



# THE MEDIUM

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## UTMSU unexpectedly leaves summit

Not all student leaders forewarned about decision to withdraw from university-moderated talks

MARIA IQBAL  
NEWS EDITOR

Much to the confusion of the leaders of major student groups on campus, UTMSU announced its withdrawal from U of T's Undergraduate Student Societies Summit in a letter sent to clubs and academic societies on February 10.

The seven-page letter, signed by UTMSU's VP external Melissa Theodore, mentions that UTMSU received "hundreds of petitions" requesting that the union end its participation at the Summit.

In an interview with the *Medium*, Theodore confirmed only that "the students who signed the petitions are members of UTMSU". It remains unclear whether these were students directly involved with UTMSU—executives, volunteers, and board members—or regular fee-paying UTM students.

Among the complaints outlined in Theodore's letter is that the Summit does not allow some major student groups to participate in its meet-



JULIA MALOWANY/THE VARSITY

Summit meetings have been held at St. George's Governing Council Chambers since fall 2013.

ings, and cites the Muslim Students' Association as a group "which spans both campuses, has more members, [and] has a larger budget than many of the student groups represented

[at the summit]". "We received an email from UTMSU explaining why they had withdrawn, and that was the first we'd heard of it," said Maryam Khat-

tab, president of the MSA. "We'd certainly be interested in hearing more."

At UTMSU's open forum, held a few days after the announcement,

Mariam Assaad, president of the Middle Eastern Students' Association, demanded to know why students hadn't been given enough information about the Summit.

"Why didn't we know about this?" she asked. "Why didn't students know about it?"

Theodore's letter outlines the reasons—or "concerns"—behind the decision, including perceived racism.

"My comments were always received by smears, smirks, eye-rolling, and other obvious disrespectful gestures," said Theodore during the interview. Theodore identified herself as a "racialized student" in her letter.

"I was also offended by how cultural groups were disparaged and the necessity for student societies to fund cultural groups was questioned," she added.

The letter also complains that the purpose of the Summit was "vague".

**Summit continued on page 3**

## Panel addresses biodiversity decline

Geography department hosts discussion on how to tackle Canada's biodiversity problem

NICOLE DANESI

Over 200 UTM students and faculty attended the geography department's panel discussion on the decline in Canadian biodiversity on February 12.

The event focused on a report published by the auditor general of Canada's commissioner of the environment and sustainable development last November. The report details the current biodiversity problem in Canada.

The panellists included Neil Maxwell, the commissioner of the environment and sustainable development; Steven Price, the senior director of the World Wildlife Fund; and UTM's Andrea Olive, an assistant professor of political science and geography, and Stephen Scharper, an associate professor in the anthropology department.

Maxwell presented a summary of the report and stressed the economic and national importance of conserv-



CODY GRECO/THE MEDIUM

The panel discussion was attended by over 200 students and faculty.

ing Canadian biodiversity.

"[There is] a lot of market pressure pushing us towards sustainability," he said. "It's a matter of our national interest as well."

Despite the present decline, Maxwell remains optimistic.

"There [are] enough good stories

on things that have been accomplished on environmental files in relatively short periods of time to show action can happen," he said.

Price presented results extracted from the World Wildlife Fund's past Living Planet Reports.

Olive stressed the need for ad-

ditional government intervention and improved communication with Canadian citizens to emphasize and address the downward trend in the country's biodiversity.

**Panel continued on page 3**



### Open forum, open chairs

A handful of student leaders share their views on the union's Student Centre expansion campaign. **Medium News, page 2**

### Wherefore and why?

The seven-page letter still doesn't make it clear why UTMSU quit the university-moderated summit. **Medium Opinion, page 4**

### Dinner and a soap

The Hindu Student Council's Guns & Roses Pub was a sweet, sappy evening. **Medium Arts, page 5**

### Cheapest food on campus

We interview a long-time volunteer with the UTMSU Food Bank, hoping to expand in "food sovereignty". **Medium Features, page 8**

### 27 years between series

Blues men's hockey hadn't faced Windsor in playoffs since 1987. They lost back then too. **Medium Sports, page 11**

# CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

February 6, 11:43 p.m.

## By-Law Offences

Campus Police assisted residence staff with shutting down a loud party in a residence unit.

February 7, 1:37 p.m.

## Theft Under \$5,000

A student reported that his cell phone was stolen from the CCT Building.

February 7, 6:39 p.m.

## Medical Call

Campus Police responded to a medical call in the RAWC. A student injured his ankle while playing basketball. First aid was provided and the male was then transported to hospital.

February 8, 2:30 p.m.

## Controlled Drugs and Substance Act

Campus Police responded to a smell of marijuana in a residence area. A resident student was cautioned and two non-community members were trespassed from the campus.

February 10, 2:02 p.m.

## Theft Under \$5,000

A student reported that his cell phone was stolen from the RAWC.

February 10, 9:10 p.m.

## Mischief Under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated numerous graffiti markings in the CCT Building stairwell. A request to clean up the area was made.

February 12, 11:18 a.m.

## Threatening

Campus Police investigated a threatening note that was displayed on a vehicle dashboard. The driver was spoken to and cautioned.

February 12, 2:20 p.m.

## Motor Vehicle Accident

A student reported that her vehicle was hit while parked in Lot 8. Campus Police are investigating.

February 12, 12:15 p.m.

## Safety Concern

Campus Police investigated a report of a disruptive student during class.

February 14, 7:29 p.m.

## Theft Under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated the theft of a laptop from the library's fourth floor.

February 16, 4:25 a.m.

## Medical Call

Campus Police responded to an OPH residence along with EMS and Peel Regional Police. A male student was transported to hospital after suffering an injury off campus due to a dispute.

February 16, 7:10 p.m.

## Controlled Drugs and Substances

Campus Police received a report from RAWC staff that marijuana could be smelled in the men's changeroom. Campus Police attended and persons involved had left the area.

# Few attend open forum

Student leaders unsure about benefits of expanded Student Centre

**MARIA IQBAL**  
NEWS EDITOR  
WITH NOTES FROM  
**LUKE SAWCZAK**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Clubs and academic society representatives discussed the failure of the Student Centre expansion referendum at UTMSU's open forum held on February 13.

The event, which was attended by about 12 students (of which five were UTMSU executives), was intended to provide club and society executives a platform for feedback on the Student Centre expansion campaign, as well as other issues.

"I was pleased with my experience, given that the participants and I were encouraged to speak openly and that the atmosphere was non-confrontational and friendly," said Siddharth Chaudhari, a representative of the English and Drama Student Society.

However, Mariam Assaad, president of the Middle Eastern Students' Association, was less satisfied with the event.

"I was personally underwhelmed by the number of people that attended. I expected clubs and societies to be really excited for something like this, [since] it's the perfect chance to voice our opinions and demands," said Assaad, adding that the poor attendance might have been due to a lack of advance notice about the forum, as well as the session being held in the midst of midterms.

The club and society executives who attended the event said that the Student Centre expansion campaign was too imposing, which they felt left a negative impression on voters. One student noted that referendum volunteers would follow people out of buildings, refusing to leave them alone.

UTMSU President Raymond Noronha agreed that the campaign could have been improved.

"Volunteers did a good job," he said. "But I guess they were a bit aggressive."

When asked why student clubs and societies hadn't shown stronger support for the expansion during the campaign, several students said it wasn't clear how the expansion would benefit them. For instance, the executives said they didn't know how many more offices would be built in the Student Centre.

Posters designed and put up around campus during the campaign period listed 154 square feet of office space and 60 sq. ft. of storage space, translating into 18 new offices and three new storage rooms. This allotment and others were determined through cost predictions worked out with members of the administration, according to a presentation by UTMSU's executive director, Walied Khogali, at the January 17 meeting of Student Centre tenants.

Chaudhari took issue with the fact that there was no model of the building available to show how the

Student Centre would look after expansion. "It doesn't make sense for us to volunteer for something we don't entirely understand," he said.

According to statements by Noronha before the voting period, definite plans could not be made before approaching an architect, which he said would come after funding was secured.

Noronha said that the UTMSU's next steps involve speaking to university administration about increased study space (one of the major student concerns during the campaign), implementing rules to allow only UTM students to use the campus library, and increased food options on campus.

Noronha was unable to confirm, however, when this meeting would take place. Paul Donoghue, UTM's chief administrative officer and a key figure in the negotiations, was on vacation until February 18.

