

# UTM Office of the Dean Newsletter

Volume 4: Issue 1  
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Decorations in the Davis Building welcoming back students, faculty, and staff on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

## 1. From the Desk of the Dean

First, I would like to say a massive welcome back to campus!! On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, we increased in-person teaching and activities across all our campuses and Faculties. It will be two years in March 2020, that the pandemic began and changed all our lives. For some of you, it will be the first time you've been at UTM in person in two years – or potentially the first time ever. There have been times that it seemed as though we would ever return to 'normal', and it is great to see the campus filled again with students, staff, and faculty.

I want to thank everyone for all their hard work in preparation for this date, pivoting classes from online to 80 % in person was no easy task and I am inspired at how everyone came together to make this happen.

Of course, we still have enhanced safety measures throughout our campus, including the wearing of masks indoors and the use of UCheck before entering the campus. I want to thank everyone to adhering to these measures and keeping our campus safe.

I am looking forward and I'm excited for the months ahead, to seeing faces in real life that I have only ever seen before behind a screen. And as the winter passes by, I am excited for Spring and wandering around the grounds of our beautiful campus.

I hope to bump into many of you in person and please pop by the Dean's office to say hello!

### ***Staffing Updates from the Office of the Dean***

Please join me in welcoming some new members to our team:

- Seeret Samra joined our office in January 2022 as the Experiential Learning Officer in the Experiential Education Unit, Office of the Dean. In her role, Seeret will provide EL-related administrative support to UTM academic units, including ICCIT, Economics, Political Science, and Psychology. She will be responsible for a variety of tasks such as developing and fostering relationships with employers and community partners; advising faculty, staff, and students on university policies and procedures around for-credit EL activities; organizing and participating in EL-related events and workshops; and facilitating the paperwork associated with student placements.
- Alexandra Chee joined our team on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022. In this role, Alexandra will provide much needed administrative support to the academic integrity and discipline portfolio.

I also want to extend a congratulations to Sara da Silva who has accepted the newly created position of Assistant Director, Academic Planning, Policy and Projects in the Office of the Dean. In this role, Sara will be responsible for coordinating divisional planning to operationalize strategic academic priorities and objectives at UTM. She will be responsible for liaising with: Facilities, Management & Planning; the Office of the Registrar; and Budget, Planning and Finance to initiate, manage and implement processes and projects relating to academic planning, space planning, financial resource planning, and divisional strategic planning. Sara will also bridge work between the Office of the Dean and the Office of the Vice-President and Principal, UTM to support and advance UTM's strategic goals and priorities.

### ***Strategic Enrolment Management Meetings***

My office has started reaching out to your departments to set up meetings regarding Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM). Strategic enrolment management (SEM) guides university processes to identify and attract students in alignment with our strategic priorities: excellence; accessibility; and a caring inclusive community. SEM processes ensure that students have the tools and supports they need to complete their studies and touches all aspects of the student lifecycle, from recruitment through graduation.

Thanks to those that have participated in these meetings so far and I look forward to meeting with you all and continuing this conversation.

## 2. Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning Collaboration

### *Curriculum Changes*

The final round of undergraduate curriculum changes for the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar was completed this Fall 2021 term. Divisional Undergraduate Curriculum Committees for the Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences met to review a total of 517 curriculum change proposals, including minor program modifications, new courses, course modifications, and course retirements. These proposals were presented to the UTM Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) on January 13, 2022 and received final approval. All approved changes are effective September 1, 2022.

This past round of undergraduate curriculum review saw the introduction of the institution-wide course experience tag, which will replace the now retired “EXP” tags in the academic calendar. This new typology will help align learning experiences across our own UTM undergraduate course offerings as well as across other UofT divisions. The 2022-2023 Academic Calendar will highlight the course experience opportunities in 108 of our existing courses. The PCU Team is looking forward to collaborating with our colleagues in the Experiential Education Unit (EEU) as we continue to identify and develop additional course experiences.

