

UTM Office of the Dean Newsletter

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Maanjiwe nendamowinan (<https://youtu.be/i4985rKzv8s>) – the “Gathering of Minds” is the official name of what used to be referred to as the “new North Building.” This new 210,000 square-foot, six-storey facility completes the renaissance of the northern portion of the UTM campus and is the new home of the humanities and social sciences. The name Maanjiwe nendamowinan was bestowed by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, which acknowledges both the Indigenous history of the land and the future of the campus. *The official opening of the building will take place on November 22nd, 2019 at 3:00 pm and the planned ceremony is not to be missed.*

1. From the Dean's Desk

Welcome back to another academic year! I hope everyone had a restful summer (oh so long ago now) and before we get deeper into the 2019-20 academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lindsay Schoenbohm, Chair of CPS and Andrea Olive, Chair of Political Sciences to their new roles! A big thank-you to Claudiu Gradinaru and Ed Schatz, as well as Acting Chair Ronnie Beiner, for their great work as former Chairs of these Departments.

Welcome to Acting Chairs Daniel White in English & Drama, Pascal Michelucci in Language Studies, and Alison Syme in Visual Studies.

Welcome back to Heather Miller, Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning, who returned from a one-year administrative leave. And a big thank you to Andrew Petersen for stepping up to the plate and tackling the Teaching & Learning portfolio as Acting Vice-Dean during Heather's leave.

Welcome to Andreas Bendlin, Acting Vice-Dean of Academic Experience. Andreas is filling in for Michael Lettieri while he is on a 6-month administrative leave.

Thank you to all and have a terrific 2019-20 academic year!

2. Vice-Dean, Academic Experience

Experiential Education Fair

The Experiential Education Unit hosted the Experiential Education Fair on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, in the Grand Hall of the Maanjiwe nendamowinan. This inaugural fair brought together faculty, staff, and community partners to promote a range of exciting and innovative experiential learning opportunities available to UTM students as curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular experiences.

Professor Michael Lettieri (Vice-Dean, Academic Experience) opened the Experiential Education Fair with a brief discussion on the timeliness and growing importance of experiential learning at post-secondary institutions, reiterating the Office of the Dean's ongoing commitment to helping students develop work-ready, transferable skills throughout their undergraduate studies. The Experiential Education Unit was joined by 12 academic units, 5 non-academic units, and 4 community partners on the show floor, who provided students with an overview of the thriving culture of experiential learning at UTM. In addition to visiting individual tables and learning about how experiential learning has been integrated into different opportunities across the campus, students had the chance to attend 16 information sessions and engage directly with lead faculty and staff in charge of specific programming.

The Experiential Education Unit was humbled by the visible enthusiasm and positive feedback received from faculty, staff, and students about the event. With the help of our internal and external partners, we hope to establish the Experiential Education Fair into an annual, cornerstone event where faculty, staff, and community partners can showcase the best of what UTM has to offer its students each year.



Vice-Dean Michael Lettieri with the Experiential Education Unit (EEU) staff members: Stephanie Vega, Sue Romulo, Kayla Sousa, Rima Abu-Shakra, Lucy Gaspini, Rena Banwait and Adriano Pasquali

Lecture Me!

On November 5, at the Mississauga Central Library, Dr. Rula Kahil from the Department of Sociology presented her *Lecture Me!* series talk, ***Grandmothers Behind the Scenes***, which discussed the importance of mothers' mental health and how essential it is to family well-being, especially for immigrants and resettled refugees. Dr. Kahil particularly brought attention to an understudied population: grandmothers. Through personal narratives from recently conducted interviews with Syrian newcomer mothers and grandmothers in the Greater Toronto Area, Dr. Kahil highlighted the behind-the-scenes influence of grandmothers on the emotional well-being of their daughters and granddaughters. The talk emphasized the significant role of grandmothers to support the settlement of newcomer families and their impact on the future of Canadian society.

On February 4, 2020, Professor Kent Moore will kick-off the Winter term *Lecture Me!* series with his talk, ***Climate Change: Taking the Earth's Temperature***. For over 25 years, Professor Moore has monitored Earth's temperature and conducted an in-depth analysis on the reasons behind its continuous change. Through his research, he has flown through winter storms in the Arctic, climbed some of the highest peaks, measured Arctic sea ice and examined ice cores. In his upcoming talk, he will share his thoughts and findings with you, so you can better understand what climate change means to you. We hope to see you there!