Some club executives allegedly took issue with their having been listed on campaign materials as endorsing the referendum when they had not explicitly agreed to. For example, Rebeeyah Jabeen, founder of the brand-new UTM Archery Club, said she was never asked for her permission to have the club listed (but added that she personally didn't mind that it was done).

UTMSU executives also encouraged student leaders to bring their concerns to the upcoming Principal's Town Hall on March 19.

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# Black History Month challenged

Racial Ties debate discusses whether the month is "racist"



NICOLE RAQUINIO/THE MEDIUM

The debate featured Jonathan O. Shaw, creative director at G98.7 FM, as a special guest.

**MARIA IQBAL**  
NEWS EDITOR

Students debated whether Black History Month was "racist" and a number of other controversial topics, including interracial marriages and abortion, at the Racial Ties debate and panel discussion hosted by UTM's Black History Month Committee, composed of executives of the Erindale Campus African Students Association and Caribbean Connections, on February 10.

"The event was organized to talk about sensitive issues that people are not very confident [talking about]," commented Nneoma Okafor, a member of ECASA.

Students argued that dedicating a

single month—"let alone the shortest month of the year"—to the entire history of black people was an "insult". Others felt that if there was no longer a Black History Month, there would be more ignorance about black people.

The event also featured guest speaker Jonathan O. Shaw, creative director at G98.7 FM, a "black music" radio station. Shaw shared his own family's history of immigrating to Canada and encouraged the members of the audience to step up and defend the legacy of African-Canadians.

"Each and every one of you is a brand," said Shaw to an audience of about 30 students. "Protect it."

The event was among several organized in honour of Black History Month by the committee.

"Black History Month is important because it's necessary for us racialized, oppressed folk to show that we were and always will be a very important part of history," said Melissa Theodore, UTMSU's VP external, who attended the event. "It empowers black and other racialized students to sit in the positions of power so we can change this white-supremacist, unequal system."

This year's Black History Month theme at UTM is "Moving Forward", meant to encourage black students to progress beyond stereotypes in their perceptions of themselves and of their shared history.

The month's activities will culminate in a banquet on February 28.

# Few answers about UTMSU's walkout from the discussions

**Summit** continued from **Cover**

According to an invitation sent to student leaders by former vice-president and provost Cheryl Misak, the Summit was created to discuss how to democratically represent the concerns of "divisional societies", mainly in the context of fee diversion, currently a hot issue at the St. George campus.

Last spring, several downtown student societies that are a part of UTSU held referenda to divert their fees from the larger student union in order to provide services themselves and distance themselves from the perceived misrepresentation by UTSU. The various referenda were overwhelmingly passed, but UTSU has fought their validity tooth and nail, prompting the university to create and arbitrate the Student Societies Summit.

In the letter, Theodore also wrote that university interference compromised the autonomy of student societies, but did not explain how.

According to the Governing Council's Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees, a student society is a group "on whose behalf the university collects a compulsory non-academic incidental fee, in which membership is automatic".

The autonomy of such groups, Misak's memo stated, is "subject to the requirement that [they] operate in 'an open, accessible, and democratic fashion, following the terms of their constitutions'", quoting the same policy document.

The autonomy of student groups, the provost's memo stated, is subject to the requirement that they operate in "an open, accessible, and democratic fashion, following the terms of their constitutions".

Theodore's letter complains of not being privileged to bring up new points, saying, "If the purpose is to resolve issues that exist between some student societies, why are we here?"

Misak's invitation, dated August 20, 2012, also calls other societies, including the UTMSU, to send up to two members to the Summit, "in order to broaden the group of student

leaders providing input into the discussion".

The same document states that updates on discussions at the summit would be provided to the provost and to the Governing Council. However, Dominic Ali, U of T's issues and media relations officer, said reports from the summit are not available to the public.

Theodore wrote that UTMSU has spent "many hours" attending and preparing for summit meetings "and reporting to our membership" about them.

Nevertheless, said Assaad, "I did not know much about the summit before UTMSU's withdrawal, and I still don't."

The letter implies that other current controversies, including complaints about UTSU's proxy policy and restrictions on bringing new motions to an annual general meeting, are also on the table.

The fact that the summit included discussion regarding some societies who had not been invited to attend was also a source of contention for Theodore, who added, "Now that we are exiting this process, we expect your discussions about us to end."

*The full letter will be made available as an attachment to the online version of this article.*

## »WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE COURSE?



**Ekam Makkar**  
1st year, criminology

SOC209. The prof cracks a lot of jokes and he's cute as well.



**Zoya Tahir**  
4th year, biology

ANT210. The prof is intellectually sexy.



**Diego Aguirre**  
1st year, life sciences

BIO152. I really like Professor Rawle's energetic personality.



**Sameer Khan**  
2nd year, geography

ECO100. I always had an interest in capital markets.

## UTM ad team among top 25

**NICOLE DANESI**

Two UTM students have advanced to the second phase of Canada's Next Top Ad Exec competition hosted by McMaster's DeGroote School of Business.

Aspiring marketers Fareha Zakir, a third-year bachelor of business administration student, and Logaina ElKattan, a fourth-year management specialist, have advanced to phase two of the three-phase national competition in their first time in the contest.

"Our goal was to represent our school in the selections, as there was no representation from UTM," said Zakir. "We are working really hard."

This year's competition requires participants to pitch their own creative marketing campaign ideas in an effort to sell the 2014 Chevrolet Camaro. The 2014 Camaro is also the competition's

top prize, and will be awarded to each of the winning team's two contestants.

"Logaina and I are a perfect team because we both bring different skills and perspectives to the table," said Zakir. "We haven't been able to see other entries, but we feel confident in our ideas that promise results."

The pair is competing against 29 other teams from universities across Canada in the semifinals, including two other teams from the University of Toronto.

Besides the top prize, competitors have a chance to win internship positions at General Motors, McDonalds, Canadian Tire, and PepsiCo, as well as scholarship awards.

According to Julie Ly, the competition's co-chair, Top Ad Exec is one of the largest marketing competitions in Canada, involving over 1,000,000 stu-

dents and 52 campuses.

In the first round, 231 entries were received—the most ever submitted—from 38 universities across Canada. Phase one required participants to submit an "elevator pitch" proposal outlining the team's marketing ideas. Phase two, which ends at noon on February 24, requires contestants to further develop their initial proposal and submit a document outlining the marketing strategy for their campaign.

The competition's rules prevented Zakir from revealing the details of the team's strategy. "I can say that our strategy will make Chevrolet a global brand," she said.

The finalists will be announced in early March and will present their ideas to a panel of industry executives.

The winners will be announced on March 25 at a gala in Toronto.

## Declining biodiversity

**Panel** continued from **Cover**

"Conservation is something that is in everyone's interest, but nobody's immediate self-interest, which is why we need public policy," argued Olive. "There are a lot of things that we can do better."

Scharper discussed the role individual Canadians play in contributing towards the problem.

"We are at a major historical moment," said Scharper. "[The data] is calling into question the role of the human [and] the non-human world. We are the first generation that is experiencing this kind of decline [in biodiversity], not because of exterior forces, but because of our own handiwork."

Students and faculty had the opportunity to pose questions to the

panel after the discussion.

After the event, the event moderator, professor Monika Havelka of UTM's geography department, mentioned the importance of inviting panellists from a broad range of backgrounds to discuss the issue.

"The more viewpoints we can bring, the more ways we can get people to connect with the problem, the more likely that people are going to see it as a problem, and see it as a priority, and see it as something that effects them," she said.

"I was really delighted by the questions that showed that students were really plugged in," she added. "[They] were definitely really following along and thinking about the real major themes that emerged."

## NEWS BRIEFS »

### Federal Liberals move to decriminalize assisted suicide

The Liberal Party of Canada is calling on the federal government to decriminalize physician-assisted suicide. At a Liberal convention in Montreal on Sunday, party members voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution that the public be consulted to determine how the process will work, prior to decriminalization.

Source: *The Vancouver Sun*

### Interim president of Ukraine named after Yanukovich ousted

The close adviser of Ukraine's opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko was appointed interim president of Ukraine on Sunday. Oleksander Turchinov, a screenwriter and speaker of the parliament, will serve in place of former president Viktor Yanukovich, who was ousted on Saturday. A presidential election is scheduled for May 25.

Source: *The Toronto Sun*

### Taliban postpone talks with United States about releasing soldier

The Afghan Taliban released a public statement on Sunday revealing that they had been discussing the potential release of a captured American soldier with the United States government, but that talks are being temporarily abandoned. The Taliban said the delay was caused by a difficult political situation in Afghanistan.

