

# Writing Contest Winners

Pages 12 and 13

## THE MEDIUM

THE VOICE OF  
THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TORONTO  
MISSISSAUGA

January 27, 2014

Volume 40, Issue 15  
mediumutm.ca

### UEC brings ambassadors to UTM

Five governmental public figures discuss their countries' emerging markets

**ANNA GRABOWIECKI  
SERHAT ONGEN**

The Undergraduate Economics Council hosted their first annual conference on the weekend of January 18, attended by UTM students and staff, as well as by five governmental public figures.

Ambassadors Farid Shafiyev (Azerbaijan) and Dienne Hardianti Moehario (Indonesia) and consul generals Ali Riza Guney (Turkey), Akhilesh Mishra (India), and Mohammad Nafees Zakaria (Pakistan) flew in from Ottawa to attend the two-day event, which was held in collaboration with UTMSU's Ministry of Academic Affairs.

The event was also filmed and aired by a Turkish TV station.

The audience, which totalled some 100 people, was made up primarily of students from various programs, including not only economics but also political science and life science. According to a UEC executive, one of the organization's goals was to include a



DIEGO BENITEZ/PHOTO

**Ambassadors flew in from Ottawa to attend UEC's first annual conference.**

variety of interested students.

The event, whose topic was "emerging markets", began in IB120 with a panel discussion moderated by the UEC's VP ex-

ternal relations, Serhat Ongen. For each country in question, the panelists discussed what makes the country an emerging market, the obstacles it faces, and its long-

term economic growth goals, including its economic relationship with Canada.

**UEC continued on page 2**

### CFS-O against 30% Off grant after changes

**MARIA IQBAL  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR**

The Ontario Government is facing opposition following (and despite) its announcement last Monday that students attending private postsecondary schools are now eligible for the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant.

The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario urged the province to instead redirect funding from the 30% off grant—which still excludes international and mature students after the update—towards universal tuition fee reductions for all.

"Ontario students are facing the highest tuition fees in the country, record levels of student debt, a dismal job market, and a lack of access to necessities like transportation," said Alastair Woods, the chairperson of CFS-O, in a story published in the *Northumberland View*.

**CFS continued on page 2**

### Students warned away from construction

Campus Police are concerned that students are not keeping away from danger zones

**LARISSA HO  
NEWS EDITOR**

Because the hallway in the Kaneff Centre is being demolished in order to attach it to the new Innovation Complex, the entrance closest to the Davis Building is now blocked off.

However, students have continued to pass through it at times when it's open for construction workers, despite the signage, say Campus Police.

Pedestrian traffic by the entrance is heavy because of the nearby bus run. This is proving dangerous, especially when a bus stops in front of "Gate A", from which cement trucks sometimes back out towards the road, in place since last fall.

To date, there have been no student injuries.

"Students need to be even more careful [...]" said Len Paris, manager



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

**Campus Police have warned students to stay away from construction sites, for their own safety.**

of Campus Police, in an interview. "When you're trying to put a new building into an existing building that's still being occupied, it can be difficult."

Paris also cautioned students not to text as they walk around campus near the construction sites.

The entrance has been closed for the past week and will reopen in late August with the opening of the Innovation Complex. The Blackwood Gallery, Matthews Auditorium, and some classrooms and offices are still open.

Students and drivers have also been

parking on Outer Circle Road in a section currently open only to shuttle busses and emergency vehicles due to construction. The upper part of Parking Lot 9 has been opened to allow for student pickups, according to Parking Services.



#### **Broadening "acceptable"**

Social Capital Symposium looks at our duty to repair the world rather than the individual.  
Medium News, page 3

#### **No use for alcohol abuse**

Binge-drinking is hurting students at UTM—your safety is in your own hands.  
Medium Opinion, page 4

#### **Beyond the stageplay**

The latest from Theatre Erindale will have you in stitches.  
Medium Arts, page 5

#### **Selective information**

An interview with a UTM Canada Research Chair investigates her work on child language acquisition.  
Medium Features, page 9

#### **Pretty in pink**

The Blues dressed up to support a campaign to defeat cancer—and trounce the Thunderbirds, too.  
Medium Sports, page 14

## CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

January 17, 11:05 a.m.

### Driving Offences

Campus Police investigated a careless driver who almost struck a pedestrian while crossing a crosswalk near the RAWC.

January 17, 10:58 a.m.

### Mischief

Campus Police investigated graffiti (non-hate crime) inside the CCT Garage.

January 17, 4:13 p.m.

### Dog Rescued

Campus Police assisted the Mississauga Fire Department in rescuing a dog. A non-community member's dog fell off the side of the trail while hiking. The dog was unharmed.

January 17, 2:08 p.m.

### Medical Call

A female student rolled her ankle and fell to the ground, subsequently injuring her left ankle. The female was transported to the hospital by Campus Police.

January 18, 6:15 p.m.

### Motor Vehicle Accident

A male student reported damage to his vehicle by an unknown person(s) while parked inside the CCT Garage. Campus Police investigated the incident.

January 23, 9:45 p.m.

### Medical Call

Campus Police responded to a slip and fall incident in front of Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Centre. The male sprained his ankle. First aid was provided by ECSpeRT volunteers.

January 20, 10:25 p.m.

### Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated a theft of an iPad from the women's changeroom located at the Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Centre. The iPad was later recovered.

January 21 12:20 p.m.

### Threatening

A female reported threatening online remarks directed towards another female. The remarks were a result of a current debate on religion.

January 20, 2:10 p.m.

### Motor Vehicle Accident

Campus Police responded to a motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles in Lot 9.

A female passenger in one of the vehicles appeared to be in shock. The Mississauga Fire Department and the Peel Regional Police attended to assist. Both vehicles sustained damage over \$10,000.

# Tuition grant criticized

CFS-O calls on government to reduce fees for all students

*CFS continued from Cover*

The CFS-O outlined its position in its recommendations for the 2014 provincial budget. In the document, "Addressing a Crisis", the CFS-O calls the tuition grant "a restrictive program that has been accessed by less than a third of students".

The grant, which is offered to students with a family income of less than \$160,000, was previously only offered to students studying at publicly funded institutions. As a result of the government's recent decision, the discount is now expected to reach 5,000 additional students this year.

International students remain ineligible for both the Ontario Tuition Grant and OSAP loans. While students enrolled in five-year co-op programs now qualify for the grant, most students who have been out of high school for over

four years remain ineligible, except in special cases.

The CFS-O proposal calls on the government to eliminate the program and instead use the funds, as well as education tax credits, "to reduce tuition fees for all students, including international students, and for all programs, including professional programs, by 30% over three years".

According to the Government of Ontario, approximately 230,000 students received the grant last year. CFS-O national executive representative Anna Goldfinch told the *Toronto Star* that 600,000 students in Ontario remain ineligible.

Goldfinch also took issue with the fact that fees for private colleges are not regulated, which the *Toronto Star* reports can cost up to four times as much as public institutions.

"The priority of the provincial

government should be to make public postsecondary education more affordable, not find new ways to fund and promote private institutions," she said.

But Emily Hedges, a representative of the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, defended the decision, pointing out that the government has also toughened OSAP eligibility requirements for students in private institutions.

The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario was scheduled to discuss its budget proposals with the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in North Bay last Wednesday.

The 30% Off Tuition Grant was introduced in 2012, the same year the provincial work-study program was discontinued. This year, the 30% Off grant is worth \$1,730 for eligible degree students and \$790 for eligible diploma and certificate students.

# Students network at UEC conference

Executives disappointed by low faculty and staff attendance

*UEC continued from Cover*

After the discussion, the honorary guests and attendees were invited to a lunch at the Blind Duck Pub. During the lunch, students took the opportunity to network and could speak to the officials one-on-one, face-to-face.

The conference also included a competition designed by the UEC executives in which students worked in groups to present the key economic and political prob-

lems for an assigned country and identify feasible solutions. Fourteen emerging market groups

Students took the opportunity to network and could speak to the officials one-on-one.

were represented, and first place was won by the Poland group.

UEC executives expressed disappointment at the low turnout of UTM faculty and staff. Invitations were widely sent out to faculty and staff, including Principal Deep Saini, but only three of those invited attended: instructors Kathleen Wong and Christopher D'Souza of the Department of Economics and research and support technician Andrew Graham of the Li Koon Chun Finance Learning Centre.

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# Including the disabled

Social capital at the centre of the symposium at UTM on Friday



Dr. Al Condeluci spoke at UTM last Friday.

CHRISTY TAM/THE MEDIUM

**LARISSA HO**  
NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Al Condeluci, a global activist and CEO of Community Living and Support Services, Pittsburgh, led a dynamic Social Capital Symposium at UTM to talk to community service providers as well as UTM faculty, staff, and students about the importance of inclusion in creating stronger communities.

Attendance at the symposium, held on Friday afternoon, was by invitation only; about 80 people gathered in the Faculty Club, where Dr. Stuart Kamenetsky, Associate Chair of the Psychology Department, made opening remarks.

“We are obligated to repairing the world, not just the individual,” said Kamenetsky in his speech.

Condeluci then spoke briefly about how his cousin Carol, who had

Down Syndrome, inspired him to begin to fight for the rights of those with disabilities. He spoke about looking beyond personal differences, building bridges, and looking to change the world so that it values individuals with disabilities, rather than excludes them and mitigates their disabilities.

Social capital was at the centre of Condeluci’s talk. Condeluci emphasized the need for more opportunities for people with disabilities to engage with others on the same level so that commonalities and similarities may be found. This way, said Condeluci, it is the accommodator who is changing, and not the person with the disability. He added that among those without disabilities, attitudes are shifting and broadening about what is “acceptable”.

