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LGBTQ spirit infuses Queer Orientation

Meet and greet and Village Tour events kick off OUT@UTM's two-week event

ALEXANDRA BALAJ

OUT@UTM, UTM's LGBTQ society, planned and hosted two events last week as the first of several Queer Orientation events. The first was Thursday night's meet and greet in the Green Room of the Student Centre.

"The whole point of Queer Orientation is to build and introduce the LGBTQ spirit into the school and integrate it so that froshies can all be aware of the amazing stuff we do," said David (Deb) Payumo, OUT's advertising and communications director. "It's an introductory event in preparation for all the events that are to come."

Megan Gallagher, a fifth-year UTM student and OUT member of five years, recalled her reasons for joining in her freshman year.

"For me, it was to meet gay friends. It's hard— you feel different and you want to meet more people that are like you. And when you have a bunch of people like you, you feel accepted."

The events are open to all students, not only first-years or LGBTQ students. "It's meant for all years and for allies as well; we're really inclusive of everybody," said Robert Paling, OUT's



ROBERT PALING/THE MEDIUM

OUT@UTM staged Queer Orientation this past week.

volunteer coordinator. "We want everybody to just have a great time and be accepting of everybody. Our main purpose is equity, to have a positive space."

Creating a positive space is the aim of OUT's new office, which will have

its grand opening on Wednesday, September 25. The office will offer peer-counselling from OUT volunteers and executives and access to resources and organizations in Mississauga and Toronto.

OUT@UTM members got an in-

formative and historical introduction to several such resources on Friday at OUT's "Village Tour" event.

The tour started at St. George's Sexual and Gender Diversity Office and went through Queen's Park, past Hart House, down Church and Wellesley

Streets, to dinner at O'Grady's Bar and Restaurant. Members of LGBTQ societies from both campuses bumped shoulders and passersby on the downtown sidewalks while staring up at rainbow flags adorning the gay bars, independent theatres, sex shops, LGBTQ bookstores, and street signs. They were treated to lollipops from U of T's LGBTQ Drop-In Centre and learned that the first U of T queer group (also the first one of its kind in Canada) was created in 1969 under the name "the U of T Homophiles Association".

The froshies stopped between the St. Charles Tavern and the Parkside Tavern and listened to the story of "the Jaunt", a dash between the two first unofficial gay bars in Toronto that drag queens would attempt with the goal of making it across without being insulted or humiliated by what was a much more homophobic society in the '70s and '80s.

The last stop on the tour was the AIDS Memorial, a wave-shaped path under tree cover lined with monuments listing the names of people who have died of AIDS. The 1983 plaque features dozens of names. The 2013 plaque features only one.

Opportunities abound at Get Experience Fair

The Get Experience Fair comes around again and students flock to the RAWC

NICOLE DANESI

The Get Experience Fair hosted by the UTM Career Centre last Wednesday provided students with an opportunity to discover employment, internship, and volunteer positions available both on and off campus.

"Our students are very academically focused, but it's also important to gain relevant work experience before graduating," said Michelle Atkinson, the coordinator of events and employment services at UTM's Career Centre. "The Get Experience Fair is a great place to start."

The fair, held in the RAWC, drew a total of 1,130 UTM students and 64 exhibitors, including businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and on-campus University of Toronto organizations and services, among other groups looking to network with and



JENNIFER DO/THE MEDIUM

A student speaks with a representative from one of the 64 exhibitors at the fair.

provide resources to students.

"The purpose of the Get Experience Fair is to have students think-

ing about how to connect any experience [...] to the larger picture of their own career development,"

Atkinson commented.

Fair continued on page 3



Behind the scenes

Multiple perspectives on what took place after coordinators resigned. Medium News, Page 2

Art made manifest

Students in the joint UTM/Sheridan art and art history program get to see their art deployed. Medium A&E, Page 5

Can't please everyone

We may still get flak after this final round of Frosh coverage, but we've done our due diligence. Medium Opinion, Page 4

When you need a friend

There are loyal friends and there are interesting friends. And you need both kinds. Medium Features, Page 10

Fight the freshman 15

You might think your only option in university is to be sedentary. You'd be wrong. Medium Sports, Page 11

Behind the scenes of O-Week

Orientation Committee members speak about planning Frosh after the coordinators' resignation



EDWARD CAI/THE MEDIUM

Members of the Orientation Committee stand outside the Student Centre last week.

LARISSA HO
NEWS EDITOR

Orientation Week, hosted by the UTM Students' Union each year to welcome first-year students to UTM, carried on the week before classes began in spite of the resignation of the two coordinators in charge of its planning and execution.

The coordinators, Lara Stasiw and Neelam Din, quit three weeks before Orientation Week, alleging that the work environment cre-

ated by the students' union was "hostile". The logistical Orientation Committee and the executive team, who picked up the slack, felt the event was successful despite several glitches.

An alternative orientation?

According to Stasiw and Din, members of the Orientation Committee, which consisted of 10 undergraduate students, contacted them after their resignation to follow them out of the organization and discuss "Plan B", a possible alternative ori-

entation. Shortly afterwards, however, the discussion of "Plan B" was dropped and no members left the committee.

"I am not resentful towards any of them," said Stasiw in an interview. "Our choice to resign came in a moment where we said, 'That's it.' [...] Having a conversation about it [with] 10 different people is impractical."

"This year's logistics committee didn't help with anything related to logistics; they were more there as creative minds," said Din. She added that when she and Stasiw resigned, they already had 90% of the logistics planning completed, and the remaining 10% was a matter of waiting on phone calls and email responses.

Stasiw and Din asked to continue their term as OCs after their second resignation, but were rejected by UTMSU.

"The fact that we committed to finishing our term and were rejected by the executives without any of the committee's support made us feel our help was not wanted," said Stasiw. "If my intentions were to abandon orientation, we would not have requested to finish our term or bother to be interviewed about our perspective."

Being pulled two ways

Stasiw attributed some of the committee's change of mind to a desire for personal recognition and described the lack of support as "hurtful".

Committee member Nikka Aquino said in an interview that Stasiw and Din, as well as UTMSU executives, talked to committee members about the committee's role in the upcoming weeks. Stasiw and Din, said Aquino, suggested "Plan B", which would have been a two- to three-day event spearheaded by Stasiw and Din. At the same time, UTMSU executives were trying to convince them to stay with the original Orientation Week.

"Committee was kind of being pulled two [ways]," said Aquino.

She believes that committee members didn't stay to take credit. "It was a really hard time for the committee. We were hearing a lot of things," she said. "In the end, we chose to stay with UTMSU [...] Most of us stayed because it's for the benefit of the froshies, and I sucked it up."

Other committee members, including Rosalina Scipione, agreed. "UTMSU is pretty much the only way of going about it. They're the ones who would be able to fund everything," said Scipione in an interview. "In order to have a legitimate Frosh like we've had for however long, you would need UTMSU. It's impossible to have just as large-scale of a frosh without them."

One committee member, Riccardo Nero, disputed Stasiw's claim that he considered leaving after they resigned, but the other members of the committee did not.

Picking up the slack

After the resignations, people were unsure what would happen next.

"I wasn't sure if Frosh was going to continue," said Dima Ayache, a returning frosh leader, who said one or two weeks elapsed before they heard anything definite from the executive team.

"There was a big gap of confusion and uncertainty," said committee member Jessica Chu.

Nero said that he called a committee meeting to discuss what would happen next. Angela Ocicek and Juan Ariado, committee members and executives on the UTM Athletic Council, suggested that they prioritize the 1,300 first-years who had signed up for orientation over the "nine personality and ego clashes," said Nero, referring to the two resigned OCs and the seven UTMSU executives.

"We decided it was time to pick up the slack, we took on more responsibility [...] that's essentially

who picked up the ball," said Nero.

Chu said that the whole team—committee members, executives, leaders, and volunteers—were involved after the OCs resigned.

"I wouldn't say that just one group of people picked up the ball [...] a lot of people stepped up," she said.

How much still had to be done?

Ocicek said that she was told by Stasiw while Din was present that there still was a lot to be done and that it couldn't be done in two weeks.

"What they said to me was, 'It's all in our heads, info that you guys need. We can't provide it to you,'" said Ocicek.

Aquino said that some of the unfinished tasks were booking Medi-

eval Times (a traditional Orientation Week event), deciding where the UTM cheer-off on Tuesday was to happen, sending in the designs for the t-shirts, and putting up the event website. No planning had been done for the Welcome Formal either, according to Aquino.

Smooth sailing?

Several members of the committee alleged that Stasiw and Din were focused more on their personal issues than on Frosh.

Joycelin Lai, a committee member, said there had been no communication between the executives and the committee before Stasiw and Din resigned.

"After they left, we [found out] there were a lot of things they didn't tell us and they didn't tell the executives, and that's why things weren't getting done," said Lai.

Lai pointed to the OCs' failed proposal of the Argos game—rejected in a private meeting of the executives—as an obstacle that neither party could get past and a major source of hostility between them.

Frosh continued on page 3

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

12/09/2013 — 10:40 a.m.

Trespass to Property Act

Campus Police investigated a complaint in regards to a person soliciting for money near the Kaneff Building. The person was later identified and trespassed from the UTM Campus.

12/09/2013 — 1:40 p.m.

Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated a report of a stolen cell phone from the William G. Davis Building.

