

RESEARCH Migration narratives / CAMPUS Second World War-era comics / Q&A Travelling with kids /
INNOVATION World's first two-week tattoo / ALUMNI Globetrotting grads / ATHLETICS Introducing TMU Bold

Toronto Met University magazine

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Professor
Kris Alexander
talks video game
technology



GAME CHANGERS

TRANSFORMING HOW

WE TEACH, LEARN,

WORK AND PLAY

IN

THE VIRTUAL WORLD



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PHOTOGRAPH BY KATIE DOCKERAY

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PATERSON HODGSON

Illustrator
“Globetrotting grads,” p. 30
A queer artist and comic maker living in Toronto, Paterson Hodgson is influenced by travel, feminism, socialism, Toronto’s arts and queer communities, and body and sex positivity. Recent work honestly and humorously portrays living and renting in the city, and organizing with her neighbours.



DAVID SILVERBERG

Journalism '02
Writer, “From movie usher to a TIFF premiere,” p. 32
David Silverberg is a freelance journalist, editor and writing coach whose work has appeared in The Washington Post, BBC News, The Toronto Star, The Globe & Mail and more. His second solo theatre show will debut in early 2023.



KATE DOCKERAY

Photographer
“Game changers,” p. 14
Kate is an award-winning editorial and commercial portrait photographer and director based in Toronto/New York City. She flouts the rules of photography to create interesting and unusual imagery. Her work has been featured in Rolling Stone, BUST, Billboard, Nylon, and Variety magazine.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For many of us video games have offered fun, competition and connection with others. Read the cover story to find out how the adoption of this technology has led to a transformation of learning and teaching. Now our students know how to use leading-edge virtual technology in all kinds of fields, and they are providing expertise in coding, design and project management in the growing world of esports.

—Colleen Mellor
Journalism '86

Correction: The incorrect grad year for Marilyn Mottola Madigan, Fashion '78, was published in the summer edition of Class Notes.

DID YOU KNOW... [Read the magazine at magazine.torontomu.ca](https://magazine.torontomu.ca)

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY (HODGSON) PATERSON HODGSON; (SILVERBERG) CESAR G. HILIERI; (DOCKERAY) LIANNE SNOW

Staying nimble in a changing world

By **Mohamed Lachemi**

President and Vice-Chancellor

WHO WOULD HAVE thought even a few years ago that an organization as successful and popular as the National Basketball Association would find its youngest potential fans lured away by video games and esports, to the point where the long-term future of the league was in peril? Recognizing that trend, the league decided to meet its young fans where they are, setting up its own esports league and embracing platforms like Snapchat and TikTok. It has been a winning move.

The dramatic impact of digital tech, especially augmented and virtual reality, gaming and other 3D tools is being felt in sectors ranging from professional sports to universities. Our faculty and students in programs from English to Architectural Science and from Geographical Analysis to Sport Media are teaching, learning, working and playing with these digital tools that are entwined in the future of so many sectors.

That’s why the recent opening of our Red Bull Gaming Hub (featured in the story “Game Changers” on page 14) is such an exciting initiative. The Gaming Hub is linking to larger trends that are challenging the status quo in almost every segment of our society and bringing them into our classrooms.

RTA School of Media professor Kris Alexander, director of the Red Bull Gaming Hub, says visitors to the lab may see merely a room full of high tech equipment, but he sees “the future – and future jobs for our students.” There is already a great foundation: Canada is the third largest producer of games in the world, a \$5.5 billion industry for our country – with games-related jobs growing at a pace six times faster than the overall job market.

We can look to past examples to track how our university has evolved in keeping with the arc of social, technical, economic and

political change. In earlier years we pioneered education in fields including television broadcasting and midwifery. Now programs like data science and analytics, energy and innovation, and immigration and settlement studies shape new directions and point towards an optimistic future.

Which raises an important question: how does our university remain current? Advisory councils with industry and community leaders (often our alumni) bring real world experience to education planning,

while regular reviews of our curriculum ensure relevance. We recently established the position of chief strategy officer at TMU to help set the course for the university for the years to come.

Today we are exploring augmented and virtual reality to ensure our students can make the most of a changing world. Tomorrow will bring something new, equally exciting and challenging, and I, for one, cannot wait to see what our students will make of it. ●

“Today we are exploring AR and VR to ensure our students can make the most of a changing world.”