“I would like all members of the UTM community, whether they are

faculty, students, or staff, to actively contribute to making UTM a more inclusive community by accepting differences based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability,” said Kamenetsky in an interview. “We need to actively reach out to less well-connected individuals and work hard to include them in the UTM community.”

Kamenetsky said inclusion is not a novel approach. According to the ancient Hebrew scriptures, he said, “It is incumbent upon us to repair the world rather than the individual, hiring someone is better than providing charity, and saving one person is akin to saving the entire world—the task can seem overwhelming, but if each of us get involved and help one person, the world will be a better place.”

The event was sponsored by UTM, Community Living Mississauga, and the Interdependence Network.

## Pride Week returns to UTM in style

**LARISSA HO**  
NEWS EDITOR

The UTM community held its annual Pride Week, with programming and events running from January 17 to 24 for the benefit of students, staff, and faculty who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, or queer, and for their allies.

“The week of plentiful events has just wrapped up with a fantastic open mic night where around thir-

ty people showed up to watch and perform in a positive, judgement-free space,” said Roya Ghahremani, the executive director of OUT@UTM, the club that hosted the event. “Throughout the week it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, and also some new ones of people who checked out the events and were educated about why a positive space for queer folk is so important.”

Ghahremani said she thinks they

accomplished their goal of “creating a welcoming environment where everyone, regardless of gender or sexual identity, felt safe and confident”.

The week-long series of events was a collaboration between UTM’s Ministry of Equity, OUT@UTM, the UTM Positive Space Committee, the U of T Sexual and Gender Diversity Office, and the U of T Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office.

### » WOULD YOU DONATE YOUR ORGANS?



**Gurpreet Padam**  
3rd year, art history

I probably would do it, but I don’t know why.



**Farah Badr**  
3rd year, biotechnology

Yeah. People sometimes sell their organs, which is unethical.



**Bhuvana Tantry**  
2nd year, biology

Yeah, if my organs can help save someone’s life...



**Puranjay Mahajan**  
2nd year, life sciences

No. I don’t know. Maybe in the near future.

When else will you get the chance to walk into a room and say “I wanna write” and they’ll just let you?



Email Larissa at [news@mediumutm.ca](mailto:news@mediumutm.ca)

## NEWS BRIEFS »

### Pregnant, brain-dead Texas woman finally taken off life support

The family of a brain-dead, pregnant Texas woman said Sunday afternoon she has been removed from life support following a judge’s ruling. She was 14 months pregnant. Her fetus cannot be born alive this early in the pregnancy. The hospital said it was trying to protect the rights of the unborn fetus by keeping the woman alive.

Source: CTV News

### Sochi security threat “as high as a threat level could go”

The security threat at the upcoming Sochi Olympics is “as high as a threat level could go,” says the head of security for the Vancouver Games. With the upcoming games being held not far from the restive North Caucasus region, where the Russian government has been battling insurgents for years, there are fears that the Games will be the target of a terror attack.

Source: CTV News

### Peace doves freed from Pope’s window attacked by seagull, crow

Two white doves that were released by children standing alongside Pope Francis as a peace gesture have been attacked by other birds. As tens of thousands of people watched in St. Peter’s Square on Sunday, a seagull and a large black crow swept down on the doves right after they were set free from an open window of the Apostolic Palace.

Source: The Globe and Mail

### Thousands in N.S. to be without family doctor after physician moves

Nova Scotia health officials are trying to figure out how to accommodate thousands of patients after their doctor closes a clinic in Halifax at a time when the province is struggling to recruit and retain doctors. The centre said it has been carrying up to 20,000 patients since opening in 2003.

Source: CTV News

### French president Hollande confirms Trierweiler split

French president Francois Hollande has confirmed his separation from his partner Valerie Trierweiler. Two weeks ago, a magazine published photos which appeared to show that Hollande had been having an affair with actress Julie Gayet. Trierweiler spent a week in hospital after the revelations to take care of her mental health.

Source: BBC News

# MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

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MEDIUM II PUBLICATIONS  
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## Little allowance for the “no”

The fireworks are going off on campus. Must be voting time again

Complaints about fair campaigning are important, but they're the same year after year, so I'll give them just a little space this time around.

Last year, a friend of one of our staff was stopped by a campaigner in the Meeting Place during the UTM-SU elections. (A quick glance at Facebook pages like Spotted at UTM tells you people are increasingly annoyed by this.) The campaigner told her she needed to vote and would she liked to have it all explained to her? She replied that she didn't have time. He insisted. She joked, "Okay, I'll vote. But I'm going to vote no." At this point, the campaigner said, "Oh—uh, that's okay, never mind."

Don't get me wrong; I don't have

a problem with anyone voting yes. Heck, I might do it myself, no guarantees. But the likelihood of a majority voting yes points to one of the difficulties in any democracy: the few who are involved and have money are very interested in you voting yes. They buy shirts, they put up elaborate websites, they design and print large colour posters, all of it telling you the many reasons why you must support a project that essentially belongs to them. They can even buy an ad on the back page of the *Medium* (anyone can buy the space, but it's not very affordable for most students). Where would you hear any other side of it?

The ironic thing is, if it's mostly business as usual for UTMSU, the

whole thing is mostly for show. When was the last time something or someone wasn't overwhelmingly passed (by a tiny voter turnout)?

Well, one thing's new. Apparently because they've been reading along with the vitriolic Facebook comment wars about it, the Debating Club has announced an open discussion of the expansion (3 p.m. Monday, Council Chambers in Davis) and has invited UTMSU. I'll go because I'm curious about who'll be there and what they'll say—will it be more of the same, or will there actually be a “no”?

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK

## Should have passed HCC increase

Dear Editor,

This week a Quality Service to Students meeting was held in which representatives of the UTM Students' Union voted against tuition increases of up to \$11.74 per session. This may seem like a win for the students, but it is in fact a loss. The proposed increase in tuition was, in part, to bring on more staff at the Health and Counselling Centre.

The HCC is an essential service for many students on campus. The services they provide include medical care, personal counselling, psychiatry support, and nutritional counselling. There are, however, not enough staff in the centre to aid the increasing student population. We have about four mental health professionals for over 12,600 undergraduate students. Did you know that the wait time to speak to a mental health specialist is more than two weeks? This is an incredibly long time for someone who may need immediate assistance.

The HCC thus asked for a 10.11% increase in their budget to bring on

more staff. This translates to roughly \$3.34, which UTMSU turned down. Their argument was that the added staff would be administrative. But this administrative staff would be responsible for leading a group of 50+ student volunteers as part of the Peer Health Education and Outreach program. The Peer Health Educators are responsible for reaching out to students about services available on campus. It is surprising that in such a large student body, many students are still unaware of these services or even where the HCC is located. This is why a program like this is important. Furthermore, the administrative staff the HCC proposed to hire would be a medical professional. They would be responsible not only for keeping the PHE program running but also for providing their expertise to students in the HCC.

Another personnel that the HCC was looking into hiring was a mental health professional. A major error being made by UTMSU is simplifying mental health. Mental health is not just a byproduct of increased tuition [as

claimed by Melissa Theodore, VP external, in the thread]. Their argument is that by dealing with the “root” of the problem, decreasing tuition, they will solve students' mental health issues. But there are many other factors involved. The mere transition from high school to university can cause mental health issues. Other factors include relationship challenges, emotional or social concerns, exam anxiety, family conflict, and self-esteem issues. Even with programs such as group counselling put in place by the HCC, it's not enough. This is why it's important to have more professionals added to the team to reduce wait times and provide the assistance we need.

UTMSU may think that they are doing the students a favour by rejecting an increase in their tuition, but in reality they are just stripping students of a chance at better and quicker service that the HCC can provide for their mental well-being.

Zoya Tahir  
Fourth-year, biology

## A passive-aggressive encounter with UTMSU

Dear Editor,

I recently engaged in a public debate on UTMSU's Facebook page regarding the Quality Service to Students meeting. [Editor's note: Cuts were made to material covered in the above letter.]

I questioned them and they responded saying that the budget increase was for administrative support and not for another mental health professional. This began a debate filled with evasive answers from UTMSU. At one point, I was given this as a response to where else the money would come from to fund the HCC: “The university magically finds money from its operating budget to fund budgets that we vote down.”

To which I responded: “Magically. So you're telling me that somebody,

somewhere has a money tree? Wow, way to go for an awesomely informative response, UTMSU. My confusion has been cleared up. Thank you.”

Of course, my sarcasm, countless times, was lost on the students' union. What frustrated me most about this encounter was not even that the budget was shot down but that UTMSU acted in a completely unprofessional manner when responding to honest questions. I dealt with passive-aggressive, attitude-filled remarks before anyone gave me an answer that was even remotely justifiable. I wasn't the only one questioning the decisions and receiving passive-aggressive responses. I expected more from my representatives and I was supremely let down.

The worst part about all this is that ultimately, UTMSU has no problem

asking the student body for \$50 per person to expand the Student Centre but refuse to ask us for a measly \$3 in comparison to help make a very, very important service on campus run more efficiently. I'd like to think that essential student services on campus are just as important to UTMSU as building a bigger building. I'm sharing this story because I believe, as I would of any political organization in a democracy, that UTMSU needs to have their actions challenged and questioned by the constituents they represent. I hope more students are willing to follow suit and hold UTMSU accountable and in check, and hopefully UTMSU will learn to respond better in turn.

Canya Selvakumar  
Fourth-year, English

## Alcohol awareness: it's your call

Dear Editor,

At UTM, there has been a spike in the number of medical calls due to alcohol consumption requiring hospital conveyance of students by ambulance services.

