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Chartwells contract to be extended

UTM has asked Chartwells to continue until July 2015 while the university prepares an RFP for contractors

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

UTM has asked Chartwells to extend its contract for another year,

Chartwells' contract with UTM, originally set to expire in April, will likely be extended for a year, according to UTM's chief administrative officer Paul Donoghue at last Thursday's meeting of the Food Services Advisory Committee.

Originally, a request for a proposal (RFP) for contractor bids was set to be put out last fall in preparation for a July 2014 takeover following 10 years of a contract with Chartwells that the university decided not to automatically renew this year.

Those plans were shelved when UTM's former director of hospitality and retail services, Bill McFadden, left UTM last August on an offer from McMaster.

The university asked two external specialists for estimates of the time required for an RFP and takeover,



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Chartwells contract is likely to be extended for one year.

and found that it would have had to issue the request last November in order to secure a contractor in time for July.

In light of this, Donoghue requested a one-year extension of the Chart-

wells contract under the same terms.

"I expect a response at any time now," said Donoghue, who said at the meeting that he expects Chartwells to agree to the extension, because the arrangement is profitable for them.

UTMSU VP external Melissa Theodore, who sits on the advisory committee, was unavailable to comment on the proposed extension.

Meanwhile, on March 10, UTM requested a proposal for consultants to

prepare the RFP for contractors.

In a development that Donoghue called "unexpected" at the committee meeting, Vicky Jezierski, who replaced McFadden, requested two phases of consultation: the first to investigate the possibility of self-operated food service at UTM, and the second to help prepare the RFP for contractors if a self-op is found to be unfeasible.

Jezierski was formerly a district manager at Compass Group Canada—which owns Chartwells—and previously served as Chartwells' general manager at UTM.

The responses to the call for consultants are expected by March 31, with appointments to be made by mid-April.

When asked about the university's level of satisfaction with Chartwells' service so far, Donoghue said that "there is always room for improvement," noting that Chartwells has been working with UTM to improve its services for the past few years.

Contract continued on page 3

UTSU elections meet criticism

Team Unite candidate complains of "favouritism" amid errors, disqualification

MARIA IQBAL
NEWS EDITOR

The unofficial results of the UTSU elections are expected to be released today, according to a notice posted on UTSU's website on Saturday.

"The delay is in respect to awaiting further information from the online voting company used for these elections," read the elections notice board.

Voting at UTM was extended to 3 p.m. on Friday due to the campus closure during Wednesday's snowstorm. As a result, the ballot counting was delayed from Thursday until Friday.

The elections were met with several criticisms this year, including the use of outdated ballots listing former independent candidate for VP external Luis Moreno, who announced his withdrawal from the elections at



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Ballots still contained the name of former VP external candidate Luis Moreno, who had withdrawn.

the Executive Candidates' Forum on March 6.

The *Medium* reported on March 12 that the paper ballots at UTM con-

tained the error. Munib Sajjad, the current president of UTSU and chair of the Elections and Referenda Committee, later confirmed that the bal-

lots at St. George contained the same error.

Election continued on page 2



UTM represents at G20

A first-year UTM student will be sent to Australia to participate in the 2014 Girls 20 Summit.
Medium News, page 2

Covering campus better

Does this whole racket amount to "much ado about nothing"? Not if the nothing is our university.
Medium Opinion, page 4

Done with Uppity Women

Theatre Erindale closes its season with a restoration play that falls well outside the typical.
Medium Arts, page 5

The lonely wind blows

Are too many of our profs sitting around waiting for a little human company in their office hours?
Medium Features, page 8

Basketball in wheelchairs

The RAWC is an accessible, state-of-the-art facility—but there's little or no programming for the disabled.
Medium Sports, page 11

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

March 6, 7:30 p.m.

Trespass to property act

Six skateboarders were found in the CCT Garage P5 level. All six male skateboarders were not affiliated with UTM and they were issued trespass to property tickets.

March 6, 8:15 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his iPhone 4S from the men's locker room in the RAWC. The lock was cut from the locker and the phone was stolen.

March 6, 9:10 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A Sheridan College student reported the theft of his HTC cell phone from the RAWC gym area. The cell phone was left unattended while the male played basketball.

March 6, 9:35 p.m.

Controlled drugs & substances act

Campus Police investigated the smell of marijuana in the area of Oscar Peterson Hall. A resident student was spoken to and cautioned.

March 7, 4:58 a.m.

Harassment

UTM Campus Police and Peel Regional Police are investigating a report of harassment in a townhouse unit. Investigation is ongoing.

March 7, 10:43 a.m.

Controlled drugs & substances act

Campus Police received a report of a male rolling what appeared to be a marijuana cigarette inside the library. Campus Police investigated and spoke with the male, and found he was rolling a tobacco cigarette.

March 7, 3:20 p.m.

Motor vehicle accident

Campus Police attended a parking lot for a minor accident involving two vehicles. Neither driver was injured.

March 8, 1:55 a.m.

Bylaw offences

Campus Police responded to a noise complaint in a townhouse unit. The

occupants were spoken to and cautioned for the level of noise.

March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Fire call

Campus Police and Mississauga Fire Department responded to a fire call in an apartment unit. The cause of the alarm was smoke from a hot cooking pot that was placed on the rug in the unit.

March 10, 5:05 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his Samsung cell phone from the RAWC gym area. The cell phone was left unattended while the male played basketball.

March 10, 6:55 p.m.

Trespass to property act

Campus Police responded to the area of the Student Centre regarding a male and female soliciting money from students. The couple were gone upon arrival of Campus Police.

March 10, 6:55 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his tablet from the men's locker room in the RAWC.

March 11, 2:55 p.m.

Fraud under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated two separate reports of fraud. MiWay U-Passes were altered for the purposes of gaining access onto the Mississauga Transit system.

March 11, 3:30 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his T-Card and U-Pass from the men's locker room in the RAWC. The items were left in an unlocked locker while the student worked out.

March 11, 8:20 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

A student reported the theft of his Blackberry cell phone from the men's locker room in the RAWC. The cell phone was left unattended in an unlocked locker.

UTM student chosen to attend Girls 20 Summit



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

First-year student Estelle Ah-Kiow will represent Canada at the 2014 Girls 20 Summit in Australia.

NICOLE DANESI
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

UTM student Estelle Ah-Kiow has been selected to represent Canada at this year's Girls 20 Summit in Australia.

Ah-Kiow, a first-year student who plans to study French literature and either international relations or political science, will join 23 other delegates from around the world when the summit is held this August.

"I'm very humbled to have been chosen to represent Canada at the summit," says Ah-Kiow, adding that she's excited to visit Australia for the first time. "I can't wait to meet my co-delegates, amazing young women who are as passionate as I am about making a difference."

The summit provides girls aged

18 to 20 with the opportunity to represent a country or region in a discussion of the challenges women and girls encounter around the globe. The delegates will also propose solutions to these problems, which will be presented to global leaders at the G20 Leaders Summit also happening in Australia this fall.

"Something that I find extremely problematic is that women's voices aren't being equally heard when the decisions that most impact our world are made," says Ah-Kiow. "I believe that [the summit] will give me an incredible window into the specific challenges and obstacles that girls and women face in different parts of the world."

Ah-Kiow, originally from Mauritius, has had her eye set on the summit since it was first organized in 2010 in Toronto.

"I didn't think I stood much of a chance [because] every year hundreds of incredibly accomplished young women from every G20 country apply to be a delegate," said Ah-Kiow.

She was persuaded to apply to be a delegate by her colleague at Strength Within Girls Group. Swigtalk is a non-profit organization that promotes female leadership among youth, and is one of many female empowerment organizations Ah-Kiow is involved with.

Ah-Kiow's role as Canada's delegate extends beyond the summit itself. She will also be required to implement what she learns during her time in Australia when she returns to Canada.

Ah-Kiow says that she aspires to establish a mentorship program for young girls upon her return.

Ballot error may cost votes

Election continued from Cover

"The ballots were printed prior to Mr. Moreno's withdrawal of candidacy," wrote Sajjad in an email. "Mr. Moreno's name was removed from the online system and notices have been placed at the poll stations to explain to voters that he is no longer a candidate."

