

LIVE



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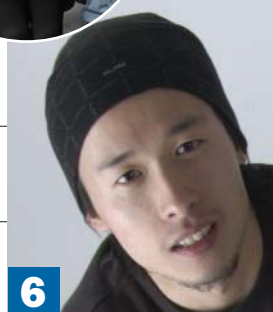
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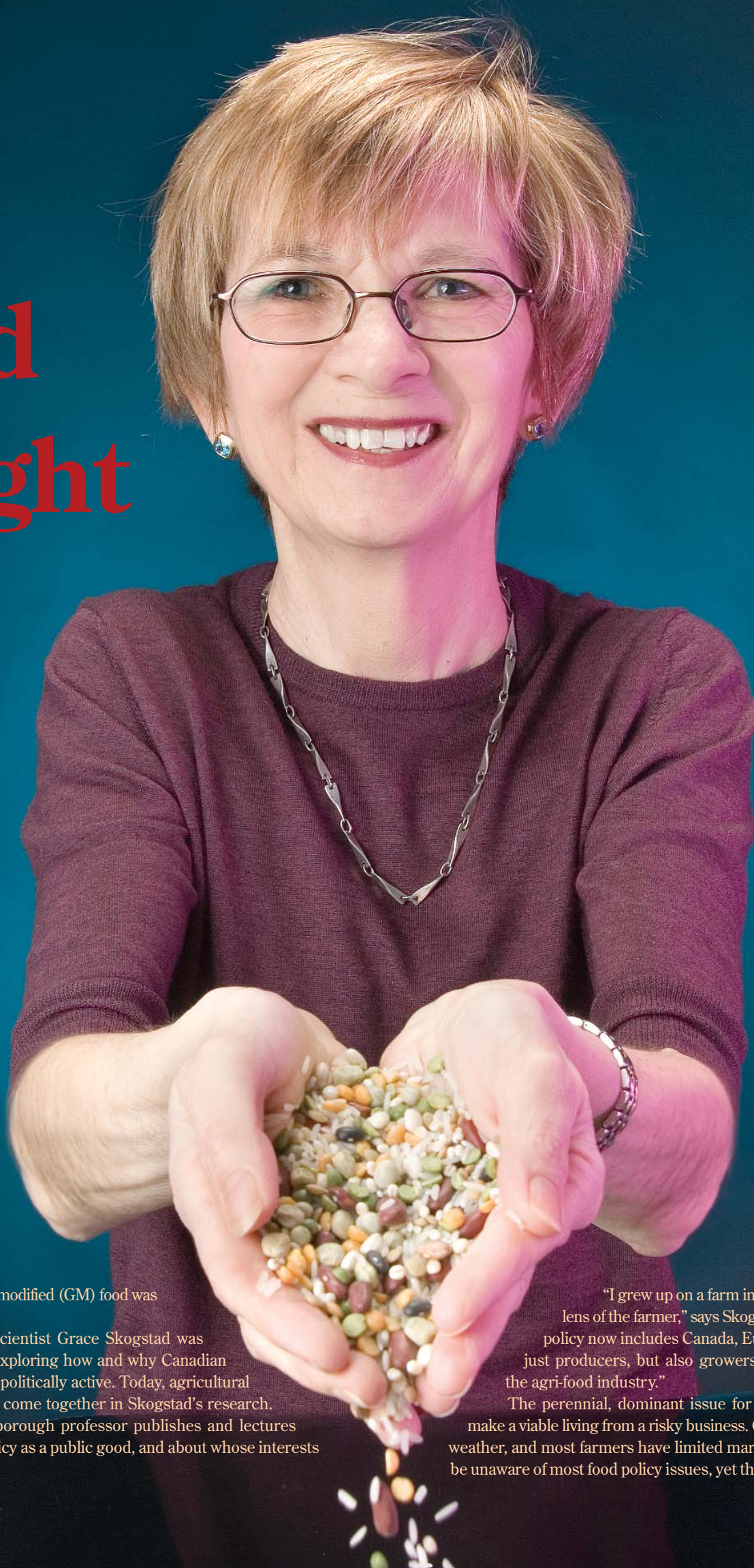
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RESEARCH, NEWS AND LIFE AT U OF T SCARBOROUGH

Food for thought

Researcher looks at policies on genetically modified food



Just 30 years ago, genetically modified (GM) food was only a germ of an idea.

At that time, political scientist Grace Skogstad was finishing her PhD thesis, exploring how and why Canadian farmers choose to become politically active. Today, agricultural policy and the GM bonanza have come together in Skogstad's research. The University of Toronto Scarborough professor publishes and lectures extensively about agricultural policy as a public good, and about whose interests may be served up with the food.

"I grew up on a farm in Alberta, so the first lens I had was the lens of the farmer," says Skogstad. "My view on agriculture and food policy now includes Canada, Europe and the United States – and not just producers, but also growers, consumers, environmentalists and the agri-food industry."

The perennial, dominant issue for Canadian farmers has been how to make a viable living from a risky business. Crops can be wiped out by disease and weather, and most farmers have limited market power. Canadian consumers may be unaware of most food policy issues, yet they benefit from Canadian agriculture.

Continued on page 4

Principal's message



As the weather warms up, signs of renewal are everywhere at U of T Scarborough. Trees and shrubs are in bloom, and our students and staff have shed their heavy coats to spend more time outdoors enjoying our beautiful campus.

In this issue, you will read about other types of renewal and growth happening around us. The new science building will become a hub for research and teaching. You will also read about our outstanding faculty, whose research and teaching gain accolades across a spectrum of subjects. Everything from genetically modified foods to second language acquisition are explored by our leading researchers. On the teaching side, three of our faculty members were named among the 10 finalists across the province in TVO's Best Lecturer competition. We as a campus community are indeed fortunate to have this level of teaching excellence, and our students reap the benefits.

