

LIVE



3

3 Student wins UofT international award

5 Program conveys excitement of science

5 Baseball gets a home on Scarborough campus

7 David Onley on life after university



7

RESEARCH, NEWS AND LIFE AT U OF T SCARBOROUGH



What's bugging him:

Curiosity drives insect researcher

For Andrew Mason, scientific curiosity is at the heart of discovery.

The life sciences professor, who was recently named the recipient of the Principal's Award for Research at the University of Toronto Scarborough, is fascinated by flies, crickets, katydids, and spiders. He is fuelled by a keen interest in observing unusual or strange behaviour and trying to learn why it is happening.

"I like to find a really interesting natural phenomenon and try to figure out why it happens," says Mason. "Scientific curiosity is at the heart of research, and you have to pursue the things you wonder most about. People often don't realize that - although research has many applications - the practical outcomes are not predictable at the beginning."

A biologist with an interest in the nervous system as it relates to animal behaviour, Mason has also received several large grants to study complex signaling behaviour in insects, and the mechanism and function of complex sensory

Continued on page 4

Principal's message



The University of Toronto Scarborough is a great place to be. Not only are we a fully participating part of the finest university in Canada, but we offer many advantages to students.

Students get an excellent postsecondary education, with academic offerings in a broad range of fields. They can be engaged in research and scholarship with our outstanding faculty. They have all of the resources and academic strengths of the University of Toronto at their fingertips, and at the end of it they gain a degree that bears the name and has all the cachet of the University of Toronto, but they get to pursue their education in a setting that is friendly and intimate, and set within a beautiful landscape that feels like we're in the country.

In this issue and upcoming issues, we will feature the many facets of our vibrant student life and profile the work and lives of our outstanding faculty and staff.

More than ever, students from across Canada and around the world are choosing the U of T Scarborough experience. We are fortunate to have more than 200 student clubs, associations and societies, recreational and competitive athletic programs, cultural events and public lectures, and gallery space for student art. The University of Toronto Scarborough offers an endless array of learning opportunities – both inside and outside the classroom.

If you have not visited us lately, I encourage you to come to our campus. You will be amazed and impressed with the level of activity and the quality of research and teaching.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Freedman
Interim Principal

Community service day a great success



Instead of hitting the books, some students at U of T Scarborough spent a day volunteering at day care centres, seniors clubs, and other community agencies.

September 22 was designated as **U Serve 2006: Connecting U with the Community**. It was the first community service day organized for Scarborough campus students, and 100 of them signed up to volunteer at a number of different community and social agencies.

"It is important for us to build and enhance the connections between our campus and the community around us," said Vinitha Gengatharan of the Office of Student Affairs, which organized the day jointly with the University of Toronto's Centre for Community Partnerships. "We feel it's valuable to connect our students to the community and to let them know that there are local needs that they can help to address." Lina Balian, a fourth-year philosophy and psychology major, volunteered to help with children's play activities at the West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre.

"It was a pleasure to do something I enjoy so much while representing my school," said Balian. "Everyone had a smile on their face. It is important to give back to the community and help each other as much as we can. The survival of humanity is dependent on the charity we provide to one another."

Teresa Wong, a third-year management student, was also a U Serve volunteer. "I personally think that it is



A HELPING HAND: Student volunteers at the West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre included (above left) Teresa Wong, pictured playing with little Venkat, 2, and (above) Cindy Hum and Sarah Semoff, who assisted in the kitchen.

important to know what's going on around the community. Volunteering is not only about helping people, but also getting to know new people."

"Working in the kitchen and preparing food for the seniors was quite an experience," said Cindy Hum, a fourth-year management student. "The closest that I have ever come to cooking is opening up a can of beans and heating it in the microwave, so when they asked me to make cupcakes, I was hesitant. Luckily they turned out to be edible!"

"Volunteering develops you as an individual," Hum added. "Others who want to volunteer should just go for it — it's a great opportunity to take on new roles and try new things."

For more details on the U Serve initiative, visit: <http://www.utscc.utoronto.ca/~stuaff/userve/>

Buddhist studies donor honoured at U of T Scarborough

Buddhist studies was the focus of a celebration held in August to recognize the generous \$4 million contribution made by Tung Lin Kok Yuen 東蓮覺苑, to the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Tung Lin Kok Yuen is a non-profit organization based in Hong Kong that aims to raise and inspire public interest in Buddhism. Its gift is the biggest in campus history. Officials from the university, the community, and the donor organization attended a ceremony to celebrate the donation and its impact on Buddhist studies.

Mr. Robert Ho, Chairman of the donor organization, and members of Tung Lin Kok Yuen's board of directors from Hong Kong, were on hand for the celebration at Miller Lash House.

"Our goal is to enhance public knowledge of Buddhism, to raise awareness of and appreciation for Buddhism through support of Buddhist studies, not just in Canada but worldwide," said Mr. Ho.

