdikaadir Ali looked out the window and chuckled. He thought the white flakes were part of a celebration, or maybe a student prank. It wasn’t until later that it hit him. “Snow! It was snow!” he says, his face breaking into a wide smile.

Chalk up another momentous first for Ali since arriving from the Hagadera refugee camp in northeast Kenya. After fleeing Somalia 18 years ago to escape the bloody civil war that killed his father, Ali lived in the camp with his mother, brother and three sisters. As the eldest son, Ali felt responsible for ensuring that his family was provided for and worried constantly about money. While attending school, he took a part-time job tutoring students for $1.25 per subject, per month.

It wasn’t enough to feed his family, so Ali told his principal that he would be leaving school to work full time. His teachers wouldn’t hear of it; they saw academic promise in Ali and helped his mother find a job so he could continue his education. As an incentive, his teachers gave him a goal to work toward. “They told me if I continued, I could get a scholarship to Canada.” Finally able to concentrate on his schoolwork, Ali’s marks soared and he earned a scholarship to U of T Mississauga as part of the Student Refugee Program, a partnership between the university, its student union and World University Service of Canada.

“The only way to overcome your problems is to work hard and get an education,” he says. “I tell everyone that a bright future lies ahead.”

CHRISTINE WARD

SNOW IS JUST ONE OF THE FIRSTS FOR ABDIKAADIR ALI.
Pacinthe Mattar’s first film is garnering accolades. *Tempest In A Face Cloth* tells the story of a young Canadian woman and her journey toward wearing the niqab despite growing opposition, including from Muslims trying to ban the facial veil. The 20-minute movie – that Mattar wrote, directed and produced – is being applauded at women’s conferences, and recently a group at Harvard Law School expressed interest in screening it.

Her interviews with Muslim women are central to the documentary. “Muslim women are so often spoken about, but we seldom hear their voices,” says Mattar, 25. “I wanted to make sure we heard from them, and not just from academics.”

At U of T Mississauga, Mattar went out of her way to ensure that international students were heard. While studying political science and French, Mattar facilitated the Speak-Easy Program so students could hone their English conversational skills. And before graduating as valedictorian in 2008, she co-ordinated “Let’s Talk Turkey” which gave those students who were a long way from home the option of sharing Thanksgiving with staff and faculty members.

“I know what it’s like to be the new kid, so I wanted to welcome others and help them feel included,” she says. When Mattar was growing up, her family moved between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Canada. “Always being the outsider as a little girl helped me to see things from other peoples’ points of view,” says Mattar, adding that she feels important perspectives are often excluded by mainstream media. “I think many stories are not told the right way. A lot of voices are missing,” she says.

The absent viewpoints in the media’s coverage of the niqab controversy inspired Mattar to make *Tempest.* “Although there was a lot of talk about banning the niqab in Quebec, the dialogue was shallow and narrow,” she says. “I wanted to understand the issue and why someone would choose to wear the niqab.”

She created the film as a final project for her master’s of journalism degree at Ryerson University but sees it as just the beginning. Mattar, who now works as an associate producer with CBC News Network in Toronto, is looking forward to other opportunities to delve into current affairs. “I want to use my voice – literally and figuratively – to tell people’s stories to the world.”

ELIZABETH GAREL
ANARRESTING FINISH

LYDIA DERBISH-GLAVIN

DETECTIVE RETURNS TO UNIVERSITY AFTER 25 YEARS

> Just 1.5 credits short of a U of T degree, Lydia Derbish-Glavin, a detective sergeant with Toronto Police Service, decided to head back to school. “What got me back were the new course offerings in forensic science,” she says. Also, she recognized that a university degree can be a stepping stone to career advancement.

Derbish-Glavin originally enrolled at U of T Mississauga in 1980. Fresh out of high school, she dreamed of becoming a teacher. Then a friend told her about the dynamic opportunities available to police officers – investigative work, forensics, even diving with the marine unit – so she left school. Her dream of teaching, though, continued to burn brightly.

Today, Derbish-Glavin teaches at the Toronto Police College, heading the section that trains police officers in general investigative techniques, interviewing skills and crime scene management. “I’ve come full circle,” says Derbish-Glavin.