As well, we will have a new Principal beginning his term this summer, and the arrival of Prof. Franco Vaccarino, a leading psychologist and administrator, also heralds a new era of growth and development for the campus community.

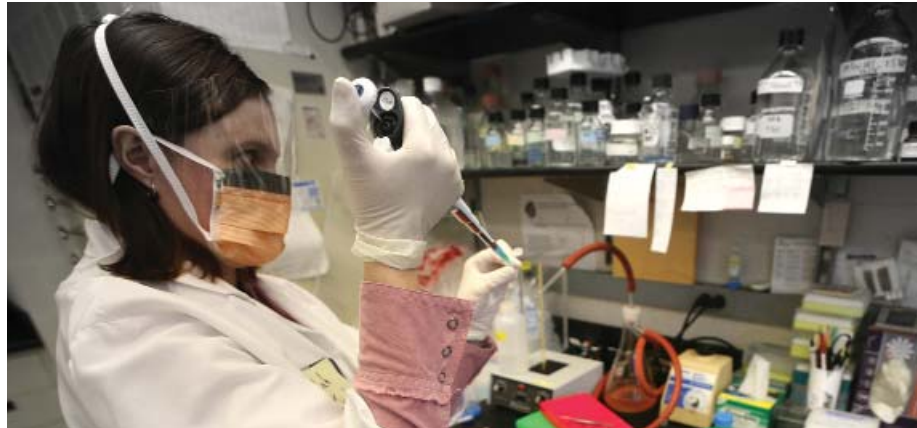
Our students and alumni continue to impress and amaze us, and you will read about individuals who have overcome obstacles and achieved phenomenal things, and who continue to strive to improve our world.

As my term as Interim Principal draws to a close, I wish to share my appreciation for the warm reception and support I have received over the past year. I also wish to commend the faculty and staff for their dedication, and the students, alumni and supporters for their enthusiasm and energy. These efforts are what make the University of Toronto Scarborough a great place to be.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Freedman
Interim Principal

Science building a hub of exciting research



RESEARCH HUB: The three floors of the new science building will be organized according to themes of research and teaching. The building is scheduled to open in 2008.

The new science building coming to the University of Toronto Scarborough will be a hub of research activities that is so much more than simply bricks and mortar.

The scientists and labs slated for the new building are on the cutting edge, and their research will touch on issues that affect us all. This dynamic and collaborative space will be the new home for interdisciplinary research and teaching in the physical, environmental and life sciences.

Construction crews are on the campus working on the structure, scheduled to open in 2008. The three floors in the building will be organized by themes of research and teaching, as follows:

First Floor – A better understanding of the brain – Working at the interface of psychology and biology, researchers will examine the impact of various aspects of an individual's environment on brain function and response. Areas of study include uncovering the biological mechanisms and environmental factors that determine language acquisition, hormonal controls of emotion and memory in children, the neuroscience of human aggression, prejudice and discrimination, as well as the use of virtual reality technology to assess and treat brain injury.

Second Floor – Plant biology: Form and function – The work of researchers here focuses on the physiology, molecular biology and genetics of plants with the ultimate aim of generating information to improve crop productivity and thus help ameliorate world hunger. Specific projects include studies on genes controlling plant architecture and development, understanding

the response of plants to environmental stresses such as drought, and the genetic manipulation of plants to improve energy production.

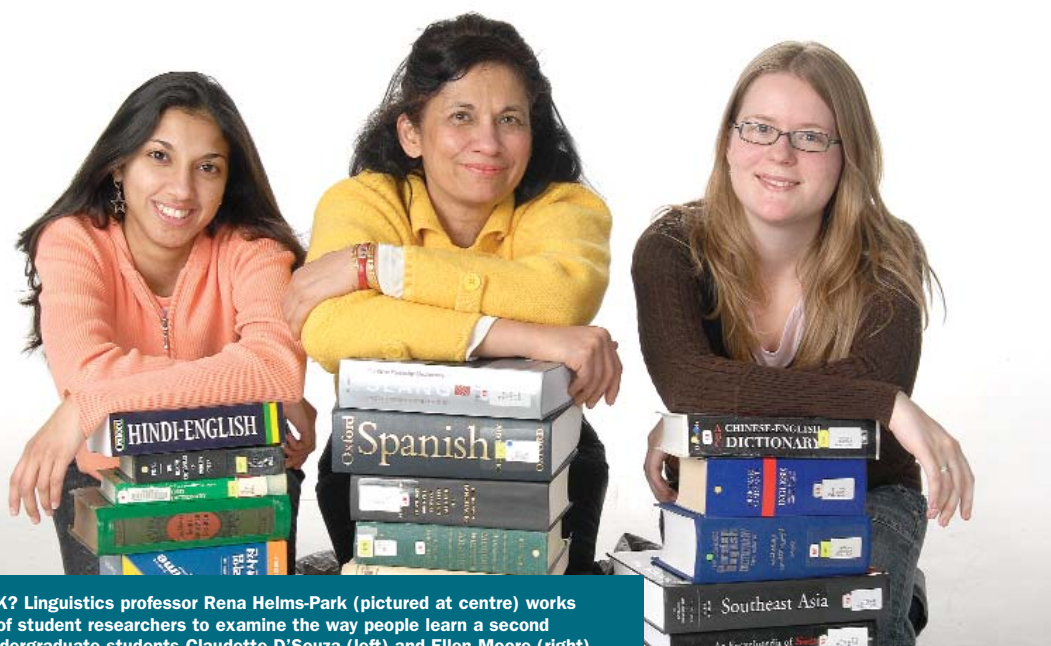
Third Floor – The global fate and impact of environmental contaminants – This group of researchers will be using sophisticated technologies to identify, track, and assess the impact of dangerous contaminants in the environment, with the ultimate goal of developing strategies for environmental restoration. Individual lab projects focus on environmental toxicology, contaminated soil studies, and the role of microbes in remediation of polluted land as well as surface and groundwater.