"We would like to see Buddhism viewed not just as a religion predominant in Asia, but more widely known



Celebrating a \$4 million gift to Buddhist studies are (l to r): Robert Ho, chairman of Tun Lin Kok Yuen, U of T president David Naylor, and U of T Scarborough past principal Kwong-loi Shun.

and better understood by the international community," added Mr. Ho. "Our board decided to make this gift because your university is located in a remarkably diverse city, and your Scarborough campus houses one of the most culturally diverse student populations among North American universities. Your institution is uniquely positioned to take on the responsibility of inspiring international interest in Buddhism."

In celebration of the gift, a plaque was unveiled by Mr. Ho, Chancellor David Peterson, U of T President David Naylor and Professor Kwong-loi Shun, then Principal of U of T Scarborough.

The gift is also the largest initiative in support of Buddhist studies at the University of Toronto, said President Naylor. It creates the momentum needed to propel the University of Toronto into the ranks of leading world institutions for the study of Buddhism, he added. It will raise the profile of Buddhist studies in Canada by establishing an endowed visiting professorship, scholarships and a series of ongoing conferences and public lectures.

Scarborough student is first winner of U of T international award



GLOBAL OUTLOOK: Eliza Jiang Chen, a fourth-year student in the management co-op program, won the prestigious Jon S. Dellandrea Award for International Students.

A global perspective comes naturally to Eliza Jiang Chen.

Born in China, raised in Panama, and studying in Canada, Eliza seems ideally suited to be the recipient of a prestigious international student award. She speaks four languages — Spanish, English, Mandarin and Cantonese — and she is also learning French.

Eliza served as president of the University of Toronto Model United Nations Club, a UN simulation that enables students to gain perspective and knowledge on current world issues. She and the U of T club members have met and debated with students from many other UN clubs, including groups from Harvard, Yale and Princeton.

A fourth-year management co-op student, she has also taken on the role of student coordinator on Hispanoforum, a conference of Latin American and Spanish business people and entrepreneurs. By facilitating the admission of students to this event for the first time, Eliza enabled young people to meet Spanish-speaking professionals and to learn about intellectual and commercial exchanges between Latin America and Canada.

Eliza is the first winner of the prestigious Jon S. Dellandrea Award for International Students, a \$25,000 award given annually to an international undergraduate student at U of T who demonstrates exceptional academic achievement and extracurricular leadership. The award was established in 2005 in recognition of Jon Dellandrea's contribution to the university during his 11-year term as Vice-President and Chief Advancement Officer.

"I am constantly amazed by the quality of students around me, so I feel thrilled to have won this award," says Eliza, 22. "To be surrounded by so many hard working, brilliant and diligent people, I could not believe that I had won because it was a university-wide award."

Aside from her excellent grades and her commitment to extracurricular activities on the Scarborough campus, she was also involved in charity work back home in Panama. She and her mother founded a charitable organization, the Association of United Friends, which runs charity events, fundraisers and

toy drives aimed at helping new or impoverished Chinese immigrants to Panama.

"Academics are the most important thing for university students, but all of us should look for ways to gain life experiences while we are here," says Eliza. "University is very challenging, so it's not always easy to do extracurricular activities, but it's important to seek out these opportunities, because the skills and relationships we build on campus will be for life — they are a big part of our education as well."

Management professor Sandford Borins describes Eliza as an excellent student. "Her academic performance is superb, and she displays a keenness for learning that goes well beyond course requirements. She is the sort of student that U of T hopes to attract from other parts of the world, and it's easy to predict that her career will unfold in a way that will be a great credit to our university."

— by Mary Ann Gratton

"Seek out extracurricular opportunities, because the skills and relationships we build on campus are for life."

Major green project launched on campus

It's easy being green at UofT Scarborough, now that a major environmental and educational initiative has been launched to enhance the natural environment of the campus and provide hands-on green learning.

More than 600 native trees and shrubs were planted this fall as part of the Green Initiatives Launch, with hundreds more to be planted in follow-up events in coming years. Projects include: tree and shrub planting; wildflower planting; stewardship activities such as weeding and mulching; monitoring activities, including research projects, and educational activities such as walks, lectures, training workshops, and class outings.

Faculty, staff and students all took part in the events, which are an ongoing partnership between the campus and Evergreen, a charity that builds the relationship between nature, culture, and community in urban spaces — in schools, communities and homes.

The partnership involves a program of environmental restoration and educational projects that will provide unique hands-on learning opportunities for

ENVIRONMENTAL TOURS: Professors Roberta Fulthorpe (below) and Tony Price were among the faculty members to lead educational walks through the Highland Creek valley as part of the Green Initiatives Launch.



students, and engage the broader community in the greening of the campus. It is also an opportunity to combat erosion and restore the natural environment in spots along the riverbank of Highland Creek.

"This initiative provides a fantastic opportunity for all of us to make a difference, with planting and other activities to produce a greener campus that will be enjoyed for generations to come," says Kim McLean, Assistant Principal and Chief Administrative Officer at U of T Scarborough. "We are working

with a leading environmental group that has the passion and experience to make it a success."