3. Vice-Dean, Faculty

At UTM we have extraordinary faculty and this comes through in the awards that faculty receive. To highlight some of these, the following were awarded:

University of Toronto Distinguished Award is given to advance and recognize individuals with highly distinguished accomplishments and those who display exceptional promise. These individuals should exhibit an extraordinary and sustained level of activity in their research and scholarly work and have achieved pre-eminence in their field in line with the University's stated objectives and emerging priorities. This year, three (3) faculty members, Professors Robert Gerlai, Scott Prosser, and Evonne

Levy, received the University of Toronto Distinguished Award in recognition of their outstanding work.

Prestigious OCUFA Teaching Award was given to Andrew Petersen, Associate Professor, Teaching Stream. Andrew was named one of Ontario's most outstanding university teachers by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). Andrew received his 2018-2019 OCUFA Teaching Award at an October 19 ceremony in Toronto. This award recognizes dedicated and passionate teachers and mentors who make exceptional contributions to the quality of higher education in Ontario: <https://ocufa.on.ca/press-releases/university-of-toronto-mississaugas-andrew-petersen-receives-prestigious-ocufa-teaching-award/>

UTM Faculty & TA Teaching Excellence Awards were given to the following:

- Junior Faculty Award went to Daniel Zingaro (Mathematical and Computational Studies)
- Sessional Lecturer Award went to Wade Knaap (Forensic Science)
- TA Award went to Anna Cwikla (Religion, Historical Studies)

Congratulations to all on their achievements and the awards that recognize their work!

Upcoming Workshops:

The Vice-Dean, Faculty at UTM, in partnership with the VPFAL and Labour Relations, has organised a series of workshops that are very beneficial for Chairs, Directors, and Administrative Staff.

Assessment of Teaching in Tenure, Continuing Status, and Promotion Reviews for Chairs, Directors, and Members of Teaching Evaluation Committees

Description: The evaluation of teaching is a critical element in tenure, continuing status, and promotion reviews. Led by the Centre of Teaching Support & Innovation (CTSI), this is a substantive session on the evaluation of teaching effectiveness that will help those engaged in these reviews to conduct their work in a fair and robust way.

Who should attend: Chairs, Directors, Associate Chairs, Vice-/Associate Deans, Deans, and faculty serving on committees

Date: November 21, 12:30-3:30 pm

Location: Governing Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall

Register: <https://faculty.utoronto.ca/programming/academic-administrators-and-staff/>

Academic HR Sessions for Chairs, Directors, and Single Department Faculty Deans

Leading tenure, continuing status, and promotion reviews are the responsibility of the Chairs, Directors, and Single Department Faculty Deans. These sessions are intended to provide Unit Heads with an overview of assessment processes. We will discuss materials Unit Heads need to gather to support each review and will offer key strategies for success. The goal of this session is to help Unit Heads run fair and robust reviews and avoid common pitfalls.

We have scheduled all of the following sessions on one day at each campus. Register for any or all sessions relevant to you.

- Interim & Tenure Review
- Probationary & Continuing Status Review
- Promotion in the Tenure Stream
- Promotion in the Teaching Stream

When: Friday, February 7, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Room 3130, Davis Building, UTM

Register: <https://faculty.utoronto.ca/programming/academic-administrators-and-staff/> for any or all sessions at UTM

Contracts & Agreements for Chairs, and Directors

Chairs and Directors often find themselves working with contracts. This session, led by Rachael Farenbok, Senior Legal Counsel, Contracts, will cover the risks of signing contracts, how to interpret legal terms, and how to handle the business aspects of running a Unit. We will review contract policy and guidelines, explore case studies, and discuss common pitfalls.

When: Tuesday, February 11, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

Where: Governing Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall

Register: <https://faculty.utoronto.ca/programming/academic-administrators-and-staff/>

Advancement Process for Sessional Lecturers

Description: This session will provide Chairs, Directors, Associate Chairs and Administrative Staff responsible for the administration of CUPE 3902 Unit 3 appointments with the necessary information to manage and conduct the processes for advancement to Sessional Lecturer II, and advancement to Sessional Lecturer III.

Who should attend: Chairs, Directors, Associate Chairs, and Administrative Staff

Date: Thursday, January 23, 1:00-3:00 pm (presentation), 3:00-3:30 pm (extra time for questions)

Where: Room 3214, Davis Building, UTM

Register: dina.moreira@utoronto.ca

Hiring TAs, Course Instructors, and Sessional Lecturers

Description: This session will provide Chairs, Directors, Associate Chairs, TA Coordinators, and Administrative Staff responsible for the administration of CUPE 3902 Unit 1 appointments with the tools and information necessary for posting, hiring, and filling positions under the CUPE 3902 Unit 1 and Unit 3 Collective Agreements. Topics will include: subsequent appointment assignments, job security commitments, timelines, job postings, and navigating the hiring criteria.

