

**VIEW to the U – A Year in Review**  
**Transcribed, December 30, 2017**  
**Season 1, Episode 13**

**Carla DeMarco (CD):** You are the AstraZeneca Chair in Biotechnology, and you've been conducting bioanalytic research and development of molecular diagnostics technology for biomedical and environmental applications and nanotechnology and fluidics for bioassays and theranostics, and I just want to know, what does that mean?

**Professor Ulli Krull:** [laughs]

CD: And can you explain it so that people, who aren't science people, understand it?

[Next clip]

**CD:** And you totally make me feel like going back to school.

[both laugh]

**Professor Alexandra Gillespie (AG):** That's good. That's what we're trying to do. More bums on seats. That's our goal. We welcome students who are coming for a victory lap as it were.

[laughter]

[Next clip]

**CD:** How did you even find them, though? Like, did you...?

**Professor Ron Buliung (RB):** Oh, just searching online.

**CD:** Okay. [Laughs]

**RB:** Yeah. I'm a researcher. I do research. [Laughs]

**CD:** That's right. I forgot!

**RB:** I should apply those skills in my everyday life now that we're in crisis.

[Next clip]

**Professor Rebecca Wittmann:** Maybe it's not that obvious. What is it? [laughter]  
I don't know! Now all I care about is putting food on my children's table.

**[Next clip]**

**CD:** Yeah. Absolutely!

[laughter]

**Dr. Christine Shaw (CS):** I started already!

**CD:** Hey! It's the magic of podcasting!

[laughter]

**CS:** Cut!

**[Next clip]**

**CD:** I'm not going to include a lot of this on the interview.

[laughter]

**Professor Loren Martin:** That's fine.

**[Next clip]**

**Professor Soo Min Toh (SMT):** Sure.

[laughter]

**SMT:** There will be 20 minutes of laughing!

**[Next clip]**

**CD:** The bottom line is we're still learning.

**Professor Mohan Matthen:** The bottom line is we're still humans.

[laughter]

**CD:** That's right. That's right. That *is* the bottom line.

[laughter]

**[Next clip]**

**CD:** Ah. You're so sweet.

**Professor Rhonda McEwen and CD:** laughter

**[Next clip]**

**Professor Gary Crawford:** I've been keeping that a deep, dark secret. Can't you tell?

[laughter]

**CD:** That's why I can't find it!

**[Next clip]**

**CD:** Anyways...

[laughter]

**CD:** That's great. Thank you.

**Professor Evonne Levy:** Thanks.

**[Next clip]**

**CD:** Ok. So. We're okay?

**Professor Jodie Jenkinson:** I hope so.

[laughter]

**CD:** Well, we'll try it out!

[VIEW to the U intro]

**CD:** Hello, and welcome to VIEW to the U: An eye on UTM research.

[Sound of tape rewinding]

## A Year in Review

I'm Carla DeMarco at U of T Mississauga. VIEW to the U is a monthly podcast that will feature UTM faculty members from a range of disciplines, who will illuminate some of the inner workings of the science labs, and enlighten the social sciences and humanities hubs at UTM.

So, there were a lot of laughs over the past few months, some of which didn't make the final cut, but for the most part if I had to sum it up in a word the experience of VIEW to the U over the past 12 months it's been fun: an amazingly fun ride, and a whirlwind of learning – learning something new about putting a podcast together, learning some new programs, learning more about our researchers – and fun getting to know a number of our researchers and their research on a whole new level.

In listening to the interviews, I've winced at some of the questions I've asked, and the sound of my own voice has made me cringe – a lot – especially listening to it over and over and over again in the editing process. Sometimes it has felt like a form of torture.

And I have worried about others' listening and thinking 'she's an amateur,' this is so unpolished, or 'she doesn't know what she's doing.'

All of which is fairly accurate, but still the idea behind VIEW to the U is to create new and original content, and to showcase our researchers in a different kind of format.

And I've gained a whole new level of appreciation for our researchers in this process.

There is something so intimate about having their voices in my ears for hours during the editing process. It has been such a wonderful opportunity to sit one-on-one with the faculty members and ask them about the work they do, and then be so taken with their insights and enthusiasm for their work, and the thought and energy they have devoted to their particular field over many years.