In 2013, nine students were taken to hospital by ambulance because of excessive drinking—completely preventable incidents that put intoxicated students at risk, burdened friends caring for them, and strained the resources of responding police, ambulance, and fire services. Some of those conveyed to hospital were under the age of 19. Most of those at risk were students engaged in binge-drinking in residence social gatherings and students attending pub events. The gender distribution of those requiring hospital conveyances was about equal.

Excessive drinking leads to intoxication and in some cases to alcohol poisoning: a dangerous step beyond. The risks of ingesting alcoholic beverages to excess include choking on one's vomit, unconsciousness, irregular heartbeat, hypothermia, hypoglycemia, and seizures. Any of the risks may lead to permanent brain damage and death. Canadian university students have died after binge-drinking events. Unchecked alcohol consumption can also lead to dependency issues that could linger for the rest of one's life.

In public places and common areas on campus, intoxication by alcohol is a provincial offence under the Liquor Licence Act. Intoxicated students and visitors at UTM have been charged for being intoxicated in public places. A few ended up spending a night in custody.

Aside from the health risks, intoxication by alcohol renders a person less capable of judging events as they unfold. The likelihood of committing a criminal offence, be it fighting, impaired driving, destroying property, or committing sexual assault, is higher when a person is unable to make good decisions. Being intoxicated by alcohol during a crime does not lessen the responsibility of the offender, nor does it reduce the penalty. Intoxicated persons are also more apt to become victims of crime. Approximately half of the assaults and sexual assaults that occur on campus are alcohol-related.

UTM is a place of education and personal growth. Stay safe and do not fall victim to alcohol abuse.

Corporal Charles Helewa  
Campus Police

# MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

## Theatre Erindale sews up another hit show

*A Stich in Time* allows UTM's drama students to show off their comedic side and explore between the planes

**KATE CATTELL-DANIELS**  
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

If you need a little something to perk you up from the depths of January despair, *A Stich in Time* by **Dorothy Lees-Blakey** with **Brian Blakey** is a good place to start. This outrageously funny farce is one of the most polished comedies I've seen, reminiscent of the physical style in Theatre Erindale's production of *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth* from last year.

The plot follows a series of mix-ups and mistaken identities as Dr. Moulineaux, the show's protagonist, tries to cover his tracks after he spends a night out dancing with his mistress and attempts to secure an apartment for them to meet in away from his wife's prying eyes. While this may not sound like much in terms of storyline, don't be deceived. What appears flat on paper is brought to dynamic, hilarious life by a flawless cast of incredibly talented physical actors. Under the direction of **David Matheson**, every opportunity for comedy has been crafted with perfect timing, and he uses the script to its best advantage while also creating moments not pro-



JIM SMAGATA/PHOTO

**Dr. Moulineaux (Victor Pokinko, left) tries to balance marriage and adultery in *A Stich in Time*.**

vided in the text.

The set serves the busy, fast-paced production perfectly, providing numerous doors for entrances and exits, but also for hiding places. The slamming of doors in various characters' faces throughout becomes a comedy show in and of itself.

Each of the characters is more of a

caricature than an actual person, allowing for a removal from reality that makes the stakes in *A Stich in Time* funny rather than tragic. Each falls into well-worn archetypes: the husband, the wife, the mother-in-law, the soldier, the mistress. What makes these characters believable is, in a way, their lack of believability. There's

no way to perform these characters halfway; it's all or nothing, and the cast makes the bold choice to go all out in embracing the huge personalities assigned them.

Textually, the show exists on three planes. The first is the dialogue that bounces between the characters, which everyone takes part in. The

second occurs between two characters as an aside from anyone else who happens to be in the room at the time. This is also shared directly with the audience. The third plane consists of asides made by one character directly to the audience, in which that character's immediate perception is shared. A great deal of the comedy in the show arises from the last two planes because of the importance of dramatic irony. As spectators, we see and understand everything; no plot twist or disguise is hidden from us. But when characters are kept in ignorance by others and they express their confusion to those in the know, the audience takes full advantage of a character's misery and ends up rolling around on the floor in fits of laughter.

The third act of *A Stich in Time*, however, pulls everyone back to a more realistic place. There is genuine sympathy for the characters as couples are reunited in a *Midsummer Night's Dream* kind of way. This feels well-deserved after the tribulation and confusion of the past two days, even if, like in *Midsummer*, not all reunions are completely honest.

*A Stich in Time* runs until February 2 at the Erindale Studio Theatre.

## HBO searches for the meaning of young adult life

*Looking* finds its footing in a strong pilot, but will the TV series be able to maintain the momentum?

**COLLEEN MUNRO**  
A&E EDITOR

As if the HBO series *Girls* hasn't already sparked enough discussion and critique from critics and TV fans alike of its depiction of the so-called "millennial" generation, HBO has now launched another series seemingly destined to generate buzz with *Looking*, which premiered last week on HBO Canada. The show revolves around a group of gay men living in San Francisco and follows their professional, personal, and romantic struggles. Thankfully, though, the show's pilot suggests that the show has substance beyond simply evoking debate and also avoids being the male-driven carbon copy of *Girls* that it sounds like.

After the uncensored discussions of sexuality on shows like *Sex and the City* and *Girls*, nudity on many premium cable shows, and the violence featured in any number of cop/gangster/forensic investigation series, it's difficult for a television show to be truly shocking nowadays. Thankfully, the pilot of *Looking* shows that the creators aren't interested in one-upping or being more outrageous than the series before it. On the whole, it's a pretty earnest look at 20-something life. Sure, the pilot



TVRAGE.COM/PHOTO

**Urban San Francisco serves as the backdrop for HBO's gritty new series, *Looking*.**

opens with a casual sexual encounter in a park and the half-hour episode features plenty of frank conversation. But it also doesn't feel like it's trying to be explicit just for the sake of sensationalism and seems genuinely interested in mining some universal truths right from the outset. For example, the show's protagonist, Patrick (played with surprising subtlety by *Glee* alum **Jonathan Groff**), is a

well-meaning, pleasant guy who's also holding on to some rather significant insecurities. Whether or not you can relate to his specific struggle, watching Pat shoot the breeze with his friends or verbally dig himself deeper and deeper into a hole on a doomed first date feels authentic in the way it's presented.

The first few episodes of *Looking* are directed by **Andrew Haigh**, who

also serves as an executive producer of the series. Haigh made a name for himself with the 2011 British indie *Weekend*, which follows a relationship between two men that wavers between a one-night stand and something more. Haigh explores similar territory here both with the story and in equally gorgeous and hazy visuals.

This time around, Haigh trades

the drizzly streets of London for the bright lights and bustle of San Francisco, making *Looking* innately feel like a bigger affair than his previous work. However, while Haigh's intimate, clear-eyed perspective on love is perfectly suited for a low-key, 90-minute indie drama, it may prove to be more of a challenge to stretch over a week-by-week series for any significant length of time. The premiere of *Looking* finds Haigh already building his characters in complex and fascinating ways, but the major question it poses is if those characters will be provided with enough places to go story-wise to keep the show interesting throughout a potentially multi-season run.

*Looking* has earned many comparisons to *Girls*, and while it examines the same urban 20-something crowd and has a 30-minute format, it's hardly a direct copy. There's something more oblique and moody about *Looking*, and while it certainly has its moments of humour, it's not difficult to imagine it delving into darker territory than *Girls* does, down the road. It's off to a strong start with its pilot—it's just a matter of whether its low-key and microcosmic worldview will suit the serialized format of a television series.

# Conjuring up scares

*Devil's Due* is the latest capable horror flick



IMDB.COM/PHOTO

A brief happy moment before all hell breaks loose in *Devil's Due*.

## MAYANK SHARMA

From the team that gave us *V/H/S* comes another horror flick that brings some new elements to the horror genre. The film follows a young woman who is impregnated with Satan's baby, and as the plot unfolds, we see some traditional elements of the genre explored in a modern context.

*Devil's Due* follows a newlywed couple (played by Allison Miller and Zach Gilford) instead of a modern-day nuclear family. Despite this slight deviation from the standard premise, the film is largely shot in a handheld and "found footage" style, and includes some horror clichés, such as a dog sensing that something eerie is afoot.

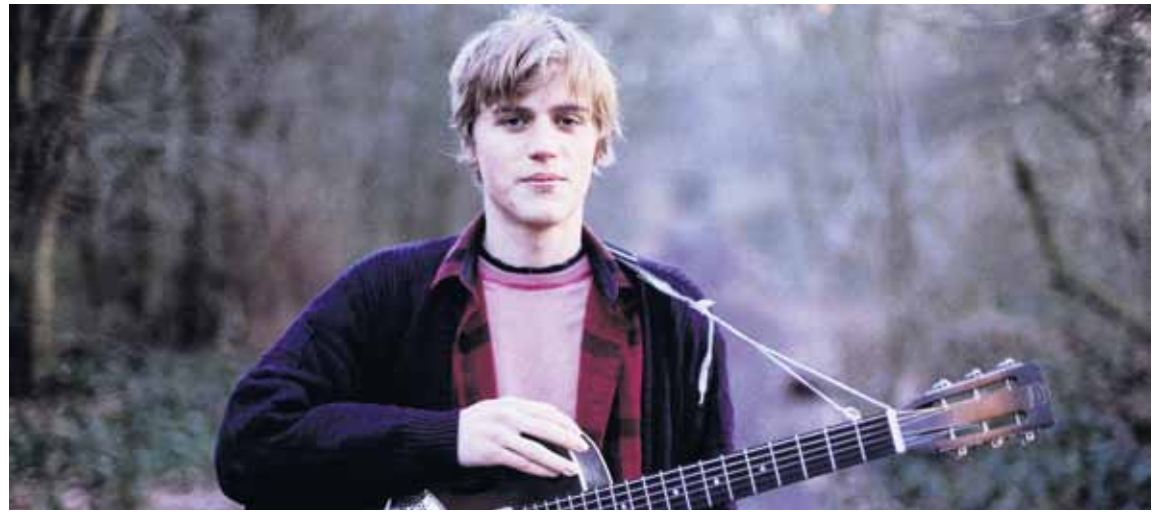
The use of romance and humour

in the buildup to the action is commendable, but some segments were unnecessarily stretched out. And the plot lacks originality, ripping off other films in the genre, like *Paranormal Activity*, *Rosemary's Baby*, and *The Omen*. That said, superstition, rituals, and religion are used in a new way to add to the scare factor of this film. Refreshingly, it doesn't overly rely on jump scares to frighten the audience, and the cinematography and effects are worthy of praise.

