



The University of Toronto Mississauga Magazine

**Spring 2017**

## **Marking a Milestone**

From Erindale to UTM,  
the campus celebrates  
50 years and looks  
to the future

Pg. 18



#### VIEWFINDER

## Magnolias by Lislehurst Arjun Yadav

**The Photographer**  
Alumnus **Arjun Yadav** (HBA, 2016, Communication, Culture, Information and Technology) is UTM's 50th Anniversary Photographer Laureate. Yadav's creative work will serve as a visual ambassador for the campus in its anniversary media.

As **Photographer Laureate**, Yadav will capture images of the U of T Mississauga campus over the 2017 calendar year. The honorary position recognizes his photographer's eye for UTM's unique blend of natural beauty, inspiring architecture and diverse character; he's a particular fan and friend of UTM's resident deer population. Yadav arrived at UTM as an international student from Lucknow, India, lived for several years in residences on campus (and still lives nearby), and says he discovered and continues to find inspiration in the unique setting and wildlife on campus. Yadav, now on Instagram as @arjsun, went on to co-launch the UTM Photography Club prior to his graduation.

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Canadian Publications Mail  
Agreement 43175017



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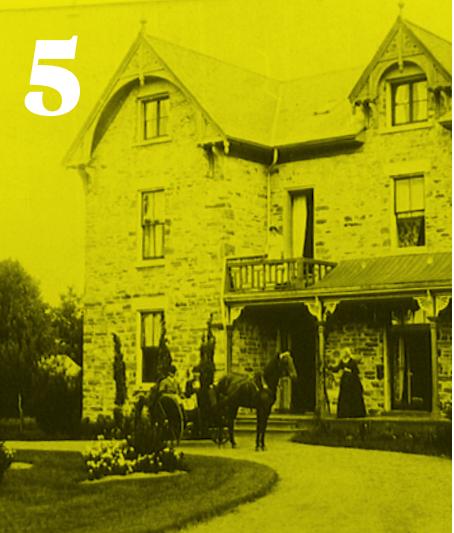
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**LI DIDN'T KNOW  
HE HAD A PASSION  
FOR LAW.**

**UNTIL HE STUDIED  
IN GENEVA.**

**Legacy giving made it possible.** Li He (BSc 2016 UTM) was a fourth-year biochemistry major when he won the Robert Rawlings Scholarship for global experiences. Newly established by Mr. Rawlings' estate, the scholarship took Li to Geneva. There he studied international governance and made a 180-degree turn. His local perspective went global. Now studying law, he hopes to become an advocate for children's rights. Leave a bequest to U of T Mississauga in your will and you can help students like Li discover their true passion.

Find out more at [giftplanning.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:giftplanning.utm@utoronto.ca)  
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UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**  
MISSISSAUGA

**BOUNDLESS**

# Campus News



**Nolan Anderson**  
(standing to immediate left of HRH Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge) is lending his voice to mental health awareness.

## MENTAL HEALTH

### SHATTERING STIGMA

**As class valedictorian**, Nolan Anderson is ending his undergraduate years at UTM on a high note. But it almost didn't turn out that way for the psychology student, whose first year elsewhere ended disastrously in hospital with a mental health crisis. Afterwards, living at home in Mississauga, Anderson eased back into his studies, beginning with part-time courses at UTM.

Anderson, who graduates in 2017 with an honours bachelor of science, knows he has come a long way. "UTM was a big part of my recovery." He found balance through sports and volunteering, playing defence for the Varsity men's soccer team. He joined the Health & Counselling Centre team, creating and delivering public information sessions to students. He also appeared in UT Mental videos, sharing his experiences about stress, mental health and the stigma that can sometimes come with seeking help.

His work has been recognized with a Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award, a Principal's Involvement Award, and the 2016 Athlete of the Year Award. Outside of UTM, Anderson shares his experience about youth mental health and leadership with Ontario high school students through the jack.org initiative.

When he addresses the graduating class in May, Anderson will touch on the lessons he has learned, especially around mental health. "We all have ups and downs with our mental health. People are afraid to talk about that—there's a fear of being judged. But it's important. The more you talk about it, the better you'll be able to support yourself and others who are going through something similar."

1

PHOTO: COURTESY, JACK.ORG

# Campus News

# 2

## GLOBAL CITIZENS

### **UTM students tackle global issues at UN**

**A group of UTM students striving to create a more fair and sustainable world recently had a chance to share their ideas for global problem solving at a forum where they really matter: the United Nations.**

In February, the students became the first-ever UTM delegation to the UN's Youth Assembly, a biannual three-day event that aims to empower youths to advance sustainability in their communities. Established in 2002 and held at the United Nations' headquarters in New York City, the assembly fosters dialogue and generates partnerships between exceptional youth, civil society, private companies and the UN. The Winter 2017 assembly drew about 450 youths from 83 countries to participate in panel discussions related to achieving the UN's 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), which include ending poverty and hunger, achieving gender equality and combatting climate change.

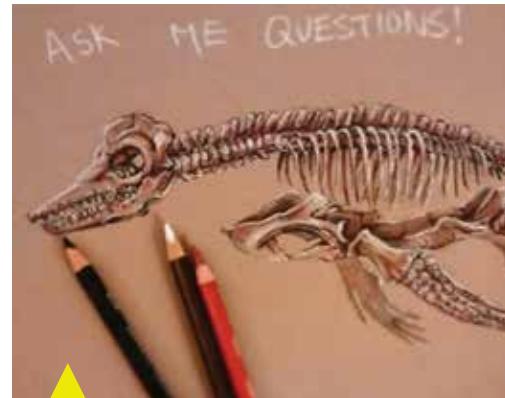
"Trying to tackle these issues in a space where world leaders make major decisions and where there have been so many

historical events was a very powerful experience," says delegation organizer Eashan Karnik (B.Sc. 2016), an accomplished environmental activist who is currently taking courses at UTM in environmental leadership and public policy.

Among the sessions Karnik attended was one on how youth can influence policymaking, where he shared how U of T involves students in its governance, a practice he learned was innovative compared to how other universities operate worldwide. In a session on how youths are addressing climate change, Karnik presented on his social enterprise, which is developing a subsidy for Mississauga residents and business owners who install solar panels on their properties.

"Green energy and climate action are two big priorities for the UN, and it was interesting to discuss the different initiatives we are working on in our home communities to encourage people to be responsible citizens," Karnik says.

The UTM delegation also included Heather Bermudez, a fourth-year honours BA student with a double major in political science and criminology who volunteers for Free the Children at UTM. "It was incredible to have everyone come together and contribute to the conversation about what needs to be addressed," Bermudez says. "The world is a beautiful place and we need to protect it."



# 3

## SKETCHING SCIENCE

### **Drawing attention to science**

**Live at the ROM displays MScBMC student talent**

Last November, the Royal Ontario Museum hosted "Friday Night Live", and invited four students from the Master of Science in Biomedical Communications at UTM to give a live demonstration of scientific visualization.

The students, who specialize in using art to explain complex scientific concepts, were invited to illustrate the varied and intricate skeletons of dinosaurs, mammals and birds. Visitors stopped by to watch and appreciate the students at work in the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of the Dinosaurs and the Reed Gallery of the Age of Mammals.

While spectators were initially hesitant to interrupt the artists, they quickly overcame their shyness. Student Ruth Chang wrote "ask me questions" on her sketchpad above her sketch of a pliosaur. "People stopped hovering and started approaching me freely after that."



50TH ANNIVERSARY

# 4

## Before the Outer Circle

**The sites of the current U of T campuses** were originally the traditional territory of

Indigenous Peoples, including the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and, most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River, who traded with early French explorers.

The UTM land was ceded to the British Colonial government in the early 1800s. With the arrival of European settlers, a small village called Springfield-on-the-Credit grew up along what is now Dundas Street.

Over the next century, the campus land was dotted by small farms, pastures and apple orchards. Three stone houses—Iverholme, Mount Woodham and Lislehurst—were built by the Schreiber family in the 1880s. Iverholme was destroyed by fire in 1913. Hamilton businessman Reginald Watkins bought the remaining houses and land in 1928, building the bridge and pond on what is now Principal's Road and dismantling Mount Woodham for use in expansions to Lislehurst. The university acquired the land from Watkins in 1964, turning Lislehurst into the official residence for the principal.

At the south end of campus stands another of the area's early buildings. Built in 1922, Erindale Public School replaced an earlier school that had stood on the site since the 1880s. Now home to campus offices, it is known as Alumni House.

PHOTOS: UOFT ARCHIVES

# 5

### EARLY ERINDALE

## A CAMPUS IS BORN

**In the early 1960s**, the University of Toronto founded Erindale College on a site featuring forest, farmland, orchards and excavated gravel pits along the Credit River.

Early classes were held in a nearby high school until the opening of the North Building in 1967, which provided academic and office space for 28 faculty, 40 staff and 155 students. The South Building, designed by architect Raymond Moriyama, opened in 1973 to accommodate the campus' growing population.

In the early days, students lived in on-campus residential homes, complete with a swimming pool, which predated the campus. Female students lived in Hastie House, while Thomas Cottage, Ackworth House, Dobratz House, McGill House, Robinson House and Thomas Cottage provided men's accommodations until new residences were built in 1973.

Student life centered around Colman House (originally known as Disher House), the home of student government, the *Erindalian* newspaper and Radio Erindale. The student pub, once known as "The Watering Hole" and then "The Blind Duck", was located in a portable classroom before finding a permanent home with the opening of the Student Centre in 1999.



# Campus News

# 6

BIOLOGY LAID BARE

## The Science of Streaking

A professor emeritus of biology shares an early Erindale memory

One of the less-than-intellectual pursuits that was popular during the 1970s was “streaking.” Unlike most streaking, there was one highly organized, well-planned event that was designed to upset my lecture in Introductory Biology. First there was the setup: the photographer for the campus newspaper asked me if he could interview me about my “excellent” teaching for an upcoming edition. Of course, he would need pictures to supplement his piece. The lecture was on human reproduction and fertilization. Part way through my lecture, as I was indicating the male components that were involved in the process, the back door at the top of the lecture hall flew open and four men clad only in full-face toques ran down the stairs and out the front entrance. The photographer caught it all. I tried to gather my thoughts by stating, “for those who were paying attention, some of the anatomy we were discussing today was just put on display.” It turns out, most of the students hadn’t seen a thing, they were too busy writing down my comments!

I deduced later that there was too much circumstantial evidence to make this an unplanned event. So I confronted my graduate



student who was also a friend of the photographer, and he spilled the beans, identifying the unclad rogues who had disrupted—some would say improved—my lecture.

