



Backpack to backpack

PAGE 7

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Numerous options in UTMSU election

Large number of candidates running for UTMSU executive and board positions in this year's elections

MARIA IQBAL
NEWS EDITOR

Let the campaigning begin.

The official campaigning period for the UTMSU spring elections began last week, with one incomplete slate and three independent candidates running for next year's executive team.

The UTM Inspire slate is made up of candidates for all positions except VP part-time affairs. Its candidates for president, VP university affairs and academics, and VP external are running unopposed. Independent candidate Amir Moazzami (currently a board member) was the sole eligible contender for VP part-time affairs as of press time.

UTM Inspire has VP part-time affairs Hassan Havili running for president (currently VP part-time affairs); Melissa Theodore running for VP equity (currently VP external); Genny Lawen running for VP university affairs and academics (currently associate to the president); Ebi Agbeyegbe running for VP external



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

The campaign period for UTMSU elections began last Monday. Voting will take place this week.

(currently associate to the VP external); and Bryan Chelvanaigum, running for VP internal (currently associate to the VP internal).

"We called our slate 'UTM Inspire' because we want to inspire UTM students to be the best in whatever they do," said Havili. "We believe our students' union is the best place

to provide resources and support to students [who] want to navigate this large institution. The main goal we wish to achieve is working towards uniting the UTM community and building a strong working relationship with students."

The slate's platform includes lobbying for a fall Reading Week, in-

creased club funding, and more study space on campus.

While UTM is currently exploring the option of implementing a fall Reading Week, Havili said that his team will advocate for the option the majority of the student body prefers.

When asked whether his team would hold a third consecutive Stu-

dent Centre expansion referendum, Havili said no.

"We will not be holding another referendum in the upcoming year, but we will lobby the university to contribute more to the expansion of student space, including an extension of the Student Centre," he said, adding that he hoped that the university would take this year's referendum failure to mean "students don't want to pay more, period".

Three candidates are running independently of the slate for VP equity, VP internal and services, and VP part-time affairs. This is an unusually high number of independents running in recent years.

Farishta Amanullah, currently the associate to the VP equity, is running as an independent candidate for VP equity. Like Theodore's platform, Amanullah's includes lobbying for mental health awareness and increased multifaith prayer space on campus.

Elections continued on page 2

Principal fields student questions

Students ask administration about fall Reading Week, positive space, and heated bus shelter

DYLAN PRIOR

Nearly 100 people attended the Principal's Town Hall last Wednesday, more than double the attendance of the last meeting in October. Last week's meeting focused on ways to help students achieve academic success, as well as other campus issues.

UTM's vice-president and principal, Deep Saini, welcomed the audience with opening statements.

Diane Crocker, UTM's registrar and director of enrolment, delivered a presentation on possible options for a fall Reading Week in the 2015/16 school year. Saini added that UTM would conduct an online survey before making a decision.

In response to a question submitted earlier on support for interna-



CHRISTY TAM/THE MEDIUM

Students posed questions to the UTM administration at the second Principal's Town Hall this year.

tional students, Amy Mullin, UTM's vice-president academic and dean, said, "International students will have the opportunity to participate in mock lectures and Headstart ses-

sions, and benefit from new student group advising and other social engagement opportunities."

Dale Mullings, director of residence and student life until the end

of this year, announced the launch of the UTM Experience Program.

Q&A continued on page 2



Setting humbler goals

UTM has promised a heated bus shelter. We also have a Heated Bus Shelter Committee at UTMSU now. Medium News, page 3

Vote flawed but exciting

The UTMSU elections are as full of foibles as ever, but watch out for the number of board candidates. Medium Opinion, page 4

Still original on round two

The UTM Music Club puts together and launches another album by our own musicians. Medium Arts, page 5

Meet Mehta

His second and third feature films will be in theatres in June. Now he returns to speak at his alma mater. Medium Features, page 7

Signing women with men

Women's teams get little attention in Canada. They might have a shot at equality if they play with the boys. Medium Sports, page 10

CAMPUS POLICE WEEKLY REPORT

March 14, 4:47 a.m.

Theft under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated the theft of a cellphone from a bench inside Gym A at the RAWC. The theft occurred during a basketball game.

March 14, 4:10 p.m.

Attempted theft under \$5,000

A secure locker was broken into at the RAWC men's change room. Contents were rummaged through but nothing was taken.

March 14, 4:25 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated the theft of money from a secure locker at the RAWC men's changeroom.

March 14, 4:45 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated the theft of a knapsack with a Nintendo DS in it from an insecure locker at the RAWC men's change room. The knapsack was later recovered. The Nintendo DS had been stolen.

March 14, 4:59 p.m.

Motor vehicle accident

A parked vehicle was struck in Lot 5. The second vehicle involved was not identified. The damage to the parked vehicle was minor.

March 15, 3:45 p.m.

Personal safety concerns

Campus Police attended a unit at MaGrath Valley after a tenant reported a possible break and enter into his unit. It was determined there had been no break-in.

March 16, 6:30 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

Campus Police investigated the theft of a wallet and a cellphone from a secure locker at the RAWC men's change room. The wallet was later recovered but the cash had been stolen.

March 17, 10:00 p.m.

Personal safety concerns

Two female students, one at the Davis Building Meeting Place and one at the library, reported being approached by a man they did not know who asked personal questions.

March 17, 5:00 p.m.

Personal safety concerns

A female student reported being approached on two occasions, March 10 at 4 p.m. and March 17 at 2 p.m., at two different locations, in the Davis Building Meeting Place and the CCT Building foyer, by a man she did not know who asked her personal questions.

March 18, 11:21 a.m.

Motor vehicle accident

A UTM shuttle bus and a garbage truck collided while off campus. Peel Regional Police investigated the accident. Two persons were injured. Their injuries were minor.

March 18, 10:30 p.m.

Theft under \$5,000

Two students reported to Campus Police the thefts of their cellphones from a bench inside Gym A. The thefts occurred during a basketball game.

Debating club hosts tournament at UTM

DYLAN PRIOR

The UTM Debating Club held its first debate tournament at UTM on March 15 and 16.

Students from UTM, St. George, and Ryerson participated in the event, which was hosted in collaboration with UTMSU.

The tournament consisted of five rounds in the traditional British Parliamentary style of debate, as well as a public speaking competition. The topics included legalizing drugs, granting government access to text messages and social media accounts, banning religious schools, and mandating vegetarianism.

UTM student Salma Chaudhry, a legal studies specialist, won the public speaking competition, the topic of which was "The Deadliest Thing on the Planet".

"What an incredible, life-changing experience," Chaudhry said. "The experience I gained is impeccable [sic]. I was so proud of everybody because everyone did a good job. I made a lot of new friends and connections."

Chaudhry also finished third in the

debate tournament, along with partner Shabnam Malekzai.

"We learned each other's flaws and tried to perfect them. We grew together as a team," said Chaudhry. "I had no idea what debating was before I walked in. From round one to round five, every single team improved."

The first-place and second-place winners of the debating tournament were Victor Ouyang and Michael Chen from St. George.

After the tournament, Tuneer Mukherjee, this year's president of the Debating Club, expressed his excitement for the club's future. "Debate is part of everyday life," he said. "We debate everything under the sun—including the sun."

Talha Mahmood, the club's vice-president of finance, added that holding the event was a huge achievement for her and her team.

The Debating Club has participated in tournaments at Harvard and Oxford University, and has been invited to other tournaments across North America and the world.

The tournament was funded by the Ian Orchard Student Initiatives Fund.

Students vote this week

Elections continued from Cover

"The reason I'm running independently [is] because I'm really, really passionate about the position," she said. "I'm not running against the team," she added, saying that she hoped the winning candidate would implement the same changes she's advocating for, if she doesn't win.

Amanullah was handed eight demerit points by the Elections and Referenda Committee, chaired by current president Raymond Noronha and including one member each of the Associate of Graduate Students, the UTM Athletics Council or Residence Council, and the Canadian Federation of Students' GTA chapter, for failing to include the line "Please pass on to a friend or recycle" on her posters.

Running for VP internal and services is independent candidate Erik Hernandez-Oberding. Hernandez-Oberding expressed his dissatisfaction with the union in its current governance, citing problems with the team's knowledge about governance and equity issues.

"There are a ridiculous amount of issues with UTMSU," he said. "I really don't like the way it's run."