*Devil's Due* takes its found footage in a new direction, but it lacks a well-structured plot. A couple of segments weren't explained and have the potential to spawn sequels. If you enjoy horror films and are looking for some alternative Valentine's Day viewing, try not to miss this. **MMM**

# Warm songs for a cold winter night

British folk musician Johnny Flynn stops by Lee's Palace



LATINO-REVIEW.COM/PHOTO

Johnny Flynn brought his unique brand of folk to Toronto last week.

## COLLEEN MUNRO A&E EDITOR

Toronto's cavernous Lee's Palace perhaps seemed like a slightly odd choice of venue to host British folkster Johnny Flynn. The iconic comic book-inspired exterior and black, somewhat dive-y interior of the building seemed at odds with the crowd at last Wednesday night's show, which was attended largely by polite girls in their early 20s and good-natured boyfriends who were brought along as company.

When the opening band, **the Melodic**, took the stage and began their folk-y, upbeat set in earnest, a buzz of excitement began to slowly permeate the somewhat subdued room. The band's music had the sort of simple catchy melodies and male-female traded vocals that are popular right now, and their single "On My Way" recalled **Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeroes'** infectious "Home". Boyish lead singer **Huw Williams'** voice offered a texture and character usually reserved for 40-year-old vinyl recordings, evoking the ethereal hum of **Tim Buckley** at times.

All this set the stage for headliner Johnny Flynn, who took the stage solo, wielding his acoustic guitar. He

began his set by semi-frantically digging through his pockets for a set list and then apologetically sidling off stage, only to return a few seconds later to sheepishly share his discovery that the list had been in his pocket the whole time. This unassuming, impish charm dominated Flynn's stage banter, and he offered a kind of inexplicable charisma that immediately won the crowd over. (It sounds as though he may bring a similarly low-key charm as an actor, too: a new film, *Song One*, which played to strong reviews at the Sundance Film Festival last week, finds Flynn starring alongside **Anne Hathaway**.)

However, Flynn's slightly bumbling onstage persona couldn't be more distinct from his confidence as a musician. From the opening guitar strum of his first song of the night, the B-side "The Ghost of O'Donahue", Flynn delivered all of the emotional heft of his recorded music and then some. His pure voice cut through the room, frequently reducing the crowd to reverent silence.

Flynn also proved a master of dynamics, starting many of his songs at a murmur and building to a searing crescendo at the chorus. This was the case with "Einstein's Idea", a stand-out track from Flynn's latest album,

*Country Mile*. Though originally conceived as a lullaby for Flynn's child, his live iteration of the song was laced with an urgency that hinted at a pain absent from the original recording. He also delighted the crowd with favourites from his back catalogue, including "Tickle Me Pink", "The Wrote and the Writ", and "Been Listening".

One unlikely highlight of the night came midway through the show. Flynn announced that he was about to play "The Water", a song he usually performs with **Laura Marling**, and the audience seemed to take this as an open casting call for a new duet partner. One embarrassed audience member was even hoisted onto the stage by her friends. A flustered Flynn, ever the gentleman, gave the young lady a hand up, only to then realize, judging by the look on his face, the potential disaster of what was to come. However, his impromptu collaborator was actually very good, nailing all of the lyrics and harmonies of the intricately woven ballad. Flynn's relief was palpable as soon as she began to sing, and he commended her after the fact for her talent and "balls".

Showing a soft side and some genuine grit to his rock-infused music, Flynn's live show was a dynamic and potent musical affair.

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# AGM celebrates the best of Mississauga art

The 36th Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts decorates the halls of the city's art gallery



ARTGALLERYOFMISSISSAUGA.WORDPRESS.COM/PHOTO

Eileen Menzel's "Up the River, Chicago" is one of the many highlights in AGM's 36th Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts.

## ANGELICA LITSIOU

The AGM collaborated with Visual Arts Mississauga to host the annual Juried Show of Fine Arts, which began on January 16. The opening night was a smashing success and the halls of the gallery were filled with eager onlookers gazing at a variety of mixed media, photography, and textile works.

This exhibition features selected submissions from all across Ontario. Each year, a new panel of jurors sifts

through the hundreds of submissions and decides, often unanimously, which ones to showcase. This year's three jurors all have impressive portfolios, delving into various realms of the visual arts. **Kim Lee Kho**, a multifaceted visual artist and art instructor, was joined by **Reinhard Reitzstien**, who is considered a senior artist, having participated in over 100 solo exhibitions and over 300 group exhibitions internationally, and **Ivan Jurakic**, who recently curated "Zone C" at last year's Nuit Blanche.

Stealing the first-place prize in the show this year is the dainty and symbolic work of **Noelle Hamlyn**, "Colonial Tea Jacket: A Skin Once Shed". This large jacket, constructed with intricately embroidered tea bags, suggests coziness and warmth, though it's stained and reused. Hamlyn uses her piece to reflect on the cultural appropriation and gloomy past of the North American First Nations people. "Colonial Tea Jacket" is a part of an expansive series that explores the iconography of Hudson's Bay blankets. Her work earned top honours due to its "unexpected use of a common material into an exquisite textile".

Other notable works include third-place winner **Glen L. Jones'** black and white photograph entitled "Up the Down Staircase". Many view-

ers spent several minutes attempting to deconstruct the visual illusion. Jones' work drew the jurors' attention by way of its distinct point of view as well as its patterns, movement, shape, design, and clear values.

Other impressive works include **Eileen Menzel's** "Up the River, Chicago", which won this year's Committee's Choice Award. This dreamlike, mixed-media piece drags the viewer's eye from corner to corner and acts, in Menzel's words, as "a landscape for the 21st century".

Within the realm of modern landscape also lies **Nigel Roberts'** "Strata." This piece took home the AGM's Curator's Award and inspires the community to be conscious of their responsibilities to the Earth. The composition of the digital photograph brings viewers outside the

realm of a gallery and into a vast, continuous plane of rough ridges and mountaintops.

There were three dissimilar honourable mentions: **Jorge Luis Ballart's** "Canada is Hockey", **Warren Hoyano's** mixed-media sculpture "Reduced Expectations", and the rustic "Words on Marble Column" by **Alaa Abdalrahman**.

Since 1987, the AGM has hosted VAM's annual juried show; this year 209 submissions were reviewed and 52 finalists were selected. Don't miss a chance to get inspired and engage with the Mississauga art community, and be sure to vote for the piece you feel deserves the People's Choice Award.

The exhibition runs at the Art Gallery of Mississauga until February 22.

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# Neutral Milk Hotel makes a long-awaited return

'90s indie rock favourites greeted by euphoric crowd at the Kool Haus four years after solo show run by Mangum



EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/PHOTO

It's been a while since Neutral Milk Hotel hit the road, but their pair of shows in Toronto last week showed that plenty of fans were willing to wait.

**MATT LONG**  
STAFF WRITER

Reclusive indie rock legends **Neutral Milk Hotel** stopped by the Kool Haus on January 19 for a triumphant show. As soon as the group's lead singer and mastermind, **Jeff Mangum**, took the stage, strapped his guitar around his neck, and began to play their classic track, "The King of Carrot Flowers Part 1", the Toronto crowd of all ages started to dance and sing along. Anyone familiar with the

Toronto concert scene knows how rare these displays of enthusiasm for a band can be, but it continued throughout the majority of the two-hour set.

Neutral Milk Hotel are an anomaly. The band is currently engaged in a reunion tour following a 15-year break they began on the heels of releasing their second album, 1998's classic *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea*. The band released the record, engaged in a short tour, and then disappeared. These were the days before

the Internet could track everyone's status, so for over a decade, no one knew where Mangum was. To see Neutral Milk Hotel in concert became a classic "imagine if" scenario.

That is, until Mangum announced a solo tour in 2009. He played two Toronto dates near the beginning of the tour. These shows were the first clues that a mind-blowing Neutral Milk Hotel reunion was in the works. After all, Mangum was the main mind behind the beautiful music of Neutral Milk Hotel, and if he was in the game again, it could all fall into place. The other members of Neutral Milk Hotel were all working musicians and regular parts of the Elephant 6 collective, which is the bigger artists' enclave to which Neutral Milk Hotel belongs. Those 2009 solo

shows were wonderful to attend, but something was still missing.

This all changed when Neutral Milk Hotel announced their 2013/14 reunion tour. For a band that disappeared off the face of the earth, they suddenly mounted one of the most intimidating tour schedules I've ever seen. This Toronto show fell smack-dab in the middle of the tour. It all proved wonderful, though, and they were loud, noisy, and fantastic. **Scott Spillane** sang along in clear ecstasy at bringing these songs to life, and **Julian Kossner's** singing saw soared. Neutral Milk Hotel played every song that a fan could want to hear, which is admittedly not inconceivable given their small discography. The centrepiece of the show was the playing of "Oh Comely", during

which the band retreated for the beginning and gradually came back in. After that song, the set took a small step down, because the best had already happened.