I feel this story says a lot about the early days of Erindale College. The students knew how to have fun but they also knew when to work. One of the four students became an orthopedic surgeon. One became a leading scientist at a molecular biology company. And the photographer? He got a Rhodes Scholarship, went to Oxford for his PhD and ended up working as a research scientist. — Danton O'Day



# 7

TRAIN DERAILMENT

## CAMPUS EVACUATION

Just before midnight on Nov. 10, 1979, an explosion rocked the Erindale campus as a 106-car Canadian Pacific freight train derailed just three kilometres from campus. The cars, which carried propane, toluene and other chemicals, exploded and released a toxic cloud of chlorine gas into the air. According to reports, the fireball lit up the night sky, causing some to believe the campus’ physical plant had exploded.

The disaster forced mass evacuations, displacing 218,000 Mississauga residents and closing the Erindale campus for an entire week. Many of the 425 students living in residence stayed with friends or family, or were billeted in emergency quarters at Streetsville Secondary School or near Pearson International Airport. Now remembered as the “Mississauga Miracle,” there were no casualties as a result of the accident, which was the largest peace-time evacuation in Canadian history.

PHOTO: (BOTTOM) COURTESY CITY OF MISSISSAUGA ARCHIVES; (TOP) COURTESY DANTON O'DAY

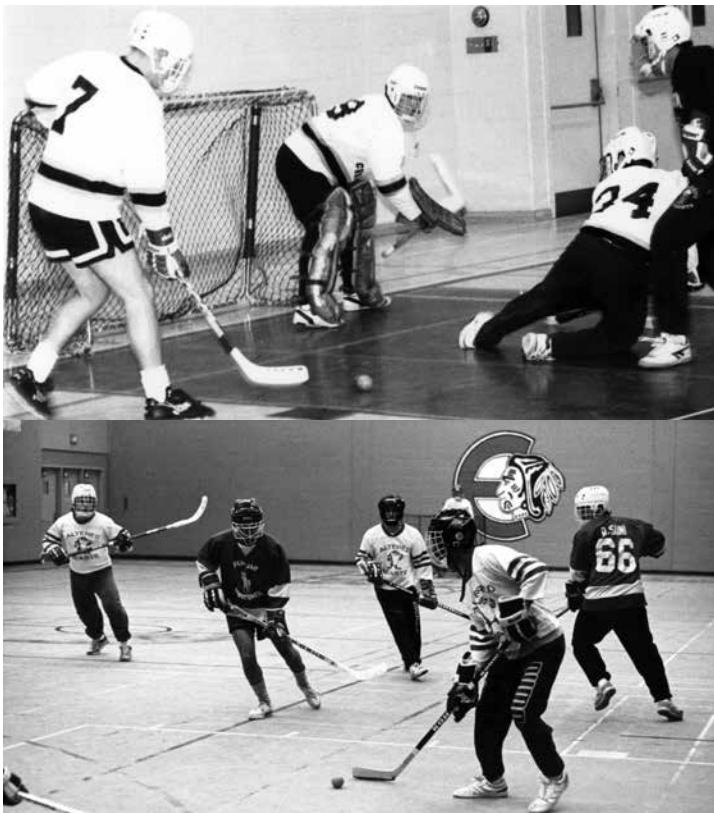
# 8

**BALL HOCKEY HEYDAY**

## *Intermural teams captivated campus*

**Between the mid 1970s and late 1990s,** ball hockey was an all-consuming activity on campus.

Spectators packed Gym C for standing-room-only games, cheering on men's and women's teams with names like the Waterboyz, Mighty Blind Ducks and the Ball Hogz, as they squared off with plastic-bladed sticks. In its heyday, the intermural league was thought to be the largest in North America, with 70 teams battling for bragging rights. The sport was so hot that *The Medium* published a pre-season special edition with reporters dedicated to following specific teams. Former captain Paul Kutasi (HBA, 2000) remembers players and fans alike were equally passionate. "The games were pretty exciting," he says, adding that the passion could cause games to become quite heated, both on the court and in the stands. Alumni who want to relive the glory days, and who hold a RAWC membership, are now eligible to join UTM's intermural ball hockey teams.



PHOTOS: (TOP) UTM ARCHIVES; (BOTTOM) BLAKE EUGH



# 9

**THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...**

## *Erindale/UTM students — then and now*

**When Ken Luckhurst (B.Sc., 1970)** famously registered at Erindale College on the back of a cigarette carton, he joined 150 other students as the institution's very first graduating class. For Luckhurst and his small cohort, academic life was demanding—"The curriculum went by pretty fast,"—but Friday afternoons meant blowing off steam at parties in Coleman House, one of the houses along Mississauga Road that served as the original residences. Sports played a major role in early campus social life. Luckhurst, who played lacrosse and ice hockey, remembers that nearly a third of the student body would trek downtown to cheer on the Erindale team (then, the Erindale Wendigos) in the green, black and white jerseys at tri-campus matches.

Fourth-year student Mehak Kawatra, who graduates with a double major in English and criminology in 2017, says that being involved in student societies and educational opportunities helped put her education to work. Kawatra notes that the campus—now at almost 15,000 students—has grown noticeably during her time here. "Everywhere I go, there's a crowd," she says. "I love it—it means the school has grown as I have." She has logged many hours in the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre, but found time for fun at social events. "The annual Diwali student pub night (by the Hindu Student Council) is a ritual for my friends," she says. Yet her most treasured memory is out of doors. "I love walking through the forest area in the fall—to me, that is the UTM experience."

# Campus News

# 10

SOCIAL MEDIA

## UTM in the moment

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

### Follow UTM on:

**Twitter** @UofTMississauga  
**Facebook** www.facebook.com/UTMississauga  
**Instagram** @uoftmississauga



A goose and a greenhouse: #utm50  
Photographer Laureate @arjsun.



Sweet ride!  
#Repost@utm\_campuspolice



We're loving this #DiscoStu look from the early days of Radio Erindale.



"The bones tell their story, if we but listen." The late professor emeritus Jerry Melbye, seen here with anthropology and forensic science students in an undated photo.



Happy 50th Birthday to UTM!!  
@utm\_anthropologysociety

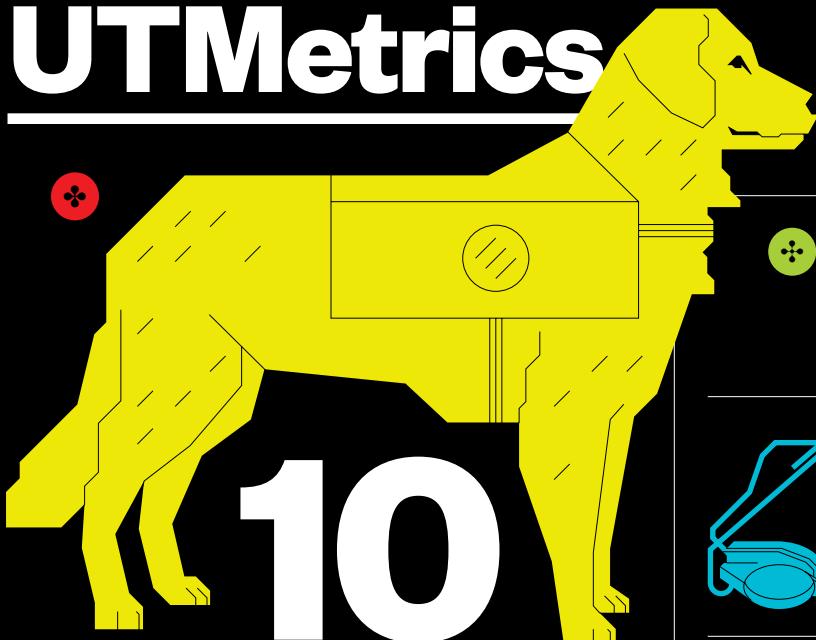


The campus' first science labs.



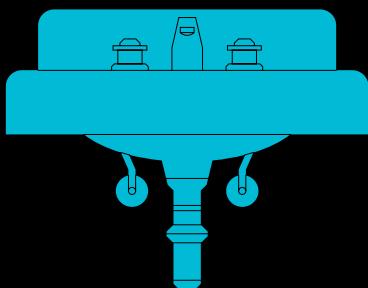
Big things are happening!  
#sneakpeek

# UTMetrics



- Therapy dogs that visited campus during the April 2017 Exam Jam, where students reviewed course work, ate healthy snacks and busted their pre-exam stress.

## ⊕ 65% Reduction in water use:

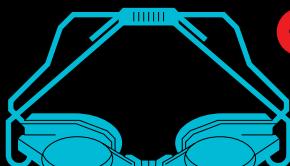


- The Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex uses low-flow fixtures and also has a large underground cistern that collects rainwater.

⊕ 0.1mm

- The thickness of each layer of plastic filament that “Cubert”—the 3D printer in UTM’s ICUBE business accelerator—uses to create physical objects.

⊕ 66 study spaces available in the library when the North Building opened in September 1967.



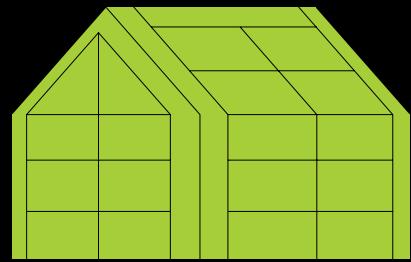
⊕ 1,000,000:

- Litres of water in the Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre’s pool, used for competitive and recreational swimming.



⊕ 3

- Canadian university students gain an average of 3 kilograms during their first year, according to the UTM Health & Counselling Centre.



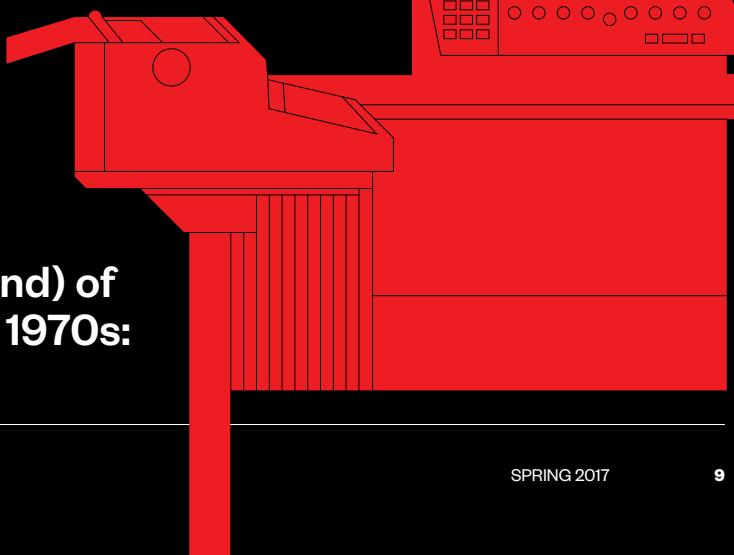
⊕ 10°C - 40°C :

- Range of temperatures available in the new Research Greenhouse, allowing the study of plants from a wide range of ecological zones.