Hernandez-Oberding believes his chances of winning as an independent are slim. He said that the reason he didn't form a slate was that many of the issues that need to be addressed come from marginalized people, who he said are excluded from slates because they lack connections with the union. Hernandez-Oberding added that he came from a marginalized background himself, having to deal with mental health issues and belonging to a low-income family.

Hernandez-Oberding didn't explain why his posters weren't up as of press time, citing concerns of being accused of "slander".

Candidacy for VP part-time affairs has been one of the most contentious issues so far. Both Hassan Chughtai (currently the clubs coordinator) and Minahil Minhas were

denied their applications to run for VP part-time. Chughtai, who had planned to run as part of the Inspire slate, was considered ineligible to run because the nomination package he submitted contained one or more signature from students who were not part-time. The EARC denied Chughtai an extension to gather more signatures, citing precedent.

Minhas' candidacy, which was denied on the grounds that she was not a part-time student at the time of her nomination, is currently under appeal for the second time.

Another independent candidate for VP equity, Saad Alam, withdrew on March 20 for reasons not made public.

The candidacy for VP part-time affairs has been a contentious issue. Both Hassan Chughtai and Minahil Minhas were denied their applications to run for VP part-time.

Moazzami, the sole independent candidate for VP part-time, aims to increase employment options for part-time students; in an interview, Moazzami told the *Medium* that he himself is a part-time student for financial reasons.

"It hits home if a student just doesn't have enough money to go to university full-time," he said. "You see all these students going through four years of school and then getting on with their lives, coming out of that bubble, and then you have students [who] have to graduate at the age of 27 or 28 because they just can't afford to go to school."

Moazzami explained that he has had to alternate between attending university full- and part-time to take care of his mother, who was diagnosed with cancer and later passed away.

He also said he wants to lobby to expand UTM's Work-Study program and decrease parking prices because many part-time students are commuters.

According to current UTMSU president Raymond Noronha, more candidates are running this year than last for positions on both UTM's executive and board of directors. He attributed the increase to UTMSU's success in engaging with students.

Moazzami said he will address what he considers a disconnect between students and the UTMSU. In a letter to the *Medium* published in February, Moazzami advocated for students to change the union by becoming more involved in it.

"We need to instill culture back into this campus [...]," he wrote. "We need unity. Without unity, there is no union."

The elections for UTMSU's board of directors are also taking place at this time. There are 15 candidates for four positions in Division II and 12 candidates for seven positions in Division III—a very high number compared to the average. (A candidate for Division III withdrew on March 15 for unspecified reasons.)

Recently, the EARC ruled that the code regarding slating among board members from different divisions allowed for interpretation, and they decided not to permit it. "Board members serve as a check and balance on the work of the executive. Hence, it is important that the board acts in due diligence, makes decisions in the best interest of students, and decisions are free of any biases," reads their statement. "Given the number of candidates running for divisional positions and the level of competition, the EARC believes that it is in the best interest of students that they compete independently."

Voting for next year's executive and board of directors will take place from Tuesday to Thursday. An all-candidates meeting is scheduled to take place in the Blind Duck today, March 24, from 12 to 3 p.m.

Nearly 100 attend town hall

Q&A continued from Cover

"The co-curricular orientation transition program will see all [international] students receive either in-person, web-based, or over-the-phone transition support from a successful upper-year student," he said. In its introductory year, international students, first-generation students, and students on residence with be eligible.

Questions submitted online concerning general campus issues were skipped in order to make time for the open mic portion of the town hall. Among them were questions on TA equality training, the completion date of the Outer Circle Road work (mid-April), enforcement of smoking restrictions, and student civility on social media.

For the open mic portion of the meeting, Saini acted as moderator.

The first question was about the lack of permanent LGBT positive spaces on campus. Erik Hernandez-

Oberding asked if there were any intentions of including specific support space for marginalized groups in the expanded Kaneff Centre and North Building.

Paul Donoghue, UTM's chief administrative officer, said that the issue hadn't been raised in any of the project committees, and that there's no available space in either building. Donoghue suggested action through management committees, and added that he's open to get in touch with.

Next, Vincentia Kumala asked if there was any intention of having equity training for faculty members and creating LGBT positive space in the classroom. Saini said, "UTM now has its own equity and diversity officer, who has been working vigorously on all issues, including training of staff for greater sensitivity."

UTMSU's VP part-time, Hassan Havili, presented a petition with over 1,000 signatures in support of the construction of a heated bus shelter.

Saini said that he has good news for Havili, and Donoghue announced that UTM is already making plans to install heated bus shelters on campus. A proposal is being developed now; a completion date was not given.

Another question addressed insufficient study and computer space with the growth of the student population.

"This is a priority in all new buildings," Donoghue said. "There will be small, bookable rooms and furniture arrangements assigned in all new construction projects." He added that because of the success of study lounges in IB, more study spaces are planned for the new buildings.

Other questions concerned campus "food insecurity" and the availability of gender-neutral washrooms after the expansion of the Kaneff Centre and the North Building.

All questions and answers from the Town Hall are available online on the website of the office of the vice-president and principal.

UTM hosts talk on gender



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

The “RealTalk” discussion featured guest speakers on faith, race, and gender.

MENNA ELNAKA

The Equity and Diversity Office collaborated with the Muslim Students’ Association, the UTM Women’s Centre, Student Life, and UTMSU last Friday to host “Real Talk: In Colour”, a discussion on issues of faith, race, and gender.

The event was held in celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21 and also featured spoken word performances in honour of World Poetry Day.

“The idea of elimination of racism is to build and adjust an inclusive fair society where we celebrate every individual, no matter what their colour, their religion, and their race is,” said UTM’s vice-president and principal,

Deep Saini, in his opening remarks.

The talk show-style discussion featured three guest speakers: Rima Berns McGown, a UTM history professor specializing in diaspora studies; Rabia Khedr, a UTM alumna, board member of the Ontario Women’s Health Network, and member of a research group at York University; and Rose Streete, a real estate sales representative and neighbourhood specialist who spoke at UTM last month for Black History Month.

Each guest speakers talked about their own experience with issues of faith, gender, and race.

“I’ve always had a great interest in diaspora studies, and Professor McGown is very inspirational to me. So for me, this was very, very interesting,” said Victoria Partyka, a fifth-year

humanities student.

The discussion was moderated by Shefa Obaid, an executive of Students Against Israeli Apartheid, and Adoma Emenogu, the volunteer coordinator of the UTM Women’s Centre.

Obaid, who came up with the idea for the event and helped organize it, said its purpose was to promote open discussion.

“We are definitely in need of more awareness on issues such as racial discrimination and privilege,” she said. “We were in need of more inspiration and motivation to teach us—women, in particular—how to break barriers and not let obstacles stand in our way. I hope [the event] was able to make a mark and be the first of many events to come that motivate, push boundaries, and seek out real change.”

»WHAT WAS YOUR WORST EXPERIENCE WITH EXAMS?



Andia Shahzadi
2nd year, psych & soc

The multiple choice answers were numbered, just like the questions.



Kaytlin Littlemore
1st year, visual studies

Last semester, I got the dates mixed up and studied for the wrong exam.



Kaitlin Mintz
1st year, criminology

Having all my exams one day after another.



Bryan Ortiz
1st year, visual studies

My roommate had a party and moved all the art I’d posted on my wall to study.

UTMSU: from Student Centre to bus shelter

Recently struck Heater Bus Shelter Committee speaks at the union’s town hall on the expansion referendum failure

NICOLE DANESI ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

UTMSU hosted its fourth commission meeting last Monday, at which the failure of the Student Centre expansion referendum held earlier this year was discussed.

The meeting, which had approximately 30 attendees representing various student clubs, societies, and UTMSU executives, was the second open forum discussion on the referendum’s failure. The first, hosted on February 13, had only 12 participants. UTMSU president Raymond Noronha attributed February’s low turnout to its being scheduled dur-

ing midterm season and receiving little advertising.

Reasons given for the failure include student opposition to raising tuition fees, a lack of student appreciation of the significance of the project, senior students’ resentment towards raising fees without having the chance to benefit from the project, and UTMSU’s failure to provide enough details about the project to persuade students to support it.

When asked by the *Medium* if or when another Student Centre expansion referendum will be held, Noronha said that another referendum may take place in two years. In the meantime, Noronha stressed the

need for UTMSU to address other student issues on campus and improve communication between UTMSU and students before holding another referendum.

“We will lobby the university to get a bus shelter by all means necessary.”