The opening band, **Elf Power**, played with enthusiasm that exhibited everything great about pop music.

No amount of time with such an elusive band could be enough. Even though Mangum has aged, as we all have, this music sounded as fresh and special as it did pre-Y2K. The experience of seeing Neutral Milk Hotel in concert was a special moment that won't be forgotten anytime soon. It was the kind of show any music lover gets to experience only so many times in his or her life.

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# MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

## CRC studying children's speech

Elizabeth Johnson, third of four CRCs named last year, studies how kids learn language so fast

**MARIA CRUZ**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Elizabeth Johnson, associate professor in the department of psychology, is the third of four CRCs to be named last year. Johnson specializes in working with infants to study their speech perception and language acquisition. Her main areas of focus are how infants from the ages of 6–18 months pick up language and perceive speech signals, including word recognition and understanding.

This week, Johnson sat down with the *Medium* to further discuss her research and why the study of child speech fascinates her.

**The Medium:** How long have you been working on this particular area of research?

**Elizabeth Johnson:** That's going to tell you how old I am. [Laughs] I guess it has been almost 18 to 20 years.

**TM:** How far has it come since you've started?

**EJ:** My focus has always been similar. I'm really interested in how children learn language so quickly and how their environment influences the way they learn language. I've always been really interested in the physical speech signal and how children



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Elizabeth Johnson has been researching speech patterns in children for the past 18 years.

can master language so quickly. So from the very beginning I started off with some hypotheses and proved myself wrong again and again and moved forward—except you sort of move in circles sometimes with science and find yourself going back to the same questions again and again. Which I suppose means they're good questions.

But I'd like to think I've come a long way. I'd like to think I've learned a lot about how children acquire language and how the environment influences the way they learn language. But in the grand scheme of things, science is slow.

**TM:** What has been your biggest breakthrough since you've started?

**EJ:** That's a good question. I

don't know what my biggest breakthrough has been. I can tell you [that] some of my favourite studies have been [about] how children cope with accents, for example. So when I moved to Toronto, I had to change my research program quite a bit because the population here is much more multicultural than I was used to. So as opposed to doing research in, say, Rochester or

an area of the Netherlands, I was doing research where there was a very uniform population. Here, you have people all over the world with all sorts of different language backgrounds. So I'm really excited right now about some recent work I've done in collaboration with my former PhD student. We're looking at how children adapt to new accents—how they can cope with someone who speaks in a way that they've never heard before.

Another area I really like is looking at statistical learning, mechanisms, and how much information children can pull out from the environment. And not just to show that they can pull out a lot—but to understand how they're limited in some ways in the sorts of statistics that they'll pull out. And those very limitations can actually help children possibly learn language faster, because if you could pull out every statistic, then you'd be overwhelmed with information. But if you can limit the information that you're pulling in, that could be part of an explanation for how children learn language so quickly. So that's another area I'm really excited about that I've been working on for ages.

*Johnson continued on page 11*

## Universities aren't preparing students

Principal of How to Find Work says students aren't getting the help they need to find a job

**MARIA CRUZ**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Ron McGowan has been working with countless college and university students around the world to help them find work after they've graduated. He's the principal of How to Find Work, a Vancouver-based company that has been helping graduates for over 10 years.

Having experienced downsizing twice in his life, McGowan has gone from a corporate career to being a self-employed success who "hasn't seen a regular paycheck in 16 years". Understanding the complications that arise when trying to break into the workforce and how ill-prepared students are upon finishing their postsecondary education, McGowan published his best-selling

novel, *How to Find Work in the 21st Century*. Now in its sixth edition and having received praise from numerous organizations such as the Canadian Counselling Association, who called the novel "a must for the shelves", McGowan is continuing his work of helping graduates.

McGowan has been helping former students find work for about 15 years, offering seminars across Canada, the UK, and Ireland.

"In my experience, students just don't understand today's workplace. But neither do most other people who are looking for work," he says. "They have to understand how different it is from what it used to be and once they understand that, then I have to give them some new tools and show them how to effectively market themselves and get the attention

they deserve to find the opportunities that are out there."

McGowan doesn't believe that the Career Centres in universities provide an accurate representation of the workforce outside of university, which he says is part of the problem.

"This area never has been a priority in postsecondary education. And in the past, that wasn't that big a deal because not too long ago, most university graduates were finding jobs," he says.

"The fact is, students have to have that help before they enter the workforce; otherwise, they're wandering around and have to find it out themselves. That's why so many students are unemployed and underemployed.



LINKEDIN.COM/PHOTO

Ron McGowan, author of *How to Find Work in the 21st Century*.

*Job hunt continued on page 11*

# Encouraging people to be Kindr

Co-founders Matt Ivester and Josh Beal made an app that inspires others to spread kindness

MARIA CRUZ  
FEATURES EDITOR

In the *Psychology Today* article “Can an App Really Spread Kindness? Meet Kindr”, published last October, Pamela Rutledge, PhD, discussed the app Kindr, introduced in September and designed to spread kindness through compliments.

The app was created in honour of National Bullying Prevention Month, for which the creators came up with the idea of the Kindr pledge. The creators believe that people have the ability to end bullying if they work together. According to them, “It takes commitment from each and every one of us to use our words and actions to lift up our friends, coworkers, family, and neighbours—and then encourage them to do the same.”

The idea is simple—you download the free app, hand over your phone number and email address so they can access your contacts, and start spreading random compliments to people in your address book. The compliments range from the simple “You are generous” to the more elaborate “In a loveableness competition between you and SpongeBob, you just might win”. The sender is awarded with kind points for every compliment they send, gradually earning balloons of various colours in the app (I’m only 10 points away from the tie-dye balloon).



The creators of the Kindr app are inspiring users to spread kindness through compliments. GLOGSTER.COM/PHOTO

Rutledge brought up a valid point in her article; she expressed the concern that “canned compliments in this ‘age of authenticity’, however well intentioned, would feel like empty Hallmark platitudes”.

Kindr, she added, “comes with some surprisingly clever compliments. However, among a group of friends who know about the app, I think it could get a lot of play [...] but the real power is in being appreciated by someone you know. The payoff comes in the neural response of increased dopamine and oxytocin so you not only feel happier, you also feel more connected.”

UTM students had some mixed feelings about the app and the message behind it.

Patrick Callaghan, a third-year student majoring in chemistry and biology, hasn’t heard of the app. “I probably wouldn’t take the time out of my day to send random compliments to my friends, especially since most of them are guys. I don’t even send random compliments to my girlfriend,” he says. “I think it’s a nice idea, but I would rather get compliments in person from someone over a compliment that was probably sent to, like, everyone in their inbox.”

Afareen Mazandarani, a first-year

CCIT major, says that she would consider getting the app, and disagreed with Callaghan. “My friends and I don’t really compliment one another as often as we should, maybe. Maybe it would be easier if they didn’t have to see the other person,” she says. “I would find it easier if I could send a compliment to one friend and then another different one to another friend.”

Erin Aherne, a fourth-year English specialist, was the only interviewee who had heard of and downloaded the app. “I love this app! I forced all my friends into getting it,” she laughs. “I think it’s so nice to

get hilarious and ridiculous compliments from my friends. I think it’s great what [the founders] are doing. I don’t know if this will necessarily stop the bullying going around, but I do think this is a good way to brighten your day.”

The app also provides users with the opportunity to create custom compliments for particular contacts and provide users with “good news”. The stories include some about how puppies keep warm in the winter, a teen that is spending a year outside to help homeless people, and a grandmother who started a fashion line for those with Down syndrome.

On their website, Kindr gives visitors the opportunity to sign a pledge online that states, “I pledge to spend a few minutes of every day making someone’s life better through my kind words and/or acts. I’m also actively promoting an end to bullying by setting a good example both on and offline.” The pledge concludes by saying the signer will spread the word to their friends and family about the Kindr mission and ask them to get the app.

Rutledge stands by Kindr and its creators. She concludes her article by saying, “Information on the social net is permanent, searchable, and uncontrollable. It’s one of the reasons why we worry about the potential damage of cyber bullying. It’s also why efforts to exploit the happy side can make a big difference.”

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## Students need to rely on themselves for jobs

**Job hunt** continued from page 8

"I've spoken at conferences of career counsellors right across Canada, the UK, and Ireland, so I've had lots of opportunities to interact with these people. They don't have experience in today's workplace.

"The other problem is [that] their background is typically in social work and that's how you get into the area, historically. Their background is really inappropriate for the needs of students."

"In my experience, students just don't understand today's workplace.

But neither do most other people who are looking for work."

—Ron McGowan

In some cases, graduates might have an easier time creating their own jobs or businesses than finding work in an existing company, says McGowan.

"We're still stuck in the 20th century and caught in the idea of the traditional job. We can't let go of it and the graduates' parents' generation can't let go of it," McGowan says.

Gowan says. "Their attitude is, 'What are you talking about? You spent all this money and worked this hard and now you're telling me you can't find a job or you're in a mediocre job?' In those cases, why not go out on your own?"

"Going out on your own doesn't mean you have to start a business. It can mean operating as a freelancer or a contractor. And just by doing that, you give yourself a leg up on most people because that's the kind of people a lot of small businesses—where most of the opportunities are—are looking for.

"If you find out what your marketable skills are, then you can approach a company," he adds.

McGowan thinks that graduates need to rely more on themselves than on anyone else, and one of the main steps in doing this is to absolutely refuse to take unpaid internships. "That's a complete rip-off as far as I'm concerned," he says. "And now I'm talking as an employer and not a writer, because in my career, I've hired lots of students. And it would never have occurred to me to expect [free] work from them, because that's just wrong."