"Evergreen was founded on the idea that nature is a critical element of healthy, vibrant cities — and nowhere is this more important than in our learning institutions," says Geoff Cape, Executive Director of Evergreen. "When we bring nature back to a university campus, we nurture learning, cultivate communities and provide a sustainable resource for students, staff and faculty to embrace."

— by Mary Ann Gratton



Eight professors vying to be Ontario's best lecturer



Eight professors from the University of Toronto Scarborough were selected to compete in TVO's Best Lecturer Competition 2007.

The Scarborough professors who were endorsed for their enthusiasm, knowledge, and eloquence of delivery are among 71 semi-finalists from around the province chosen from 258 lecturers. The eight from this campus are as follows:

Maydianne Andrade, Biology; **Robert Campbell**, Religion; **Gerald Cupchik**, Psychology; **Marc Fournier**, Psychology; **Raymond Grinnell**, Mathematics; **Jamie Gruman**, Management; **Steve Joordens**, Psychology; and **Garry Leonard**, English.

"We are thrilled to have such a disproportionately high number of nominees," said Ragnar-Olaf Buchweitz, Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean. "The faculty members being honoured here come from the full range of areas, ranks, and age groups. Teaching is at the

"Teaching is at the core of our mission and I'm delighted that the efforts of our outstanding faculty are being recognized in such a public, and literally, visible forum."

core of our mission and I'm delighted that the efforts of our outstanding faculty are being recognized in such a public, and literally, visible forum. We're also very pleased with the public engagement of

our campus community, especially our students, who nominated and acknowledged these highly deserving teachers," he added.

A total of 30 U of T professors are semi-finalists. The judges selecting the 10 finalists are: *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wente, novelist Camilla Gibb, and *Maclean's* managing editor Tony Keller. The finalists' lectures will be broadcast on TVO's *Big Ideas* program, scheduled to run in February and March, before a winner is announced. The competition is sponsored by TD Meloche Monnex, and the winner's institution will receive \$10,000 for a scholarship.

Television viewers will choose the individual to be named Ontario's Best Lecturer 2007 after the 10 lectures are broadcast. Last year's winner was Arne Kislenko, a professor of history at Ryerson University.

For more details, visit: http://www.tvo.org/TVOsites/WebObjects/TvoMicrosite.woa?bi_best_lecturer

Mason's research leads to advances in acoustic technology

Continued from cover

signals in flies. These awards came from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). He and his postdoctoral student, Fernando Montealegre, recently won a *National Geographic* grant to travel to Panama and Colombia to obtain katydid samples and bring them back to his lab for study.

According to John Coleman, Vice-Principal (Research and Graduate Studies), "Prof. Mason is an exceptional recipient of these awards. With highly-cited and innovative studies on the vibrational sensory systems of insects, even at this early stage of his career he has established an international reputation in his field."

As a child, Mason was fascinated by both animal behaviour and gadgets, and had a tendency to take things apart. These hobbies led to his interest in both the nervous system and observable behaviour. Mason's research looks at sensory processes underlying communication and decision-making in insects, with the goal of understanding how the nervous system controls ongoing activity, and how these mechanisms affect or relate to behaviour.

One of his main projects is directional hearing in a species of parasitic flies that habitually park themselves on top of crickets. The females of this particular species, *Ormia ochracea*, use the crickets as a breeding ground on which they lay tiny larvae that grow into large maggots. In order to find the crickets, these flies must rely on a keen sense of hearing, a groundbreaking discovery that dispelled the notion that flies do not hear. The revelation that these parasites could detect the location of singing crickets (using a unique set of eardrums located behind their heads) took the zoological world by storm. Mason and his co-



authors published their pioneering findings in *Nature* a few years ago, and despite the study's technical nature, it was also featured in popular media venues such as the *Discovery Channel*, BBC World Service, CTV News, and *Science News*.

Mason began working with these parasitic flies when he was a research associate at Cornell University, collaborating with Cornell biologists and engineers at Binghamton University. Work on the directional hearing ability in these tiny flies has led to advances in acoustic technology, including a patent for a new microphone

design with potential applications for hearing aids.