—Hassan Havili

“First, let us get more connected with the student population, and then maybe we can take it from there,” he said.

A campus group advocating for a heated bus shelter at UTM briefly spoke at the meeting.

“We will lobby the university to get a bus shelter by all means necessary,” said Hassan Havili, UTMSU’s VP part-time affairs and chair of the recently formed Heated Bus Shelter Committee.

The committee had collected more than 1,000 signatures supporting the initiative since it began circulating its petition two weeks ago.

“What we want to do is set [the bus shelter] as a priority for the university to fund the project,” said Havili. He acknowledged that students don’t want to fund the project

through additional fees.

When the Havili brought the concern to the Principal’s Town Hall on Wednesday, UTM’s chief administrative officer, Paul Donoghue, announced that Facilities Planning and Management is currently working with the parking and transportation office on a proposal for the Space Planning and Management Committee to install larger, heated bus waiting areas.

Other topics raised at the commission meeting included the need for permanent positive space for LGBT students on campus and improvement of the UTMSU Food Bank.

NEWS BRIEFS »

New clues in search for missing Malaysian plane

France released new satellite images of potential debris from the missing Malaysian jet to the Malaysian government on Sunday. The images are of “potential objects” shown in the same area of the ocean where earlier satellite images showed other possible debris from the plane. The jet went missing on March 8 with 239 passengers on board.

Source: *The Toronto Star*

PQ leader fears voter fraud in upcoming election

Pauline Marois of the Parti Quebecois expressed concern about non-Francophones trying to fraudulently register to vote in the Quebec election. An article published in *Le Devoir* on Saturday mentioned an electoral officer in a Montreal riding saying that many Anglophones and allophones had tried to register with inadequate documentation.

Source: *The Globe and Mail*

Pope Francis warns mafia that its ways are hellbound

Last Friday, Pope Francis warned the Italian mafia that if they did not mend their ways, they would end up in Hell. The pope spoke at a prayer vigil for relatives of some of the mafia’s murder victims and addressed the absent mafia, saying they would not be able to bring “blood-stained” money and power to the afterlife.

Source: *CBC*

Pistorius murder trial expected to last until the middle of May

The murder trial for Oscar Pistorius will last until mid-May, say South African authorities. Pistorius, who has been accused of murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine’s Day last year, is expected to defend himself at the trial. Pistorius alleges that he mistook Steenkamp for an intruder and shot her.

Source: *CBC*

Ships trapped in Houston channel after oil spill

Last Saturday, a vessel carrying nearly 1 million gallons of oil crashed into another ship while travelling in the Houston Ship Channel at Texas City. Many boats have been trapped by the spill, including three cruise ships. The shipping channel was closed on the Saturday of the crash and remained closed on Sunday.

Source: *USA Today*

MEDIUM OPINION

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MASTHEAD

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Look for changes of a different kind

Following along with a crowded election via the new elections notice board

There are more candidates than usual for UTMSU's executive positions. But they're not the most interesting aspect of, well, yet another election.

But first, two things about them.

One: Three candidates signed up for VP part-time, but two have been disqualified. One, Hassan Chughtai, didn't have part-time students for all 20 signatures on his nomination form. He asked for time to collect more but the appeal was denied. Interesting—I'd've thought he was a favourite. He's the (hired) clubs coordinator this year and was going to run on the incumbent slate. The other, Minahil Minhas, is not a part-time student at the moment, and she would have to be according to the elections code. Last week, current president Raymond Noronha implied to me that UTMSU meant to lift that requirement earlier in the year but forgot to. The last man standing, Amir Moazzami, is not part of the incumbent slate, but he is on the board and has spoken up for the executive in various comments. At least he wants to improve communication between the union and other students (who wouldn't?).

Two: Three candidates also signed up for VP equity. One, Saad Alam, withdrew (no publicly available reason). Another is Frishta Amanullah, currently associate VP equity. She's racked up a few demerit points for the environmentally heinous sin of failing to put "Please pass on to a friend and recycle" on her posters, even after be-

ing notified. Maybe she had already printed them and realized that re-printing them would defeat the purpose of recycling anyway? P.S. While we're nitpicking, the incumbent slate's posters only advise the reader to recycle them, not pass them on...!

Incidentally, whether or not she is a tree-hater—and whether or not her campaign promises are better than the competition's—somehow I feel more secure voting for her than the third candidate, the incumbent slate's Melissa Theodore, who wrote in a public Facebook comment this year that the "root cause" of mental illness among students is high tuition fees that require us to overwork ourselves. Not a great perspective for a VP equity. She also believes she was "racialized" in talks at the Student Societies Summit downtown because her opinions were dismissed by "white non-racialized men". Reading over her letter that signified UTMSU's withdrawal from the talks, I have other ideas about why her opinions were dismissed. Actually, the associate of another executive approached me having reached the exact same conclusion and wanting to write a letter about it. But the associate wanted to "check" if it was okay with Theodore herself first, and such a letter never materialized.

But anyway. Yes, more independent candidates. But most of them are out of the running now anyway. What's of more interest is the large number of students running for the board.

To be specific, 15 candidates want four spots in Division II (the main body of full-time students) and 12 candidates want seven spots in Division III (who represent UTM on the downtown student union's board).

Why are there so many more this year than usual? Noronha says it reflects the great job UTMSU has done engaging students. Yeah, it could be that. Or it could suggest that people are dissatisfied. The increase doesn't resolve the question in itself, I think. Clearer, in my mind, is that the reason the bulk of this year's candidates are running for the board instead of the executive is that the prospect of running against incumbents is hopelessly intimidating.

Does the large number of candidates in this year's elections reflect student engagement with the student union—or dissatisfaction?

On the other hand, even though they're not up against them for executive spots, the incumbents might be the ones intimidated by the number of candidates for the board. Apparently some of them must have wanted to form slates to strengthen their campaign, but were shut down by the Elections and Referenda Committee.

The EARC found that as there was no rule about slating across divisions, it was up to them to decide. They forbade slating because "it is important that the board acts in due diligence, makes decisions in the best interest of students, and decisions are free of any biases". Hmm. I don't know about you, but I can't discern any logical connection between the cause and the effect. After all, these problems don't seem to affect the executive slate. Result: some people benefit from coordination and a fancy name like "UTM Inspire", and everyone else is an "independent".

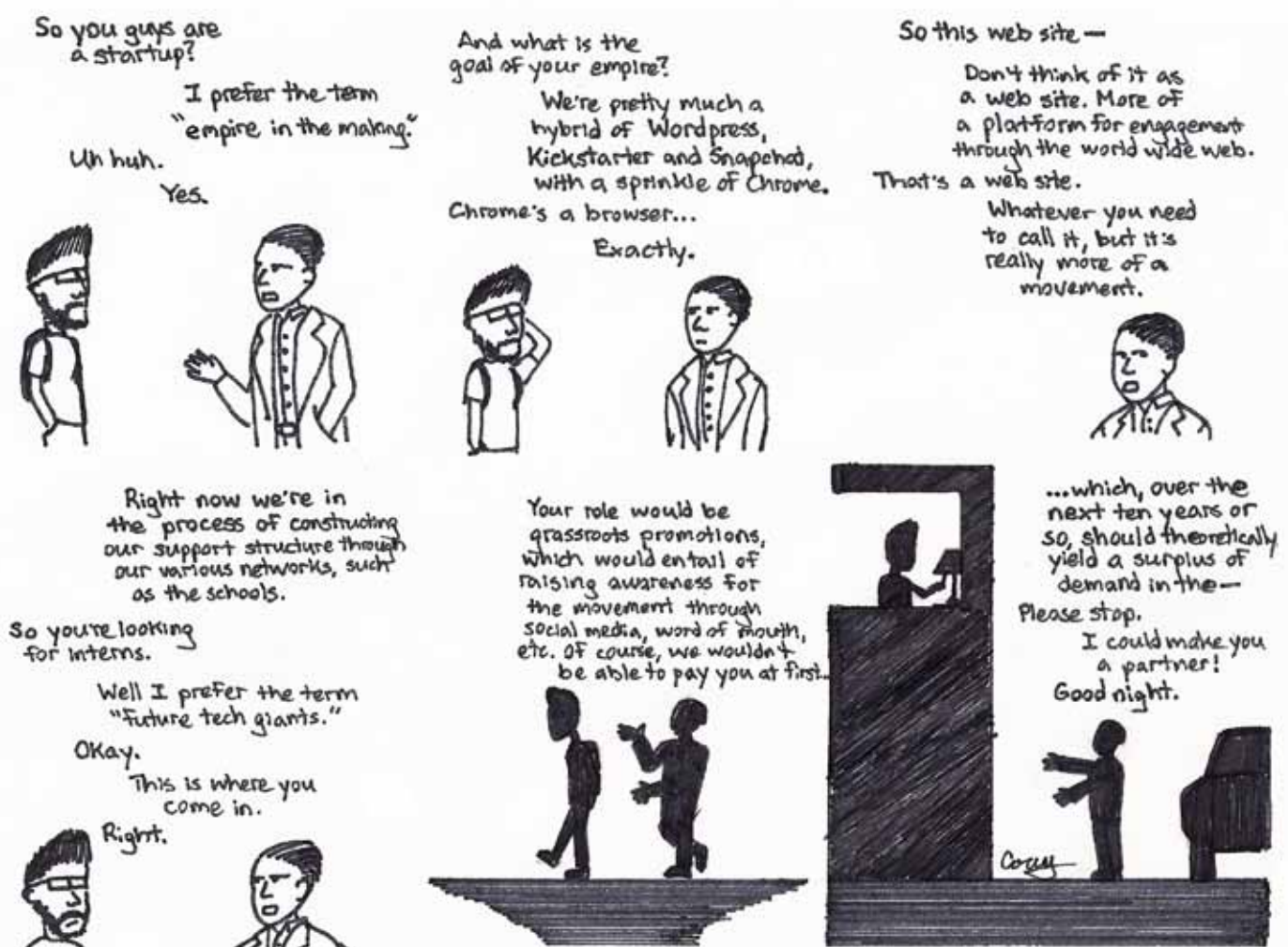
These problems don't change the fact, though, that an interesting group of mostly untried students will form UTMSU's board in 2014/15. It could yield changes of a different kind than we usually see from year to year.