Who should attend: Chairs, Directors, Associate Chairs, and Administrative Staff

Date: Thursday, March 5, 1:00-3:00 pm (presentation), 3:00-3:30 pm (extra time for questions)

Where: Room 3214, Davis Building, UTM

Register: dina.moreira@utoronto.ca

2019-20 Recruitment

The 2019-20 Faculty Recruitment Plan originally approved by the Provost for twenty-seven (27) new hires for the 2020-2021 academic year has now increased to thirty-four (34) searches. Eleven (11) units are conducting searches this academic year.

We will also be recruiting five (5) new hires in the area of Writing Studies: four (4) will be at the rank of Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream and one (1) at the rank of Associate Professor, Tenure Stream. The University of Toronto Mississauga will build on a core of existing expertise and initiatives in university-level pedagogy and practice, along with related initiatives from the 2017 UTM Academic Plan, to create a new Extra-Departmental Unit Type A (EDU:A). UTM continues to actively recruit faculty to bring exciting research and new courses and programs to UTM.

Resources for Faculty

- Webinars from the National Centre for Faculty Development & Diversity:
 - [How to Manage Stress, Rejection & Haters in Your Midst](#)
(November 14, 2:00-3:30 pm)
 - [Making the Most of your NCFDD Membership: Exploring Classic and Creative Ways to Advance Your Professional Development](#)
(November 21, 12:00-1:30 pm)
 - [Every Semester Needs a Plan](#)
(January 16, 2:00-3:30 pm)
 - [How to Manage Chronic Illness and Academic Life](#)
(February 18, 2:00-3:00 pm)
- Activate your NCFDD membership at:
<https://www.facultydiversity.org/institutions/utoronto>.

4. Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning

New Programs and Centres

Compliments to the Department of Management on its new Certificate in Effective Business Practices and Leadership Skills, and to the Institute for Management & Innovation on the establishment of its Master of Urban Innovation.

Welcome to the two new EDU-C Centres at UTM: The Centre for Medicinal Chemistry (Director Patrick Gunning) and the Centre for Child Development, Mental Health and Policy (Director Tina Malti). The CCDMP launch event will be held on Monday, June 1st, 2020. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.

The Office of the Dean would like to congratulate the following departments and programs on successfully concluding their External Review Process in Fall 2019:

Department of Biology
Department of Psychology
Forensic Science Program (one-year follow-up)

UTM will be moving to the Curriculum Manager (CM) system in January 2020.

For many years, the Online Calendar Admin Tool has served as UTM's tool for managing curriculum change proposals. Beginning in January 2020, this tool will be retired and UTM will adopt the University of Toronto's institutional curriculum management system, known as Curriculum Manager (CM).

CM is similar to the Online Calendar Admin Tool in many ways with some enhanced functionality. It is the platform where curriculum change proposals are managed and tracked. CM will be a central repository of undergraduate course and program information that will work closely with ROSI, Degree Explorer and other systems currently used at UTM.

We will complete the 2020-21 Undergraduate Curriculum Review Cycle and finalize the academic calendar using the current Online Calendar Admin Tool. CM will launch in January 2020 with the start of the new 2021-22 Undergraduate Curriculum Review Cycle. At that time, a number of training resources and sessions will be made available to administrative staff responsible for curriculum support. In March 2020 the next Divisional Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meetings will take place. This will be the first opportunity for units to propose changes for the 2021-2022 academic year and calendar using CM.

Over the course of the next few months, the Program and Curriculum Office will be sending out additional information on CM, including implementation timeline and training resources, to facilitate a smooth and successful transition. In the meantime, should you have questions please don't hesitate to contact Lori Innes (Program & Curriculum Assistant) at lori.innes@utoronto.ca.

On behalf of the proposed new Institute for the Study of University Pedagogy, the Vice-Dean, Teaching and Learning has proposed the initial courses for the Foundational Writing Skills Initiative to the UTM Curriculum Committees, and will be beginning the first set of Writing Studies faculty hires for July 2020. Regular updates on the Foundational Writing Skills Initiative can be found at <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/dean/foundational-writing-skills-initiative>, which is linked from the Quick Links section of the Dean's website.