When *Medium* staff visited the polling stations earlier last week, they weren't warned about the error and saw no notice. The poll clerks said they weren't aware of the error and apologized.

The *Medium* later confirmed that notices that read "Luis Moreno has withdrawn and is no longer a candidate for VP external" were put up inside the voting shield. It is unclear when these notices were posted.

Nicky Bhatti, Team Unite's candidate for VP external, told chief returning officer Alex Flor that the error was a disadvantage to both himself and his rival, U of T Voice's Grayce Slobodian.

"Luis formally dropped out of elec-

tions and publicly endorsed me," said Bhatti. "I don't think that it's fair that students who are less informed may vote for Luis, and those votes may take away from either candidate."

He added, "In a close race, those few votes could be crucial. I do wish that the mistake hadn't been made and that if the individuals behind the ballots knew of the mistake, that they informed the poll clerks so that the appropriate actions could have been taken."

Sajjad didn't respond when asked how votes for non-candidate Luis Moreno will be handled.

Sajjad didn't respond when asked how ballots containing votes for Moreno will be handled.

In an interview with the *Medium* last Monday, before voting opened on Tuesday, Bhatti and Team Unite's presidential candidate, Ye Huang,

listed the disadvantages they felt came with being on the opposition slate in an election.

"There's always favouritism on the incumbent slate," said Bhatti. "In recent memory, there has never been an opposition slate that has ever won against the incumbent slate."

He mentioned that the candidates have to sacrifice time and money in order to run, and that his team wasn't as well-versed about elections code and had access to fewer volunteers.

Last week, the *Varsity* reported that student union executives from York and Ryerson were helping campaign for U of T Voice.

On Thursday, Unite's VP internal candidate, Anna Yin, was awarded 58 demerit points for statements the notice board claims Flor investigated and found to be false, including arguably true ones concerning the Student Societies Summit. According to a *Varsity* article, if Yin does not appeal or her appeal fails, Voice candidate Cameron Wathey will win by default.

This is the first time in two years that an opposition team has run.

MEDIUM NEWS
No artificial flavours.

Write for us.

news@mediumutm.ca

The troublesome genius

Catholic Club talk investigates the “other side” of Galileo’s story



CHRISTY TAM/THE MEDIUM

Anthony Schratz spoke about the church’s relationship with faith and reason.

MENNA ELNAKA

The UTM Catholic Students’ Club hosted a talk titled “Galileo: The Rise and Fall of a Troublesome Genius”, with guest speaker Anthony Schratz, last Thursday.

Schratz obtained a bachelor’s degree in literature and history at McGill University and a law degree at the University of Montreal.

“I found that some of the books I was reading weren’t being fair to the [Catholic] Church, so I wanted to investigate further, because I knew some of the things couldn’t be true,” said Schratz at the event. “I’ve been trying to research Church history and find the truth about all the controver-

sial issues.”

Schratz talked about the Church’s view on faith and reason in the context of the Scientific Revolution, which began with the widespread acceptance of the theory that the Earth revolves around the sun. The theory was strongly supported by Galileo’s discoveries, but ran contrary to the geocentric model considered in some ages to be supported by the Bible.

Schratz also argued that Galileo wasn’t tortured or executed by the Inquisition, as is commonly taught.

“The event was great,” said Gustavo Gutierrez, a fourth-year biology and environmental science student. “Most of the time we only hear one side of the story in terms of the Galileo po-

sition, and very scantily do we hear about the other position; the position that criticizes the Church seems to be more popular rather than well-informed.”

“I’ve never really heard that side of the story before,” commented Diane Zettel, a second-year CTEP student. “I felt like it was a really good, knowledgeable talk.”

After the event, CSC president and event organizer Lisa D’souza said, “We would love to have more academic events that will involve religion and science, because there’s a stereotypical belief that religion is usually backward, when it actually is not. Our aim is to educate and to bring awareness.”

Contract reveal under appeal

Contract continued from Cover

Donoghue said that an issue both parties have been working to address is the availability of space for food services, which has been partially resolved by using space in IB and the TFC. He also believes the completion of Deerfield Hall and the renovation of Coleman Commons will help.

Last week, Christine Capewell, UTM’s director of businesses services, commented on an amendment to the contract in which UTM agrees to provide “financial relief” to Chartwells in response to “financial difficulties” the food service provider is facing. She said that it allowed UTM to exert more control over Chartwells operations.

Donoghue was unable to clarify

this any further, due to an appeal to the university’s decision to release the contract. He suggested that the amendment was added to address an “isolated difficulty” related to the contract.

Prior to Thursday’s meeting, Theodore told the *Medium* that UTSU was working to obtain the full contract, but was unable to confirm when the union expected this to happen.

Students have expressed dissatisfaction with Chartwells’ operation at UTM last year and especially this year. UTMSU is currently leading a social media and poster campaign through which students can complain about campus food using the hashtag #WTFUTMFOOD. Ryerson’s students’ union led a similar campaign last year to address its own

campus food problems with Aramark, its own provider whom it was heavily subsidizing.

When asked, Donoghue called the campaign “disappointing”, stating that UTM regularly asks for input on campus food services and welcomes feedback, adding that the food advisory committees “meet regularly, take seriously all suggestions brought forward, and provides an excellent forum for exploration, discussion, and follow-up action”.

One instance of this action is the introduction of value meals following a suggestion by UTMSU at the end of last semester. At the committee meeting on Thursday, Theodore pressed for further expansion of the program.

UTM team in final round of Canada’s Top Ad race

NICOLE DANESI ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

UTM’s Logaina ElKattan and Fareha Zakir have moved on to the third and final round of the 2014 Canada’s Next Top Ad Exec competition. According to Zakir, they’re the first U of T team to enter the final round in the competition’s eight years.

ElKattan, a fourth-year management specialist, and Zakir, a third-year business student, will be competing against nine other teams representing universities from across the country for their chance to drive off with the competition’s first-place prize, the 2014 Chevrolet Camaro.

“We are feeling confident with our

idea and our strategy,” said Zakir. “It feels very surreal.”

Runners-up will be awarded with scholarship funding and internship positions at PepsiCo, Canadian Tire, General Motors, and McDonald’s.

The final challenge, hosted by the DeGroote School of Business, will require finalists to unveil their innovative marketing campaign to sell the 2014 Chevrolet Stingray to a panel of marketing experts.

“Initially, when we first entered, we were just going to go for it,” said ElKattan. “It’s really exciting, a little bit nerve-wracking.”

The winning team will be announced at a gala at the Toronto Intercontinental Hotel on March 25.

»HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE DAY OF THE SNOWSTORM?



Assia Messaoudi
1st year, English & poli-sci

Frustrating. Much as I love UTM, I don’t want to be stuck here for three hours.



Farjad Abbas
1st year, computer science

All I can say is, in Canada, winter comes after spring.



Akhil Gupta
1st year, computer science

I drifted around in my car.



Afnan Abdel-Fattah
1st year, psychology

It’s gotten to the point that it’s dangerous. The snow is going to kill us one day.

NEWS BRIEFS »

Online dash cam video leads to distracted driving charges

A man is facing charges of distracted driving after police saw a video from his dash cam showing the man’s car crashing into a truck while he was talking on his cell phone. Ralph Ireland was driving on Ontario’s Highway 17 when the truck pulled into his path. The truck driver was charged with failing to yield at an intersection.

Source: *National Post*

Twenty-six parrots die after fire breaks out in Calgary home

The home of a bird rescue group in Calgary caught fire on Saturday, resulting in the deaths of approximately 26 parrots. The two people inside the home at the time safely made it outside, though one received medical treatment for inhaling smoke. The causes of the fire are being investigated.

Source: *CTV News*

Police fine 288, arrest five in Montreal protest against police brutality

Police fined 288 demonstrators \$637 each and arrested five for their involvement in an anti-police brutality protest on Saturday. The 18th annual protest was declared illegal three minutes after it began, because organizers neglected to release an itinerary to police in accordance with a municipal bylaw.