Before I sign off, let me dispel the notion that we *Medium* folk find UTMSU foibles exciting, hence the coverage and editorial. We don't. What's inherently exciting to people is change. I think that's another thing we can draw from the number of candidates.

One positive development is that many of the facts here and in our lead news story have been gleaned from the elections notice board, which this year has been posted on the glass wall of UTMSU's office. Nice! See, some things do change for the better.

YOURS,

LUKE SAWCZAK



MEDIUM A&E

Editor | Colleen Munro

UTM musicians regroup for *Original Chords*

UMC launches a new compilation, *The Original Chords: Volume 2*, with a night of music

EMILY KOVACS

There was much laughter and excitement running through the crowd of performers, friends, fans, and family members at the UTM Music Club's release of *The Original Chords: Volume 2*. This year's album launch event, held in the acoustically pleasing CC 1080 on Friday, featured live performances by the musicians on the album.

The Original Chords: Volume 2 is a compilation of 15 tracks written and performed by UTM musicians. UMC's secretary, **Doaa Khan Rohillah**, said, "All the songs are original compositions by the artists themselves. It's amazing how much talent is on campus. This CD launch is great way to showcase that talent." Some of the artists from last year's CD were asked to contribute again, including **LaserSharp** (Vinh Nguyen), **Andrew Wilson**, and **Michael McTavish**. UMC worked with CFRE to record the album, while producer **Kaizn Beats** of Think Militant Records mixed the songs.

Like last year, proceeds from the launch's admission tickets, wristbands, raffle tickets, and album sales were forwarded to the Canadian Music Therapy Trust Fund. "They're an organization that we as a club truly



MAHMOUD SAROUJI/THE MEDIUM

Andrew Wilson performed a song from *The Original Chords: Volume 2* at the album's launch.

believe in," said Rohillah. "We all use music as a means of therapy and the fact that this organization goes beyond that is just astonishing."

Rohillah and UMC co-president **Zain Ali Shah** hosted the event, introducing each musician with hu-

mour, charm, and enthusiasm. Shah also contributed a track. All the performances were impressive and the talent was undeniably enviable, but a couple of acts stood out to me as especially noteworthy.

New Dimension (Daniel Salva-

dor) started off the performances with a pulsing, bassy electronic track that he had composed a couple of years ago. On an acoustic guitar, **Caspian Sawczak** performed an original composition called "Bring the Rain Back", an emotional song about long-

ing brought to life by Sawczak's strong voice. Sawczak also performed on last year's CD. The melodious and slow piano song "Resurgence" by the talented LaserSharp was also a highlight for me.

I couldn't resist swaying back and forth to former UMC executive Andrew Wilson's "A Lighthouse Called the Moon". This emotional "story song" tells of the musician's own struggles with growing up through metaphor, and Wilson's lyrics were impressive. **Saba Khan**, one of UMC's executive event coordinators, performed "My Darling", a tune composed for the friends and family who inspire her to persevere that was also impossible not to sway to. Her acoustic guitar playing was soft and smooth with a clear, beautiful, melodic voice to match. **Yalla Yalla** (**Joe Measures** and **Ronny ElShabassy**) featuring Wilson left me wanting to hear more from the trio and their dreamy, folksy sound. They used acoustic guitars, a xylophone, a drum, and their voices to create harmonies and layers that blew me away.

There's an incredible amount of talent recorded on *The Original Chords: Volume 2* and it's not to be missed. The album can still be purchased from the UMC office for \$5.

DVSSS explores the art of storage and collecting

Caché: re[collecting] gives student artists a unique space to display their work, tucked away

KRISTIE ROBERTSON

At the end of a quiet, narrow hallway on the third floor of the CCT Building, just left of room 3053, the afternoon sun filters through a large window. It peeks tentatively into the 32 two-tiered lockers that have been transformed into individual art galleries by the Department of Visual Studies Student Society for their current exhibition, *Caché: re[collecting]*.

On a wall parallel to the lockers, the theme of the exhibition is written in black vinyl lettering. While last year's exhibition, *Caché: things we keep*, explored the tensions between private and public spaces, *Caché: re[collecting]* is about the revival and preservation of items accumulated absentmindedly. The locker becomes a space where "streams of remembrance convene to a safe destination". The pieces show collecting as a desperate act of holding on to that which can't be held. They speak of the capriciousness of the material form.

The open lockers beg the curious passerby to explore their dark recesses. One locker is lined with layers of unfamiliar smiling faces—glossy photographs of someone else's friends. In another locker, an inconspicuous



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Thirty-two lockers in the CCT Building have been repurposed to house mini art galleries.

purple butterfly perches on the cast fingers of a gently curved hand.

Kendra McPherson, a soon-to-be graduate of the art and art history program, created locker 17's "Mountain Distortion". A small motion-activated light illuminates a nearly

invisible booklet of plastic magnifying sheets and clear acetate. The bluish glow catches the sharp edges and steep inclines on each "page", cut to suggest jagged landforms. When gazing through the piece, the magnifying sheets distort the different layers.

"My piece is about changing landscapes and how geographic lines are redefined by politics, society, and economic factors and how they are constantly being redrawn upon a physical landscape," McPherson explains. She has etched arbitrary lines into the

arbitrary landscape she's created, emphasizing the subjectivity of perception and the mutability of boundaries.

"Maps" by **Cherie Novocosky**, a first-year art and art history student and the DVSSS committee's executive chair, draws viewers in with the whimsical arrangement of maps on the locker's door. A mobile of string and photographs of rural and urban scenes hangs from the ceiling of the locker, and a piece of wood on its floor reads, "Be where you want to be, NOW." Novocosky has supplied viewers with a small jar, squares of paper, and a blue marker so they can write the names of the places they want to be and put them in the jar for safekeeping. "Maps" is a piece that asks individuals to be in two places at once. It uses imagination to subvert the constraints of distance and time.

Novocosky also noted the novelty of having an art gallery near the art and art history professors' offices.

The pieces in *Caché* subvert the locker's usual role as a place of safety and closure, turning them into liminal spaces, neither here nor there, pervaded by turmoil and anxiety.

Caché: re[collecting] will run until April 2.

Mindwaves launch celebrates storytelling

Students share their experiences in this year's edition of UTM's creative non-fiction journal, *Mindwaves*

ANNIE RATCLIFFE
WITH NOTES FROM
LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Writing doesn't just allow me to tell a story. It allows me to feel at peace with the event I'm writing about, as if writing about what happened somehow facilitates the healing of psychological wounds." So reads the preface to this year's edition of *Mindwaves*, UTM's journal of creative non-fiction published by students in the professional writing and communication program.