Source: *The New York Times*

### Police rule death in Durham's first homicide of the year

The death of a 22-year-old man has been identified as the year's first homicide in Durham. Shabir Niazi, who lived in Ajax, was found dead on Wednesday inside a garage. Police ruled the death a homicide after a post-mortem was performed on Friday. Niazi had been a student at Durham College.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

### Quebec confirms first case of pig virus in Montreal farm

Quebec's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food reported the first case of the pig virus, porcine epidemic diarrhea, on Sunday. The deadly virus was found in test samples from a Montreal farm. PED only affects piglets, not adult pigs. The pigs have shown no physical symptoms of the illness, but the farm is under quarantine.

Source: *CBC News*

# MEDIUM OPINION

Editor-in-Chief | Luke Sawczak

## MASTHEAD

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## Don't give us gobbledygook

UTMSU's justification for quitting the SS summit is embarrassing

The UTM Students' Union has found itself in a few controversies this year. Last month's "aggressive" vote yes campaign. Their ineffectiveness in preventing the rock pile. The resignations over an allegedly hostile work environment. And now the sudden exit from the downtown Student Societies Summit suggests they still aren't satisfied.

Quitting the summit isn't necessarily stupid; after all, it's a moderated discussion of an issue between downtown student groups that has little to do with UTMSU, except insofar as we might get the same idea someday and try to separate from UTSU, too. But the way we quit wasn't one many students will feel they can stand behind.

First of all, it came out of nowhere. The seven-page goodbye note discussed in our cover story this week—a letter signed by VP external Melissa Theodore on behalf of the executive team—claims that they spent "many hours" reporting on the meetings to their membership. Hmm; I haven't heard a peep. Might've been nice to talk this through first.

At least as frustrating are the nonsensical reasons given for quitting. The letter extols student groups' autonomy, for example, without a word as to why the summit is a breach of autonomy. Then it proceeds to la-

ment the fact that the societies whose members voted to divert their money from UTSU don't know what's good for them and should stay in line. Actually, bringing that up at all is disingenuous: We know that this is the incumbents' view. And that the smaller groups hold another view. That's why the summit was called.

UTMSU says it "doesn't know what the purpose of the summit is."

Despite this, the union manages to "have serious concerns that the unknown purpose of this summit is in conflict with our mission."

But that's not the only convoluted logic in the letter. On the one hand, it insists that UTMSU "doesn't know what the purpose of the summit is". But despite being in the dark, the union also manages to "have serious concerns that the unknown purpose of this summit is in conflict with our mission, and as such an inappropriate use of our valuable time". So... which is it?

Elsewhere, the letter says attendees attacked UTSU to gain favour with the university, and so defends UTSU's policy on proxies (voting on behalf of others) by saying that a major critic, the Engineering Society, also allows them. EngSoc's bylaws are attached. Nice; now I can easily verify that UTSU lets one person vote for 11 people while EngSoc lets one person vote for three. The absentees also count towards minimum attendance for UTSU but not EngSoc. This isn't to take sides; it's just to say that misleading finger-pointing doesn't befit a student representative.

Since none of these reasons makes sense, I suspect it's because other attendees—rightfully or not—have been asking to see the contract that has UTM students pay UTSU, only for most of it to be remitted to UTMSU. The letter says UTMSU is only too eager to "summarize" the terms, as long as they don't have to "divulge" them. Meanwhile, the university requires anyone who receives student money to be financially transparent.

I guess being caught on that was the straw that broke the camel's back. And made it hit the eject button.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK

## LinkedIn is mostly for the networking

Dear Editor,

It's always great to see the *Medium* publishing articles on career-related topics to assist students in navigating their career goals—the last one being on LinkedIn, specifically their University pages.

Ms. Farah Khan outlined the feature and identified some flaws which may make it difficult for employers/recruiters to find students and vice versa. As an employment advisor who assists students on a very regular basis with LinkedIn, I know that while the initial aspects of LinkedIn can be beneficial (create a profile, look for job postings), its far greater potential lies in its research and networking tools that are not as obvious.

One of the biggest questions I get is "What can I do with my degree in...?" Well, the University pages allows students to browse through alumni profiles based on what they studied, where they work, and what they are skilled at. It allows you to explore different career paths, companies, and jobs by learning about what the people who graduated from the university are doing. You might be surprised at the diverse professional paths they've taken and what's possible for you.

Networking is key in one's job search; 70 to 80% of jobs out there are never even advertised—you find them via your network. While networking, you strategically build meaningful relationships with people and exchange information and ideas with them. One challenge most students have however, is to create that network—it can certainly be intimidating! LinkedIn, including the University pages, can help you identify contacts currently working in jobs and companies you may be interested in. They may be able to share information and insights that will help you in your job search. When reaching out to the people you find, you can leverage the fact that you are a student from the same university they attended. Often people are very willing to help others, especially since they were probably in your shoes at some point; you just need to make it easy for them. Once you create that connection, ask questions, listen, and learn from others. And thank them for their time; it's a positive way to network.

The University page is just one tool you can use, no matter what stage you are at in your journey. LinkedIn has other research features that may not be as obvious; the Career Centre holds LinkedIn workshops and individual profile critiques to help you get the most out of this system. Visit our website, call, or come to DV 3094 and see how we can help you!

Sincerely,  
Natasha Walli  
Employment advisor, Career Centre



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# MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

## Theatre Erindale revives Frances Burney farce

With *The Witlings*, UTM's drama students bring nearly forgotten 18th-century folly to the modern stage

ALEXANDRA BALAJ

Someone should have told the characters in *The Witlings* that “we have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak”.

The comedy takes us back to the 18th century and revolves around a young couple's struggle to get married and the intermingled obstacles, influences, and observers that make up the rest of the vivacious cast.

Due to a tragic, unforeseen incident, a wedge is driven between the premarital bliss of sweet Cecilia Stanley (**Mercedes Morris**) and her protective fiancé, Beaufort (**Samuel Turner**). A series of misunderstandings brought on by a lack of communication threatens to sever their ties for good. Meanwhile, local landlady Mrs. Voluble (**Kaitlyn Alexander**) works to assure her new high-profile lodger, Mr. Dabler (**Tomas Ketchum**), that his popular poems and manuscripts will remain untouched and private in his room while, in actuality, she can't resist sharing a peek with his other devoted fans during his absences.

On the other end of the class spectrum, Lady Smatter (**Bailey Green**), the aunt of the groom-to-be, thinks herself very well-learned in the study of poetry, and pompously misattributes famous literary quotations for anyone who will listen. She and her literary circle—made up of old Mr. Codger (**Mark Snetzko**), who needs extra time to think and reply to everything (time no one ever allows him),



JIM SMAGATA/PHOTO

The ladies of *The Witlings* share a laugh.

and rosy-cheeked Mrs. Sapient (**Hannah Ehman**), who constantly offers her unsolicited opinion on what would be common sense to anyone else—meet for discussions of (and no small amount of fawning over) Mr. Dabler's latest works.

Breathlessly running on and off the set is Beaufort's half-brother, Jack (**Jovan Kocic**), who, despite his helpful nature, always has a million things to do and a billion places to be before breakfast, a habit that makes him ultimately useless at everything except being a bearer of bad news. And then there's Beaufort's good friend, Mr. Censor (**Christian Tribuzio**), arguably the most level-headed of the bunch (and the resident spoilsport), who, despite

his inability to conceal his sense of upper-class superiority, puts his propensity for insults and blackmail to good use by the end of the story.

The primary delights of this performance come not from the central plot, however, but from scenes and characters that have nothing to do with the main storyline. Take Lady Smatter's poetry club scene. After playing coy, Dabler is flattered by the party into reciting one of his latest pieces. Sapient and Smatter both gush at the compliments he pays them in his verses whilst marvelling at Codger's silence—“Have you no soul, Mr. Codger?”—and simultaneously whispering to Codger that Dabler has certainly exaggerated the other woman's charms. Then this

circle of excellent friends turns on Codger, literally surrounding him and badgering him with questions, none of which he is given the time to answer. At a servant's proclamation of Censor's arrival, Smatter wonders if they should ask Censor's opinion. Codger's weary response—“My doubt, madam, is if you will give him time to speak it”—left the audience in teary-eyed laughter for several glorious moments. Often, the hilarity would build up in a scene to the point where a sobering return to the main plotline cut off the giggles and disturbed the pace as everyone sat back, anticipating the next witty line.