"We are absolutely thrilled that the new building is in progress, but we are even more excited about the research that will take place inside," says Prof. John Coleman, Vice-Principal (Research and Graduate Studies). "The scientists and their researcher teams are exploring questions that matter to the whole planet. As well, the layout of the new facility will provide tremendous opportunities for collaboration among different disciplines, and enhance faculty, undergraduate and graduate student interactions. This project is a most welcome addition to the University of Toronto Scarborough and will strengthen our position as an important research centre at the University."

For more on how to support the exciting research in this building, contact Michelle Coutinho, Senior Development Officer at (416) 287-7083, or by email at: coutinho@utsc.utoronto.ca, or visit the web site at www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~advancement/support.

—by Mary Ann Gratton

Second language learning the focus of research by prof and students



CAN WE TALK? Linguistics professor Rena Helms-Park (pictured at centre) works with a team of student researchers to examine the way people learn a second language. Undergraduate students Claudette D'Souza (left) and Ellen Moore (right) say they enjoy the inside view of research that they are gaining.

How difficult is it to learn a second language? Is it more challenging for some than others?

Rena Helms-Park, an applied linguistics professor at U of T Scarborough, and her team of graduate and undergraduate student researchers, are supplying some answers to those questions. They are attending the 2007 Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics conference in Saskatoon in June, where they are to present their findings on the interaction between first- and second-language lexicons (vocabularies). In April, some of them also attended a conference of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in California.

Their research compares speakers of two very different languages, Romanian and Vietnamese, to examine the transfer process involved in learning a second language. The goal of the research project is to determine whether a Romanian-speaker will experience less difficulty in learning English than a Vietnamese-speaker because the structure of the English language is more like that of Romanian than Vietnamese. The roots of many

Student chosen as UN goodwill ambassador

Move over Angelina Jolie — a student from the University of Toronto Scarborough has been chosen to represent Canada as a goodwill youth ambassador to the United Nations.

Matthew Cimone, a student in his final year of the International Development Studies (IDS) co-op program, was chosen from young people across the country for a two-year term with the UN, focusing on issues that affect the world's youth.

"The whole thing is fantastic and unexpected," said Cimone, 25. "When I heard the news, I realized that my life would be greatly changed, for the better, for the next two years."

One male and one female delegate from the UN member states were chosen as ambassadors for each country. Sara Nicholls, a student at the University of Ottawa, was selected as Canada's female youth ambassador.

The ambassadors traveled to New York to represent Canada at the UN Global Youth Leadership Summit, the first of its kind to recognize the role of youth in international development goals. Delegates at the one-week summit last fall met with top organizers from agencies like UNICEF and the World Food Program and discussed issues related to youth and global poverty.

Cimone represents both Canada and Right to Play International, a humanitarian organization that uses

sports and play programs to encourage healthy physical, social and emotional development of children in developing countries and conflict areas.

At the UN, delegates discussed the importance of youth energy and enthusiasm to the world's future. The two Canadian delegates played a key role in drafting an official declaration of the Global Rights of Youth.

Participating in the summit and his subsequent role as a goodwill ambassador has opened up a whole new world, said the Thunder Bay native.

"I've never felt so empowered in my life," he said. "This experience has given me access to incredible resources, and I'm now part of a global network of youth activists. The United Nations name carries a lot of weight, and I've found that people are very receptive to our ideas as a result."

The delegates will continue as advocates for youth empowerment in their home countries. Cimone and Nicholls are now trying to establish a national youth council with representatives from a wide range of Canadian youth organizations.

International development has become a passion for Cimone. As part of the IDS program, he spent a year in Africa for his co-op placement, including three months in Uganda and nine months in Sierra Leone as a volunteer with Right to Play. He facilitated the introduction of

sports as an educational tool in Sudanese refugee camps, and played ball games with young people in an effort to help mobilize and bring them together as a community.

—by Mary Ann Gratton



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE: U of T Scarborough student Matthew Cimone (front row, second from left) spent a year in Africa volunteering with a humanitarian organization. Pictured in Sierra Leone with young men whom he helped to train as community coaches, Cimone was there for his overseas co-op placement as part of the International Development Studies (IDS) program.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MATTHEW CIMONE

"This opportunity will allow students to realize that they don't have to think and work inside the box. They can go beyond what other people are doing, and they can excel."

words from both English and Romanian are Latinate; therefore a portion of the vocabulary can be interpreted by either speaker, especially in academic discourse.

Helms-Park drew inspiration for this project from her own roots. "In India, it was common to function in different language environments. I travelled a lot and had to adjust to the surroundings," she said. She speaks Hindi, Urdu and English.

Helms-Park has four students who assist with research: two graduate students, Maria Claudia Petrescu and Vedran Dronjic, plus two undergraduate students, Claudette D'Souza and Ellen Moore, both in fourth year. Between them, they speak Romanian, Vietnamese, French, English, Serbo-Croatian, and Spanish.

"A sizable part of my mandate is to provide suitable research opportunities," said Helms-Park, noting she

saw no better way of doing that than bringing her research to her teaching in order to involve students in real work in the field. "This opportunity will allow them to realize that they don't have to think and work inside the box, they can go beyond

what other people are doing, and they can excel," she said.

The students are responsible for test creation for Romanian-speaking learners, data collection and analysis. "Our job is to meet the Romanian and Vietnamese people, to code and input the data into spreadsheets, and to help with statistical analysis and interpretation of the results," D'Souza said.