This eighth annual edition was launched last Thursday in the MiST Theatre with refreshments, book sales, and readings of excerpts from the stories. The dimly lit theatre was filled with supportive friends, family, and students.

Larissa Ho, this year's editor-in-chief of the *Mindwaves Collective*, opened the night by introducing second-year student **Lyndsay Sinko** with "Remembering Tomorrow", a story about her grandmother's visit from Italy and the connection between generations of women in a family. Sinko was followed by **Hiba Taboulsi** with "Lighter", a story about literally setting a storage room on fire with a lighter.

The works throughout the first half of the evening ranged widely, from



MARIA NG/THE MEDIUM

Students read from their stories at last week's *Mindwaves* launch in the MiST Theatre.

Kristen Lortiz's "The Blue Cloth" about her discovery of her mother's cancer to "Kentucky Hill" by third-year commerce student **Kevin Ludena**, a story about a first joint. **Dylan Smart's** "Pop Bottle" and **Laura Gillis's** "Lemon Meringue Pie" also went over well.

After a brief intermission, the night continued with more thoughtful and lighthearted writings. **Rob Redford's** "Rare Cards", a chilling recollection of the attempt to understand his

mother's depression, was followed by **Jill Kennedy's** "Modern Beatniks", featuring a character all too jocular about the topic of suicide. "I was both interested and envious of him," Kennedy commented afterwards.

Also good were the sad "Belmonts and Carnations" by **Samantha Ashenurst**, in which she couldn't let go of a relationship even after verifying that her boyfriend was cheating on her, and "The Pipe" by **Matt Spadafora**, in which he effectively made

his childhood experiences of being bullied humorous. The night closed on **Jai Sangha's** "A Trip to the Taj", to which the audience responded with laughter.

This is Kennedy's first time being published in a journal in or outside of the PWC program. "I was shocked and excited when I found out I was selected... I was too shy to submit my stories in the past but with graduation creeping toward me, I figured I would go for it and submit my work."

Spadafora, a residence don, published writer, and fifth-year PWC and English student, was also happy to have his work published in *Mindwaves*. "Being selected was a shock for me," he says. "I was one of the last stories selected, so I had about a week and a half of grumbling as I found out other stories were picked, but not me. So when I got the letter, I freaked out, naturally."

Editors **Nathalie Soulliere**, **Sandra Nehme**, and **Andrew Ihamaki** were also selected from the PWC program. "Our role was to select and edit the stories for the collection," Ihamaki says. "From there, we worked closely with the writers to edit and strengthen their already stellar pieces." Ihamaki, a fourth-year art and art history and English student, has been published in *Showing the Story: Creative Non-Fiction by New Writers*, the newest anthology to be used as a textbook in the program.

"I know I face stories in my own life that are hard to tell, hard to relive and recount," Ho's preface concludes. "That's why I continue to write them. I know that the writing heals my own wounds as well as invites the reader to do the same."

Copies of *Mindwaves* were available at the launch for \$10; a second print run is being considered, and in the meantime they are available for purchase through Amazon.

Student-designed fashion rocks UTM

Rock the Runway brings student designers from across the GTA



LESLEY HAMPTON/PHOTO

Else Holler models a look designed by Lesley Hampton at Rock the Runway.

COLLEEN MUNRO
A&E EDITOR
WITH NOTES FROM
LESLEY HAMPTON

Earlier this month, UTM got a fashionable makeover when it played host to Rock the Runway, a week-long fashion competition that culminated in a runway show in the MiST Theatre.

Hosted by UTChinese, the competition was open to university students from across the GTA and ended up welcoming contestants from UTM, St. George, York, Ryerson, and George Brown.

Rock the Runway featured multiple rounds of competition. The designers

were first divided into teams and given five days to complete a piece based on the themes of fire, earth, and water. Then they had four days to individually design a look inspired by the movie *Frozen*.

The contestants' hard work was celebrated in a final runway show on March 14, which featured UTM students modelling the designers' looks. The fashion show was also an opportunity for the judges to declare the winners of Rock the Runway. The judges were **Adrian Wu**, a designer who made his debut at the age of 18 at Vancouver Fashion Week and whose work has also shown at Toronto Fashion Week; **Cara Cheung**, a womens-

wear designer whose work has been featured at Toronto Fashion Week; and **Robert Ott** and **Paulette Kelley**, two faculty at Ryerson's School of Fashion.

The judges' choice prize went to **Lesley Hampton**, a second-year UTM art and art history specialist. Wu said of Hampton's work, "The craftsmanship is what stands out to me. It's not just the look, it's actually something I would see at Toronto Fashion Week." Hampton was also awarded the audience choice award and took home a Microsoft Surface tablet and \$800.

For more information on UTChinese UTM and to see Rock the Runway photos, students can visit them at facebook.com/utchineseutm.

REJECTED REDISCOVERED

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

OLGA TKACHENKO
COPY EDITOR

Sick Puppies

Tri-Polar

I chose **Sick Puppies'** 2009 album, *Tri-Polar*, expecting to hear some industrial-ish something or other. Boy, was I unpleasantly surprised when I realized that having a name similar to **Skinny Puppy** doesn't mean the music follows suit.

I should've guessed that by looking at the album cover, which looks like a car logo: three shiny interconnected rings on a bland textured background.

The best way to describe the Australian trio's sound is **Three Days Grace** if they borrowed **Linkin Park's Chester Bennington** (especially evident on the second track, "I Hate You"). In fact, every song sounds a lot like early 2000s mainstream rock—at least until the fifth song, which is considerably less angsty and includes some sweet if boring lines: "Hey, it's gonna be

okay / Hey, we're gonna laugh at this one day."

The angst returns until track nine, at which point the album slows down with "Maybe", which you've surely heard at some point in 2009 ("Maybe it's time to change," croons lead vocalist and guitarist **Shim Moore**). Amazing lyricists these guys are not.

And then there's the somewhat saccharine and slow "White Balloons", which includes vocals by bassist **Emma Anzai**, and which would be my favourite song on the album if I were forced to pick one. Considering that the band has a female, it's surprising that they don't make more use of her vocals. Her voice might be too soft for most of their songs.

Tri-Polar is too obviously reminiscent of popular music of a decade ago for my taste, but it's not terrible. Maybe I'm just not angsty enough (or too angsty?) to enjoy it. I listened to it twice; can I have 100 minutes of my life back?

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

MEDIUM FEATURES

Editor | Maria Cruz

Alumnus director returns to UTM

Richie Mehta speaks about his world stage and how he went from “backpack to backpack”

LUKE SAWCZAK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Filmmaker Richie Mehta, whose second and third feature films will be in theatres in June, took an afternoon last Thursday to visit UTM—his alma mater back in '01—to talk about how he went from a Sheridan film student and a “schmoe” from Brampton to an award-winning director whose movies have budgets in the millions.

I can't do this event justice without some background. My introduction to Richie Mehta's work was through the Hindi-language film *Amal*, which was screened at TIFF in 2007 and was nominated for Best Motion Picture and Best Director at the 29th Genie Awards, among many other American and international awards. It was also my favourite movie for a couple of years. It's a moving story: *Amal*, a poor autorickshaw driver in New Delhi, displays genuine goodness—and not an exaggerated goodness, but the real-life, unglamorous goodness we so admire in a few friends—has an elderly, world-weary millionaire for a fare. The next few days are hell, filled with serious financial and emotional troubles. Meanwhile, little does *Amal* know that the millionaire has left him his entire fortune, but the man's jealous relatives are scheming to seize it. But *Amal* is longsuffering, quite admirably. He patiently undergoes the hard life that, in reality, so many of the un-



JASMEEN VIRK/THE MEDIUM

Richie Mehta hosting “Backback to Briefcase: Discover Your World Stage” in the MiST Theatre.

derprivileged constantly put up with. It was because of this movie, written with a script so unlike the one Hollywood would have given it, that I was eager to hear Mehta talk.

Two or three dozen of us gathered in the MiST and had the typical pizza offering. Then Mehta stepped up and took the mic. He's not terribly charismatic, but he had our attention. The event was called “Backpack to Briefcase: Discover Your World Stage”, but Mehta quipped that he's actually gone from “backpack to backpack”. A lot of his life these days, he said, is travelling

all over the world for festivals, pitches, business meetings, and, when he gets a chance, the shooting itself.