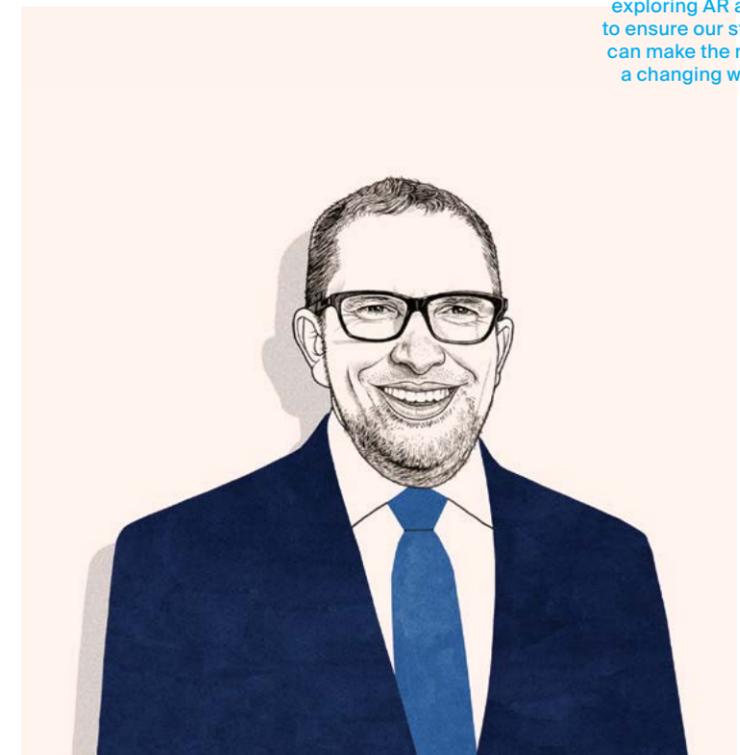


ILLUSTRATION BY ADAMI CRUFT

Spark a chain reaction

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And the next.

And the next.



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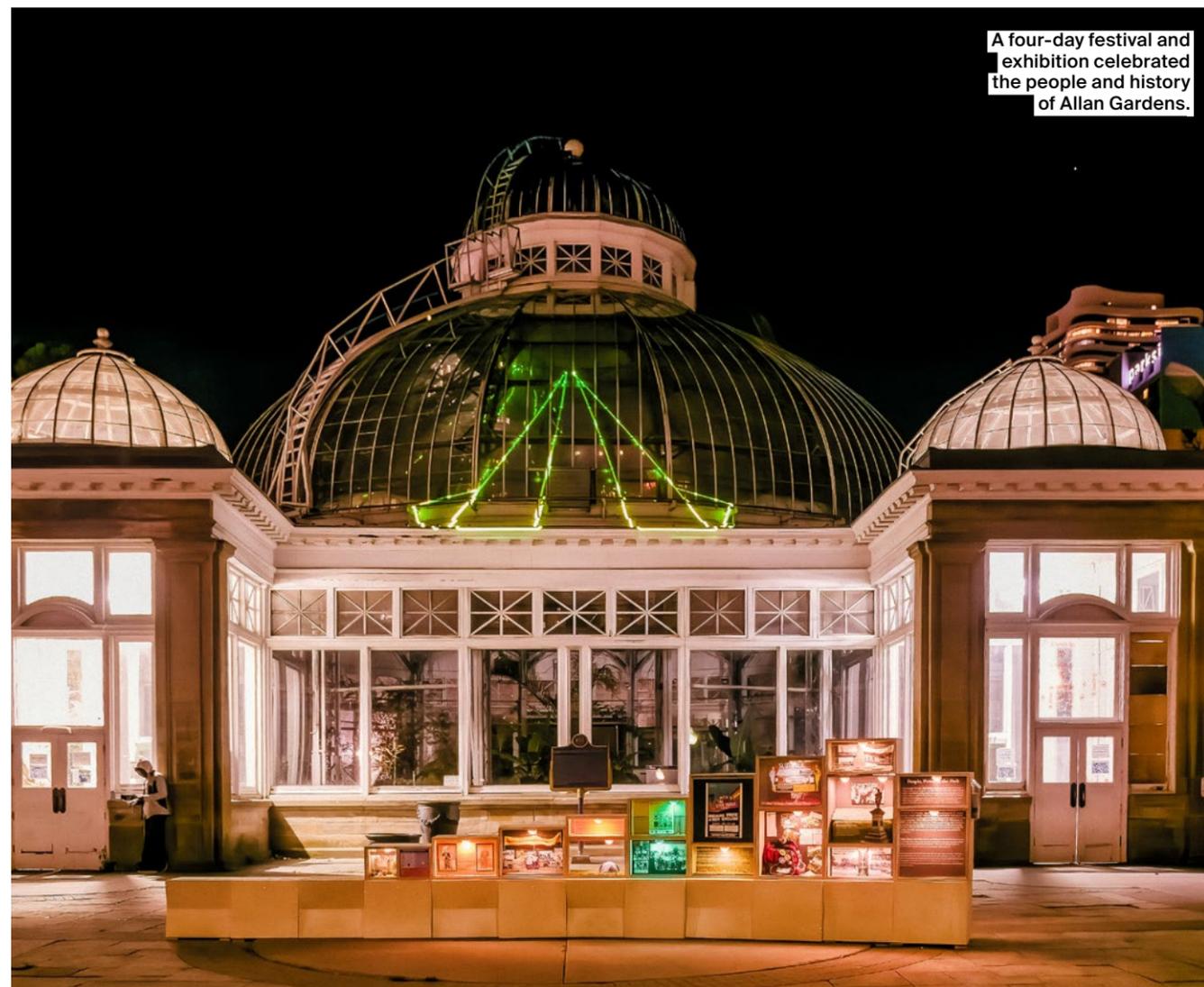
**Toronto
Metropolitan
University**