Source: *CTV News Montreal*

“9/11-style plot” suspected in missing Malaysian plane

Officials were investigating the possibility of a 9/11-style plot on Saturday in the ongoing case involving the missing Malaysian jet. Last week, an al-Qaida informant revealed that Malaysian Islamists were plotting to seize control of a plane by hiding a bomb inside a shoe in order to access the cockpit. The informant said he had provided the bomb to the men.

Source: *Vancouver Sun*

Measles outbreak has spread to second B.C. school

An incident of measles has been reported at a college campus in Burnaby, B.C., spreading from an outbreak of the disease at another school in Chilliwack. The affected student from Burnaby had come into contact with an estimated 128 students at the British Columbia Institute of Technology campus earlier this month. One person is in hospital with the disease so far.

Source: *CTV News*

MEDIUM OPINION

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MASTHEAD

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Medium: much ado about nothing

There's always something to learn, but there should always be more of it

There's a graduating student exhibit on now in the Blackwood, and a piece by Colin Yau consists of old issues of the *Medium* with the phrase "Much Ado About Nothing" printed across them. It's definitely worth a laugh.

And hey, I get it. A lot of what we print, and have printed in the past, can only ever be so interesting to the average student. Last week, our cover story, about the Chartwells contract's expiry in April (but now being extended—see this week's news section), got a comment on Facebook describing it as one of the most "relevant" articles we've ever done.

That's really interesting to me, the question of how we should take that. I assume relevance is here determined by the perceptible effect on our daily lives. We all eat on campus sooner or later, and the suggestion that the supplier of the underwhelming, if not abysmal, food could change seems to have concrete implications. And not only concrete but imminent.

Not every news story has that quality, that's for sure. If employees of the student union resign and cite a hostile work environment, it doesn't change too much for the rest of us. Those are just the guys who put the posters up and stop us in the hallways, right? If someone in the administration gets a new position, we rarely see any difference on the ground. All those well-paid people are fungible—swap one out and another with interchangeable ideas will take her place, right?

Or, in the most extreme case, take the downtown student union. Every week, the temptation is to make my editorial a tirade on the latest shenanigans by one of the biggest farces ever given millions of our dollars to spend. Their rhetoric is so bad that tearing it down can be exhilarating.

So why resist writing about them? Don't get me wrong—I really do think many of their doings are ludicrous and harmful, a sad use of the name "students' union". But I've been having a crisis of certainty about the good of opinion pieces on the subject.

If something catches your eye on Spotted at UTM, don't let it end there; write to us, or write for us, about it.

For most of my quickly expiring tenure as editor here, my understanding of journalism has been to achieve professionalism. Policy, finances, and incompetence are the biggest targets, because they characterize whether we can trust that the whole thing is being run responsibly. And it isn't always. A lot of stories that I consider important have run this year. The co-curricular record will be redesigned; the province earmarked money for mental health help; students voted against expanding the Student Centre.

But sometimes there's something of a disconnect between what's going on there behind the scenes and average student life. I like to imagine there's traditionally a little less of a disconnect in the features section, for example, where we write about food, housing, research, and social trends.

Even so, there are things that don't appear in any part of the *Medium*. One of the things I've been thinking about lately is the various committees whose decisions usually trickle down to our lives: Quality Services to Students, Campus Council, and the Food Services Advisory are a few.

One difficulty in covering them is that their profile tends to be low. Consider that nowhere on those nauseous cat posters is it suggested that we even have committees. Rather, on the #WTFUTMFOOD Facebook event page, when someone posted that the campaign just amounted to the usual complaining, UTMSU VP external Melissa Theodore replied, "By you voicing your concerns on social media and shaming the university on a larger platform, increases our chances of implementing change." Might not a faster way be proposing ideas at the committee you sit on? That's how you introduced the value meals a couple of months ago.

The *Medium's* treatment of news is often, unfortunately, similar: in a week, not much will have happened or we won't have picked up on it, and in its absence, we make news out of

what there is. In the worst cases, the effect is much ado about nothing. But the ado isn't what needs fixing; it's the nothing. There shouldn't be fewer of the stories we do run—there should be more stories. Every story reaches a few people, and the more variety we can run, the more people are likely to find something of interest.

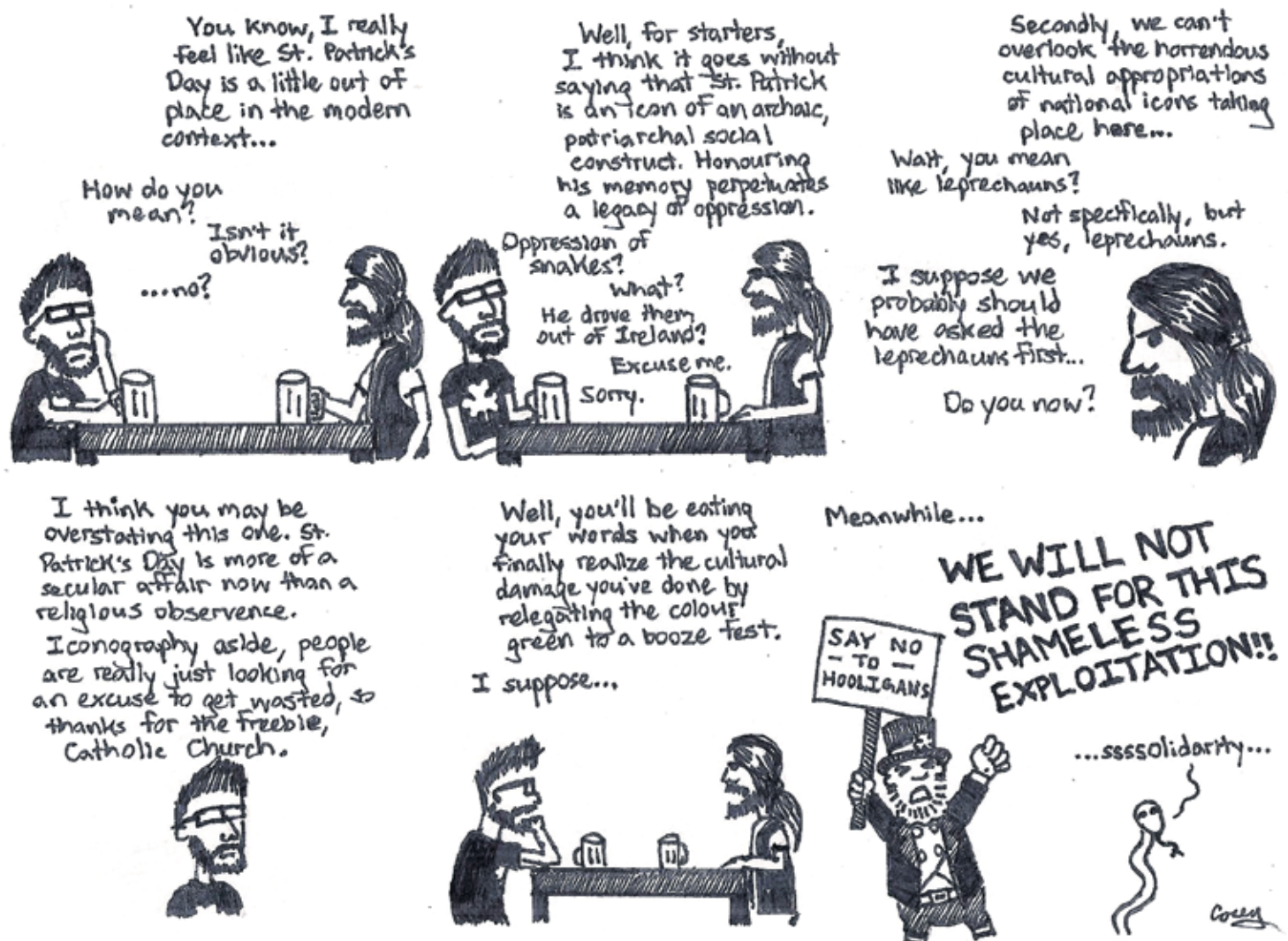
But in doing that, we face a chronic problem. More staff are needed. More writers are needed. Many hands make light the work of documenting a campus. We also have a tip line and an open door for people to talk to us or email us. If something catches your eye on Spotted at UTM, don't let it end there; write to us, or write for us, and have it go from rumour to investigation to article. That's what we're here for—to chart not "nothing" but everything that's happening here.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK

CORRECTION NOTICE

The article "Black is always the new black" in the March 3, 2014 issue had multiple misprints, including that Rose Streete dropped out of university, not high school; she resumed her education in college, not university; she is running for Mississauga city councillor, not board; and she was sent on a two-week trip to university, not enrolled in it, in Grade 7.



MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

UTM theatre season closes on a high

Aphra Behn's *The Rover* marks the end of Theatre Erindale's 2013/14 season, themed "Uppity Women"

KATE CATTELL-DANIELS
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

The Rover has guts. In this latest adaptation by Nancy Copeland and Patrick Young, restoration playwright Aphra Behn tells a story that pretty much everyone can relate to: one about young people sneaking out, disobeying the will of their guardians, and having sex on the sly.

Despite having all the qualities of a typical restoration comedy, like confused letters and love tokens, mistaken identity, and crossdressing, this production makes special use of each of these elements as more than just a plot device. Rather, they represented everything that a character had to do to seduce, deceive, or lead lovers on a goose chase.

The roles are fairly evenly distributed in type throughout the piece, with characters sorting themselves into two spheres: masters and servants. In a conventional setup, the servants exist to push the main characters' plots in the right direction. But in *The Rover*, there are so many boys, pages, mask-



JIM SMAGATA/PHOTO

Restoration comedy proves to be accessible in Theatre Erindale's production of *The Rover*.

ers, dancers, bodyguards, pimps, gentlewomen, whores, and governesses that it's as much fun keeping track of them as it is of the lovers. Every character, regardless of the number of lines they have or the

amount of time they spend on-stage, has developed a rich inner life for themselves, which doesn't go unnoticed.

Director Melee Hutton further makes good use of her multital-

ented cast, giving each actor ample chances to show off their talents through dance, music, and acrobatics. It's true that in normal circumstances all this extra business could have proved distracting, but deliv-

ered in carefully measured doses, it made the world of the play layered and complex.

No character in *The Rover* is a stereotype. If you want to keep up with the plot, don't blink. Behn weaves a detailed web of relationships and betrayals, headed by the raucous Willmore (Nicholas Potter), an Englishman who has just dropped anchor in Naples to find his fellow cavaliers Belville (Adrian Beattie) and Frederick (Roberto Esteves), and maybe a "wench" (or four). Willmore is especially enamoured of the beautiful Angelica Bianca (Chiamaka G. Ugwu), but he and his friends, including the newly arrived Blunt (Evan Williams) are being chased by three other women, Helena (Eliza Martin), Florinda (Eilish Waller), and Valeria (Cornelia Audrey), who've thrown off their good girl personas in honour of the masked carnival taking place, and take full advantage of their hidden identities to give the men a good deal to worry about.

Rover continued on page 6

Where comics creators and fans meet up

Toronto Comicon finds celebrities, artists, and fans rubbing elbows (on a smaller scale than Fan Expo)

CHRISTOPHER ANTILOPE

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre hosted the 11th annual Toronto Comicon last weekend. One of the highlights of the event was an exhibition of comics both rare and recent, with visits from their authors and artists and appearances by movie and TV actors.

Actors Sean Astin and Billy Boyd (Samwise Gamgee and Peregrine Took, *Lord of the Rings*) took pictures with fans and signed memorabilia, as did Brandon Routh (*Superman Returns*) and Eliza Dushku (*Dollhouse*). Comic book artists David Finch (*Justice League of America*), Nick Bradshaw (*Wolverine & the X-Men*), and Tony Moore (co-creator and artist of *The Walking Dead*), among others, took part in sketch duels, comic book signings, and meet-and-greets.

Compared to Fan Expo Canada, the summer's largest convention, Toronto Comicon is much smaller and has fewer artists, writers, and actors. Fun though it was, the event could have taken place in a smaller venue for a shorter time instead of in Toronto's largest convention cen-



SCENECREEK.COM/PHOTO

Comic book fans flocked to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre for Toronto Comicon.

tre for three days.

However, the event was a perfect way to whet the appetites of comic book readers, cosplayers, and pop

culture fans. More emphasis was placed on the show's vendors than on attending celebrities, and independent artists had a chance to sell

their own artwork, books, and figures to the public.

Fans could also attend Q&A panels with the aforementioned celebri-

ties or sketch duels between artists representing Marvel or DC Comics. The sketch duels were unexpectedly entertaining. The artists asked the audience what they wanted to see drawn, drew it, and raffled off the finished product. A three-way duel between Leonard Kirk (*Fantastic Four*), Mike Del Mundo, and Marco Rudy (*Marvel Knights: Spider-Man*) saw the artists drawing—hold on to your loose items here, folks—a breakdancing zombie version of My Little Pony. In a tamer sketch battle, Nick Bradshaw and Kirk drew a vampire version of the beloved DC Comics character Batman.

The event was a great way to spend the weekend in Toronto. With Marvel Studios releasing four films (*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, and the much anticipated *Guardians of the Galaxy*) between Toronto Comicon and Fan Expo Canada, one can expect that the upcoming 20th Fan Expo may break attendance records.

Until then, I bid you farewell in the traditional words of the legendary Stan Lee: Excelsior!

Blackwood sends off its grads in style

The Blackwood Gallery displays an array of styles and mediums in annual grad showcase



COLLEEN MUNRO/THE MEDIUM

UTM's art & art history graduating class gets their time in the spotlight with *Up One Side + Down the Other*, currently on display in the Blackwood and e|gallery.

ANDREEA MIHAI
STAFF WRITER

Up One Side + Down the Other, the Blackwood Gallery's annual exhibition celebrating the talent of UTM's art and art history graduates, opened last week. The first half of the exhibition will run until March 23. The second half will open on March 26 and run until April 6. The exhibitions also extend into the e|gallery in the CCT Building.

Visible from outside the Blackwood Gallery is **EunJin Cho's** "Surroundings", an acrylic, graphite, and collage piece on MDF boards. The boards are patterned with footprints, transit motifs, and brick track, and appear to float in the corner of the room. In her artist's statement, Cho writes, "Through visually documenting passing sounds and conversations in fragments, I want to address our incapability to fully

know all the stories surrounding us." Her piece depicts fragmented movement and transience, while the repeated patterns create a sense of continuity.

Across the gallery on the opposite wall is **Jordyn Stewart's** video work, "Pulse Off Dispense Smoothie Icy Drink". In a performance piece set on a quiet lakeside beach, Stewart films handfuls of leaves, twigs, pinecones, and worms before mixing them in a blender. Visually, the blender, microphone, and extension cord that Stewart uses are juxtaposed with the natural world, as are the sounds of the blender with the quiet outdoor setting. Stewart's gradual progression—adding plant matter, worms, snails, and even a frog—reflects the gradual and destructive human impact on the natural world.

Irram Bhatti's piece, "Subedar Major Chaudhry Mohammad

Nawaz Bhatti", is a collection of vibrant images, including a cake with a multitude of candles, a picture of rural farming life, a train station, a Ford Model T, and a collection of medals, all in oil on printed fabric. The piece mimics a scrapbook, hinting at the stories behind the images. Bhatti says inspiration came from wanting to explore identity while commemorating her grandfather's life. "Even if the common viewer cannot identify the significance of one of the images, anyone who knew him could in fact do so—and that is the beauty I see in this piece," she says.

On display in the e|gallery is **Annie Ratcliffe's** "Cage", an oil painting on plywood. A white ribcage stands out from the monochromatic burgundy female body painted in the background. The dark blue shape of a heart nestles against brown depths of the rib cage. In her artist's

statement, Ratcliffe says her work is an expression of what she feels are cages: "I use the female body as a representation of constraint, or self-restraint. I believe the body is a vessel that contains the soul, and that we have biological and constructed limitations as to what we can do, and how far we can go."

Also in the e|gallery is **Rebecca Roth's** "An Eye for an I", an oil-on-canvas piece with tissue paper. Painted in predominantly dark green, Roth's piece is a still-life painting of African passionflowers (which are used to treat stress), the centres of the flowers resembling human eyes. Roth says her painting was inspired by the role stress plays in schizophrenic patients' hallucinations.