When she proudly received her bachelor of arts degree at last fall’s convocation – 30 years after she first stepped foot on campus – the best part, she says, was seeing the pride in the eyes of her two teenaged sons. “I wanted them to experience that moment. I hope it plays in their motivations to go to university.” JANET PELLEY
When English professor Richard Greene is introduced at a cocktail party, he rarely mentions that he’s a poet. “It’s like telling people you’re a bassoon player,” he says. “It’s the ultimate conversation stopper.”

But Greene is far from a dry, intimidating poet who speaks in rhyming couplets. The winner of the 2010 Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry in English is not only approachable and humble, he’s funny. Typically, the only poetry he quotes is by comedians, such as Rita Rudner.

Extremely flattered to have his poetry collection Boxing the Compass selected from 171 entries for the Governor General’s Award, Greene says the award encourages him to be bolder in his writing. It makes him feel more confident that people will read and understand what he writes.

Greene strives to relate the sound of poetry to life. “In poetry, you see your life clearly in another form, hear your life in another form, which is more elusive. When you listen to Mozart or Beethoven, you hear their personal signature. It’s similar in poetry,” he explains.

In addition to publishing three books of poetry, he has edited a widely acclaimed biography of British writer Graham Green, and is about to release another biography, this time on British poet Edith Sitwell. He also dabbles in writing fiction. “We’ll see if I get anywhere with that,” he says.

“When I’m working on prose or editing, I work regularly,” says Greene, who has a writing studio in the attic of his home in Cobourg, Ont. “On the Sitwell biography, I would work for hours and hours; I was almost resentful when I had to stop. But with a poem, diligence looks different.”

A productive burst of writing five or six poems may be followed by a drought lasting several months. “Sometimes I find a poem to write, sometimes I find a bunch. Then it stops.” At the moment, he hasn’t written a poem in more than six months, but he isn’t worrying about writer’s block; it’s just the nature of his creative process.

The process includes almost never-ending rewrites. Greene put one eight-line poem, Custom, through at least 50 drafts. He even revises poems after they’ve been published. It’s no surprise, then, that each of his poetry collections took him about eight years to complete.

He wishes more of his peers would be as painstaking as he is about editing. “Canadian poets publish too much,” he says, adding that he wishes they would refine, rewrite and release fewer but better collections.

When not writing (or rewriting), Greene teaches 20th-century British literature, 18th-century literature and creative writing at U of T Mississauga. His students energize and surprise him by seeing the world in ways that he doesn’t.

Among his students who have displayed substantial talent, he names alumni Sam Cheuk and Colin Carberry as two poets to watch. When Carberry handed in a collection of sonnets instead of the essay he was supposed to submit, Greene was inspired to try his own hand at this form of poetry. Boxing the Compass includes several sonnets.

As for the $25,000 that accompanies the award, Greene has no plans to splash out on a new car or a boat. He says he’ll probably use the money for something far more mundane, like fixing the roof. Again defying the stereotype of the soul-tortured poet, he adds, “I have a happy life. Winning this award is just a nice bonus.”
A tale of two PHILANTHROPISTS

TERRENCE DONNELLY AND CARLO FIDANI INVEST IN FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

Story by Christine Ward
Photography by Matthew Plexman

Carlo Fidani and Terrence Donnelly have an important lunch in their agendas, and each knows exactly how he wants it to unfold. “This will be our first time meeting, but it feels like I’ve known this fellow for a long time,” says Fidani, chair of Orlando Corporation, one of Canada’s largest privately owned real-estate construction companies. “I want to congratulate him for making this dream come true.”

Donnelly plans to do some thanking of his own. “If not for Carlo, this probably wouldn’t have happened,” says the retired lawyer who is president and director of The Colonel Harland Sanders Charitable Organization, Inc. (Canada).

Fidani and Donnelly supported the construction of the building that will house the Mississauga Academy of Medicine. Despite having never met, they collaborated on a $22-million donation to the facility. Their gifts are the largest the campus has ever received.

Their unique partnership took root when Fidani, on behalf of Orlando employees, contributed $10 million to the Academy, scholarships for medical students and a new chair in family and community medicine. The Academy, housed within the $37-million Health Sciences Complex which will open this fall, will produce 54 new medical graduates each year as part of a province-wide initiative to address the doctor shortage. The four-storey complex will also provide much-needed space for research laboratories and the graduate biomedical communications program. Medical students will study alongside scientists and benefit from clinical training at the nearby Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre.