gould street

/ INTRODUCING TMU BOLD / CANCER DETECTION DISCOVERY / SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL / WAR-TIME COMICS /

A four-day festival and exhibition celebrated the people and history of Allan Gardens.



COMMUNITY

The heart of the city TMU joins with community to illuminate key moments in the history of Allan Gardens

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALYSSA K. FACRO

The People, Power and the Park exhibit and festival celebrated the rich history of Allan Gardens last fall. From gay rights activists to G20 protesters, people have gathered in the downtown park over the years to enjoy the greenspace and advocate for their causes.

“Allan Gardens is a brilliant microcosm of everything that’s best about Toronto, right at the heart of the city,” said →



The People, Power and the Park archival exhibit of curated boxes.

Rina Fraticelli, director of strategic initiatives at TMU's Office of Social Innovation. "We were struck by how much there was to know about this one large city block, how much life and community there has been, and about the range of groups that gathered here, decade after decade, to make their voices heard and to speak out for social justice."

Fraticelli's team worked with students and community organizations on the exhibits to illuminate key moments in Allan Gardens' history. Students in the Department of Architectural Science designed and built a large-scale archival exhibit with 30 curated boxes. The boxes offered snapshots into events such as the 1999 Allan Gardens Housing Protest and the 1965 Anti-Fascist Riot.

Banners featuring images of historical figures and activists were designed and created with the assistance of TMU School of Performance students Brenda Diep and Shaan Tahir Mehdi under the leadership of Professor Caroline O'Brien. In the evening, a series of light projections designed by students, featuring reflections and perspectives on the park, were displayed on the Allan Gardens conservatory roof. Students created these projections in the TPH 350 Projection Design course with Professor Michael Bergmann. —*Jocelyn Courneya*



→ **PLACEMAKING**

Paisajes de Nosotros (Landscapes of Us), a large-scale public artwork installed on Kerr Hall West, is a collaboration between Indigenous artists Niap (Nancy Saunders) and Olinda Reshijabe Silvano.

NAME CHANGE

University act amended

Last fall, the Province of Ontario amended the Ryerson University Act, 1977, to change the name of the university to Toronto Metropolitan University. While the new name was registered immediately upon approval of the change by the university's Board of Governors on April 26, 2022, allowing the university to operate



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under it, the Government of Ontario needed to amend the Ryerson University Act before credentials could be issued under the new name. This amendment to the act passed in December 2022, allowing the university to start using the new name on all legal documents issued by Toronto Metropolitan University, including academic degrees, academic records and legal agreements. Renaming the university was recommended in a 2021 report by the Standing Strong Task Force.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY (TOP LEFT) ALYSSA K. ENORO, (TOP) STEF & ETHAN; (RIGHT) CLIFTON LI, (FAR RIGHT) KENJUNONES

ATHLETICS

Introducing TMU Bold

A new varsity athletics name and mascot were unveiled last summer—we are now TMU Bold, with a falcon for a mascot. The selection of a new team name and mascot was the result of one of the 22 recommendations put forward in a report by the Standing Strong Task Force in August 2021, which called for the university to reconsider the

mascot "Eggy," which had been the university mascot since 1961. Community consultation helped determine both the new name and mascot. The university began using the name TMU Bold last fall, while new uniforms will follow in the coming weeks,