Colin Yau's "Much Ado About Nothing", a collage of old issues of the *Medium*, is pinned against the black wall of the e| gallery. Red

block letters spell "Much Ado About Nothing" across the pages.

The other artists featured in the first exhibition are **Grace Bedwell, Tara Broadshaw, Alyssa Bussolero, Alessandra Cirelli, Alexandra Coulson, Sonya Filman, Jeannie Kim, Joanne Lau, Kendra McPherson, Alexandria Nelson, and Ashley St. Pierre.**

The artists who will be featured in the second exhibition are **Sam Abel, Yu Chen, Liz Secord-Gibbs, Laurène Guarneri, Samantha Hanrath, Andrew Ihamaki, Olga Klosowski, Laura Krick, Adriana Lychacz, Tanya Masson, Katelyn Noyes, Dasom Park, Natasha Ritchie, Breanna Shanahan, Christina Trutiak, and Laurel Whalen.**

The opening reception for the first exhibition, which was cancelled due to the extreme weather last week, has been rescheduled for March 19.

Comedy and confusion reign at Erindale

Rover continued from page 5

Meanwhile, the courtesan Lucetta (**Brittany Miranda**) sets up a ruse to lure Blunt to unfortunate, if humorous, shame. Each character has a delicate and realistic balance of qualities; no one is completely good or unfailingly clever. Like real people, they try their best to get what they want, which doesn't work out a lot of the time. This makes them interesting and relatable. I don't want to watch a play about perfect people. I want, on some level, to watch a play about myself.

The set provides the perfect hybrid of indoor and outdoor spaces for the characters to inhabit. Much of the play takes place on the streets of Naples in questionable lighting during a masquerade, and the set enhances the dramatic



JIM SMAGATA/PHOTO

Wilmore (Nicholas Potter, second from left) is charmed by Helena (Eliza Martin) in *The Rover*.

possibilities with all manner of stairs, platforms, and alcoves for characters to climb on and hide behind. There are almost always

several conversations happening at once. Though the main focus was the well-lit centre stage, I was also intrigued by what went on in the

dark corners: who was listening in, who was getting drunk and trying to hide it, and who was flirting with whom.

The Rover, though a couple hundred years old, still speaks to the audience. The jokes land and the violence gave me shivers. I understood what everyone said and wanted and was fighting for. Putting on a period play, especially one as well-known as *The Rover*, unavoidably comes with huge expectations. A large portion of the audience has seen or at least read the play before and sits down with preconceived notions. The essential lesson is that people in 1677 weren't really all that different from people in 2014. We still swear and have sex. We give our friends a hard time and make exclamations out of fear and anger. *The Rover* provides a risky, funny, brave ending to Theatre Erindale's season.

The Rover runs until March 23 at the Erindale Studio Theatre.

Research writing finds a new home

UTM Compass makes its print debut, featuring writing on finance, science, and history

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

UTM students looking for a way to share their voice now have one more avenue to get their work out there: a new student journal on campus, *UTM Compass*. Compiling research-based non-fiction work, *UTM Compass* celebrates writing in the fields of science, history, and finance.

The first print edition of *Compass* was launched in the MiST theatre last Tuesday. Contributors to the journal read excerpts from their pieces while the audience enjoyed refreshments and waited to buy a copy. The launch gave a sampling of the many topics *Compass* covers, including pieces on sea horse mating habits, hallucinatory drugs, and political unrest in Bangladesh.

Professor **Guy Allen** was also on hand at the launch, speaking briefly about the importance of having a platform for student voices and the unique nature of *Compass*. "It's very unusual to have undergraduate students operating at this level," he said in his opening remarks.

Compass' founders are co-editors-in-chief **Tiffany Limgenco** and **Alex Geddes**. Commiserating in class one day about there being so few opportunities for research-based writing to get published at the undergraduate level, they decided to take matters



COLLEEN MUNRO/THE MEDIUM

Contributors to *UTM Compass* gathered in the MiST theatre to share excerpts from their work.

into their own hands, and *Compass* was born. They gathered fellow editors **Sonia Dhaliwal**, **Melissa Carter**, **Tyler McLaren**, and **Lauren Walsh** and launched *Compass* as a trial online publication last summer.

"The greatest challenge for *Com-*

pass was in finding a place within the university," Geddes said. "We knew we would fall under the CCIT/PWC departments' watch, but had little direction from there." However, after garnering attention with the online edition of *Compass*, the team did

indeed find a place. The *Mindwaves* creative non-fiction collective took notice of the project and, with supervision from Allen and Professor **Robert Price**, *Compass* became its sister publication.

Other platforms for student writ-

ing exist on campus, but *Compass* has carved out its own spot. While the annual *Mindwaves* journal focuses more on narrative and the author's own experiences, *Compass* explores the research-based side of non-fiction, aiming to publish work that aligns more closely with what can be found in publications like *National Geographic*, the *Economist*, and *Scientific American*.

Though the excerpts read at the *Compass* launch were short, the diversity in voices was evident. Some writers took a more straightforward approach to their research, such as **Stephanie Kolodij**, whose colourful "Host-Parasite Interactions: Cricket Suicide" described exactly what the title suggested. Others wrote in an interview or narrative style, like **Michelle Duklas**, who profiled **Brad Thompson**, the CEO and president of Oncolytics Biotech. According to Geddes, one of *Compass*' purposes is to create a welcoming setting for writers whose work might not have a home elsewhere. She says that the *Compass* team was dedicated to "creating a place for new, talented research writers to exhibit their work in a peer-edited setting".

The *Compass* team plans to continue publishing annually. For more information about *Compass* and to read the online version of the publication, visit utmcompass.wordpress.com.

Old-school style and charity

Annual Style and Profyle show celebrates dance, fashion, and charity



NICOLE RAQUINIO/THE MEDIUM

The Blind Duck hosted last weekend's annual Style & Profyle fashion and dance show.

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR

Style and Profyle presented their annual fashion and dance show this past weekend in the Blind Duck. Featuring a variety of dance styles and fashion statements, this year's theme was "Kickin' It Old School".

The show took place over Friday and Saturday nights. Alongside performances of dance numbers that

club members spent weeks rehearsing, the event also featured a fashion show. Models showed off the newest fashions from brands such as Lesley Hampton, FCUK, Boathouse, Holmes Athletics, Urban Planet, and Suzy Shier.

As always, proceeds from ticket sales for this year's show went to charity. SAP's 2014 charity of choice was Hats On for Awareness, which works to diminish the stigma of mental ill-

ness and addiction. As well as raising awareness about mental health, Hats On for Awareness also works to assist those who suffer from mental illness in finding treatment and providing support for their families.

To find out more about Style and Profyle and Hats On for Awareness, visit their Facebook page by looking up "Style and Profyle".

To watch our video coverage, visit our website at mediumutm.ca.

Pharrell goes feel-good

The "Happy" hitmaker returns with *G I R L*



NPR.ORG/PHOTO

Pharrell Williams, hat enthusiast.

MAYANK SHARMA

After having a hand in two of 2013's massive hits, "Blurred Lines" by **Robin Thicke** and "Get Lucky" by **Daft Punk**, **Pharrell Williams** has now released *G I R L*, his first solo album since 2006's *In My Mind*. Williams delivers a sweet love letter to women on his 10-track album alongside a throwback to the groovy tunes and feel-good vibe of the '80s.

The album starts off with the single "Marilyn Monroe", in which he sings about powerful and captivating female icons like Marilyn Monroe, Cleopatra, and Joan of Arc, but assures women that they shouldn't be defined by these standards. This album also includes the Academy Award-nominated *Despicable Me 2* song "Happy", which makes me feel like doing the Carlton every time I hear it.

Williams collaborated with several

artists on the album. **Justin Timberlake** lends vocals in "Brand New", a song about a woman who provides support in dark times. **Miley Cyrus** joins in on "Come Get It Bae", a handclap-driven electro-funk song with an infectious vibe. On "Know Who You Are", Williams and **Alicia Keys** offer inspiring lyrics and hints of reggae.