## ⊕ Egg Cartons

- Thousands of these boxes were used to create egg-cellent audio conditions in CFRE’s radio station in Colman House in the early 1970s.

⊕ 2,400



## ⊕ Processing speed (bytes per second) of first computer on campus in early 1970s:

- The IBM 360-20 Hasp Workstation. It used a card reader.

# HOW CAN OUR FUTURE MAKE HISTORY?

At the University of Toronto Mississauga, it's been happening for 50 years. Since 1967, UTM has nurtured students, helping them realize their potential to become tomorrow's leaders. As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we'll honour this legacy by creating the UTM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boundless Promise Award. Your support will enable top students, regardless of financial circumstance, to attend one of the world's best universities. You'll have lifelong impact on UTM students as your generosity is doubled through the Boundless Promise matching program.

Help the future make history by giving to the  
UTM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boundless Promise Award  
at: [boundless.utoronto.ca/utm50](http://boundless.utoronto.ca/utm50)

Find out more at [annualgiving.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:annualgiving.utm@utoronto.ca)  
or 905-569-4244.



**1967-2017**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**  
MISSISSAUGA

**BOUNDLESS**

# Snapshot

## Giles Blunt

CLASS OF 1975



### Frozen in Crime CTV mini-series brings alumnus' novel to life

U of T Mississauga alumnus Giles Blunt wrote six acclaimed crime novels featuring fictional detectives John Cardinal and Lise Delorme, so the characters are firmly entrenched in his imagination. For most writers, that's where they stay. Now, with the production of a TV drama, *Cardinal*, based on one of the novels, Blunt has had the rare experience of watching his creations come alive.

"I think these days all novelists dream of having a mini-series made of one of their books," he says. "It was truly a thrill—and weirdly dreamlike—to see my characters brought to life on the screen."

Adapted from *Forty Words for Sorrow*, the CTV mini-series follows partners Cardinal and Delorme as they search for the killer of a 13-year-old girl—a serial murderer who has already targeted another potential victim.

The reviews for the six-part series that aired from Jan. 25 to March 1 were glowing, with *The Globe and Mail* hailing it as "landmark Canadian TV." As CTV's first-ever series adaptation from a novel, it was a gamble that paid off. The network has options on all the Cardinal novels, and has already renewed the show for two further seasons.

The setting for *Cardinal* is Algonquin Bay, a thinly disguised North Bay, where Blunt grew up. He left small-town Northern Ontario to study English literature at UTM and never moved back, spending over 20 years in New York City before moving to Toronto in 2002.

Blunt's role in the production of *Cardinal* was to offer feedback on scripts, though the producers and screenwriter—Aubrey Nealon of *Orphan Black* fame—had no obligation to accept his suggestions. Before the first episode aired, he was given

the option of seeing the entire production in advance. But he opted to see it unfold every week just like everybody else.

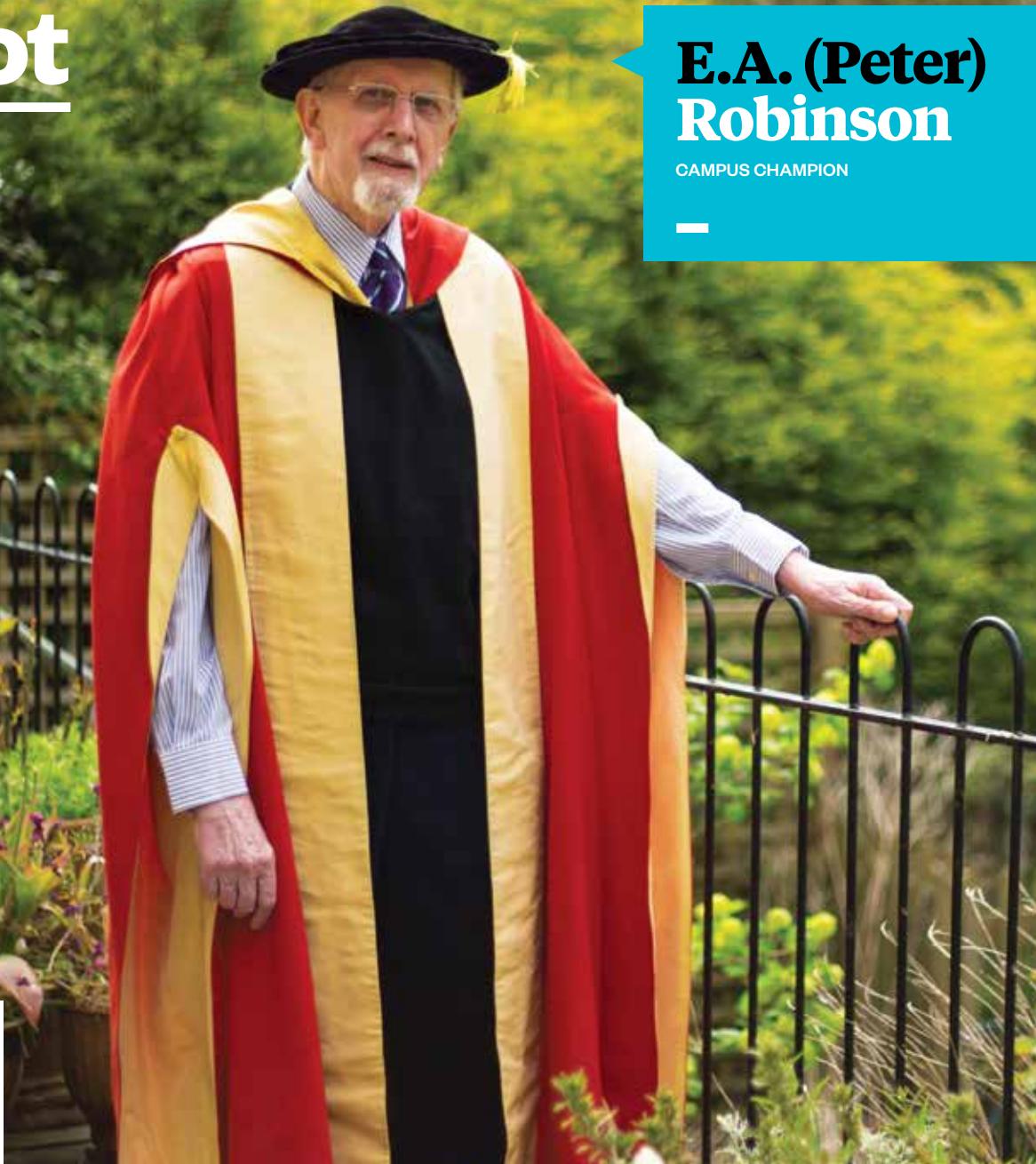
American actor Billy Campbell, best known for his role on *The Killing*, played Cardinal, and Canadian actor Karine Vanasse of *Revenge* and *Pan Am* played Delorme. "Having watched them in previous roles, I had a gut feeling that they'd be right for the roles—and they did not disappoint," says Blunt. "Billy perfectly captures Cardinal's hauntedness, his guilt, his sense of failure, his watchfulness—even in the scenes where there is little or no dialogue. Perhaps especially in those scenes."

Blunt never described Cardinal's appearance in his novels, but says he had some sense of what he would look like. Now that image is clear. "I know that, for the rest of my life, whenever I think of Cardinal or Delorme I'll see Billy or Karine in my head, and I don't mind one bit." —Megan Easton

# Snapshot

**E.A. (Peter) Robinson**

CAMPUS CHAMPION



## **Evolving with Erindale**

### E.A. (Peter) Robinson a key player in decades of campus history

"Early Erindale was a large, joyous family," says E.A. (Peter) Robinson, who arrived in Canada in 1958 as a post-doctoral chemistry fellow and stayed to blaze a trail at Erindale College (now U of T Mississauga). He joined the University of Toronto faculty in 1961 as an assistant professor of chemistry and moved west five years later to help create Erindale. Robinson served variously as first associate dean, acting dean, dean and

principal as the new campus took shape. He worked closely with the first working principal, J. Tuzo Wilson, who then passed the torch to him.

As an administrator from 1966 to 1976, Robinson was involved in "discussing, defining, planning and securing the evolving nature of Erindale College." His mission, as he saw it, was three-fold: "to give to the rural community west of Toronto the best that U of T had to offer, or better; to establish Erindale College's reputation as a happy, vibrant and confident community; and to ensure that its campus would continue to grow in beauty and tranquility

for the benefit of both scholars and visitors." Robinson also chaired the Council of Deans of Arts and Science for Ontario universities and, in 1992, chaired the college's 25th anniversary celebrations committee.

Despite his administrative duties, Robinson was also devoted to teaching and research. He thoroughly enjoyed offering the introductory chemistry course to incoming students and was one of the authors of a pair of modern chemistry textbooks and related study guides.

In the laboratory, Robinson's initial foray into research was directed toward a greater understanding of the complex chemistry of



ILLUSTRATION: TARA FADER

sulfuric acid. He and his research partners were involved in the invention of super-acids, pioneered the use of the Toronto Mercury Arc-Lamp, were among the first to use laser spectrometry, and discovered the elusive proof of C-H---O hydrogen bonding in methanesulfonyl fluoride and other substances. Since his retirement, his research has continued apace.

"Research scientists are problem solvers, and getting Erindale/UTM going to the best of our abilities was my great life experience that I had the good fortune to share not only with Tuzo Wilson, but with many others," Robinson says. — **Elaine Smith**

# First students at Erindale

AN IRREGULAR REGISTRATION



## Who was UTM's first student?

In 1967, Ken Luckhurst applied for admission to the University of Waterloo. He was accepted, but couldn't find a "suitable" place to live in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Unsure about what to do for the upcoming school year, Luckhurst spoke with a friend, Rick Robb (BA, 1970), who planned to attend the University of Toronto's Erindale College in the fall.

One afternoon—before Erindale College's official registration day, before the Registrar's Office even unpacked its boxes—Luckhurst met Robb on campus to have a look around.

"In those days, there was only one building for everything—administration, classes, cafeteria, sports, you name it," recalls Luckhurst. "The campus seemed like a place that I would enjoy spending three or four years at."

Luckhurst and Robb met with Dr. J.J. Rae, the registrar at the time. Rae told the pair that he would gladly admit them, but didn't have the appropriate registration forms. The dilemma was resolved when Luckhurst found a discarded Rothmans cigarette carton. It was on this carton that Rae jotted down their information and registered Erindale's first two students.



