

UTM Office of the Dean Newsletter

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The Dean's Breakfast with Students



The Dean's Luncheon with Faculty



In the fall of 2017, the Dean initiated bi-monthly get-togethers with the UTM students and faculty over breakfast and lunch. These social gatherings acted as a valuable vehicle for the Dean to converse with each group in an informal environment to foster stronger relationships with both groups. She heard many incredibly interesting stories about their individual experiences at UTM and truly enjoyed the enthusiasm that was generated in these meetings. The Dean looks forward to continuing to meet with students and faculty through to the end of this academic year and on to the next.

2. Vice-Dean, Academic Experience

Experiential Learning

The Mission/Vision Statement for Experiential Learning (EL) is in the process of being finalized in consultation with the Experiential Learning Vision Committee and the Experiential Learning Working Group. We would like to thank both Committees for their work this past year and we look forward to sharing the Statement with the broader UTM community very soon.

The Experiential Education Unit is growing! We are excited to announce that two new EL Officers will soon be joining our team. Reporting to the Vice-Dean, Academic Experience, and the Manager of Academic Success and Integrity, these two individuals will work closely with academic units and external partners in the facilitation of various EL initiatives.

A reminder about our *Lecture Me!* series: Professor Chris Koenig-Woodyard will be speaking on “Monster Studies: Loving and Hating Vampires” on April 10. He will be followed by Alexandra Gillespie, who will speak on “Medieval Books – Torn, Fetid, and Dripped On” on May 8.

Research Opportunity Program

The Research Opportunity Program (ROP) has been the focus of much faculty and student attention this past February. Rena Banwait, Acting EL Officer, hosted outreach presentations for several undergraduate societies throughout the month, including the UTM Pre-Medical Club and Student Housing. We also had a presence at the Office of Student Transition Research Fair, where students had the opportunity to talk directly with and ask questions to Rena about the program and the application process. We received over 200 project proposals from faculty members for the 2018-19 academic year. Student applications have now closed and faculty members are in the process of reviewing the applicants. Please note that the faculty deadline to select students for the Summer 2018 term was March 19, while the deadline to select students for Fall 2018, Winter 2019, and year-long ROP projects is May 11.

Community Engagement Inventory

Over the last year, the Vice-Dean, Academic Experience, and Experiential Education Unit began work on a Community Engagement (CE) Strategic Plan for UTM that addresses the need for increased collaboration with external community partners. We hope that this framework will support units in developing strong community partnerships and enhance the effectiveness of CE initiatives run through the Mississauga campus. As per the first stage of the Strategic Plan, the Experiential Education Unit is hard at work on the creation of a Community Engagement Inventory that will offer a snapshot of how we are engaging the external community over the 2017-18 academic year. The campus-wide survey, distributed over the summer, was met with incredible interest: a response rate of approximately 81% from the 27 units that were contacted, who provided detailed records of a staggering 468 activities. Each record was entered into a database that allows users to filter activities according to unit, thematic content, and target audience. We hope to mobilize the CE Inventory in the near future as an online database that internal units and external partners alike can review to get a clear picture of the many different ways in which UTM is making an impact on its local and international communities.

Thank you to all of our units for taking the time to provide us with data. We are excited to share the first version of the CE Inventory at the monthly Chairs' Meeting on April 3.

3. Vice-Dean, Teaching and Learning

Working Groups

The Office of the Dean is pleased to announce the formation of three Working Groups: Foundational Writing Skills, Foundational Numeracy Skills, and Sustainability Pathways Working Groups. As per Goal #1 of the UTM Academic Plan, the Writing and Numeracy Working Groups are charged with making recommendations to the Dean to support the development of “communication skills from foundational to advanced levels (written, numerical, analytical, oral and visual).” In addition, we are examining how to provide “students with the option to include a ‘Sustainability Pathway’ in their degree...to leave UTM with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the complexity surrounding sustainability in all that it encompasses.”

Each Working Group has held, at minimum, three meetings since December 2017 to discuss ideas and recommendations, and has collected background material and comparative models from other universities. The Writing and Numeracy Working Groups have formed two smaller subgroups- Curriculum and Mechanics-to more closely investigate these specific aspects of the models under consideration. The Sustainability Pathways Working Group followed a similar approach, forming two sub-groups to further focus on the (1) definition of sustainability and (2) best practices surrounding the implementation of sustainability initiatives, programs, and support. It is the mandate of the Working Groups to prepare and submit a committee report that includes a summary of their research and recommendations to the Dean by June 2018. We look forward to sharing information about their recommendations in the future.