Williams' latest collaboration with Daft Punk comes in "Gust of Wind", which is the most lyrically heartfelt song on the album. Williams and Daft Punk use natural phenomena like wind and air as metaphors for a lady's effect on a man. Other tracks such as "Lost Queen", "Gush", "Hunter", and "It Girl" are a delight to listen to.

Pharrell Williams continues to amaze me with his wonderful music. *G I R L*, filled with innovative and catchy tunes and uplifting messages, is sure to cheer you up and keep you entertained. **MMMM**

MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

Channels of culinary communication

We often complain about food on campus, but do we know how to address our questions?

MADELEINE BROWN
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

It seems like every day I hear complaints about campus food. And I won't pretend I don't complain myself. But out of all the people I've heard complain, I don't know if I could name one who actually spoke up about it—I certainly haven't. Sure, I often asked for the salad greens to be refilled at the Colman Commons salad bar when I lived in residence or inquired about clean fork availability, but I never set up a formal meeting or wrote a letter expressing what I really thought about food on campus.

So back in December, while checking out the UTM Hospitality and Retail Services website, I was surprised to discover that we have a Resident Student Dining Committee and a Food Service Advisory Committee. H&RS oversees food services (including UTM's relationship with Chartwells), meal plans, conference and event services, vending services, liquor licence management, and duplicating and mail services, as well as relationships with U of T Press and Scotiabank.

Chartwells looks after the operation of the food service outlets and catering services at UTM. I asked Andrea De Vito, the assistant director of retail services and administration, for more information about these committees.

The FSAC comprises representatives of the major stakeholder groups



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Hospitality and Retail Services and the Food Services Advisory Committee allow for discussion.

on campus. The committee was established in order to advise the director of H&RS on food service issues and to allow discussion of these issues between H&RS and the UTM community. The first meeting took place in November 2012, and since then the committee has tried to hold about four meetings a year. It will play a major role in the development of the Permanent Food Court in the Davis Building (supposed to materialize about three years down the road) and the food services provider contract.

Meanwhile, efforts to create the RSDC go as far back as 2007, when Colman Commons first opened and a Resident Student Meal Plan was created. The committee had its first formal meeting in 2009 and tries to meet four times a year, although it depends on the availability of the student representatives elected from each first-year and upper-year residence and the length of the election each fall. The director and assistant director of H&RS, as well as the Chartwells general and residence managers, also participate. Acting as a subcommittee

to the FSAC, the RSDC advises H&RS on food service matters and meal plan issues specific to residence students.

De Vito explains that the committees are very action-oriented. "Actionable items are recorded and, if possible, are resolved by the next scheduled meeting," he says. Aside from overlapping members, the committees share other commonalities. Particularly, if any issues raised in one are relevant to the mandate of the other, they may both review them. For example, De Vito says, "based on feedback from the RSDC,

we prepared a conceptual list of what resident students wanted to see in the Colman Commons expansion. This list was brought forward to the FSAC for review before submitting it to the project committee."

Despite their relatively recent establishment, the committees have already implemented several policy changes, including the creation of an H&RS Twitter account, the expansion of the menu, the extension of operating hours at Starbucks during exams, and the acceptance of debit and credit cards at Colman Commons. Meanwhile, the FSAC has doubled the number of microwaves for students in dining areas on campus, revamped the TFC's International Kitchen menu, introduced the Value Meal program in the TFC, and expanded the Tim Card program to include the full-service Tim Hortons in the Davis Building (but not the self-serve).

De Vito explains that while the committees are not open forums, anyone can sit in, and anyone can bring issues to members' attention to be brought up later on their behalf.

"Specific food concerns should be brought to the unit onsite managers in real time so that the issues can be resolved quickly and without interruption to the student's day," De Vito adds. "Chartwells always has managers on duty to make sure immediate action can be taken if necessary."

Food continued on page 10

Deserting professors during their office hours

Visiting a professor's office isn't worth the trip for some students who would rather just send an email

FARAH KHAN

In a world of texting, instant messaging, and endless social media updates, it doesn't come as a surprise that face-to-face communication is dwindling. It's no different at UTM. With more and more students turning to the Internet, many professors find their office hours going unvisited.

Most students don't feel the need to drop by—they believe a quick Google search usually tells them everything they need to know. Perhaps they'll shoot a quick email to their professor for course-specific questions. In a sea of information and instant communication, few students find office hours necessary.

Nathan Innocente, a sociology professor at UTM, generally tries to keep his door open. "I have four set office hours a week, but my normal policy is that if I'm on campus and



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

An empty office is what some professors see more often than their students.

you're on campus then you can stop by anytime," he says.

But the actual number of students that come knocking isn't represen-

tative of the amount of students enrolled in his classes. When asked how many students make use of his office hours, he said, "Surprisingly,

with the number of students I have, not a lot. This semester I have 1,210 students. Sometimes, when there are assignments due, I'll tend to get

a higher volume of traffic, and on those weeks I'll see around 15–20 students."

Innocente doesn't condemn asking questions through email. "[It] depends on the question. If they have a [simple] question, students find it easier to send an email and get a relatively quick reply, but for more complicated questions I usually ask students to come in," he says. "I could write four paragraphs in an email to explain it, which would take a long time, or we could have a five-minute conversation about it."

"For broader issues like how to prepare to study for a test, they come to me or use the Blackboard discussion board. Those kinds of questions usually encourage them to come in, but by and large I think email's easier for everybody."

Hours continued on page 9

Professors more likely to see tumbleweeds than students



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Professor Innocente encourages students to visit his office hours.

Hours continued from page 8

Chemistry professor Thottackad Radhakrishnan (or Professor Krish, as he's generally known to his students) sees the same pattern in his office hours.

"Many students email me, but I don't respond in detail. If a question requires a one-word answer then I'll give the answer," says Radhakrishnan. "But for explanation questions, I always tell them to come to my office hours, because then instead of a monologue it can be a dialogue, which prompts the student to think over the answer instead of me just giving it. I like the teacher-student interaction to be a give-and-take process."

In general, UTM professors seem

to prefer meeting their students face to face instead of replying to one email after another in an inbox teeming with students' questions. "There's a pretty significant correlation between the kinds of students that usually stop by to see the TA and during office hours to talk to me about something concrete, like their assignments," says Innocente. "Generally, the correlation is that usually they're the better students. They're the people in the 70s who want to get in the 80s, or the ones in the 80s that want to get in the 90s. They're putting in the extra effort, and it shows in a mildly strong correlation with their grades."

However, many students still don't take the opportunity to drop by. Sana Shaikh, a first-year student

in life sciences, doesn't find office hours obsolete—just impractical. "Above anything, many office hours that I'd otherwise take advantage of are either during class times, or not distributed throughout the week as often as I'd like," she says. She voices the opinion of many students on campus who find office hours helpful, but can't take the time to ask a question that could just be answered through email.

Even so, professors recommend scheduling appointments or signing up for timeslots in order to take advantage of valuable one-on-one time with the professor. "I feel strongly that a teacher is an integral part of any learning process, and nothing can substitute [for] them," says Radhakrishnan.

Breaking the cycle

Student turns to God to lighten life's load

ALEXANDRIA RAMOUTAR

Attending school and being employed at the same time, I face a lot of confrontation head-on. Initially, it wasn't bad—just a cycle of sleep, work, and school. The problem with having such a routine was that I would tailor my character to suit it. Switching from persona to persona made me anxious, and I felt the need to find a balance.

Whenever I get into a rut like that, I'll turn to my laptop and watch a sermon or read the Bible. So, that's what I did, and eventually I became a lot less interested in this routine and began to distance myself from it. I lost focus and my to-do list grew substantially, but it was my attitude that changed the most. I never meant to distance myself from learning, but it happened. I never meant to become antisocial outside of work, but it happened, too.

My church had taught me that I should always be able to look up into the face of God with a smile. No matter how incredibly busy with the tests, the essays, the readings, the friends, the work, the tutorials, and the very, very exciting commute to and from school.

The major issue was that my attitude was still bitter and I failed to look up. And so, I picked up the Bible and did some research. Instinctively, I reread all the verses that were underlined, circled, boxed, and starred. I came across Matthew 22:37–39, which essentially says, "Love God deeply, plus your neighbour."