13/09/2013 — 1:55 a.m.

Trespass to Property Act

Campus Police investigated a call in regards to an unruly patron at the Blind Duck Pub. The person was identified and trespassed from the Blind Duck Pub.

13/09/2013 — 11:00 a.m.

Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated a report of a stolen wallet from the Kaneff Building.

13/09/2013 — 12:20 a.m.

Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated a theft report in regards to an electronic recording device.

14/09/2013 — 12:30 a.m.

Causing a Disturbance

Campus Police responded to a group of persons arguing near the Blind Duck Pub. All persons were gone upon the arrival of Campus Police.

15/09/2013 — 1:25 a.m.

By-Law Offence — Noise Complaint

Campus Police responded to a noise complaint in Putnam Place Residences. The tenants were spoken to in regards to the complaint.

16/09/2013 — 1:37 a.m.

Information Report

Campus Police responded to a call in regards to a vehicle found with its doors open. The owner was located and identified. All in order.

18/09/2013 — 9:37 p.m.

Fraud

Campus Police investigated a fraud complaint in regards to an altered parking pay and display permit.

Hollywood director speaks at UTM

Filmmaker Mira Nair is a guest speaker at the annual Snider Lecture



BOLLYWOOD MANTRA/THE MEDIUM

Mira Nair, an internationally acclaimed director, spoke about art and her personal experiences.

ANGIE LITSIOU

Last Thursday, the UTM community welcomed the internationally acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair at the annual Snider Lecture. Nair spoke about her personal experiences as she discovered the art of filmmaking and shared her view on current cultural issues of identity displacement and cultural stereotypes, both common themes in many of her works.

In the first few moments of her lecture, Nair had the audience giggling at her childhood nickname of “Pugly”, which means “mad girl” in Hindi. She went on to say that as artists, “We must always welcome madness as a vital guest.” Nair then discussed her past, her full scholarship to Harvard University, and the various places she’s worked at.

She spoke about her true passion

for documentaries, saying that documentaries are “the portrait of the truth of life” and adding, “If you don’t tell your story your way, then who will?”

Since Nair’s first Oscar-nominated film, *Salaam Bombay!* (1988), she has directed and produced over 20 films, including *The Namesake* (2006) and her most recent piece, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2013), starring Kate Hudson, Riz Ahmed, and Kiefer Sutherland. She has received dozens of titles from film festivals around the world. Her documentaries tackle issues like gender and racial stereotypes, bridging the gaps between cultures, and the pressures felt by immigrants around the world.

The topics Nair explored included a depiction of being out on the street. She referred to herself as the “washer man’s dog” from a Hindi proverb

which translates to “The washer man’s dog is neither at home or on the street, but it’s at home everywhere.” She explained that while travelling and working on her films, she often feels out of place, yet at home as long as she’s learning something.

She concluded her lecture by sharing some advice she has learned over the years.

“Never treat what you are doing as a stepping stone to something else; do it fully and completely and only at its fullest, to learn where it might lead you,” she said. “Let the heart inform the brain to prepare, to communicate—but at the moment of working, to allow inspiration from any quarter; to be brave, but prepare to be lonely; to cultivate stamina and carry on your craft, but also beware the fruits of action; to serve your work fully and without thinking about reward.”

Frosh traded some old events for new ones

Frosh continued from page 2

Grayce Slobodian, UTMSU’s VP campus life, said she had tried to mediate between the two parties in order to facilitate Frosh planning. After the coordinators resigned, “Everyone was on different pages,” she said. But “at the end of the day [...] we saw the bigger picture and we did whatever was best for Frosh, whether I was right or they were right,” she said.

Aquino said that Stasiw and Din had taken on the majority of the work and that Orientation Committee “had a purpose” after their resignation.

Changing it up

The annual community service component of Orientation Week was omitted this year. According to members of the Orientation Committee,

which was in charge of logistics, they spent more time on Tuesday’s cheer-off at Queen’s Park than they foresaw. This was the first year the cheer-off was held downtown instead of at the RAWC. According to Slobodian, they also miscalculated bussing times.

“It was either skip out on community service hours or cut off cheer-off,” said Aquino.

The other changes to Orientation Week this year included a leader bonding day planned by Stasiw and Din, a paint party, and a Welcome Formal that replaced the usual Wonderland trip, according to the UTMSU board minutes of July 22.

Better than expected

More than one frosh leader, including Aliza Farooqi in an interview and Teddy Brar in an online comment,

have described the final result as “disorganized”. Most of the committee leaders felt it was a success.

“It wasn’t so much disorganized as much as it was under scrutiny. [...] If it’s disorganized and all over the place, that’s just the way frosh is,” said Scipione.

“It went a lot more smoothly than I expected it to go,” said Ayache. “I didn’t expect it to be as well-organized as it was.”

A letter from Raymond Noronha, the president of UTMSU, cited the relatively high turnout as a measure of Orientation Week’s success.

In the preliminary operating budget posted on the UTMSU website, ticket sales were forecast to fall about \$17,000 short of expenses, with a modest profit to be made after \$20,000 in projected sponsorships.

» WHY DO YOU COME TO UTM AND NOT ST. GEORGE?



Julianna Hary
3rd year, criminology

I went to St. George! I came here because it’s smaller. Smaller is good.



Wuhab Fahloan
1st year, life sciences

I live in Mississauga... and I didn’t want to leave my food.



Karolina Stecyk
4th year, history

Because I live down the street.



Omar Alsayed
4th year, political science

Free transportation!

Students reach for more experiences

Fair continued from Cover

Haina Kim, a recent UTM graduate attending the fair, learned about the various programs and opportunities she could look into as a graduate. “I’ve looked into a couple of companies and they seem to have really great programs for students and recent graduates,” said Kim.

The on-campus opportunities exhibited at the fair included UTM’s Blackwood Gallery.

“Students can gain skills in communication, networking, marketing, and promotions,” said Juliana Zalucky, the gallery’s exhibition coordinator.

Like Kim, Alex Geddes, a fourth-

year UTM student, also benefited from the Get Experience Fair. “There are a lot of different opportunities in a lot of different areas,” Geddes commented.

“Students have been given the message since high school that it’s a tough job market out there. Along with your degree, it’s important to have had experience in the workplace when it comes down to applying for jobs near graduation,” said Atkinson.

The Career Centre hosts a variety of other events throughout the year, including the Graduate and Professional Schools Fair on September 25 and the annual Summer Job Fair on January 15.

NEWS BRIEFS »

Israeli soldier killed by Palestinian in the West Bank after abduction

A Palestinian lured an Israeli soldier to a village in the West Bank and killed him with the intention of trading the body for his brother, who has been jailed for his part in terror attacks, Israel’s intelligence agency said Saturday. The killing sours the negotiations between Palestine and Israel, which resumed in July for the first time in five years. The Israeli soldier’s body was found in a well near Qalqiliya in the northern West Bank.

Source: Aljazeera

Suicide attack at church in Pakistan kills dozens

A suicide attack on a historic Christian church in northwestern Pakistan killed at least 78 people on Sunday in one of the deadliest attacks on the Christian minority in Pakistan in years. The casualties include 34 women and seven children. Witnesses reported scenes of mayhem as rescue workers ferried victims from the church.

Source: The New York Times

Greenpeace urges Russia to free activists on seized ship

Greenpeace is pressuring the Russian government to free activists on board one of its ships that was seized by the Russian Coast Guard. Greenpeace says that two Canadian activists were arrested and held overnight without charges or legal representation. The activists were protesting Gazprom’s oil-drilling operations. Gazprom is the largest extractor of natural gas in the world.

Source: The Toronto Star

Typhoon hits Taiwan, Philippines, nears Hong Kong

The most powerful typhoon of the year swept through the Luzon Strait separating the Philippines and Taiwan on Saturday, battering island communities with heavy rains and strong winds as it headed for Hong Kong. Typhoon Usagi had weakened from the “severe” category. At least two people have been killed. The two deaths, in Shantou City, Guangdong Province, were attributed to a fallen tree blown over by winds.

Source: NBC News

Omar Khadr to appear in Edmonton court on Monday

Former Guantanamo Bay inmate Omar Khadr is expected to make his first appearance in public since American soldiers captured him as a badly wounded 15-year-old in Afghanistan 11 years ago. Khadr will be in an Edmonton courtroom Monday for an application to have his ongoing detention in an adult prison declared illegal. The Toronto-born Khadr, who turned 27 last week, will not speak during the hearing.

Source: CBC News

MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

Fulfilling obligations, making accommodations

We pursued the Orientation topic for a follow-up article, working with an usually large number of voices

This year's Frosh coverage has been significantly more copious than in previous years. It's rounded off with a final article in the news section this week, after which, in my opinion, it will have been done to death.

Of course, the series of events surrounding it was also more convoluted than usual. This article, which investigates to what degree the coordinators' resignation affected the outcome of Orientation Week—a question posed to us, often with a ready-made answer, many times since our first article was published—demonstrated this amply. We interviewed 11 frosh leaders, Orientation Committee members, UTM-SU executives, and the coordinators to get various perspectives on what happened, and there was perceptibly more beneath the surface if we had chosen to allot even more space to the events. The number of interviewees was also higher than our average, necessitating careful navigation between the extremes of the spectrum of viewpoints.