But Fidani didn’t just write a cheque, he laid down a challenge. He said he’d match every dollar donated to health education at U of T Mississauga, potentially doubling his contribution.

Fidani believes in making timely, strategic gifts: he’s a major donor to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, and the Carlo Fidani Peel Regional Cancer Centre at Credit Valley Hospital, named in recognition of his support. “A well-placed gift made at the right time and to the right opportunity can have an exponential effect on donors and institutions,” he says.

Dr. Catharine Whiteside, dean of U of T’s Faculty of Medicine, says Fidani’s incentive was “more than catalytic. It was the determinant for our success.”

His commitment enabled the provincial government to increase the number of medical school seats at the Academy from 26 to 54. And mere months after Fidani’s challenge, Donnelly stepped forward with the entire matching donation plus $2 million to reward talented medical students and support those in financial need.

To honour his leadership, the complex will be named the Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex.
This was an opportunity to do something in health education. I jumped at the chance."

— Terrence Donnelly
Fidani and Donnelly’s investment is the catalyst for what could be one of the largest and most successful academic health-sciences centres in Canada.

Crediting Colonel Harland Sanders for showing him the importance of giving back, Donnelly has provided groundbreaking support to St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto – one of U of T’s 10 fully affiliated hospitals – and the Grace Donnelly Women’s Health Pavilion in London, Ont. The Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research on the St. George campus is among the best interdisciplinary research centres in the world.

“Carlo didn’t have to talk me into health care, but his gift certainly drew my attention to UTM,” Donnelly says. “I’d already invested in clinical care and research. This was an opportunity to do something in health education. I jumped at the chance.”

Donnelly and Fidani believe Canada’s health care system is among the best in the world. But, they also believe it needs work. “If we don’t have health care practitioners at every level, the system won’t work regardless of advances in clinical care and research,” says Fidani.

“Doctors tend to work where they learn,” adds Whiteside. The Academy will have 216 students by 2014, plus post-graduate training in fields such as family medicine and many specialty programs. “That’s a wealth of potential new doctors for the region who have trained in a community environment and understand what it’s going to take to transform health care and improve the health of a diverse population.”

Fidani and Donnelly’s investment is also the catalyst for bringing together the university, the Faculty of Medicine, Trillium Health Centre and Credit Valley Hospital for what could well be one of the largest and most successful academic health-sciences centres in Canada.

“We’re creating a conglomerate of medical education in an area that is rich in biotechnology, biomedical and pharmaceuticals,” says Professor Deep Saini, U of T Mississauga’s principal and U of T’s vice-president. “This has the potential of opening up many new areas of collaborations and not just in medicine, but in the life and social sciences. This is definitely a game-changer for UTM and our community.”

“Someday we’ll point back to these donations as the foundational investment in the future of health care in Mississauga,” agrees Whiteside. “The Mississauga Academy of Medicine will be an important model of how to establish new directions in medical education serving the needs of society.”

“I can’t wait to see the difference our support makes – to walk through the building and see the students, the researchers and all that’s new, exciting and promising in health care,” says Donnelly. “Writing the cheque was just the beginning. A collaborative approach to health education and care is something that will make a difference in the lives of people for decades and generations to come.

“That’s the real pay-off.”
“A well-placed gift can have an exponential effect on donors and institutions.”

- Carlo Fidani
FOCUS ON RESEARCH

BRANWEN WILLIAMS

DEEP BLUE SEA
GLOBAL WARMING AFFECTING OCEAN DEPTHS

“The ocean is a powerful driver of global climate,” says Branwen Williams, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences. “Below the ocean surface, the circulation of warm and cool waters influences wind, air temperature and precipitation on our planet.”

Climate change models predict that global warming will also alter subsurface ocean circulation. Recently, Williams and Andréa Grottoli of Ohio State University in Columbus found the first evidence that global warming is changing what’s going on below the ocean’s surface.

Near Palau in the western Pacific, Williams and Grottoli collected black coral and gorgonian (soft coral) specimens at various ocean depths. These types of coral live for hundreds of years and produce growth rings, just as trees do. By tracking the isotope ratios in the growth rings, the researchers determined when the corals were feeding above or below the thermocline, a blanket of seawater that forms a barrier between the warm surface water and the frigid ocean depths. “The findings suggest that the thermocline is getting shallower in the western tropical Pacific,” Williams says. This is consistent with model studies of how the tropical Pacific will respond to global warming.