McGowan regularly speaks about the changing workplace at conferences, and at colleges and universities. His book, *How to Find Work in the 21st Century* can be purchased online at [www.thamesriverpress.com](http://www.thamesriverpress.com).

## Taking a look at how children adapt to their parents' accents



SHEKNOWS.COM/PHOTO

Johnson conducts her research by observing how children react to different visual stimuli.

**Johnson** continued from page 8

**The Medium:** What else is being improved on in your research?

**Elizabeth Johnson:** Well, I am interested in looking at what causes children to move from one stage to the next, and what can actually predict how well they will do in moving from one state to the next in terms of their language and speech-processing abilities. For example, we've started doing some longitudinal work. So we might test a child at five to six months of age and bring them back at 15 months and bring them back at 24 months. In the past, we've done a lot of purely cross-sectional work, where we just see children at one age. And then we compare age groups that are completely different groups of children, and now we're getting interested in following chil-

dren to see how their language develops over time and how changes in their environment can influence that development.

**TM:** What's next for you?

**EJ:** Children are easier before they start talking. [Laughs] Personally, my favourite age group to work with is infants. I find the six- to 12-month age range absolutely fascinating. I also find the two- to three age group absolutely fascinating. I am so busy working on that age group that if I were to broaden much more, it would almost be too much. So at this point, I think I'm going to stick with the younger children because that's what I'm really passionate about—that's when changes are happening so quickly. I think I'll stay with that age group.

**TM:** How does it feel to be named CRC? Was it something you were

working towards?

**EJ:** [Laughs] No, I definitely wasn't working towards it. I was completely floored when I found out about it. I was off the radar, not expecting it, and when my chair called and said, 'Hey, guess what?' I thought, 'Are you sure you've got the right Elizabeth?'

I was pretty happy, very honoured. And really, in this business, you get a lot of negative feedback as an academic, and the CRC being put forth by my department and actually being awarded the CRC was a nice little pat on the back. We have our jobs, we love our jobs, we're sort of obsessed with our jobs [...] but we do get a lot of negative feedback, and a little pat on the back like this—or a big pat on the back—it feels great and I'm really quite happy.

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# The *Medium* Writing Contest 2014

## WINNERS

NON-FICTION

### The Other Side

KAREN GHUMAN

The candle burns out. My bedroom goes dark.

I lie on my carpeted floor. My face presses against a pile of worn sweatshirts and pants. I smell the pungent smoke from the candle. I shiver.

A fast car zooms by our house on Trafalgar Road. Trafalgar Road begins in Milton, passes through Hornby, and reaches into Oakville.

I live in Hornby—the countryside.

I live in an old tarnished house with my Mom and Dad. My brother, Sunny, lives in the basement, but he rarely comes home.

In the summer, the house feels humid and hot. The air conditioning is broken. Dad loves the summer breeze. He always leaves all windows and the back door open. Sometimes mice trail inside the house and nest in our kitchen cabinets. Mom puts out snap traps and poison pellets every night.

In the winter, the house feels ice-cold. I turn on the furnace heat in my bedroom. Mom yells at me because our electrical bill is too high. I bundle myself with two blankets at night.

I listen to the ticking of my Swatch watch. Dad snores on the other side of my bedroom wall. Rodents scamper across the ceiling. They gnaw, too. Crickets chirp outside my window. Mom coughs and shuffles on her squeaky bed on the other side of the wall beside me. Mom and Dad sleep in different rooms.

I unfold my body and lift myself off the floor. My black Nike duffel bag lies on my bed. I packed it earlier with fresh clothes and trail mix granola bars. I kick the pile of clothes I rested my head on, and search for my black and white University of Toronto sweater.

I put it on. I sit on my bed.

I stare at the framed picture of myself as a baby and Babuji, my late grandfather, on the wall above my door. Babuji holds me in his lap. My hands reach for his fluffy white beard.

“I really tried, Babu,” I whisper. Tears form in my eyes. My lips quiver.

I press the middle button on my BlackBerry Curve. 1:35 a.m. in bold white numbers. I hold down the side button and watch my phone turn off.

I spring off my bed and grasp the handles of my Nike duffel bag.

I tip-toe to my white, wooden, and wrecked door. Last month, after an argument with Dad, I kicked the door with my combat boots. A small hole appeared and the paint chipped and the door cracked. I open the door slowly.

Dad’s bedroom door is shut. He snores.

Mom’s bedroom door is open. She shuffles.

I wander down the dark hallway. Tyson, my Labrador, sleeps at the top of the stairway. I reach out my left hand and stroke Tyson’s head. He breathes heavily. I can’t see his if he is awake.

“Shhhh,” I say.

I walk down the stairs, into my kitchen, through the dining room, and to the front door. I slip my feet into my brown moccasins. I grab my keys off the wall beside the front door. The keys jingle in my hands.

I freeze.

Dad snores.

Mom shuffles.

I quietly open the front door, and step outside. The fall night feels chilly. I snug my mouth inside my sweatshirt.

I walk along the wooden porch and step down the steps. I march on the driveway. Leaves crunch. My foot hits a recycling bin placed beside my Kia Rio. Empty Diet Coke cans, Canada Dry, Crown Royal, and four Jackson Triggs bottles fill the recycling bin. Dad drinks two more bottles of wine than he usually does in a week.

I open the car door and throw my duffel bag on the passenger side.

I drive on Highway 5, on Dundas Road, towards my hometown in Brantford. I pass a town called Waterdown, thirty-five minutes from Trafalgar Road. Waterdown is old and antique. Dundas Road turns into Main Street. Main Street looks stripped and withered.

2:53 a.m. in bright green numbers on my dashboard.

I turn at the Sobeys Plaza and drive into the parking lot. I creep along the plaza and park in front of the Tim Hortons. An elderly woman stands at the counter alone. The Dairy Queen beside the Tim Hortons has closed down. No equipment, no chairs. Empty.

When I was twelve, Mom and I stopped here when we came home from my uncle Bala Mamaji’s house in Oakville. Mom hates the freeway.

On a hot summer night, Mom and I pulled up at the Dairy Queen. We sat outside on the patio chairs. I ordered the Brownie Earthquake and Mom ordered the Strawberry Vanilla sundae.

“Try this, Kiki,” Mom said. She spooned the creamy ice cream covered in strawberry sauce and put it in my mouth.

“Yummy! But I like my chocolate, Momma.” I lifted my spoon to Mom, “You try this!”

“No, no, no!” Mom said. Mom never liked chocolate.

“Fine,” I laughed. I placed the spoon in my mouth and chewed on the the cold brownie chunks.

Mom grabbed my hand and caressed my knuckles. Mom had rough hands and chipped red nail polish. She smiled at me. Mom’s eyes wrinkled and watered.

“Dad is going to be very angry if we come home after sunset.” Mom grabbed her purse. “Finish up, Kiki,” she whispered.

“Aw, Mom, can we stay longer?”

“*Nahien! Chalo.*” Mom grasped my hand and pulled.

“I’m not done.” I pushed, forced, and smacked Mom’s hand, hitting her gold-plated

wedding ring. “I hate Dad!” I yell.

Mom lowered her eyes and looked at her shoes. Her smile faded. “Never say that again.”

“He’s mean,” I whispered. I swirled the dark brown ice cream in my cup.

“He did a lot for me, Kiki,” Mom’s voice cracked. “You know, if I didn’t marry him, I would be in India still.”

I rolled my eyes and licked the chocolate syrup off my spoon. “Mom? Do I have to get married?” I asked.

“Yes. Yes you do. You have to get married.”

“But I don’t want to, Mom.” I stood up and grabbed the sticky cup. “Aman doesn’t want to get married, either.”

“Your sister is not being a real lady,”

Mom said. She took the cup from my hand and threw it in the garbage. Mom swiped a bunch of napkins from the table and wiped the chocolate off my face. “She’s always away from home,” Mom mumbled.

We walked around the building to our silver Dodge Caravan.

“Would Dad be mad at me if I moved to Hollywood?” I said.

“What do you want to do there?”

“I wanna be a director!” I waved my arms and ran to the van, “Remember? Remember when Nick and I wrote the play last year?”

Mom rolled her eyes and opened the driver side of the car. “No, no, no more Nick,” Mom said. She started the car. “You have to get married to a Punjabi Munda like I did, OK, Karen?”

I looked out the window as Mom pulled out of the parking lot. I saw the Sobeys, and the Tim Hortons full of people.

“You can be happy studying pharmacy, too.” Mom’s voice cracked again.

I looked at Mom’s eyes as she drove us back to Brantford, back to Dad. I twisted the radio knob and turned the music higher. “All The Small Things” by Blink 182 played. I air drummed and sang the whole way home. Mom was silent.

I toss in the driver’s seat. Frost covers the windows. I swallow, but something cuts my throat. Water from my nose drips above my lips. The keys are still in the ignition. I start the car. 6:20 a.m. Fuck. Did I fall asleep?

I turn on my BlackBerry, and wait for it to load. I roll my windows down and glance at the Tim Hortons full of people: Men in business suits, elderly couples, and tired women crowd around the counter.

My BlackBerry vibrates. Missed calls and text messages from home appear.

A few loonies, quarters, and pennies sit in my change cup. I pick out four quarters. I stroll up to the Tim Hortons drive-thru.

I shut my phone off.

“Welcome to Tim Hortons, what can I get you this morning?” The lady says through the speaker intercom.

“Strawberry—” I say. “Strawberry jelly donut.”