Our news editor, Ms. Ho, had already considered a follow-up to her resignation article before we received

any feedback on it. We explored one dimension of the story—the relationship between the coordinators and the executives—in a balance attested by readers of both sides, including Mr. Noronha, the president of UTMSU, but there were other dimensions we hadn't yet addressed. Even so, what resulted is in some respects a response to some of the said feedback.

This is not to say it will appease all parties. After all, several of those who talked to us expressed their hopes for the original article in terms about which I am sceptical. In a public letter to frosh leaders, Riccardo Nero, an Orientation Committee member, described his ideal picture of our coverage as "articles that should have been about how epic this year[s] Frosh] was". In the same vein but more diplomatically, Mr. Noronha wrote to us to ask students, "Is the main issue to shed a light on the 'series of unfortunate events' that occurred behind the scenes that froshies and upper-year UTM students didn't know about? Or is it to inform and educate their readers about how Orientation Week actually went despite allegations made

by the OCs towards UTMSU?"

In my mind the answer is the reverse of what is implied. The students' union's website has a section listing its successes that I feel no compulsion to reprint. And Orientation Week was not done in a corner. On the other hand, it's precisely because the "unfortunate events" occurred behind the scenes and without the knowledge of stakeholders that we felt it necessary to draw attention to them.

But more pertinent than a dispute about our function is that the actual nature of the proposed findings was uncertain. After all, not everybody who approached us in person and online about the article felt that it suggested that Frosh was any less successful than it was—for some it was quite the opposite. The bottom line is that we weren't sure precisely which versions we would end up hearing from the various voices. Personally, I consider such a lack of predetermined outcomes a strength of the form of journalism we practice.

The stories were indeed across the board, although most of those who picked up the planning from where

the coordinators left off defended their work—understandably, since there was a distinct atmosphere of heroism in having "saved" Frosh. There are multiple angles to consider in regards to that attitude. How much work did they do, and were they equipped for it? On the one hand, few of the committee members had previous experience directly planning Frosh, and according to one of them they had been given few important responsibilities—and on the other hand, the resigned coordinators described the work as having been 90% finished when they quit and felt that the credit for it was eventually redirected.

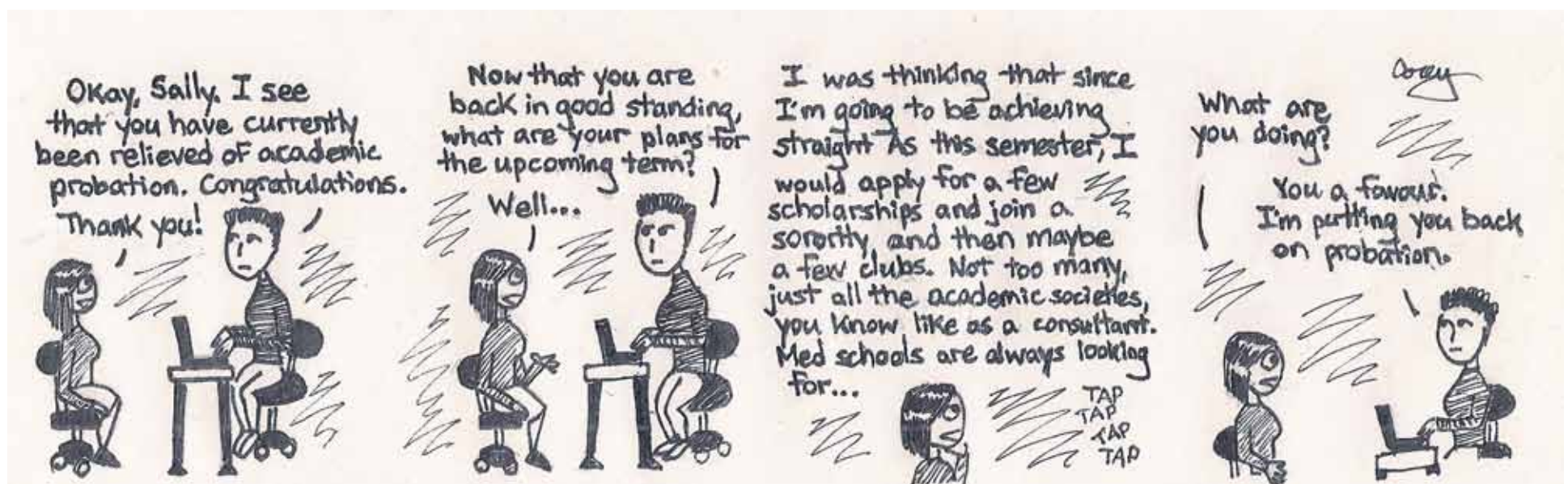
In the case of other controversies, the fact that they consisted purely in interpersonal relations and sketched plans means a lack of resolution was inevitable. Could the resigned coordinators have actually organized an alternative Frosh on a small or even a personal budget—perhaps on a similar scale to the free-to-attend Queer Orientation now underway—had they received enough support? How sincere was the support initially of-

fered by committee members who considered following the coordinators out of UTMSU during the period of uncertainty before they were given further direction? These questions ultimately come down to speculation and one person's word against another.

Overall, though, several cohesive accounts yielded a picture of a Frosh that was no failure, despite the hostility cited by all sides and despite some plans, such as the annual community service, having fallen through. No doubt there are still elements of the story that didn't come out in the interviews or didn't make the final cut, and no doubt we will receive flak for them. Between the tameness and the lack of timeliness, the article isn't front-page material. But I feel we have met our professional obligations in pursuing, to the maximum reasonable extent, the state of the union's management "behind the scenes", for the benefit of those who saw only the exterior.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK



the
MEDIUM

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MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

Turning an artistic vision into reality

UTM art and art history students see their design brought to life in a public art installation

KRISTIE ROBERTSON

As of Friday, September 20 at 5 p.m., a modest white cube structure, inspired by the 18th-century camera oscura, humbly occupies a designated parking area on the north side of Lakeshore Road East. Emulating mall directories and subway maps that orient the lost and desperate traveler, the north face of the cube is marked with a red circle that reads in bold white letters, “You Are Here”.

Its designers, **Stacey Ng Kee Song** and **Stacey Skiba**, are both recent graduates of the art and art history program at UTM—a joint program with Sheridan College. Skiba entered the program in 2009 wishing to become a painter and had no desire to study design. However, thanks to a mandatory introduction to design class, she found she possessed a love for design after all. By contrast, Ng Kee Song (who joined the program the same year) has always been passionate about design and photography.

Due to this mutual love of design, the two Staceys found themselves working together on the year-end project for Design 3 2012/13, a course taught by **Jay Wilson**. The two artists were asked to propose a theoretical installation for the annual worldwide Park(ing) Day event, for which artists all over the world turn parking spaces



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

“You Are Here”, designed by Stacey Ng Kee Song and Stacey Skiba, sits on Lakeshore Road East.

into areas where various activities and playful sculptures draw attention to a community’s need for more recreational areas where people can sit, play, and enjoy life.

In today’s fast-moving world, it’s easy to get lost in a rigorous regimen of automatism. “You Are Here” invites the curious passerby to have a seat on a small bench, take a breath, and look around. A circular window that mimics the shape of the familiar You Are Here symbol frames the viewer’s immediate location, zeroing in on nothing in particular—a sliver of an old brick building across the busy road to the right, a darkened window of a

department store space for rent on the left, a lonely tree with a black iron cage around its base somewhere between the two—yet it still gives the viewer a sense of focus that is lost without the box.

Wilson, who has been teaching at Sheridan since 2001, explained that the idea of the project came to him during a Faculty of Animation, Arts, and Design meeting at which **Helena Grdadolnik** from Workshop Architecture presented the idea of the Port Credit Park(ing) Day initiative.

“I just thought it was a really good idea. I wanted the design students—because they’re artists—to have a proj-

ect that wasn’t just graphic design [...] I wanted something three-dimensional [to] introduce a bit of architectural technique into their work and possibly add breadth to their portfolio,” says Wilson.

What started out as just another project for students’ portfolios has become a minor force for change, with the combined efforts of **Ellen Timms** of the Port Credit Business Improvement Association, **Yvonne Koscielak**, the public art coordinator at the City of Mississauga, and **John McCartney**, the woodshop technician at Sheridan, as well as **Helena Grdadolnik**, **Ronni Rosenburg**, **Jay Willson**, and the De-

sign 3 class of 2012/13.

“When we were building [the installation], Stacey Ng Kee Song was inside it [...] and she was like, ‘Oh my God, it’s so beautiful inside here.’ And I looked at her and I said, ‘Well, of course it is,’” said Wilson. “And then I realized that as [a] designer, I’m used to realizing things or dreaming something up and then seeing it actually made. [...] Students actually never get that. They see an idea, they get a mark. [...] This was the first time that the students actually got to see their idea made real.”

Needless to say, Wilson is determined to have more projects from his class realized.

The designers went from a small maquette made of popsicle sticks and illustration board to a full-scale plywood product. “We were designing more of an idea rather than an actual finished product out of wood, which is very, very different. So John and Jay were awesome at that and helped make it realistic. It doesn’t look like it changed much, but there were quite a few changes,” Skiba explains.

“You Are Here” can be found on the north side of Lakeshore Road East near Elmwood Avenue until Thursday, September 26, after which the project will be transported back to Sheridan College.