LEADERSHIP

University appoints new chief strategy officer and vice-president, equity and community inclusion



GLENN CRANEY
Chief Strategy Officer

In this new role, Glenn Craney will be responsible for knitting together the university's strategic vision and five supporting plans into a single synthesized strategy across the institution. As chief strategy officer (CSO), Craney will oversee the university's budget strategy to better position TMU to respond to changing social and economic landscapes. Since joining the university in 2018, Craney has executed complex strategic plans to advance university priorities and has been a key member of the executive team. Craney's duties to date as deputy provost, international and university planning, will be encompassed within his new role as the University Planning Office becomes part of the new CSO office.



TANYA (TONI) DE MELLO
Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion

As vice-president, equity and community inclusion, Toni De Mello will provide strategic leadership and direction to support the university's goal to be a leader in equity, diversity and inclusion. An accomplished human rights lawyer and mediator, De Mello is a leading expert and trainer on equity and inclusion in Canada. She holds a dual master's degree in public policy and urban and regional planning from Princeton University; a master of education in counselling and psychotherapy from the University of Toronto, and two law degrees from McGill University's Faculty of Law. In 2020, she completed her PhD at the University of Toronto. Most recently, De Mello was assistant dean for student programming, development and equity at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at TMU.

and a physical mascot, with a nickname, character and costume, will follow in the coming months.

LAW

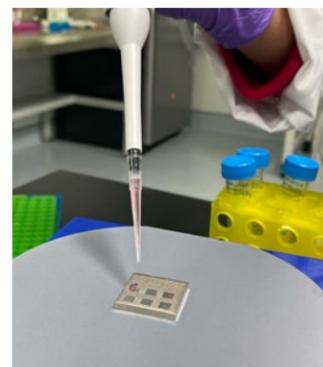
Raptors star supports law program

A donation from Toronto Raptors star Pascal Siakam and his non-profit organization, the PS43 Foundation, supported paid work experience for 12 TMU law students last summer. “Giving law students the opportunity to contribute to and learn from organizations that have the public interest at heart is exactly the kind of empowering experience that can transform their futures,” said Siakam at an event on campus last fall.

RESEARCH

A ground-breaking discovery in cancer screening

As little as five microlitres of blood could be used to detect tumour content in cancer patients with incredibly high accuracy, say TMU and Unity Health Toronto researchers.



← Researchers from TMU and St. Michael's Hospital used blood samples to detect brain tumour content.



↑ The 12 law students who benefited from a donation supporting paid work placements, pictured with Pascal Siakam.

TMU professors Bo Tan (Aerospace Engineering) and Krishnan Venkatakrishnan (Mechanical Engineering), along with postdoctoral fellows Rupa Haldavnekar and Swarna Ganesh have been working with Dr. Sunit Das, a neurosurgeon and scientist from St. Michael's Hospital, a site of Unity Health Toronto, using a highly sensitive nanosensor to test blood samples. The nanosensor, a small device that measures physical quantities and turns them into signals, can detect cancer biomarkers in blood. This practice is referred to as a liquid biopsy and can effectively detect cancer in patients before the more conventional practices of imagery (MRIs) or traditional tissue biopsies.

“The way we monitor cancer patients is to have an MRI every three months,” said Dr. Das. “No one has a system

that would allow us to do MRIs every week, but conceivably, we could do a blood test every week. This could be a surveillance tool that alerts oncologists about changes in their patient's cancer.”

The group has tested hundreds of blood samples for the past two years. Most recently they were able to use the nanosensor to detect brain cancer content in blood, which until now, was incredibly difficult to do due to the limited amount of blood in the brain. Tumours were detected with 100 per cent accuracy and tumour location was detected with 97 per cent accuracy, making the liquid biopsy a reliable source for deep surveillance of brain cancer — something that currently doesn't exist.

“Right now, most cancers are diagnosed at stages two, three, four,” said Tan. “If the blood test can detect tumour content, we can catch them at a very early stage, before the patient shows symptoms.”

They are currently testing blood samples for tumour content accuracy with common cancers like breast,

lung and colon. Das says that this could be more than a cancer diagnostic tool, too. The nanosensor has the potential to find brain injury or multiple sclerosis biomarkers in blood. —Jess Leach

GIVING

New scholarship for racialized design students

JennAir recently donated \$375,000 to create the JennAir Scholars Award at TMU's School of Interior Design. The award is a cornerstone of JennAir's Disrupting Design program, which aims to create access for racialized designers in the industry. Renewable each year of their program, the award is for Black, Indigenous and racialized Interior Design students who demonstrate financial need.