The difference is that looking up to Him during my earlier struggles made me think of the root of the happiness my smile conveyed. My smile

said, "I love you, thank you for your awesomeness, thanks for being here, and thanks for choosing to love me." If that was genuine happiness, then clearly the way to change my bitter attitude was to show love.

I had a moment and thought, "It all makes sense now." God provides for us all the time, with love and forgiveness, relationships, shelter, and the education we receive, the books we read, the entertainment we have, and loads more that makes us smile every day. If that is God's way of showing His love for us, imagine the impact it would have on others and yourself if you did the same. I decided to take on this feat and it did wonders for my overall happiness.

My church had taught me that I should always be able to look up into the face of God with a smile.

These times call me to treasure my faith, because everything has changed. Of course, I don't mean to say that I live in a fairytale now that I love more. Life is challenging, people are mean for reasons that don't connect to you, and sometimes the snow just keeps falling, but hey, just remember that you are loved.

This reflection is part of a Medium series on faith-based practices at UTM, timed as the university and the student union are collecting opinions on expanding multi-faith space. If you have comments or would like to contribute, please write to us at editor@medium-utm.ca.

St. Patty is not who you thought he was

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

St. Patrick's Day is upon us (assuming you're reading this on Monday) and students can hardly wait to paint their faces with shamrocks and down pitcher after pitcher of green beer. St. Patrick's Day is the one day when all the sexy Irish men roam the bars with their accents (Lord help me) and drink everyone under the table—literally the only reason I go to the pubs on St. Patty's.

But despite the fact that St. Patrick's Day has essentially grown into a drunken monster of a holiday, there is so much to it that you probably don't know. And probably should know. Because your life has been a lie until now.

First of all, the colour associated with St. Patty wasn't green; historians believe it was blue. And considering historians have most likely done more research on the topic than you have, St. Patrick's colour was probably what they say it is. So try not to paint your body green before hitting the bars tonight and bask smugly in the knowledge that everyone in green is wrong.

Second, before you give the Irish

accent your best shot tonight (you might want to cut that out), St. Patrick wasn't even Irish. His parents were Roman citizens living in Scotland (or Wales—scholars don't really know). But he definitely wasn't Irish.

Third, something most people in their early 20s are happy is over: St. Patrick's Day was a dry holiday until 1970. Because St. Patrick's Day was a religious observance, no booze was allowed. And all the pubs were closed. Thank God that's over, am I right?

Oh, and St. Patrick's name wasn't Patrick. Not even close, actually. He changed it from Maewyn Succat when he became a priest. So, a happy Maewyn Succat Day to you, too.

Also, the shamrock isn't the symbol of Ireland; the harp is. So maybe paint one of those on your face before you go anywhere tonight.

Anyways, there you have it—St. Patrick's Day facts thrown in your face. So dress in blue, sport a Scottish accent, and play a harp. Or you could always use these facts to win stuff for yourself, "Hey. I bet you a beer that St. Patty's colour is blue." Then, when they Google it, boom! Free beer. You're welcome.

"Butterfly babies" inspire archive

York professor Deborah Davidson starts memorial tattoo archive

EMILY KOVACS

Tattoos have been a part of human history for thousands of years and are still evolving.

Tattoos were originally made to commemorate specific rites of passage—rituals that mark changes in spiritual and social status. They are now so mainstream that we don't often think of them as worthy of scholarly research. But Deborah Davidson, assistant professor and undergraduate program coordinator in York's Department of Sociology, does. Her interest lies specifically in commemorative tattoos, and she's creating a digital database of them.

One of Davidson's main areas of research is dying, death, and bereavement. She found that people commonly memorialize their lost loved ones through tattoos. She also discovered that despite their popularity, there was no archive to display such tattoos, so she decided to create one herself.

For this undertaking, Davidson recruited a team of librarians, computer scientists, memory studies experts, a photographer, and U of T's own Dave Mazierski, a

specialist in biomedical communications. Mazierski has a series of tattoos the same as those found on a 2,500-year-old Bronze Age mummy from the Scythian tribe. He's also been on the Canadian history show *Museum Secrets*.

Davidson was told to forget about her lost children, but she refused to. Five years ago, she decided to get a tattoo in memory of her "butterfly babies".

Davidson's personal interest in commemorative tattoos comes with a tragic personal story. She gave birth to two premature babies who died shortly after, and as was hospital policy, her babies were taken from her immediately. She was told to go home and forget about them. But that's not the way bereavement works, she says. She did go home, but she refused to forget about her children. Five

years ago, Davidson decided to get a tattoo of a butterfly in memory of her "butterfly babies". The butterfly commonly serves as a symbol for those who've passed on, and is often placed on hospital doors to signal grief after a mother has lost a newborn.

Since its inception, the archive project has evolved to include depictions of living loved ones, life events, memories, and even pets. Anything goes for Davidson and the database project so long as the tattoo bearer considers it commemorative. The project has garnered much attention—and funding along with it. Davidson plans to put together a focus group of people with commemorative tattoos and use their input to shape a website.

The website that the team envisions will include various perspectives on commemorative tattoos. It's important to them that the site employ privacy policies different from social networking sites, where users give up ownership of their images upon uploading.

Tattoos continued on page 10

Chartwells managers handle on-site issues

Food continued from page 8

The H&RS office also gets feedback from students through the UTM Dine on Campus website. De Vito says the committee has always had an open door policy, and he feels that they have a good working relationship with many students, staff, and faculty on campus.

“We treat their issues the same as those brought up in any committee meeting—we will take action if required, and we will have open discussions on issues to help people understand why certain decisions were made and where food services are going at the UTM,” he says

These discussions form part of the basis for the office’s large-scale food development decisions, like the planned construction of the Permanent Food Court, the idea for which came from service surveys conducted in 2011. De Vito believes that “one of our challenges is that students often don’t realize how far in advance these

decisions need to be made”.

When asked if students’ knowledge of and relationship with the food services office could be improved on, De Vito responds, “We think students have shown to be very intuitive and are willing to ask the right questions and challenge policies or decisions with which they don’t agree. But part of formulating an argument to support your viewpoint is having the willingness to get all of the information to ensure that your argument is impactful and can produce successful action.

“We think students are very aware of trends in the food service industry and what food service initiatives are taking place on other campuses,” De Vito continues. “As for their knowledge of our programs and policies, we need to do a better job of more effectively communicating them to the students. [...] In general, we are always looking to improve our relationship with the students, and we hope that the reverse is true as well.”

A place to share tattoos and narratives



SIMPLE.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/PHOTO

The butterfly is often placed on hospital doors to signal grief after a mother has lost a newborn.

Tattoos continued from page 9

The team also wants users to be able to include narratives as text, audio, or video. This way, the database is a social tool: it allows anyone to contribute to scholarship while making their own meaning from it. Comments on images won’t be allowed, and only the

tattooed will be able to decide whether their tattoo is commemorative. Above all, the site is about the meaning that they give their own tattoo.

As a public sociologist, Davidson strives to connect and collaborate with the online community. She strongly believes that this database will be something people can get in-

involved with. Relations will be fostered between academics and the public and the knowledge shared across disciplines.

If you’re interested in learning more about the ongoing project and how to contribute to it, you can contact Deborah Davidson and her team at yorktattooarchive@gmail.com.



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Disabled welcome but not catered to

The RAWC has an accessible facility, but doesn't seem to have any programs for disabled students

JASON COELHO
SPORTS EDITOR

The world's obsession with the Olympic Games seems to cool down after the flame is extinguished. And though only three weeks have passed, the Sochi games now seem like a fading memory, even as other athletes have taken the stage for the Paralympic Games. The less thorough media coverage of the Paralympic Games is, sadly, not surprising, though it seems unjust that athletes who've worked just as hard to compete despite their circumstances aren't celebrated as much as those who stood on the podium three weeks ago.