D'Souza and Moore are both on their way to becoming speech pathologists. "This experience has shown me the intricacies of the research process," said Moore. "I love the inside view of research that this project has given me."

—by Margarita Medynsky



PHOTO: PASCAL PAQUETTE

FULL CIRCLE: Prof. Franco Vaccarino taught his first U of T class at the Scarborough campus in 1984. Now a full professor of psychology and psychiatry, he will be returning to the campus as Principal and Vice-President, effective July 1.

Franco Vaccarino named new principal

The University of Toronto announced the appointment of Prof. Franco Vaccarino as Principal of the University of Toronto Scarborough and Vice-President, University of Toronto, effective July 1, 2007.

Vaccarino attended U of T Mississauga and graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science. He earned both his Master's and PhD at McGill University and received post-doctoral training in psychology at the Scripps and Salk Institutes in California.

He returned to U of T in 1984 as an assistant professor at the University of Toronto Scarborough. From 2005 to 2007, Vaccarino was the graduate chair of the Department of Psychology, and is currently a full professor in both the departments of psychology and psychiatry. He is also past head of the neuroscience program in the Department of Psychiatry and a former vice-president of both the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry.

Vaccarino is an award-winning scholar who has been internationally recognized for his interdisciplinary research accomplishments in the areas of neuroscience, addiction, mood and anxiety systems.

"Franco Vaccarino truly embodies the values of the University of Toronto," said President David Naylor. "He is an excellent researcher and a talented teacher and mentor. With his outstanding leadership skills, I am confident he will foster positive development at U of T Scarborough in each of these areas."

In addition to his scientific achievements, Vaccarino has taught and mentored numerous students and researchers. He also brings valuable experience in community and government relations to his new position. He has served as a member of various committees of the Medical Research Council, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and National Institutes of Health in the U.S.

"Prof. Vaccarino is an excellent choice to lead U of T Scarborough," says Jonathan Freedman, interim vice-president and principal. "I have known him for many years. He brings to the campus the enthusiasm that U of T Scarborough needs in a principal."

"I began my career at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus and so I am very happy to come back to the community in this role," says Vaccarino. "Because of its leading research, outstanding faculty, and vibrant student life, the campus is experiencing unprecedented growth. I look forward to working with students, staff and faculty to steward that growth."

—by Sonnet L'Abbé



Three finalists named to TVO's Best Lecturer competition



OUTSTANDING LECTURERS: (From left) Professors Marc Fournier, Steve Joordens and Maydianne Andrade made the top 10 list of lecturers in the province. (Fournier and Andrade photos by Ken Jones; Joordens photo by Michelle Gibson.)

Three of the finalists for TVO's Best Lecturer competition were faculty members from U of T Scarborough.

Professors Maydianne Andrade (Biology), Marc Fournier (Psychology) and Steve Joordens (Psychology) made the top 10 list, which drew more than 250 nominations from students around Ontario universities. The winning lecturer was Prof. Michael Persinger from Laurentian University in Sudbury.

Semi-finalists from the campus included: Robert

“For us to have eight semi-finalists and three finalists from lecturers across Ontario is a testament to the ongoing quality of teaching here.”

Campbell (Religion), Gerald Cupchik (Psychology), Raymond Grinnell (Mathematics), Jamie Gruman (Management) and Garry Leonard (English).

According to Prof. Ragnar-Olaf Buchweitz, “All of our nominees are winners, and so is U of T Scarborough. We are very fortunate indeed to have so many stellar teachers on our campus. For us to have had eight semi-finalists and three finalists from lecturers across Ontario is a testament to the ongoing quality of teaching here. That's something we can celebrate every day.”

Political scientist compares food policies in North America and Europe

Continued from cover

“The consumer has ample, nutritious food available at a relatively cheap price, but only seven to ten cents of every dollar made on a food product goes back to farmers,” says Skogstad.

Enter genetically modified crops.

Since the technique of inserting the DNA from one organism into a crop plant's genome was first used commercially in 1996 – resulting in hardier crops resistant to pests and insects – the agricultural biotechnology industry has exploded. Today, Canada ranks fourth in the world for production of genetically modified crops, primarily herbicide- and pesticide-resistant canola (short for Canadian Oil Low Acid, a Canadian-developed plant variety that produces superior cooking oil); and, to a lesser extent, herbicide- and pesticide-resistant corn.

GM canola and corn (along with other crops resistant to herbicides and pesticides) offer an advantage to the farmer by allowing for more effective weed and pest control during the growing season. Canadian farmers look to GM crops to increase their yields – and hopefully their profits as well.

But not everyone favours GM crops. Environmentalists and consumers, especially in Europe, worry that GM crops may contaminate the environment and other fields, and about their long-term safety as food. “Europeans have an entirely different relationship to food than North Americans,” she says. “They have massive concerns about food safety and security, having lived through food shortages in two World Wars and through the BSE (mad cow) and contaminated-food crises of the 1990s. Also, the organic, consumer and environmental movements have always been stronger in Europe than in Canada.”

Comparative and international public policy on GM foods is the subject of Skogstad's current SSHRC grant. She looks at the political tensions around these crops, and

Canadians who want more say on food policy must speak up, says Skogstad

finds the dispute between the European Union (EU) and North America especially important. Canada, the U.S. and Europe all test the safety of GM crops for human and animal consumption, and find them to be safe. But European governments go beyond the available

science when it comes to accepting new technology or products, guided by what is known as the “precautionary principle.” North American governments, farmers and biotech developers have strongly resisted EU efforts to impose labelling regulations on the sale of GM foods. Only a few European farmers grow GM crops, and their production is among the lowest in the world.

European environmentalists and consumers have mobilized to try to stop GM-crop cultivation altogether. “The rules are changing,” says Skogstad. “These groups have become players, challenging the right of agricultural groups and agri-food companies alone to set agriculture and food policy.”