Thank you to all our academic units, committee members, and curriculum support staff members for another successful curriculum review round. We look forward to exciting new courses in game studies, computational biology, Asian diaspora, along with increased ROP options across a number of academic units.

### *Curriculum Review Process*

This year, the PCU introduced a new divisional curriculum review process for graduate minor modifications. This new process mirrors the long-standing undergraduate curriculum review process and formalizes the decanal level review of proposed changes before they are presented to AAC for final approval. In early Fall 2021, the PCU struck the inaugural Divisional Graduate Curriculum Committee at UTM with the first meeting held in early December 2021. A total of 10 proposals were reviewed by the Committee and will be presented at the upcoming February 10, 2022 AAC meeting.

Congratulations to IMI, our professional graduate programs, and the Graduate Divisional Curriculum Committee for all their hard work with this new process.

## 3. Vice-Dean, Academic Experience

### **Experiential Learning Group (ELG)**

In September 2019, the Vice-Dean, Academic Experience reconfigured the membership of the Experiential Learning Group to include broader representation from academic and non-academic campus partners that support the delivery of experiential learning (EL) opportunities at UTM. Under

the co-chairs Rena Banwait (Manager, Experiential Education Unit, Office of the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean), Felicity Morgan (Director, Career Centre), and Tracey Bowen (Associate Professor, Teaching Stream in the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology), the ELG has been tasked with advancing the goals outlined in the UTM Experiential Learning Mission Statement. It has worked tirelessly over the past three years to assess the landscape and identify key priority areas for EL at UTM. The ELG surveyed UTM stakeholders on three EL priority areas (resources, evaluations, and communications) in January 2020 and submitted a report on their findings to the Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean in November 2020. The ELG is now in the process of a plan of action to implement the recommendations in their report.

The ELG extends its heartfelt gratitude to Professor Bowen, whose term as faculty co-chair of the committee came to an end on December 31, 2021. The ELG will continue to meet monthly with Professor Michael deBraga (Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy) assuming the role of faculty co-chair for the next couple of years.

### **Community Engagement Inventory (CEI)**

The Experiential Education Unit (EEU) is pleased to share that the internal rollout of the Community Engagement Inventory is now underway among academic units and non-academic campus partners. The CEI is a new campus tool developed by Information & Instructional Technology Services that provides UTM with a centralized platform for documenting and promoting community engagement activities, as well as tracking past and ongoing partnerships with community organizations. The EEU has asked each academic unit and non-academic campus partner to identify a contact person to collaborate with its team of Work Study students to compile information on their community engagement activities and participating partners for the 2021-22 academic year.

The CEI is scheduled for an internal launch at the end of March 2022. Following this launch, academic units and non-academic campus partners will be expected to login and manage their community engagement activity records, which will be featured on a public-facing website later this year. If you are interested in learning more about the CEI or would like to contribute to the database, please reach out to Adriano Pasquali (Research Analyst, Academic Experience) at [adriano.pasquali@utoronto.ca](mailto:adriano.pasquali@utoronto.ca).

### **Research Opportunity Program (ROP)**

The EEU has launched the 2022-2023 Research Opportunity Program season. The faculty project and funding proposal submission deadline was extended to Sunday, February 6, 2022. The ROPAPP application is available for students from Wednesday, February 9 until Monday, March 7. Our EEU organized two Faculty and Staff ROP information sessions in January. Both meetings were well attended; new faculty and staff members found the sessions to be very informative. We will be hosting two other ROP & PART information sessions for students: Thursday, February 10 from 10:00 - 11:00am and Wednesday, March 2 from 2:00-3:00pm. This is an opportunity for students to learn more about the ROP program and address questions about the application process, different ROP opportunities, eligibilities and much more. For more information about the ROP, please visit [uoft.me/UTMROP](https://uoft.me/UTMROP).