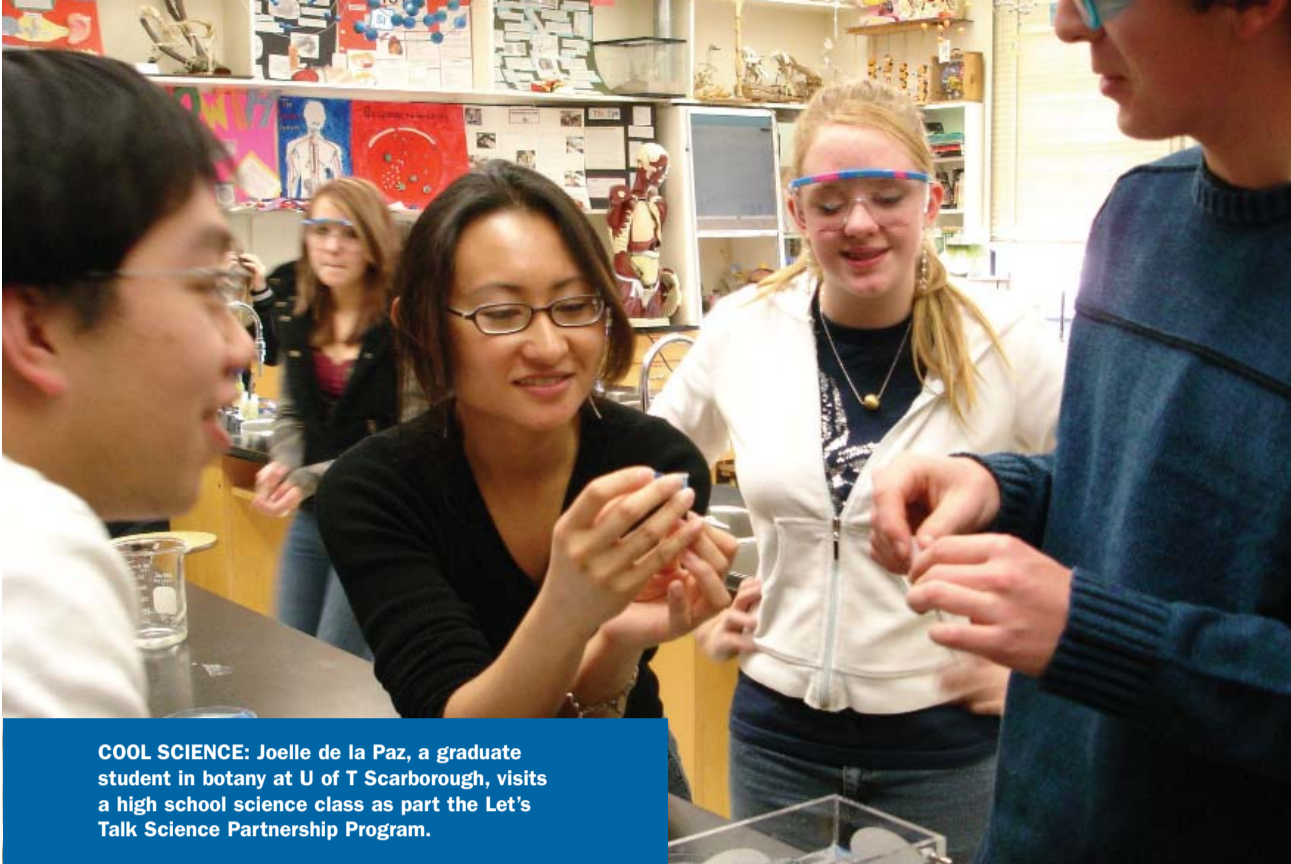
He and his postdoctoral students and collaborators are now examining the way flies process multiple sound sources and how they can zero in on or select a particular sound among many other competing sounds.

Spiders are another area of fascination. He and Damian Elias, a postdoctoral student, are examining different forms of communication in jumping spiders, comprising some 100 different species throughout North America. Jumping spiders do not live on webs, but instead wander around and have much better vision than spiders generally possess.

Their acute vision is important in all aspects of their behaviour, including navigation, prey capture and communication. Some species of jumping spiders exhibit a much more complex communication behaviour than is usual among spiders, involving both vision and vibration — in order to attract females, they wave and shake their legs to make the web or the ground shake and vibrate.

"This research on jumping spiders is generating interest in both neuroscience and animal behaviour fields," says Mason. "We are now studying two sensory systems, vision and vibration, and how they combine. We want to know how this complex signaling works in the nervous system and in the evolution of decision making."

Although the demands on Mason's time are numerous, especially as he continues to make a name for himself in biological circles, he says the ultimate stress buster is the research itself. "For me, the best antidote to the time constraints and stress is just getting down to set up an experiment and troubleshooting whatever problem we're trying to solve."



COOL SCIENCE: Joelle de la Paz, a graduate student in botany at U of T Scarborough, visits a high school science class as part the Let's Talk Science Partnership Program.

Program conveys excitement of science

Science is all around us, whether we are watching television, strolling on the beach, riding the subway, or even sitting on a lawn chair staring at a blue sky. However, many people may not realize just how important science is in our lives.

The **Let's Talk Science Partnership Program** aims to change that. Graduate students like me volunteer our time to share the excitement and wonder of science through this outreach program. We go out into the community to share our love of science, partnering with schools and other groups to organize activities that convey our passion for all things scientific.

We conduct hands-on experiments and demonstrations for school children from kindergarten to Grade 12 in order to contribute to science literacy in the community. The activities are aimed at making science more relevant to students' daily lives. Our graduate students visit classrooms to show children that science is fun — we are young, dynamic individuals who demonstrate cool science.

One of our most popular activities is the mock Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) demonstration. We use a kit containing everyday household materials such as soap, detergent and alcohol, to show children how to extract DNA from an onion or banana. This gives them the chance to take DNA out of something that they might not have realized even contains it, and they can actually see and touch DNA. Then we set up a mock crime scene. The kids are taught how to separate different molecules by size, conveying the concept of unique “genetic fingerprints.” In order to figure out “whodunit”, the kids must find the matching “fingerprint” pattern by comparing unknown crime scene DNA to the known samples.