The EU legislates what is only voluntary in North America: labeling GM food as such, along with requirements that each farmer keep annual records of the type and location of crops grown, to prevent the potential spread of GM crops to other fields.

And so what of the future for GM farmers and GM food, as we enter their second decade? An effective world-trading system depends on agreement about the rules under which agriculture and food products are traded. There is no such policy consensus on GM products, either within many countries or internationally, says Skogstad.

It is still uncertain, she says, whether the world will embrace GM foods – even though U.S.-based biotech companies continue to push their technology worldwide, and rapidly growing Asian economies like China embrace it. She cites the 2002 attempt of a multinational biotech company, Monsanto Canada, to license its GM wheat

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Grace Skogstad studies public policy on genetically modified foods. She publishes widely on the subject and has received several grants for her research from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



PHOTO: KEN JONES

strain in Canada and the U.S. Under pressure from farm groups and the Canadian Wheat Board, who feared they would lose overseas markets if GM wheat was approved, Monsanto withdrew its application.

“This was the first crack in the alliance between biotechnology companies and Canadian farmers,” says Skogstad, since what appeared profitable to the biotech company seemed likely to cost farmers money.

As for Canadians, Pew Research Centre's 2003 survey found that two-thirds of us don't want GM foods – even as we have no solid knowledge of, or say in, what we're already swallowing.

“Canadian consumers don't pay much attention to food safety, and if they want to change that, it's time for them to get out of their seats and tell our country's farmers and governments. But it may take a food scare to get them hyped and passionate enough to spark policy changes in this country.”

—by Lisa Boyes



Students organize national business conference

A dynamic duo of students from U of T Scarborough organized a unique business simulation and conference that drew more than 150 business students from across the country to downtown Toronto.

Fourth-year management students Kara Lilly and Deepthi Guttikonda served as co-chairs of LIVE, believed to be the first such conference for undergraduate business students in Canada.

LIVE stands for Leading Innovative Visions to Execution. Students came to downtown Toronto from as far away as British Columbia and Nova Scotia for last fall's conference, conceived by the Management and Economics Students Association (MESA). The event featured a simulation competition, various business speakers, and a networking event with corporate recruiters. It was designed to help business students develop the tools they will need as corporate leaders.

"The determination of these students in designing the event, getting funding, and implementing the conference was unbelievable," said management professor Walid Hejazi. "It's very rare for an event of this calibre to happen outside an organized MBA program, but this came out of our co-op management program at U of T Scarborough. The organizers demonstrated the initiative, creativity and passion that we love to see in students, and it speaks highly of our program."

"We were aiming to put our campus and program on the map, because we have some incredibly talented students and we wanted to shine the spotlight on the management program at U of T Scarborough," said Guttikonda.

"Undergraduate business students rarely experience an event like this," said Lilly. "Our students gained a more strategic understanding of all aspects of business in a fully simulated marketplace that tested a wide range of skills."

Organizers worked with the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. Events took place at the Holiday Inn on King Street and at the Rotman School. The students heard various speakers and attended a keynote lecture given by Phil Sorgen, President of Microsoft Canada Co., followed by a Corporate

Connections Evening that enabled them to meet corporate recruiters.

"What I took away from it was that it's important not to get discouraged when you hear your first 'no,'" said Guttikonda. "If you want to do something, keep going at it — even if there are a lot of obstacles — and you can make things happen."

—by Swetha Chirravur and Mary Ann Gratton

"The organizers demonstrated the initiative, creativity and passion that we love to see in students."



HARD WORK PAYS OFF: The determination of management students Deepthi Guttikonda (left) and Kara Lilly resulted in a national business conference organized by the Management and Economics Students Association at U of T Scarborough.

PHOTO: KEN JONES

Green Wizards make environmental magic

The vanishing organic waste in residences at U of T Scarborough has cemented the reputation of a student group called the Green Wizards.

Zoe Higgins, recent president of the student residence council and a Green Wizards member, describes the group as "a bunch of students who live in residence, trying to make their temporary homes more environmentally friendly."

The group's main focus is overseeing the composting program that takes place in the campus residences. The Green Wizards walk door to door, promoting the use of green bins and collecting compost from each unit.

"Our main goal is to make our residence have a smaller ecological footprint," said Higgins.

Over the past couple of years, the Green Wizards managed to have energy efficient lighting installed in the residences, maintain an effective composting program and raise awareness about various environmental issues through fundraising events.

"The Green Wizards drive the composting program in residence," says Michelle Verbrugghe, director of residences at U of T Scarborough. "The residence facility staff assist with the program, but raising awareness of the program and actually picking up the compost is done by the students, and they make it happen. We're extremely proud of all of the Green Wizards volunteers and of the composting program. We're thrilled that we have students in residence who are learning about the value of composting and engaging in this program."



GREEN MEANS GO: Energetic members of the Green Wizards student club run the composting program in residence at U of T Scarborough. Pictured in the campus greenhouse are (back row, l to r): Zoe Higgins, Kaley McLean, Kevin Chung and Hazem Sabeh; and (front row, l to r) Achala Rodrigo and Jennifer Gordon.

"I really admire them for devoting their time to play such a huge role in the process. The department provided green bins and they did the rest," Verbrugghe said.

Higgins, a former chair of the group, sees the composting program as a stepping stone and says the group wants to tackle bigger environmental issues. She noted that "there's more to be done and we can do

it right here, from residence."

She said that upcoming projects, such as installing gas heaters and potentially placing sensor monitors that will turn the heat off when students are not in the residences, will make the campus more environmentally friendly.

—by Margarita Medynsky

Business students bring home CA\$H cup

Three undergraduate students at U of T Scarborough won first prize in the recent Chartered Accountant Campus Challenge, an event sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (ICAO).