UTM grads take the stage in Hart House Theatre’s Bone Cage

Family dysfunction gets an organic twist in Hart House’s first production of the season

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

Dirge-like organ music fills the cavernous Hart House Theatre as the audience slowly trickles in and searches for their seats. On the stage, a gnarled mass of tree branches reaches part-way up to the ceiling, creating a dramatically silhouetted backdrop for the tree stumps and other modest wooden structures that fill the set. Hart House Theatre’s first production of the 2013/14 season, *Bone Cage*, is about to begin.

Though the play’s joyful opening dance number may lead you to think otherwise, *Bone Cage* is a heavy and introspective character study. Characters that initially seem one-dimensional prove far more difficult to pin down, and by the end, the complex web of relationships and betrayals feels just as tangled as the nest-like wooden structure that dominates the stage for the entirety of the show.

Catherine Banks’ script paints a searing landscape of small-town Nova Scotia. Our protagonist, **Jamie (Nathan Bitton)**, works in the clear-cutting business but hates the destructive work and longs to es-

cape to the west coast. He lives with his sharp-tongued sister **Chicky (Samantha Coyle)** and his unemployed father **Clarence (Layne Coleman)**, who spends his days drinking and mourning the death of his other son. **Jamie** is engaged to **Krista (Lindsey Middleton)**, a bubbly high school senior whose own brother, **Kevin (Kyle Purcell)**, carries a torch for Chicky. To say that relationships get messy in *Bone Cage* would certainly be an understatement.

Bone Cage is very much about coming to terms with (or, in some cases, avoiding entirely) the consequences of one’s own decisions. But it also explores the way that other people can mould our future for us, whether or not we want them to. Every character’s path has been rocked by the actions of another, and as we see over the course of the play, it’s usually not for the better.

Each performance offers a wonderful kind of inhabited ambiguity. There isn’t a clear character arc or any real redemption for anybody in this play, but the emotional impact of *Bone Cage* comes from watching these characters simply bump into each other.

For example, as **Chicky**, **Coyle** offers a sturdy, commanding stage presence and beautifully conveys her character’s role as a substitute mother for both her brother and her father with a mix of harshness and protective tendencies. But as we learn about the details of her affair with a married man, **Chicky’s** defences begin to crumble, and **Coyle** ensures that the audience sympathizes with her character’s desire to escape it all.

There isn’t a clear character arc or any real redemption for anybody in this play, but the emotional impact of *Bone Cage* comes from watching these characters simply bump into each other.

Meanwhile, **Purcell** plays **Kevin** with a wounded volatility right from the start, making it all the more painful to watch **Kevin’s** explosive tendencies boil over later on.

Bitton and **Middleton** are both graduates of the UTM and Sheridan College theatre and drama studies program and are familiar faces to those who have frequented Theatre Erindale’s productions in the past few years. Here, as **Jamie** and **Krista**, they are entirely convincing as a misguided couple headed for the altar. Their moments of banter feel easy and fun, providing some of the lighter moments in this often darkly comedic play. But with **Krista** being a naive and petulant girl and **Jamie** being a frustrated young man with a scary temper, it’s pretty clear that their impending marriage is doomed from the start. However, both actors refuse to tip their hand by playing up the melodrama and instead commit to every facet of **Jamie** and **Krista’s** complicated relationship, no matter how innocuous or foreboding, leaving the audience guessing where their onstage romance will go next.

Director **Matt White** (himself a UTM grad and an instructor in the program) brings admirable precision to *Bone Cage*. Even the simplest touch, like having the ushers hand each member of the audience a scroll tied with a fuchsia ribbon, connected

to a minor plot element, along with their theatre program, adds resonance to the production. Every piece fits into the whole, making for a riveting couple of hours spent with a fascinating cast, as well as a visually compelling performance. The set in particular sets *Bone Cage* apart from other “human interest” plays of its kind. Set designer **Elizabeth Kantor** has created a dynamic multilevel set that believably transitions into a variety of settings. For example, in the indoor scenes, it’s the little details, like a light source coming from inside the fridge (which is also constructed from logs) as **Jamie** grabs another beer, that cleverly remind us of the setting.

A couple of moments in the production ring slightly untrue and could have flowed more smoothly, but they only stand out because of how authentic everything else here feels. The raw performances and the sparse setting make Hart House Theatre’s production of *Bone Cage* a worthy interpretation of an outstanding piece of Canadian theatre.

Bone Cage runs at Hart House Theatre until October 5. For more information, visit harthouse.ca.

Blackwood shows off its colourful side

The Blackwood Gallery explores the intricacies of colour and racial identity in *Red, Green, Blue ≠ White*

ANDREEA MIHAI
STAFF WRITER

Three projectors shine their lights—one red, one green, one blue—onto a projector screen and create a rectangle of imperfect white with orange, pink, and yellow shimmering at the edges in **Aryen Hoekstra's** "Out of Focus", one of the four installations on display at the Blackwood Gallery. The work reflects the way the body acts as a prism, producing coloured refractions when white light hits it.

Its image printed in the exhibition guide, "Out of Focus" reflects the exploration of race in art, which is the theme of *Red, Green, Blue ≠ White*. Curated by **Johnson Ngo**, the installations reflect a shift away from the Western tradition of using white as a symbol of purity and perfection, instead exploring the beauty of today's ethnically diverse world.

In **Golboo Amani** and **Manolo Lugo's** "Covergirl", a three-hour performance which took place on the exhibition's opening night last Wednesday, the artists concealed each other's faces using all of the brand's available foundation shades, from "ivory" to "tawny", wiping their faces on white handkerchiefs between each hue. The handkerchiefs are pinned on the wall in the



ESSRA MOSTAFA/THE MEDIUM

Chun Hua Catherine Dong's piece "Hourglass" encourages viewer interaction.

e]gallery, located in the CCT Building. All 12 hues are remarkably similar, missing any hues that would fit darker complexions.

On the next wall over is **Kristina Lee Podesva's** "Brown Study Colour Line". Podesva uses the printing process of layering cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (the CMYK of conventional printing) dots in her serigraph diptych to create brown. From a distance, the serigraph ap-

pears to be a stretch of brown patterning made of spots, like an animal print. As the viewer approaches, geometric circles are visible in the pattern. Up close, the viewer is able to make out the CMYK dots that make up the pattern. The overall effect is reminiscent of a *Where's Waldo* scene, in which a viewer becomes aware of individual details making up the pattern by carefully studying the image.

In the middle of the Blackwood gallery space is **Chun Hua Catherine Dong's** "Hourglass". The plain, square, white table is laid with two sets of tweezers and thin paintbrushes, napkins, and small bowls of black paint set across from each other. In the middle of the table there are two large bowls, one filled with rice, the other empty. The interactive piece invites users to sit down and paint the individual

grains of rice black before placing them in the second bowl.

"It's very meditative," says **Sophia Luo**, a second-year art history and French student. "You don't realize how much blank space there is on such a small grain of rice."

Dong's piece acts as an interesting response to chromophobia, which **David Batchelor** describes as the fear of corruption through colour. Painting the rice makes it inedible, yet transforms it into an instrument of reflecting on and measuring time. The gallery hopes to fill the second bowl over the next three months.

Markedly absent from the exhibition are labels bearing the installations' titles and the artists' names. This gives the viewer an initial sense of ambiguity when viewing the art. Given the theme of race, the choice might have been made to avoid allowing any ethnic suggestions in the names to influence the viewer's initial interpretation of the work. In total, there are eight pieces exhibited: three in the e]gallery, one outside on the Davis Building wall (visible from the Five-Minute Walk), and four installations in the Blackwood Gallery, located in the Kaneff Building.

Red, Green, Blue ≠ White opened on September 18 and will run until December 1.

All bad things must come to an end

Fans wait in eager anticipation for the series finale of AMC's *Breaking Bad*

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

The school bell rang, students were sitting at their desks, and Mr. White's class had begun. *Breaking Bad* follows a milquetoast chemistry teacher whose diagnosis of lung cancer leads him to cook crystal meth in order to provide for his family. In the pilot episode of the series, Mr. White explains to his class that chemistry, like life, is a constant cycle: "It's the study of growth, then decay, then transformation." We didn't know it then, but Walter White had already paved his character's path for the next five seasons.

As the critically acclaimed series (which, in its fifth and final season, has been receiving its highest ratings yet) airs its swansong in the coming week, many have arrived at the realization that the void this show will leave may never be filled. As a skeptic myself, I shudder to think of what life will be like without *Breaking Bad* on my TV screen. The show has broken the mould of television in multiple ways and leaves behind a lasting legacy that is bound to spawn many unsuccessful imitators.

Vince Gilligan, the series' creator, intended the character of Walter White to be one of the first characters on television to undergo a transformation from good to



DVDBASH.WORDPRESS.COM/PHOTO

The peril never stops for Walter (Bryan Cranston) and Jesse (Aaron Paul) on *Breaking Bad*.

bad. As one of the most complex characters in television history, Walter White, played expertly by **Bryan Cranston** (who has won three consecutive Emmys for the role), deals with conflicting morals throughout the course of the series. He justifies his actions as a means to an end in order to ensure a good life for his wife and kids after he is gone. Gilligan and his team of writers have set trajectories for all of the show's characters that have been brilliantly portrayed through each character's

calculated development.