The oceanographers are planning to analyze additional specimens from the central Pacific. If they find that the thermocline is changing there as well, it could reflect a pattern of global warming throughout the Pacific, which Williams says could lead to warmer temperatures and precipitation changes across North America.

Ajay Rao, a professor of South Asian religions, is making history speak to the present through his research on the Ramayana, a 2,000-year-old epic poem that is revered in South Asia.

“In the 13th century, the Ramayana morphed from a heroic account of the journey of Prince Rama into a religious text,” says Rao. Some scholars hypothesize that this change was driven by Hindu encounters with Islamic cultures.

After 10 years of examining Sanskrit commentaries on the Ramayana, Rao concludes that the move to worshipping Prince Rama was not a political reaction to the presence of the new ruling Islamic elites. “In a way, this research breaks down boundaries between Hindus and Muslims,” he says.
Standing on the receiving dock at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in early June, Chen Shen wasn’t the least bit surprised when the sky grew dark and the first drops of rain splattered onto the ground. The senior curator and Bishop White Chair of East Asian Archaeology was awaiting the first of three shipments from Shanghai, China, containing relics from one of the greatest archaeological finds in history. Shen, who earned a PhD in anthropological archaeology at U of T Mississauga in 1997, had arranged for the immense collection of nearly 250 artifacts from the first millennium BC – including 10 full-sized, 2,200-year-old terracotta figures depicting the armies of the First Emperor of China Qin Shihuangdi – to be loaned to the ROM in Toronto.

“My colleagues in China say it always rains when the terracotta warriors travel,” he laughs.

The ROM’s showcase exhibition, The Warrior Emperor of China’s Terracotta Army, was touted as the largest collection of artifacts related to the warrior emperor ever to be displayed in North America. Nearly a third of the items in the exhibit had never been shown outside of China. Some of the items had never been displayed at all. And with the arrival of each shipment on three different flights over a two-week period in 2010, the sky opened.

“Getting a national treasure like this is very difficult,” says Shen. “It was a major, major undertaking.”

Getting a national treasure like this is very difficult,” says Shen. “It was a major, major undertaking.” The exhibit included artifacts from more than a dozen archaeological institutions and museums throughout the Shaanxi province in northern China. From nearly two years of negotiations with the provincial government responsible for cultural heritage and the central government in Beijing to the 28,000-word trilingual (English, French and Chinese) text panels and digital displays, Shen and his team did it all. They even interviewed the first archaeologist on the site and the farmer who accidentally unearthed the tomb 35 years ago.

Their efforts paid off in spades. About 300,000 people visited the exhibition over its six-month run at the ROM, and now a handful of museums in China are clamouring to partner with the ROM in hosting a First Nations exhibition in China.

“My colleagues in China say it always rains when the terracotta warriors travel,” he laughs.

The exhibit was so popular that it was extended by 34 days. “I’ve wanted to make this happen since I first saw the terracotta warrior site in 1997,” says Shen. “This was a dream come true.”

CHRISTINE WARD
Ask fourth-year undergraduates how prepared they feel for life after graduation, and chances are they’ll tell you they’re a bit uncertain.

To address these concerns and help upper-year students confidently enter the workforce or pursue higher education, the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre introduced the Preparation to Launch program in September.

“When many students graduate and start the next part of their career – when they’re launched – they have an abrupt new learning experience,” says Robert Gillespie, a longtime supporter and friend of U of T Mississauga. “It would all be easier if they had some training and exposure in their upper years of undergraduate study.”

Gillespie describes his own learning style as “learning by doing,” and that’s the exact tack the program takes. It offers experiential learning opportunities, such as how to prepare documentation for admission to a graduate or professional program. Considering Preparation to Launch “essential,” Gillespie donated $50,000 to its creation.

“There really aren’t enough resources around to help senior students advance to the next stage,” says Melissa Conte, who will graduate this spring with a double major, in psychology, and crime, law and deviance. Conte, who has applied to a variety of law schools and teaching programs, says she benefitted from the Preparation to Launch program.