Students **Vishal Baloria, Matthew Cheng and Rose Fitzsimon**, received the CA\$H Cup as well as winning \$3,000 in cash, plus a \$1,000 contribution towards the Management and Economics Students' Association (MESA).

This is the first time any U of T team has won the annual contest, now in its third year. The aim of the contest is to encourage students to consider a career in accounting.

All three students had to use their business bargaining skills while keeping professional ethics in mind in the competition against teams from 20 different universities.

Teams included one first-year, one second-year and one third- or fourth-year student. They were judged on specific business and accounting challenges.

"Some of the teams jumped right in and started negotiating, but we sat and planned what we wanted to do first," said Baloria. "Because so much negotiation was involved, we collaborated a lot. Communication and teamwork were crucial, because each competitor had to vote on all the other teams and whether their behaviour was ethical."

"We tried to be honest and show genuine concern for the other people, and when we met beforehand, we agreed that when we dealt with others in the 'market-place', we would conduct business honestly, and we



LIKE NOBODY'S BUSINESS: Accounting students (from left) Vishal Baloria, Rose Fitzsimon and Matthew Cheng are pictured with the CA\$H Cup. The trio from U of T Scarborough used their business acumen to beat out students from 20 other universities and win \$3,000 in this year's Chartered Accountant Campus Challenge.

PHOTO: KEN JONES

were all on the same page about that," said Cheng.

"It was a valuable experience, and so much fun," said Fitzsimon. "We couldn't believe it when they called out our names as the winners."

Prof. Michael Krashinsky, chair of management at

U of T Scarborough, said "This is a major competition run by the ICAO with competitors from across the province, and we are simply delighted by the results."

—by *Michah Rynor*

Renowned alumnus named visiting artist

Will Kwan, a renowned visual artist whose work has been exhibited internationally, was back on campus this winter after being named the Snider Fellowship Visiting Artist.

Kwan is an alumnus of U of T Scarborough. Since earning his BA in 2002, he has gone on to achieve international recognition for his work in installations, video and photography. A Canadian citizen born in Hong Kong, Kwan most recently served as artist in residence at the Duolun Museum of Modern Art in Shanghai.

He was involved in the creation of a large-scale public sculpture in Shanghai, an earthwork (sculpture) made of rubble from demolished buildings. Prior to that, he was an artist in residence at a contemporary art foundation in Northern Italy and a Research Fellow at a cultural institute in the Netherlands, following his graduate studies in visual arts at New York's Columbia University.

"Will has become an internationally important artist, and this is a fantastic opportunity for us to have him back on campus, for he's an inspiration to students and faculty alike," says Prof. Garry Leonard of the Department of Humanities.

During his semester here, Kwan taught a fourth-year interdisciplinary studio-seminar and consulted with students. He also participated in a broadly-based discussion about visual culture at U of T Scarborough. An exciting new lecture series on visual culture is taking place this year. Visit www.uts.utoronto.ca/cultural for details.

Kwan says he is most interested in "how to make representations about this idea we have of the 'global' — and how art can contribute visual material to the general knowledge base we are developing about the contemporary world."

He said he was happy to be back on campus after traveling a great deal in the past few years. "The campus has really changed, and many of these buildings were not here when I was a student," he says.

For more information on Will Kwan, visit www.willkwanprojects.org

—by *Mary Ann Gratton*

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Will Kwan is known for his video and photography installations. He was back on campus at the U of T Scarborough this winter after being named the Snider Fellowship Visiting Artist.

PHOTO: KEN JONES



Take your checks and move on: Alumna Justine Blainey-Broker

Hockey fans may remember the name Justine Blainey, a pioneering female hockey player who won a spot in the Metro Toronto Hockey League in 1981 but was denied the chance to play because league regulations prohibited girls from playing. Her subsequent complaint to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which allowed sexual discrimination in sports, led to an appeal and five court cases, all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, which finally struck down a portion of the provincial human rights code in 1986. This opened the door for women to compete with men in Ontario sports. She now owns and operates the Justine Blainey-Broker Wellness Centre, a chiropractic practice in Brampton. She graduated from U of T Scarborough in 1995 with a BSc (Hons) in psychology and chemistry. *LIVE* magazine caught up with Justine Blainey-Broker recently.

Q A strong level of tenacity was needed in your battle to play boy's hockey. Can you talk about that?

A It's important to not give up on your goals, even when you feel like throwing in the towel. Some things are worth fighting for. When I teach someone to skate, the first thing I show them is how to get up after a fall. I talk about the checks of life. Success comes from getting up from those checks. Challenges are part of growth, but if you have a winning attitude, you take your checks and move on.

Q How would you describe your work style?

A I'm a super-charged, energized person. I also make sure that I have a good team around me. My fitness and nutrition are high and I have developed a mission statement and positive affirmations that I read daily. I have a family, so I plan and schedule, and I make sure that my plan contains balance.

Q What is your mission statement?

A My personal mission statement is to love and appreciate those around me to a higher, healthier and happier potential. Our clinic mission statement is to serve families with love, education and life-enhancing care so that they may innately express their true potential and optimal health throughout life.

Q What have you found in your career to be the biggest challenges?

A Having played hockey, I enjoy teamwork and being with groups. The more people you have, the greater the energy you can build, but at times, people in the group bring in other baggage. I've also seen others who can't keep up with my pace, because I expect from others the same things that I expect from myself. I understand that not everybody has the desire or skill for that level of energy, so I try to make sure my expectations of others are fair.

Q As you look back on your work life and your chiropractic career, is there anything you would do differently?