“Disrupting Design addresses the financial barriers experienced by racialized students head-on,” said Natalie Ramtahal, manager of administration and equity in the School of Interior Design. “The sponsorship component of the program provides a network of support as they embark on their educational journeys and post-education opportunities.”

The first recipients of the JennAir Scholars Award are Nader Al-Fahad, Jihyuk Kim, Quianna Woolner and Michelle Xu.

“I'm incredibly grateful,” says Xu. “Receiving the award has made me appreciative of The Creative School for recognizing the diversity of our student population, and providing myself and others with more opportunities for success in our field.”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (LEFT) ASHOK DHINAKARAN, (TOP) HARRY CHOI

Q&A Seasoned travel expert Rachel Dodds talks travelling responsibly with kids



PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK PALIN

Rachel Dodds, professor at the Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, has travelled to 84 countries, many with her daughter. In her book, *Are We There Yet? Travelling more responsibly with your children*, Dodds and co-author Richard Butler share tips, facts and stories to help families travel in socially and environmentally conscious ways.

WG What are the benefits of travel for kids?

RD Travel fosters independence in children. For example, young children can help with packing, while older children can do research and assist with plans,

such as how you're going to get from the airport to the hotel or what activities to do. Your kids love when they can boss you around and make decisions. Travelling with a child also opens up a whole new world for them and for their parents. For example, I've been in restaurants in Morocco where servers made googly eyes to entertain my daughter. Often when travelling, people will help with your luggage and strike up a conversation. Travelling with children makes you realize there is a wider community that understands and is willing to help you.



Fast Facts

#1 Travel Tip?

Pack carry-on bags.

Favourite destination?

Japan. The culture, the food, even the playgrounds are amazing.

Last trip?

My off-grid cabin in British Columbia.

Favourite part of travel?

Connecting with people despite language and culture differences.

WG Parents often feel overwhelmed, so the convenience of cruises and all-inclusive resorts is attractive. Why are these types of vacations problematic?

RD Very little revenue from cruises and all-inclusives goes to local economies. Companies also try to scare you by saying it's not safe to go on excursions that aren't part of the cruise or resort, fostering a feeling that you can't engage with the local community or explore beyond the ship or resort. Meanwhile, many establishments only pay workers a dollar a day. Organizations such as Friends of the Earth rate the environmental impact of various cruise lines and many get an 'F' for dumping illegally. You wouldn't want your kids swimming in fouled water. To be more responsible, search for cruises and all-inclusives that adopt socially responsible practices.

WG How can parents find a responsible hotel or travel company?

RD There are many different resources. For example, responsibletravel.com allows you to pick the destination and type of trip and they suggest responsible operators. You can also ask tour operators about their sustainability practices. Fairbnb gives half of their revenues to community initiatives, and Ecobnb books eco-friendly accommodation. The book outlines multiple ways to choose more responsible options.

WG What's your most memorable travel experience with your daughter?

RD In Mexico someone asked my four-year-old daughter if she wanted to swim with dolphins and her eyes lit up. As we walked, I asked her where dolphins lived. She said the ocean. I explained that even though dolphins live in the ocean, some have to live in pools so people can swim with them. I said, 'I wonder if the dolphins are happy.' When the man returned with the offer to swim with them, I was so proud when my daughter looked him in the eye and said, "That's bad. Dolphins belong in the ocean." When we got home, we made art and she sold the art and cookies to raise money for dolphin conservation. —Wendy Glauser

The full interview is available online at magazine.torontomu.ca.

GRAPHIC DETAILS

Second World War-era comics see new life

181 comic books published during the 1940s serve as a trove of research possibilities

EVERYONE KNOWS BATMAN, Superman and Spider-Man, but thanks to a generous anonymous donation, TMU students and researchers can get a glimpse of Canada's own comic book history and heroes.

In February 2015, TMU received a donation of 181 rare Canadian comic books from the Second World War, featuring such legends of Canadian pop culture as Nelvana of the Northern Lights and Canada Jack.

"It's the holy grail of Canadian comics," says TMU Professor Andrew O'Malley, who has used the collection for his own research, including his project "Comic Books, Children's Culture and the Crisis of Innocence, 1940-1954." Classes in the English department have also used the collection for curations.