Well-executed lines flow throughout the piece, brought to life by the actors who skilfully demonstrate their

range of vocal and facial expressions, each filling their position to the highest degree. The script was written in 1779, and although it's sometimes difficult to follow, it was played with minimal error in evocative, well-timed dialogue.

The costumes by **Barbara Rowe** and Sheridan's **David Jubey** were impressive in their level of detail, elaborate in design, and appeared to perfectly match the standards set by the time period and social milieu. A clever lighting trick showed the passage of time by the elongating silhouettes of window frames, and a cutout of a full-length window in the background during Act 1 provided some simple comedic moments as characters would run by in panic or peek through as the scene played out.

Director **Patrick Young**'s adaption of **Frances Burney**'s play is a long one to sit through, but a marvellous, hilarious treat that's worth rapt attention every minute. A self-educated young playwright, Burney produced several tremendously successful plays in her lifetime, but *The Witlings* was one that was almost left forever unreleased. Her father and a family friend, though long-time supporters of her work, considered that it simply wasn't right for a woman to write a comedy, and felt especially that the play's subtle mockery might be offensive to some members of society.

Thankfully, the play was discovered centuries later and is now running at Theatre Erindale until March 2.

## Guns & Roses event showcases the dramatic side of love

Hindu Student Council hosts an eventful Valentine's night in the Blind Duck, complete with dinner and a show

NATALIA RAMNARINE

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the Hindu Student Council hosted Guns & Roses in the Blind Duck. To fit the event's tagline—“Express your love in a classy way or get shot by Cupid anyway”—attendees donned elegant saris, suits, and dresses in hopes of “bringing out the sweet yet spicy side of love”, as promised on the event's Facebook page.

To begin the night, guests prom- enaded down the red carpet on their entrance. Masked in sunglasses, carrying red roses, armed with fake guns, and topped with fedoras, invitees were hardly recognizable in their photo booth pictures. In the main hall, rose petals decorated each red tablecloth and lights sparkled on heart-shaped wreaths lining the windows.

Spring rolls, samosas, and lemonade were served as appetizers. Candy grams were also offered to guests; personalized notes were submitted at a booth at the door, and messages could be collected upon exit.

After everyone was seated, **Vinay**



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

Guns & Roses attendees were treated to a night of food, dancing, and live theatre.

**Kumar Thapilyal** and **Sonu Solanki** started the show, their first roles being those of emcees. Between performances they transformed into brilliant actors, unfolding a fictional love story for the audience. As passionate lovers, their characters began the dangerous path of gaining membership in a gang. Thapilyal left the gang, and So-

lanki was given a mission of assassination. Thapilyal persisted in convincing Solanki to leave, but she refused.

Tension built, hearts ached, and tears were shed until Thapilyal was left on one knee with Solanki's gun pointed at his head. Solanki jumped off the stage and ran away, and Thapilyal ran after her as the song “Pareshaan”

played in the background to conclude their dramatic love story.

The performances in between were also done well. **Shalok Munjal**'s dance was especially outstanding, with skilful legwork and smooth movements to the song “Mera Dil Meri Jaan”. **Rhythm** also gave a magnificent performance to a medley of Bollywood

songs in return for dancing and cheering from the energetic crowd.

Later, the band **Viren Sud** had the crowd at their feet with wonderful singing, captivating rhythms, and an all-around adept performance.

**Raymond Noronha**, the president of UTMSU, announced the winners of the night's awards. The Damsel in Distress award was presented to **Aleena Khan** and the title of “Mr. 007” was given to **Nikhil Chhabra**.

Following the performances, dinner was served, including both Desi food and Hakka Chinese. Dal makhani, shahi paneer, rice, naan, vegetable Manchurian, and Hakka noodles were among the delicious dishes. Dessert, however, was the main attraction. Milk and white chocolate flowed down the exterior of a silver fountain, with strawberries, bananas, marshmallows, and wafers for dipping.

After dinner, **Fuzion Sound** opened the dance floor with the latest Bollywood tracks for the guests whose dancing on the stage and on the floor sustained the energy till the end of the night.

# The race for top Oscars categories heats up

In anticipation of this Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony, we make our predictions

**COLLEEN MUNRO**  
A&E EDITOR

It's that time of year again. We sat through all the buildup: the film festivals, the deluge of "prestige" films released at the end of the year, and a spat of awards shows allowing actors to share the acceptance speeches they've been rehearsing in their minds since they first stepped onto the set. Now, it's time for the big show: the Oscars.

One of the most fun parts of following the Oscars is playing prognosticator. Everyone has their personal favourites and predictions of the winners of the big awards. So, here's a breakdown of some of the major categories and our guesses about how they'll pan out.

## BEST PICTURE

**Nominated:** *12 Years a Slave*, *American Hustle*, *Captain Phillips*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Gravity*, *Her*, *Nebraska*, *Philomena*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*

**Will win:** *12 Years a Slave*

**Should win:** *Her*

Since the project was announced, *12 Years a Slave* seemed primed for Oscar glory, as cynical and simplistic as that may sound. But in the same way that *Crash* and *Schindler's List* were deemed culturally important and thus awarded Best Picture, *12 Years a Slave* will likely become the next film that the academy fetes for its social consciousness. Thankfully, *12 Years a Slave* also happens to be an impeccably crafted film, so it would



Amy Adams and Christian Bale are among the four actors in *American Hustle* vying for an Oscar. BUSINESSINSIDER.COM/PHOTO

certainly be deserving of the honour.

*12 Years a Slave* might be the obvious frontrunner, but there are a couple of other films in this diverse group that could pull off a surprise win. *Gravity* ended up being a rare blockbuster with the artistry and vision required for Oscar glory. Meanwhile, the gaudy *American Hustle* has been a true crowd pleaser, and with 10 nominations it's bound to pick up something. Even *Dallas Buyers Club* and *The Wolf of Wall Street* ended up scooping up more Oscar nominations than expected, so there's obviously plenty of support for them.

While they may not have a chance of winning, it's also nice to see a cou-

ple of smaller, more low-key films, like Spike Jonze's *Her* and Alexander Payne's *Nebraska*, find a spot in the list of Best Picture nominees. Of course, they still have big-name directors and relatively large budgets, while lower-profile, equally worthy projects like *The Place Beyond the Pines*, *Fruitvale Station*, and *Mud* were shut out entirely. Nonetheless, the relative diversity of the nominees is refreshing.

## BEST DIRECTOR

**Nominated:** Alfonso Cuarón (*Gravity*), Steve McQueen (*12 Years a Slave*), Alexander Payne (*Nebraska*), David O. Russell (*American Hustle*), Martin Scorsese (*The Wolf of Wall Street*)

**Will win:** Alfonso Cuarón

**Should win:** Steve McQueen

If *12 Years a Slave* takes Best Picture, logic suggests that McQueen would also take home Best Director. But last year's split between Best Picture and Best Director showed the two categories don't always align. This paves the way for Cuarón, who has already won the Golden Globe and the Director's Guild award. Then again, this is Russell and Payne's third nominations in this category, and each is without a win, so some may see them as more deserving than first-time directing nominees Cuarón and McQueen.

## BEST ACTOR

**Nominated:** Christian Bale (*American Hustle*), Bruce Dern (*Nebraska*), Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Wolf of Wall Street*), Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave*), Matthew McConaughey (*Dallas Buyers Club*)

**Will win:** Matthew McConaughey

**Should win:** Chiwetel Ejiofor

Most wonder why DiCaprio hasn't won an Oscar yet, and his performance in *The Wolf of Wall Street* is probably the best shot he's had in a while. Ejiofor is also a threat with his performance in *12 Years a Slave*. However, McConaughey's recent career reinvention and an impressive turn in the well-liked *Dallas Buyers Club* will make him tough to beat.

## BEST ACTRESS

**Nominated:** Amy Adams (*American Hustle*), Cate Blanchett (*Blue Jasmine*), Sandra Bullock (*Gravity*), Judi Dench (*Philomena*), Meryl Streep (*August: Osage County*)

**Will win:** Cate Blanchett

**Should win:** Cate Blanchett

Everyone in this category has an Oscar to their name except Adams, and with the way things are shaping up, Adams may have to settle for the honour of being a five-time nominee. She does have an outside shot at the win, but things seem aligned for Blanchett to scoop up a second Oscar for her brilliant Blanche DuBois-inspired role in *Blue Jasmine*.