He showed us a three-and-a-half minute movie he made in 2002 at Sheridan after graduating from art and art history at UTM (where he was actually editor-in-chief of the *Medium*... fancy that). An Indian boy spies an Indian girl at a cafeteria and imagines asking her out and fast-forwarding to an elaborate traditional wedding, but never works up the courage. More interesting than this first attempt at a movie was Mehta's explanation of

how it came to be. He pitched a 25-page script to his professor/producer. He was told to cut, cut, cut. “Your essential idea isn't original,” he was told. “You can make the film well, and you should for this project, but you don't need 25 minutes to say that this guy lives in his mind. You'll bore the audience to death.” Or words to that effect. In retrospect, Mehta agrees. The final script was one page, plus visual effects.

When he was shooting that film, he said, there was a moment when his cellphone was on—that was a new thing back then—and he turned it

off, because he recognized that “this is where I want to be; I don't need to be talking to anyone else than who I'm with right now.” If he could find a way to keep doing this for the rest of his life, he said, “I'd have won at life.”

After he graduated, he didn't have a great idea of how to proceed. He made a lot of shorts, particularly for companies (and even universities) who wanted him to promote this or that, or to cover this or that event—just take video, edit it in a day, and send it over. There were also a few grants—Canada, he pointed out, has the highest arts funding per capita in the world. All of this paid bills, but he started to realize that you don't work up to being a director by taking smaller jobs. Unlike other film industry positions where you're an apprentice to a master, directors just come out of nowhere with the skill and a good idea and people will come around them to help them make it. So he decided to go for it.

That was when his brother Shaun (a high school teacher) showed him the short story he'd written that was the basis of *Amal*. Blown away, Richie got together a group of friends in the industry and convinced them to come to India and make a short film version of it in 10 days. He'd cover everything but the plane ticket with a fundraiser that they organized. So they did it.

Mehta continued on page 8

Putting safety back into social media

Firstinteraction.com provides background checks on all members who want to join the site

MARIA CRUZ
FEATURES EDITOR

While she was in school completing her college degree, entrepreneur Cynthia Tercier had barely any time to connect with her friends. “There were some times I just wanted to go out,” she says. “There was just never anything to do and even if there was, there was no one to go with because all of my friends were in school or busy.” She and some of her friends had tried to meet people online, but things went sour when the men they met weren't as they had portrayed themselves.

Tercier decided to create a paid website that allowed for background checks on those who used it. Introduced last year, firstinteraction.com allows members to seek out others with similar interests in just about anything, with the peace of mind that those they meet have gone through a background check.

This feature was important to Ter-



JASMEEN VIRK/PHOTO

Cynthia Tercier wants to send a positive message about safety to members.

cier. “That's what makes me wary about going on dating websites, because you never know who you're meeting with,” she says. “And then you finally meet them and you think they're cool and then later on you find out they've been in jail for something.”

She said that this filter would “help minimize the exposure you're putting yourself into,” because in regards to a crime, you can't “determine that it's not going to happen again”.

Tercier had also been shown a similar website, meetup.com, but she noticed that most of their events

were planned in advance for members rather than the members planning them themselves. “You can still make your own thing, but a lot of them were organized events,” she says. “It was more like, ‘There are activities going on and you can go meet up with them there or in a group,’ and

I kind of wanted to think more one-on-one or maybe two or three people.

“Then I thought, ‘[...] What will separate me from others?’ And that's when I introduced the safety network behind it,” Tercier continues. “There's no website out there that promotes safety. I'm not guaranteeing safety, but I'm promoting minimizing the amount of exposure that people are putting themselves into, because you're more likely to meet up with someone [who's] not a registered sex offender or doesn't have any criminal background.”

The background check is done by a company called People Smart. In Tercier's understanding, they're still working on the safety aspect of the site, but she claims that the checks are as accurate as those you would find in a courthouse: you request a first and last name and date of birth and find out if there's anything on them.

Media continued on page 8

Mehta's return to campus

Mehta continued from page 7

Can I just say... what an experience? Does it take that kind of spontaneity and faith in what you're doing to start a career in the arts? Well, that, said Mehta, and hard work and luck. (And he quoted Jefferson: "I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.")

The short film was popular. It connected with people. And it wasn't long after that that he realized it was time to make a feature film. He would expand *Amal's* short version. He entered a movie-pitching competition at TIFF, where most of the industry heads in Canada were gathered—a room of a few hundred people, all waiting for you to convince them to put a huge amount of money into your movie. He realized that if he failed here, it would take him a long time to crawl back to credibility. And he saw the amazing things other people were doing and realized he couldn't worry about the competition. He just had to worry about doing the best he could do. However it happened, he won. The \$10,000 prize was supposed to start him off.

The next step was to approach a producer and use this as the catalyst for getting money in the real amounts you need to make a film. He shot for \$1,000,000, and he knew he wanted three of India's biggest stars in the movie. He needed them not only to make it good, but because attaching their names to the project would make it more credible. In order to make his whole thing work, he figured, "I had to make this film as if it was my last." Because if it broke down or turned out terribly, nobody would stake that much on him again. At least not without years of working to build himself back up.

One of the stars was Naseeruddin Shah. Mehta when he went to India hoping to run into him and get him

to sign on: "It was like if you went to New York and hoped to get Al Pacino." He got to India and was staying with an older relative for a while, putting together lists of people he knew who might know someone in the industry who might know someone. Then, he happened to overhear an itinerary of the day's meetings being given to his relative, who was trying to start a film school. "And showing up later in the day will be so-and-so, that other guy, Naseeruddin Shah, what's-his-face, and..."

He realized that if he stood outside the building, his star would come by in a few minutes. So he did, and sure enough, a limo pulled up and there was Shah. He had about 20 seconds to pitch the role to Shah while they walked up the stairs to the meeting. Luck struck again: Shah loved the idea and wanted to hear more in his office the next day.

Once Shah had signed, finding and signing the other two actors was a breeze, said Mehta. And securing the money became easier. There was one condition: he had to presell the movie before he'd be given a cent. The producer explained to him that in the real movie industry, you go to distributors and you get them to agree to show your movie here, there, and everywhere as a way of ensuring that the film will get somewhere. Mehta approached every major distributor in Canada and pitched his movie to them, and they all said no. So that was it for his dream.

It had been a year since that pitching competition at TIFF, and just out of curiosity, Mehta decided to attend the one that year, just to see what people were pitching. (He volunteered at TIFF every year.)

After the event, he happened to see a friend at the back of the room with "a really cute girl". That girl turned out to work for the one major distributor he hadn't approached. Her boss was

there, too. Mehta spoke to him and they agreed to take the movie. He had his money for *Amal*.

In the MiST Theatre, Mehta didn't go into much detail about the shooting process itself. He was here to tell us, again, how he'd gone from school to a career. And the rest reads like an inevitable history. Of course the film did well. Of course he planned to do another. He's also into sci-fi, and wanted to make one of those. Of course he set his sights higher the next time: he wanted \$2,000,000 for his next budget. And he'd have to work twice as hard to get it.

He has two feature films ready to be distributed now: a sci-fi one called *I'll Follow You Down* and another Hindi one called *Siddharth*. (The *Toronto Star* interviewed him when *Siddharth* showed at TIFF this year—Google the article if you're curious.)

His hard work has paid off. But all of it, he said, comes at a cost. He knows that making movies is what he wants to do. It's the reason he gets up in the morning. His name wouldn't even have to be attached to his films for him to keep doing this—he'd just want to see that people saw the line of thinking, got his films, connected. And so far they have. The flipside is that he has no spare time. He's always on the move, always convincing someone to put faith in him and take risks.

Lots to think about, lots of lessons to be learned. Particularly for the surprisingly many UTM students who either plan for or secretly wish for a career in the arts. Will it take hard work? Yes. Will you have to put everything else aside? Yes. Is luck involved? Yes. We should probably be prepared to accept all of those if we want our own "world stage".

In any case, all I can wish for is that UTM holds more events like this one. A peek into a future that, as Mehta argues, any of us could have.

Food for freethought



EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/PHOTO

This person is presumably sceptical of something.

FARAH KHAN

A club quite unlike any other, the Mississauga Freethought Association is dedicated to promoting attitudes of science, secularism, and free inquiry at UTM, and many find its mandate a breath of fresh air.

According to their website, "free-thinking", traditionally associated with scepticism and irreligion, means approaching a problem "through the use of logical principles, scientific inquiry, and the accumulation of facts assessed by these means".