KEN LUCKHURST



DR. J.J. RAE

# Snapshot

## The Good Wife

UTM alumna Samra Zafar was 16 when she was forced to marry a stranger and move from the United Arab Emirates to Canada

**Over the next decade, she was isolated, humiliated and assaulted. The whole time, she was planning her escape.**

In August 2005, we moved into a new apartment. At first, he was kind again. But within a few months, I got pregnant with our second daughter, and the abuse resumed. I needed an escape plan, so I began tutoring and babysitting children in our apartment building, slowly saving money for five months until I had enough for my daughter and me to fly to Karachi, where my sister was getting married. This time I wasn't coming back.

My father had been diagnosed with kidney failure before I'd arrived in December, and over the next few months I watched helplessly as his condition deteriorated. One day, I sat with him in the ICU. "Papa, if something happens to you, what am I going to do?" I asked him. "Realize the strength you have inside of you," he told me. "Go back to Canada and find a way to get out of your marriage." He died two days later. My husband arrived in Karachi that week for the funeral. Sex was the first thing he wanted. It wasn't until he'd finished that he asked me how I was feeling. I said I was fine, got up and walked to the bathroom. I turned on the



PHOTO: LUIS MORA

# Samra Zafar

CLASS OF 2013

shower so he wouldn't hear me cry. Resigned and defeated, I went back with him. While I'd been away, he'd moved back into his parents' house. This time I got a small room in the basement, with bare walls and a little window in the corner. My daughter slept in her crib in the room next door. In June 2006, I gave birth to my second daughter. I was miserable.

And yet my father's words had ignited something in me. I knew I was smart, and I knew the only way out was through school. I studied in my room every night, finishing the last course I needed for my GED, a Grade 13 economics credit. A few months after my younger daughter was born, I earned my diploma, and decided to apply to university again.

In 2008, I applied to U of T's economics program. I was accepted. Nothing was going to stop me from going. My first day of school in September 2008 was one of the best of my life. I got to school 15 minutes before my class started and walked through the Kaneff Centre at U of T Mississauga. After everything I'd been through, I'd finally achieved my dream. I sat in the hall, tears running down my cheeks. If only my father could have seen this, I thought to myself.

I thrived in my new environment. I aced every class, and other students gravitated toward me, asking to study or socialize. My success changed my thinking. I could feel vestiges of confidence I hadn't had in years. One day in October I was walking to the campus bookstore to buy textbooks. Just around the corner, outside the health and counselling centre, a flyer on a bulletin board caught my eye. On it was a list of questions. "Do you feel intimidated? Do you

feel like you don't have a voice? Do you feel like you've lost your identity?" As my eyes ran quickly down the list, my brain screamed over and over again: yes, yes, yes. "Come in and make an appointment," the poster read. I opened the door and walked inside.

A few days later, I sat across from a counsellor, describing what was going on at home. She grabbed my hand. "It's not your fault," she said. It was the first time anyone had said that to me. As I continued my counselling, I realized that what had happened to me was wrong. My agency had been stripped away. I learned about the cycle of abuse that characterizes so many unhealthy relationships.

Our marriage was becoming more toxic every day. He once bought me a cellphone as a present, but installed spyware on it so he could monitor my calls. He kicked me in the stomach. He kept threatening to kill me. A year after I started counselling, I told him I wanted a divorce. "What are you talking about?" he asked me. "I love you. I can't live without you."

One January night in 2011, he picked a fight. I wasn't doing enough housework, he said. As he loomed over me, tightening his fist, I picked up my phone. "If you touch me, I'm going to call 911," I shouted. And then he spat out the word divorce, in Urdu, three times: talaq, talaq, talaq. According to some Islamic scholars, uttering those words means the marriage is over.

I thought I'd be thrilled when he left, but I was terrified. He sold our house out from under me, leaving me and the kids with three weeks to pack up. We had nowhere to go. I even registered at a couple of shelters,

expecting to be homeless. One day, I was at the U of T tuition office, and a woman overheard me lamenting my situation. She suggested I look into campus housing; luckily, the university had one family unit left. Two days later, I had the keys to my very own three-bedroom townhouse.

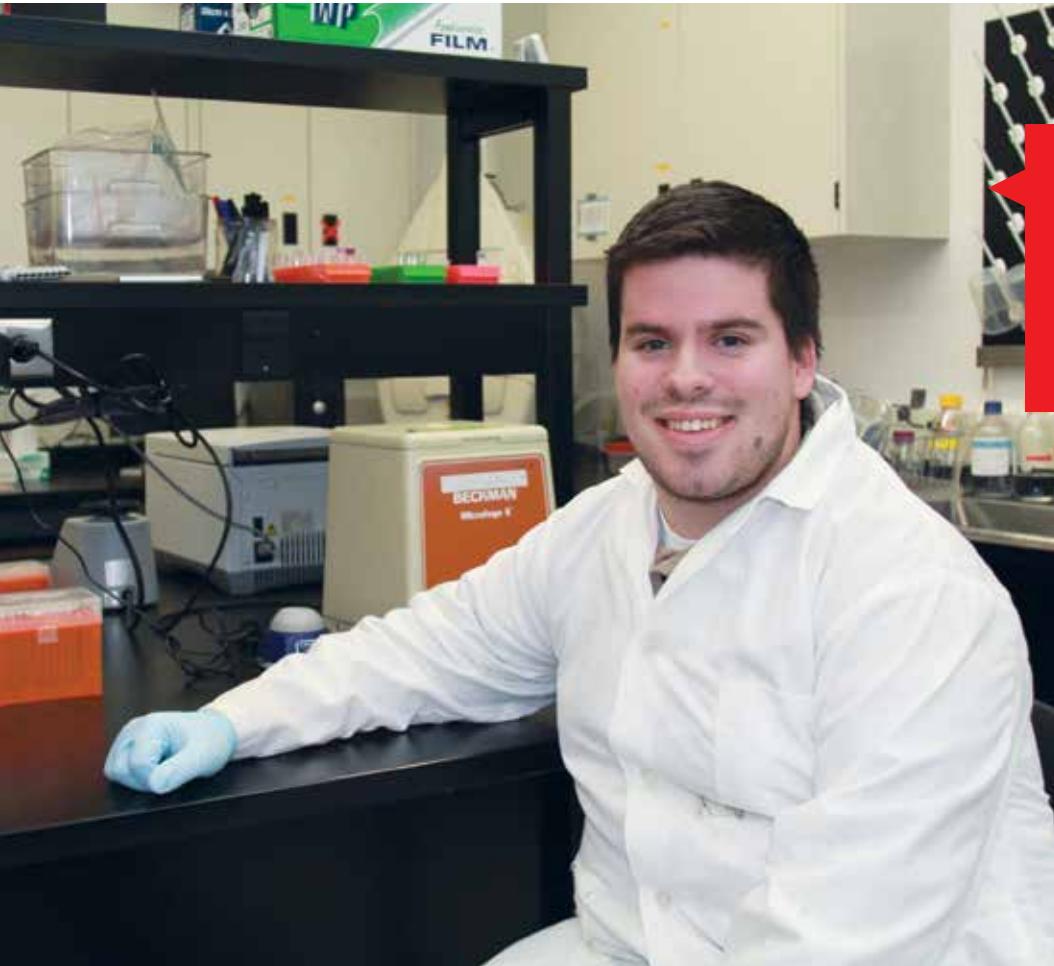
That year, I juggled five jobs to stay afloat. Education was my only refuge from my dark thoughts. I focused all my energy on school. In my fourth year, I was promoted to head TA. I worked as a senior mentor for the school's first-year transition program. I carried an eight-course load and earned a 3.99 GPA. I was awarded the university's highest honour, the John H. Moss Scholarship, a \$16,000 award that's given to an outstanding student who intends to pursue graduate work.

In September of that year, I started my master's in economics. By the time I graduated, I was surviving off OSAP, and my debt load was piling up. I wanted to stop borrowing money as soon as possible, so I decided not to pursue a PhD. Instead, I accepted a job at the Royal Bank of Canada, where I work today as a commercial account manager.

For the past three years, I've lived in a three-bedroom condo in Mississauga with my daughters, who are now 15 and 10. I serve as an alumni governor at the University of Toronto, and I speak about my experience for organizations like Amnesty International. I'm happier than I ever imagined I could be. I want women to know that they deserve a life of respect, dignity and freedom—that it's never too late to speak up. — **Samra Zafar**

*Excerpted from the March 2017 issue of Toronto Life.*

# Snapshot



## **Paying it forward** Grad student **Alex Paquette** struggled with learning disability; now he supports other students

Alexandre Paquette knows first-hand about the struggles undergraduates face as they learn new lab skills and tackle mountains of required reading. The teaching assistant and graduate student in biology has climbed his own mountain to get to where he is now.

School was always a struggle for Paquette, who remembers often feeling

despondent about achieving his dreams of becoming a scientist. While math and science came easily, reading was a challenge—the words jumbled together on the page. In university, Paquette intuitively figured out techniques to work around his challenge, creating movies of himself working out problems on a whiteboard, which he reviewed instead of re-reading notes. But it wasn't enough. Despite his dogged hard work, in his third year of undergraduate studies, Paquette found himself close to failing.

Working with UTM's AccessAbility Services, Paquette was tested for, and officially diagnosed with, a learning challenge. The support, he says, has made a world of difference. "As a grad student with disabilities, I felt alone," he says. "AccessAbility offered emotional and academic support,

### **Alex Paquette**

CLASS OF 2015

wanting to know where things were going well, and where I needed more help." Paquette now uses UTM's Test and Exam Centre, where he accesses accommodations like a screen reader to read exams and tests aloud to him, or extra time on tests.

Paquette also found support from Professor George Espi of the Department of Biology who took Paquette on as a lab volunteer and then as a graduate student working in biofuel research. "He saw something in me, and his support gave me the confidence I needed to persevere," Paquette says.

Paquette believes in paying it forward. With colleague Kayla Dias, Paquette has created more than 40 videos to help undergraduate students understand what's happening in chemistry and biology laboratory demonstrations. Paquette was also co-president of the graduate student society, and volunteered with science outreach programs.

Paquette's story has a happy ending. The kid who didn't think he would even graduate from high school begins work on a PhD at the University of Calgary in September 2017. Eventually, he hopes to run a biofuel company, but says he would also like to return to UTM as a professor. "I love teaching," he says. "I hope I can be an ambassador for people with disabilities. Everyone can succeed with the right help." — **Blake Eligh**

# Protecting Halton's natural heritage

## Hassaan Basit balances urban growth with greenspace

If you enjoy the outdoor pleasures of the southwest GTA, such as hiking Mount Nemo, swimming in Kelso Lake or birding in Hilton Falls, you may want to know about the environmentalist who's their biggest defender.