With one of the most talented casts on television portraying a group of the most compelling characters of any medium, *Breaking Bad* has created a world so vivid that fans sometimes have difficulty distinguishing the actors from the roles they play. "Walter White is definitely the most complex character ever seen on [a] television show. His evolution from the boring and suffering schoolteacher to the drug boss Heisenberg is amazing. If you go back and watch the

show from season one and come back to where we are today, you have no other choice but to sympathize with the character," says **Isaac Owusu**, a UTM alumnus. "For the first time ever in a television show, I feel there's no consensus on or expectations for a character such as Walter White. I find myself personally hoping that he gets away with everything but if he sees his demise, I'm okay with that."

Cranston's accolades have been matched by those of **Aaron Paul**,

who plays his character's partner-in-crime and former student, Jesse Pinkman, and has won back-to-back Emmys for supporting actor. The editing is also good: the direction and cinematography has meshed a variety of styles and created so many visually appealing and interesting perspectives that audiences have been treated to what is essentially an hour-long movie every Sunday night.

Watching this beautifully crafted story unfold over the course of the past six years has been as anxious and addictive as the product that Heisenberg, Walter White's alias, cooks. It's sad to see a show that has accomplished so much fade to black, but at the same time, it's necessary that it quit while it's ahead.

In a month that sees everybody's favourite serial killer, Dexter, also leave the small screen, viewers will be aching to find something to fill the impending void. The solution for many? Re-watch the series from the beginning. "I had a pleasure witnessing the greatest show of the decade play out and cringe to think of the day where *Breaking Bad* will no longer be a part of my Sunday nights," says **Parmis Goudarzi**, a third-year psychology major. "Honestly, no other series can live up to this in my expectations. I will be re-watching the entire series and I look forward to seeing it all again."

The Weeknd's lust and loneliness

Toronto rapper offers another revealing collection of songs



NPR.ORG/PHOTO

After releasing three albums in 2011, Abel Tesfaye (a.k.a. the Weeknd) returns with *Kiss Land*.

NIVEEN FULCHER

The Weeknd does it again—23-year-old Torontonian Abel Tesfaye has created another masterpiece album with *Kiss Land*, released on September 10.

The 12 tracks of *Kiss Land* sound like the majority of the Weeknd's previous releases: his voice is still Michael Jackson-esque and the lyrics remain erotic, profound, and sorrowful. How is he able to create songs that describe loves as discontending as they are passionate? It's as though the Weeknd is relentlessly fighting a battle between an obsession with one-night stands and the desire to wallow in his own loneliness. In "Belong to the World," he sings, "I'm not a fool. I just love that you're dead inside." The Weeknd brings forth lyrics filled with descriptions of seemingly dysfunctional sexu-

al relations, yet the lyrics fit the overall sound of the album perfectly.

If you're uninterested in experimenting with recreational drugs but would consider plugging in a set of headphones and listening to *Kiss Land* at high volume in a dark room, it's likely the experiences would be comparable. It could have something to do with the lyrics being just as back-and-forth with their meaning as the background instruments and bass are in the overall production—which is fantastic.

As the Weeknd is one of the three primary members of the album's production team, kudos should be forwarded his way for being one of the rare artists that truly creates his own music. The production of each song is uniquely arranged and perfected. Throughout the album, songs begin with a slow but subtle beat that even-

tually becomes slightly rougher, to be joined by the eccentric instruments and synthesized sounds the production team throws in. Tremendously resonant echoes and whispers constantly flow in and out of the tunes.

As for a setting for the songs, somehow a chic strip joint comes to mind (speaking from my imagination). And yet something in the Weeknd's voice sounds so desperate that it could almost be mistaken for spiritual.

Kiss Land left me wanting more, a feeling the Weeknd knows very well how to evoke. After listening to the album I feel utterly incomplete. If this is what the Weeknd wanted for this album, then I applaud him. It bears repeating that the Weeknd is a true creator who can synthesize these various passions into a rare work of art.

MMMM

REJECTED REDISCOVERED

We get sent so many CDs to review that we just don't have room for them all. Here—sometimes years later—they get a second chance.

LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Microbunny

49 Swans

I go to the green cabinet in our office that holds a wealth of old CDs, mostly indie, that have been sent to us by music publicizers and labels. Here's a greyish, rainy-looking one from 2010. "Microbunny," it says. "49 Swans." I'm just not sure which one's the artist and which one's the band.

On the drive home I pop it in. I'm not sure what to expect. The songs have mysterious names like "The Greening," "bellyful-o'-kibble," and "Evergrowing Rust on a 1967 White Corvair". A beat starts up on the first track, "Gravity & Air". Synthesized sounds begin pulsing. A female voice, identified in the liner notes as **Rebecca Campbell**, chimes in with vocals allegedly unusual for the work of **Al Okada**. (Okada's from Toronto and founded **King**

Cobb Stealie, says his website.)

"It's only water, it's only gravity and air," Rebecca sings. "It doesn't matter." The words and melodies are hers, the musical background is Al's.

That song is one of three or four gems. Lemme break the album down for you like this: 60% meh, 20% gems, and 20% "I'm not even sure I'd call this a song." The gems are when the collaboration ventures into the jazzy, like on the beautiful "Blue September Blues", although the seven-minute electronica number "Embers" has a hook that goes "These jet engines in our ears..." which, I dunno, works for me. This isn't the last time I'll listen to the song.

Then there's the two-minute drone of "Spring Ice Remnant Death Knell Fire Warning". My theory is that, much like you just get brown when you mix too many colours together, all those nouns turned into this amorphous mess.

Like the sound of the album? The first person to come by our office this week can pick it up for free.

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MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

Why we dread the classroom

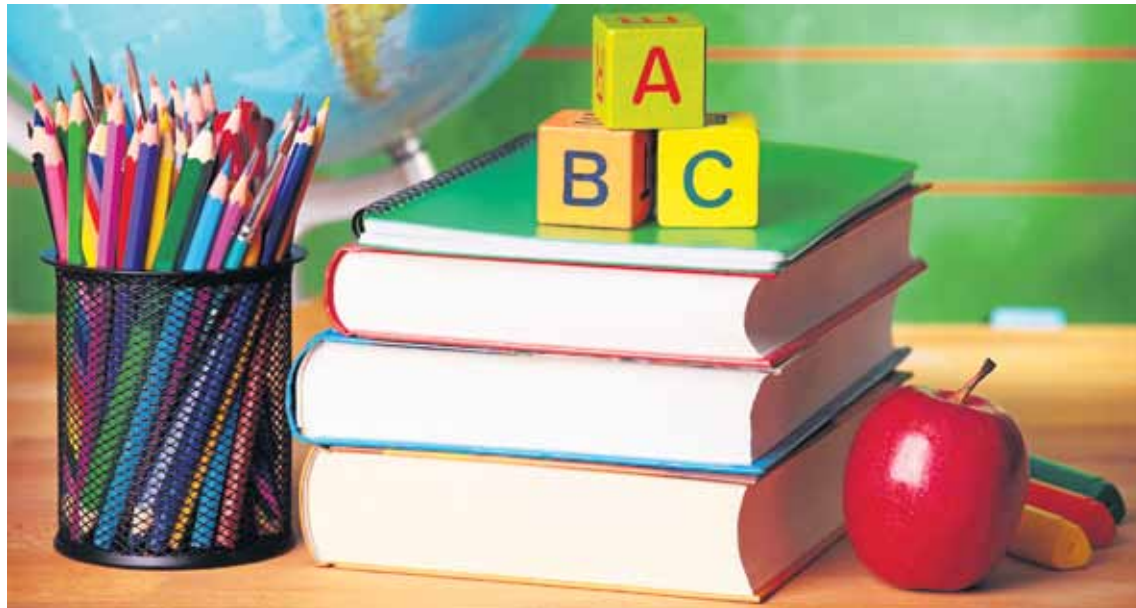
Research says students' specific learning needs aren't always addressed; maybe they don't need to be

INA IONTCHEVA
WITH NOTES FROM
MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

Armed with backpacks found on sale at Walmart and every type of pen known to man, we students are settling into another school year. But after the excitement of back to school shopping and escaping the bookstore alive fades, many of us dread coming to class every day.

On September 4, CBC News Radio featured a discussion on "how to prevent your child from hating school"; an online poll following the broadcast found that 52% of parents said their children view school negatively, while 42% said their children view it positively, and 5% thought their children view it as fairly neutral. That majority isn't a massive one, but it's still disquieting.

Why are we so reluctant to pull the covers off and head to school? Has our generation become lazy and fascinated by an endless binge of Gaga, Snapchat, and Starbucks? What was once a group of kids raving about Cookie Day and the latest Power Rangers episodes, or fighting over which



CHEOMOMS.COM/PHOTO

A dreadful sight for some. But so colourful.

troll doll's hairstyle is better, has become a group of youths with an interest in foul language and clothes sans fabric. After emerging from a typically easy high school experience, do students see university as just another four years of coasting?

Obviously, this is a huge question that takes more than one article to answer. But we can zero in on one aspect of it.

In his 2009 book *Why Don't*

Students Like School?, cognitive scientist Daniel T. Willingham presents his theory, in common with other recent research, that the reason students don't enjoy school is that instructors don't cater to the needs of every type of student.

Willingham's theory seems to explain why students become overwhelmed and shut out the information taught to them when they're thrown into their classes

and have to learn new things in new ways.