We label the “known” DNA samples with the names of celebrities to pretend that they come from such famous characters as Snoop Dogg or Hilary Duff — to keep it fun for our young audience. From this activity, the kids learn that science helps them to solve the crime.

Children are never too young to learn science. For kindergarten, we can do simple demonstrations of pollination by putting on a little play and assigning the children various roles as bees or flowers in a garden. For Grades 3 or 4, we can demonstrate principles of gravity and friction by dropping rocks or pieces of paper.

“I can't believe science is so cool!” is the reaction we often get. Even when we demonstrate what is — to us graduate students — very simple science, the children love it. When we demonstrate how to make slime, showing the children the principles of matter and how larger molecules can be made by combining smaller ones, this activity is such a hit that we get invited to attend their birthday parties to repeat it!

For Grade 7 or 8, we can get into more complex issues like solubility, where we attempt to mix different substances such as sugar, salt, and oil, with water. We can also demonstrate the creation of electromagnets, giving them a better understanding of electrical and magnetic properties. At the high school level, we move into more advanced science, like genetics, where we can use sock models to demonstrate the rearrangement of chromosomes during cell division.

Our activities so far include: Properties of Water; The Power of Different Cleansing Agents; Using Yeast to Self-Inflate Balloons; Different Types of Soil and Sediments; DNA **Science cont'd on page 6**



U of T baseball gets a home of its own in Scarborough

The U of T Varsity Blues baseball team began its 2006 season with a new home base — the University Playing Fields at University of Toronto Scarborough.

The new baseball diamond, where the Blues hosted the McMaster Marauders in the season opener, marked the first time that Varsity baseball has had a permanent home, and the first time any Varsity Blues team has been headquartered beyond U of T's downtown campus — the latest example of strengthened partnerships among the three campuses.

Coach Dan Lang is thrilled that his team has its own field. “The new field has bleachers for about 200 fans and a lovely setting — it's a nice boost for the players.” But the biggest difference, he says, is the impact it will have on practice time. “Without our own home field, booking practices was very difficult and expensive.” Lang anticipates the stepped-up practice schedule will stand the team in good stead for OUA playoffs.

University of Toronto Scarborough students funded more than one-third of the new facility. “Our students have always shown vision and generosity, stepping up to the plate for numerous projects over the years,” says Jaan Laaniste, Director of Physical Education at U of T Scarborough. “This is just another example of their commitment to enhancing student life on campus.”

Kim McLean, Assistant Principal and Chief Administrative Officer at U of T Scarborough, threw the first pitch in the game on September 10. That game officially launched the opening of the new fields. To celebrate, the Blues challenged a team of U of T baseball alumni. Spectators and community members enjoyed a complementary barbecue and refreshments during the game.

— by *Althea Blackburn-Evans*
The University Playing Fields were made possible by significant contributions from ClearSight Wealth Management, Manulife Financial, MBNA, TD Meloche Monnex, and University of Toronto Scarborough students. The Varsity Blues baseball team is sponsored by Scotiabank.

Take time to show new hires the ropes: U of T Scarborough study

The more structure organizations use when they bring employees on-board, the higher the level of proactive behaviour and sense of job commitment employees will later demonstrate, suggests a new study from the University of Toronto.

U of T Scarborough management professors Jamie Gruman, Alan Saks and David Zweig examined the relationship between organizations' tactics when socializing newcomers, employees' judgment of their own abilities to complete tasks, their proactive behaviour and the ultimate success of socialization efforts. Their based their findings on a survey of 140 university co-op students at the end of their work terms.

The findings, which are published in the August 2006 issue of the *Journal of Vocational Behaviour*, suggest that

the degree of structure in management's early efforts to bring new employees into the fold will determine whether those employees later act in self-motivated ways that will increase job satisfaction and decrease turnover.

“You might think that a more structured orientation would inhibit workers from acting on their own, but in fact the opposite is true,” says Gruman. “Structure provides the framework for proactive behaviour, such as seeking answers, soliciting feedback from superiors or building relationships, which in turn leads to positive work outcomes such as job satisfaction and commitment.

“The paradox is that it is precisely under conditions of low structure that new employees need to be most proactive. But when there is little structured guidance, people tend not to act on their own to find information.”

— by *Sonnet L'Abbé*





Science cont'd from page 5

Extraction; Fingerprinting; Making Slime (pictured above); The Primary and Secondary Colours; Making Bubbles; Chromatography Art; and Chromatography Bandanas and Handkerchiefs.

The program also helps us graduate students to improve or refine our teaching and presentation skills. Aside from classrooms, we have visited Girl Guide meetings, summer day camps, and other special events.

Over the past year, the Let's Talk Science Partnership Program at U of T Scarborough has reached more than 400 students at 14 different events.

The Let's Talk Science Partnership Program operates at more than 22 Canadian universities and colleges nationwide, and has been operating at U of T since 1999. Visit www.letstalkscience.ca

— by Edward Eng

Edward Eng is a PhD student in the Department of Life Sciences at the University of Toronto Scarborough. He is the Coordinator of the Let's Talk Science Partnership Program at the Scarborough campus.