Foundational Writing Skills Working Group	Foundational Numeracy Skills Working Group	Sustainability Pathways Working Group
Heather Miller , Chair	Heather Miller , Chair	Shashi Kant , Chair
Brett Beston , Department of Psychology	Andie Burazin , Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre	Ingo Ensminger , Department of Biology
Feng Chen , Department of Management	Tyler Evans-Tokaryk , Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre	Laura Ferlito , Office of the Registrar
Tyler Evans-Tokaryk , Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre	Shay Fuchs , Department of Mathematical & Computational Sciences	Amy Geisberger , Student - MScSM
Adam Giles , Office of the Registrar	Alexandra Gillespie , Department of English & Drama	Jeffrey Graham , Department of Psychology
Shelley Hawrychuk , Library	Yuhong He , Department of Geography	Steven Hoffman , Department of Sociology
Michael Kaler , Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre	Kent Moore , Department of Chemical & Physical Sciences	Christopher Lengyell , Residence
Jayson Parker , Department of Biology	Cosmin Munteanu , Institute for Communication, Culture, Information & Technology	Teresa Lobalsamo , Department of Language Studies
Lavan Puvaneswaran , Department of Management	Andrew Petersen , Department of Mathematical & Computational Sciences	Julia Morton-Marr , External community member
Anjeza Rexha , Department of Biology	Judith C. Poë , Department of Chemical & Physical Sciences	Amy Mullin , Department of Philosophy
Jessica Silver , Office of Student Transition	Fiona Rawle , Department of Biology	Barbara Murck , Department of Geography
Holger Syme , Department of English & Drama	Christoph Richter , Department of Biology	Loretta Neebar , Office of the Registrar
Alan Walks , Department of Geography	Bruce Schneider , Department of Psychology	Jumi Shin , Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences
	Truc Tran , Office of the Registrar	Joan Simalchik , Department of Historical Studies
		Soo Min Toh , Institute for Management & Innovation

4. Vice-Dean, Faculty

Welcome to Sara da Silva!

In February 2018, Sara da Silva joined the Office of the Dean in the position of Research Analyst: Academic HR & Assessment reporting to Vice-Dean Angela Lange and Vice-Dean Heather Miller.

Sara was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Sessional Instructor at UTM. She has more than 7 years of experience in research, data collection and analysis, project coordination, and curriculum development. Sara also served on over 14 committees and governance bodies at UTM, including the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), the Graduate Curriculum Sub-committee, and the Campus Council (CC). She gained strong familiarity with the undergraduate and graduate curriculum structures at UTM, along with the distribution of faculty, research and financial provisions across several departments. Sara has been a great asset to the Vice-Dean, Faculty and the Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning portfolios.

Postdoctoral Website

We currently have over 50 Postdoctoral Fellows at UTM who conduct research in 7 departments across the sciences, social sciences and humanities. Our postdocs come from all over the world, having completed their doctoral programs in countries that include Canada, USA, Brazil, UK, Austria, the Netherlands and many others!

To integrate and assist Postdocs within the UTM community, we have created a website. Please have a look at our newly created site: <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/dean/postdocs> and if you have any suggestions that you think will add to/improve the look and/or the information that we have, please feel free to reach out to Dina Moreira at dina.moreira@utoronto.ca, Manager of Academic HR or Sara da Silva at src.dasilva@utoronto.ca, Research Analyst, Academic HR & Assessment.

Upcoming Workshops run through the Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty & Academic Life

Interim & Tenure Review for Academic Administrators & Staff- Academic administrators may wish to attend on their own or with unit staff. Where unit staff are attending, we ask that they attend with unit heads. Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018; Time: 12–2 pm; Location: UTM Conference Room DV 3214.

Retirement Information Sessions, for Faculty - Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018; Time: 9 am to 12 pm; Location: UTM Principal's Boardroom #3214.

To register for this and other programming, visit the following VPFAL website: <http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/programming/>.

5. Associate Dean, Graduate

The Associate Dean Graduate Office, in collaboration with VP-Research Office, UTM Library and UTMAGS, will be holding its annual UTM Graduate Research Colloquium. This colloquium aims to highlight graduate student research that is taking place in a wide range of academic disciplines across our campus. This special event will provide the opportunity for graduate students to showcase their work to fellow students, post-docs, and faculty from all departments.

We encourage all members of the UTM community to join us for all or part of the event this year. The Colloquium provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the wide range of research conducted at UTM and to meet with the graduate students who play such a pivotal role in advancing research excellence at our campus.

This year the Colloquium will be held over two (2) days:

Monday, April 30th, Poster Presentation, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the IB Atrium (Cocktails will be served during poster presentation).

and

Tuesday, May 1st, Oral Presentations will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., in 150-IB, with guest speaker, Dan Riskin. Awards and dinner to follow.

Please RSVP by Friday, April 20th, to attend the colloquium and/or the dinner, by accessing the link below.

<https://secure.utm.utoronto.ca/grc-2018/>

Please encourage your graduate students to participate in the event via a talk, poster presentation, best paper competition, or simply sharing in the celebration.