## ***Lecture Me! a series***

In collaboration with the Mississauga Library System, *Lecture Me! a series* has returned virtually. The February 2022 presentation featured Professor Sherry Fukuzawa, Professor Nicole Laliberté and Councillor Veronica King-Jamieson. The talk "Community-Engaged Learning with a Local Indigenous Community" shed light on how a course focused on Indigenous Ways of Knowing in a context of local Indigenous placemaking affects the long-term Indigenous-related cultural competencies of undergraduate students. The lecture was very well attended. The many attendees varied between students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community.

March 2022 *Lecture Me!* was another successful event with a great turn out of attendees. Professor Rasmus Larsen's talk "Psychopaths: Dangerous Social Predators or Stigmatizing Cultural Lore?" presented the surprising results from recent research, which not only challenge widespread beliefs about psychopaths, but also question the existence of the syndrome itself.

The final lecture of the season will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00pm. Professor Jerry Flores's talk "Disappearing in the City: An Urban Ethnography of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women" will investigate the factors that place Indigenous women at risk of experiencing interpersonal and institutional forms of violence in large urban settings like Toronto where most Indigenous women are last seen alive and well.

For a full list of this year's speakers, please visit [uoft.me/lectureme](https://uoft.me/lectureme).

## **Scholars-in-Residence (SiR) 2022**

This year, Scholars-in-Residence was thrilled to receive more proposals from UTM-affiliated faculty than ever before in the program's history. Nine UTM-affiliated faculty members have been selected to work with SiR-sponsored research teams (May 2-27, 2022, inclusive).

In-person at UTM (health conditions permitting), the program will include:

- Ellen Berrey (Sociology), "University Responses to Campus Protest in the U.S. and Canada, 2012-2018."
- Steve Hoffmann (Sociology), "Knowledge Production and the Sociology of Anticipation in Disaster and Emergency Management."
- Madeleine Mant (Anthropology), "Bodies Through Time: Investigating Children's Health Histories in the Northampton Archive (1744-1847)."
- Zoë Wool (Anthropology), "Chem Map: Mapping Petrochemical Infrastructures of Settler Colonialism in Tkaronto (Toronto)."
- Nicholas Zammit (Economics), "Understanding Canada's Economic Position in the Global Context of the Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries with Special Emphasis on Colonial Legacy."

In addition to the full slate of projects above, the program is pleased to offer the following three UTM-affiliated projects as part of our first ever Online / International session:

- Simone Casini (Language Studies), "From Toronto to the Global World: Italian and Other Languages in Contact in the International Urban Linguistic Landscape."
- Pablo Robles-García (Language Studies), "Measuring Word Knowledge Development in L2 Learners of French and Chinese."
- Tracey Galloway and Kathi Wilson (Geography), "Covid-19 Vaccine Equity in Diverse Urban Settings: A Comparative Analysis in Ontario, UK, and France."

Selected students will spend May 2-May 27 working on one of 26 research projects led by a UofT faculty mentor. Participants will receive a \$1,000 Jackman Scholar Award. Students selected for in-person projects will also receive free accommodation and meals at a St. George College, UTM, or UTSC for the duration of the program.

Previous participants called SiR “life-changing,” “transformative,” and “the highlight of my academic career.” Student applications are due February 28, 2022. For further details, please reach out to [scholars.in.residence@utoronto.ca](mailto:scholars.in.residence@utoronto.ca). SiR would like to congratulate our UTM supervisors and thank all of our UTM colleagues for the unparalleled support again this year.

#### 4. Vice-Dean, Graduate

We will holding our annual Graduate Research Colloquium in early May 2022 (date to be confirmed soon). At this event, we’ll present the Graduate Student Leadership and Research Awards and Post-Doctoral Leadership Award. Please consider nominating a graduate student and a post-doctoral fellow for these awards.

Below are the links to the application information. Please send your nomination dossier to the **Office of the Dean, c/o Anna Reale, room 3200-Davis no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, or via email, [anna.reale@utoronto.ca](mailto:anna.reale@utoronto.ca).**

Graduate Student Leadership Award: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/dean/leadership-award>

Graduate Student Research Award: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/dean/research-award>

Post-doctoral Leadership Award: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/dean/postdoctoral-leadership-award>