Registrar makes a gift that keeps on giving

Making a planned gift is a way of helping someone in perpetuity.

That was the motivation behind Don and Sharon MacMillan's decision to leave funds in their wills for a student scholarship at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Don MacMillan is the Director of Student Recruitment and Registrar at the University of Toronto Scarborough. His wife, Sharon MacMillan, is Project Manager in the Department of Pediatrics at The Hospital for Sick Children. They established a \$10,000 scholarship in honour of her deceased parents, Thomas and Freda Orrell, in 2004. Through matching funds, it became a \$30,000 scholarship.

"When Sharon's dad passed away a few years ago, it was one of those milestone moments when we realized that with both sets of parents now gone, you've moved up a notch, and you're not a kid anymore," said MacMillan. "We were looking for an opportunity to recognize her dad's life, and that of Sharon's mother, who had predeceased him. We decided there was no better way to remember them than to create a University of Toronto Scarborough entrance scholarship in their memory."

The MacMillans have recently made a decision to top up that scholarship by leaving additional funds in their wills. "We were making our wills, and we feel that through U of T's planned giving program, we can make a much more significant contribution to the scholarship in the future by naming it in our wills. As Registrar, I know that the costs of a university education have skyrocketed, so being able to make a small difference for a student through a scholarship seemed like a logical choice. Adding to that in our wills is a way of helping someone in perpetuity."

The Orrell Family Scholarship is awarded to a student entering the International Development Studies (IDS) Co-op Program on the basis of academic merit and



financial need. "The IDS program has always been a favorite of mine because of the outstanding work that these students do in the developing world. We say that the IDS co-op changes people. During the year, it changes the communities the students work with, but the students also return to Canada changed themselves. Over the years, Sharon and I have met a number of these students and we've always been struck by their compassion for others and their desire to make a genuine difference in the lives of others."

Creating a bequest is just one way a donor can make a difference. For information on this and other gift options, contact Linda Pearson at (416) 978-3811 or linda.pearson@utoronto.ca.

Program gives Chinese students a path to success



GREEN PATH PROGRAM: Among the 75 recent graduates of the Green Path Program are, from left: Chuan (Michael) Liu from Beijing, Yue Chuan (Isla) Yao from Nanjing, and Chen Xing (Tony) Wang from Beijing.

In Chinese, they call it the "green path" — the way to success.

That's the route that 75 students from mainland China have taken to prepare for life as undergraduates at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

They arrived in May from Nanjing and Beijing, and have been part of the innovative **Green Path** program, a U of T Scarborough initiative that partners with Chinese high schools. Top students come here for a unique, 12-week program that prepares them for U of T, with a focus on English language skills and adapting to life in

Canada. Once they complete the program successfully, the students go directly into undergraduate studies.

After the pilot was launched in 2005 with two schools, all 15 students went on to earn A-plus in calculus — one of the university's toughest first-year courses.

"I would be much more nervous about being here if I just came in September, right before classes," says Yue Chuan (Isla) Yao, from Nanjing, who is now majoring in social science, and hopes to be a journalist. "The Green Path program prepares us well for this new environment."

"When we first came to Canada, we had a culture shock," says Chen Xing (Tony) Wang from Beijing,

who is now in computer science. "But we've had so much help and support through this program that we feel much more prepared for first year, and we all feel like part of a community."

The program includes many social activities and field trips, including visits to tourist sites such as the Royal Ontario Museum, CN Tower, Centre Island, Niagara Falls, and Canada's Wonderland.

Green Path admits only excellent students, and is taught by faculty in U of T's School of Continuing Studies. The program builds bridges with schools in mainland China, says Don MacMillan, Director of Student Recruitment and Registrar. Three more schools from Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Chongqing in Szechuan province have also recently joined the program, which may be expanded to admit up to 125 students.

"This program is all about relationships — between institutions, between students, and between staff, at all of the locations," says MacMillan. "We are forging some amazing connections through this program that will bear fruit for years to come."

"The economy of mainland China is growing phenomenally, so there will be a huge demand for North-American trained, Mandarin-speaking professionals there as that boom continues," he adds. "Our university will benefit tremendously from this connection, and from the role we play in training these future leaders."

— by Mary Ann Gratton



Life is one big post-grad experience: Alumnus David Onley

Live magazine caught up with alumnus David Onley, the Science and Technology Specialist for City TV, and live newsreader for Cable Pulse 24. David is a familiar face to many in the Greater Toronto Area, but many don't know that he was student council president and a graduate of the University of Toronto Scarborough. He earned an Honours BA with a specialist certificate in political science in 1975. He is our featured alumnus in this issue.

Q How would you describe your work style?

A It's very much like working in the ER at a hospital — long periods of routine and bursts of high demand activities from breaking news. We try to keep it in perspective, since doctors deal with life and death, whereas we just report on it. Even so, important events demand close attention as the public wants to know reliably how the events affect them.