Since its founding in 2005, the MFA has provided a comfortable environment in which to discuss issues from this perspective. "The club came about to promote humanistic modes of thought," says Erik Hernandez-Oberding, the president of MFA. "We wanted to promote a non-religious, philosophical environment. [...]"

"It allows us to bring up topics students wouldn't be otherwise informed about in a well-researched manner. [...]" It broadens everyone's horizons.

The club has a fairly high enrol-

ment for UTM: 540 members. Some topics attract more people than others—like their screening of *The Union*, a documentary about the legalization of marijuana. "It provided a historical context on how illegalization affected the drug trafficking trade, and that was very popular," says Hernandez-Oberding.

"We had an event about 'green-washing', which is when advertising companies claim their product is environmentally friendly—because people respond to that—for gain," adds Hernandez-Oberding. "And all the events have free kosher, halal, and vegan food. We know that not all students can afford to pay for an event and food."

The club has also invited guest lecturers to discuss issues of interest with students and collaborated with UTM's Ministry of Equity. Most MFA events are open to both members and the general public.

To learn more, students can visit the MFA's website (freethoughtcanada.ca) or find the Mississauga Freethought Association on Facebook.

Website is "turning the world around"

Media continued from page 7

"We don't actually get the result as to what's on your background [...]" says Tercier. "If it has anything more than a DUI, it comes back and says that there's something not clear on this person's background."

The website was not meant solely for students, Tercier says. "I want it targeted for mainly families because I want the website to be very family-oriented," she says. "I wanted to do it in a community sense, so for students. And I want it to be for the hardworking person who wants to go out when they're busy at work and now they want to go and have a good time or enjoy a day out doing what they enjoy. I want everyone to be able to participate in it."

Tercier says she still wants members to be careful and to meet new members in public, but she also stresses the fact that her website is an elite club for the prudent.

"I'm also sending out a message to the young generations that are

coming up so that they know they need to be careful and watch what they do," she says. "Because eventually, the world is going to where, if you don't have a clear background, you're not going to be part of certain things. You're going to miss out in life and on certain things that are happening."

"Nowadays, children are growing up and doing things and not even thinking about their actions," she continues. "I want them to start thinking about what their actions are and the consequences that can arise later on in life. I'm passionate about this website because it's turning the world around into a new generation."

The site was just launched last month. "Currently, there are 134 people," says Tercier. "Nobody's really using the functions, because it's been my friends who send it to their friends." Right now, she wants to bring the site to schools so that students can create their own networks and events.

UTM outsmarts Ryerson, Brock

Newly founded chess club wins their first external tournament



UTM CHESS CLUB/PHOTO

Members Ivan Manasuev, Alex Yeara, Artem Galoyan, Alex Vilch, Seiji Nakagawa, and Gaël Jacquin.

The UTM Chess Club, founded earlier this year by Ivan Manasuev, won a tournament against Ryerson's and Brock's teams this month.

Each university sent four of their strongest players to the Ryerson campus on March 16, these groups forming teams A. Each of these practised against team B, consisting of four players from all three universities.

The tournament consisted of three games in which each player was giv-

en 30 minutes. Each team faced each other team once; UTM won the most games every round and also the most in total.

This was the first tournament of its kind, initiated by the UTM Chess Club and organized jointly by the chess clubs of all three universities.

The Ryerson and Brock teams are considered among the strongest in the GTA; this year, the Ryerson team won the U1800 CUCC, the largest

university-based chess tournament in Canada, and the Brock team includes Christopher Pace, a master-level player whose rating is around 2200 in the Chess Federation of Canada system.

Medals provided by Ryerson were awarded to the winning team.

UTM's winning team consisted of Alex Yeara, Artem Galoyan, Alex Vilch, and Seiji Nakagawa, and Gaël Jacquin played on team B.

Getting the party started on campus

Three students are venturing out to bring the party to the students through pub nights

MADELEINE BROWN
ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Three men are on a mission to get the party started at UTM: Ali Huseynov, a third-year environmental management student, Andrei Gourianov, a recent economics grad, and Joshua Ivezic, a fourth-year economics and human resources student.

"There's no party scene at UTM at all. Our pub nights [happen] every once in a while and the closest bar is Abbey Road—and the people that go there are older," Ivezic explains.

"There's Homestead, but it's not to a lot of people's liking," adds Gourianov.

But with the opening of the new Erin Mills Pump and Patio in the Sherwood Forest Plaza (only a 10-minute walk from residence and across the road from Homestead), Ivezic says they saw the opportunity to "establish a place where people could go and party, relax, have a drink, see their friends, and hang out".

The three first approached the Blind Duck with their idea, but the pub's early closing time and high rental fees for those not belonging to a UTMSU-recognized club made collaboration unfeasible.

The trio initially had no connection with the Pump or its staff. "[We] walked in, spoke to the managers, and wooed them," says Gourianov.

They held a trial run on March 13,



ALESSANDRA CIRELLI/PHOTO

The Blind Duck, UTM's only pub, is not open late on Fridays or on weekends.

after less than a week of preparation. At one point, the pub was almost filled to capacity with 160 people, just shy of the Pump's limit of 170. In addition to the Pump's regular drinks menu, \$4.75 Jäger shots and \$4.50 bottles of Canadian and Coors were offered. A dance floor was set up on the main level, with Ivezic as DJ; he played country, EDM, dance classics, and sing-alongs before finishing the night with some hip-hop.

Those who didn't want to dance could enjoy a more traditional pub setting around the Pump's bar. The restaurant's upper level served as a

lounge, where the music was still audible but quiet enough to allow for conversation. "There are all the different environments. If people want to talk, they can talk; if they want to dance, they can go dance," says Ivezic.

The event kicked off around 11 p.m. and was packed until 1 a.m.

"By the end of the night it wasn't all students. There were a lot of [regulars] enjoying the atmosphere. There was a lot of energy there," Ivezic says.

"I actually saw quite a few people [who] weren't students on the dance floor. Everyone was just having a good time," Huseynov adds.

The managers responded enthusiastically to the event's success. "It's an awesome thing for the community," said Cornelia Audrey, a fourth-year theatre and drama studies specialist, political science minor, and a waitress at the Pump. "It was nice to have somewhere where you knew everyone. It's like nothing UTM's ever had."

Gourianov explains that they intend to keep the events more pub-like than club-like. They aim to emulate the atmospheres at the Madison Avenue Pub by St. George and downtown Mississauga's Failte Irish Pub—but with cheaper drinks, a more accessible

location, and a younger crowd.

They're adamant about proper planning and promotion, working with Pump management to create a Facebook page to promote future College Nights, or "Networking Nights with a DJ", as Gourianov jokingly calls them. The first official College Night is set for this Thursday at 10 p.m., and the events will continue weekly into the summer. Student cards aren't required—guests from outside the university are welcome.

"We're doing this for fun. It's a hobby. It's a public service," says Gourianov.

"Our goal is to try to transform the community," adds Ivezic. "We knew that there were a lot of people that wanted this. We want to try to organize something with places all around the area. We want to create an environment where you don't have to go with people. There's always going to be a friendly face." In the future, they're hoping to feature an up-and-coming DJ at each event.

According to Gourianov, they plan to start things off slowly with the arrangement at the Pump.

"I met all the people that I knew [at university] by going out and doing stuff outside of school," he says. "I had a lot of fun when I was at UTM, but I know a lot of people who just didn't know about the same opportunities. But if it's readily available, why not?"

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STUDENT HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE



MEDIUMSPORTS

Editor | Jason Coelho

Breaking down the gender barriers

Team Canada's goaltender Shannon Szabados makes women in men's sports a reality

KYLE KUCZYNSKI

A memorable moment from the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi was the Canadian women's hockey team overcoming a two-goal deficit against Team USA with three and a half minutes left in the third period and winning the gold medal in overtime. Such exciting games are common between these two rivals. Prior to the Olympics, Canada played the Americans in a series of exhibition games and each game was a thriller, with line brawls ensuing in two of them. Sadly, the Olympics are the only time women's hockey gets much attention from the media and hockey fans in general.

The skill, dedication, and hard work of our women's hockey team go largely unappreciated in Canada. When Prime Minister Stephen Harper sat down with TSN Radio's Mike Richards on March 7, he expressed this sentiment perfectly. While players on our men's hockey team are



Szabados made 27 saves in her debut with the Columbus Cottonmouths on March 15.