He also argues that this is problematic because we stick to what we know. When a certain learning method has worked for us, we get stuck in it. University in particular works in such a radically different way from previous education that students encountering it for the first time feel overwhelmed and begin to shut out the information being taught

to them.

Of course, says Willingham, students do have to be challenged and move up; there's "a sweet spot, a level where learning is neither too simplistic to be interesting, nor too difficult to be enjoyable. This is the spot that teachers should always try to find for their students in the classroom."

Moreover, the appropriate methods differ from student to student. Almost 13,000 students attend the Mississauga campus, so it's safe to say we don't all learn the same way.

For the average professor, going above and beyond to address each individual's needs is pragmatically impossible between grading, meetings, research, and their personal lives. The doors to some professors' offices never seem to be open.

That's not to say the university is simply standing by. UTM's primary resource is the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre, located in the library, whose mission is to build students' basic academic skills, mainly on a drop-in basis but also with resources for specific assignments and courses.

School continued on page 9

Understanding mental health

UTM'S Health and Counselling Centre offers insights into the world of mental illness

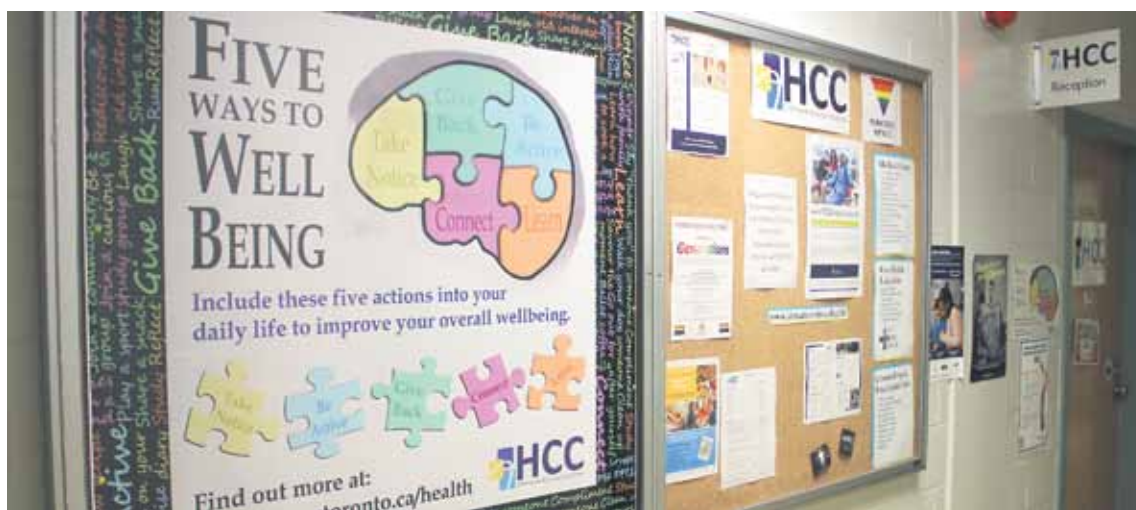
AMMARAH ABID

When thinking about having to visit any mental health expert, most people tend to want to run in the opposite direction. It's a fear that has been drilled into our brains since infancy. As children, we gathered that the words "weird" and "crazy" had negative connotations and referred to some lack of ability in ourselves. In this way, we were introduced to the world of the social and individual stigmas surrounding mental illness.

Although there's more awareness of this topic now, the majority of people would probably choose to tough it out on their own than seek professional help.

Scientific American Mind recently released an article about a schizophrenic student.

Upon leaving for university, she had high hopes that her good grades would carry her through



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Awareness about the HCC on display in the basement of the Davis Building.

till the end successfully.

But because of her condition, her plans quickly fell through. "I was deeply unhappy, insecure, and frightened—frightened of other people, of the future, of failure, of falling short of the punishingly high expectations that I

had placed on myself," she said. "And, possibly most of all, I was frightened of the emptiness that I felt was inside me. I was skilled at hiding all this, of course. This aura of invulnerability I had created was so complete that I had even deceived myself."

And unfortunately, even as people get older and presumably more mature, understanding mental illness and accepting it is still difficult for some. It's hard to understand something we aren't experiencing ourselves, but with the constant questions and igno-

rance surrounding what it means to have a mental illness, those suffering from one can find it hard to speak to someone about it.

Getting over social stigmas involves educating the general public on the importance of mental health, and having no tolerance for ridicule. Squashing individual stigmas means a person must accept that they're struggling to deal with many sometimes debilitating issues, and then being able to seek professional help to try and overcome them.

It's very common for students to think they can manage these issues on their own, leading them to feel alone and helpless if they find they can't.

If we could get people to think about getting counselling as a viable option, it would prevent these issues from escalating.

Health continued on page 9

Confused about learning methods

School continued from page 8

Why Don't Students Like School? is based on the notion that we're not learning the way we prefer to learn and thus don't enjoy school.

Andrew Peterson, the director of the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre and a senior lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computational Sciences, addressed this point in an interview last week.

He considers the centre's main objective to be developing time management and proper study methods. "We try to provide lots of different ways to learn," he said. "We have a bunch of resources that, in the end, are all attempting to get students to say, 'How can I be the most effective? What is it that I want to learn? And do I have the confidence to make those choices?'"

Peterson believes teachers tend to teach what they know, and so we end up wasting our time trying to do everything our instructors tell us if and when their methods aren't appropriate for us.

We run the risk of spending more time trying to master their methods than employing our own. One resource offered to resolve this is the facilitated study groups managed by Tom Klubi, based on a model of peers passing on techniques for dealing with a specific course they've taken to the next generation of students.

Peterson puts less emphasis on individualized study methods than Willingham does. "[Researchers] found out people basically use every category of learning," he said. "Everyone learns by doing, everyone learns by seeing, as long as the

context is set up right. It's less about people and more about how you do it and how you approach it and how it's contextualized for you."

Although Willingham believes students have individual needs, he does reserve some doubt about categorizing learning styles. In an article he wrote with Cedar Riener in *Change Magazine*, he addressed why he believed set learning styles didn't exist. Especially since newspapers were reporting that when it came to learning styles, there was no good evidence, not that the evidence was non-existent.

Willingham believes that "it's absolutely true that we could find out tomorrow that there are learning styles. Someone could propose a new theory, or we might realize that there is a different, better way to test the old theories.

"But as things stand," he said, "there's no scientific reason to think that the theories that have been proposed are correct. [...] The fact that we haven't definitively proven a theory wrong seems like a poor reason to advocate using the theory in classrooms.

"To the extent that teachers use scientific theories about the mind to inform their practice, doesn't it make sense to use theories that scientists are pretty sure are right?"

Peterson also takes Willingham's analysis of the reason students dislike school with a grain of salt. "The professors will give you many different options with their teaching, but it's up to you," he said. "How do you take it?"

Yet battling our courses, work, and life outside of university often leaves us little time to attend a weekly study session or go in for a



UVUREVIEW.COM/PHOTO

Desperately trying to distract oneself is one of many coping strategies students use.

consultation.

Peterson acknowledges that there are things professors can do in the classroom. "There are so many

"Take responsibility for how you're learning.

Think about what's working for you and what people are asking you to do."

—Andrew Peterson, director of RGASC

things you can do to be a good teacher, just as there are so many things you can do to be a good learner," he said. "But in the end, it comes down to setting up your

learning environment."

Yet battling our courses, work, and life outside of university often leaves us little time to attend a weekly study session or go in for a consultation.

Peterson acknowledges that there are things professors can do in the classroom. "There are so many things you can do to be a good teacher, just as there are so many things you can do to be a good learner," he said. "But in the end, it comes down to setting up your learning environment."

Still, he added, the goal is to equip students to ask themselves how to work with whatever they face. "Take responsibility for how you're learning. [...] Think about what's working for you and what people are asking you to do," he concluded.

The Skills Centre is designed to aid thinking and learning on our own accord so we're not constantly dependent on outside sources.

Their goal is to ensure we learn what works for us so we don't fall into the category of students who "don't like school", as Willingham warned.

What Willingham and Peterson agree on is that students are not learning in the way most effective for them. One places the blame on the education system, the other on the students, for not recognizing what that is. And we're often left simply trying to deal with whatever is thrown at us.

At least both might say that a good place to start is, in Peterson's words, recognizing that "the key is to know yourself".

Broadening our understanding

Health continued from page 8

The major facility available for mental health help on campus is the UTM Health and Counselling Centre. Their offices, located in the basement of the Davis Building, house physicians, counsellors, and, once a week, a psychiatrist. Their services include private short-term counselling, which helps students deal with problems that affect their lives and academics and offer advice on the best steps to take after the session. Private counselling means the student's academic records and their health and wellness records are kept separate.

As for their specific treatment procedure, Madeline Keogh of the HCC says there's no simple answer. She says that helping students is matter of learning about their situation and helping them in a way tailored to their needs. In terms of the stigma surrounding mental health, Keogh says, "We are working as a society on the stigma that surrounds mental health and mental health issues. That stigma still exists and the reasons are many and complicated."

Jasmine Javed, a second-year UTM student, believes that mental health issues are very important, but that there's much less stigma than there used to be. She says that peo-

ple today are better informed about mental illnesses, to the point that it's considered normal to suffer from one. She elaborated that advances in technology have allowed more people to be more aware and educated about these issues. It's true that ignorance is a major crutch of stigma.

