

LIVE



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2 Dancers National
Champions

3 Scholars Society Launched

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Have You Seen Us Lately?

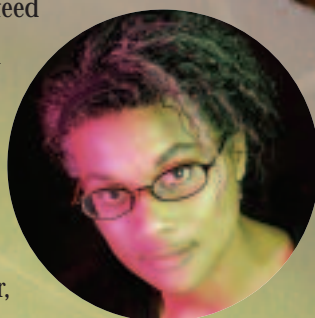
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RESEARCH, NEWS AND LIFE AT U OF T SCARBOROUGH

LOVE Bugs

This sexually cannibalistic Australian redback spider (*Latrodectus hasselti*), calls one UTSC zoology lab 'home'. The species is the subject of professor Maydianne Andrade's innovative research into how sexual selection, social behaviour, and ecological conditions interact to affect the evolution of mating systems. • If the larger female redback spider is hungry, she will feed on the male during copulation. "Picture a marble mating with a grain of rice," says Andrade. After a brief courtship, the male further entices the female by somersaulting into her jaws. As they copulate, he transfers sperm into her body while she feverishly devours him. If the male survives the first mating, he will court the female again and will most often be killed during their second encounter. • In October, Andrade was named as one of the most extraordinary, dynamic, innovative and promising young scientists in North America by *Popular Science* magazine. For more on Andrade's research visit <http://www.utscc.utoronto.ca/mandrade>.



Principal's Message



The view from my office in the new Arts & Administration building personifies the U of T Scarborough experience. Like our vibrant campus landscape, UTSC is thriving.

In September, we welcomed 2,716 new undergraduate students, bringing our current population to approximately 9,700.

Leading research and new programs – such as the master's in environmental science – are resulting in more and more students choosing Scarborough for their graduate studies. This spring we will break ground on an interdisciplinary science facility to better serve the needs of faculty and students.

Scarborough faculty continue to be recognized for their passion and commitment in the classroom. There were five of them nominated in TVO's search for Ontario's best lecturer.

Matching exceptional first-year students with senior faculty mentors, our new Scholars Society aims to strengthen undergraduate learning opportunities and relationship-building outside the classroom.

We hope these initiatives – as well as renovations to communal spaces including athletics, the cafeteria and a new bookstore – will enhance the vibrant student life that flourishes here.

Kwong-Lai Shun
Professor Kwong-Lai Shun

The Search for Ontario's Brain Candy

Last fall, the TVO lectures program, *Big Ideas* initiated the first of what is hoped will be an annual search for Ontario's best lecturers. A three-judge panel created a shortlist of 30 professors from 258 nominations by 359 students and faculty members across Ontario and 10 U of T professors made the cut – including two from UTSC: Robert Campbell, department of humanities; and Steve Joordens, department of psychology.

Other nominees from UTSC included:

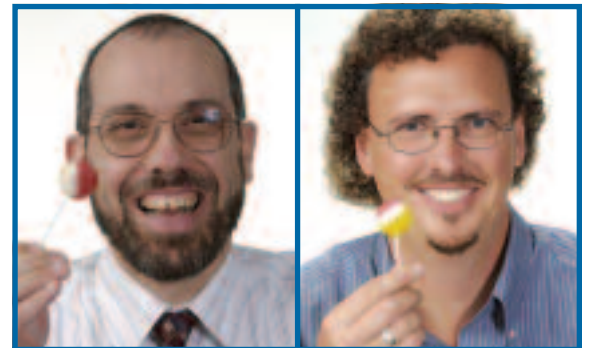
- Gerald Cupchik, department of psychology;
- Sherri Helwig, arts management, visual and performing arts; and
- Garry Leonard, department of English

"I'm aiming at another lecture series in the near future," said *Big Ideas* producer and originator Wodek Szemberg.

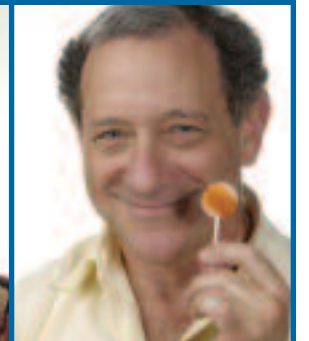
"The competition addresses the fact that there was a growing divide between university professors and popular culture with academics not having as much presence in the culture at large. One of the purposes of our show is to be able to feature academics who are market-friendly, who are open, interested and interesting and want to be heard and who want to speak in an intelligible way."

At press time, the top 10 finalists had been selected and included two U of T professors: university professor Michael Collins of civil engineering and Megumi Harada, a post-doctoral fellow in mathematics.

For five weeks in the fall, two of the top 10 lectures aired each week on *Big Ideas*. Following each broadcast, viewers voted online or via telephone to determine who was number one. For more information about the contest and to find out who was voted the top lecturer in Ontario, visit: <http://www.tvo.org/bigideas>.



Top (L to R):
 Robert Campbell,
 Steve Joordens.
 Left: Garry
 Leonard.
 Below (L to R):
 Sherri Helwig,
 Gerald Cupchik.



South Asian Alliance dance team

Students Win National Cultural Dance Competition

Dressed as popular Disney characters, UTSC's South Asian Alliance dance team took home first-place at the 2005 South Asian dance competitions. Their program, themed "Scarborough Magic Kingdom," won top awards for costume, dance, spirit, and best overall performance.

The event, held at the University of Western Ontario, was organized by the Western Indo-Canadian Students' Association and featured performers from 14 Canadian universities. It is the largest university cultural event in Canada.

Since its inception in 1983, the show has evolved from a talent showcase to a national competition between spirit squads. In the past, schools have brought projectors, signs, banners, and even flying blimps to celebrate their unique cultural heritage.

However, dancers say preparing for the competition was not "all play" for the teams.

"We went until 2 a.m. every night practicing during reading week. It was a lot of fun and it really brought us closer together," says performer Priya Nagraj, a fourth year life sciences student.

The show featured a variety of eastern and western music genres including bhangra, hip-hop, bollywood, dance, and reggae.

"When we won, there were tears. The excitement was surreal," says Nagraj.

"We're just really proud of the Indian culture. There were a lot of teams that were good but what has earned UTSC three victories over the last five years has been our energy. The Scarborough community really is true to its roots."

Campus Offers New Graduate Degree Program in Environmental Science

The University of Toronto Centre for Environment is pleased to announce a new one-year professional degree program at UTSC: the Master of Environmental Science (M.Env.Sc.). The program will be offered beginning in January, 2006, with the next admission cycle in September, 2006.

The department of physical and environmental sciences will administer the stand-alone master's program, which focuses on the transport and fate of contaminants in natural and degraded environments. The professional degree program includes new graduate courses and aims to produce skilled practitioners of environmental science. Graduates will be trained in field and laboratory techniques, primarily to meet the needs of industry and government.

The program will consist of two options: an all-course option, and an intern option. Full-time students will complete all instructional requirements in two terms (fall and winter) and then complete field and research-based courses during the early summer. The four-month internship may be completed concurrently or sequentially as a work placement internship. Plans are also being made to offer the program on a part-time basis.

UTSC is a leader in environmental science research. For a list of current faculty and research projects, please visit: <http://envsci.uts.utoronto.ca>.



Graduate student, Mark Szczerba

Research Addresses Stress on Crop Yields

When Mark Szczerba graduated from the University of Western Ontario, he turned down an acceptance to medical school to pursue a PhD at UTSC. It was his opportunity to work with Herbert Kronzucker, a botany professor who he had admired and respected for years.

"I worked with professor Kronzucker in my third year while he was teaching at Western," says Szczerba. "His vast knowledge and research techniques are unmatched."

Since 2002, Szczerba has worked under Kronzucker as a PhD candidate in botany. Kronzucker's research team addresses issues concerning crop yield and world hunger. Szczerba's work focuses on the relationships between potassium, nitrogen, and, most recently, sodium in plant physiology.

He says plants suffering from sodium toxicity is a major issue today, especially in agricultural sites where salt deposits from irrigation activities impacts plant growth.

"Most plants are unable to survive in environments with high concentrations of sodium. My work involves analyzing

the various ways plants respond to substances in the soil environment. Using major world food crops [such as rice] makes the study relevant to the agricultural crises contributing to world hunger."

Understanding how potassium functions in plants can assist in relieving and even rescuing plants affected by stresses like ammonium and sodium toxicity.

Szczerba says the next step of his research will be to apply his research findings to genetically modified plants.

"[Salinity] is a major problem around the world, there are many labs devoted to solving the problem of sodium toxicity," he says.

"To help find solutions to counter sodium toxicity we plan to engage in greater collaboration with international researchers." While he connects with researchers around the world, Szczerba is happy to call UTSC home.

"What UTSC has to offer in terms of faculty and support is difficult to rival, anywhere."

Szczerba's work has been funded by NSERC.

Scholars Society Enriches First-Year Experience

In September, 2005, the new Scholars Society was launched in concert with the first of the UTSC Faculty Lecture Series. The Scholars Society includes 44 of UTSC's brightest first-year students, and 12 senior, tenured faculty mentors.

The Scholars Society is a unique opportunity for exceptional students to encounter the scholarly world through interactions with senior faculty. Each group is multi-disciplinary and offers students additional breadth

of enquiry in their first-year of study. While students and mentors share similar research interests, free discussion and intellectual debate are encouraged in the group meetings.

In its first year, the Scholars Society has been very well-received. Future plans for the society include continuing membership for students beyond first-year, and a peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal facilitated by teaching and learning services.

Giving News

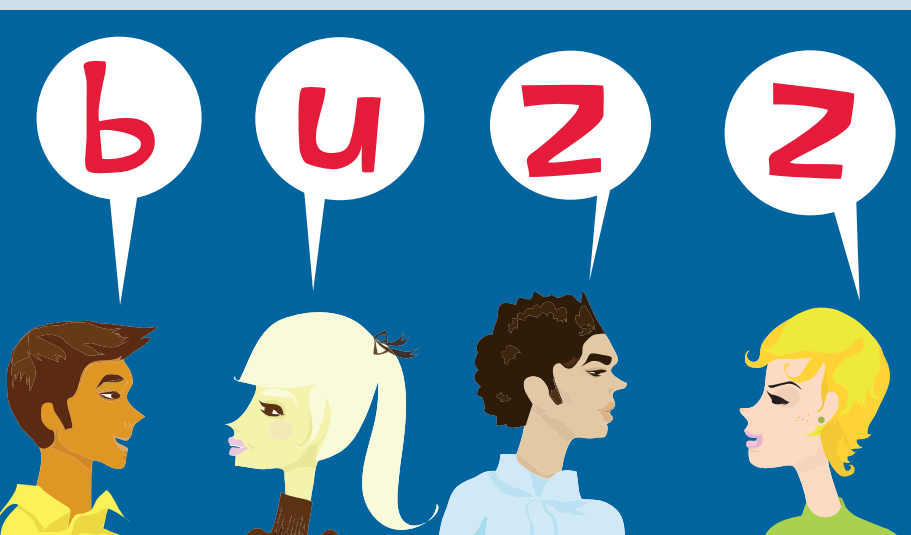
In May, 2005, the Buddhist Education Foundation for Canada held a vegetarian banquet that raised \$24,000 to benefit a Buddhist studies program at UTSC. Below (L to R): Alice Lee, Treasurer, Buddhist Educational Foundation; Chris Ng, Co-Founder, Buddhist Educational Foundation; Vivienne Poy, Chancellor, University of Toronto; Rev. Wu De, President, Buddhist Education Foundation and Abbot, Ching Kwok Buddhist Temple; Kwong-loi Shun, Principal, University of Toronto at Scarborough; Rev. Dayi Shi, VP, Buddhist Education Foundation and Abbot, Cham Shan Buddhist Temple.



The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has made a pledge to support three undergraduate scholarships at UTSC: the CFUW Scarborough Entrance Scholarship and two CFUW Scarborough In-Course Scholarships. The CFUW gift is part of the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund II program that provides financial support to students who are Ontario residents and are in financial need. Under this program, the CFUW gift will receive one-to-one matching from the provincial government, bringing the total endowment for these awards to \$112,000.



CFUW Scarborough joint executive (2004-2006), above. Front (L to R): Po Chi Eng, Helen Nighswander, Anne Smith. Middle (L to R): Rosemary Dennis, Sheila McCarthy, Toby Tenenbaum, Nancy Dale. Back (L to R): Gail Doehler, Anne Rutherford, Lydia Manget, Jean Witherspoon, Maureen Corby, Lynn Findlay, Patricia Westcott, Vicki Smith, Ann Patterson.



Rose Bellosillo, a former student of the arts management program is a new member of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) board of governors. Bellosillo is currently the director of development for Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival. As a proud advocate and supporter of arts and culture, she sits as a board member for the Images Festival for independent film and video and is involved in the Toronto Arts Council's Toronto arts online working group and the Toronto festivals network. She has acted as an advisor to many arts groups, and is looking forward to the responsibility of being on this board, as it reinforces her interests around necessary collective action on

issues that directly impact cultural workers.

The CCA Board of Governors is responsible for providing leadership, governance, and policy direction to the CCA, and ultimately steers the organization with the aim of addressing the needs and aspirations of the artistic and cultural communities of Canada.

Write to us!

We want to hear from Scarborough alumni. Keep us up-to-date and your news may be featured here in Live or on the website (www.utsctoronto.ca). Email thebuzz@utsctoronto.ca or fax 416-287-7106

Have You Seen Us Lately?



In just four short years, tremendous change has taken place at U of T Scarborough. As a result of an historic \$150 million expansion, new facilities that enhance student life and the academic experience can be found in almost every corner of the campus. • In 2001, enrolment at UTSC was approximately 6,000. Today, that number has nearly doubled with 2006 enrolment projected to reach 10,000. More than ever, students are choosing Scarborough based on our reputation for excellence in teaching and research and our dynamic student experience. • While our new facilities have already made their mark in environmental efficiency and design, they will also enable leading research at this campus now and in the future. Our new facilities enhance the Scarborough experience by attracting outstanding faculty from around the world and by allowing our vibrant student life to thrive. • Come explore our new academic facilities and digital library, our newly-expanded athletic centre, or enjoy the work of prominent Canadian and international artists at the Doris McCarthy Gallery. We look forward to seeing you soon.



1 Student Centre (above)
Owned and operated by the Scarborough Campus Students' Union, the student centre opened its doors in October, 2004. It is home to 85 student clubs, the health and wellness centre, a piano lounge, multi-faith prayer space, meeting rooms, and offices for student associations and student media. In addition to new fast food franchise outlets, it is also home to Bluff's, a 95-seat licensed restaurant.

2 Academic Resource Centre (ARC)
Opened in November, 2003, this copper-clad 9,000 square metre facility features a completely renovated library, improved work and study spaces, the Sun Microsystems Informatics Commons and a 500-seat lecture theatre, which is used for musical performances as well as academic lectures.

3 Joan Foley Hall
Opened in November, 2003, the apartment-style residence is named in honour of U of T's first female provost and UTSC's first female principal, professor Joan Foley. The four-storey building offers accommodation for 230 students and features a glass atrium which serves as meeting space for residents. Three distinct courtyards and ground-level, covered porches allow residents to host gatherings indoors and out.

4 Doris McCarthy Gallery (below)
Opened in March, 2004, the gallery is named in honour of celebrated Canadian artist and UTSC alumna, Doris McCarthy. The DMG is a public art gallery dedicated to presenting leading contemporary art works and permanently houses 10 important canvases by Doris McCarthy. The 1,500 square-foot gallery also administers more than 1,300 works in UTSC's collection, and showcases travelling exhibitions of contemporary Canadian art.



5 Management Building (above)
The new management building opened in November, 2004. It is the new home of the management department and features a spectacular atrium, specially designed case rooms, interview rooms, a resource room for co-op students, study space, and faculty and staff offices.

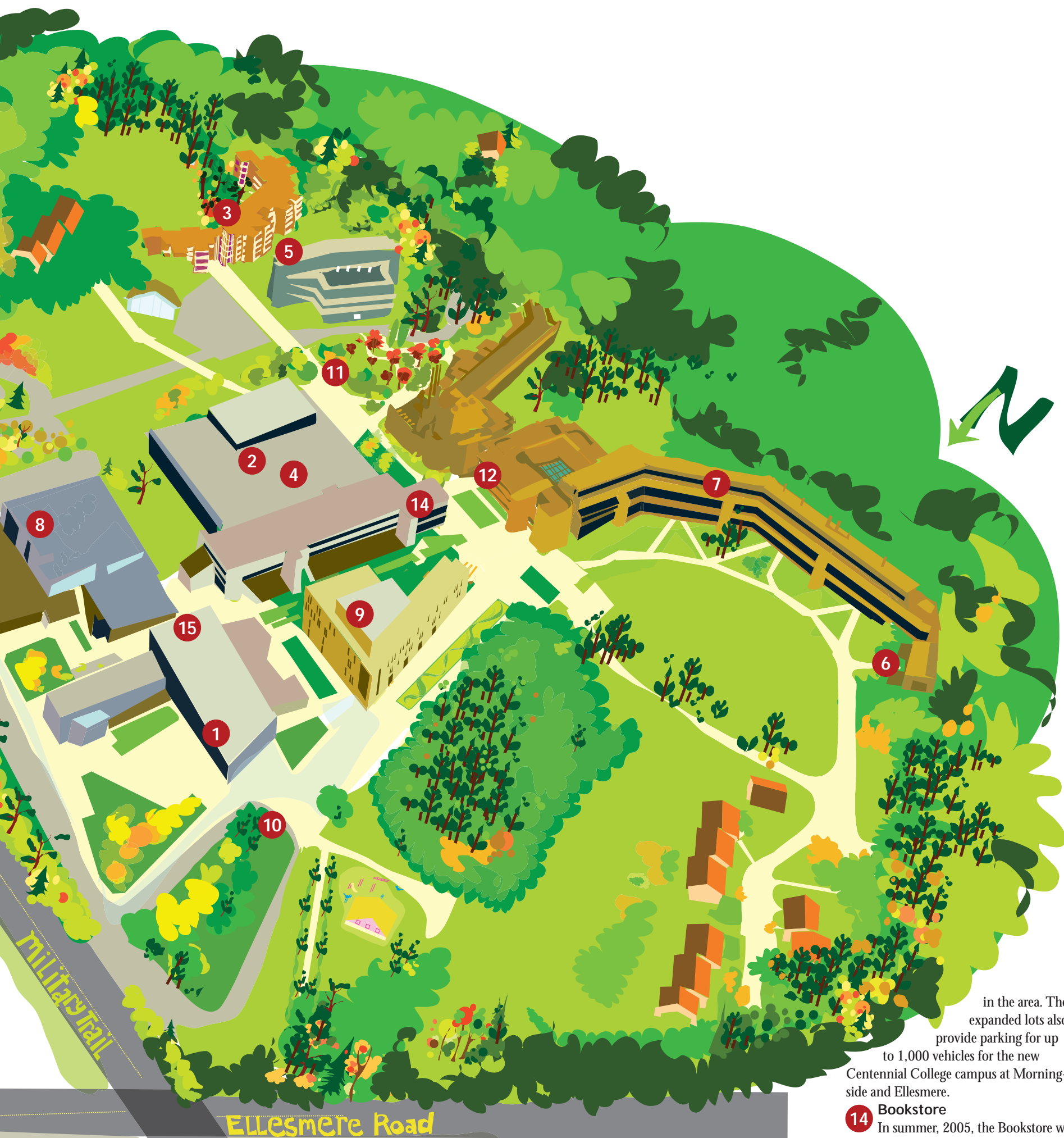
6 Interdisciplinary Science Facility (opening winter '08)
The new sciences building will house a 150-seat classroom, laboratories, faculty offices and offices for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. It will allow for interdisciplinary activities and will

provide innovative and advanced facilities for scientific research. Construction is expected to occur in two phases, with phase one beginning in summer 2006.

7 Renovated Science Labs
In September 2004, biology and chemistry students were the first to enjoy improved teaching labs in the S-Wing, thanks to a \$4.3 million renovation to existing facilities.

8 Athletics Expansion (below)
In June, 2005, the campus opened its renovated athletics centre. Featuring new cardio machines, six televisions for members to tune in to while they work out, and fitness equipment for members with accessibility needs, the centre also offers new group fitness classes, including spinning. Student contributions over an eight-year period paid for 95 per cent of the total cost of the renovations.





9 Arts and Administration Building

The \$20 million facility, opened in October, 2005, features classrooms, studios for fine art and music and a 300-seat lecture theatre. Its new graduate art studio supports the university's tri-campus master's program in visual studies.

10 Drop-Off Circle

The new drop-off circle has greatly improved the flow of traffic on campus and offers a convenient location for Wheel Trans passengers to access the campus.

11 Sakura Grove (right)

Sakura, the blossoming cherry trees that are the national symbol of Japan, have taken root at UTSC, thanks



to a gift from the Sakura Project. In spring, 2005, 50 trees were planted between H-wing and the management

building. The donation was made as a symbol of goodwill and friendship between Canada and Japan.

12 UTSC Marketplace (right)

The H-wing cafeteria isn't what it used to be – it's better. During the summer of 2005, the space was completely renovated and expanded to include a second-floor seating area. Renamed "UTSC Marketplace," the cafeteria's capacity has grown by 34 per cent. The renovations also included upgrades to the food preparation area and a complete redesign of the food service area to include five new food stations. In addition to the structural changes, food and beverage services has created menu offerings that cater to the needs of various cultural groups.

13 Parking expansion

The completely redesigned and expanded outer parking lots, completed in summer, 2004, have added nearly 3,000 new parking spaces to the campus. Improvements have also been made to intersections, sidewalks, and roadways

in the area. The expanded lots also provide parking for up to 1,000 vehicles for the new Centennial College campus at Morning-side and Ellesmere.

14 Bookstore

In summer, 2005, the Bookstore was moved from the second floor of the Bladen wing to the former fine arts studio in the same building. The expanded store now offers students year-round course material buy-back services at the front counter.



15 Campus Xpress

Campus Xpress offers beverages and convenience foods. In addition, household items, stationery, and computer supplies are all available to meet the after-hours needs of campus life. The store also features a selection of Scarborough and U of T athletic and casual clothing.



Two Profs Elected to Royal Society of Canada

The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) has inducted two UTSC professors to its ranks in the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Academy of Science. In total, 17 University of Toronto professors were among the 60 newly elected Fellows for 2005.

John M. Kennedy, elected to the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, is a professor in UTSC's department of life sciences. He is a leader in perception and cognition research, whose work on pictures in vision and touch influences basic theory and new practices for the blind in education, museums, and art galleries internationally.

His groundbreaking work has tested drawing development in sighted and blind children. He has written extensively on the idea that drawing development occurs in a similar fashion in both groups. He has been singled out by the *New York Times* as an originator of ideas that change the way we think.

Alberto O. Mendelzon (1951–2005), elected to the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division of the Academy of Science, was a professor in UTSC's department of computer science for 25 years until he passed away June 16, 2005, after a two-year battle with cancer. Mendelzon was an international leader in database theory and was considered the preeminent Canadian researcher in data management.

His pioneering work on database dependencies has been influential in both the theory and practice of data management. It has inspired numerous applications in database design, query processing, and data integration, and provided the foundation for languages used to search web and XML data.

The newly elected fellows are recognized for their dedication to achieving excellence in their endeavours, and enhancing Canada's competitiveness on a global scale. Election to the Royal Society of Canada is the highest honour that can be attained by scholars, artists, and scientists in Canada.

Talent, Passion Fuel Career in Arts

Tanya Mars is at the centre of a whirlwind of art activities. A multi-disciplinary performance artist and pioneer in the Canadian artist-run centre movement, Mars has been teaching at UTSC since 1995.

She is passionate about performance art. While it is her primary practice, she teaches and curates performance art as well. Mars is currently an active member of the 7a*11d collective, which produces a biannual International Festival of Performance Art in Toronto. She is also past president and member of FADO, a centre for the promotion and presentation of Canadian and international performance artists.

"I believe that it is every artist's responsibility to give back to the community and to engage in activities outside of per-

sonal creation. By being involved at all levels of the practice, you get a real appreciation for the hard work that it takes to make things happen," says Mars.

She was a founding member and past director of Powerhouse Gallery/La Centrale in Montreal, which was the first women's art gallery in Canada, founded in 1973. Mars is also an advocate for artists rights and artist self-determination; she was secretary of the Association of National Non-Profit Artist-Run Centres in the 1970s (a national lobby group for artist-run centres), as well as editor of their bilingual publication *Parallogramme* from 1976–1989.

Mars' passion for the arts emerged during her years as a teenager in Monroe, Michigan. However, it was in Montreal that she feels she really developed her career as an artist.

"I wanted to be a painter, but did not have a talent for painting. I had a talent for three-dimensional design that evolved first into sculpture, then body sculpture, then performance art," she says.

In 2004, Mars co-authored a book on Canadian women performance artists with Johanna Householder of the Ontario College of Art and Design titled *Caught in the Act: an anthology of performance art by Canadian women*. The book was awarded a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts for research and development. Her most recent performance, *The Tyranny of Bliss* has been awarded grants from the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts and a Chalmers Fellowship.

In 2004–05 she was named "Artist of the Year" at the Untitled Arts Awards in Toronto.

In the coming year, Mars will be working on another book and a DVD project, all related to *The Tyranny of Bliss*. In November, 2005, she participated in (and performed at) the first International Congress of Performance Art in Valparaiso, Chile.

Mars says that there are many things that make UTSC a unique teaching experience, but one aspect really sets this campus apart.

"Our program is small, but small class size offers students more individual attention, if they choose to take advantage of it. The most interesting thing about UTSC is its diverse student body. This diversity has the capacity to elevate and broaden the level of discussion in the classroom."



Tanya Mars, visual and performing arts

Michael Redhill Snider Visiting Artist

In September, 2005, writers at UTSC welcomed renowned author, poet, and playwright, Michael Redhill as the Snider Visiting Artist.

"He is the next big writer for this generation," says English professor, Russell Brown. "We are thrilled to welcome Michael back to our faculty."

Redhill's role as Snider Visiting Artist is his second teaching experience at the campus. In the 2004–2005 academic year Redhill taught *Creative Writing Poetry* for the department of humanities.

"What I found last year, and what I look forward to this year," says Redhill, "is a certain kind of openness and curiosity of the students I met in the creative writing program. Students at UTSC are well-read and engaged, and there is a kind of quiet and intimacy that is just right for talking about writing. Away from the pressures of downtown and the noise of a big campus, students are able to really focus on their work."

Redhill taught two courses in the fall term and will teach

a fiction workshop in the spring, giving students access to his expertise and industry knowledge. During his one-year term he will hold office hours to meet with writers one-on-one.

"My door will be open to any students who'd like to show a professional writer their work," says Redhill. "I'll be reading whatever comes in my door, and meeting with the writers throughout the year."

Redhill's most recent novel *Martin Skan* was short listed for the 2001 Giller Prize and the 2002 Trillium Award. It also won the Amazon.ca/Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best first fiction, Canada/Caribbean.

As a poet he has compiled four poetry collections, including *Asphodel* (1997) and *Light-ossing* (2001). His play, *Building Jerusalem* has earned multiple awards including 2000 Dora Award for outstanding new play and was a finalist for the 2001 Governor General's Award. Redhill's new play, *Goodness* premiered at the Tarragon Theatre (Toronto) in October, 2005.



Michael Redhill



John Scherk

Servers Boost Math Lab

The premise behind the new math lab at UTSC is simple: more computing power equals more opportunities for students.

The mathematical theories and equations to be tackled aren't as simple – slopes of curves, time and speed, limits, derivatives – but it's all in day's work for an undergraduate math student. Solving these complex math problems requires a clever mind and the latest technology.

With 10 Sun servers – high powered computers that deliver

40 gigabytes of memory – the new math lab allows students to run large mathematical projects using professional computing software such as Mathematica, Maple and Matlab.

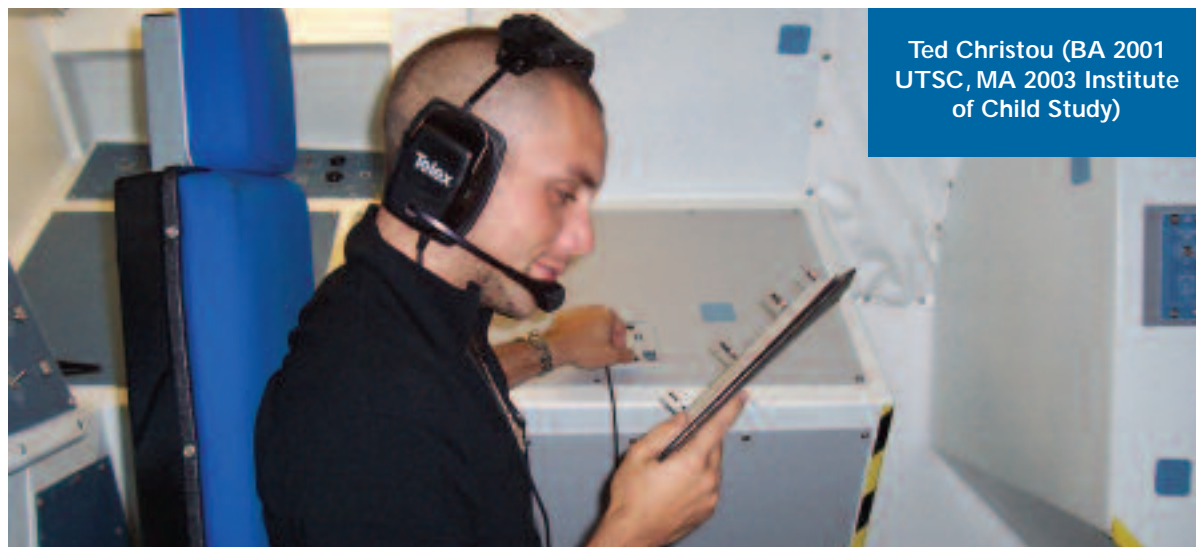
The lab is a joint venture between the departments of computing and networking services and computer and mathematical sciences. It was funded by the U of T Academic Initiative Fund, a fund designed to assist the implementation of initiatives that arise from the academic planning process. Expanding research opportunities for undergraduates is one of the objectives of the Stepping Up plan as the university continues to work on improving the student experience at U of T.

“One way you attract the brightest students is by offering them excellent facilities,” says professor John Scherk, chair of computer and mathematical sciences. “We did some focus groups this spring and the students responded very positively to the new lab – not just the technology, but the space itself. They only share it with other math and computer science students so it's got a common-room atmosphere.”

Collegial atmosphere aside, the super computers have awesome capabilities, allowing 30 to 40 students to run very demanding software simultaneously. “The students are working with the latest database software,” says Philip Wright, director of computing and networking services. “They're now capable of doing simulations that wouldn't have been possible otherwise, or taken forever to grind out the numbers.”

In total, there are 118 computers in the new facility, with 10 of those allocated to the math cluster. These 10 computers are given special computing power that wouldn't have been possible on a stand-alone PC. Installed on these computers is a program called OpenMosix that aggregates all of them so that end users can use them as a single machine with an incredible memory.

“We wanted the students to be able to use the computers at any time,” Scherk says. “The server allows them to access the resources anywhere at anytime – this means students can access the very demanding software night and day.”



Ted Christou (BA 2001
UTSC, MA 2003 Institute
of Child Study)

Alumni Journal: Ted Christou

When I began working as an elementary school teacher in Toronto, I feared that my selfish pursuit of learning would be entirely subsumed by the most altruistic of professions. In fact, during my first year of teaching, I was so desperately seeking higher order mental stimulation in novels, essays, and poetry, that I nearly lost sight of my students' insightful perspectives on matters unconcerned with the Ontario curriculum.

When a Honeywell-sponsored scholarship for educators around the world boasted the potential to send a Canadian to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center for a week of NASA space training in the summer of 2005, I mentioned the international essay competition to my sixth grade class. We had just started studying space during science periods and writing persuasive essays for language practice.

What can an individual teacher do to have an impact? This was the question posed by the people at Honeywell and NASA that I, in turn, asked of my students. The answer, summoned with a note of triumph, is “everything.” Having discussed the topic of this essay with my class, I made note of the ideas and filtered them through my teacher's pen. The sentences and paragraphs are my students' thoughts and I was the willing sibil, infusing jargon and punctuation where necessary.

When I learned that I had been selected to take part in the special space camp program for educators, I was, quite literally, leaping for the heavens. From June 25 to July 1, I was in Huntsville, Alabama's U.S. Space and Rocket Center, participating in a variety of astronaut training and simulation exercises. The word surreal is over-used in my opinion, so I will only allude to it. I, with a select group of teachers chosen from 500 applicants from around the world lived, for a short while, a dream. The experience will enable me to bring science to life in the classroom. Also, I got a NASA flight suit.

The intensive curriculum my fellow educators and I followed focused on space science and space exploration. In addition to participating in real-life astronaut training, including high performance jet simulation, scenario-based space missions, land and water survival training and a state-of-the-art flight dynamics program, we learned with new tools and resources to help bring the wonders of science to life in the classroom.

Regardless of mental, affective or social ability, children deserve educators who are keen, sensitive, and inspiring persons. A teacher who can make learning fun, who can make success attainable, who can make students thirst for knowledge, is invaluable. The ability to learn big lessons from little people is equally as significant.

Christou teaches at an elementary school in Scarborough.

2005 Canada Research Chairs

How Social Strife was Blamed on Biology Daniel Bender, 2005 Canada Research Chair in Urban History

Delve into the history of urban life in America at the turn of the twentieth century, and you will find that biology was blamed for many of the social ills of the time. That's just what Canada Research Chair professor Daniel Bender has done. Now he is rewriting American urban history from 1877 to 1945 to show how contemporary evolutionary ideas about the animal world were used to analyze the issues causing the most anxiety at the time – the arrival of immigrants, the rise of cities, and the proliferation of factories.

Bender uses the scholarly writing of the period, government documents, socialist newspapers, fiction, and other sources to trace how economics and biology came to be linked in America and elsewhere, and evolutionary science emerged.

Evolutionary science saw industrialization as a stage of biological social development and the immigrant working class as socially and even biologically dangerous. It regarded the struggle for employment and survival in an industrial city as a form of natural selection.

Bender is showing how, with very little dissent, evolutionary science was used to justify notions of racial hierarchy and to legitimize anti-immigrant legislation and coercive programs based on eugenics – the science of breeding for desirable characteristics. His focus on questions of race, biology, and immigration speaks directly to many of the social questions still facing Canada today.

Rice for the Future: A Solution to World Hunger?

Herbert Kronzucker, 2005 Canada Research Chair in Metabolic Bioengineering of Crop Plants

It is estimated that one billion people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Canada Research Chair professor Herbert Kronzucker believes the solution to this problem lies in bioengineered crop plants, such as rice.

Rice is the world's leading crop species. Kronzucker studies how rice grows and how it can be improved. He's trying to find out whether rice can flourish in poor soil with periods of drought or influx of saltwater. He also wants to find out whether more increases are possible in the “yield ceilings” of today's elite strains of tropical lowland rice.

Kronzucker takes a multidisciplinary approach to his research, drawing from mathematical modelling, physiology, biotechnology, and field ecological analyses. His techniques include growth analyses, the profiling of tissues according to the sum of their physical and chemical processes, radiobiological techniques, and the application of biotechnology to improve the functioning of key enzymes in metabolism.

Working in collaboration with organizations such as Canada's emerging Green Crop Network, the European Union project SUSTAIN, and the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, Kronzucker hopes to make a significant dent in world hunger by establishing the Canadian Centre for World Hunger Research in partnership with the University of Toronto.

For more information on the Canada Research Chairs program, visit <http://www.chairs.gc.ca>.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

MY name is Nazila Reyhani. I graduated from the University of Toronto in 2002 with a master science degree from the department of zoology, specifically histology/endocrinology. I worked under the supervision of professor John Youson, then chair of the life sciences department at UTSC.