“making millions of dollars, these girls are still not paid very much,” he said. “They’re going to the rink every day just for the love of it. It’s a struggle

for the women, unlike our male professional players.”

Actually, Mr. Harper is wrong about the money; women hockey

players don't get paid to play hockey at all. In fact, in most sports besides hockey, football, baseball, basketball, soccer, and lacrosse, it's rare for

North American athletes to be paid. The only professional women's league is the five-team Canadian Women's Hockey League, where turning profits high enough to pay a player's salary is out of the question. CWHL teams are forced to fundraise, and the money generated comprises almost 20% of all league funding. Season tickets for the CWHL are only \$75, the cost of nosebleed seats at a Leafs game. The fact that 14 players on our Olympic women's team play in the CWHL is shocking. These women play purely for the love of the game, and after the performances they put on for us at the Olympics, it's safe to say that they deserve better than what the CWHL offers.

Can these women play in a professional league while earning a reasonable salary? It appears that they can—if they sign with men's teams.

Gender continued on page 11

East/West face off UTM white-hot in semis

PHILIP POWER

Tensions were expected to be high during the semifinal match between the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses—the famed “East versus West” meeting—on Monday, March 17. UTSC had claimed victory over UTM in their previous two playoff matches, so it was no surprise that this game had players on both sides hyped up.

An explosive start after the puck dropped showed the eagerness of both teams to get an early lead. UTM's players even ran into UTSC's goalie while trying to get a pass that crossed in front of the net, which in turn caused some harsh words between UTM and UTSC players, though no penalties were given out.

UTSC tried to get back at the Eagles for bumping their goalie, but UTM's netminder Ben Gryschuck made a simple glove save and put an end to their rush. At the other end, UTM player Mike Florinda scored a goal on Scarborough's weak goalie, but it was quickly waved off due to the net being off its moorings.

Despite the first period being a back-and-forth battle, Scarborough got the lucky bounce to take a 1-0 lead with less than two minutes left to play.

The Eagles didn't stop moving and mounted a series of attacks on Scarborough. UTM forward Zach Berg almost snuck a puck through the legs of the UTSC goalie, but unfortunately couldn't get the equalizer. UTM's

captain and all-star, Kyle Kuczynski, was also given a great scoring chance, but again Scarborough stopped the attack. The Eagles remained down a goal at the end of the second period.

Right after the third period began, Kuczynski rifled home a shot to tie the game at 1-1, with lots of time remaining. The Eagles then showed their passing prowess by expertly circulating the puck between all three forwards before putting it in the back of the net to make the score 2-1 in UTM's favour.

UTSC was able to secure themselves a 5-on-3 power play after some disputed calls by the referee. After the ice tilted in their favour, Scarborough took an unfortunate penalty, reducing their advantage and making it easier for UTM's penalty killers.

Even with their goalie pulled, UTSC wasn't able to get a tying goal, while the Eagles sailed a puck into the empty net to get an insurance goal and secured themselves a 3-1 win over Scarborough.

UTM forward Rory Bourgeois was happy to finally win against his long-time rivals. “Me and Scarborough have a personal relationship. We've hated each other for years. We've had an intimate rivalry,” he said. “[After] three years of this, it feels good to knock them out of the playoff, just knock all of their teeth out in the playoffs.”

UTM plays in the tri-campus men's finals against St. George on Monday, March 24.

UTM White rides 12-game winning streak into Division 1 finals



MUBASHIR BAWEJA/THE MEDIUM

UTM White will play in the championship final at the RAWC on Wednesday, March 26 at 8 p.m.

FERGUS TALBOT
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

UTM's strongest squad had both an advantage and a disadvantage going into the semifinals: they were playing at home in front of an immense and roaring crowd, but they were facing Woodsworth, one of the top teams in Division 1.

The first half saw domination by White in one of their best games this season. Their offence was pouring shots both from within the paint and behind the three-point line. UTM White bagged three three-point shots, while Woodsworth managed none and even produced an air ball at one point. Woodsworth's attack was

poorly coordinated, their defence was sloppy, and their on-court communication consisted of pointless shouting. UTM remain composed.

UTM White's Justin Nguyen dribbled past his marker before setting up teammate Miguel Bediones, who nabbed yet another three-pointer.

The first-place team showed the home crowd why they're in the finals with a 30-15 lead at halftime.

UTM and Woodsworth entered the second half almost the same way as the first. Woodsworth were getting increasingly frustrated, and their coach called for a full timeout to change his strategy. Kim Dae Kun, Woodsworth's strongest player, was substituted into the game and

suddenly, the White were the ones playing less in sync. Woodsworth focused more on one-to-one defence, which greatly limited UTM's dominant passing scheme and led to more turnovers.

The Woodsworth team, entered the last 10 minutes set on winning the game. UTM's coach Juan Nunez watched a nightmare play out from the sidelines as his team's 15-point lead turned into a Woodsworth lead with only three minutes left. The UTM fans likely couldn't bear it, but kept cheering their team on in the dying moments of the first half.

White continued on page 11

Szabados blazes trail for women

Gender continued from page 10

Following her stellar performance in the Olympics, Canadian goalie Shannon Szabados was given the opportunity to practise with the NHL's Edmonton Oilers and shortly thereafter was offered a contract with the Columbus Cottonmouths of the Southern Professional Hockey League.

This is not Szabados' first stint playing with men—she actually spent most of her career playing in men's leagues, such as the Alberta Junior Hockey League and the NAIT Oaks men's college hockey team, on which she played starting goalie. With the NAIT Oaks, she set a league record for the lowest goals against average, leading her team to their first championship in 16 years. In the AJHL, she won the award for the league's top goaltender in the 2006/07 season.

"I think [signing with men] would be a great way to overcome sexist stereotypes," said Jessica de Medeiros, a student at U of T's Ontario Insti-

tute for Studies in Education. "Girls should at least have the chance to prove themselves."

De Medeiros is hopeful that women competing in leagues with men will "get us closer to the day when 'you play like a girl' is no longer an insult".

"I think [signing with men] would be a great way to overcome sexist stereotypes. Girls should at least have the chance to prove themselves."
—Jessica de Medeiros

Michael Keaveney, the assistant coach of UTM's men's tri-campus hockey team, thinks along the same lines.

He says, "If you're good enough you should play, no matter who you are." After all, if a player is skilled enough to compete in a men's pro-

fessional league and be paid for her talents, then there's no reason she should be stuck in an impecunious league like the CWHL. Although the average salary in the SPHL is only about \$600–1,000 a week, depending on skill level, the fact that Szabados is a woman playing professional men's hockey is a big step forward.

Katey Teekasingh, the goaltender for the Varsity Blues women's hockey team, thinks this is a huge stepping stone for women in men's sports. "I think it's important to permeate this border [between] men's and women's sports, because it's important that everyone, especially young girls with huge dreams, know that there's a chance for them to be just as good as anyone—even a man—at a sport," she said. "I think this has set the bar higher and will only push women and young girls to go farther and not feel constrained [by] their gender."

Szabados made 27 saves in her debut game against the Knoxville Icebears on March 15, in which her team lost 4-3.

White take victory versus Woodsworth

White continued from page 10

Finally, UTM's Andrew Williams converted on the free throw attempts in the last three seconds of regulation time to make the score 49-49. The teams had to decide who moves on to the finals in overtime. UTM White regrouped on defence, blocking their opponent from collecting any points. Nguyen drew a technical foul in overtime, which the team took as motivation. Williams took matters into his own hands in the overtime quarter and led UTM to victory, beating Woodsworth and giving the team the hope of winning a Division 1 title for the first time in five years.

"The guys were too relaxed in the second half, but I always believed in them," said Nunez. "I'm confident we can win the championship. The other semifinal [will be] between UTSC and Rotman Commerce, and we've beaten both of those teams this season."

His team went undefeated throughout its 2013/14 campaign, but he refuses to let his team get complacent. "The past is the past. We may have beaten both of them, but whoever will win will go into this final with renewed confidence," he said. "They know how we play and they will have just as much a shot at claiming the title as we now have. The main competitors, Woodsworth, are now out and there's everything to play for."

Man of the match: Andrew Williams (UTM White). The saviour for whom the White and their fans were waiting sprung up in the dying minutes of normal time. Williams kept his cool and slotted home his two vital free throws, which sent his teammates into overtime and allowed them to edge the opposition in the end. He also scored 16 points in the final tally. His courage and optimism truly made him the man of the night. Expect him to feature in the final.



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