Q In your career, what have you found to be the biggest challenges or frustrations?

A The biggest challenge, especially on sensitive stories where families have been hit by tragedy, is to be both informative and respectful of the people we report on. It may seem like a small thing, but I for instance always make sure I'm pronouncing a victim's name correctly, as a gesture of respect.

Q What things do you find most satisfying about your work?

A Satisfaction comes from reporting well on a story and bringing new insight to the public. Recently, astronaut Steve MacLean dropped by and I was able to get him to talk about Canadians walking on the moon within 15 years. It was newsworthy and informative.

My greatest accomplishment, in some important ways, is being one of the very first people with a physical disability to be a news person in Canada. I've been



Broadcaster David Onley talks about life after university.
(Photo courtesy of CITY TV.)

able to report on the changing issues affecting the disability community as it has changed, and for the better too.

Q Is there anything you would do differently, as you look back on your working life?

A Not really. Life is a learning experience. You graduate with a degree and perhaps pursue other degrees but really, life is one big post-grad experience. As long as you are learning and contributing, there is no such thing as wasted time.

Q How would you describe your time at the University of Toronto Scarborough?

A Some of the best years of my life! I was student council president in the early 70s at a time when formative events were occurring, such as the first residence, the Rec Wing, and the radio station's development. We were very aware that we were creating traditions that continue to this day. I had great professors and have wonderful memories.

Q What lessons were most significant to you, or what were the main benefits of your educational time here?

A The most significant comment came from Political Science Professor John Colman on my last essay submitted before graduation. He gave me an A, and knowing I was about to graduate, wrote at the bottom of the page, "You must always try very, very hard to put down on paper the thoughts I know you have in your head." That message has stayed with me all my life. Whether it's a report, an article or submission, I still always look at the document and wonder if I've met his standard. I have repeated the story to my sons and suggest it is still wise advice.

Q Can you say something about yourself outside of work, such as how you spend your free time? What are your hobbies and interests?

A I'm actively involved with our church in Pickering, and involved with the adventures of my three sons, one of whom is at U of T Scarborough, another at Centennial College, and the third in Grade 11. It is a very demanding and exciting time with them and their own busy lives. My wife Ruth and I enjoy our home very much as a break from the pace of the media world.

In brief

Architectural award for campus building

The new Arts and Administration building at U of T Scarborough is the winner of the 2006 Outside the Box Award in the user-friendly category. Designed by Montgomery Sisam Architects, the building is a multi-purpose academic building with nine classrooms and teaching studios, academic offices, study spaces, an accessible examination and study facility, a welcome centre, the registrar's front desk and administrative offices. A photo of the building graced the cover of the August/September issue of *Building*, the sponsor of the awards. Published since 1952, *Building* is Canada's national news magazine focusing on issues of importance to the building development industry.

New science building under way

Construction began this fall on the exciting new science building that is coming to the University of Toronto Scarborough.

The building will provide dynamic collaborative space for interdisciplinary teaching and research in the physical, environmental and life sciences.

Officials on campus have been working over the summer with the City of Toronto's Planning Department and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to ensure compliance with codes and environmental regulations as construction on the new facility progresses. As well, new planting and environmental activities taking place as part of the Green Initiatives

program on campus (see page 3) have been happening simultaneously and will address environmental concerns raised with regard to tree removal and construction on and around the site of the new building.

The building has been designed by Moriyama & Teshima Architects, in association with Watson MacEwan Architects. It is scheduled to open in 2008. The new facility will extend from the existing science wing. It will house: 16 laboratories and associated support areas; offices for faculty as well as work space for research assistants; post-doctoral fellows and graduate students; meeting rooms; lounges; and a 250-seat lecture theatre. As well, a generic open-lab concept will be employed in some areas of the building to foster collaboration and increase the efficiency and flexibility of the space.

New student award honours past principal

A new student award was announced last fall at the University of Toronto Scarborough in honour of Professor Kwong-loi Shun, who stepped down as principal at the end of August. The award will benefit an undergraduate student pursuing coursework related to Asian studies, Buddhist studies and/or Chinese philosophy. The recipient will be a student who demonstrates a participation in campus life and the fostering of cross-cultural connections — two things described as central to Professor Shun's tenure. University of Toronto Provost Vivek Goel announced the Kwong-loi Shun Award at a farewell reception held in August.

During his time at Scarborough, Professor Shun oversaw a \$150-million dollar expansion on the campus and made the student experience a central concern in his planning, said the provost. He was also instrumental in the university's successful efforts to secure a \$4-million gift from Tung Lin Kok Yuen, a Hong Kong-based non-profit Buddhist organization. (See page 2).

Management alumni golf day a great success

A sold-out event for the second year in a row, the golf day hosted by the Management Alumni Association (MAA) was a great success. More than 170 attendees came out for the day to Angus Glen Golf Club on Saturday, July 22, 2006. The day included a barbecue lunch, lessons from a golf pro, time on the driving range and 18 exquisite holes. The golfing was followed by door prizes and raffle draws for some excellent gifts. The event was offered to alumni for only \$75 and came together through the efforts of the MAA, supported by the Office of Advancement, University of Toronto Scarborough. Special thanks to the founding partners: CGA Ontario, CMA Ontario, and PricewaterhouseCoopers for their continued support.