For years, the centre has delivered top-notch programming to help students, especially in their first and second year, enhance their academic skills. During Conte’s first year, she sought help with study strategies and essay writing; later, she became one of the centre’s mentors and facilitators.
ASSOCIATES OF U OF T MISSISSAUGA

DEATHS
> Douglas Paton passed away on Aug. 9, 2010. Paton was the scholarship convener for the Associates of U of T Mississauga and an active member of the executive for many years. U of T honoured him with an Arbor Award for his years of service and numerous contributions to the Associates.

1970 TO 1979

NOTES
> John Roberts (mid-1970s) has joined Fox News as a senior national correspondent. Roberts started his career at Radio Erindale, and later became a broadcaster on CHUM, MuchMusic, CBS News and CNN, where he was co-anchor of “American Morning” from 2007 to 2010. In 2009, Roberts was inducted into the Canadian Broadcast Hall of Fame.

> John Switzer (bachelor of arts, 1970) has been named the new chair of the advisory board of the Research, Innovation and Commercialization (RIC) Centre. RIC partners with U of T Mississauga and other institutions to help entrepreneurs, researchers and business professionals commercialize their ideas. Switzer was an active contributor to U of T Mississauga’s 40th anniversary celebrations in 2007, and sits on U of T’s Governing Council, representing alumni.

1980 TO 1989

NOTES
> Dario Di Censo (bachelor of commerce, 1988) was appointed a fellow of the Society of Certified Management Accountants of Canada in October 2010. Di Censo is president of The Dominion Group, based in Mississauga. He has been a mentor with the U of T Mississauga Alumni Association for five years. As former president of the Association, he now serves on the executive in the role of past-president.

> Michael Lem (bachelor of commerce, 1987) was the 2010 recipient of the Donald J. Johnston Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Profession of Financial Planning In Canada. The Financial Planning Standards Council presented Lem with the award in a ceremony on Oct. 5. Lem is a mentor and volunteer with the U of T Mississauga Alumni Association, and is a past-president of the Association. Lem is the vice-president of the Thornhill, Ont., branch of BMO Nesbitt Burns.

> Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts (honours bachelor of arts, 1989) has been teaching Spanish in the Department of Languages and Literatures at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo since 1994. She earned her PhD at U of T in 1995. In 2008, she won a prestigious 3M National Teaching Award.

1990 TO 1999

BIRTHS/NOTES
> Paul Clarke (honours bachelor of arts, 1995) is heading to Austria this summer to complete his ninth Ironman. Clarke, an associate vice-president at TD Bank, also volunteers with Kids of Steel®, which organizes short triathlons for children.


> Brett Hodnett (honours bachelor of science, 1997) who earned his master of science in 1999 is the operations manager of BioRegional North America, which develops sustainable communities through the international One Planet Communities program. Hodnett has written his first book, Paddling with a Naturalist, which he describes as “a biology book for canoeists.”

> Neena Kanda (honours bachelor of arts, 1999) and Abhiheet Dhanjal welcomed a new member to their family, a daughter, Simran, born on Nov. 26, 2010. For several years, Kanda served as an executive member of the U of T Mississauga Alumni Association.

> Christine Sansalone (honours bachelor of arts, 1999) was granted tenure at Laurentian University in Sudbury last spring and is now an assistant professor of Italian. Sansalone earned a master’s and doctorate in Italian Studies at U of T.

2000 TO PRESENT

MARRIAGES/NOTES
> Joel Bathe (master of biotechnology, 2006) has been elected to the Ontario Pharmaceutical Marketing Association’s board of directors. The association provides a forum for pharmaceutical executives and suppliers to discuss issues affecting the pharmaceutical industry in Canada.

> Jean-Paul Paluzzi (honours bachelor of science, 2004) earned his doctorate from U of T in 2010 and is now a post-doctoral fellow in the biology department at McMaster University. Professor Ian Orchard, U of T Mississauga’s former vice-president and principal, was Paluzzi’s PhD research supervisor.


EXPAND YOUR SOCIAL NETWORK

U of T Mississauga has a dynamic social media presence for alumni on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Join in on the fun!

Twitter: @UofTMississauga
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UTMississauga
THANK YOU for your gifts to the Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex

Terrence Donnelly • Carlo Fidani Foundation
Estate of Hugh Manning • Community Foundation of Mississauga
U of T Mississauga Faculty and Staff • U of T Mississauga Alumni

TOGETHER, WE’RE BUILDING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE