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THE VARSITY

University of Toronto's Student Newspaper Since 1880

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FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Sweeping changes proposed for A&S

Dean says streamlining will cut costs, enhance undergrad experience. Professors and students are crying foul.



Public meetings planned to occur in fall to discuss changes that still require governance approval. DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Dylan C. Robertson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Faculty of Arts and Science is undergoing sweeping restructuring with the goal of streamlining programs by June 2011 in order to cut costs. Meric Gertler, dean of U of T's largest faculty, published his 40-page academic plan on Thursday and is facing mounting opposition from professors and students.

HOW WE GOT HERE

A routine external review of the faculty took place in January 2008. While praising the faculty for doing "more with less," the review raised concerns about the "proliferation of interdisciplinary units." It suggested cutbacks to deal with unsustainable growth and proposed cutting down on costly, over-centralized administration.

Shortly after, Gertler started his term as dean and assumed the routine responsibility of launching an academic plan within his second year. In September 2009, the provost announced academic planning would begin soon with the goal of putting the faculty in line with President David Naylor's Towards 2030 plan. In October, Gertler laid out the main priorities of academic planning and indicated he would follow the external report's recommendation that planning exercises be lead by a smaller strategic planning committee (SPC).

In November, each faculty unit was asked to complete a thorough academic plan, including budget, risks, resources, and enrollment figures. By its December deadline, the SPC received 80 plans, as well as a submission from, and meeting with, the Arts and Science Students' Union (ASSU).

The SPC processed all the submitted plans through to May 2010. Most of June was spent creating reports for each individual department. These reports included proposals and recommendations for program changes and were sent out at the end of June, right before campus was closed ahead of the G20 conference.

WHERE WE ARE

The largest potential change is the creation of the School of Languages and Literatures, a new amalgamation that would incorporate the the Department of East Asian Studies, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Department of Italian Studies, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures into one super-department.

Under the plan, the Centre for

Ethics would be disestablished, but Gertler said administration would "take the resources devoted to scholarship in ethics and reinvest them in a faculty-wide initiative of teaching of ethical and social responsibility to all undergraduates".

Similarly, the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies would be closed, but its programs would continue in another department. Gertler said the centre had become a "victim of its own success" in that it had provoked interest across the faculty to such an extent that "the rationale for retaining a centre was not as strong."

Also proposed is the creation of a new Earth Sciences Department, composed of courses in geology, geophysics and physical geography. "This area is growing in economic, environmental, and social importance," said Gertler.

The Centre for International Studies would be disestablished as its teaching function will already end this fall. Courses have been redesigned into, and faculty already work with, the Munk School of Global Affairs.

The Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition would be integrated with the Department of Psychology so that it would report to the department and not directly to the dean's office. Faculty appointed to the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics would work with undergraduate students.

Three graduate programs would be tied to undergraduate programs that already exist in U of T colleges: criminology, industrial and employment relations, and drama. Gertler said a working group would work to

SEE 'CHANGES' - PG 4

Drew Dudley leaves UTSC

States "unhappiness" as reason for leaving

Natalie Sequeira
VARSITY STAFF

Drew Dudley, Coordinator of the Leadership Development Program at UTSC, has decided to leave the university after seven years of building leadership and community at UTSC.

National Chair of Shinerama, co-founder of Conduct Becoming Canada and first ever chair of "Million Dollar Youth," Drew attended Mount

Allison university in Sackville, New Brunswick. With an aversion to big cities, Toronto was never on the list when Drew began applying for jobs. He doesn't remember why he applied for a job in Advancement at UTSC. After initial doubts on the part of the hiring committee, they gave Drew a chance and were happy with his interview.

When Drew joined Student Affairs as Coordinator of Student Develop-

UTSC

ment he was in charge of campus groups and leadership. Too big to accomplish together, leadership was put on hold while he restructured the way campus groups operated.

In November 2005, Drew was invited to be a part of the Leadership at Allison speaker series, which he had been a part of as a student. It was the first time he gave a leadership talk in front of a large crowd. "It turns out I was good at it," says Drew. "So when I moved to student life, I [put] all those elements together, and it was so well received, that we knew we had to stay at it."

The university then hired staff to

take over campus groups, and Drew managed to focus on the leadership development program.

This program focuses on making sure students leave with more than just a degree. Divided into five categories, students attend several talk, workshops, and discussions. The Inside the Leader's Circle, in which Drew interviews influential personalities like Peter Mansbridge, Adria Vasil, Douglas Coupland and Jeff Rubin, is the most popular series.

Leadership is a significant factor for Drew, who says he always wants to find ways to get better. "It [is] a drive to want to be better, happier,

have more of an impact. I always enjoyed being a part of something that makes a difference. With leadership it's making a difference in your life and hoping that it makes a difference in others."

Asked where his inspiration comes from, Drew says it's mostly from the students. "My inspiration comes from the idea that what I'm doing makes a difference to people." However, he says, it's a struggle.

"It's the weirdest balance. I love it when people say I'm an inspiration but I have never been able to

SEE 'DUDLEY' - PG 4

WEATHER

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
20°C	16°C	17°C	15°C	11°C
to	to	to	to	to
22°C	25°C	23°C	22°C	24°C

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Two New Degrees Offered at U of T

The Munk School and Computer Science bring more practical degrees to U of T

Rajin Singh

VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Toronto will be offering two new masters programs this September. The Master of Global Affairs at the Munk School of Global Affairs and the Master of Science in Applied Computing at the Department of Computer Science come in response to a growing demand for professional and applied postgraduate studies.

The MGA degree at the Munk School seeks to bridge the sectors of government, business and NGO work while addressing the changing landscape of global affairs. The program is directed of Steven Bernstein, previously director of the Master of Arts in International Relations program.

"We purposely called it a Master in Global Affairs instead of International Relations not because states are irrelevant, but because we want people to recognize that this old model is just one way the world is interacting," says Bernstein. "It grew out of student demand for a degree where they could develop applied skills in addition to knowledge which would launch their careers."

The program seeks to bridge the sectors of government, business and NGO work and features a mandatory internship component, where overseas placement is stressed.

"James Orbinski is one of the stories of this degree," says Bernstein, referencing former president of



The Munk Centre aims to bridge government, business and NGO work with its new Masters program. DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and current cross-appointed faculty at the Munk School. "He told us that when he was in Rwanda as a medical professional, he didn't understand the political forces leading to the problems."

In only two months after the pro-

gram's inception, applicants have already expressed a high interest. The selective program admits 40 students from among a large pool of applicants. According to Bernstein, most applicants are undergraduates from a social sciences background, but around 10 per cent have been

already working overseas, in government or are law, business, and engineering postgraduates.

"We were [...] happy to get MBA grads who had terrific skills in management but not necessarily the cultural and political knowledge to act globally," says Bernstein. "Our vision

is that our graduates would be innovators who will take leadership positions in any of the three sectors."

Across campus the Department of Computer Science has established the Master of Science in Applied Computing, another new professional degree. Known for being highly research-intensive at the postgraduate level, the department also saw a strong student demand for professional experience as opposed to purely research-based projects.

"After doing extensive outreach, we came to a programme that plays to our particular strengths: research in aid of technology transfer to industry," states M.Sc. of Applied Computing program director Eugene Fiume.

Along with taking the program specific graduate level courses students in the program also take courses in communications and business. The professional M.Sc. of Applied Computing also requires internships specifically in transferring technology to industry and the private sector.

"Students will also do internships in industry on well-defined projects that require the deployment of new research results into industry," notes Dr. Fiume. "To my knowledge, there is no programme like this anywhere."

The program proved to be highly selective. Only six students were chosen from one hundred and twenty applicants in the inaugural year. Fiume suggests that expanded enrollment may be a possibility in the future.

Help Conquer Cancer with your Computer

U of T program allows anyone to use their computer to run medical calculations

Cole Carruthers

VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Curing cancer can be added to the list of ways to procrastinate come September. U of T's Help Conquer Cancer (HCC) project uses your computer's spare processing cycles to understand the functions of cancer-fighting proteins.

The program works by asking volunteers to download a program that fetches data whenever their computer is turned on but not in use. Anytime a screen-saver would normally turn on, the program fetches data to calculate.

"A project's data is divided into work units and sent out to WC Grid members' computers," explains Scientific Associate Chistian Cumbaa. "Each work unit takes a few seconds to download [...] once complete, it is

uploaded from the members' computers back to the WC Grid server."

HCC is part of the World Community Grid, a distributed-computing network funded by IBM that supports computer-intensive research projects. The WCG estimates that computer owners typically only use 10 to 15 per cent of their computer's power.

The collective computing power of grid computing far surpasses the ability of any supercomputer.

"The numbers describing the World Community Grid are crazy," says Cumbaa. "There are about 520,000 members that contribute to the WC Grid, donating computer time from 1,580,000 computers"

Since HCC launched in November 2007 the program has screened over 12,000 proteins and generated over 115,000,000 images. In an aver-

age day the WC Grid calculates 288 CPU-years of data. This is the same amount of data a single computer running at full capacity would take 288 years to complete.

The ability of grid computing to fight disease is not a new concept. In 2003 scientists used the technology to uncover 45 potential genes to fight smallpox. Other grid computing projects currently underway relate to HIV and muscular dystrophy.

The WCG was founded in 2004 with the mission of becoming the largest computer grid in the world. HCC is funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Canada Research Chair Program, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and IBM.

To learn more about HCC and use your computer to fight cancer, visit www.worldcomputinggrid.org



U of T's Help Conquer Cancer project helps understand cancer fighting proteins. ALEX NURSALL/THE VARSITY

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UTSC Dean of Student Affairs retires

Tom Nowers retires after 12 years with the university

Natalie Sequeira

VARSITY STAFF

Tom Nowers, dean of Student Affairs at UTSC, has retired after 12 years of managing an office that supports the academic and personal success of the university's students.

Nowers retires at a time when he still feels he is at the top of his game rather than jaded or frustrated. "I want more control of my life [...] to recapture some interests I had before," he says. He still hopes to do some consulting as well as travelling and spending more time with his family.

He also cited a more morbid reason for his retirement. "I have had three people in my life die before 60, all in high pressure jobs," he said. With a heavy workload in a job that he cannot scale down, Nowers decided to retire.

Nowers has spent 31 years in student affairs, starting out at Marianopolis College in Montreal where he was the coordinator of Student Services. He was recruited by Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec, where he was the first Dean of Student Affairs. "I've never had a predecessor," he said. "I've always come to empty offices." He made the move to UTSC in March 1998.

During his years at McGill, Nowers came across two texts that he says represented his "call to action." These were Paulo Freire's "Pedagogy



After 12 years of service as UTSC Dean of Student Affairs, Tom Nowers retires. ALINA SMIRNOVA/TORONTO OBSERVER

of the Oppressed" and the American Council on Education's "the Student Personnel Point of View." They "envisioned education as a dialogical series of transactions between parties of mutual respect," said Nowers.

When Nowers came to UTSC he found a lot lacking. Residences were in bad shape and there were too few staff members in the residence office, accessibility, health and wellness, and career services.

He began to develop not only more focused offices with higher staff numbers, but to build a relationship with

students to replace the animosity toward administration.

"Look at the world through the lens of a student [and] not top down," said Nowers. "Students don't care who reports to whom. They want something meaningful to them. I tried to integrate service consistent with the needs of students."

A few years after Nowers came to UTSC, he proposed the idea of the student centre, which opened in 2004. "I would take student government members to other universities [...] and let them talk to their fellow leaders. They

realized they should expect more [...] in their student experience."

A big conflict has been balancing his work and family. With a home office and inability to see most vacations through to the end, Nowers admits the balance was "out of whack." In a speech given at a farewell reception held at UTSC, Nowers thanked his family for their support despite his many absences.

While UTSC has its student centre and future Pan Am sports complex, Nowers says the campus needs more. Considering the diverse talent, a stu-

dio theatre and more performance space are needed. He also suggests an outdoor soccer and cricket pitch and at least 700 more spaces in residence, and has recommended to administration that space be made — such as an atrium in one of the buildings — to contain all student service offices.

When asked about a few things not many people know about him, Nowers mentioned his love for fine art and painting, photography, and antique boats. He also dropped out of university when neuroscience was not working for him.

"I travelled alone to Europe [...] and flew to Nairobi." He spent 13 months moving through Europe and then West through Africa from Kenya to Abidjan. "It does you well to step out of your comfort zone. You need to find out what your boundaries are and challenge [yourself]. I don't think you can do that theoretically."

While he feels he has accomplished a lot over 12 years, Nowers wishes he could have accomplished more. "I wish I [could have developed more] residences. [It's unfortunate] that the only sports field [was] taken up by portables and that we couldn't get better access to the valley."

"As students move through one of the steepest learning curves of their lives, it is a time when they experience many challenges," he said. "I [feel] humbled by the opportunity to serve [them]."

Turning ideas into businesses

The Varsity looks at the work of the Innovations and Partnerships Office

Semra Eylul Sevi

VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

When a U of T invention has commercial potential the Innovations and Partnerships Office (IPO) at U of T gets involved.

"The main objective of IPO is to facilitate the application of knowledge generated at U of T to a world beyond U of T," said Professor Peter Lewis, IPO's acting executive director and U of T's associate vice president, research.

The IPO was previously known as The Innovation Group (TIG) had as its core role the issue of commercialization. Responsible for receiving and accessing disclosures and developing technology into marketable and sell-able resources, the group altered its name to incorporate its role in making partnerships, specifically business development opportunities for researchers.

"Its function is to help recognize and realize the potential of innovations developed at U of T by building

meaningful relationships with members from the private, public and government sectors," said Lewis.

IPO is funded by the university and has about twenty-five full time staff. The budget is about \$3M annually and the main office is located in the MaRS building.

While undergraduate students are not involved in the operations of IPO, many projects supported by the IPO hire undergraduate students as research assistants.

Projects that present commercial promise are handed off to the MaRS Innovation where they receive funding based on their anticipated return on investment.

The IPO has recently been involved with the work of Professor Aaron Wheeler, the Canada Research Chair of Bioanalytical Chemistry at the University of Toronto. Wheeler's work focuses on using digital microfluidics to measure hormone levels in tissue as simply and accurately as possible, a technology potentially useful in early breast cancer detection.



Peter Lewis builds meaningful relationships with members from the public, private and government sectors. JAMES BRADFORD/THE VARSITY

IPO and the MaRS Innovation have provided funding to Wheeler Microfluidics Laboratory, a lab that includes ten graduate students and three

postdoctoral fellows. Two recent PhD students are working with Wheeler to commercialize the technology.

"The chip is not yet ready to diag-

nose breast cancer, but helps show whether estrogen levels are elevated, which can signal a higher risk for the disease," says Wheeler.

Families underestimate the cost of university

TD finds that when it comes to their child's admission, 15 per cent of families have no clue how they'll help foot the bill

Tahsin Najam

VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Relying on Mom and Dad to foot the bill of university may not be the best idea.

A TD Canada Trust Education and Finances Survey published August 16 reports that while 87 per cent of parents say they plan to pay all or part of the costs of their child's post-secondary education, 26 per cent say they have yet to start saving and another 15 have no idea how

they will finance it.

"With the provincial government having raised the amount that a student is able to receive with OSAP, but also raising the minimum salary needed to receive the student loans, neither students nor parents have planned for the financing of post-secondary educations," said Barbara Timmins of TD Bank Financial Group. "[There has been] an increase in fees without parents having the ability to be able to plan for the rise in costs. Furthermore, the federal govern-

ments saving plan is relatively new."

Of the 1001 students surveyed, half the respondents are working this summer to help pay for school and 66 per cent will be unable to earn enough money to cover expenses. 44 per cent of students are relying on student loans to aid their payments whereas another 27 per cent are using RESPs. The study was conducted in July.

Despite working all summer to finance his studies, fourth-year student Arun Srinivasan still finds university

tuition sometimes overwhelming.

"[...] sometimes paying for tuition along with other costs can still be challenging," says Srinivasan, suggesting early in high school as a time to start looking at university financing options.

A 2009 TD study revealed that a four-year undergraduate degree costs approximately \$80,000 for students living away from home. Financing post-secondary education comes at a time when degrees or training beyond the high-school lev-

el is valued more than ever within the job market.

"With a very large portion of University of Toronto students getting OSAP loans, nearly 40 per cent, they often face very severe debts at the end of their education," said Trinity College Registrar Bruce Bowden. "While students pay for their education through a combination of their own savings and work, scholarships and bursaries, even that may not be enough to completely finance a post-secondary education."

'CHANGES' - CONTINUED FROM PG 1

integrate both so that undergrads could "benefit from the research and advanced education taking place," similar to cinema studies programs.

Also proposed are more international experiences, a greater role for colleges, and multidisciplinary courses in which a subject is taught using all three areas of the faculty: humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

"We want to find new ways to make it easier for undergraduate students to engage with our core strengths in research and graduate education," said Gertler. "We want Arts and Science to be distinguished by offering our students the best of both worlds. That they can take advantage and get involved, and also be part of smaller learning communities."

Gertler added that the recent discontinuation of the joint specialist in political science and economics is unrelated.

DISSENT

Gertler published his academic plan this week, although much upheaval has taken place between its release and the SPC reports which were sent to individual units three weeks ago.

Faculty have met to discuss the proposed changes and issue letters of protest to the dean's office. Academics outside U of T have also written letters to the president and students have created Facebook groups and blogs to voice their concerns, post incoming letters of support and organize.

In online forums, some have even contrived a telling acronym to describe their animosity for the proposed School of Languages and Literature at U of T: SLLUT.

One of the potential amalgamations, comparative literature, has attracted much attention from both mainstream and social media.

"We feel sad for the students and faculty but we feel sad for the university. Because the U of T has such a strong reputation for being a leader in interdisciplinary research," said Linda Hutcheon, professor at the Centre for Comparative Literature as well as its first graduate.

"It's a step institutionally and intellectually backwards. U of T used to have a reputation for being very conservative, and it's about to have that reputation again. We will try to make a case for not getting rid of a major discipline within the university," said Hutcheon. "We're not going down without a bit of a fight."

"We are understandably confused and frightened," said Ryan Culpepper, co-organizer of Save Comp Lit at U of T. "It's our shared opinion that the quality of our doctoral degrees, and certainly of our experience as grad students, will be deeply compromised."

"At this time, we choose to treat the proposal ... as just what it is: a proposal. Nothing official has happened, and no concrete proposal exists. We nevertheless remain willing to come to the table and have a real discussion, and it's our intention to initiate this discussion if the deans refuse to do so."

But the most controversy has generated from the proposed school's amalgamation of the De-



Meric Gertler has proposed sweeping changes including the creation of the School of Languages and Literatures.

partment of East Asian Studies (EAS). Thomas Keirstead, interim chair of EAS, released the SPC's EAS report and issued a feisty public response. He estimates roughly half the students in the proposed school would be studying EAS, while only a quarter of professors would specialize in EAS.

"We don't see how we fit within the proposed school. We're not a literature or language department," said Keirstead in an interview, explaining that EAS has globally been multidisciplinary since the '80s. "We specialize in history, philosophy, social sciences, and literature; in humanistic inquiry."

Andre Schmid, former EAS chair, agrees. "It's what [EAS at U of T] is known for in North America. Many of our professors don't fit easily into any other departments, they're at a loss of what to do. Some of them will probably just leave."

"No one had heard of merging programs. I think there's been zero consultation with the departments."

"The entire process took place behind closed doors and in considerable secrecy. We had no inclination anything like this was coming," said Keirstead. "I really don't think the dean has in mind inconveniencing students [but] there's been very little explanation."

According to Schmid, the Korea Foundation, which donated \$3.2 million to U of T in 2006, has written to Gertler asking him to reconsider

closing the department. The proposed changes to EAS have gained media attention within the Chinese-Canadian diaspora.

"With the new changes, no students will be able to study Asia in-depth," said EAS student union president Michel Marion. "Not only is it a reinforcement of the school's euro-centrism and a setback in time, but it also negates Asia's central importance in the economic and political worlds."

According to ASSU president Gavin Nowlan, all faculty students will receive less specialized support if the proposals are adapted.

"The whole point is to remove support staff in the different programs and streamline the administration. This is what a lot of students, when academic planning started this year, were afraid of. That the university is going to limit a number of the smaller interdisciplinary programs. It looks as if that fear may be coming true."

Nowlan added that ASSU will lobby U of T administration to not go ahead with all its proposals for the School of Language and Literatures. UTSU president Adam Awad did not reply to requests for comment.

Gertler stressed that all students enrolled in programs by this fall will be able to complete their degrees, and that both programs and staff will not be cut.

"We will not be closing any undergraduate programs as a result of these changes, they will

all be protected. We will be preserving almost all of the graduate programs [with the exception of changes to comparative literature]. There will be no faculty discontinuing their appointments or losing their jobs as a result of these changes."

There remains some confusion among faculty. In an e-mail, Hutcheon indicated she was puzzled after reading this week's report after the SPC originally said the Centre for Comparative Literature would be disestablished: "Both East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature seem to have been told, privately, something different from what we read today."

STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

The main reason for the proposed changes is the faculty's large structural deficit. As of this April, the difference between the faculty's revenues and spending has accumulated to 56 million dollars, almost a third of which was generated last year, and will soon surpass 60 million.

"We have a limited ability to support these initiatives," said Gertler. "The risk is that we have spread our finite resources too thinly, to the possible detriment of all programs throughout the faculty."

Gertler added that his office is "looking for new organizational structures to economize on overhead administrative costs and allow us to put more money into the classroom".

Academic planning documents state that the main causes of the deficit include the economic recession, less faculty retiring than anticipated, insufficient financial investment from government, and tight provincial regulations on tuition fees.

"We have been quite strapped financially and it has been difficult," said Gertler.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

"When we come back together in the fall, we're going to have a number of public meetings where the plan will be introduced by me and discussed. People will be able to register their concerns," said Gertler. "We will listen to concerns, we will come forward beginning later in the fall with proposals that require governance approval, such as creation or disestablishment of schools and departments."

At the end of his planning document, Gertler listed the deadlines for detailed reports to be completed on each major change. Most are due this December, after which changes would be voted on by Governing Council.

Asked how he finds these decisions, Gertler said he has mixed feelings.

"These are very tough decisions when some people have invested a lot of energy in creating something like a centre and making it work. We know [these] kind of changes are very difficult for many people to accept right away."

"We have both a huge challenge and a tremendous opportunity right now given the situation that the faculty is in, to ask these very existential questions about the shape, the size, the scope, the content of a faculty. That's kind of exhilarating. You don't get to do that very often, and hopefully we won't have to do this again for a very long time."

'DUDLEY' - CONTINUED FROM PG 1

wrap my head around the idea that I deserve that. I see myself as such a screw up [...] that I get inspired to be what the people in the audience think I am. I will never be better than when I'm speaking. That's the best Drew there is."

Drew cites an inspiring reason for leaving UTSC. He tells a story about his friend Alison who dropped out of university several times until she found a place that was right for her.

"What made Alison so spectacular was that she had the courage to keep making changes until she had the life that she deserved, and I was telling this story to a group of students in Calgary in June and a voice in my head when I said it said you're a hypocrite. I couldn't shake it. I realized I wasn't happy."

"I was telling people to have the courage to make changes in their lives until they were happy, and I wasn't doing it [and] I realized I couldn't go back up on stage again until I did it."

"There [is] no step forward [at

UTSC] and I need to get better. I realized there was happiness out there for me and [...] I was too scared to go chase it, and that was inconsistent with what I was telling people."

Drew's job is yet to be filled, though Hamza Khan, who has worked with Drew, will take over until the end of September. "I did the best I could on the way out to make sure that my leaving would have as small an impact as possible," he says.

Since his decision to leave, Drew has set up the company Nuance Leadership, where he hopes to host weekly workshops at several schools. He has also applied to speak at TEDx Toronto, and is waiting to hear back.

Having invested so much into the leadership program, Drew thinks it's time to accomplish more outside of his work. "Follow your heart, follow your dream, you can do whatever you think you can and when you do so it has a positive impact on others. This is my version of living up to the message I gave for a while. And I'm not saying I didn't do that but I think I can do it better."



Dudley has started a company, Nuance Leadership, and has applied to speak at TEDx Toronto. JAMES BRADFORD/THE VARSITY

The End of Summer

A day at the CNE. Photos by Tom Cardoso and Rémi Carreiro.





IRKS & QUIRKS

What Are We Paying For?

U of T has some of the highest ancillary fees of any university. Isn't there a better way?

Nat Cooper
VARSITY STAFF

As I take a look at my 2010-11 fees, something just seems wrong. When I was accepted to U of T two years ago, the last thing on my mind was ancillary fees. My course fees add up to around \$6200. There are certain extras I'm more than willing to pay for, such as use of the libraries and publication of *The Varsity*. Thus, we can add around \$230. This makes our total \$6430. ROSI tells me I'm currently owing \$6940.78. This leaves around \$500 dollars unaccounted for.

For example, this year, we pay \$136.05 per semester for Athletics. This is \$272.10 for the entire year. To me this says that I will have paid around \$1000 by the end of four years. And what will I have paid for?

Before the fervour of health nuts and athletics students sets in, let me explain myself. I should be able to opt out of paying, just like I opt out of paying for medical and dental because I'm already covered. What about those of us, myself not included, who already belong to gyms? Should they have to pay for athletics as well? Is it possible to have a system wherein a student goes to a U of T gym, has his or her T-Card swiped or Student Number entered into a computer, which displays whether or not he or she has paid for a gym membership?

U of T charges us for student services, health services, athletics, Hart House, and Constituent College fees. It also charges us on



U of T's Athletic Centre at 214 College Street. DAVID PIKE/THE VARSITY

behalf of student organizations, for student society fees, social and cultural services (Hart House excluded) and other fees levied by student organizations to cover the costs of operating the organizations or services provided by them. To quote the policy: "The University may act as a collection agent for [any] student organization."

So let's take a look at ROSI and break this down. We pay around \$140 dollars a year to Hart House. Hart House has plenty of contributors, and easily makes its money back in ticket sales, so why should we have to pay all this money for it? Especially those of us who aren't in Arts or Theatre and couldn't care less? This is on top of fees we pay

to our colleges (as a Vic student, between VUSAC and student services, I end up paying \$150 a year as well as UTSU and ASSU fees. This is a slight exaggeration, but since part of this money is going to something that is basically useless to me (Athletics), I see it as a waste.

Could some of the money we pool our facilities, which are some

Could some of the money we pool into things such as our expensive facilities, which are some of the most expensive in Canada, instead be diverted to the Arts and Sciences undergraduate programs which have suffered major budget cuts this year?

of the most expensive in Canada, instead be diverted to the Arts and Sciences undergraduate programs which have suffered major budget cuts this year? I would be more than happy to know that my extra money could contribute to the saving of the Centre for Ethics, the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, and the Centre for Comparative Literature?

It is, however, my choice to do what I want with my life. It should thus be my choice to pay \$1000 in fees to Athletic centre or not. This should not be forced upon me, nor should it be forced upon any U of T student, especially those on restricted budgets.

Mistaken Views

Harper needs to establish a Srebrenica Resolution

Mersiha Gadzo
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

July 11th marked the 15th anniversary of the worst case of genocide in Europe since the Holocaust. In 1995, in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb forces systematically killed more than 8,000 Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) happen in a UN designated For the past five years, Canada's Bosniaks has been lobbying for a Srebrenica Resolution, which would mark July 11th as Srebrenica Remembrance Day in commemoration of these victims.

In early June, Bill M-416 in support of this resolution, was submitted into the House of Commons by NDP MP Brian Masse (Windsor West). Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused to give full support. In order for the motion to pass, Harper requested that the word "genocide" be taken out, as well as for the number of victims (8,372) to be lowered to less than 7,000 and for the word

"Bosniak" to be replaced with the more general term "Bosnian."

Harper's decision to torpedo M-416 when the event in question is a proven fact, was an ignorant move.

The case of Srebrenica is internationally recognized as an act of genocide. It has been declared so by the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which puts Harper's position in direct conflict with international law. The Hague Tribunal has already charged numerous Bosnian Serb war criminals with genocide including the late Slobodan Milosevic, Radislav Krstic, Radovan Karadzic currently on trial, and Ratko Mladic, who is a currently a fugitive.

The US Congress, the European Parliament, and numerous other governments have already passed Srebrenica Resolutions, condemning the genocide and creating remembrance days. The European

Parliament has called the Srebrenica genocide "symbol of the international community's impotence to intervene and protect civilians." In July 2009, former Yugoslav republics Croatia and Montenegro adopted resolutions condemning the genocide and marking July 11th as Srebrenica Remembrance Day.

Harper is deeply mistaken in his belief that the number of victims should be lower than 7,000. Many specialized organizations such as the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), the Federal Commission for Missing Persons and even the ICTY all claim the number of Srebrenica victims in July 1995 to be above 8,000. Perhaps Harper got his facts confused with the 6,481 Srebrenica victims who have been identified according to ICMP as of July 09, 2010.

Bosniaks were specifically executed in order to "ethnically cleanse" the region for then Yugoslav President fanatical idea of a

Greater Serbia. On June 10 2010, in the largest case ever held before ICTY, Vujadin Popovic and Ljubisa Bara, two high-ranking Bosnian Serb military officers were found guilty of genocide, extermination, murder, and persecution of Bosniaks in Srebrenica.

"[...]The plain intention, apparent from the evidence, to eliminate every Bosnian Muslim male who was captured or surrendered proves beyond reasonable doubt that this was genocide," the trial chamber stated.

The aggression that happened in Srebrenica meets the definition of crime of genocide in Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, issued in Paris on December 9, 1948.

There are over 50,000 Bosnians living in Canada today many of whom still bear emotional and physical scars from the war. This simple recognition would help the

healing and reconciliation process by openly confronting the crimes of the past. This violation of human rights should be recognized and remembered in order to help prevent similar war crimes from occurring elsewhere in the world. By denying judicial facts, Harper is undermining the rule of law, which is unacceptable in a democratic society.

The Bosnian Canadian community will not accept Harper's faulty requests, and will continue lobbying for Liberal MP Rob Oliphant's (Don Valley-West) new bill C-533 supporting this resolution when Parliament returns in September. The time has long past for Canada to join the rest of the world in remembering the Srebrenica Genocide. Despite the fact that Canada is a major peacekeeping country and a contracting party of the 1948 Geneva Convention, Harper has yet to responsibly recognize the documented realities of the crime of genocide in Srebrenica.



The political scene

Dysfunctional Government

Transparency issues and ideological pettiness are undermining the democracies we have taken for granted

Alex Ross and Abdi Aidid
VARSITY STAFF

In recent years democracy in Canada and the United States has been significantly undermined by a lack of transparency and an increasing trend of ideological pettiness. This has polarized voters and created an atmosphere of political cynicism in which the deliberative process necessary to run a democratic society has given away to whatever power can be grabbed from moment to moment. If these trends are not reversed then democracy in Canada and the United States itself will become increasingly less relevant, because everyone will either be too defeated, or too indifferent, to care.

The Conservative Party of Canada and its leader, Stephen Harper, formed a minority government in 2006 with a mandate towards accountability and transparency in Ottawa. Four years later, the Prime Minister has twice prorogued Parliament to avoid public debate. The first was on December 2, 2008 to avoid a coalition of the Liberals, New Democrats and Bloc Quebecois formed to defeat the government in a non-confidence motion. The second prorogation occurred on December 30, 2009 to avoid public scrutiny over the treatment of prisoners of war in Afghanistan. This summer, Minister of Industry Tony Clement announced the government would scrap the mandatory long form census and replace it with a voluntary short form census. According to Statistics Canada, the new census will only have 70 per cent compliance compared with nearly 100 per cent for the mandatory long form. This undermines the integrity of the data, the uses for which are diverse and multifaceted. The provinces use population statistics provided by the census to determine education funding, and also by non-profits when they apply for federal funding. The Conservatives have essentially undermined one of the most reliable, accessible, and vital forms of public information.

The government continually silences its critics. Veteran Ombudsman Pat Strogan will not have his term renewed simply for criticizing the handling of disability treatment by Veteran Affairs Canada. He now joins Paul Kennedy at the RCMP complaints commission, Peter Tinsley at the Military Police Complaints Commission, and Linda Keen



at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, who have all been silenced by the government for simply criticizing it, even though these offices exist to provide oversight. These moves would be unnecessary for a government that respects transparency, openness, and accountability. However, the Conservatives govern based on the idea that public access to information is a privilege rather than a right. The government's current stance on democracy gives us the worst of both worlds: weak regulatory bodies combined with the public perception that since they exist they must be doing their jobs.

In the United States, where public servants pride themselves on working with a spirit of transparency, political dealings are equally opaque and disjointed. In the Senate – the upper house of the nation's legislature – democracy is routinely undermined by a severe lack of transparency. Earlier this year, the Senate voted down a proposal by House majority leader Harry Reid to have bills posted online for public access prior to consideration in the house, just months after they shot down a proposal to have the Federal Reserve's audit papers made public. Today, there still doesn't exist a reliable mechanism to track how taxpayer

dollars are being spent, nor how individual Senators are handling their office expense accounts. Comparatively, problems of transparency in Canada involve the government skirting around accountability, while in the United States, the lack of transparency is more institutional and a function of the problematic way that government is organized.

Perhaps more consequentially, a stubborn commitment to ideology obstructs legislative efficiency and undermines the democratic process in the United States. Consider, for instance, the recent health care bill, which, save for Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning, the entire Republican contingent in the house voted No on. The sensible conservative argument against the bill – that a combination of open-market competition and tax credits would more adequately serve public needs – was abandoned in favour of vitriolic, strident partisanship, couched most notably in statements decrying Obama's plan as "socialist." Obama's proposed economic stimulus faced the same narrow, unreasoned ideological opposition. Earlier this year, Evan Bayh, a veteran Democrat from Indiana, chose not to seek re-election, saying that: "There is too much partisanship and not enough progress-too much narrow ideology and not enough practical problem-solving."

The implications of narrow ideological politics are far-reaching and troubling, especially considering that the Obama administration has major short term goals – educational reform, withdrawal from Iraq – that will require a very involved, deliberative democracy. If upcoming public debate is going to be littered with the same poor quality party-line rhetoric, you can expect decision-making to be slowed and progress, ultimately, to be hindered.

The Conservatives and Republicans clearly believe the legislative process is not only an inconvenience, but something that can be exploited or dismissed. When one states that "government is broken" one is speaking of government as an abstract entity that is somehow not affected by the people inside or outside of it. This is precisely what the political right wants. By removing ourselves from the responsibility we have to fix the democratic process, we are only helping those who seek to break it further.

Going Constitutional

A closer look at Canada's new Governor General

Patrick Baud
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Unless his political fortunes take a sudden turn, it may be years before our current prime minister moves out of 24 Sussex Drive. Despite autumn election rumours, the result is far more likely to be a Conservative rump minority than a Liberal government of any sort. But in the past four years, Stephen Harper has already sown the seeds of his constitutional legacy and the harvest is set to be poor at best. Harper has done more to change Canada's constitutional order than any of his recent predecessors and he has done so with extraordinary cunning and skill.

Worries that Canada's government is gradually becoming parliamentary and more "prime ministerial" or even presidential, are not new. This accusation has been leveled against Conservatives and Liberals alike since William Lyon Mackenzie King was prime minister, and especially vociferously

since Pierre Trudeau held Canada's top job. No prime minister is more deserving of this accusation than Harper. The details of Harper's first prorogation of parliament in late 2008 are well known: facing a coalition of the three opposition parties who were committed to defeating his government, Harper simply asked the Governor General to end the session.

Harper's request itself was not problematic, since prorogation is usually an uncontroversial procedure used to take a break once the government has completed the bulk of its legislative business for the session. However, Harper used it to avoid a vote of confidence which he would surely have lost. In doing so, he made it clear that he felt that his right to remain in office was not tied to the will of parliament. If so, then what could it be tied to but his own will? His second prorogation a year later was likewise objectionable, though less so because it enjoyed greater support of precedent.

What was concerning about Harper's second prorogation, however, was that he did so to shut down the hearings of a special committee on the handling of detainees by Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. When Parliament returned, the prime minister argued that the government could not release the classified documents requested by a Parliamentary committee, in clear violation of the parliamentary privilege to compel any and all papers and testimony it requests. The opposition asked the speaker of the House of Commons to rule on the question. His decision struck a difficult compromise and is currently being implemented.

These three events demonstrate the prime minister's will to alter the relationship between his office and the most important institutions of our constitutional order, the Governor General and parliament, to suit his political purposes. The prime minister has given every indication that he will continue to do so. There is an important sign oth-

erwise that we cannot afford to ignore. Amid the speculation that the prime minister might appoint a partisan to replace Michaëlle Jean as Governor General, the government implemented a new selection process to guarantee that the choice would be non-partisan.

The process centered around a secret committee of eminent Canadians which quietly consulted far and wide to find a non-partisan candidate. They settled on Patrick Johnston, then president of the University of Waterloo and former University of Toronto law professor. The choice was widely lauded and rightly so: Johnston is an excellent nominee. What deserves more praise though is the way in which Johnston was chosen. Non-partisanship was placed above even bilingualism as the key characteristic of the nominee. Expertise in constitutional law was also a criteria, which shows that the government expects that the Governor General's judgment may come into question if the prime minister makes another con-

troversial request for the exercise of a reserve power.

Unlike past governors general who seemed to be chosen mostly on the basis of loyalty, the process organized by the prime minister's office which eventually selected Johnston ensured that the nominee would be beyond reproach. It is doubtless that this was the result of political pressures on the prime minister, but it nevertheless presents an important opportunity to solidify the constitutional role of the Governor General. Doing so would transform Stephen Harper's constitutional legacy for the better and would protect the Governor General's crucial role in the Canadian system of government. He should begin by entrenching the selection process and using the reform as an opportunity to launch a broader conversation on the role of the Governor General. Instead of slowly changing the balance of power, he might create an opportunity for Canadians themselves to shape it.



POINT COUNTERPOINT

The voluntary short survey will work

The Opposition Parties and StatsCan have nothing to complain about

Patrick Langille
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Recently the Harper government has decided to replace what is known as the "long form" census, a mandatory 40 page form which Canadians must fill out every four years. What it will be replaced with is the new "short form" census, which the government contends will allow for better privacy for Canadians. However, many francophone groups, which include The Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities and La Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick, contend that it may violate the language rights of their sections of the country.

This charge however is facetious as the new census includes two more questions about language. One asks what language one can hold a conversation in, and the other asks which language (either English or French) is the primary language spoken at home and, additionally, if any other languages are spoken. This removes any possibility of claims that the new census will violate the Official Languages Act, a claim made in a recent Ottawa court case.

The new census will also remove the threat of jail time for failure to fill it out. This removes the risk of everyday Canadians being sent to prison for a mere oversight. The new short form census will be voluntary for Canadians, rather than the previous mandatory long form census. It pains this author to think someone could be possibly sent to prison for the failure to check their mailbox.

Liberal MP Bob Rae (Toronto-Center) alleged that Mr. Harper has scrapped the long form census because he feels that it will reveal the growing inequality among classes in Canada. However, if one is to track the previous censuses, this simply is not the case. Incomes are increasing, and so are the number of people with college and university degrees. As such, Mr. Rae's claims are unfounded.

Much of the controversy surrounding the issue comes from NGOs and other such organizations, claiming that they need the information that the census provides. Are they incapable of getting their own information? Is there no one among their employees capable of conducting a simple internet or e-mail poll? Can they not conduct the slightest bit of market research? Charities have begun to subcontract to marketing firms to get their message out, providing large numbers of unskilled jobs. Can these NGOs not do the same? Or are they just too eager to get free information from Statistics Canada?

Many in the Conservative Party have been shocked by how much criticism this action has fueled. Party Whip Gordon O'Connor (Carleton-Mississippi Mills) has been quoted as saying: "This isn't an issue people are going to live and die on. I mean it's not a big issue." The NDP and

Liberals are merely looking for a whipping boy and they have found it in the Minister of Industry, Tony Clement (Parry Sound-Muskoka). The only MP who has received a large number of calls on the issue in John Baird (Ottawa West-Nepean) and mostly people working for Statistics Canada.

Many of the questions in the long form which are set to be scrapped are considered intrusive by many Canadians. For instance, one question concerns how many hours of unpaid housework are done around the house. Most of the questions which are removed are those which deal with what Canadians do with their time while they are not working, such as ques-



tions about their volunteer work. Some even contend that having a census nowadays is useless, as modern methods of polling and market research have almost rendered the census irrelevant. Using these methods, the same information can be gathered with much less human cost, and much less bureaucracy. It would seem Statistics Canada seems to be attempting to justify its own existence.

Incidentally, the Treasury Board President Mr. Stockwell Day (Okanagan-Coquihalla) has introduced new measures to reduce the influence of lobby groups and promote transparency in government. These issues are not being discussed. The opposition is looking for something to complain about, and this census issue has offered them the chance to. If anything, all this census does is give Canadians time to drink a cup of coffee or smoke a cigarette. It's not a big issue. The lives of everyday Canadian men and women are not going to be changed by having to fill out less in their census. When the Conservative Party's mandate is over, will you see the new Liberal Government re-institute the long form? Probably not.

The long form census is necessary

The proposed changes to the census make the results confusing and unreliable

Dylan C. Robertson
VARSITY STAFF

If Conservative plans succeed, one in five households won't be required to fill out a 50-question census that shapes our country's decision making. Rather, one in three will be given a voluntary survey.

The census is used by governments, charities, and NGOs to shape their policies. Most homes will continue to receive a mandatory short form with basic questions about the age and number of residents. But experts warn that making the long form voluntary will lead to inaccurate results since many will opt out of responding altogether.

ally, we should be wary of some alternatives used in Europe.

In Scandinavia, governments issue mandatory electronic identification cards that collect hoards of data on personal relationships and bank transfers. The government gathers so much information that annual income tax forms are mostly completed when one logs in to verify the numbers. Talk about intrusion. Meanwhile, the information collected from Canadian censuses is anonymous.

Politicians in the UK are looking to Switzerland, where this year's large census is being replaced by an amalgamation of other government data and more frequent micro-censuses. But the UK government's changes will come after their 2011 census, meanwhile Harper is implementing a massive overhaul weeks before our 2011 census is sent to print.

Changing how our government collects data is not a bad idea, but it merits enough time for democratic discussion and debate.

Accurate data is especially needed in Canada because our cultural and geographic diversity far exceeds that of European countries. Without reliable data, we can't take effective decisions to meet the needs of francophones, aboriginals, immigrants, ethnic minorities, same-sex couples, and the poor.

The Conservatives assert that organizations needing information can collect it themselves. This is not only a ridiculous, but a potentially dangerous suggestion. University researchers and advocacy groups with limited resources depend on this data to shape public discussion. Even if organizations could fund data collection, Statistics Canada has never had a breach of security and our information is put at risk if multiple organizations go about collecting it.

Conservative pundits seem to have very little reason to axe the census and have begun ridiculing some of its questions. Popular examples include the number of rooms in a house and how people get to work, despite the fact that such data are used to track density, standard of living and public transportation needs. Others cite the worldwide phenomenon of indicating one's religion as Jedi, a red herring which is at most an ineffective personal protest.

In the absence of credible reasons for axing a functional census, many speculate Harper wants to cut advocacy groups' access to politically inconvenient statistics. That wouldn't be surprising coming from a government that justifies spending billions on building unneeded prisons to deal with "unreported crime."

Harper's plan to cut the census is a rushed, costly, and dangerous proposal that doesn't make sense. The Rotman School of Management and U of T School of Public Policy and Governance have signed a letter opposing these ludicrous changes. It is my hope that the staff, students, and governors of U of T will organize similar public protest.

Fire Island

Arcade Fire's Toronto Island performance encompasses their career.



Arcade Fire's Win Butler performs at the Toronto Island concert. TOM CARDOSO/THE VARSITY

Luke Savage

VARSITY STAFF

The sun was setting and the air was sweltering as Arcade Fire took the stage at Toronto's Center Island on August 14. Following a charged performance by local favourites The Sadies and a soulful, exuberant set by newcomer Janelle Monae, the Montreal band stepped out to thunderous applause before playing eighteen songs spanning their entire career.

Having released their third studio album *The Suburbs* earlier in August, this was the first time many of the songs had been performed live in Toronto, and the island concert's huge crowd was a mix of young and old, urban, suburban, and rural. I discovered that several of the people standing next to me throughout the performance had travelled from Woodstock, Ontario: a smallish city situated in the province's agricultural heartland — and also the biggest town nearby during much of my childhood.

On one side, Woodstock had an ever-struggling mall, which chain stores would briefly colonize before abandoning due to poor business. By the time I stopped frequenting the city after moving to Stratford for high school, the emaciated concrete structures of the strip had been completely abandoned, while the other side of the city had exploded with growth. Walmarts, Best Buys,

Future Shops, and McDonalds' had sprung from the earth, bringing with them a burgeoning sprawl of urban development. Columns of identical homes had sprouted like dandelions and the city's old boundaries disappeared. Like in so many other cities across North America, this growth was rudely interrupted by the toppling of the global financial pyramid in 2008.

Bust and boom, boom and bust.

Win Butler, a native of a similar sprawl outside of Houston, Texas, who has fronted the Arcade Fire since its formation in 2003, once commented that there was something deeply suburban about the band's music. "I think we have a drive to find a semblance of universality, which to me seems innate to kids from the suburbs. You relate to different kinds of things than someone who grew up in a super-rural environment or in a really dense big city, where there's an actual culture."

This was in 2004, predating *Funeral*, the album that propelled the Arcade Fire to success. Yet each record the band has produced has increasingly affirmed these words: aesthetically unbound to any particular musical haven, instead fluctuating within a pastiche of different themes, moods, and instrumentations.

Funeral is an often dark, yet ultimately uplifting album, conceived during a year when several of the band members' relatives passed

away in tragic succession. *Neon Bible*, the follow-up which emerged three years later, blends in its title evocations of the most synthetic and the most sacred, while its sounds layer the earthy textures of *Funeral* with both the electronic buzz of synthesizers and the hallowed hum of church organs. *The Suburbs*, the band's newest creation, and the centerpiece of its Toronto Island show, is no less expansive, and even more ambitious.

Like the real-world sprawls in Woodstock and Houston — idyllic but sculpted with sterile precision — *The Suburbs* juxtaposes feelings of serenity with desolation and emptiness.

Inspired by fraternal band-mates William and Win Butler's childhood in the Houston sprawl, the record uses suburbia as a canvas for an exploration of consumerism, urban existence, and modernity. Like *Funeral* the album is heavily self-referential, with particular themes, melodies, and lyrics recurring across its six-

teen tracks. But unlike *Funeral*, in which these connections felt somewhat spurious, there is a real structure to *The Suburbs*, making it the most effective Arcade Fire record to date: the opening title track is a true conceptual preamble to the rest of the record in a way that "Neighbourhood #1 (Tunnels)," the opening track from *Funeral*, was not.

The album opens with a jovial but vaguely dissonant chord progression as Butler sings:

*In the suburbs I
I learned to drive*

*And you told me we'd never survive
Grab your mother's keys we're
leavin'*

*You always seemed so sure
That one day we'd fight in*

*In a suburban world
your part of town gets minor
So you're standin' on the opposite
shore*

*But by the time the first bombs fell
We were already bored*

These opening stanzas, with their simultaneously sublime and dystopian overtones, set the tone for the rest of the album, which wavers between oppositional moods and emotions, sometimes meshing them together. Like the real-world sprawls in Woodstock and Houston, idyllic but sculpted with sterile precision, *The Suburbs* juxtaposes feelings of serenity with desolation and emptiness.

At the Toronto Island concert, the band played much of *The Suburbs* along with older material, with relentless energy and a powerful, symphonic sound. The rendition of the *Funeral* classic "Rebellion (Lies)" prompted the entire audience to repeat the melodic refrain dozens of times after the band finished playing. "Wake Up" was accompanied by a vibrant light-show which briefly turned night into day. The album's final track (save the short epilogue "The Suburbs, Continued") also appeared near the end of the concert. The pulsating "Sprawl II, Mountains Beyond Mountains" is a soaring sketch of a never-ending suburbia spilling over the horizon. Despite its theme, the song is somehow uplifting: the gloomy suburban wasteland left by the booms and busts of the past 50 years never sounded so glorious.

*They heard me singing and they told
me to stop*

*Quit these pretentious things and
just punch the clock
Sometimes I wonder if the world's
so small*

*Can we ever get away from the
sprawl?*

*Living in the sprawl
Dead shopping malls rise like mountains
beyond mountains
And there's no end in sight
I need the darkness, someone
please cut the lights*



Hawksley Workman MILK

Hawksley Workman's latest album *Milk* breaches new territory for the indie-glam-rock musician. Following the January release of his darker grunge album *Meat*, *Milk* takes on a completely different vibe, experimenting with synthesizers and quick-lip lyrics to produce a euro-pop sound. While *Milk* does not number among the best of Workman's twelve albums, in taking a leap out of his comfort zone, he comes out with an album that stands on its own.

Milk's concept is bold, unabashed lust and Workman's use of strong rhythmic beats only emphasizes this theme. The album has a few softer and mellow tracks, like "Devastating," a song that caters to Workman's romantic, rather than his lustful side. For the most part, however, *Milk* is filled with fast-paced tunes and explicit lyrics that are clearly meant for sweaty gyrating on the dance floor.

The album has a rocky start, with many tracks that begin to dwindle and tire less than a minute in (the opening track "Animal Behaviour" being foremost among these). *Milk* starts to pick up steam half way through as Workman finds a happy medium between his new synth-based sound and the alternative musical style of his previous work, producing something more than the generic synthesized rhythms pumped out of club speakers. The album hits its peak at its finale with up-beat, infectious tracks like "Snow Angel" and "Not Your Parents' Music," tunes that are more than likely to soar high on the charts this year.

—ARIEL LEWIS

Dangermouse and Sparklehorse DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

Much has changed since this highly collaborative and ambitious package first appeared on record store shelves over a year ago as a blank CD-R and a David Lynch helmed book of photography. Some contributors (Iggy Pop, The Flaming Lips' Wayne Coyne) have made, respectively, fascinating and career defining records. Reversely, some, (Dangermouse & James Mercer) have continued to work together to produce a surprisingly underwhelming album, and two others (Mark Linkous, who effectively is Sparklehorse, and Vic Chesnutt) have committed suicide.

These recent recordings, as well as the inevitable revisiting of Linkous' and Chesnutt's discographies, alter *Dark Night of the Soul* into a surprisingly, if not disconcertingly, easy listen. The production flourishes of Dangermouse, while ornate and beautiful in their own right, don't provide an affecting backdrop for the album's intensely personal lyrical arc. Wayne Coyne on "Revenge" and Jason Lytle on "Jakjub" and "Everytime I'm With You" are too enigmatic in their own right to fully submerge themselves into the collaboration and all three tracks end up sounding like Flaming Lips or Granddaddy B-sides.

On "Little Girl" and "Angel's Harp" performances from Julian Casablancas and Blank Francis are uncharacteristically stale. Only the title track, in which David Lynch sings (Chants? Gargles?) a distorted hymn over top of a hypnotic film-noir loop, seems to capture the haunted intimacy and retro re-appropriation that make (or made) Linkous and Dangermouse such singular artistic voices in the first place. The whole record leaves me feeling kind of etherized, which perhaps, in light of Linkous' untimely death, may have been the initiative all along.

—NICK MCKINLAY

M.I.A. MAYA

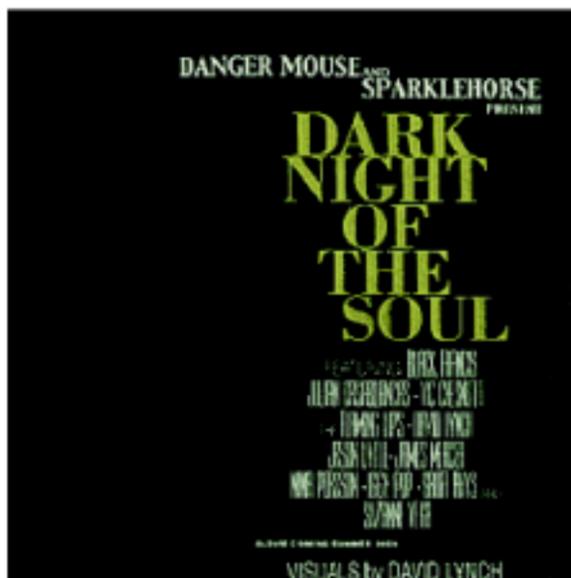
From the popstress who brought us "Planes Planes", the world's favorite truffle french-fry-eating-artist envelopes her third album in a cacophony of noise that's sure to shock rather than please. The melodies of "Tequilla" and "Story To Be Told" are almost undetectable beneath lavish layers of epileptic beats.

That being said, when M.I.A. puts down her guns and addresses her man as opposed to the Man in "XXXO," the track comes out crystal clear: a perfect mixture of the unexpected and listenable qualities that solidified her reputation as a popstar in past hits. "Born Free" however, while being more to the credit of Suicide's "Ghost Rider" than M.I.A.'s musical prowess, nonetheless demonstrates she can hone in her vocals, and offers listeners a heavy, violent breath of fresh air.

When disregarding the talents of producers Diplo and Rusko, she seems to fall flat on her face, pimpled with non-sensical trivialities and what seems to be a desperate attempt to justify her recent "life choices" with experimentation. "Meds and Feds", might be her album's shining moment in this experimentation, but a killer opening riff is tripped by the introduction of sonic disunity. Soon it all comes back together, guaranteeing concertgoers at least one genuine fist-pumper.

The rest of the album falls short. While M.I.A. once demonstrated the skills necessary to rise above her peers, it now seems she's on her own ladder, alone, avoided for fear of being contaminated with that shallow, looped fuff. Restraint imposed by third-parties would undoubtedly do her—and our ears—some good.

—DANIEL PORTORARO



Art, Hipsters, Bikes, Oh My!

Cycling AND aesthetics? Monthly art crawl has both!

Alana Leprich VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Spinning along on my white roadster, I slowed my pace and approached the main gate of Trinity Bellwoods Park on West Queen West, and was greeted by a flock of artsy-types with bikes. There were shaved heads, big glasses, and a woman doing an impromptu performance-piece consisting of falling to the grassy ground.

I assumed that I was in the right place for Art Spin, a free monthly art crawl, in which participants ride in a team of bicycles to get to each gallery, guided each month by a guest curator or artist.

Participants met at Trinity Bellwoods at 6:30 p.m. This month's leaders were Michael Paré, the president and founder of Queer West, a week-long series celebrating queer arts, and Rui Pimenta who is the founder, coordinator, curator, and leader of the crawl. The two explained that participants of the art crawl are led to a variety of galleries in the city,

where they are greeted by the curators and forced to interact with a group of art-enthusiast strangers.

At just past 7 p.m., approximately 20 wanna-be art connoisseurs pedaled into the sunset. The group was made up of an eclectic mix of individuals: largely students, couples, professionals, and amateurs. Following the leader, we did a lap of the park before hitting our first gallery, Lausberg Contemporary. One of two global locations, Lausberg is unique in Toronto, featuring local artists alongside international artists. Their idea is to foster our own scene while keeping in touch with the global. Greeted by Pimenta's explanation of the space's mandate — and some well-appreciated refreshments (no free booze, sadly) — we were encouraged to explore the summer exhibition, a collection of sleek, non-representational pieces by various artists. Although fairly subdued and undemanding (read: boring), it was like wading into a kiddie pool of the toured galleries.

Our second stop was InterAccess, a space focusing on new media works. As Pimenta, the fearless leader of the gaggle of cycling art enthusiasts, explained, this space is an important creative hub for digital art, featuring a gallery on the second floor and workshop on the first. Their latest exhibition, *Kunstkammer/Wunderkammer*, seeks to mimic a cabinet of curiosities, a European practice in which oddities and artifacts are collected and displayed. In this exhibit, however, antique oddities have been replaced with eclectic new media pieces — a banana plant which emits noise when petted, jellyfish-like constructions which gyrate when exposed to sound, a small canvas painting with moving gears — which are displayed in the dim lighting of the second floor. Several of the pieces demand engagement, assigning the viewer an active role. Sometimes you are required to do more than stare at art, tilt your head, step back and sigh. This exhibit was my favorite of the evening: visual enough to catch my attention, sin-

ister enough to make me ask, weird enough to keep me — like a shadowy playground.

Show and Tell Gallery is a quiet but modest space, currently showing two artists — Anthony Lister and Niall McClelland — in a whimsical double-feature exploring such ideas as punishment and reward systems and perpetuated adolescence, with a tongue-in-cheek sass all-too-often absent from recent contemporary art.

PM Gallery boasts the latest works of Keith W. Bentley's. The gallery owner and curator, a fan of Bentley's work, explained his somewhat macabre process — due to his unique fascination with Victorian 'hair art', Bentley is known for working extensively with hair as a creative material. This latest collection is a series of pieces constructed from found art and horse hair. The pieces aim to immortalize bodies which have since passed, embracing the morbid and calling attention to the unnatural. I found the pieces affected me exactly

in the ways the owner had warned: I was simultaneously attracted and repulsed. The black hair against the white walls was visually striking. The idea that these once living creatures had been replaced and used like our earlier 'readymades' is conceptually haunting. Looking at one piece, I turned to a viewer on my right and remarked it gave me the creeps — "you know, kind of like when you pull that gross clump of hair from the shower drain?". But then I realized he was bald, and couldn't relate.

The evening ended at a quiet bar, locking up our velocipedes and heading for the patio. The group who sat before me, from all walks of life, were incredibly down to earth, affable, keen to listen and eager to tell stories. Nothing breaks the ice between people like hair art.

Art Spin is a monthly art crawl on bicycles. It happens on the last Thursday of the month, and will run until September. Art Spin is a free event, and open to anyone regardless of cycling ability.

Dolph Lundgren, the Great God Kratos

*Lover, fighter, God. Punisher, Drago, Expendable. Pecs, biceps, packages.
Yes, the Varsity sits down with the legend.*

Will Sloan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Dolph Lundgren and Brandon Lee are hiding in a house, surrounded by enemies, trying to think of a plan, in the 1991 film *Showdown in Little Tokyo*. "We're in trouble here, champ," says Lee. "There're more bad guys here than we have bullets."

Lundgren, shirtless in skintight shorts, hands Lee some ammunition. Lee watches Lundgren stride across the room, then cocks his gun. "Just in case we get killed," says Lee, "I wanted to tell you..."

Lundgren looks up from stuffing weapons in his belt.

"You have the biggest dick I've ever seen on a man."

Lundgren pauses, and smiles slightly. "Thanks. I don't know what to say."

Lee grasps his gun. "How 'bout, 'Don't get killed?'"

Lundgren picks up two swords and holds them in both hands. We see him from a frontal view. His abs are deep; his pecs are round and hard. "Don't get killed."

Nineteen years later, I am shaking hands with the owner of said dick, at a roundtable interview where he is promoting Sylvester Stallone's new action film *The Expendables*. Forbiddingly tall, with a huge chest and a face carved out of marble, Dolph Lundgren is one of the few action stars who looks even bigger in person. He is also one of the few members of the Expendables who doesn't appear surgically mutilated. At 52, he suggests a pumped-up late period Robert Redford, but with a heavily-lined face and bleach-white hair recalling Klaus Kinski.

"Let me ask about keeping your musculature," says a reporter. "How much do you work out on a daily basis?"

"Well, it depends. If I fly to Canada at 1 and get up at 5:30 to go and do a talk show, then I don't get time to work out that much, but I do about four or five times a week. I try to do martial arts twice a week, and I try to do weights twice a week, that's kind of my basic. And then I'll add another day of martial arts or I'll add a day of cardio or I'll do some more weights..."

His partially unbuttoned shirt shows a smooth, tanned chest. His shirt clings to his torso as if about to burst. I can see his nipples.

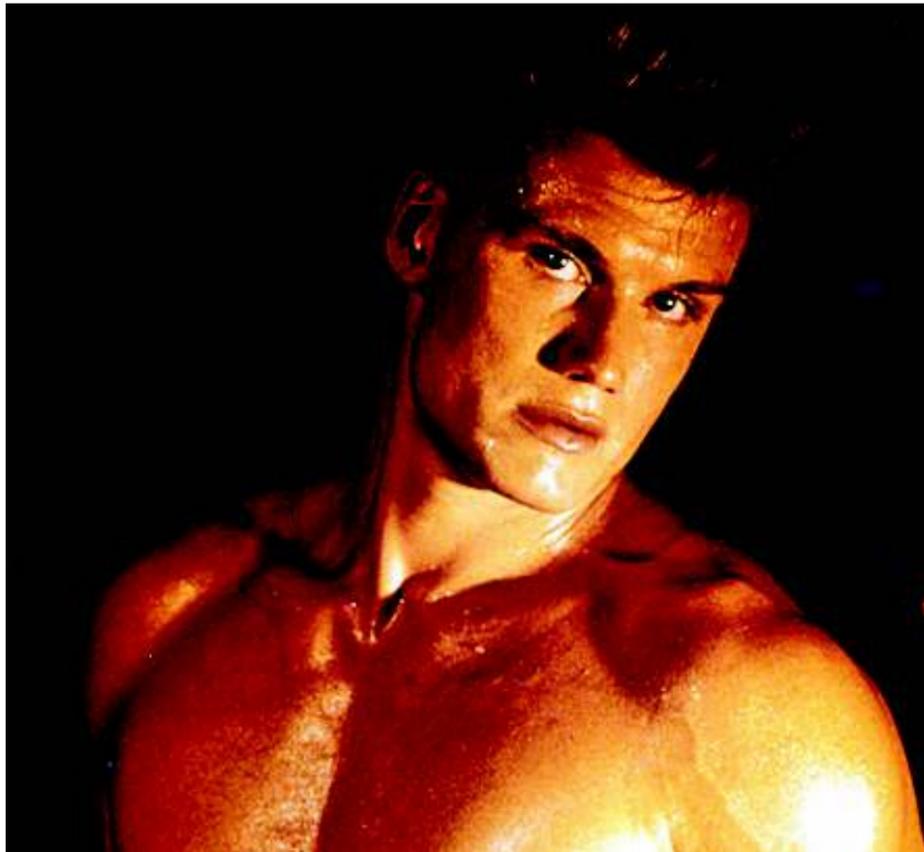
* * *

"He's starred in more action movies than almost anybody else, maybe except Clint Eastwood, so he knows a lot," says Lundgren of his *Expendables* director, Sylvester Stallone. "It could be something simple like, for instance, 'Dolph, just use your charm in this scene. You don't have to act. Leave that to De Niro or whatever. Just be charming.' He has very simple, effective things that he can do as an actor. Y'know, you don't have to go into, well, 'What's your backstory? What's your [character's] childhood?'"

Lundgren earned immortality as Ivan Drago, the steroid-pumped Russian Communist in *Rocky IV* (1985), another Stallone-directed film. To create the perfect fighter, Drago's Soviet handlers worked him day and night, draining him of all humanity. He was a walking vessel, a guinea pig for drugs and exercise, showing no remorse even when killing Apollo Creed in the ring. "If he dies... he dies."

In the training montage, Drago reached his physical peak. While Rocky chopped wood and climbed snowy hills in isolated, backwoods Russia, Drago let his sinister Soviet handlers use punishing scientific experiments to enhance his perfect body. Drago in a little red jumper, his pecs cleaving as he strains to lift a weight... Drago's ass cheeks, firm and stationary as his legs worked the exercise machines... Drago's shoulder glistening as it takes a steroid shot... these were the images that made Lundgren a star.

When Rocky and Drago finally met in the ring, the light refracted from both their sweaty, creviced bodies, but it was the blonde, fair-skinned Drago who appeared to glow. Drago was a "su-



per athlete," said his handlers. They might have added, "And a super man."

* * *

"Yeah, there is a bit of healthy competition," says Lundgren of the *Expendables* cast — a tough-guy rogues gallery including Jason Statham, Jet Li, Mickey Rourke, Terry Crews, and, briefly, Arnold Schwarzenegger. "You're next to other guys who have their own movies, or may be bigger than you, or better actors, or bigger, with bigger arms, or have more money, or they run the state, whatever it is. But, y'know, everybody has some shortcomings, and I think in that company everybody gets to be a bit of an underdog and feel some of their own inadequacies, and I think that's a good thing. Everybody feels they're part of a team." But Lundgren is not homogenous with other men. Even among the Expendables he looks superhuman, towering over Stallone and Statham, and beating even Li in a martial arts battle. He is more than just a man.



Nowhere is the Man v. Lundgren dichotomy greater than *Masters of the Universe* (1987), Cannon Films' *Conan/Star Wars* mashup, starring Lundgren as 'He-Man,' great warrior from the planet Eternia. Transported to 1987 Middle America, this titanic swordsman in shoulder pads and a leather speedo was surrounded by donut-eating cops and stringy-haired teens and young, rail-thin Courtney Coxes.

In *Masters of the Universe*, He-Man fights the villainous Skeletor (Frank Langella) for the Cosmic Key, which stands to make its possessor the all-powerful ruler of the universe. "KNEEL BEFORE YOUR MASTER!" says Skeletor to He-Man. "You are no longer my EQUAL! I am more than man! MORE THAN LIFE! I... AM... A... GOD!" But Skeletor receives his comeuppance, and by the end it is He-Man — the true Master of the Universe — who wields the key. Light emanates from his body, and his mighty voice can be heard across the galaxy. He has completed the transition from Man to God.

"I... HAVE... THE POWER!"

* * *

"Any actor will tell you that to play yourself is the hardest thing, because you never think you're enough," says Lundgren of the demands of playing both a complicated character and, well, 'Dolph,' the action icon. "In this case it's difficult for me because Gunner is this crazy guy who has a lot of problems, he's very flawed, he's a bit nuts — more so than I am, I think. But at the same time you want a little bit of charm to come through so that he's likable on some level, so it's that kind of balancing act."

In film after film, Lundgren faces the paradox of embodying both god and man, and in *The Punisher* (1989) we see the most unvarnished glimpse at the dark side of his persona. He is Frank Castle, a cop turned vigilante after the mob killed his family, now responsible for the deaths of 125 gangsters. He kills everyone in his path; the police are helpless to stop his wrath. A god in exile, we join him in his hideout in the city sewers, where he meditates, his sweaty, naked body dripping mud and soot. His inner monologue is despairing.

"I still talk to God sometimes. I ask him if what I'm doing is right or wrong. I'm still waiting for an answer. And until I get one, I'll be out here. And until I get one, I'll be out here. Waiting. Watching. The guilty will be punished."

In *The Expendables*, Lundgren plays the group's most unstable member, a weak-willed addict, easily manipulated by the enemy into becoming just another faceless henchman. He is the latest in a long line of Lundgren gods who fall from grace.

"You're often vanquished in films," says a reporter. "I'm thinking it takes a big man to take that over and over."

"Yes," Lundgren smiles. "What I thought was cool about the character [in *The Expendables*] is the fact that there's actually something happening to him. He doesn't just walk around with a gun and shoot people, he actually has a bit of a dilemma, and he's a flawed character, which obviously is much more interesting to play because you have something to do, something to think about when you're sitting in your trailer."

"When I see that you and Stallone and all those action guys are in a movie together," I say, "I come in with certain preconceived notions. Do you ever feel hindered or restricted by expectations? Do you look for ways to subvert them?"

"Yeah, well, it's a great genre to be in, action movies will always exist, they'll go on forever, and you have a huge audience, especially overseas where the audiences are, I think, more loyal... But obviously, yeah, you try to stretch and do things you haven't done before. As an actor, this role, even though he is the guy who blows people away, I thought, 'Yeah, look, I get to have some flaws, and play a guy who's a bit pained,' and I thought that was good. Y'know, it's enough for people to maybe take notice and see something they haven't seen before."

* * *

In 2009's *Universal Soldier: Regeneration*, Lundgren re-visited one of his most famous roles: Andrew Scott, A/K/A 'DR13,' deceased Vietnam vet turned re-animated killing machine. Dormant since 1992's *Universal Soldier*, Andrew is reactivated to fight and destroy Luc Deveraux (Jean-Claude Van Damme), his part-man, part-machine enemy from the first film who had gone into hiding to rediscover his humanity. Andrew Scott feels no such compulsion.

Lundgren continues to work prolifically, particularly in the direct-to-DVD realm, but has never quite cracked the action A-list, perhaps because his characters lack the self-effacing humour of Sly or Arnie. We can imagine having a drink with Rocky Balboa, but Drago the fallen god seems too mythic for such mortal trifles. In many ways, Andrew Scott is the ultimate Lundgren creation: Beefy as He-Man, tragic as Gunner, emptier than Drago, with more brute force than the Punisher, and with as big a dick as the *Showdown in Little Tokyo* guy (presumably), he is Lundgren in excelsis.

Meditations in a humanitarian emergency

Features Editor *Sean MacKay* asks: how does one of *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People stay so modest?



EACH YEAR SINCE 1999, America's iconic *Time Magazine* has compiled a list of 100 people its staff deems to be the most influential in the world.

When giving the 2010 edition a cursory glance it's easy to be distracted by the big names: Obama, Clinton, and Winfrey are all there, and have consistently made the cut multiple times in the past decade.

2010's edition also includes the popular (Lady GaGa), the newly unpopular (General Stanley McChrystal) and the populist (Sarah Palin, Glenn Beck). The inclusion of these celebrities, powerful media figures, and influential statesmen is essential to the integrity of the list as their images are ingrained in the collective consciousness of the United States and in some cases, the entire world.

Once you examine the list more thoroughly, you'll encounter some names that are unfamiliar. You may ask how important and influential they can be if they're not household names like Barack Obama or Sarah Palin.

One does not need to be a public figure to wield an enormous amount of influence. After reading more about these relative unknowns, you will understand exactly why they are on this list. No matter what their field, discipline, or profession may be, their impact is tremendous.

What is most interesting about this year's list is the inclusion of a relatively unknown Canadian. What piqued my interest even further is that he is from Toronto, and the organization which he founded in 1998, and has led ever since, deploys to disaster zones around the world.

Rahul Singh, along with a team of volunteers, operates GlobalMedic, a humanitarian aid organization that specializes in providing relief to victims of natural disasters, out of their headquarters in Etobicoke.

Getting in contact with Singh was the simple part. Finding a suitable time in his packed schedule to conduct an interview was significantly harder.

Luckily, I was able to have a brief conversation with him over the phone as he was racing from one meeting to another; a typically busy day for one of the world's most influential people.

Singh begins by shedding light on how the idea for the organization was born. His best friend, David McAntony Gibson passed away in February 1998 and Singh felt like creating an aid organization would be the most appropriate tribute to his friend's life.

"I talked to David's family and told them I wanted to set up this foundation in his honour to help people in Third World countries by delivering emergency medical services which they would otherwise not have access to," he explains.

GlobalMedic's official name is the David McAntony Gibson Foundation.

As their website bio states and Singh reiterates, the foundation's goal is to be an efficient aid agency that delivers the maximum amount of aid with a minimum operating cost.

Through large donations, positive coverage in the media, and Singh's own dedication, he has been able to assemble a team of highly skilled and dedicated volunteers which has led to GlobalMedic's exponential growth since its founding.

Over the past 12 years, GlobalMedic has deployed in 36 countries spanning four continents. They've provided emergency relief to victims of floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, and military conflicts.

When responding to natural disasters they're equipped with water purification systems, in-

flatable field hospitals, and K-9 units which are all manned by a highly experienced and skilled group of volunteers.

GlobalMedic was responsible for providing safe drinking water to hundreds of thousands of Haitians. It was this mission in Haiti, following the January earthquake, that gained Singh the recognition in *Time Magazine*.

Though obviously elated when he heard about his placement on the list, Singh is modest about the achievement and quickly reminds me that the honour belongs to all GlobalMedic's volunteers.

Since its founding, GlobalMedic has expanded its vision and now operates capacity building programs in multiple developing countries. These programs have included water sanitation projects in Cambodia and Gaza (the latter of which is ongoing) and emergency medical training in more than 10 nations.

"We really want to permanently improve conditions in these countries through these capacity building programs," says Singh.

Singh's organization is not as inclusive as other non-profit aid agencies. Volunteering with GlobalMedic is not as easy as becoming involved with Habitat for Humanity.

"Prior experience as a paramedic is a must before being deployed with us. New recruits also must complete training sessions that deal specifically with providing relief in disaster zones," he says.

A standard training day consists of three one-and-a-half hour sessions. Each session is further broken down into three stations which encompass disaster-zone safety and instructions on how to properly use equipment like their inflatable hospitals and water purification pumps.

New recruits are not the only ones showing up to the training sessions. GlobalMedic volunteers also attend to hone their skills or get a refresher prior to a deployment.

His organization operates in far-flung regions of the world, and Singh regularly travels to developing nations and disaster zones where GlobalMedic is needed. Through all this he maintains his job as a full-time paramedic.

It is completely ordinary for him to work 12 hour days, five days a week. Perhaps this is why he sounds so modest when he speaks of his humanitarian work. He travels to some of the world's most dangerous places to save lives, yet at the end of a mission he still returns to Etobicoke to work full-time.

Despite his incredibly busy schedule, Singh is jovial and good-natured throughout our conversation. While he is explaining the history of GlobalMedic his phone cuts out for at least five minutes. To my surprise, when I finally get him back on the line he's incredibly apologetic.

"Sorry buddy, I'm in the middle of nowhere and the reception is terrible," he laughs.

"Let me start from the beginning," and without skipping a beat, he delves back into the organization's history.

While speaking to Singh over the phone it is apparent that his confident personality and exuberant yet modest attitude toward his work surely help his team when they encounter circumstances as dire as the situation in Haiti following the earthquake.

Although Singh currently has no plans to expand GlobalMedic's base of operations, the organization will continue to recruit, solicit donations, and deploy to disaster zones whenever they are needed. But wherever they go, the world will be watching and hoping they succeed.



Photos via Heather McCarten/GlobalMedic

New findings released on the genetic basis of autism

Results from Phase 2 of the Autism Genome Project are a huge step toward developing targeted genetic treatment for autism spectrum disorders

Danielle Robinson
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

A team of scientists from The Autism Genome Project Consortium have identified significant changes in the DNA of individuals with autism. Composed of over 175 Canadian and international scientists, the Consortium has been conducting an ongoing study of the genes in autistic individuals since 2000, and after 10 years of research into the second phase of their experiment, they have made considerable developments in the understanding and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The study is the largest of its kind to address ASDs, and was conducted using 1,500 North American and European families with at least one autistic child, as well as a large group of control individuals who did not possess autism-related genes. It was led by Prof. Stephen Scherer, corresponding author of the study, director of the McLaughlin Centre at U of T, and senior scientist and director of the Centre for Applied Genomics at SickKids, along with Dr. Peter Szatmari, co-principal investigator, director for the Oxford Centre for Child Studies, and professor at McMaster University. Dr. Dalila Pinto, a post-doctoral research fellow at SickKids, was the lead author of the study.

ASDs constitute a group of developmental conditions characterized by communication difficulties and challenges in social interaction and understanding. One in 110 individuals is diagnosed with an ASD, and it is four times more common in males than females. Currently there are no drugs to treat autism, but the developments



made by the Autism Genome Project Consortium have made it possible to detect some of the genes involved with autism early on, thereby allowing individuals with ASDs to receive treatment and intervention.

Researchers in the study used the highest possible resolution microarrays — also called gene chips — to scan the genomes of the study participants. The microarrays contain DNA probes (short fragments of DNA used to detect a specific sequence of bases in the target DNA) from across the human genome, and can scan a million different reference points across the gene. Scherer

notes that it was a lengthy process that required much time.

By conducting studies on twins with identical genomes, Scherer and his team were able to confirm the finding that autism is genetic. In particular, they confirmed that one particular genetic variation, called a copy number variation is involved in autism. CNVs occur when an individual has one or three copies of a gene, instead of having the regular two copies that are held by the majority of the population.

The researchers found that one subset of individuals with autism had more CNVs than the control group of

people without the disorder. In some cases, the genes were inherited, but in others there were new changes that were specific to autistic individuals. These new changes were found in about six percent of the individuals with autism.

Researchers were also able to identify many of the genes connected with autism that were previously unknown before the study was conducted. The study showed that there were CNVs hitting hundreds of genes that are known to be involved in the development of the brain. The researchers then took all the genes affected by CNVs and created a cellular network

map. In doing so, they found that the genes affected were involved with proteins that all interact and communicate with one other, and which were all associated with brain development.

These findings are important because knowing many of the genes involved in autism — particularly the four rare genes mentioned in the article by Scherer and his team published in the June 9 edition of Nature Magazine — means that autism can be detected early if an individual is found to possess one of these genes.

In relation to the developments in the treatment and study of autism, researchers have also made progress in the treatment for Fragile X syndrome, an intellectual disability involving 30% of the symptoms associated with autism. In finding the gene that causes Fragile X syndrome, scientists have developed animal models of the gene on which they can test drugs.

Phase 3 of the Autism Genome Project will involve developing drugs to treat the autistic genes, as researchers have already done for Fragile X syndrome. As Scherer stated, "Being able to string together genes and proteins that encode into the same functional pathway gives more possible entryways into the pathways," thus allowing scientists to have more targets and allowing them to modulate the entryways.

The project has made great leaps in the study and understanding of ASDs. As Scherer stated, concerning the recent developments of the project: "[We can now] really design, in a rational way, therapeutics as opposed to just stabbing in the dark as we were all along."

From bench to bedside

U of T researchers discover correlation between protein marker Ep-ICD and the severity of thyroid cancer



Dr. Paul G. Walfish.

Omar Saeed
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

"Translational research, from bench to bedside," is how Dr. Paul G. Walfish describes recent work conducted in his lab, which has led to the discovery of an intracellular biomarker and its use in identifying aggressive thyroid cancer.

Walfish, an emeritus professor at U of T's Faculty of Medicine and researcher at Mt. Sinai Hospital, is the senior author of the study published this June in the journal *BMC Cancer*. His research team included U of T and Mt. Sinai affiliated scientists Dr. Ranju Ralhan, Jun Cao, Terence Lim, Dr. Christina MacMillan, and Dr. Jeremy L. Freeman.

The research is clinically applicable, with results that may be seen in the short term and has the potential to assist medical practitioners in predicting patient survival outcomes and improving the diagnosis of thyroid cancers.

Thyroid cancers are a disorder of the thyroid gland, a small but important endocrine gland located just below the adam's apple in humans. The thyroid releases hormones involved in maintaining heart rate, body temperature, and metabolism. While the rates

of thyroid cancers were previously underestimated, they are now known to be more prevalent than the medical community initially believed, thanks to new techniques used to identify them. Thyroid cancers tend to occur more frequently in women, and their cause is similar to that of any cancer: cells mutate and become cancerous when they lose their ability to regulate and control division.

Walfish's research team looked at archived thyroid cancer tissue samples from patients and found that in cases of aggressive thyroid cancer, increased levels of the biomarker Ep-ICD were found in the nucleus and cytoplasm of thyroid cells. In cases of low-grade papillary thyroid cancers — a less severe class of thyroid cancers associated with a much more positive prognosis — Ep-ICD levels were virtually undetectable. According to the published article, Ep-ICD levels in the nucleus of thyroid cells "may serve as a useful biomarker for aggressive thyroid cancer and may represent a novel diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic target."

Ep-ICD is formed from a precursor protein in the cell membrane called Ep-CAM, which eventually gets cleaved and relocates to the nucleus of the cell

to form Ep-ICD. Although this pathway is well understood, the reasons for the association between elevated Ep-ICD and aggressive thyroid cancers are unclear and potentially the subject of future research. For Walfish's team, future areas of study will involve defining the degrees of aggressiveness of thyroid cancer, including how closely Ep-ICD levels can match gradients of thyroid cancer severity.

Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the study is just how "striking the correlation is between life expectancy and chemical marker levels," Walfish remarks. The correlation between nuclear Ep-ICD levels and the reduction in overall survival time in thyroid cancer patients was astonishingly strong. Over 10 years of average survival time separated the high and low Ep-ICD patient categories.

Correlating the levels of certain biomarkers to the severity of a cancer is a concept that can be applied not only to thyroid cancers but potentially to every cancer. Walfish's team is indeed "in the process of investigating whether similar mechanisms occur in other epithelial cancers," hoping to find results as compelling as those from this study.

Keep it personal

Storing DNA records without consent raises privacy concerns in B.C.

Phoebe Uguy
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

While collecting blood samples from newborns is a standard routine in hospitals, most parents would likely be worried to discover that the hospitals were retaining these DNA samples for purposes other than genetic screening.

A blood sample from a small prick on the foot of a newborn allows the hospital to test for health problems and diseases before the baby is discharged. Privacy concerns arise, however, when the genetic material of an infant available in these blood samples is being used for other purposes, such as medical research, without the consent of parents.

In British Columbia, the Civil Liberties Association is currently supporting a class action lawsuit against the province for storing up to 800,000 DNA records without consent. Complaints were received from Vancouver parents who were concerned that this act was a breach of privacy as they were not informed of how these samples would be used for anything except genetic screening of their child. These records, known as blood spot cards, include the infant's name and date of birth, and are stored at a private facility operated by Iron Mountain and occasionally made available to medical researchers. Eleven years of samples collected from infants in B.C. and the Yukon are currently on file, and there is no policy concerning how long these records will be stored or if they will ever be destroyed.



David Eby, executive director of the BCCLA, explains that the main point of concern is not the fact that these tests are being conducted, but rather it's "what happens after the test." Parents are not told that the samples will be used for anything other than health-related screening, but once in storage, the records can become available to law enforcement and government, as well as researchers.

"[Parents] had no idea that these things were going to happen. In fact, they were told the opposite

on the information they received about the test from the hospital."

Some argue that there are positive benefits to conducting scientific research on DNA samples on a blind basis. However, serious questions remain concerning the legality of taking private information and using it without consent, especially outside of research.

A new law supporting the dissemination of such information has the potential to aggravate the debate further. The new provisions to Bill 11 from the recent 2010 B.C. Legis-

lative Assembly will allow the Minister of Health to access personal information, such as DNA records, and share it across provincial government departments, including law enforcement agencies, without notice or consent from affected individuals. Privacy advocates are certainly wary of the dangers of these new provisions, and the BCCLA states that the current records, stored in addition to those that will emerge with the new law, could create the largest DNA database in Canada.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) registries, or DNA databases, are often employed as "forensics tools," designed to identify criminal suspects or missing persons and crack cold cases. Though extremely useful, mtDNA registries are only as valuable as their sample size.

Vancouver parents were not the first to take action against such cases, and similar battles are currently taking place both in Minnesota and Ireland.

In Texas, state officials were sued last year for storing and using infant blood samples without parental consent. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported that these DNA records were used for a variety of medical projects investigating birth defects, childhood cancer, and environmental toxin exposure. The department was also revealed to have transferred hundreds of these blood spot cards to an Armed Forces lab to help build a DNA database, as another research project. Whether it was intentional or not, the developments of the latter project were certainly underreported. Following the conclusion of the lawsuit in December 2009, the department agreed to destroy the more than five million infant blood spot records being kept in storage.

The BCCLA has advised concerned parents to wait for a resolution to the class action, or to request that their children's records be returned to them. As of July 2010, there are no current significant developments on the BCCLA lawsuit in Vancouver although Eby states that the litigation is underway.

Original squid

U of T researchers uncover 500-million-year old squid ancestor

Jordan Rivera
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

Researchers at the University of Toronto have finally classified a 500 million year old squid-like carnivore known as *Nectocaris pteryx*, a discovery three decades in the making.

PhD student Martin Smith and curator Jean-Bernard Caron of U of T's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Department of Natural History at the ROM made the discovery, which was recently published in *Nature*. Smith explains, "We think that this extremely rare creature is an early ancestor of squids, octopuses, and other cephalopods."

The discovery was made possible by fossils collected by the ROM from the famous Burgess Shale site in the UNESCO World Heritage Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks in British Columbia over the past 30 years. Previously, all knowledge of *Nectocaris* came from a lone specimen described in 1976, whose ambiguous characteristics made *Nectocaris* impossible to classify until now.



The study reveals that *Nectocaris* is similar to known members of the modern cephalopod group, which includes squid, octopus, cuttlefish, and nautilus, as well as common fossils such as the now-extinct ammonites and belemnites.

"This is significant because it means that primitive cephalopods were around much earlier than we thought, and offers a reinterpretation of the long-held origins of this important group of marine animals," says Smith. "We know very little about the relationships between the major groups of mollusks, and the early history of the group. Fossils like *Nectocaris* help us map out how the groups alive today might be related, and how they evolved. This tells us something about how biodiversity originated in the past, and helps us to understand the rich tapestry of life today."

The study required examining nearly 100 fossils to reconstruct and visualize three-dimensionally the prehistoric *Nectocaris*, a procedure involving technical drawings and mapping out the contrasting dark and light features of the fossils.

The specimens collected from the Burgess Shale site reveal that *Nectocaris* was kite-shaped and flattened from top to bot-

tom, with large stalked eyes and a long pair of grasping tentacles, which the researchers believe helped it hunt for and consume prey. The creature probably swam using its larger lateral fins and its nozzle-like funnel to accelerate by jet propulsion.

The findings mean that cephalopods originated 30 million years earlier than previously thought, much closer to the first appearance of complex animals in the Cambrian explosion, which Smith explains as "an explosion of biodiversity in living organisms about 500 million years ago."

This is of particular significance since it was previously thought that cephalopods evolved in the Late Cambrian period, when gradual modifications to the shells of creeping, snail-like animals made them able to float. The classification of *Nectocaris* reveals that the first cephalopods actually started swimming without the aid of gas-filled shells, and that shells evolved much later, most likely in response to increased levels of competition and predation in the Late Cambrian period.

"We go from simple pre-Cambrian life-forms to something as complex as a cephalopod in the geological blink of an eye, which illustrates just how quickly evolution can produce complexity."

Smith, who studied chemistry at Cambridge and whose work now focuses on convergent evolution agrees there are still surprises to be found in the fossil record. "Fossils can only ever tell us a part of the story. Exceptional soft-bodied fossils like *Nectocaris*, combined with advances in developmental and molecular biology, still have a lot to bring to the table, and I'm sure that they will continue to help us refine and replace our current hypotheses."

For love and the game

Angela Domingo
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

University of Toronto alumni Juha and Johanna Mikkola (nee Kytola) have just returned to Toronto from their wedding and honeymoon when they join me for an early morning coffee. "Mr. And Mrs. Floorball" tell me a bit about the sport, and how they first brought one of Europe's most popular games to Canada, where it has since spread like wildfire inspiring a number of regular leagues in North America, the Canada Cup Floorball Championship, and even recognition as an official Summer Olympic event.

Floorball is a fast-paced and exciting type of indoor hockey that is wildly popular in Europe and is played by millions of people in more than 50 countries around the world.

Growing up in Finland, where the game is played by just about everyone, Juha and Johanna developed an early love for it, and for each other.

"Juha and I met through mutual friends when we were in high school in Helsinki. I remember being sixteen years old and going to watch Juha play in these intense floorball matches," recalls Johanna.

Juha and Johanna attended two of only a handful of Finland's international schools. They found themselves part of a very small population of students that didn't already have floorball integrated into their school program.

Juha credits his father for his first formal foray into the sport.

"My dad suggested that I try to put together a proper floorball club in school, especially so we could get gym space," he jokes, "Dad's first good idea."

Little did he know that he'd be doing a similar kind of promotion upon moving to Toronto not long afterwards.

Juha had already enjoyed a year at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles when he decided to follow Johanna to school in Toronto. Because of the obvious crossovers with hockey, the couple was expecting some sort of local floorball following and were surprised at what they didn't find.

"We were shocked that no one really played floorball here, especially given how huge hockey is. There wasn't even one floorball club in the whole province of Ontario."

Knowing that he wasn't about to leave the sport behind, it came down to a decision between getting into a new game - ice hockey - or teaching people to play the game he was already so familiar with. The choice wasn't too difficult.

"I hate learning new things."

It didn't take long for them to discover that despite hockey's popular following, many people downtown didn't actually play the sport.

"Let's say you've just moved here and you're 20 years old and you've never played hockey. With everyone else hav-



Newlyweds Juha and Johanna Mikkola are responsible for bringing one of Europe's most popular sports to Canada.

ing years of experience on you, there's no way to get into it.

"With floorball, you really could just grab a stick and head to a gym to play. The potential was there," explains Juha.

They first introduced floorball to a few friends at a softball game. Juha happened to have a few sticks in his bag, and they just passed the ball around the field.

Their friends took to it quickly.

"The softball team start was really funny," Johanna recalls, "But the only gym time we could get at the Athletic Centre was Saturday around 9:00 am. It was really early, but turned out to be fun. Especially when people were still hung over from Friday nights."

The friends took what gym time was available to them, and did whatever they could to get games going.

"We all chipped in to pay for gym space. And just to demonstrate the lack of funds at the time, we used to take the plastic bibs from McDonald's and wear them in place of real pinnies to mark off the teams," explains Johanna, "We still laugh about those days."

They presented the game to the student council who recognized it and they received recognition from the university soon after.

The student council helped with funding for some basic equipment, and during club days Juha and Johanna would set up a booth and play floorball videos that they put together to encourage more people to take part.

"What I was really very active in - and people still joke about this - was e-mailing everyone," laughs Juha, "I wouldn't leave them alone until they got back to me saying either that they were interested or they weren't. I still have those lists. A lot of those people still play today."

It was at the University of Toronto where Juha and Johanna set down roots for the game in Canada, but by the time they had both completed their studies - his in Commerce, hers in Economics and Political Science - they found it increasingly difficult to keep floorball going on campus.

To branch out from the University level, the pair then organized and co-chaired the Canada Cup Floorball Championship.

"That called for participation from different areas. People got to hear about it and there was a bit of media buzz. We had some local supporters and sponsors, and really got the word out. The game is fun, and accessible, and really translates to hockey skills, so those three elements continue to draw in a wide demographic of people who, happily, keep coming back," Johanna says of the tournament's debut.

The annual event which was born in 2004 with six participating teams recently had its seventh anniversary. The tournament has since expanded to an impressive 57 teams and 800 players from around the globe.

In addition to establishing a regular floorball league and the Canada Cup, another product of the couple's passion for the sport is the floorball equipment import and sales company they started together, FloorballPro Inc.

Juha is quick to give credit to his wife.

"As floorball gets bigger, especially with the Canada Cup where we deal with so many people and volunteers, coordination and a really good team is so important. Jo is amazing at dealing with people."

Johanna is just as quick to return the praise.

"I might be inspiring to our team,

but the inspiration for the sport and how far it's come is definitely Juha. I think success has really come from his genuine, unselfish passion to grow the sport that we both love."

Having recently received official recognition by Olympic committee as a summer Olympic sport - the goal is to have floorball teams playing in 2020 - the Canadian floorball movement is on the rise and is only gaining momentum.

The Mikkola's see the next stage of development as working towards establishing a structure allowing for a league in every city in Ontario.

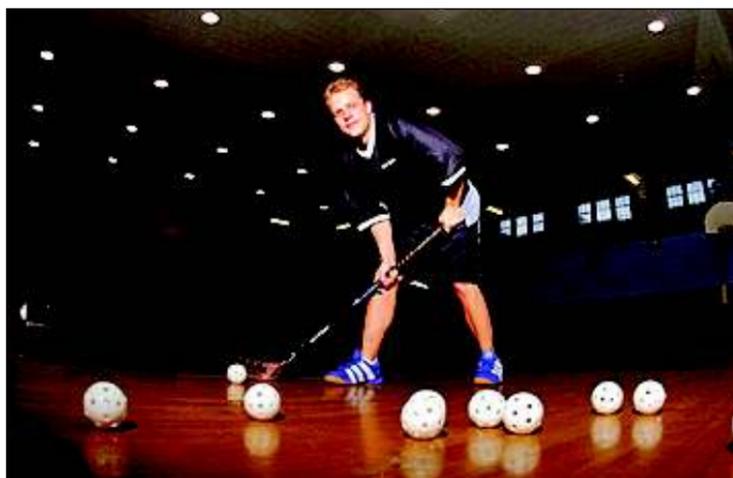
Aside from continuing to promote floorball to the youth as an excellent off-ice, dryland skills training for hockey, in recent years, Juha and Johanna have been putting a special effort into getting kids involved in the sport by introducing it to the school system.

A safer, more economical, yet equally fun alternative to indoor hockey, the majority of the 300 schools that Juha has held workshops in have since integrated it into their school system.

Far from resting on their laurels, the early success that the couple has had in growing floorball in Canada has only motivated them to work harder to get the game introduced to as wide an audience as possible.

Through all their progress, however, they haven't forgotten their alma mater.

"We would love to see floorball back at U of T again. We always say we have a soft spot for where we started it all. If there is an interest, we'd be more than happy to do anything we could to help keep it going, even just as a club," says Juha.