Hassaan Basit (B.Sc. 2000) is chief administrative officer of Conservation Halton, which protects and manages natural resources and promotes outdoor recreation in Halton region. The agency owns and operates 1,000-square kilometres of land featuring wetlands, streams, forests and significant geological formations, parts of which are on Lake Ontario's shoreline and the Niagara Escarpment. Basit says the authority works to balance the region's natural features with its rapid urbanization.

"We may want endless opportunities for residential and commercial growth, but

it shouldn't come at the expense of future generations having the same ability to enjoy our natural heritage," Basit says.

Basit's career path has been influenced by his academic and work experiences at UTM. As a student, he studied the mating activities of a tropical South American fish, and the experience sparked his fascination with the natural world. At the same time, he noticed the difficulties scientists had in sharing their research findings with the general public. After completing a master's degree in science communication at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland, he returned to UTM to work as a research assistant.

When Conservation Halton came on his radar in 2004, it seemed like the ideal way to blend his interest in studying the natural world and publicly communicating science. He has held various roles at the agency over the last 13 years, and began his current role

last June. Along the way, he completed a certificate in business administration at the Schulich School of Business to bolster his leadership skills.

One of 36 conservation agencies in Ontario, Conservation Halton promotes a healthy watershed to maintain sufficient clean drinking water and guard against flooding and erosion. The agency also maintains the area's forests, which are home to some at-risk species, by restoring habitats and planting trees. As well, it provides outdoor education and recreation opportunities through community initiatives at its eight parks, which include the ski and snowboard destination Glen Eden, and Crawford Lake, home to a reconstructed 15th century Iroquoian village.

"These greenspaces are not just a part of our natural heritage, but our cultural heritage," says Basit. — **Sharon Aschaeik**



**Hassaan Basit**

CLASS OF 2000

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CONSERVATION HALTON



# Anniversary Timeline



Whether you call it a semi-centennial or a Golden Jubilee, 2017 is a significant milestone for the University of Toronto Mississauga.

This year marks UTM's 50th anniversary—a time to remember the past and to look forward to an exciting future.

The story of Erindale College began when the University of Toronto purchased 150 acres of land along the winding Credit River in the early 1960s. The 1960s were an auspicious time for the new campus, which opened the doors of Erindale College's single academic building to 155 students, 28 faculty and 40 staff members in September 1967.

Jump forward to today—five decades later—and U of T Mississauga has transformed from a constituent of the Faculty of Arts and Science to become the second-largest division of the University of Toronto. UTM is now home to 14,000 undergraduate students, 600 graduate students, over 2,500 full- and part-time employees (including 980 permanent faculty and staff) as well as over 54,000 alumni.

Research by Tara Fader

#UTM50



## 1895

Charlotte M.B. Schreiber, working in her studio at Erindale, Ontario



## 1895

Springfield Public School, now known as Alumni House



## 1924

Erindale Public School, known as Alumni House today



## 1914

World War I, troops marching off to war on Dundas Street



## 1910

St. Peter's Church; view from Dundas Street



## 1915

Dundas Street East, with St. Peter's Church in background



## 1963

First radio broadcast—  
CFRE Radio Station in  
Colman House



## 1965

Erindale College offered its first courses leading to the BA degree at T.L. Kennedy Secondary School in Mississauga.



## 1966

Before Erindale College built residences, students lived in houses already located on the land when U of T purchased it. There were five all-male houses—Ackworth, Dobratz, McGill, Robinson and Thomas Cottage (shown)—and one female property known as Hastie House.



## 1966

Principal: D. Carlton Williams  
(1966-1968)



## 1967

Colman House, named for the first dean of Erindale College (John Colman), served as the campus' first student centre, housing the student union office, the offices of *The Erindalian*, Radio Erindale, a game and book room and a makeshift pub known as "Ugly's."

## 1966

Construction began in late fall on the Erindale College building, also referred to as the "preliminary" building, expected to be temporary but used until 2016, when it was finally demolished.



## 1967

Erindale College opened under Principal D. Carlton Williams with one "preliminary" building, two tennis courts and 155 students—101 in general arts and 54 in general science.



## 1968

Erindale College hosted an outdoor art exhibit, which included a massive steel structure, titled "Zero Centre" by artist Leonhard Oesterle. The artwork remained on loan to the college and sat outside the North Building for decades. Over the years, students have referred to the structure by many names, including the CIBC logo, the Green Goliath and the Erindale Enigma.



## 1968

Principal: J. Tuzo Wilson  
(1968-1974)



## 1969

Erindale College hosted the first public showing in Canada of moon rock samples—a 21-gram lump and a teaspoon of moon dust in a vial—from Oct. 11-12, 1969, in the North Building.



## 1969

Canadian artist David Blackwood began his five-year term as Erindale College's first artist-in-residence. Blackwood worked in a studio in the North Building and lived in the Artist's Cottage.



## 1969

Two Erindale students, Robert Rudolph and Doug Leeies, started the campus' first newspaper, *The Erindalian*, in 1969 with a circulation of about 500.



## 1970

First grad class of Erindale College



## 1972

Schreiberwood Residence opened



## 1973

Opening of South Building



## 1973

W.O. Mitchell visits Erindale College



## 1974

Principal: E.A. (Peter) Robinson (1974-1976)



## 1974

Mississauga transit began regular service to Erindale College.



## 1976

Principal: Paul Fox  
(1976-1986)



## 1985

The Council of the City of Mississauga recognized Lislehurst among the city's heritage properties.



## 1985

Erindale College had 3,547 full-time students and 1,465 part-time students



## 1984

Erindale College's float placed first at the U of T Homecoming Parade for the first time in 1984, sparking a six-year winning streak.



## 1986

Erindale College purchased personal computers for the first time in 1986. Students paid a one-time \$2 user fee to access the 17 computers in the library throughout the year.



## 1986

Principal: Desmond Morton  
(1986-1991, 1992-1995)

### Chretien speaks straight from heart

*By John McMurray*

The Dine Brunch-and-Speaker series continues Sunday as the Hon. Jean Chretien visited Erindale College.

Over 300 people in I.M. Spigel Hall

The audience, comprising of a cross-section of Erindale College members of the community, were treated to an interesting and highly rated speech quality on Canada and specifically on the issue of free trade.

"We [in Canada] have an



## 1992

On Sept. 25, 1992, the Kaneff Centre for Management and Social Sciences opened—the result of a successful \$3-million campaign in which 1,800 individual and corporate supporters participated. The opening marked the finale of the campus' 25th anniversary celebrations.



## 1993

Theatre Erindale's first production, "The Farm Show," opened in November 1993.



## 1992

Dr. Roberta Bondar, a doctoral student at Erindale College in the early 1970s, became the first Canadian woman in space. She kept an Erindale College crest among the personal items she took with her aboard her flight on the space shuttle Discovery.



## 1995

Principal: Robert H. McNutt (1995-2002)



## 2004

The CCT Building opened in 2004. It houses the Human Communication Lab and the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information & Technology.



## 1999

After a decade of planning and anticipating by the campus community, the Student Centre opened. UTM students contributed a landmark \$1 million to the centre's campaign.



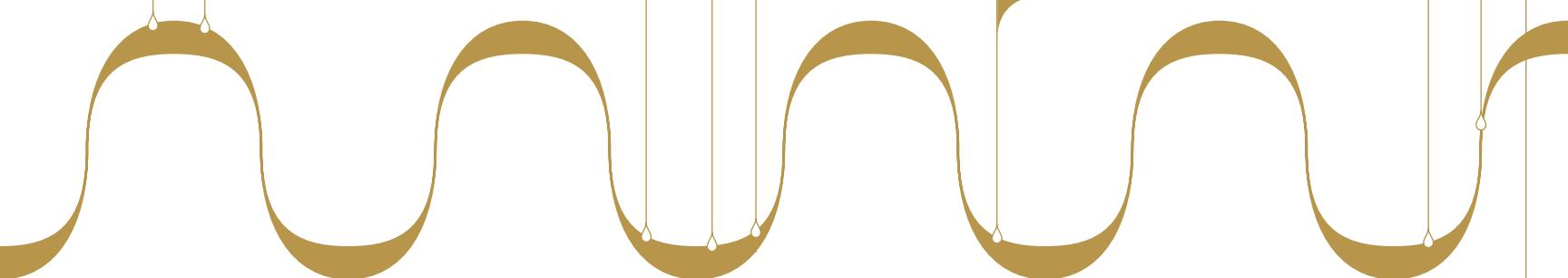
## 2002

Vice-President & Principal: Ian Orchard (2002-2006, 2007-2010)



## 2000

Claire Carver-Dias visited UTM with Olympic bronze medal in team synchronized swimming.





## 2010

Vice-President & Principal:  
Deep Saini (2010-2016)



## 2012

Jane Goodall lectured about her research and environmental initiatives as part of the Snider Lecture series at UTM. The lecture, entitled "Reasons for Hope", was held at the RAWC gym, which was filled to capacity.



## 2012

The South Building is renamed the William G. Davis Building.



## 2014

She Shoots! She Scores!,  
the story of Mississauga  
mayor Hazel McCallion



## 2014

In February 2014, the UTM Innovation Complex Project reached a major milestone—the completion of the building superstructure. The celebrants signed the last large steel beam and watched as it was hoisted into place.



## 2015

Deerfield Hall opened



## 2017

Campus today

#UTM50



# The Next 50 Years

Professor Ulrich Krull gazes into UTM's future

*Celebrating a milestone anniversary naturally inspires much retrospection, but M Magazine thought this would also be a good time to ask UTM's interim vice-president and principal Ulrich Krull to shift his gaze to the future. Here's his take on what's ahead for UTM.*

## **What are the plans for UTM's growth in the coming decades?**

We're going to slow down the rapid undergraduate enrolment growth of the past 10 to 15 years. For the next six years, UTM is not going to take many more undergraduate students, but we'll continue our hiring spree. This will rebalance our faculty-to-student ratio and further improve the quality of undergraduate education. Additional faculty will also allow us to increase graduate student presence at UTM. Then I see us restarting our growth, getting up to about 18,000 students by 2030, and to 20,000 in the 10 or 20 years beyond that.

## **How will the research landscape change at UTM?**

Our central challenge is to move beyond UTM's historical roots as an institution focused primarily on excellence in undergraduate education to become better recognized for internationally significant research. This will involve further investment in research infrastructure, faculty, and in graduate students and programs. By building our research capacity, we'll be able to attract top faculty to the research clusters we plan to develop in emerging areas like medicinal chemistry, robotics, global fluency, and adaptation in urban environments.