Curtis Sassur, former archivist in TMU's Archives and Special Collections, said they were excited when the collection came to their attention "because it fit perfectly our collecting mandate - which is to find collections that support demonstrated areas of research interest."

O'Malley notes that "these works also offer a significant research resource for Canadianists, for those who work on popular culture, for historians of the Second World War era, and many others. The comics are an amazing snapshot of the early days of the medium and the popular culture of the moment. Through them, we get a whole different level of access into the times, including the racism, sexual stereotyping, war-time propagandizing and more."

During their original production era, the comics were produced as cheaply as possible, so they degrade quickly—which only adds to their scarcity. "To get quite a significant number of them together in one collection," says O'Malley, "is a real coup for the TMU Special Collections."

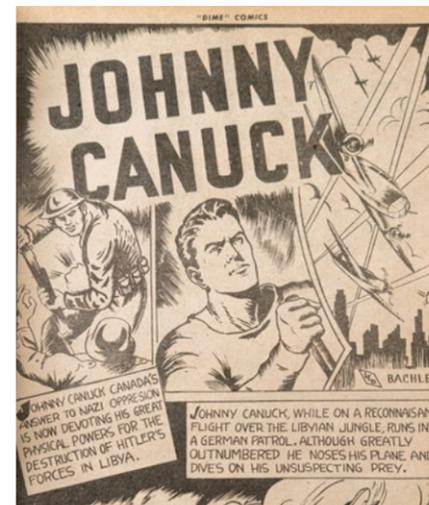
For the full list of TMU's Second World War comic books, visit the Library Catalogue. —Michelle Grady



Olivia Wong (above middle and below), Special Collections curatorial specialist, takes us through the comics.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN WALKER, DOCUMENTARY MEDIA 13



COLLECTION BY THE NUMBERS

Publication date range

1940-1946



181 publications



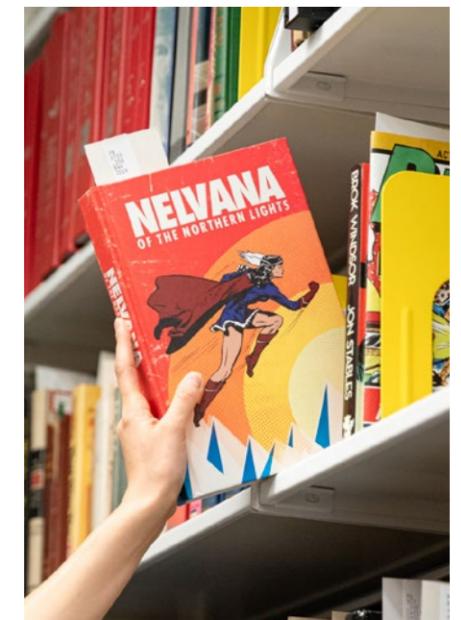
Donated in 2015

STAMP OF APPROVAL



Canada Post issues a stamp depicting Nelvana and Johnny Canuck on

October 5, 1995



Nelvana of the Northern Lights, who features prominently in the collection, was the first Canadian national superhero

Cue the drum roll

They are leaders in their fields. Fearless innovators. Impassioned public health proponents. Unwavering advocates of equity, diversity, and inclusion. And makers of a better, brighter world for us all.

Please join us in congratulating our 2022 Alumni Achievement Award recipients.

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**Toronto
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Awards of Distinction



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Business Technology
Management '19
Director, Vaccine
Hunters Canada



Christina Kramer
Business
Management '90
Senior Executive
Vice-President and
Group Head,
Technology,
Infrastructure and
Innovation, CIBC



Timothy Muttoo
Chemical
Engineering '96
Chief Technology &
Public Health Officer,
H2O 4 ALL



Sangita Patel
Electrical
Engineering '02
Host, ET Canada



**Hon. Justice
Gregory Regis**
Journalism '77
Former Regional
Senior Justice, Ontario
Court of Justice



**Amorell
Saunders N'Daw**
Journalism '88
Partner, KBRS



Andrew Young
Business Technology
Management '11
Founder and Director,
Vaccine Hunters
Canada

Isadore Sharp Outstanding Recent Graduate



Curtis Oland
Fashion Design '17
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GAME CHANGE

TRANSFORMING HOW
WE TEACH, LEARN,
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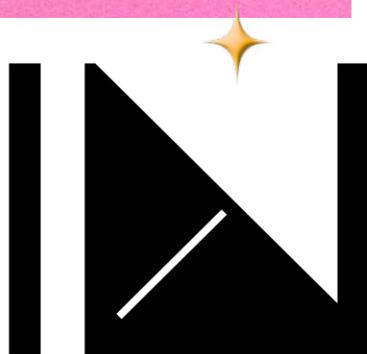
BY LINDSEY CRAIG

photographs by Kate Dockeray

RES



← Applying what she learned in a video game design class, Sofia Beltran built her Twitch audience to thousands.