A I should have gotten coaching earlier. Once I did, I began to see significant growth in my practice and my own life. We all need coaches to help point out the things that we can't or don't want to see, to help us excel. The most satisfying part of my work now is watching families become healthier and happier. People come in feeling stressed and negative and they don't have the energy for their children. Within a few months, they are feeling better and excited about their day.

Q How would you describe your time as a student here at the University of Toronto Scarborough?

A I was excited to be at U of T and to have a scholarship, but my first year was challenging. I was playing 100 games a season and my day started at 5:00 a.m. and went until midnight. My residence roommates couldn't understand my intensity and my desires. I also experienced a huge drop in marks in first year, going from a 98 to a 52 by Christmas. Although I knew how to play hockey, I realized I had to learn to play a new and different game at university. Once I learned it, things started to go better with my grades. It was also a difficult time because U of T was recommending for financial reasons to



HOCKEY PIONEER: As a child, Justine Blainey-Broker struggled to play hockey on a boys' team, and her case went all the way to the Supreme Court.

cut the women's hockey team, which had won the championship 13 times. This was the team I had been passionate about. We started phoning women hockey alumni and got them to voice their concerns and raise money, and in the end they kept the team. Those were stressful times, but they got better. The more I pressed on and the more I asked for help, the more the pieces started to come together. If you focus, meditate, pray, or seek help, it will be there for you.

Q Now that girls can play on boys' hockey teams, do people ever come up to you and say thank you?

A Not often. When I was fighting the legal battles to play with the guys, I would go to the hockey rinks and I was spit on and had coffee and popcorn thrown at me. I lost friends, I had crank phone calls, and petitions were circulating at the rinks claiming that I was ruining hockey. But now I do hear thank you, maybe half a dozen times a year, and it feels good. Now I also try to make sure that I thank the people that I'm grateful for.

Q Can you say something about your life outside of work, such as how you spend your free time?

A I have two children, my daughter Yohanna, 6, and my son Théo, 4, and my husband Blake Broker. They're the loves of my life. Those are my passions now.

Q Do you have any advice for others?

A Everyone should write down their goals and mission statement and positive affirmations. They keep you focused and believing in yourself. Even if they are just small goals, it's important to write them down. They can change, but it's important to have them. Even my kids have goal boards. Every major leader in history and the bible has taken their checks. Those checks gave them wisdom and strength, and we can learn from them.

—by Mary Ann Gratton

PHOTO: GORILLA MARKETING

In brief

Grad students win psychology awards

Two graduate students at U of T Scarborough have received prestigious awards from the American Psychological Association (APA). Psychology students **Michelle Hilscher**, who is completing her Master's degree and starting a PhD in the fall, and recent PhD grad **Igor Juricevic**, were both recognized by the APA's Division 10, the Society for the Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts. Hilscher won the Frank X. Barron Award for her paper examining peoples' perceptions of poetry, and Juricevic won the Berlyne Award for New Investigators, for a prize-winning paper on perspective pictures. Both will accept their awards at the APA convention in San Francisco in August.

Business student youngest at national event

Second-year management student **Derrick Fung** was chosen as the only representative from U of T Scarborough to attend and compete at a national business team conference in Ottawa last fall. Fung, 18, was also the youngest competitor at Impact Apprentice, and was competing with students from 20 universities and colleges across Canada. His team placed second overall in a competition that included sales, marketing and strategic management challenges.

Continuing education at U of T Scarborough

U of T's School of Continuing Studies has expanded its calendar of courses to the Scarborough campus. Starting in May, nine courses are being offered during the summer and conveniently delivered on weekends.

To increase accessibility to a broader spectrum of the community, three of these courses are offered in Cantonese, including Marketing: An Introduction, Business Law and Business Strategy. They are part of the Canadian Business Management Essentials Certificate offered in partnership with *Sing Tao*, a well-established international multimedia company. Other courses include: Certificate in Project Management and Certificate in Communication for Professionals. Visit www.learn.utoronto.ca.

Greening of the campus continues

Staff, faculty and students are continuing to take part in planting, pruning, cleanup and other environmental activities as part of the Green Initiatives happening over the next few years at the Scarborough campus. Educational walks and environmental tours are also part of this major educational and educational initiative happening in cooperation with Evergreen, a charity that builds the relationship between nature, culture, and community in urban spaces. See the calendar on page 8.

Visual culture lecture series

An exciting new lecture series on visual culture was launched on campus recently and continues through the summer. Supported by the U of T Humanities Centre, it features speakers from cinema, the art world, literature and other areas, and is part of an initiative to examine and enhance the cutting-edge study of visual culture and interdisciplinary studies at U of T

Scarborough. See the calendar of events on page 8 or visit www.utscc.utoronto.ca/cultural.

New graduate program available

A new graduate program is being offered at the U of T Scarborough campus. The Master of Industrial Relations and Human Resources (MIRHR) two-year degree program will be offered beginning September 2007. Delivered through the University of Toronto's Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources, the new program gives graduates a thorough understanding of strategic human resource management, labour relations, and the global economic trends that govern the employment relationship. The first year is spent at the Scarborough campus and the second year at the downtown St. George campus. For more information, contact the Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources at (416) 978-2927, or www.chass.utoronto.ca/cir.

Faculty lecture series coming up

Watch our web site for details on the Faculty Lecture Series, which highlights some of the best and brightest faculty minds, sharing their thoughts and ideas at the U of T Scarborough campus. The lectures take place over the academic year. The 2005-2006 series featured such notable U of T professors as Janice Gross Stein, Daniel Bender, Maydianne Andrade, and David Fleet. Visit www.utscc.utoronto.ca for details.