*Oscars continued on page 7*

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## Succeeding by keeping it simple

*The Lego Movie* turns out to be an unexpected treat



THELEGO MOVIE.COM/PHOTO

Audiences of all ages can now relive their childhood thanks to *The Lego Movie*.

### MAYANK SHARMA

The team that gave us *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and *21 Jump Street* has made another animated movie full of laughs but also with a deep message. With a current score of 96% on Rotten Tomatoes, *The Lego Movie* has been called the best movie of this year so far, and it's worthy of the title.

The plot revolves around Emmet (Chris Pratt), a construction worker in a world made of Lego blocks whose life follows a regular routine, much like every other citizen. However, Emmet lacks a strong social

circle and yearns to be seen as special and outstanding. This changes when he accidentally finds the Piece of Resistance and runs into Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks), who claims that Emmet is "the Special" who will save the world from total destruction and defeat by Lord Business (Will Ferrell). This prophecy proves false when Emmet is later found to be a regular minifig in the Lego world and has to be trained by the wizard Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman) to find his special talent. The star-studded voice cast also includes Alison Brie, Nick Offerman, and Charlie Day.

The film takes a very amusing ap-

proach to each of its characters. For example, it offers a satirical spin on Batman (Will Arnett) and also spoofs classic movie interrogation scenes with good cop/bad cop routines.

The script is witty and uses pop culture references entertainingly. The score and the quality of its animation are also commendable.

*The Lego Movie* has just enough humour and sentimental elements to leave audiences of all ages satisfied. If you're looking for a quick stress-buster and enjoy a good laugh, pick up your 3D glasses and go see it. MMMM½

# UTM theatre makes its mark downtown

UTMDC presented three original plays and picked up several awards at the U of T Drama Festival

**COLLEEN MUNRO**  
A&E EDITOR

The U of T Drama Festival once again took residence at Hart House earlier this month, providing audiences with four nights of theatre written, performed, and produced entirely by students.

Among the groups participating in the cross-campus festival was the UTM Drama Club, which performed on three of the festival's four nights. The diverse one-act plays presented by UTMDC were *Some Counterspace* (written by **Madeleine Brown** and directed by **Laura McCallum**), *Mrs. Mama's House* (written by **Nathaniel Kinghan** and directed by **Larissa Crawley**), and *Pur.Gat.Ory* (written by **Nicholas Potter** and directed by **Megan O'Kelly**). UTM was well represented, offering more productions in the festival than any other participating group.

Overseeing the festival was adjudicator **Matt White**. White is an instructor in the UTM/Sheridan theatre and drama studies program and also directed one of Hart House Theatre's recent productions, *Bone Cage*. He happens to have been president of the Drama Coalition when he attended U of T. As adjudicator of the festival, his duties included conducting public and private adjudications at the end of each night to offer advice and encouragement to the participants. He was also in charge of handing out a variety of awards at the end of the festival's final night.

UTMDC had a strong showing in this ceremony, taking home several awards. The Robertson Davies Playwriting Award was presented to Nicholas Potter for *Pur.Gat.Ory*, a complex exploration of four char-



Nathaniel Kinghan's *Mrs. Mama's House* won an award of merit.

FACEBOOK.COM/UTMDC/PHOTO

acters whose directionless lives converge on a subway platform. Potter's last submission to the festival, *Marianne, Are You Asleep?*, had also made a splash, taking home awards for Best Production and Best Performance last year.

As it turns out, the streak of recognition for UTMDC's performers continued this year. **Alex Spyropoulos** was presented with the Donald Sutherland Award for Best Performance, recognizing her portrayal of a mystical drifter in *Pur.Gat.Ory*. On the subject of the award (which was renamed this year to honour one of U of T's most famous alumni,

a former participant in the festival) and Spyropoulos' performance, White had this to say: "I take great joy watching performers who can 'jump off the cliff' and give over to being wholly present and committed to every choice, seeing it through to the logical and sometimes surprising completion. Alex delivered a performance with such a grounded maturity, electric energy, and controlled focus. She unequivocally deserves to be the inaugural recipient of the Donald Sutherland Award for Best Performance."

Other winners at this year's festival included Trinity College Dra-

matic Society's *The Broadleaf Plays*, which won the President's Award for Best Production, UC Follies' *The Meeting with God: A Spectacle of the Fall*, which won the Robert Gill Award for Best Direction, and UC Follies' *The Session*, which took home the I.A.T.S.E. Award for Technical Achievement.

White also handed out a number of awards of merit, selected at his discretion, to celebrate talented participants who didn't find recognition in the festival's other award categories. White assigned personalized titles to each award of merit, such as the "Mr. Bean Award",

presented to the bold and broadly comedic **Lucas Loizou** for his supporting turn in Victoria College Drama Society's *They Just Didn't See*.

UTMDC's Nathaniel Kinghan took home one of the six awards of merit, earning the "Script-I-Want-to-See-Fleshed-Out-at-Summerworks Award" for his play, *Mrs. Mama's House*. "It was creatively affirming to hear Matt White commend my writing, suggest we enter this play in another festival, and offer invaluable insight as to how we can develop the piece further," Kinghan told the *Medium*. "It serves as motivation to continue tweaking this project into something bigger."

That sense of accomplishment and inspiration seems to be common among the members of UTMDC, but it didn't come without hard work. Laura McCallum, the vice-president of UTMDC and director of *Some Counterspace*, told the *Medium* about the long process that led to the group's participation in the festival: "The journey started in October with playwright submissions and since then, the executives and directors have been working tirelessly to produce some really innovative theatre."

But the hard work paid off, and UTMDC is enjoying their moment in the broader U of T spotlight, according to McCallum. "Being a part of the U of T Drama Coalition yet being a satellite campus means our talent goes unseen for most of the school year," she said. "It's nice to be the dark horse of the competition and surprise the other groups."

A remount of UTMDC's shows will be held in the coming weeks. For more information on UTMDC, visit [dramaclub.sa.utoronto.ca](http://dramaclub.sa.utoronto.ca).

## Sizing up the Oscars, betting against odds

*Oscars continued from page 6*

that was a comfortable fit with the film's "bigger is better" aesthetic.

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

**Nominated:** Barkhad Abdi (*Captain Phillips*), Bradley Cooper (*American Hustle*), Michael Fassbender (*12 Years a Slave*), Jonah Hill (*The Wolf of Wall Street*), Jared Leto (*Dallas Buyers Club*)

**Will win:** Jared Leto

**Should win:** Bradley Cooper

Fassbender was once thought to be a strong contender in this category, but his refusal to campaign this Oscar season has all but put him out of the running. Leto, meanwhile, has been everywhere (and winning awards along the way). And certainly, his sensitive and subtle turn as a transgender woman in *Dallas Buyers Club* is a great reminder of just how wonderful Leto can be with the right material. Perhaps just for the sake of being a contrarian, though, my personal favourite is Cooper. To me his madcap, brazen performance felt like the only one in *American Hustle*

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

**Nominated:** Sally Hawkins (*Blue Jasmine*), Jennifer Lawrence (*American Hustle*), Lupita Nyong'o (*12 Years a Slave*), Julia Roberts (*August: Osage County*), June Squibb (*Nebraska*)

**Will win:** Lupita Nyong'o

**Should win:** Lupita Nyong'o

The closest Oscar race right now is arguably for Best Supporting Actress, where the young and impossibly talented Lawrence and Nyong'o are running neck and neck. The fact that Lawrence is a frontrunner is a little baffling to me, since she felt rather miscast in *American Hustle* and was saddled with a cliché, underdeveloped character. But while it's possible that Lawrence will win her second Oscar in two consecutive years, I think the academy's votes will still come out in Nyong'o's favour thanks to her unflinching work in *12 Years a Slave*.

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# MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

## Serving hospitality for seven years

The UTM Food Bank is looking to expand its suite of services to become a “food centre”

**MADELEINE BROWN**  
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

I like to think that I know everything when it comes to food at UTM. I can tell you where to buy the best blueberry muffin on campus or about my favourite dish at the Blind Duck, but until recently I knew next to nothing about the UTM Food Bank. As a typical member of our generation, I was a member of the UTM Food Bank Volunteer Facebook group, but I couldn't even tell you where the food bank, officially established in 2007, was located on campus. (And neither could the students working at the InfoBooth, but thankfully I found a stack of UTM-SU agendas to consult.) Determined to set myself—and maybe even other UTM students—straight, I finally visited the food bank located in the Student Centre, Room 241, earlier this month.