Most of the students we asked said they didn't think people with these types of concerns would be bullied, especially not on campus.

"I haven't really seen it," says Javed. "People are more mature in university, so bullying would be less common."

On the other hand, Keogh reports that it's not uncommon for students to have experienced some form of shame and bullying about their mental well-being. To diffuse these issues, Keogh says, we need to look at people as people. It's a matter of knowing that a person can have a mental health concern and still be a valuable person. Understanding this fact can help challenge the more baseless our fears.

Needless to say, we have a long way to go before people finally accept mental illness and the need for professional help. At least the doors of the HCC are always open, not only for the health of those suffering but also for the education of those on the outside.

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Sought-after friends in university

Students share their views on the types of friends you need, and who enrich your time

KIMBERLY JOHNSON

If there's anything I've learned from university, it's that the endeavour is not carried out in isolation. When I first started at UTM, an alumnus offered this advice: "Make sure you find the right kind of friends for you. It can seriously affect how you see university."

Three years into my degree, I must admit there's some validity to this claim. Though university is what you choose to make of it, the kinds of friends you have around you can seriously influence the way you see your experiences, and even life.

I wanted to know what other people value in the people they call friends. Of course, everyone is different and everyone's experience is strictly individual, but when I interviewed some students, I realized that there were some similarities between their answers.

We need many different kinds of friends in our lives to make us better people. Even those who have wronged us play a part in our development because we learn from them. Speaking to several students on campus, I found out some of the most sought-after types of friends.

...WHO BALANCE YOU

All university students have to learn to balance their academic and social lives, and almost every student I interviewed agreed that they prioritize friends who take school seriously and encourage them to do the same.

Seya Semararatne, a recent graduate who majored in psychology and philosophy, says that having people who "love what you love studying can help you feel like less of a 'nerd.' These people tend to have the same mindset."

"These people definitely motivate you to be a better student," says Ewa Kleszcz, a third-year English and French CTEP student.

Students also suggested that having people with some perspective is healthy in university. These people know school is important, but they also remind us not to let ourselves be stressed.

"It's easy to get stuck in the 'UTM bubble', so having someone who knows that there's more than just school is important," says Phoebe Lau, a fourth-year art and art history student.

So it appears people value friends who take school seriously, but who also know how to have fun.

...WHO CHEER YOU UP

We've all had bad days. Whether it's a bad mark on a test or something more personal, we've all had that day where nothing seemed to go our way. At moment like that, having friends who make you laugh and keep you motivated is so important, especially during stressful weeks.

Patrick Ryder, a third-year CCIT student, really stresses this. "My friends and I laugh a lot," he says. "Having people that you can be yourself around is amazing. It makes the best of friends."

This doesn't mean you need friends who are positive all the time—they just have to know how to cheer you up.



...WHO HELP YOU GROW

An important byproduct of university is that you learn about yourself. I would argue that for many students, an important ingredient in that development is having a friend who really pushes you toward growth.

"As students, we set our own limits," says Wilson Chen, a fourth-year commerce student. "Having someone who understands us but then pushes us to go beyond those limitations gets us further."

These are the friends who genuinely care about you and want you to be your best, whatever that may be.

In university, it definitely helps to have someone who has been there before us, preferably "someone in your exact program", in Chen's opinion. They can warn you about mistakes they or other students have made in your courses. They can also guide you toward the right courses based on your interests.

"A mentor helps with life, not just our studies," says Samantha Teeple, a third-year criminology and political science student, who stressed the importance of having a mentor rather than just a tutor.

...WHO OPEN YOUR MIND

Spend 10 minutes on campus and you realize that UTM is very diverse. Many students see this as an advantage.

"Having friends from different cultures makes you more respectful of other opinions and perspectives," says Matthew Household, a third-year digital enterprise management student.

At UTM we're very lucky. We have students from all over the world, and getting to know them makes us less ignorant and more accepting. And of course, this goes not only for our campus's ethnic and cultural diversity, but also our diversity in lifestyle choices.



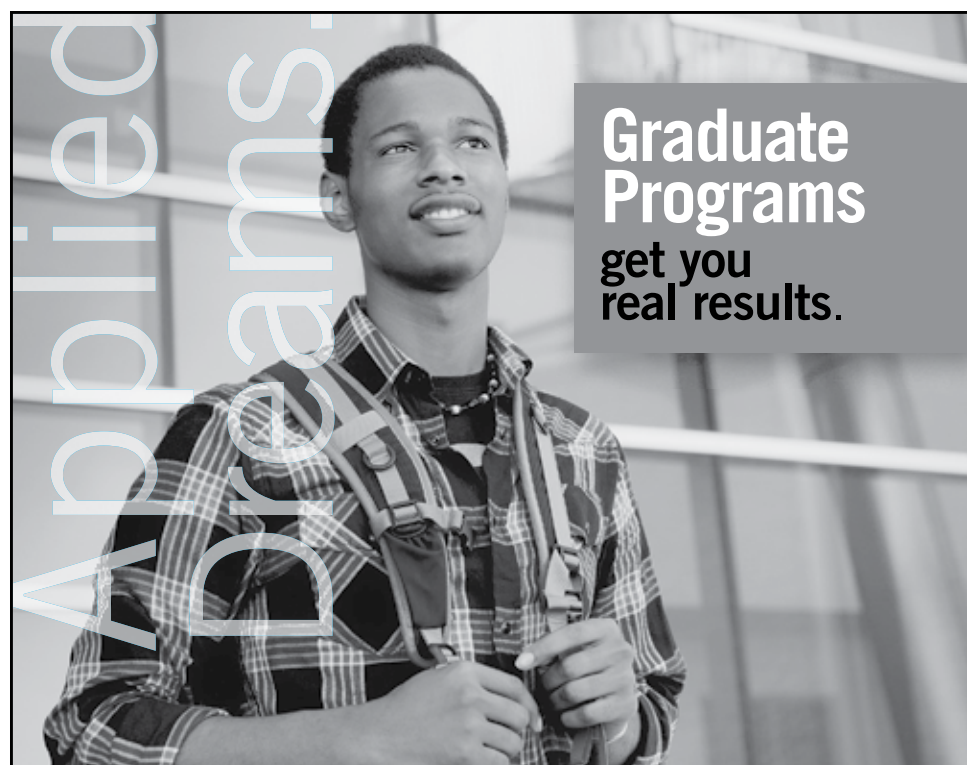
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MEDIUMSPORTS

Editor | Jason Coelho

Maple Leafs kick off training camp

The Toronto team moves past the playoffs defeat and looks to rebound in the new season

SANTIAGO BOTERO

With October 1 signalling the start of the new NHL season, many are waiting with anticipation to see all that's in store. Changes have been made to the establishment of divisions, with four separate divisions now comprising the two Conferences: the Pacific Division and Central Division comprise the Western Conference, while the Metropolitan Division and Atlantic Division comprise the Eastern Conference. The Toronto Maple Leafs will be a part of the Atlantic Division along with some familiar rivals, such as the Boston Bruins, the Montreal Canadiens, and the Ottawa Senators, and some soon-to-be rivals, including the Detroit Red Wings, Tampa Bay Lightning, and Florida Panthers.

After experiencing one of the worst playoff droughts in NHL history, the Toronto Maple Leafs managed to end it last year when they reached the quarter-finals against the Boston Bruins.

A nail-biting seven-game series led to a devastating loss against the Bruins by a score of 5-4 in the overtime of game seven, which left the team and their fans in disbelief. As the new season dawns, the Leafs simply have to forget about the past and move on.

The organization kept busy during the summer, making three worthy new acquisitions to the roster: Dave Bolland from Stanley Cup champions the Chicago Blackhawks, David Clarkson, the all-around threat from the New Jersey Devils, and Jonathan Bernier, the backup goaltender from



The Maple Leafs prepare for the start of the 2013/14 season.

RICHARD LAUTENS / TORONTO STAR

the Los Angeles Kings.

Bolland won two Stanley Cups with the Blackhawks, and scored the cup-clinching goal in the finals against the Bruins to bring his team to victory.

Clarkson had an amazing season two years ago, scoring 30 goals and helping the New Jersey Devils advance to the Stanley Cup finals. Last season, he scored 15 goals in 38 games.

These additions to the Leafs fit perfectly with the gritty style of hockey that coach Randy Carlyle encourages, and complement the existing roster tremendously. However, the newly signed Leafs are not the team's only strengths.

Kyle Kuczynski, a fourth-year history and political science major and centreman on the UTM Eagles hockey team, highlighted some other players fans should look out for: "I noticed Dave Broll in their first pre-season game. Keep an eye out for him; he's fast [and] strong—not to mention he's a solid 240 pounds and 6 foot 2."

Compared to other hockey teams, however, the Leafs are lacking in a crucial role: a good centreman. Although Bozak is the team's best centre, his talent pales compared to other first-line centres like Patrice Bergeron of the Boston Bruins, Jonathan

Toews of the Blackhawks, and Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins. Although Bozak has maintained a consistent level of play alongside Phil Kessel, the prospect of Nazem Kadri as the upcoming star for the Leafs in the centre position seems good.