## **Can you give us a sneak peek at any major new projects?**

A major initiative that will be transformative is the proposed \$150-million building that will house the Centre for Medicinal Chemistry, along with desperately needed lab space for faculty in the sciences. A proposed robotics research cluster is also attracting a lot of interest. Our campus is an ideal site for it. We could run autonomous [self-driving] vehicles on the Outer Circle Road and we have enough clear sky space for study and development of smart autonomous remote flying vehicles.

## **What will the relationship between UTM and its surrounding community look like?**

As the leading university in the western GTA, UTM already has very strong ties with municipal government and local industry. But when considering the local business sectors, we are missing an ingredient—engineering. We have business, we have medicine, and if we can layer on engineering—then along with a very strong core of arts and science—we'll be well-positioned as an institution whose graduates fully align with the broad range of community opportunities and needs.

## **How would you describe the overarching vision for UTM in the years ahead?**

One word: innovation. We're moving towards a culture of innovation, which involves changing how students and faculty perceive their ability to move a creative idea into a practical reality. Instead of just fostering new ideas, we're going to teach how to move their ideas forward. One signal of where we're going is ICUBE, the new business accelerator on campus, which reflects the commercial side of innovation.

## **What are you personally most excited about when you consider UTM's future?**

Building our research capacity and bringing engineering to UTM present exciting opportunities for UTM and the entire university. We have support from the U of T president on down, and I'm very optimistic. Everybody sees the potential here. **M**

# G — r — o — T — o — g — e

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie reflects on the shared history—and future—of the city and the campus



In April of 2016, Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie boarded a flight at Pearson International Airport with representatives of the Ontario and Canadian governments, bound for an investment mission to Japan.

While abroad, she sat down with municipal leaders of cities including Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Kariya to discuss opportunities for foreign-direct investment—and one of the first things she mentioned was the University of Toronto Mississauga.

"I shared Mississauga's and UTM's success story with Osaka Mayor Hirofumi Yoshimura, business people and leaders from Japan's pharmaceutical industry," says Crombie, who has led the City since 2014. "UTM is especially important when undertaking investment missions to places like Japan with the goal of strengthening our global life sciences industry. Our partners at UTM are at the vanguard of helping Mississauga maintain and expand its competitive advantage in this important employment cluster."

It's a partnership that has endured for half a century. Both the city and the campus found their feet in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At the time, Square One Shopping Centre was still a square, featuring stores like Woolco, Bittner's and the Slack Shack, and the Bee Hive Golden Corn Syrup plant still rose above Port Credit harbour. In the 50 years since then, they have grown side by side—trading farm

fields, fruit trees and bell-bottoms for growing populations, cultural diversity, and vibrant industry and research.

Continuing where her predecessor, longtime mayor Hazel McCallion, left off, Crombie is an active ambassador for the campus as a source of economic advancement and city-building.

"Mississauga is proudly home to the University of Toronto Mississauga. The City of Mississauga and UTM are city-building partners," says Crombie. "Youth employment is always top-of-mind. Having UTM in Mississauga means businesses can more easily find, recruit and hire the best and the brightest directly into the workforce after graduation. UTM helps ensure Mississauga always has a surplus of smart, hardworking and talented human capital."

Moreover, Mississauga City Council continues to reaffirm a \$10-million-dollar investment toward UTM's new Innovation Complex. "This grant remains a bold and unprecedented move by a municipality," says Crombie. "The ongoing success of UTM is particularly important to growing, diversifying and strengthening our local economy. UTM injects over \$1.3 billion annually into Peel region, with the bulk of the share going to Mississauga."

But beyond pure economic development, Crombie believes UTM is fundamental to Mississauga's city planning efforts. "Put simply, investing in education is city-building. When we build public transit,

we ensure that UTM is part of our planning efforts, complete with ongoing bus service to campus and transit stations on campus and nearby. We also ensure our public libraries, which many UTM students rely on, are accessible by transit and have the latest research publications and study spaces for students to use."

The town-and-gown partnerships are diverse. Mississauga's public transit system, MiWay, partners with UTM and UTMSU to provide the U-Pass, a student transit card allowing unlimited fare-free rides—helping students reduce costs and taking more vehicles off the road. Patients in the Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation Program at Trillium Health Partners use the exercise track at UTM's state-of-the-art Recreation, Athletics & Wellness Centre. And Mississauga parents can bring the kids to watch a summer "Flicks on the Field" or sign their children up for athletic, arts and leadership camps on campus.

The synergies between the city and the campus continue elsewhere. "I am proud that UTM representatives serve on our Economic Development Advisory Board and the Mayor's Innovation Taskforce. These are working groups that better allow Mississauga and UTM to work toward achieving shared goals," says Crombie. "UTM representatives serve on the Mississauga International Partnership Program Committee—a working group that is leveraging Mississauga's

# W — i — n — g t — h — e — r



international expertise, cultural diversity and extensive networks to help our economy reach its full potential.”

And Crombie is particularly enthusiastic about one campus venture that could shape the next 50 years at UTM. “As we look toward the future, Mississauga is excited about the ground-breaking research led by Professor Patrick Gunning and the new Centre for Medicinal Chemistry. With the formation of this new and innovative institution, UTM continues to assert its own identity and reputation for research excellence.” And the benefit for the city? “Students from around the world are choosing UTM to study, learn and launch rewarding careers. Many of these same students then choose to call Mississauga home.”

For Mayor Crombie—herself a U of T graduate—the chance to drive down Mississauga Road and turn onto campus is one of the perks of her role. “As mayor, I am fortunate to be invited to UTM on an ongoing basis to meet and speak with students, staff and researchers from different faculties,” she says. “I always welcome every opportunity to help provide career and life advice to students who want to embark on exciting, rewarding and enriching careers in business and public service.” **M**

# 50 Years of Memories

To celebrate U of T Mississauga's 50th anniversary in 2017, we asked you—our UTM community—for your memories to mark the occasion. And you delivered!

UTM's 50 Challenge asked you to share the experiences that made you laugh, made you cry, made you think more deeply, made you care more intensely and brought you lifelong friends.

Experiences that inspired growth and change and helped shape your future. Submissions were collected and voted on by our judges: Professor Darryl Gwynne of the Department of Biology; Assistant Professor Sara Hughes of the Department of Political Science; and Melissa Heide, UTM's alumni assistant.

Congratulations to our winners!

## Siddharth Singh Chaudhari

*Category: Labs & Lectures*  
*Grad Year: 2016 / Political Science*

In my experience, only a handful of *sui generis* students attend their first undergraduate lecture with a clear aim and a crystallized path to a fulfilling career. While I am certain that these unicorns exist, I was not one of them. As I sat down in DV2082 on Monday, the 10th of September, 2012, for the first POL113 (Ideas and Ideologies) lecture, "deer in the headlights" syndrome left me breathless. Gone was the certainty of high school. Having immigrated to Canada a few weeks earlier, I felt overwhelmed by the new and the strange. Conflicting feelings raged within; I was excited and confused,

certain and lost. The opportunity to discover a *raison d'être* motivated me; the spectre of adult life with its emphasis on careers and mortgage and insurance payments left me dazed. I knew I belonged at UTM; I did not know why.

Within the first hour of Professor Mark Lippincott's POL113 lecture, I knew I had made the right choice. His verbal flair and conviction were impressive; it was his irrepressible passion for the material, however, that was infectious. A seasoned lecturer, he recited the Allegory of the Cave with the confidence of a venerable priest repeating his favourite verse for the benefit of a group of devoted parishioners. He had no use for PowerPoint; Professor Lippincott shared his knowledge more intimately, using oratory to reach his latest batch of befuddled first-years. He claimed that the objective of post-secondary education is to help each of us, like Plato's



## Amani Ammari

*Category: Convocation*  
*Grad Year: 2011 / Bachelor of Science*  
*Photo Title: Bittersweet*  
*Year Taken: April 2011*  
*Location: Convocation Hall*

hesitant philosopher, find the proverbial light. Where that light takes us is contingent on our actions. Rest assured, however, that there is such a thing as human agency; success, he said, awaits those who persevere.

Professor Lippincott's lecture that day offered me a profound sense of hope. He left me convinced that I am the master of my destiny and that, with assiduity, I would go on to make something of myself.

I accepted UTM's offer of admission in order to study CCIT. Professor Lippincott changed my outlook and interests altogether. I am now an MA student in the Department of Political Science at U of T. I hope to enroll in a doctoral program in Political Science this fall. I suppose it is fitting, then, that my journey at UTM (one of self-discovery) began with an allegory about a disoriented man striving to find a purpose in an unfamiliar world.

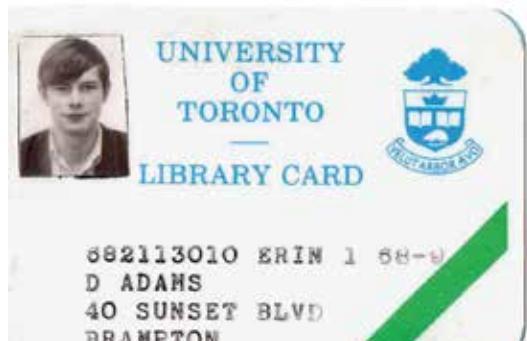


## Kim Rodrigues

*Category: Beyond the Classroom  
Grad Year: 2014 / Honours Bachelor of Arts*

It was in the summer of 2012, and yet I still remember the dance moves and the lyrics so well, even today. One of the moments that made me laugh and also cry, because I was laughing so hard, was practising a dance with my utmONE team for students on Welcome Day. We danced and sang to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing." I remember we changed the lyrics to "...Just a small-town girl, leaving from her little world, she took the shuttle bus to UTM...". Not only did this experience bring so much laughter into my life, but I also made some of my closest friends that summer. Friends who I had the privilege of working with and travelling with around the world after my graduation. Furthermore, my experience with utmONE has shaped my career choices, and has inspired me to pursue my dream of working in the post-secondary realm again.

#utmpride #classof2014



## David Adams

*Category: Orientation  
Grad Year: 1971 / Arts Degree*

This is my library card from my first year at Erindale College. I clearly remember the first time I was in the Erindale College Library: I reeled back in disbelief as none of the books contained photos or pictures, only...words!