I have been interviewing UTM researchers for over a decade, since 2006, but the focus in the past was more to craft profiles, news or press releases, and items for publications or the website for people to read in print or online. And whenever I would go back to listen to one of my interviews for these items, I would often think 'I wish people could hear what I am hearing.'

Then of course having been totally swept up in the podcast craze and listening to several podcasts over the past few years – the first one I ever subscribed to was This American Life about five years ago when they profiled Harper High School in 2013 – it was always at the back of my mind to try this out at some point at UTM. My boss Devin, who is also a huge podcast enthusiast and early adopter of the medium, he and I often talked about this as a possibility for the research office.

Though I never set out to recreate the next *This American Life* or *RadioLab* or *99% Invisible* or any of my other favourites – I certainly don't have the skills nor the technical team to put this together each month – this has been a somewhat solo project with only the help of my audiophile and multi-instrumentalist spouse, Tim Lane, who contributed the music for the podcast, and also his sound-engineering expertise in the earlier episodes to get me up and running.

Over the course of this year, I've spoken with 12 scholars, and they include the following: a bioanalytical chemist who is now UTM's principal extraordinaire; a Chaucer expert who has merged into a whole other area that incorporates gaming in academia; a transportation geographer, who specializes in making school travel more accessible for kids, particularly children with disabilities; an art historian that is a world-class expert on Bernini and the Baroque; a new media expert that was not only named a Canada Research Chair in 2016, but also is taking the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology to a new era of information; a scholar and curator who is seeing the Blackwood Gallery through to a whole new level of recognition and acclaim; an anthropological archaeologist who was integral to an improved way to cultivate rice in Asia; an academic in Biomedical Communications who is investigating new and improved ways to learn through visualizations; a Philosophy prof, also a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair, who explores new ways of seeing in his area of the philosophy of perception that merges science with philosophy; a Historical Studies scholar who has devoted her academic career to examining the Holocaust and its enduring effect on Germany and lessons to be learned from this time period; the Director of UTM's Institute for Management and Innovation who talks about her research on, among other things, gender and the workplace, but also the importance of having women in leadership roles; and finally the last prof of the year, representing the next generation of UTM researchers, also a Canada Research Chair, and he has carved out a path in pain and chronic pain research and speaks to the importance of supporting basic-science research as well as strengthening the link between clinical researchers and fundamental researchers. A very good way to finish off the year, I must say, having just been through the #supportthereport postcard campaign, but with a mind to continuing to lobby for governmental support of basic science research.

This has truly been a terrific opportunity for me, and an outlet to hopefully showcase our researchers in a different way and possibly reach a new audience out there, outside of the UTM fold.

I want to take a moment to thank all of my interviewees for being willing to be profiled in this way, for taking the chance knowing that I am still learning and for being so generous with their time, even agreeing to do it over, if need be.

So a big thank you too all my guests: Professors Ulli Krull, Alex Gillespie, Ron Buliung, Evonne Levy, Rhonda McEwen, Christine Shaw, Jodie Jenkinson, Gary Crawford, Mohan Matthen, Rebecca Wittmann, Soo Min Toh, and Loren Martin.

And thank you to my office colleagues, both Bryan Stewart for agreeing to let me try this out, and for Devin Kreuger who has been supportive and encouraging every step of the way. And of course the sound and musical stylings of the podcast couldn't be possible without my in-house soundguy Tim Lane.

The first season of VIEW to the U focused on UTM @ 50, so it featured researchers who have been at UTM for a few years, and who might be able to speak to some of UTM's evolution as a campus.

The second season of VIEW to the U will be about Women in Academia. Some will be familiar voices, but we will add to the podcasts for some new interviews, and again a range of departments and disciplines will be represented.

I want to thank all the listeners out there who have been following along and even those who are picking and choosing based on their interests.

I also wanted to put it out there that if you have ideas for future shows or suggestions for themes or researchers you would like to see featured, please get in touch with me directly. My contact information can be found on the SoundCloud page for VIEW to the U or on our website [www.utm.utoronto.ca/vp-research/](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/vp-research/), but you can also email me directly at my UTOR handle anytime: [car.demarco@utoronto.ca](mailto:car.demarco@utoronto.ca).

Thank you!