It's surprisingly easy to use. During operating hours, students simply go to the food bank, write down their name (or codename if they wish to be anonymous), the date, and the items that they've chosen. When the new database and website launch in early March, this data will be logged virtually. Students will be



FACEBOOK.COM/UTMFOODBANK/PHOTO

**Afify says the UTM Food Bank is looking to grow into a food centre based on “food sovereignty”.**

able to order food without even going to the food bank itself.

I spoke to Noura Afify, the food bank coordinator and a third-year political science and sociology student, about its services and upcoming developments.

**The Medium:** How many students on average use the UTM Food Bank?

**Noura Afify:** An average for food bank usage would be very misleading. There are months [when] the food bank is used around 30 times and other times where it's accessed twice. There are students who visit once a year and students who visit once a week.

**TM:** Is it really true that any student can use the food bank?

**NA:** All students are welcome to use the food bank without restrictions. Not only do our confidentiality principles prevent us from being able to screen or evaluate people, but we believe that such a process is unnecessary and undignified. Food is a right and it should be accessible to all.

**TM:** How do you determine how

much students can take from the food bank?

**NA:** The students themselves do. Students often take much less than they need. [...] If something runs out, it's my responsibility to figure out a way to get more rather than putting pressure on students by enforcing limits. Students can take as much as they want, as often as they want, and they can always request more.

**TM:** What are the busiest times of year for the food bank?

**NA:** The busiest times of the year are always the end of the fall term and the beginning of the winter term. Because students' budgets run out, [they face] financial drawbacks or are too busy with midterms and term papers to work.

**TM:** Do you offer any fresh food?

**NA:** Yes, we do. We have a shopping list request system. Students can email or leave their shopping list in our order box [located outside the food bank] before the first and the 15th of every month. Then, we go out to purchase those items and arrange a pickup with the students.

*UTMSU continued on page 9*

## UTM's very own international athlete

Patrick Rucinski, international dancesport competitor, represents Canada all over the world

**JAI SANGHA**

As attention remains on the Winter Olympics and Canadian athletes' wins, it's not hard to miss other athletes representing Canada on the world stage, like UTM's own Patrick Rucinski, a first-year part-time student in the CCIT program, an international dancesport competitor, and an under-21 world champion in ballroom dancing. Rucinski also represented Canada at the 2013 World Games.

Ballroom is a partnered dance and has two main styles: international standard, which includes waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, foxtrot, and quickstep; and international Latin, which includes samba, cha-cha-cha, rumba, paso doble, and jive. The sport is currently regulated by the International World Dancesport Federation and its national branches.

Rucinski specializes in the international standard style with his partner Ella Nusenbaum, a Ryerson student.

“The longer you dance with a



PATRICK RUCINSKI/PHOTO

**Rucinski performing with his longtime partner, Ella Nusenbaum.**

partner, the more results you can achieve,” says Rucinski, who has collaborated with Nusenbaum for more than 10 years. They were paired by their parents after practising at the same dance studio when they were young. “It was funny because at that

time she used to be taller than me, so we weren't sure how it was going to work, but then I grew, so it all worked out,” he says.

Rucinski started learning ballroom at the age of five under his parents, who currently teach the Latin

dance class at the RAWC, before getting professional trainers as he got older.

His team consists of a personal trainer who helps him work on fitness, local trainers for dance, and a nutritionist and dance coaches based

in Italy. “Our trainers here work with the main coaches to help pick which competitions we should take part in here and which ones would be more beneficial,” says Rucinski. “The main coaches organize workshops for specific routines and help with the European scene [where most of the competitions are]. If I could, I would go every week, but it's obviously difficult to do that.”

Rucinski trains seven days a week, for five to six hours each day, with additional fitness training four times a week. On average, he makes 10 trips a year around the world to compete on the international circuit.

As with other sports, dancesport athletes compete in the provincial and national championships in order to qualify for the world championships. Even though Canada is not considered a strong dancesport country, last December, Rucinski won the 2013 Under-21 World Championship in Ashdod, Israel.

*Patrick continued on page 9*



# UTM's alternative meal plan *World Games star*

UTMSU continued from page 8

**The Medium:** What are your most requested items?

**Noura Afify:** The most requested non-perishable items tend to be meats (e.g. canned salmon), certain vegetables (e.g. canned potatoes), and toiletries. In terms of perishable food [...] the items that we typically see on students' shopping lists are basic meats, milk, eggs, bread, and vegetables.

**TM:** What items are you most in need of?

**NA:** We are in need of too many things: winter and summer clothes; toiletries; cooking basics such as oil, vinegar, and sugar. Meats, vegetables, and fruits are always in demand.

**TM:** Where do your donations come from?

**NA:** A big bulk of our donations come from food drives, [most notably] the Food for Fines campaign. Clubs and societies often hold food drives or events that require attendees to donate food at the door. Staff members contribute by holding office food drives. We have donation bins next to the InfoBooth in the Student Centre. Sometimes when a certain item is in demand, we announce it on our Facebook page and group. Then I check the donation bin a few days later and find that someone has dropped off that item.

**TM:** What kinds of donations do you not accept?

**NA:** As a food bank, we don't have the power to not accept donations. We ask people to avoid donating certain things such as condensed canned

soup, tomato pastes, and beans because we have these items in excess. [...] Under the Ethical Food Banking Code, we can't give out expired food items, but people still donate them.

**TM:** Does the food bank offer any other services for students?

**NA:** Serving students free food only provides temporary alleviation of a deeper issue. By understanding that hunger and poverty issues are systemic, we try to create a space for students to challenge that system. We are currently organizing a food justice assembly [...] where students can exchange ideas, build a community and a movement that works to challenge the food system.

"We're working on expanding and transforming the food bank into a food centre, organized around food sovereignty and democracy."

—Noura Afify

**TM:** How many volunteers does the food bank have? Do you have enough?

**NA:** We have a lot of volunteers, but because of the flexibility of our volunteering system, we don't have enough people volunteering. We've begun to set up more permanent volunteer positions. We're trying to create leadership opportunities for volunteers, where they can be actively

involved in the planning and organization of the food bank's activities to shape the service into something that works better for them.

**TM:** How does the university support the food bank?

**NA:** Many staff members have been supportive of the food bank [by] holding office food drives or events like Food for Fines. However, there are other ways for the university to support the food bank, like working to reduce student fees and food prices. There are many students who don't eat all day while on campus because the food prices are so high.

**TM:** Are there any plans to develop the food bank in the future?

**NA:** We're working on expanding and transforming the food bank into a food centre, organized around food sovereignty and democracy. It [will attempt] to connect people at all ends of the food system. Chartwells should not have the exclusive right to serve all food on campus and regulate food prices and quality without competition. Students will be able to get together and plan and improve food centre initiatives and programming. We will obviously still provide students with a food bank service, but there will be alternatives and it will be managed in a more equitable and empowering way. Food as a human right will become the central principle on which the food bank operates.

*The student assembly meets every other Monday at 5 p.m. in the Student Centre, Room 100.*

*This interview has been edited for length.*



PATRICK RUCINSKI/PHOTO

Rucinski has competed in competitions around the world.

Patrick continued from page 8

"You know, before people used to think that America or Canada weren't strong countries, but things are changing," he says about his winning the World Championship. "It was a big thing, because we were the only couple that achieved the top three in the world."

Over the last two years, Rucinski has competed in Hong Kong, Belgium, Estonia, Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Italy, and Slovenia. Travelling around the world is one of the best things about competing, he says.

One of his most memorable competitions was the 2013 World Games in Cali, Colombia. Like the Olympics, the World Games is a multi-sport event held every four years under the patronage of the International Olympics Committee and organized by the International World Games Association to showcase sports that are not in the Olympics.

"It was very big. We had about

20,000 spectators, so it was almost like a concert," says Rucinski. "Normally in competitions, if it's not a big one, there are around 1,000 spectators. But [in Cali], dancesport was the second-most popular sport, from what they were telling us. So that was a great experience."

This year, Rucinski moved from the under-21 to the adult amateur category, and says this eases the pressure.

"It has been hard to focus on school as I had a crazy schedule, always travelling. I had to pull all-nighters. I had to find time to study sometimes on the plane, in airports, and even during practice," he says. "But now I can start to focus more on what I want to become and finish studies, because it's important to build a backup plan in case of an injury."

Rucinski plans to learn more about business and marketing, and one day may start his own studio to train future generations of Canadian dancesport athletes.