## Gareth Goodchild

*Category: Beyond the Classroom  
Grad Year: 1970 / Botany 210*

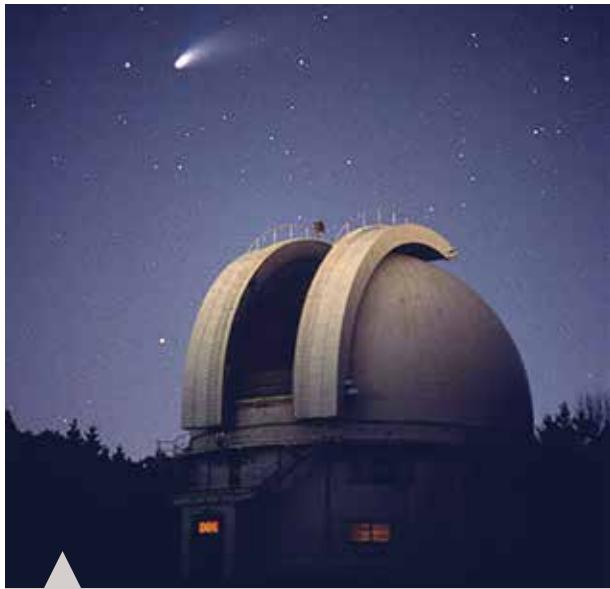
One of my fond memories of being a student at Erindale College (as it was known then) was a fall field course taken in 1968. Botany 210 was a second-year course which involved a number of day trips out in various locations around southwest Ontario. Each week we would squeeze into Professor Gary Thaler's old Volkswagen van dubbed the "Magic Van" and head out for places unknown. We visited lowland and upland forests, quaking bogs, beach and sand dune communities. There was the occasional pub that was sampled as well. Professor Thaler was a young guy with amazing mutton-chop sideburns who kept things lively. He always referred to us students as "Mr Goodchild" or "Miss Jones," never by our first names. He was well liked. Being the first cohort of science students going through Erindale, there were less than 30 of us so we knew each other well and created some lifelong friendships. My Botany Field Trip Report is one of the few mementoes of my time at the college and the small black note book which several of us are clutching in the attached photo still sits on my bookshelf at home, nearly 50 years later. **M**

# Spark

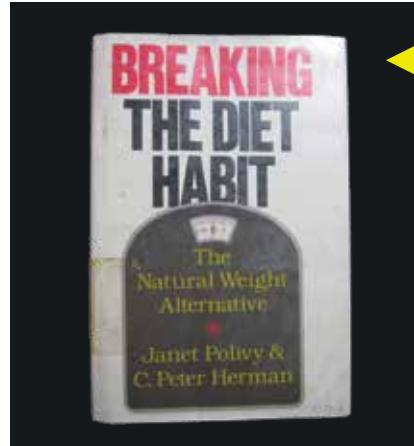
## Five decades of distinction

**Even as a small campus in its earliest days,** Erindale/UTM made its mark in the world of research, across a broad range of disciplines. Here's a sampling of highlights from the last 50 years:

**Ever heard of the Mozart Effect?** Many expectant parents, hoping to bump their child's IQ into genius range or birth the next Beethoven, play classical music for their unborn children and hurry to teach them instruments. But Professor Glenn Schellenberg's studies have found that while children who took music lessons showed a small increase in IQ, it wasn't possible to rule out the effects of other factors, such as the fact that children in such lessons tend to come from richer families with access to other resources.



**In 1972-73,** astronomer Tom Bolton was on staff at Erindale, working at U of T's David Dunlap Observatory's 74-inch reflector, when he attracted worldwide attention by identifying an X-ray source, known as Cygnus X-1, as a black hole. It may be the most significant astronomical observation ever made in Canada.



**Professor Janet Polivy,** now a professor emeritus in UTM's Department of Psychology, is one of the world's leading experts on eating behaviour and obesity. Her research on eating behaviour focuses on such areas as eating disorders, emotion and socio-cultural influences. She is the author of *Breaking the Diet Habit*, and is one of the most highly cited psychologists in the world.

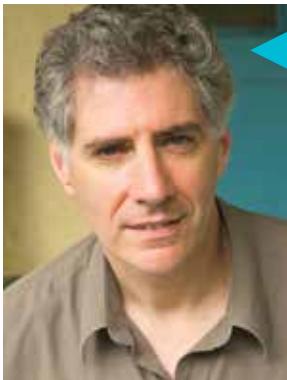
### That's one humongous fungus!

In 1992, Myron Smith was a PhD candidate in botany at UTM, when he and colleagues discovered a massive specimen of the fungus *Armillaria bulbosa* in the hardwood forests near Crystal Falls, Mich. Also known as the honey fungus, it weighed at least 10,000 kilograms and was thought to be the largest living organism on Earth.



**While Professor Tracy Rogers' research is scientifically fascinating,** it has a serious undertone—examining forensic evidence and offering professional assistance in some of Canada's most well-known criminal trials. Rogers, who heads the forensic sciences program at UTM, consulted on the 2002 search of serial killer Robert Pickton's British Columbia pig farm and, most recently, in the hunt for clues in the murder of Ontario husband and father Tim Bosma. At UTM, she teaches the next generation of forensic anthropologists, chemists and biologists how to sift evidence for minute clues, each one with the potential to bring closure to victims and families.

**With more and more humans living and working in cities,** the research of Professor David Wolfe has become critically relevant. A specialist in cluster dynamics, local and urban innovation, and knowledge-based economic development, Wolfe is a professor of political science at UTM and co-director of the Innovation Policy Lab at U of T's Munk School of Global Affairs. Wolfe has published extensively; he is the editor or co-editor of 10 books and numerous scholarly articles, including *21st Century Cities in Canada: The Geography of Innovation*. His most recent book, *Growing Urban Economies: Innovation, Creativity and Governance in Canadian City-Regions*, is co-edited with U of T President Meric Gertler.



**Richard Greene**, a scholar and professor in the Department of English & Drama, specializes in 20th century British literature and creative writing, and is an accomplished poet in his own right. His collection, *Boxing the Compass*, was highly lauded, and won the 2010 Governor General's Award for Poetry—Canada's highest literary prize. Along with winning that prestigious prize, he is the author of two internationally acclaimed biographies about British writer Graham Greene and British poet Dame Edith Sitwell.



**Chances are**, if you've heard about dinosaur research in the last three decades, you've heard the name Robert Reisz. A professor and former chair of the Department of Biology at UTM, Reisz is one of the world's foremost vertebrate paleontologists. His research on a partially preserved *Massospondylus* nest and eggs, and the development of pelycosaurs—possibly the ultimate ancestor of mammals—has been featured on newscasts and front pages around the world, and his students have gone on to work in universities and prestigious institutions like the Royal Ontario Museum and the Fields Museum of Natural History.

## A bright future

**Building on 50 years of groundbreaking research**, a new generation of UTM scholars and innovators are making discoveries and advancing knowledge to understand and improve our world. Here are just a few of UTM's researchers capturing headlines around the world:



**Akwasi Owusu-Bempah's research focus**—the intersections of race, crime and criminal justice, with a particular interest in the area of policing—is frequently in the news, and he is often asked to make sense of these complex issues by media, police agencies, government bodies and community organizations. An assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Owusu-Bempah has studied black males' perceptions of, and experiences with, the police in the Greater Toronto Area, reviewed race-based data collection within the Canadian criminal justice system, and examined public perceptions of criminal injustice in Canada and the United States.

# Spark

**Shafique Virani** is a renowned professor of Islamic studies, whose research and activism fosters greater mutual understanding between the West and the Muslim world. Virani, the past chair of the Department of Historical Studies, focuses on Islamic history, philosophy, Sufism, Shi'ism, and Islamic literatures in Arabic, Persian and South Asian languages. Through his scholarship, teaching, humanitarian work, and regular media appearances, he champions education as a means to fight Islamophobia.



**Assistant professor of anthropology Tracey Galloway** is helping to change the delivery of health care in Canada's icy north, where vast distances make it challenging to deliver health care close to home. For diagnosis and treatment, residents with serious health issues must travel to southern care referral centres. Galloway is investigating various facets of health, including patterns of child growth and nutrition, obesity, and the incidence of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer, and will use the information to improve health supports for northern Indigenous Peoples.

**Chemistry professor Patrick Gunning** is leading the new Centre for Medicinal Chemistry, where his research targets some of the deadliest and rarest forms of the disease, including cancers of the blood, brain and breast. Gunning's lab is killing cancer cells by blocking the key proteins necessary for their survival. His research targets the STAT3 and STAT5 proteins, which play a role in 70 per cent of cancers. Gunning has created molecules that "switch off" these proteins, severing cancer's lifeline, while leaving healthy cells untouched. Four potential new drugs are in the final stages of development.



**Professor Rhonda McEwen**, an expert in the area of mobile communication and tablet computing at the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information & Technology, is building an enriched understanding of how people interact with new media devices. One area of great interest is how individuals with autism spectrum disorder, often with limited social and communication skills, could potentially use tablets to interact with others, which could have huge implications for parents and teachers hoping to bridge the gap to autistic children.



**There's no question** that police officers can find themselves in unpredictable, challenging and highly stressful situations. To better prepare officers for the challenges they face in the line of duty, Judith Andersen, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, is partnering with Peel Regional Police to teach officers science-based techniques to control their stress reactivity and improve their split-second decisions. Andersen has been testing these techniques for the past several years with police organizations in Europe, the U.S. and Canada, and this method has been adopted as standard training for all police officers in Finland.



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# Class Notes



## From UTM to the UN

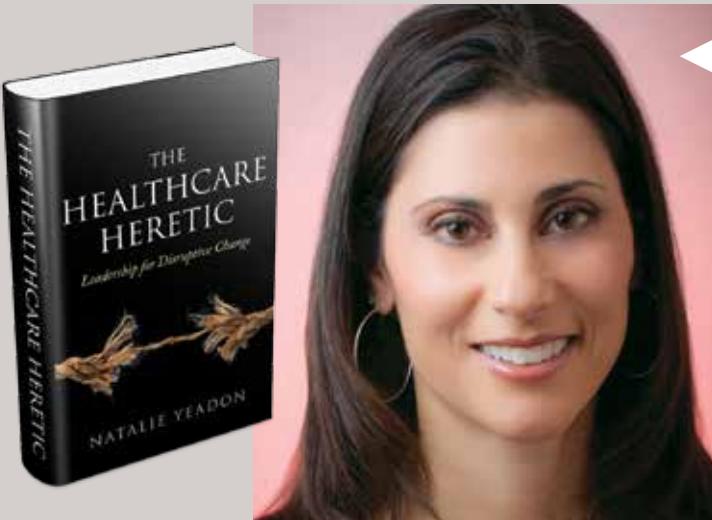
"My work has been very intellectually stimulating, and very rewarding. It's been an exciting journey so far," says alumna Nour Alnasser (HBA, 2016). Exciting may be an understatement. Over the past year, the criminology and psychology grad travelled to Jordan and Greece, where she worked in the world's largest refugee camps, interned with United Nations Women and facilitated youth development programs to combat violent extremism. Her days included screening refugees for trauma, working with donors and government officials, as well as policy development and analysis. "My identity as a woman, as a Canadian, Jordanian, with Palestinian and Syrian roots, allows me to access certain spaces that would otherwise be closed to many people," says Alnasser, who currently works at The Orange House, a refugee centre in Athens, Greece. "My experiences have allowed me to meet amazing refugees, and help out to the best of my ability."