Thereafter, I moved on and got a job at Apotex, a Canadian generic pharmaceutical company. After a year I landed a great job in the same company but this time as a consultant in health and safety. I didn't stay there for too long because in December 2004 I moved to Los Angeles, California and now work here as a researcher in holistic medicine.



I just wanted to let you know that even though I'm so far away from home, every time I receive a news update from U of T, it means so much to me. It may sound corny but I'm sitting here at a local library in Woodland Hills, San Fernando Valley, and got tears in my eyes because I wish I was still a student at UTSC and could sit at the renovated Bladen library and work on a science assignment...

...[I] just wanted to thank you for always including me in your newsletter and the update mailings. Don't ever let me go, you're the only bridge between me and the wonderful nine years I spent at the university. I am what I am because of U of T. God bless and remember there is no place like home.

Regards
Nazila Reyhani (MSc. 2002)
Woodland Hills, CA

Greetings to everyone from here in Nagasaki, Japan. I just wanted to say hello to the extended UTSC community, and say that I appreciate the alumni news and information we have been receiving over the years. At some point in the future, I would really like to visit the campus again and see first-hand all of the astonishing changes I have heard, seen, and read about through the magazines, newsletters, and the website.

As for myself? Keeping busy teaching English at Kwassui Women's College, as well as helping to organize monthly workshops and meetings for our local chapter of JALT – the Japan Association for Language Teaching. I am also back to school as a distance mode doctoral candidate in applied linguistics with Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

Best wishes
Tim Allan (BA 1981)
allan@kwassui.ac.jp



What's Happening

JANUARY

November 9, 2005 to January 8, 2006 – 'Shimmy' Art Exhibit by Angela Leach
January 19, 2006 to March 5, 2006 – 'Quantal Strife' Art Exhibit by Scott Carruthers, Crystal Mowry and Marc Ngui
January 23, 2006 – Classical Indian Dance Lecture/Demo with Nova Bhattacharya, 12 pm
January 24, 2006 – Camilla Gibb Reading (venue TBA), 2 pm

FEBRUARY

February 2, 2006 – Internship Fair, 9 am to 2:30 pm
February 6, 2006 – Mary di Michele Reading (venue TBA), 12 pm
February 13, 2006 – Chinese Peking Opera Lecture/Demo with William Lau, 12 pm
February 25, 2006 – Prague Project 4, Workshop Presentation of 'The Art of Living,' 7:30 pm

MARCH

March 7, 2006 – PK Page Reading, 11 am
March 11, 2006 – March Break, 11 am to 5 pm
March 13, 2006 – Japanese Music/Theatre Lecture Demo with Kiyoshi Nagata and Aki Takahashi, 12 pm
March 15, 2006 – Open Mic Night, 7 pm
March 16 to 18, 2006 – Faculty directed drama produc-

tion: **The Experiment of Dr Ox** based on the novel by Jules Verne. Adapted and directed by Michal Schonberg. Original music by Alexander Rapport, 8 pm
March 21, 2006 – Michael Helm Reading, 7:30 pm
March 22, 2006 – Faculty directed drama production: **The Experiment of Dr Ox** 8 pm
March 25, 2006 – Concert: Music of All Latitudes Part II featuring Juno Award-winning African blues guitarist Adam Solomon and Tikisa, 7:30 pm

APRIL

April 9, 2006 – Concert: Year End Musical Finale featuring the UTSC band and Choirs, 3 pm
April/May (TBA), 2006 – Scholar's Reception, 5 pm to 9 pm

MAY

May 6 or 13, 2006 – Ready, Set, Go! (Session A) 8 am to 5 pm

JUNE

June 3 or 10, 2006 – Ready Set Go! (Session B) 8 am to 5 pm
June (TBA), 2006 – Spring Reunion, St. George Campus, <http://www.springreunion.utoronto.ca> (time TBA)

All the events listed above are held at UTSC unless otherwise stated. For more information visit www.utsc.utoronto.ca

33rd Annual Watts Lecture



ON November 2, UTSC welcomed Dr. Sheela Basrur, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Health, as the 33rd annual F.B. Watts Memorial Lecturer.

The Watts Lecture series is named in honour of the late F.B. Watts, a distinguished geography professor

who died in 1969. It was established in 1970 with the intention that the lectures be provided by diverse and distinguished speakers and have as wide an appeal as possible.

Basrur's lecture, "Healthy Weight: Healthy Life," focused on the impact of obesity on the health of our population.

MAA golf day a success

ON Saturday, July 16, 2005 over 150 management alumni, professors, sponsors, and guests participated in the Management Alumni Association (MAA) golf day at Angus Glen golf club in Markham, Ontario. The event included a BBQ lunch, and raffle draw organized by alumni, for alumni – all this at a cost of only \$50 per person.

Congratulations to the following prize-winners:

- **Closest to the Pin (Hole#8):** Jeff Spitzig
- **Longest Drive (Hole#5) (Ladies):** Aileen Pollocic
- **Longest Drive (Hole#16) (Men):** Daniel Chan

The MAA thanks all who participated and thanks golf day founding partners, CGA Ontario, CMA Ontario, and PricewaterhouseCoopers for their generous support.

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

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