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**HUMBER**

# New restaurant'd make a good UTM "local"

Students finally have another place to grab some grub off campus: the Erin Mills Pump and Patio

**MADELEINE BROWN**  
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

It was back in December that I noticed that the former Rosewood Bistro in the Sherwood Forest Plaza at 1900 Dundas Street West donned an "Opening Soon" sign, soon to become the Erin Mills Pump and Patio. I made a mental note to return to the restaurant when it opened.

Fast-forward to February, when I found myself in a midterm daze. I cancelled my Winterlicious date to squeeze in extra time for homework. A few days later, I started to feel a bit guilty and a bit desperate to free myself from my desk. Out of my window, I saw the Erin Mills Pump beckoning me. In defiance, I decided to throw my textbooks aside (only for a couple of hours, I swear), gather a group of friends, and go out for drinks and dinner.

As I stepped into the restaurant, my stress slipped away. It's a warm hideaway from the bleak winter outside, and feels like a ski lodge high up in a mountainous retreat. It's cozy, somewhat luxurious, and welcoming. The service staff guided us to a table upstairs, overlooking the level below. There were beautiful flat-screen TVs in view, tuned to popular sports channels. For a Sunday night it was relatively busy, although I'm sure it was nothing compared to this time on a Friday or Saturday night.

It's not long before we were asked what we'd like to drink. Two of us, myself included, are not exactly drinkers.



FLICKR.COM/PHOTO

Sweet potato fries are just one of the many classic dishes offered at the new pub.

We stuck to water. But that's why I brought along my two other friends: one goes for an Old-Fashioned and the other a beer. I'm told that the beer selection is quite good, especially their domestic options, which include some uncommon local brands on tap.

The menu is your traditional pub fare but with an emphasis on quality. You'll find a variety of starters, salads, sandwiches, burgers, pastas, wings, pizzas baked in a stone oven, and such entrees as NY striploin, fish and chips, and baby back ribs. There's an impressive list of gluten-free offerings and a children's menu, too. I decided to go for the baby back rib combo on offer that night, which includes a

half-rack of ribs, six wings (in my case grilled suicide wings), coleslaw, and a side, for which I chose a garden salad with balsamic dressing. My dinner dates ordered the apparently famous Pump House sliders with sweet potato fries, the Genovese pizza, and the braised beef ravioli.

When our dishes arrived I was relieved to see the generous portions. The barbeque sauce on the ribs was sweet and tangy. And yes, they were indeed tender. I didn't feel the heat of the so-called "suicide wings" until I was given some extra sauce on the side. I liked the addition of dill to their house coleslaw, which was far from that sad mayonnaise-drenched

stuff you can buy pre-packaged at grocery store takeout counters. The garden salad was typical and didn't stand out, but the vegetables were fresh so it served its purpose as a nice, light addition to my heavy main.

I was glad one of my friends ordered the Pump House sliders—I'd considered getting them myself. My friend was not disappointed. They were stuffed with sliced Angus prime rib blanketed with melted mozzarella and enclosed in a hearty French baguette (or "French stick", as the menu calls it). The sliders were served with plenty of *au jus* in a dish wide enough for dipping. He gave his sweet potato fries the thumbs-up as well. The

Genovese pizza also went down well, and particularly the artichokes on top. My friend who ordered the ravioli, which came with two slices of baked garlic crostini, was pleased with her choice and praised the tomato sauce.

My friend with the pizza ordered a Dark 'n' Stormy, which got his approval. With all this good food and the delightful atmosphere, I kept wishing Monday would never come. We were too full to get dessert, although the Pump had a selection of classic cakes including strawberry cheesecake and a chocolate lava cake. The bill was served with a handful of hard fruit candies.

I've always fantasized about finding my own "local", and I think the Pump might just be it. While the prices are reasonable for the quality of food, they're on the upper end of a student budget. However, a few drinks and appetizers wouldn't put a big dent in your pocket, especially with the money you'd save on transportation (it's only a 15-minute walk or a five-minute bus ride from campus). I'll definitely be returning in the summer when the patio opens, and I'd also like to go for their 59¢ wing special on Monday nights.

Next time I go for dinner, I'm going to try either the blackened grouper sandwich or the Louisiana salad. More importantly, though, I must get to the beautiful bathroom on my next visit, which, amid the wonderful food and atmosphere, I completely missed out on.

## The new age of social media

Multimedia app Momentage could herald a new paradigm

**MARIA CRUZ**  
FEATURES EDITOR

All right friends, here's the deal. Don't pretend that it isn't annoying to juggle every social media profile you have, especially when you're uploading the same photo to every one of them. And don't pretend you're not keeping score of how many "likes" you get on a useless photo you took of cake.

Personally, I'm the not-so-proud owner of six social media pages. And trust me, when I snap a photo of a beautiful sunrise, the moment isn't so special after I've wasted over five minutes uploading it to every profile.

Despite my impatience, I've now added a seventh: Momentage.

Created by JoAnn Ippolito and George Castineiras, this new app seems to be a blend of sites like Instagram and Facebook. After a free download, you're off to profile creation. One you create a username and password, you enter a very Twitteresque profile setup: you choose your display name, a profile photo, a background photo, and a one-liner to go under your name. I picked "there is no spoon". That means you can't steal it.

The app offers some features similar to other social media apps, such as 20-second video recording and

the ability to edit and combine photos, import media from your iPhone, and share your uploads through Twitter and Facebook.

What separates this app from others out there is how effectively it combines videos, audio, and photos. The biggest thing Momentage brings to the table is the option to record audio over photos. It allows 30 seconds of speech over any photo, and your message will play when it's viewed.

Ippolito spoke with me about

"Momentage is really more the next evolution of social media ... We're creative people who are coming up with new things."  
—JoAnn Ippolito

the newest social media platform this week. She says the idea for Momentage came about six or seven years ago, when Castineiras would rely heavily on video cameras to capture significant moments in his life. When the smartphone started to become more popular along with new versions of the iPhone, he got the idea to build a solid video app.

"Momentage is really more the

next evolution of social media," says Ippolito. "And what I mean by that is that it's multimedia. You can go ahead and then communicate as you normally do, and it has a lot more dimensions."

Amid the competition of similar apps, Momentage is already laying the groundwork to becoming another app we can't take our eyes off. Ippolito feels it differs from Twitter's count of followers who validate our sense of humour or the number of likes on a selfie that provide a shot of self-esteem. "Our community is more about breathtaking moments, or capturing photos and sharing what their day was about," Ippolito says. "It's less about putting them in the spotlight. It's less about selfies and more about experiences in [users'] lives."

With an Android version releasing in the summer and phenomenal feedback so far, Momentage isn't going anywhere. "There's so much out there, but everybody is pretty much one-dimensional," Ippolito says. "Everybody's doing one thing and I think we're tired of having multiple apps to communicate."

"We're still in the infancy of what the app can bring to the table," she concludes. "We're adding new features and things people haven't seen yet. Overall, we're creative people who are coming up with new things."

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# MEDIUMSPORTS

Editor | Jason Coelho

## U of T's hopes for OUA dominion dashed

Windsor Lancers sweep the series with back-to-back efforts to send U of T home without a playoff win

KYLE KUCZYNSKI

The Varsity Blues men's hockey team faced off against the Windsor Lancers for their first game of the playoffs on Thursday. U of T has won four of their last five games of the season to push themselves into fifth place.

The Lancers are 2-2 in their last four games, which included a 5-1 win over the Varsity Blues on February 8. This is the second time in CIS history that these two teams have met in the playoffs; their first meeting was in 1987, when the Lancers beat U of T.

The first period started out pretty evenly, with both teams playing physically and having a difficult time keeping the puck in their opponent's zone. U of T's Tyler von Engelbrechten received the first penalty of the game, giving Windsor a power play. The Varsity Blues kept the puck to the outer edge of the defensive zone, preventing any real scoring chances for Windsor and successfully killing off the penalty.

Near the end of the Lancers' first power play, the Blues were having a difficult time keeping the puck out of their own zone. Windsor was getting a lot of chances, but U of T's goalie, Brett



Russell Turner (23) registers a shot on Lancers goaltender Parker van Buskirk (29) in game one.

Willows, kept the puck out of the net. U of T's inability to get the puck out of their zone resulted in the Blues' second penalty of the game for high-sticking. The Lancers took advantage of their second power play and converted with a one-timer from defenceman Kenny Bradford to make the score 1-0.