FICTION

# Keith

KARUNA ISRANI

I curled up in the middle of my bed. I gazed at the TV screen, but couldn't concentrate on Full House just then. I tried looking around my room to distract myself. The harder I focused on the paintings and the dresser, the clearer their voices and their words became.

"Do you think I want to be a fucking loser all my life? It's your fault I ever ended up like this!" my brother, Keith, spat out.

"Do you even realize how much your father and I have tried to help? Why can't you just accept our help?" Mum sobbed.

These fights never failed to terrify me, no matter how old I got.

As their voices got louder, I moved from my bed towards the door. I shut the door as quietly as I could, and I held my ear up against its wooden laminate. My curiosity overpowered my fright.

Keith began getting snappier. Mom faded from outraged to powerless. Dad had fallen silent for the last few minutes. He was the most calm and rational member of my family.

The anxiety overwhelmed me. Keith had one of the shortest tempers I knew of. I knew he was going to snap.

"Stop talking, you old hag, you have no idea

what the fuck you're talking about," Keith snapped. That did it.

"You apologize to your mother right now, you disrespectful jerk. Do you really think that if you treat us like shit we're going to keep quiet forever? We're your parents. Show us a little respect," Dad defended Mum.

"I'm done with y'all. Mark my words when I say you'll never see my face again." Keith was now yelling at the top of his lungs, and Mum's sobs had gotten more frantic, and Dad's voice got louder with every word he said. There was shuffling. I could feel the tension in their room from three doors down the hall. Out of nowhere, there was a crash. I heard glass shatter. I'd never felt my heart beat so fast before. Silence filled the house. I heard some more shuffling, and my parents' door opening.

"You'll never see my face after today," Keith reiterated as he stormed towards his room and banged the door shut, startling me.

Less than a minute later, he remerged. I heard the thud of Keith's steel-toe Caterpillars against the ceramic tiles. Keys clinked around in his pocket. The front door slammed shut. The house grew silent once again.

"So you've finally come out of hiding." Dad had

snuck up on me while I was grabbing a midnight snack in the kitchen.

"You know how hard it's been for him these past years, don't you?" he said. I nodded, attempting to avoid any and all forms of conversation.

"We may be fighting a lot, but just pray it passes sooner than later." I forced another luke-warm nod.

"What was that final sound before Keith left? Did someone get hurt? Did something break? What happened in the end?" I bombarded Dad, not being able to contain my curiosity.

"Keith punched our window. His arm looked pretty screwed up, but he wouldn't listen to anything we said, obviously. Nothing too serious, though. Your Mum and I are fine," Dad reassured me. I cringed at the thought of what Keith's hand must look like but at least there hadn't been a fight.

That night, I sat up in bed waiting for Keith accompanied by some kettle corn and Diet Coke. I knew he would be back, Keith never followed through on his threats. At 2:03 a.m., Keith turned the key in its hole and tiptoed back in as if nothing had ever happened at all.

POETRY

# Untitled

PAIGE MCPHEE

We bonded over bones.  
The other's ivory insides,  
Hidden by shells of red, white, and blue.  
We kept tokens of each other's skeletons,  
To act like broaches on our breasts,  
And keys to our hearts,  
So that when worn proudly,  
Or manoeuvred properly,  
We would be hollow in ways  
That only marrow can be.  
Stark, raw, and pure.

## Author biographies


**KARUNA ISRANI**

SECOND YEAR, CCIT &amp; PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Karuna has always had a knack for English—more specifically writing—and finding a program at UTM so specifically moulded to her interests makes university that much more enjoyable.


**KAREN GHUMAN**

THIRD YEAR, ENGLISH

Karen was born and raised in Brantford, Ontario. Karen is a music enthusiast and writes lyrics and raps for her urban-alternative band VAK.


**PAIGE MCPHEE**

FIRST YEAR, CCIT &amp; PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Paige's work includes short stories, non-fiction, plays, and reviews. Her goal as a writer is to create something worthy of feeling. Paige also enjoys fashion, fitness, food, and films.

## Judges' comments

*Keith*
**Karuna Israni**

Karuna's story has the startling quality of reading as realistically as non-fiction even though she has invented it. The dialogue-heavy narrative drives forward to a climax, only for the tension to undo itself in that quiet, almost revisionist way so reminiscent of many real conversations in which we wish we could have pulled our punches.

*The Other Side*
**Karen Ghuman**

The astonishingly understated world of Karen's story belies the very high feelings that run in it, allowed to show only once or twice and then quickly suppressed by that strange, contradictory mix of pragmatics and seamliness that govern many family dynamics. A deep vein of feeling is expertly hinted at through everyday happenings.

*Untitled*
**Paige McPhee**

Paige's poem is subdued, short, and simple, but its use of imagery and symbolism feels carefully crafted. Her thought is clear even though her meaning is woven into an extended mercurial metaphor.

# MEDIUMSPORTS

Editor | Jason Coelho

## Blues strike at last-place Thunderbirds

U of T blows out Algoma University in season high 40-point victory, sit fourth in East Division standings

**JASON COELHO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Varsity Blues women's basketball team stormed the court last Friday in the hopes of turning their season around with eight games remaining.

The team entered the game with a 6-8 record, good enough for fourth place in a competitive East Division, led by the Carleton University Ravens. As the Blues begin their road to the playoffs, they faced the Algoma University Thunderbirds, who sport an abysmal 0-14 record in their first year as a CIS team that has kept them at the bottom of the standings. The T-birds entered Friday's affair looking for their first win of the season against a Blues team decked out in custom pink jerseys to support the Think Pink campaign in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

It didn't take long for the Blues to establish a healthy lead after fourth-year forward Liane Bailey opened the scoring and supplied the team with half of the points it got in the opening minutes, putting the Blues up 12-7 halfway through the first quarter. The Blues' offensive pressure continued until the end of the quarter, and they built themselves a nine-point cushion with a 20-11 lead.

The second quarter was no different for the confident Blues. If they weren't able to establish scoring opportunities, they were successful at drawing the foul and getting to the free-throw line. The steady



MARTIN BAZYL/PHOTO

**The Blues donned custom pink jerseys in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.**

play on offence allowed the Blues to widen their margin to 31-15 halfway through the second quarter. Fifth-year forward Alicia van Kampen led the team in scoring during the quarter with nine points, helping the team earn a commanding 39-15 lead going into the half. The team's success was due to their good transition game, their ability to convert on the offensive end after making smart defensive stops, and their unselfish play in the opposition's end.

Algoma continued to fall into foul troubles as they entered the second half. Led by guard Sydney Resch, the Thunderbirds couldn't capitalize

and dug themselves into a hole with consecutive giveaways. Meanwhile, the Blues didn't let up on scoring, extending their lead to 30 points as the third quarter wound down. The team shared the ball around the arc in the search for the perfect shot and collected rebounds before Algoma could catch their breath. The Blues' offence was coordinated by guard Jill Straton, who has been leading the team in points per game with 14.6. Diedre Edwards also helped in the guard position, helping U of T take the lead to a margin of 39 points above their opponents.

The play for both sides dwindled

in the fourth quarter, as the two tired squads were unable to take the ball to the basket because of foul trouble or travelling. The pass-first mentality of the Blues seemed to be less effective in the final stretch, leading the team to unwanted turnovers and an inability to score. The team's less-than-stellar play in the fourth was nevertheless insured by their massive lead, which gave the Blues their seventh win of the season in a 75-35 blowout, their biggest point-differential victory all season.

The Blues' head coach, Michèle Bélanger, wasn't shy in revealing that Algoma's winless record played

into her team's confidence. "I would think they can assess records as well as anybody else, and they probably thought they were going to win, but didn't know by how much," she said.

Bélanger named Kristy Chute and van Kampen, who scored a career-high 18 points, as players who really stepped up their performance. "I'm pleased; every game we're getting stronger and stronger," she said. "And we're getting very good performances from a variety of different players."

Though the Blues have already secured a playoff spot, their performance throughout the season has fluctuated, raising questions as to whether they will be able to hold their own come post-season. Despite the unsteady play, fourth-year biochemistry major Bailey is confident in her team's chances. "We can do anything that we set our minds to as long as we work really hard," she said. "And I think our record doesn't really reflect how good of a team we are."

The Blues will play four of their remaining six games at home as they hope to better their record before the start of the playoffs. After winning Saturday night's game against Laurentien by a score of 77-45, the team sits at the .500 mark for the first time this season and looks to be on the upswing. The Blues will look for revenge against Carleton on January 31 when they face them at the Athletic Centre for their final meeting this season.

## Racial barriers in varsity sports

**FERGUS TALBOT**

"The key to success in any field is, to a large extent, a matter of practising a specific task for a total of around 10,000 hours," Malcolm Gladwell once wrote. His words could be taken to apply to all the top athletes who hope to be successful at U of T. But athletes should be looking not only to attain the highest level of competition within their sport, but also to be inclusive of all people.

The Access, Retention, and Culture of Sport discussion panel at U of T was the first in a series of sports panels to be introduced throughout 2014 and 2015. The panels will examine the relationship between sports and postsecondary education, focusing on race, primarily on black and Aboriginal students.

Four major themes were explored in the first discussion: the process of recruitment of Aboriginal and black students, the value of these students, the communication of the realities lived by these students, and the retention of these students' services.

Nathaniel Virgo, a student who experienced struggle growing up in the suburbs of Toronto, played soccer for eight years, basketball for three years, and even tried baseball, but as he says, "I hated the fact that I needed to run. I therefore committed myself to volleyball. Now, I'm in my third year on the Varsity Blues team." Virgo faced multiple problems when trying to break into playing volleyball at the varsity level.