September 2020, third-year Media Production student Sofia Beltran was given a unique assignment: to begin a channel on the streaming platform Twitch. The assignment came in her *Introduction to Video Game Design* class – which she'd only taken as an elective.

Professor Kris Alexander asked each student to begin live streaming three times a week for three hours, with a goal of building viewers along the way. They could broadcast themselves live playing video games (as most users do), chat with people or showcase a hobby or talent.

Beltran had never been on Twitch before. But within three months, she had 2,500 subscribers – so many that the channel was helping her pay her rent. “The goal every week was to get a couple more viewers, but I ended up getting super invested in it,” she said with a laugh. “I’d play a horror game on Friday – because they’re my favourite – and then a chill game on Wednesday. And then I would just have a chat stream with people, asking, like, ‘How’s your weekend?’” she said.

Beltran is quick to credit her overnight success to the strategies gleaned from Alexander’s class. For instance, his lectures gave her the idea to diversify her platforms by creating both short-form (30-second to one-minute TikToks) and long-form content (three- to six-hour Twitch streams). As a result, her TikTok account skyrocketed to 60,000 followers in five months. She was then able to convert much of that viewership to her Twitch account.

Today, having studied everything from user experience (UI/UX) design to digital marketing and esports, Beltran, 23 – who just graduated in spring 2022 – is an influencer manager at Behaviour Interactive, Canada’s largest independent gaming studio. For Alexander, Beltran’s quick leap from the classroom to a top gaming company isn’t surprising.

Alexander, an academic leader in video game technology and curriculum development, has long seen the power and potential of the video game industry and the technology itself, not only for students pursuing careers in gaming, but for teaching and learning across the university. In fact, my first call

1. Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) is a free, open source software used for recording and live streaming. It captures and records your screen and audio. Popular with Twitch streamers, this software can eliminate the need for an internal capture card that can be expensive. It facilitates live broadcasts to streaming services such as YouTube, Twitch, Twitter and Facebook Live.

2. Unreal Engine (UE) is a video game development tool from the video game and software development company Epic Games. Developers use it to create virtual worlds, build a simulation, edit videos or sound, and render animations.

3. Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) is a top provider of CPU technology for desktop computers, servers, GPU graphics technology, high-performance computing and artificial intelligence processors, field programmable gate array processors and network accelerators.

with Alexander in April 2020 demonstrated just that. Prepared for a typical Zoom call, when I clicked to join my meeting with him, it was anything but a typical call. When his video turned on, there Alexander appeared: brightly lit in centre screen, surrounded by flashy graphics, as though he was reporting live from a high-tech broadcast studio.

Like a TV anchor expertly kicking off the evening news, he welcomed me to his virtual classroom as captions popped up, a virtual lecture hall appeared and I was immediately transported into another world.

Of course, Alexander wasn’t in a broadcast studio. From his home computer, he was demonstrating the power of Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) (which is used for recording and live streaming), showing me how he was teaching his classes, and explaining that the future of teaching, learning,

work and play lies in video game technology. Many others have embraced his vision.

In September 2022, Alexander gathered with TMU President Mohamed Lachemi, City of Toronto Mayor John Tory and esports partners OverActive Media and Waveform Entertainment, among others, to launch the Red Bull Gaming Hub at The Creative School – a state-of-the-art, world-class learning facility – where Alexander is director.

The Gaming Hub supports virtual production and broadcasting using Open Broadcaster Software [1] and Unreal Engine [2] – the latest version of one of the most commonly used game development engines – and features 36 high-performance gaming computers equipped with top-of-the-line AMD technology [3], eight 4K-HD televisions mounted on the walls, a 5:1 surround sound speaker system and a classic games library.

FUTURE JOBS FOR STUDENTS

But as Alexander points out, the space is far more than impressive equipment. “The Red Bull Gaming Hub is pivotal because of the humans in there who can talk the tech, teach the tech and train using the tech. That’s a rarity in post-secondary institutions,” he said. “It’s industry leaders who are piloting this.” The Gaming Hub, in partnership with Red Bull Canada, focuses on innovation and new applications of video game design, virtual production and esports



← Professor Kris Alexander says jobs requiring interactive 3D skills are growing 601 per cent faster than the job market overall.

broadcasting, while building educational, curricular and extracurricular activities to equip students like Beltran to thrive in one of the fastest-growing industries in the world.