### Put your name here

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We would love to hear about what you've been up to since your graduation. Share your milestones, awards and other updates at [m.magazine@utoronto.ca](mailto:m.magazine@utoronto.ca), and we may publish it in the next issue of *M!*

PHOTO: COURTESY NOUR ALNASSER



## Digital Disruptor

Natalie Yeadon is all about bold thinking. The Erindale College alumna (B.Sc. 1990), who packed in her job as a radiation therapist for a career in pharmaceutical marketing, now heads up Impetus Digital, an international engagement facilitator for healthcare communities. In 2016, she published her first book, *The Healthcare Heretic: Leadership for Disruptive Change*. Yeadon wants to inspire new thinking about innovative ways to deliver and access health care. With its deliberately provocative title, *Heretic* is “a call for disruptive change to a system that is clearly broken, and a rallying cry to leaders of the economy of the future. Governments, hospitals, pharmaceutical manufacturers and patients all have a vested interest in making the system better,” she says.

## Spotlight on Romance

You could say the romance between Erindale College alumni Andrea Peirson (BA, 1995) and Nicolas Lemire (BA, 1992) was meant “to be.” The students became fast friends backstage during a 1991 drama club production of *Macbeth*. “We both had really long hair,” Peirson remembers. “One time, we were being silly and braided our hair together.” They lost track of time and had to untangle quickly to change the set for the next scene. Peirson and Lemire stayed in touch over the next decade as Lemire went on to earn a master’s degree (U of T, 1998) and BEd (OISE, 2003) and Peirson earned a BEd in Regina. In 2000, their romance took centre stage, and they wed in 2003. Fourteen years later, theatre is still a large part of their lives. Peirson says the couple often attend plays, and Lemire, now a middle school teacher, stages an annual Shakespearean production with his students.

PHOTOS: (TOP) COURTESY NATALIE YEADON; (BOTTOM) COURTESY ANDREA PEIRSON



# Class Notes

## The Power of Mentorship

Erindale College alumna and former professor Madeline Kalbach addressed a packed room at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2017, speaking on the importance of mentorship for women. Kalbach, who was part of a delegation from the Canadian Federation of University Women, was among 8,000 attendees who gathered for the week-long summit on gender equity at UN headquarters in New York. The theme of the 2017 conference was women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work. Kalbach attended daily briefings and general assemblies, met with Canadian policy makers and draped a CFUW scarf on Wall Street's "Fearless Girl" statue.

Kalbach, herself a mentor to three women, including an undergraduate student at UTM through the alumni mentorship program, says that mentorship is invaluable for women. "Mentorship builds confidence, helps with work and business goal development, and provides valuable connections to resources," she says.



## PAW Patrol Power!

### Alumnus' animation company wins prestigious awards

Congratulations to UTM alumnus Frank Falcone (BA, 1991), the president and creative director of Guru Studio, a Toronto-based animation company. Guru received two 2017 Canadian Screen Awards for its animated hit, *PAW Patrol*, for Best Direction in an Animated Program or Series and Best Pre-School Program or Series. Bravo!





## Changing course

An offhand comment by a manager who advised her to stick to secretarial work was the catalyst that inspired Fay Meydaner (BComm, 1984) to embark upon a commerce degree at Erindale College. It was the first leg in a journey that would take her around the world.

Upon graduation, she earned her chartered accountant credentials and worked as an auditor with large and mid-sized clients. "It was a great education about how businesses run, how to assess risk and how to help businesses plan for the future," she says. She moved up quickly, but soon realized she didn't want to become a partner. "I changed course," she says, quitting her job to backpack through Asia for a year. A stop in Istanbul to visit family resulted in a new direction for the traveller—first with a stint at Citibank, and then a role as chief financial officer at Bristol-Meyers Squibb, where she helped to establish the company's operations in Turkey and achieved US\$100 million in sales within five years. Meydaner says the work was "very satisfying" but a new opportunity was calling. In her trademark style, she is again taking on a new challenge. Her first book is to be published in 2018.

"Erindale chose me," Meydaner says. "It was the best education in the world. My degree gave me credibility, and it made me who I am."



# Class Notes



## Alumni Events

Discover the benefits of being UTM alumni! Enjoy events, experiences and keynotes delivered by UTM faculty, alumni and other leading and engaging speakers from the community, business, media, and the arts and sciences. See [www.utm.utoronto.ca/alumni/events](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/alumni/events).

UTMAA's Annual General Meeting	MAY 31	
Classes Without Quizzes <small>Alumna Andrea Carter will discuss stress and anxiety and how failure can actually lead to success.</small>	MAY 31	
Flicks on the Field <small>A fun, family-friendly movie for everyone. A Spring Reunion staple—enjoy popcorn and a movie on us!</small>	JUNE 2	
Toronto Blue Jays Alumni Day <small>The boys in blue are back for another banner year of baseball! Show your U of T blue and join us for a spring matchup with the Yankees!</small>	JUNE 3	

<b>Convocation</b> The 47th year of convocation ceremonies for UTM grads take place at historic Convocation Hall.	JUNE 7 AND 8	
<b>African Lion Safari Alumni Day</b> The roar of the lions! Majestic elephants! A tour of the reserve, lunch and a "creature feature" are included in this family-friendly event.	JULY 16	
<b>Snider Lecture with Margaret Trudeau</b> <small>Margaret Trudeau will discuss living with bipolar disorder, and her advocacy for mental health.</small>	SEPTEMBER 18	
<b>CIBC Run for the Cure</b> <small>This annual event will bring the UTM community together for a common cause—raising research dollars to fight cancer.</small>	OCTOBER 1	
<b>50th Anniversary Gala</b> <small>A celebration of our campus's proud history and exciting future!</small>	OCTOBER 20	

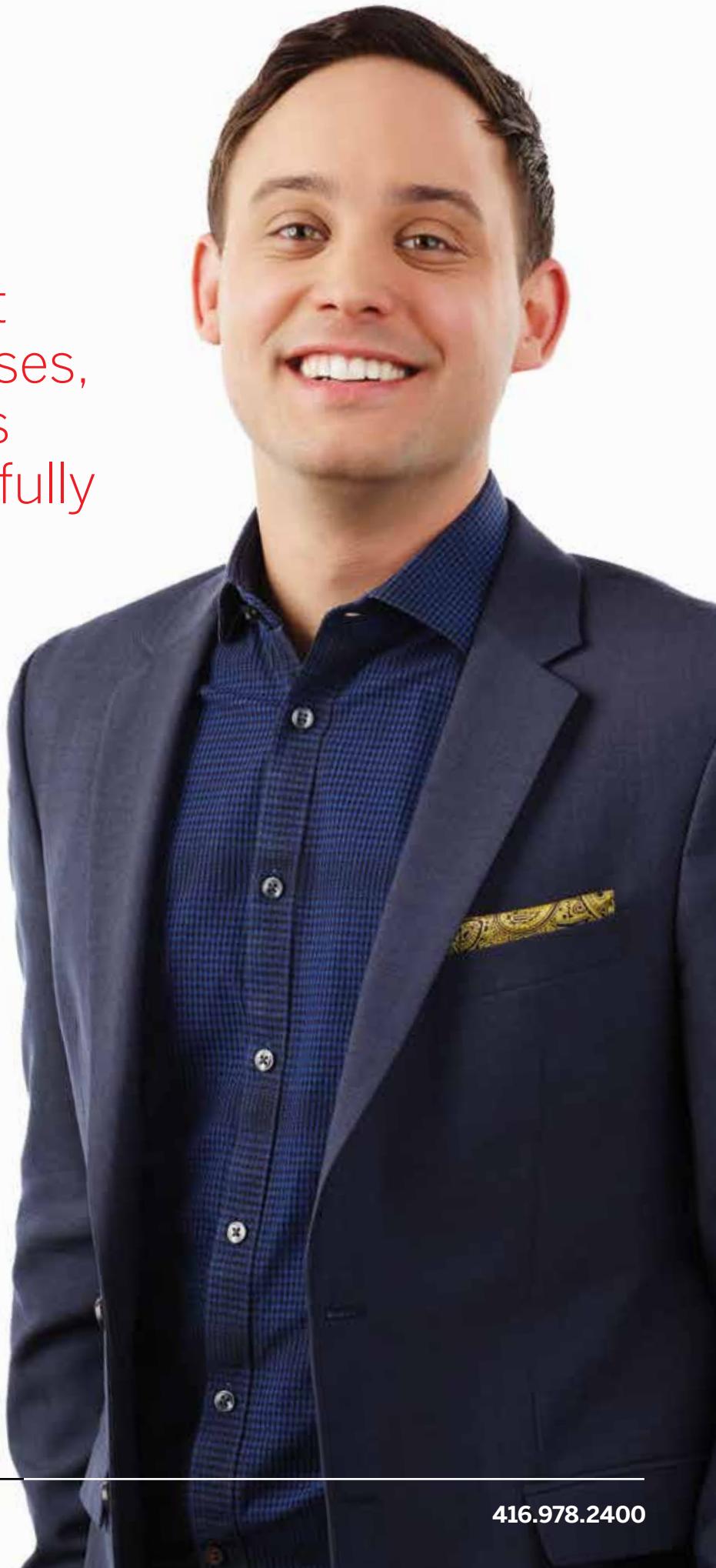
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# Vault

1975

**Granted by London's College of Arms,** Erindale College's coat of arms was unveiled in December 1975. The design [inset, upper left] features a "fruited oak tree" atop a tower rising from wavy stripes, with a gold-bordered green shield and a chevron with blue and white waves. According to heraldic tradition, the predominant colours of green and gold symbolize loyalty and elevation of the mind, and are a reminder of the natural beauty of the campus. Secondary colours of azure and silver represent truth, loyalty and peace. The oak tree symbolizes continuous growth and fertility, the tower represents safety and grandeur, and the wavy lines are a visual nod to the nearby Credit River. Inscribed on a banner at the bottom is the motto *Tantum Nobis Creditum*, another subtle nod to the river, which translates to "so much is entrusted to us."



PHOTO: LUIS ALBUQUERQUE



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# MOMENTOUS OCCASION

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