*Barriers continued on page 15*

## Playoff push for Blues hockey

The team sits one point short of playoff position with an 11-10 record

**ERIC HEWITSON**

Twenty-four hours after getting ousted in London by a score of 7-1 by the Western Mustangs, the Blues were on home ice at Varsity Centre to prove that they could compete for a playoff position. Taking on the Brock Badgers, the Blues' fatigue was evident and culminated in their losing the Saturday evening game 5-3, yielding an 11-10-2 record.

The Brock Badgers, who are now 11-9-3 for the season, started off the game with tremendous spirit, scoring three and a half minutes into the first frame. Badgers forward Josh Schram grabbed a rebound off the pad of Blues goaltender Brett Willows and tucked it in glove-side.

Brock continued to pressure the Blues, forcing them into unneces-

sary retaliation penalties. The Badgers kept possession of the puck through much of the beginning period, exhausting the Blues' defence and converting on their offensive pressure, with Sammy Banga potting the team's second goal of the game.

"Brett [Willows] played great for us. We're happy to have a goaltender of his calibre on the team. With hard work, we know we can challenge hard for a championship."

—Darren Lowe

With a minute and nine seconds left on the clock, Badgers forward Matt Abercrombie netted another

goal for his team, snapping an uncontested shot past Willows and ending the period with a score of 3-0.

The second period saw the Blues' special teams execute expertly; taking advantage of an early 5-on-3 power play, the Varsity Blues gave the crowd something to cheer about when former OHL Windsor Spitfire Jeff Brown slapped a shot past Badgers goaltender Real Cormier.

The game became more physical and turned into a hard-nosed battle once the Blues capitalized on another power play, scoring again five minutes after their first goal. Forward Tyler von Engelbrechten pounced on a rebound in front of the net, snapping the puck past a sprawling Cormier.

*Hockey continued on page 15*

# Panel discussion looks to educate

**Barriers** continued from page 14

Virgo was brought up in a religious family, and had to skip mass to practice volleyball. His determination led to his being spotted by U of T when he participated in a volleyball tournament held at the Scarborough campus. Luckily for Virgo, his parents understood the importance of the opportunity and encouraged their son to pursue his dream, which earned him a ticket to university.

"I thought it was important to let my voice heard because I am a minority in my sport, class, and institution," Virgo reflects. "I know the struggle to get where I am. [...] I wanted to share my experiences with people who may have not understood."

Mike Auski, a former U of T Ojibwe student, could relate to Virgo's situation. He got the chance to study at U of T by playing ice hockey. He has now successfully accomplished his goal of playing professional hockey in Estonia.

But their success stories are rare, and when they do happen they come with barriers not as common among their non-minority counterparts. In the opinion of Varsity Blues football coach Greg Gary, there are often only two options available for minority youths to escape impoverished and dangerous neighbourhoods: either commit a crime or be recognized as an outstanding athlete. However, finances are an immense barrier to young, sporty individuals from these

neighbourhoods. Gary adds that "the talent pool [is] so small".

Also discussed was the fact that black and Aboriginal female athletes have a much lower rate of success than their male counterparts, because their opportunities are even more limited. For instance, there are Inuit hockey tournaments for males that take place all over the nation, but not a single sport is organized in the same manner for female Inuit athletes.

To complicate matters, the recruiting of Aboriginal and black athletes by top universities like U of T isn't always guaranteed. Their abilities on the court may not transfer well to the classroom, reducing opportunities for these students. On the other hand, many Aboriginal students drop out during their university careers and choose not to reveal that they are Aboriginal.

Whatever the reason, black and Aboriginal students tend to find getting into varsity sports more difficult than other student athletes. As an institution that boasts its rank among the most prestigious and culturally diverse in the world, U of T must work to reduce this type of discrimination.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, "[Sport] speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination."

# Badgers beat Blues 5-3



VARSIITYBLUES.CA/PHOTO

The Blues have five games remaining in the regular season in their push for the playoffs.

**Hockey** continued from page 14

The Blues' attempt to claw their way back into the game came to a halt after fifth-year veteran defenceman Tyler Turcotte was penalized, which allowed Brock to take advantage of a power play that saw C.J. Dickson of the Badgers score to make it 4-2 going into the third.

Happily for U of T fans, the Blues entered the third period with a "never say die" attitude. In the second half of the final period, Blues defender Lane Werbowksi muscled the puck into the back of Brock's net, cutting the Badgers' lead to one point with nine minutes left in the game.

The Blues gave themselves the man advantage by pulling their goalie in the dying seconds of play, but conceded an empty net goal, cementing the Badgers' victory.

While Brett Willows allowed four goals on 31 shots, he demonstrated

why he was a Toronto Maple Leaf emergency back-up for Jonathan Bernier back in October.

Willows used great positional play between the pipes during the final two periods and eliminated rebounds and opportunities for the

"We have an opportunity in the last five games to control our own destiny, which is really all you can ask for."

—Brett Willows

Badgers. "Brett played great for us. We're happy to have a goaltender of his calibre on the team," says head coach Darren Lowe.

The club knows that they've struggled lately, losing eight out of their past 10 games, but they're capable

enough to compete with anyone in the league. "With hard work, we know we can challenge hard for a championship," says Lowe.

Willows was of the same opinion. "We have an opportunity in the last five games to control our own destiny, which is really all you can ask for [...]" he said. "We've shown throughout the year that we're capable of competing [with] the best teams in the league, so the time for talking about what we need to do to regain success is over, and now it's time to actually do something about it."

The Blues now sit one point behind the sixth-place Brock squad for a West Division playoff spot, and hope to climb the standings over the final five games in the season. The team will have a much-needed week off before they compete at Varsity Arena on February 1 against the Laurier Golden Hawks at 7-12-2.

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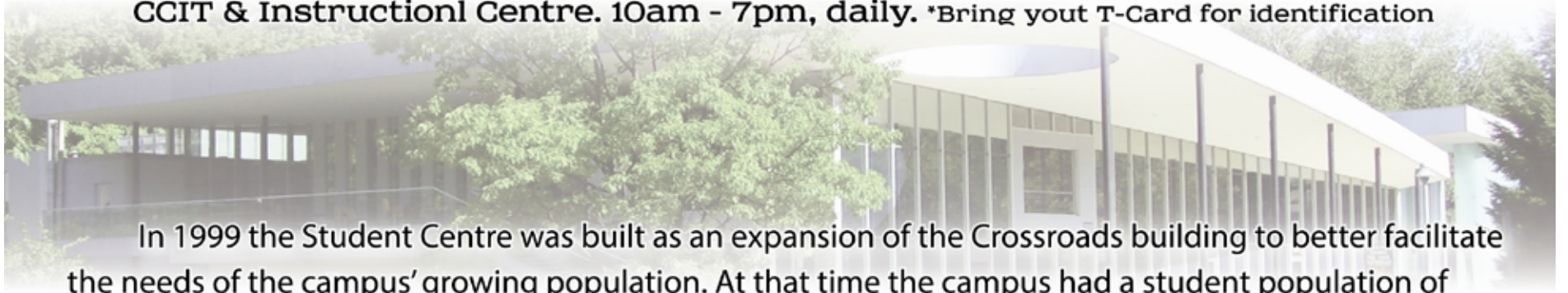
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Vote Yes on the Student Centre Expansion

# Jan 28<sup>th</sup> to Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2014

UTM CAMPUS - Davis (South), Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex, CCIT & Instructional Centre. 10am - 7pm, daily. \*Bring your T-Card for identification



In 1999 the Student Centre was built as an expansion of the Crossroads building to better facilitate the needs of the campus' growing population. At that time the campus had a student population of roughly 6000 students. Currently there are approximately 12,000 students enrolled at UTM, but the space has yet to be expanded to reflect the growth in student enrollment and demand for space.

Your students' union has been advocating for an investment by the University since 2007. We have finally succeeded in securing a university match to our investment for the capital costs, dollar to dollar, to a maximum of \$2 million. **Why Vote Yes? Because we deserve a better Student Experience.**

## VOTE YES to...

### Expand Club & Societies rooms

01

- Provide more Club & Society space.
- Provide more storage space for Clubs & Societies.
- Provide additional work space for students to excel in extracurricular activities.

### Expand Multi-Purpose rooms

02

- Provide more space for cultural, faith based & leisure activities.
- Provide more study space during exams.
- Provide additional space that is easily transitioned to suit student needs.

### Expand the Blind Duck

03

- Improve the wait time for food orders.
- Provide better and healthier food options.
- Provide a better food service.

### Expand Storage Space

04

- Meet the needs of clubs/societies.
- Improve services offered to students.
- Improve safe storage space for students' equipment.

Thanks to the following Clubs, Societies and groups that have endorsed to expand our Student Centre:

For a List of other endorsements, please visit: [www.utmvoteeyes.ca](http://www.utmvoteeyes.ca)

Digital Enterprise Management (DEM)

Caribbean Connections at UTM

UEC (Undergraduate Economics Council)

Chinese Christian Fellowship UTM

UTM Language Exchange

Chinese Students and Scholars Association

Rhythm UTM

Chinese Undergraduate Association

UTM Orphan Run

Erindale Campus African Student Association (ECASA)

UTM Forensics Society

Erindale Chinese Student's Association

Christian Unity Association

Erindale Filipino Students Association (EFSA)

Archery Club UTM

Erindale Punjabi Association (EPA)

UTM Language Studies Academic Society

Hindu Student Council UTM

UTM Muslim Students Association

Lifeline - UTM Blood and Stem Cell Society

UTM Organization of Latin American Students

Power to Change UTM

UTM Republic of China Student Association

UTM Dance Club

UTM NDP

UTM Sociology & Criminology Society (SCS)

UTM Ukrainian Club

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and many more...



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