As a U of T student, Juha organized early morning floorball practices in the Athletic Centre. VARSITY ARCHIVES

Hangin' with the head honcho

The Varsity's BERNARDA GOSPIC sat down with U of T's Director of Intercollegiate and High Performance Sport to get the low-down on what the Varsity Blues will be up to this year

After a two year stint at the University of Waterloo and a gap year at Ryerson, Beth Ali has returned to her home of seventeen years at the University of Toronto. The seasoned veteran was Head Coach of the Field Hockey Program and Manager of the Community Service Program and Athletic Centre from 1990 until 2004. She then assumed the role of Manager of Intercollegiate Sport, a post which she held until her departure in 2007.

A Varsity Blue through and through, Mrs Ali is excited to be back and working as the new Director of Intercollegiate and High Performance Sport on her home turf.

The Varsity: As the new Director of Intercollegiate and High Performance Sport at the University of Toronto what exactly do you oversee?

Beth Ali: I look after the full Varsity Blues Program, which means all of the athletic programs here at the University including the CIS and the OUA. I also look after the High Performance Program, which was introduced three years ago in partnership with the Ministry of Health Promotion. We provide support services like sports medicine, training and facilities to high performance athletes here in the city.

TV: What do you hope to bring to both the school and the scoreboard this year?

BA: I'm stepping into a program that has a tradition of excellence and the Varsity Blues brand is huge not just in Toronto and Ontario, but across the country. So right now we're getting our athletes on the field, we're getting our coaches in place and we're making sure that we're ready to go for the season.

TV: Do you think that an outstanding performance by a team or athlete can



BETH ALI'S PREDICTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

FOOTBALL: We have a very good recruiting class for football this year and I think we'll see a bit of a move there.

MEN'S SOCCER: We're hosting the National Championships for Men's Soccer this year. They came fourth in the nation last year, although they were ranked number one going into the tournament. They learned some good lessons and they'll be playing on their home field so I think there could be a lot of excitement around that championship.

WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY: Women's Field Hockey is always a perennial favourite, so we'll see how they do.

WOMEN'S VOLLEY BALL: Last year our Women's Volleyball team made it to the National Championship and weren't necessarily expected to. They are obviously a good group of athletes and since they've had a taste of it I would imagine that they would want to get back there again.

boost the morale not just for the athletes themselves but the entire school?

BA: I definitely do! People jump onto the bandwagon around a team that starts to do really well because they want to feel a part of it. They want to be engaged. We have to engage our student body around intercollegiate athletics and Varsity sport and my view is that when you come to U of T, you become a Varsity Blue. Whether you're an athlete, a coach, a spectator, a fan, a student, everyone is a Varsity Blue.

TV: That being said, where do you think that U of T teams will place in the OUA and the CIS this year?

BA: I would say that U of T always wins a certain number of championships and I think that that will happen again. We have excellent student athletes here, we have very strong coaches and we have good programs. We are always in the hunt for not only playoff contention, but winning the banners. I can't tell you how many we're going to win, but I think we're going to be in the hunt for a number of them, I'm sure.

TV: Recently, Simon Fraser University in BC became the first Canadian school to enter the NCAA and compete in their Division II. Do you think this is a direction a lot of Canadian universities will begin to take?

BA: Most of the schools in the CIS are committed to the CIS. We all see that there are things that can be done better and everyone is working hard to make it better. The CIS board is very unique and we are very much about student athletes and the importance of academics around the experience of the student athletes. I will expect that we will push forward to make our brand better, not to look to somewhere else to find that.

U of T to host three CIS women's championships in three years

Elisabeth Laratta
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Toronto will host three women's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships within the next five years.

The CIS announced that the Varsity Blues have won bids to host the 2012-13 women's hockey, 2013-14 women's soccer, and 2014-15 women's volleyball national championships.

Women's volleyball head coach, Kristine Drakich, is excited to have landed a CIS championship on home turf.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring the Championships to our campus. It's a chance to showcase the best CIS women's volleyball right here at U of T and to compete for a National Championships at home."

Although Drakich believes that U of T excels in supporting high performance sports, she thinks that hosting the championships will further improve athletics at U of T.

"The fact that U of T will be hosting so many championships in the next few years, and has hosted so many in the past, demonstrates that U of T is a school that supports high performance sport. This is a great thing for recruitment of student-athletes in all sports. It shows them that U of T is a place where excellence in both academics and athletics are valued."

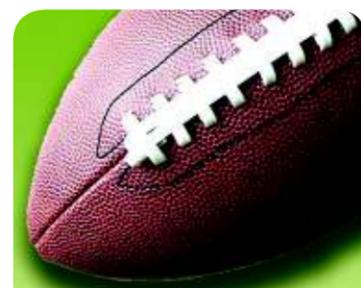
U of T's facilities stand out as some of the best places in Canada to compete in.

In 2006, the building of the state-of-the-art 5,000 seat Varsity Centre, which boasts an artificial turf field of the highest quality available, was completed. Plans are also in the works for the creation of the Goldring

Centre for High Performance Sport. It will be located on Devonshire Place and house a 2,000 seat basketball and volleyball court.

Drakich is very eager for her team, who are guaranteed to be in the championships as the hosts, to have the opportunity to compete for the championship in the new volleyball facilities.

"One thing that will be really exciting is to have the chance to compete for the National Championship in the new U of T Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport. This will really demonstrate University of Toronto's commitment to sporting excellence from the student-athletes, to the passionate supporters and to the excellent facilities."



Write for Sports

Contact:
recruitment@thevarsity.ca

Alex the Great

The Varsity's biggest baseball fanatic delves into the surprise success of the Toronto Blue Jays this season

Kevin Draper
VARSITY CONTRIBUTOR

The last four years for the Toronto Blue Jays' fans have closely resembled the last four decades for Maple Leafs fans – boom and bust cycles of optimism, some well-deserved, some the product of hometown blindness.

Ten months removed from the firing of long-time General Manager J.P. Ricciardi, the Jays are in the midst of yet another rebuilding effort under rookie GM Alex Anthopoulos.

Of course, many around the organization argue that this is more of "building" project than a "rebuilding" one.

The foundation is well in place and has exceeded all expectations this season, as a young cast of players have led the Jays to a record that hovers near five games over .500 so far, a shock to nearly every fan and analyst.

The Jays now boast an army of young starting pitchers that can keep the team in any game at the major league level, and two more high-ceiling prospects are poised to join the

staff in the coming years.

Kyle Drabek, acquired in the earth-shaking trade for Roy Halladay last December, is poised to play for the big league team next season after a successful career in the minor leagues. Zach Stewart remains in the minors, but he is surely not far from contributing in the major leagues.

They will join Shaun Marcum, Ricky Romero, Brett Cecil, Brandon Morrow, and Mark Rzepczynski in a very potent starting rotation.

The true shocker this year, however, has been the squad's power-driven offense. They lead the league by a comfortable margin in home runs, which, if predicted before the season, would have made the Jays' dismal odds of winning the World Series look impressive. Leading the charge has been Jose Bautista, a career backup utility player who is close to hitting 40 home runs.

Other players have emerged to contribute as well, including Vernon Wells, who was largely ineffective last year after signing a \$20 million a season mega contract.

Anthopoulos, who began his career in baseball answering fan mail for the Montreal Expos and slowly worked his way to the top of the Jays, has made a handful of shrewd trades that improved the team dramatically.

His swap of Brandon League, a dime-a-dozen relief pitcher and a minor leaguer, for Brandon Morrow now looks ingenious as Morrow thrives as a starter.

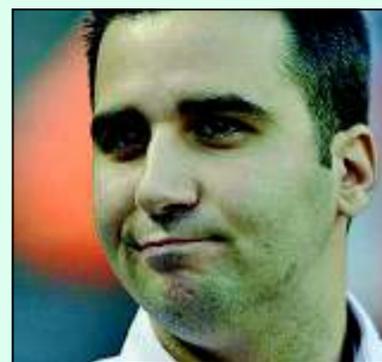
More recently, he traded career journeyman and intended one-year stop-gap shortstop Alex Gonzalez to Atlanta for Yunel Escobar, who was once regarded as one of league's elite players at his position before a weak start to this season lowered his trade value. Like Morrow, he has thrived as a Jay and the trade was brazen robbery in hindsight.

The argument has been made before, but with a bit of time for their young pitchers to mature and their jaw-dropping offense to further gel, Canada's only remaining Major League Baseball team could be in contention for the title well before Barack Obama runs for reelection.



PROFILE

Alex Anthopoulos is part of a new generation of baseball general managers who have never played the sport themselves but have a strong knowledge of refined statistical information. A McMaster Economics graduate, Anthopoulos truly did take the path less traveled to the top of the Jays. He began his career answering fan mail for the Montreal Expos, and gradually talked his way into writing scouting reports "just for fun."



Just for fun has now turned into the ultimate high-stakes game in trying to evaluate talent and get the Jays ahead in the league.

Overheard On Campus

Girl 1: "I've always wanted to take a bath in coffee."

Girl 2: "Like 'in' coffee?"

Girl 3: "I wonder if it would give me a tan if I sat there long enough ..."

Two guys walking near the gym:

Guy 1: I don't have my glasses, but is that Barry Green on the treadmill?

Guy 2: No, that guy looks pretty young.
(They both awkwardly stare at each other)

Guy 2: ... And that's not a treadmill.

Ethics Prof: When you listen to someone, it's much harder to kill them. That's probably what Avatar is about, but I haven't seen it.

Professor: [His explanation for the confrontation between *Thrasymachus*, a Greek celebrity, and the locally known *Socrates in The Republic*]

"... as if Michael Ignatieff were to walk into this classroom and have rings talked around him by an obscure eccentric - namely myself. Mr Ignatieff has been known to stay away. On his return to Canada he was offered a position as a professor at U of T. Had he chosen a position in our department he would have had to face me. He wimped out and chose to face Mr. Harper instead. Now, Mr. Ignatieff and I have met. We spent two days together. We got along fine. He knew his place."

-Isabel Bader Theatre

Share your own 'overheards' on the 'Overheard on Campus' Facebook group!



The Varsity: U of T's unofficial journalism school

The Varsity is always seeking fresh talent. Writers, photographers, illustrators, bloggers, copy editors, and people who don't know how they want to get involved—yet.

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EVENTS LISTINGS

FESTIVALS:

Arts at the Heart

This summer, Yonge and Dundas Square hosts Arts at the Heart, an open-air market of handcrafted multicultural items. Dying for a unique, handmade bracelet you won't see on anyone else? The market runs weekends until the end of October. Get your hands on some culturally-inspired items.

- Weekends until October 24th
- Yonge and Dundas Square

Buskerfest

Ontario's largest street performers' festival is not to be missed. Throughout the festival gutsy street performers boldly take their talent right into the audience, where spectator participation ensures that every set is just a little different. The festival features over 100 performers, including a choreographed fire show.

- August 23rd to August 29th
- St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood

Fresh Wednesdays

Nathan Phillips Square offers cheap eats and live music every Wednesday this summer. Audiences can eat lunch while taking in free concerts, including blues, jazz, world, country, rock, pop, roots and reggae music. The perfect place to hang out with friends or simply pig out. Follow it

up with a Tasty Thursday at NPS the next day.

- August 25th
- Nathan Phillips Square (100 Queen Street West)

Pedestrian Sundays in Kensington Market

Pedestrian Sundays in Kensington Market allows visitors on foot to enjoy the sights and sounds of the eclectic neighbourhood. This festival takes place on the last Sunday of every month until October. Musicians, artists and performers will also provide extra entertainments on the streets in the area.

- Last Sundays of the month until October 31st
- Kensington Market

Sound Travels Festival of Sound Art

New Adventures in Sound Art (NAISA) presents this unique summer festival of art exhibits, installations, performances and sculptures — all created with sound. The festival, now in its 12th year, invites people of all ages to experience the aesthetic capabilities of sound and music, with works created by inventive aural artists.

- On till September 25th
- Artscape Wychwood Barns (601 Christie Street)
- \$5-\$15

MOVIES:

Free Summer Screenings at Yonge and Dundas Square

Yonge and Dundas Square's tradition of free summer screenings has existed since the creation of our mock Times Square. This year's theme is Safecracker Cinema, focusing on heist films. It shows a selection of originals as well as their remakes. Be on the lookout for *The Bank Job* and *The Italian Job*.

- August 24th and August 31st (check website for times)
- Yonge and Dundas Square
- Free!

Open Roof Films

Each night catch a feature film, listen to live bands and sip some refreshments. Open Roof Films is a movie series that takes place in Toronto's outdoors. All the films are screened in the parking lot of Amsterdam Brewery with the entrance on Bathurst Street. Be sure to check it out before the last night, the 27th!

- Every night until August 27th
- Amsterdam Brewing Company Ltd. (21 Bathurst Street)
- \$15

Summer Movie Nights

In association with TIFF, the Entertainment District is offering free movie screenings every Wednesday night in Metro Square.

Admission is free, and keep a lookout for the special light shows the CN Tower puts on before each movie. Catch *Dragon Hunters* on August 25th or *Casablanca* on September 1st.

- August 25th and September 1st
- Metro Square (255 King Street West)
- Free!

THEATRE:

2010 Dream in High Park

Dora Award-winning director Vikki Anderson helms this production of Shakespeare's ever-romantic tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* in the great outdoors at the High Park amphitheatre. A great place to act like a drama snob who actually knows what half the actors are talking about when they wax poetic.

- On till September 5th, at 8pm (check website for dates)
- High Park (1873 Bloor Street West)
- Pay what you can

To have your U of T campus event listed in this space for FREE, just send the appropriate details to listings@thevarsity.ca