For pictures of the event and further information about the MAA, please visit <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~maa>.

— Compiled by Swetha Chirravur and Mary Ann Gratton



What's Happening

JANUARY

January 18, 2007 — 11 am Reading: Catherine Hernandez, Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural
 January 18–March 11, 2007 — Post Object Exhibition, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/dmg
 January 24, 2007 — 5–6 pm Faculty Lecture featuring Daniel Bender, Humanities, www.utoronto.ca
 January 25, 2007 — 12 noon Korean Drum and Dance featuring Jeng Yi, Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural

FEBRUARY

February 7, 2007 — 10 am Reading: Ruth Ohi, U of T Scarborough Childcare Centre, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural
 February 15, 2007 — 12 noon Traditional Chinese Music featuring the Yellow River Ensemble, Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural
 February 27, 2007 — 1:30 pm Nobuo Kubota Lecture/Performance, Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural
 February 28, 2007 — 11 am Reading: Shyam Selvadurai, U of T Scarborough Bookstore, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural

MARCH

March 3, 2007 — On campus student recruitment event. A day of activities with a primary focus on departmental information sessions, a Student Life Fair, and campus tours, www.utoronto.ca/admissions
 March 14, 2007 — 7–9 pm 34th Annual Watts Lecture featuring Dr. Vandana Shiva, www.utoronto.ca
 March 17, 2007 — 7:30 pm Music of All Latitudes

(MOAL) II featuring Duo Diorama, ARC Theatre, \$10 Students/Seniors, \$12 Adults, www.uoftix.ca
 March 27, 2007 — 11 am Reading: Don McKay, S319, Science Wing, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural
 March 28, 2007 — 5–6 pm Faculty Lecture featuring Janice Gross Stein, Dept. of Political Science & Munk Ctr. for Int'l Studies, www.utoronto.ca
 March 29, 2007 — 12 noon Indian Music and Dance, Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural

APRIL

April 1, 2007 — 3 pm Year End Musical Finale featuring the UTSC Concert Choir & UTSC String Ensemble Directed by Lenard Whiting and the UTSC Wind Ensemble & UTSC Jazz Ensemble Directed by Lynn Tucker, ARC Theatre, Free Admission, www.utoronto.ca/cultural

MAY

May TBA — ALTHEA Production, www.utoronto.ca

JUNE

June TBA — Spring Reunion, www.alumni.utoronto.ca/events
 June TBA — Ready Set Go, www.utoronto.ca/admliaison
 June TBA — Spring Convocation Reception, www.utoronto.ca
 June TBA — Spring Convocation Ceremony at Convocation Hall, www.utoronto.ca/convocation

Professor's research examines the agony of ecstasy

Professor Konstantine Zakzanis has some good news and bad news for frequent users of the club drug, ecstasy. The good news, he says, is that quitting will likely stop the progressive memory impairment caused by the drug. The bad news is that it may not repair the memory damage already done.

Zakzanis, a psychology professor at the University of Toronto Scarborough, was the first researcher to launch a long-term study of the cognitive effects of regular ecstasy use in humans. In an earlier study of 15 users published in 2001, he found their performance on neuropsychological tests of learning and memory declined over one year.

His most recent research was published in the top-tier journal, *Neurology*. This study of the same 15 people at the two-year mark was slightly different, because eight of them had been abstinent for at least 32 weeks. The test scores of the continuing users had further deteriorated, while the scores of the former users were either better or the same as the previous year. Whether the quitters' scores improved or remained static depended on the frequency and duration of their former ecstasy use. The heavier users were less likely to have recovered any learning and memory abilities.

For the next stage of his research, Zakzanis hopes to get a closer look at ecstasy's impact on cognitive function. "I'd like to do a brain-imaging study of the sample group," he says. "It would be interesting to determine if there are any functional changes in the brain."

— by Megan Easton



Heritage Canada donation celebrated at gallery event

Members and friends of the University of Toronto Scarborough gathered at the Doris McCarthy Gallery recently for a recognition event to celebrate a contribution of \$170,000 from Heritage Canada.

Professor Charles Dyer, Vice-Principal, Academic Resources, spoke at the event about the impact that

the gallery has had on campus. He thanked Marie Moliner, Regional Executive Director of Canadian Heritage, Ontario Region Department of Canadian Heritage, for Heritage Canada's contribution under the Cultural Spaces Program.

The gift was used to defray some of the costs associated with the creation of the Doris McCarthy Gallery. The funding contributed to the renovation of

existing space on campus that led to the creation of the gallery, an exciting 4,000 square foot space.

This recognition took place during the opening night of an exciting new art exhibition by Vancouver artists Rhonda Weppler and Trevor Mahovsky. This exhibit launched the gallery's 2006–2007 season. For more information, visit the gallery web site at www.utoronto.ca/dmg

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

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