Christopher Antilope, a second-year student at UTM, commented on the team's play during their exhibition games. "After watching a few of the exhibition games, focusing on the Monday, September 17 game against the Philadelphia Flyers, I saw the typical essence of the team," he said. "Throughout the game there were some amazing plays,

and it was great to see Randy Carlyle [playing] the new additions to the team."

Leafs supporters have high hopes for the upcoming season, and are eager to see the Leafs in the playoffs once again, hopefully giving a better performance than last year.

Despite the stellar performance goaltender James Reimer exhibited during the Leafs' playoff run, there is still a possibility that Reimer will be fighting for top spot with the newly acquired Jonathan Bernier come the beginning of the season. Reimer had an amazing season with the Leafs, and was one of the reasons the Leafs made it all the way to the playoffs. Reimer boasts a record of 19-8-5, a .924 save percentage, and a 2.46 G.A.A., while Bernier, from the Los Angeles Kings, managed 9-3-1, a 1.88 G.A.A., and a .922 save percentage.

"I think it's unfair to Reimer, who gave the performance of a lifetime during the playoffs," says Charley Dagher, a third-year life sciences major. "He deserves to be our number one, especially considering that Bernier has less experience after only being a backup in Los Angeles."

The Leafs use the strategy of rotating starts between the two goalies, which Carlyle has stated is important for solidifying the team's position and fostering internal competition. This strategy was successful for the Chicago Blackhawks, who regularly rotated the equally talented Corey Crawford and Ray Emery until the playoffs.

Leafs continued on page 12

Spotting sports resources on campus

It's easy to find yourself focusing solely on your schoolwork, but keeping active may be easier than you expect

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

For a first-year student, the transition into university life can be stressful. Unfortunately, gym class is not available in university, making the "freshman 15" a very real possibility for students who forget about physical activity after spending 12 hours with their faces stuck in a textbook.

To counteract this, the RAWC encourages students to get involved in one of the many leagues on campus, where players of all different skill levels can engage

in friendly and fun competition. There are leagues for a variety of sports, which ought to pique the interest of any amateur athlete.

One such league is the UTM Campus Rec Intramurals. These intramural games are played once a week and consist of both recreational leagues and tournaments. The duration of the recreational leagues is, on average, 6-8 weeks, while the tournaments generally last a day.

During the 2012/13 school year, the RAWC listed a record-breaking 142 teams to participate in 21 separate leagues. The

teams in this league are formed outside of the RAWC, and must sign up on their own. There must

During the 2012/13 school year, the RAWC listed a record-breaking 142 teams to participate in 21 separate leagues.

be a minimum of four teams in a league. Any students looking for

a team to play on can be added to the free agent waiting list by visiting the RAWC's Program Office.

For those who want to compete not only on UTM soil but also against our rivals downtown and Scarborough campuses, the RAWC offers access to U of T intramurals, in which teams compete against various colleges and faculties across the university. The sports available to students include basketball, ice hockey, soccer, field hockey, flag football, volleyball, rugby, and ultimate Frisbee. Though tryouts for these

sports have already taken place, those who were unable to attend can try out for the winter session at the beginning of the term. The tri-campus intramurals are designed to give students a feel for competitive sport that is less intense than varsity, but is still well supported by adoring fans.

"Playing intramurals provided me with the perfect compromise," says Kyle Kuczynski, a fourth-year history and political science major and centreman for the men's tri-campus hockey team.

RAWC continued on page 12

First-years' guide to sports at the RAWC

RAWC continued from page 11

"I play hockey a couple times a week for fun and I still get to go to school. There's no coach freaking out at you for messing up a play, and no strenuous training. It allows you to put school first and play just for fun."

Kuczynski also believes getting involved with intramurals is a great way to form bonds for those new to university. "I made friends with almost everyone on the team and it created a hockey community at

UTM where we all had the same personality and athletic interests," he says. "You meet a ton of people with the same athletic interests as you. It keeps you active. Tuition pays for intramurals and it would be a complete waste of a student's money to not play!"

Those looking for that competitive edge will find that the Varsity Blues is as competitive as sports at U of T get. UTM students are free to try the many sports offered, although the program is centred at the St. George campus. Still, the

trek may be worth it for the opportunity to gain U of T-wide fame and play their best at the OUA level.

For those who aren't looking to shame other U of T student teams or engage in the highly competitive world of varsity sports, there are extramurals available to students who want the best of both worlds. Many hear the term "extramural" and confuse it with tri-campus intramurals. Rather, extramurals are games between UTM and other schools in the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association, such as

Georgian College, Centennial College, and Trent University. There are currently four teams available for extramural competition: coed ultimate Frisbee, coed indoor soccer, men's basketball, and men's indoor cricket. UTM will be hosting a tournament for each of these sports during the 2013/14 school year.

Another option, considered by some to be the most fun with the least hassle, is the casual recreation leagues, which offer busy university students the fun of playing sports in a comfortable environment without

the worries of commitment. With a swipe of your T-Card, you can get on the court and play a variety of sports, like badminton, volleyball, indoor cricket, 4-on-4 basketball, and indoor soccer.

"It's the best way for me to get exercise," says Antonio Fernando, a third-year economics major. "I love the competition that sports brings, but can't always find the time to commit to anything." More information about these programs can be found in the RAWC's 2013/14 Activity Guide.

UTM Soccer club kicks off

Students come together to watch first-round UEFA action

KAREEM RAMADAN

The relatively recently founded UTM Soccer Club hosted the first of many events scheduled for the year on Tuesday, September 16 in the Student Centre.

The event featured a broadcast of the first round of the UEFA Champions League, in which Real Madrid squared off against Turkish powerhouse Galatasaray.

The Turkish side largely dominated the opening 30 minutes, but then Real Madrid broke through with a strike from the recently acquired Isco. Following Isco's strike, the momentum shifted heavily in Real Madrid's favour, and they never looked

back, surging to a 6-1 victory headlined by three goals from Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

The club also held a raffle for a new Cristiano Ronaldo jersey—all the more fitting after Ronaldo's performance.

The relatively simple event drew over 30 students from UTM, many of whom were new to the campus.

"As a soccer fan, I was very

pleased to find out that UTM has a club dedicated to my favourite sport," says Patrick Thomas, a first-year life sciences student. "It was nice to watch a HD stream of a big match between two soccer giants, and free food never hurts either."

The club also held a raffle for a new Cristiano Ronaldo jersey—all the more fitting after Ronaldo's performance—after the match. The jersey was won by a first-year student. "This was our first event of the year, and it was a huge success," said Umair Shafiq, the club's president.

The UTM Soccer Club was started in September 2009 and is now in its fourth year.

The Leafs return following playoffs

Leafs continued from page 11

"I think regardless of pre-season play, Reimer took them to the playoffs and performed well. He's earned the majority of the starts for the first 15 games at least," says Christopher Autuchiewicz, a third-year political science major.

The Leafs will be the centre of attention in the league this coming season during their scheduled game against a new division rival, the Detroit Red Wings, in the 2014 Winter Classic at Michigan Stadium on January 1.

The NHL has also added five more fan-favourite outdoor games throughout the season, including

the Anaheim Ducks and Los Angeles Kings at Dodger Stadium, the New York Rangers against the New York Islanders and the New Jersey Devils at Yankee Stadium, the Ottawa Senators against the Vancouver Canucks at BC Place, and the reigning Blackhawks against the Pittsburgh Penguins at the Soldier Field in Chicago and the CONSOL Energy Centre in Pittsburgh.

Although the debate persists on the Maple Leafs' odds in the upcoming season, now that the team has played two pre-season games and demonstrated their ability to play good hockey, the fans are excited to see what the Maple Leafs have to offer this season.

YOUR HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN BENEFITS

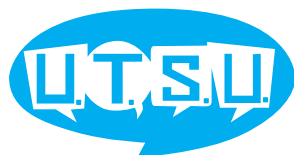


WHO IS ENROLLED?

All full-time undergraduate, professional faculty and theology students at St. George or Mississauga are automatically enrolled in the UTSU extended health and dental plans.

Plan members who are first year students or returning from a leave of absence are covered starting September 1, 2013. Although coverage is effective from September 1, new plan members will not be able to receive reimbursements until their accounts are activated by the end of November.

For more info please contact the University of Toronto Students' Union
12 Hart House Circle
health@utsu.ca
www.utsu.ca/health



THE UTSU OFFERS TWO INSURANCE PLANS:

an extended health plan; and a dental plan. Students who have comparable health coverage may opt out of the health plan while any student may opt out of the dental plan. Students are required to opt out on an annual basis.

Students may enroll their spouse (including a common law or same sex partner) and/or children to both the health plan and the dental plan for an additional fee.

GET MORE ONLINE

Visit utsu.ca/health for benefits information.

REGISTER at greenshield.ca/studentcentre to get personalized claims forms, claims history, to print your Green Shield ID card and to get discounts on dental and vision with exclusive Discount Networks.

YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER IS GREEN SHIELD CANADA

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Questions about coverage or claims? Contact Green Shield:
greenshield.ca/studentcentre | 1-888-711-1119

OPT OUT & ENROLLMENT DATES

Students starting in September:
August 26, 2013 to October 4, 2013

Students starting in January:
January 6, 2014 to January 31, 2014

OPT OUT ONLINE AT studentplans.ca/utsu
ENROLL BY CONTACTING health@utsu.ca