Still, paralympic athletes have their time to shine on the world stage. Meanwhile, the question of how UTM is helping students with disabilities get involved in athletics is still at large. UTM and the RAWC are open to all students, and have worked to create a safe and comfortable environment for those who use the facilities. For example, gender-neutral changerooms with direct access to the pool deck are available, as are private stalls in the changerooms. The RAWC also held gym hours specifically for LGBTQ students during Pride Week earlier



THUNDERBIRDARENA.UBC.CA/PHOTO

The Paralympic Games, which wrapped up in Sochi this week, get less attention than the Olympics.

in February.

The RAWC has made the entire complex fully accessible to students with disabilities, a feature that was incorporated under the guidance of Liz Martin, the director of UTM's AccessAbility Resource Centre. All floors of the RAWC are accessible by elevator, and each facility has

accessible equipment or aids. According to Kenneth Duncliffe, director of the physical education department, each part of the RAWC is fitted to assist disabled students. "The pool is equipped with a lift to enable physically challenged individuals to enter and exit the water. A variable-depth floor in the

shallow end of the pool provides variable-depth programming opportunities," he says. The RAWC's fitness centre also has specialized equipment with wheelchair access and upper body ergometer movements.

Although the RAWC has gone through the trouble of designing

the facilities, the programs available are significantly lacking in terms of promoting involvement within the disabled student population. It's not clear whether disabled students are being informed about and encouraged to use it, though there seems to be no lack of willingness to assist them. According to program coordinator Jack Krist, the RAWC, in partnership with AccessAbility, offers assistance, but to his knowledge no students have used the service.

However, Krist and Duncliffe say that the RAWC is often used by wheelchair athletes, specifically by teams in Wheelchair Basketball Canada, who play in the RAWC on weekends. "They like our facilities [because] they are accessible and easy to use," says Krist. Community on Campus, run by UTM alumna Mary McPherson, is another external group that uses the RAWC's facilities for various sports.

So while UTM allows the public to use its facilities run by on-campus organizers, the disabled student body is at a disadvantage in getting involved in organized sports or athletic programs.

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From actor to weightlifter



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Turner is a personal trainer and works with Varsity Blues athletes during the off-season.

ERIC HEWITSON
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

In UTM's high-performance facility, Varsity Blues football players push their athletic bodies through a rigorous weightlifting routine that improves their performance on the field. Not only the players' roars of enthusiasm are essential for the workout; so is the commanding

voice of their personal trainer, Darren Turner.

The main goal Turner has set out for himself is to encourage and educate his trainees on proper technique and alignment, ensuring that they build strength and reduce the chance of injury. Christopher McDonald, a Varsity Blues athlete and first-year political science student, can attest to the training techniques'

effectiveness. "Darren brings core strengthening and flexibility to a whole new level with the ways he gets you to lift," he says. "I've improved my mechanics for all the lifts that make me a better athlete. I used to avoid Olympic lifts, but now I enjoy them."

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Average Joes: not so average

Student ball hockey team rocks RAWC staff

PHILIP POWER

The Average Joes and the Rookies, two teams that battled their way to the final game and showed they were the best in the league, collided at last and fought fiercely for the UTM intramural ball hockey championship title on March 13.

Before the game, Average Joes captain Alex Santini shared his thoughts, "We lost earlier this season to them, so we have a rivalry built up. Just hard work and we can get the job done today."

The Rookies, a team consisting entirely of RAWC employees, were fortunate enough to be awarded a bye for finishing first in the league standings. Rookies captain Jack Krist—the RAWC's program coordinator—was quick to identify the differences between the two teams. "The other team is fast and young, we're old and slow," he said.

When the game was kicked off,

Santini created a rush and passed the ball to a teammate, who scored and created a 1-0 lead for the Joes. Trying to change the flow of the game in his team's favour, Krist released a slapshot at Average Joes goalie Kelvin Vo. It hit off the crossbar and was ruled high-sticking, and the possession was given to the Average Joes. This turnover gave the Joes a chance to set up in the offensive zone, and Santini slipped a goal past Rookies goalie Joseph Taylor, giving the Joes a two-goal lead.

With the Average Joes trying to take full control of the game, Taylor kept his team in the game by being strong between the pipes. Santini continued his strong play, and helped his team reach a three-goal lead. After a frustrated Rookie player was given a penalty, Santini potted another goal to make it 4-0 in the first period.

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The turning point

Turner continued from page 11

Originally, Turner set out to become an actor and stuntman, and studied theatre and drama studies at UTM. But once his personal training career took off, he decided to switch career paths. “Even though I was successful in my acting career, the whole personal training deal took over,” he says.

On his path to becoming a stuntman, he experimented with a range of physical activities for both group and individual sport to hone his abilities and increase his confidence.

He now uses the techniques he learned to train others. “It’s the diversity of my athletic experience that allows me to do what I do here so well,” he says.

“Looking at it from a stress-management perspective, physical activity releases serotonin—which is all your happy hormones—which leads to happier emotions and more confidence, ultimately making all your other priorities throughout the day achieved much more efficiently.”

Turner believes that those who

work out consistently will be more likely to eat healthier foods. “If someone is conscious about their workouts and dedicated to improving their quality of life they’ll be more conscious about their eating habits,” he says. “You want to eat your fats and complex carbohydrates to fuel the body, along with your proteins for recovery.” The worse the food you eat, the less energetic and enthusiastic you’ll be, which will take you away from the weight room and take your attention off your schoolwork.

He adds that students interested in working out on campus who find the environment intimidating or know little about the available resources should join MoveU, a campus group dedicated to helping people reach their fitness goals. “Some students don’t know about all the intramural or drop-in opportunities here, and it’s a shame because not everyone has to lift weights—they can join in and play a game of badminton,” he says. “Everyone is different in what they want, and there’s ways of getting what you want here at UTM.”

Students in wheelchairs shoot baskets at the gym

RAWC continued from page 11

UTMAC president and student athlete Andjela Ocicek says she’s spotted many students with disabilities participating in sports and working out on campus, but hopes that UTM and the Athletic Council can do more over the next year to increase their participation.

“We have always strived to make our events open to everyone [...]”

she says. “One of our goals for next year is to increase mental health awareness and maximize the number of events catering to students with disabilities and special needs.”

With the school year nearing its end, there likely won’t be any new programs introduced, but hopefully the RAWC and UTMAC will work on offering more activities that promote a healthy lifestyle and involvement in athletics for all UTM students.

Rookies green in final



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

A squad consisting entirely of RAWC employees fell 7-3 to Alex Santini and the Average Joes.

Joes continued from page 11

This goal sent the Average Joes on a confidence rush that let them throw another one past Taylor to make their lead 5-0.

The Rookies tried desperately to get on the scoreboard but Vo was able to keep them scoreless with some fantastic saves. As soon as the ball was dropped, though, a Rookies defender got the ball to a teammate, who pummelled it into the back of the net, shifting the tide slightly and ending the period with 5-1.

At the start of the second, the Rookies had an advantage on the power play. Vo proved too airtight for them and seemed to singlehandedly kill off the penalty. Once the penalty was over, the Joes mounted a blasting shot that lengthened their lead to a commanding 6-1. The Rookies got two quick goals on the board, however, cutting the lead to 6-3.

Frustrated, the Joes took a slashing penalty, allowing Krist to rifle a shot which hit the underside of the crossbar before being sent down the floor by a Joes player. After a stoppage in play, the referees ruled it a no-goal.

“Everything was going right for them. We were hitting the posts a lot, and we had a goal taken back without video review.”
—Joseph Taylor

The Rookies weren’t able to maximize on any chances for the rest of the game, but the Joes got one more goal and landed at 7-3.

In the dying seconds of the game, the Rookies pulled their goalie for

an extra attacker before accidentally sending the ball onto Santini’s blade when he was standing in front of their net alone. With the net wide open, Santini showed good sportsmanship and avoided extending his team’s lead.

The Average Joes were thrilled to clinch another ball hockey championship. “We played hard this season,” said Vo. “The Rookies were the only team to beat us, and we couldn’t have done this without our team’s hard work.”

“They got good bounces; everything was going right for them. We were hitting the posts a lot, and we had a goal taken back without video review. We played hard [but] just couldn’t get it done,” said Taylor.

With another thrilling ball hockey season coming to an end, UTM students can look to sign up for the popular campus rec league next September.

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