After the goal, U of T improved their play, getting a few shots and

scoring chances, but Windsor's goalie, Parker van Buskirk, successfully protected his net. With 6:39 left in the first period, Windsor's Matt Beaudoin got a penalty, giving U of T their first power play. The Blues had a tough time getting shots on net, largely because of the work of Lancers defenceman Julian Luciani. U of T ended the period with a 1-0 deficit and was outshot 18-

8.

The second period started off with a U of T power play after Luciani got two minutes for cross-checking. Hard work in the corner from the Blues' Ernesto Valente got the puck up to defenceman Dylan Heide, who fired a shot tipped in by captain Blake Boddy.

U of T began to play a better game overall, putting pucks on net and de-

cent scoring chances. U of T's first line of Boddy, Jeff Brown, and Valente was notable in the second period, getting plenty of chances and keeping pressure on Windsor. U of T's Corey Jackson earned a tripping penalty halfway through the period, only to have the penalties offset when Bradford was given a roughing penalty in front of the U of T net after a scuffle.

U of T found themselves in penalty trouble after Heide was sent to the box for cross-checking. U of T killed off the penalty by pressuring the Windsor power play, forcing them to give up the puck and allowing the Blues to clear the puck out of their zone. After the penalty, however, Windsor began to turn the tables and put the pressure on U of T. The Lancers continued to get chances, finally scoring with 24 seconds left in the game. The Blues were playing sloppy in their own zone and coughed the puck up to Beaudoin, who sniped it in the top shelf, leaving the Lancers up 2-1. The shots at the end of the second period were 12-8 for Windsor.

*Blues continued on page 12*

## Campus rivalries taken to new level

FERGUS TALBOT

In a Division 1 basketball game unlike any other, UTM fans had the unique opportunity to cheer on both the home and away teams as UTM White and UTM Blue faced off against each other for campus bragging rights.

The first half saw great attacking by both squads. Austin Chambers of the UTM Blue opened the scoring, but the momentum quickly shifted in favour of the undefeated first-place UTM White team. Chambers and his team were able to claw their way back, successfully bagging three shots from behind the three-point line before teammate Victor Dang got on the scoresheet and closed the gap to 17-20 with 10 minutes remaining in the quarter.

UTM White were able to count on veteran Jeff Thorpe to show his form in this all-important game. Thorpe, along with Andrew Williams, led UTM White in scoring, converting 11 of the Whites' 84 points despite solid defending by UTM Blue. Thorpe was also spectacular on the defensive end, blocking shots and rebounds to increase the point margin on his side.

UTM Blue responded with more offensive drives, Greg Roberts going coast-to-coast and Adrian Lopez-

Williams nabbing a three-pointer in the dying minute to bring the score to 49-43 for UTM White at halftime.

The second half opened with a well-mounted comeback from UTM Blue, who desperately wanted to close the six-point deficit. Lopez-Williams kicked off the scoring by making a sensational run to the rim and getting the hoop and the harm. He later beat UTM White player Miguel Bediones to score another three-pointer, while Roberts continued the scoring on a pass from Ekpedeme Moren.

UTM White's Zak Khan was their best player of the night, having netted over 40% of his team's total tally, keeping his team ahead of UTM Blue despite the constant pressure.

Chambers, on the other end, helped UTM Blue claw their way back from a deficit to sit only one point behind their division rivals with 10 minutes left in the game. Williams and Khan dominated in the remaining minutes, forcing a defensive breakdown of the UTM Blue team. UTM White held on for their 10th straight victory with an 84-79 win.

Windsor found themselves in early penalty trouble as forward Spencer Pommells received a hooking penalty, giving U of T a man advantage.

*UTM continued on page 12*

## Marchione grows the game of rugby



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Marchione hasn't yet played on a winning varsity team yet, but has high hopes for next year.

JASON COELHO  
SPORTS EDITOR

Rugby is by no means a North American sport. Of the four major sports Canadians pay attention to, football is the one rugby is frequently thought to resemble. But UTM's Bianca Marchione thinks the two have little in common.

"Many are unfamiliar with the sport itself, along with how it's played. It's not similar to football," she says.

Marchione is a fourth-year chemistry and biology major and a player on the Varsity Blues women's rugby team. Her love for the sport began in Grade 10, when she began playing high school rugby, winning the MVP award in 2009. The physical nature of the game, however, drew her interest more than anything. "I was attracted to the sport basically because it's full contact,"

says the 21-year old Marchione. "The idea of hitting and not getting penalized blew my mind."

After coming to UTM for the science program and loving the campus, Marchione decided to try out for the varsity team in her freshman year and made it. During her first season with the team, the Blues earned a 1-4-1 overall record, a less-than-pleasing result. Marchione didn't participate during her second and third years, but resumed playing with the team in her fourth year, when the team went winless in their five-game season.

Nevertheless, Marchione is assured the team is improving, and plans on returning to the team for its 2014 run. "The varsity level provides me with the opportunity to further develop as a player in this sport and sets another standard of play," she says.

The Richmond Hill native has seen support for the sport grow at the varsity level over the years, but hopes that this will continue both on campus and nationally.

"I don't think rugby is advertised very well on campus since many other students I've spoken to were unaware that students at UTM could even play, not only for the varsity rugby team, but any other varsity teams as well," she says.

To maintain a high level of competition in the off-season, Marchione keeps up with cardio and weight training outside of school in addition to off-season training three times a week organized by the Varsity Blues rugby coaches, which are cardio- and skill-based. Marchione also volunteers as a coach with the St. Theresa of Lisieux C.H.S rugby team, her alma mater.

## Blues lose two in a row to Windsor in first facing playoff series since 1987

**Blues** continued from page 11

The Blues were struggling on their power play, giving up the puck along the boards to Windsor's Mike Christou. He started a 2-1 break, assisting Beaudoin, who scored a shorthanded goal, giving the Lancers a 3-1 lead. The shorthanded goal forced U of T's coach Darren Lowe to call a timeout to make sure his team took advantage of the time left in the power play. The Blues continued to struggle for a decent scoring opportunity on their power play, but eventually found the back of the net halfway through the period, as defenceman Lane Werbowksi scored on a one-timer from Brown, making the score 3-2. The Lancers took the game, however, and with it the three-game series lead of 1-0.

The Blues were struggling in keeping up the pressure on Windsor, getting only a few scoring chances. Windsor outshot U of T 47-27, hav-

ing apparently successfully tired out the Blues.

Lowe thought his team's ability to generate chances improved over the course of the game, despite only getting eight shots in the third period. "We didn't play very well in the first, and in the second period we started generating scoring opportunities, and we had a bunch in the third, and we just didn't put it in the net," he said. "We just never had a good enough start and we made two mistakes that cost us the game."

U of T goals came from only one line, composed of Brown, Valente and Boddy, while U of T's top scorer, Michael Markovic, was left off the score sheet. Lowe thought that the line made up of Paul Van de Velde and the Dean Klomp was notable in his team's performance, but said it was important to get the team's top scorer at the top of his game, especially since the team's next game is a win-or-go-home scenario.

On U of T's loss, Boddy said, "A couple mental mistakes, really. One goal. We didn't pick up their high guy and that pretty much made the difference. We have to win. And we went through the same thing last year where we lost at home, and went to game three and lost in overtime. So we [...] have to put in a better effort, that's all."

Luciani, a Mississauga native, was pleased with his team's efforts. "We executed our game plan, played physical, and wore out their defence," he said. "We got to Toronto early and had some good rest so we had lots of energy. Best thing we can do now is look ahead and be prepared for game two and try and finish the series."

Unfortunately, the Blues also fell short when they attempted to tie the series in Windsor on Saturday night. They lost 5-2 and were consequently eliminated from the OUA playoffs, ending their season.

## White still undefeated



CHRISTY TAM/THE MEDIUM

Students cheered for two "home" teams, one with a 10-0 record.

**UTM** continued from page 12

UTM Blue coach Amer Askary wasn't pleased with his boys' performance. He voiced his discontent, stating, "What you saw tonight was only 50% of our potential on the court."

Coach Juan Nuñez of UTM White was more optimistic, though still dissatisfied. "We're good, but not great," he said. "We made a lot of errors, which could have cost us the game, but we still pulled through. Right now, we

only need one more win to reach the finals. We want that championship."

UTM White prevailed in a game based on offensive tactics, but the team nearly lost their lead several times throughout the match. They've managed two victories out of two games against the Blues, but their foes are only a hair short of overcoming their dominance and could very much feature against them in the finals if they can both qualify and find a way to edge them in the playoffs.



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