Compiled by Swetha Chirravur, Mary Ann Gratton, and Amorell Saunders N'Daw



What's Happening

JUNE

June 1 – June 17, 2007 — “Projections” art exhibition, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/dmg
 June 2 — Ready Set Go, a preparation day for newly admitted students. Find out about academic programs, choosing courses, and getting to know the campus. www.utscc.utoronto.ca/admliaison
 June TBA — Evergreen partnership planting events
 June 7 — Visual culture lecture series, featuring Prof. Tom Gunning, art historian and expert on cinema and media studies, University of Chicago, 5 to 8 p.m., www.utscc.utoronto.ca/cultural
 June 11 — Spring convocation reception, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/advancement/alumni
 June 12 — Spring convocation ceremony, Convocation Hall, www.utoronto.ca/convocation
 June 21 — Visual culture lecture series, featuring Prof. Susan McCabe, UCLA English professor and film and poetry researcher, 5 to 8 p.m., room AA112, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/cultural

JULY

July 21 — Management Association Alumni (MAA) Golf Day, Angus Glen Golf & Country Club. For details and registration, contact Michelle Ng at ngm@ca.ibm.com or (416) 478-6635
 July 26 — Visual culture lecture series, featuring Prof. Patrice Petro, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, English and film studies, 5 to 8 p.m., room AA112, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/cultural

AUGUST

August TBA — Evergreen partnership planting event

SEPTEMBER

Sept. TBA — Principal's Welcome, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/stuaff
 Sept. TBA — Student Club Orientation, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/stuaff
 September 8 — Community Service Day/Evergreen environmental event, www.utscc.utoronto.ca
 Sept. 10 — Classes begin
 Sept. 19 — Evergreen partnership planting event

OCTOBER

Oct. TBA — Homecoming Hockey Classic
 Oct. 11 — Evergreen partnership planting event

NOVEMBER

Nov. TBA — Music of All Latitudes concert, ARC Theatre, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/cultural
 Nov. 3 — U of T Scarborough Day – Open House, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/admliaison
 Nov. 9 — Remembrance Day Ceremony
 Nov. TBA — Fall Convocation Reception, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/advancement/alumni
 Nov. TBA — Fall Convocation Ceremony at Convocation Hall, www.utoronto.ca/convocation
 Nov. TBA — Honours Night for scholarship winners

DECEMBER

Dec. 1 — Sounds of the Season, an annual holiday concert featuring staff, faculty, and students in performance, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/cultural
 Dec. 6 — Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence against Women, www.utscc.utoronto.ca/vpp/equity

For more details on all events, visit www.utscc.utoronto.ca



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Tuning into ethnicity

“Who you are has a lot to do with where you are,” says Minelle Mahtani, a professor of geography and journalism at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She is turning her interest in mixed race identity into an investigation of how minorities fare in TV news.

Being of Indian and Iranian descent (though she prefers to identify herself simply as mixed race) Mahtani lives what she studies. “There’s something intrinsically geopolitical about being of mixed race. It offers a point of connection. A politics of identity is truly a politics of location. Depending on where I am, people think I’m different things. In Italy, people think I’m Italian, and in Spain, Spanish.”

Mahtani’s interest in ethnicity and her past experience as a journalist – she was a producer for CBC Television’s *The National* – are the basis for a new project on the representation of minorities in mainstream broadcast news.

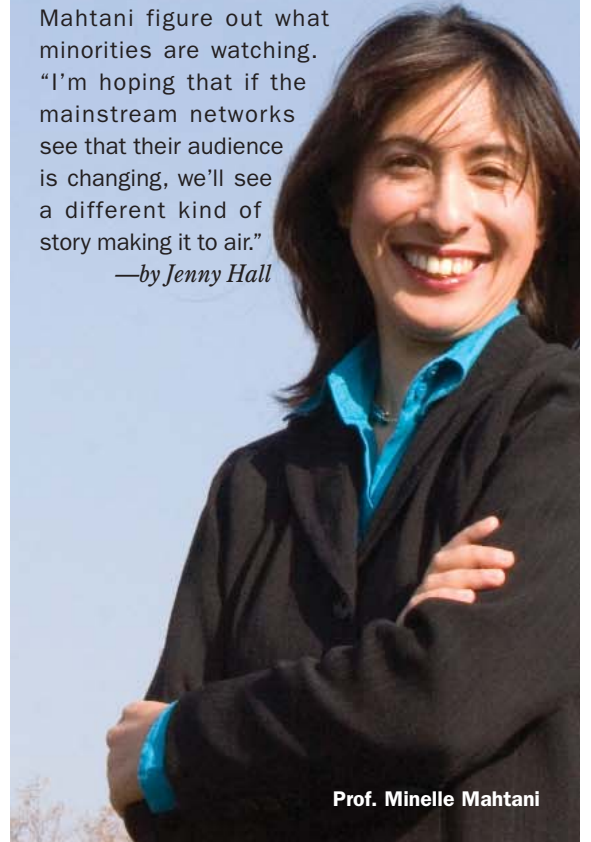
“When you watch for things like talking heads on the news, how often do you see a Muslim obstetrician talking about being a doctor?” she asks. “You usually don’t, but you see a lot of stories linking so-called radical Muslims and terrorism.”

Mahtani says previous studies have established that ethnic minorities are underrepresented and misrepresented in mainstream news casts, but media workers tend to believe that this isn’t a problem. They assume that minorities prefer to consume specialized ethnic media. She suspects that this isn’t necessarily the case.

“We don’t know if ethnic minorities are tuning into the mainstream news. There hasn’t been a lot of audience research conducted by academics in this country.”

Focus groups across the country will help Mahtani figure out what minorities are watching. “I’m hoping that if the mainstream networks see that their audience is changing, we’ll see a different kind of story making it to air.”

—by Jenny Hall



Prof. Minelle Mahtani

PHOTO: MICHELLE GIBSON

Leading Research, Outstanding Faculty, and Vibrant Student Life – Experience U of T Scarborough.

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