The UTM Office of the Dean is pleased to announce the following award recipients of the Summer 2019 UTM Teaching Grants:

Teaching Development and Innovation (TDI) Grant Recipients:

Tracey Bowen, ICCIT: "Gender disparities in work-integrated learning environments: Student perceptions of bias, barriers, and challenges"

Vivienne Luk, Anthropology, and Dianne Ashbourne, RGASC: "Concept mapping in an introductory forensic science course: Fostering a relational understanding of an interdisciplinary field"

Tyler Evans-Tokaryk and Michael Kaler, RGASC: "The relationship between cell phones and student learning: Experimenting with mobilephone pouches in a first-year classroom"

Tyler Evans-Tokaryk, Jackie Goodman, Dianne Ashbourne, Michael Kaler, Michael deBraga, and Andie Burazin, RGASC and Centre for Student Engagement and Mathematical & Computational Sciences: "Assessing the impact of academic skills instruction: A quasi-experimental study of a test preparation and test-taking module in a first-year transition course"

Xinli Wang, Mathematical & Computational Sciences: "Adapting an open textbook of Linear Algebra"

Michael Phillips, Biology: "Establishment of the UTM medicinal plant garden"

Joan Simalchik, Woman & Gender Studies: "Assessing the experience: evaluating student expressions of praxis"

Timothy Yusun, Mathematical and Computational Sciences: "Developing a proof skills inventory for MAT102H5"

Teaching Development Travel Grants (TDT) Recipients:

Jade Atallah, Biology
Jayne Baker, Sociology
Tracey Bowen, ICCIT
John Currie, ICCIT
Michael deBraga, RGASC
Tyler Evans-Tokaryk, RGASC
Sanja Hinic-Frlog, Biology
Xiangying Huo, RGASC
Nathan Innocente, Sociology
Michael Kaler, RGASC
Katherine Rehner, Language Studies
Alex Rennet, MCS
Steve Szigeti, ICCIT
Laura Taylor, RGASC
Michelle Troberg, Language Studies
Dan Zingaro, MCS

Teaching & Learning Conference & Colloquia Fund (TLCC) Recipients:

Andie Burazin, Mathematical & Computational Sciences: “First-Year Math & Stats in Canada: Creating Epsilons of Improvement Conference”

Fiona Rawle, Christoph Richter, Sanja Hinic-Frlog, & Steven Chatfield, Biology: “Ontario Consortium of University Biology Educators: December Conference”

5. Associate Dean, Graduate

Jeremy Packer, Associate Dean, Graduate cordially invites you to attend the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition being held on **Thursday, December 5th, starting at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1210 in Maanijiwe nedamowinan**. A light lunch will follow at 12:00 pm.

This event is an opportunity for UTM graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to present their research.

Each graduate student and post-doc will have three minutes and only one static slide to present their research to an audience from all academic backgrounds.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three presenters:

Graduate student - 1st prize - \$300

Graduate student - Runner-up prize - \$100

Post-Doctoral Fellow – 1st prize \$100

All graduate students and post-docs are encouraged to participate to earn valuable experience and add this onto their CVs.

Please access the following link for registration: <https://secure.utm.utoronto.ca/3mt-2019/>

6. Of Interest!

For the second year now, Integrated Wellness at U of T has organized the 10,000 Steps Challenge for Staff.

Did you know that people who walk on a regular basis have increased muscle strength, higher energy levels and improved health and well-being?

Walking helps reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. Health professionals recommend walking at least 10,000 steps per day to achieve those benefits.

Team Challenge/Prizes:

Every day for the month of October, team members were to take 10,000 steps and the team with the most steps would then be eligible to win either:

- one **Uber Eats** lunch* in the office *for the team with the highest average number of steps*
- one **Uber Eats** lunch* *for participating teams to be drawn randomly*
- one **Uber Eats** lunch* *for participating teams to be drawn randomly*

*Maximum total value of team lunch was \$100.

Members of the Dean's Office signed up for the 10,000 Step Challenge and two teams battled against each other in their steps! The results of the teams were:

The Walkie Talkie team walked a total of 2.5012 million steps for an average of 11,526 steps per day.

Cirque du Sore Legs team walked a total of 2.1218 million steps for an average of 9,778 steps per day.

Although our two teams did not win a prize – they are winners in our eyes!

Want to know more about Wellness at U of T?

[Subscribe](#) to the Wellness at U of T listserv for updates, events, and programs.

[HR & Equity's Integrated Wellness initiative](#) helps meet the full spectrum of staff wellness needs, and enhance the coordination, collaboration, and communication of wellness programs across U of T services and systems.