“People see computers. I see the future – and future jobs for our students,” Alexander said. “Jobs requiring interactive 3D skills are growing 601 per cent faster than the job market overall. And, these jobs are paying 57 per cent more than the average salary.”

And while the industry’s exploding, there’s also a major skills gap in information technology-related careers. Alexander says that’s where the Red Bull Gaming Hub, along with the various media production programs at the university, come in, equipping students for industry professions including production accountants, animators, 3D modellers, set VFX producers, quality assurance leads, community managers, producers, monetization designers, character artists, esports lawyers and more.

And as Beltran’s example shows, RTA grads are already landing jobs with major industry players, including Epic Games, FaZe Clan and Interactive Ontario among many others.

DIVERSIFYING THE INDUSTRY

Beltran says her current role – where she secures influencer partnerships for a multiplayer horror video game called *Dead by Daylight* – is a dream. Not only does she love the genre, but as a Filipino woman, Beltran wanted to work for a company that values equity, diversity and inclusion – both with regard to its staff, and in the games they create. “There’s still this idea that with the gaming industry, if you look at the top 10 Twitch

streamers, there’s only one woman of colour, but we know there are so many talented creators out there,” she said, adding that she recently hired the drag queen Plastique Tiara, who was a contestant on *Rupaul’s Drag Race*.

Having initially focused her studies on screenwriting for film and TV, Beltran is grateful she found her true calling – noting that at TMU she learned everything from video game psychology to project management and production. “I played video games growing up, but I’d never considered them professionally,” she said. “They have a much more convoluted narrative, and there

are more interactions built in, instead of a static experience, like with film, you’re passively consuming it.”

While students like Beltran are thriving in the gaming industry itself, students and professors in completely different fields are also using augmented reality (AR) [4] and virtual reality (VR) [5] to advance teaching, learning and research in revolutionary ways – shattering the stereotype that AR and VR

David Chandross encourages students to build games to fix the world.



“Using serious video game design, students at the academy are learning everything from how to do surgery in the field to mass casualty management.”

– DAVID CHANDROSS

is just for gamers. For instance, students in Architectural Science are using Mixed Reality (MR), which includes both AR and VR, to take their designs to a whole new level.

Professor Vincent Hui explains that usually, space and material limitations, along with cost and time constraints, have meant that projects couldn’t be realized in a truly realistic way, until now. Using VR lenses on smartphones (more accessible than VR headsets, Hui says, since students have their own mobile devices), along with access to Unreal Engine, students have been able to create completely immersive virtual models of their designs.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

“Now, students can jump inside the model they’ve created. They can walk through their design and say, ‘Do I need to add lights here? Should I put a door here instead?’” he said. “There is so much value in this immersive quality.” To further illustrate, he said one student who was designing a circus venue was able to use the technology to run and fly on the trapeze in the virtual model – and quickly realized that the ceiling was too low for the activity.

“Architectural studies can be debilitating for students who have all these great ideas, but have to wait until you can actually make it a reality. With this technology, so much more is possible,” Hui said.

English Professor Irene Gammel, executive director of the Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre, has also experienced how AR and VR technology can push the boundaries of what’s possible. One of her students created an educational tool called the

“Chinatown Time Machine,” a project involving video game design with a goal of giving users the chance to experience the history of Toronto’s Chinatown West.

The student filmed various areas of the neighbourhood with a 360-degree camera. Using the video game engine, she was able to digitally insert historic landmarks and events within the footage she shot. When a user is physically in the neighbourhood, they use their smartphones or tablets to activate the digital interface that connects the game with

4. Augmented reality (AR) is an enhanced version of the real physical world achieved through the use of digital visual elements, sound or other sensory stimuli and delivered via technology. It involves overlaying visual, auditory or other sensory information onto the world to enhance one’s experience. Unlike virtual reality, which creates its own cyber environment, augmented reality adds to the existing world.

5. Virtual Reality (VR) is the use of computer technology to create a simulated environment which can be explored in 360 degrees. Unlike traditional interfaces, VR places the user inside the virtual environment to give an immersive experience. Users typically wear a VR headset, which removes vision of the real world. Players also typically use controllers in each hand, which translate their movements and gestures into the experience.

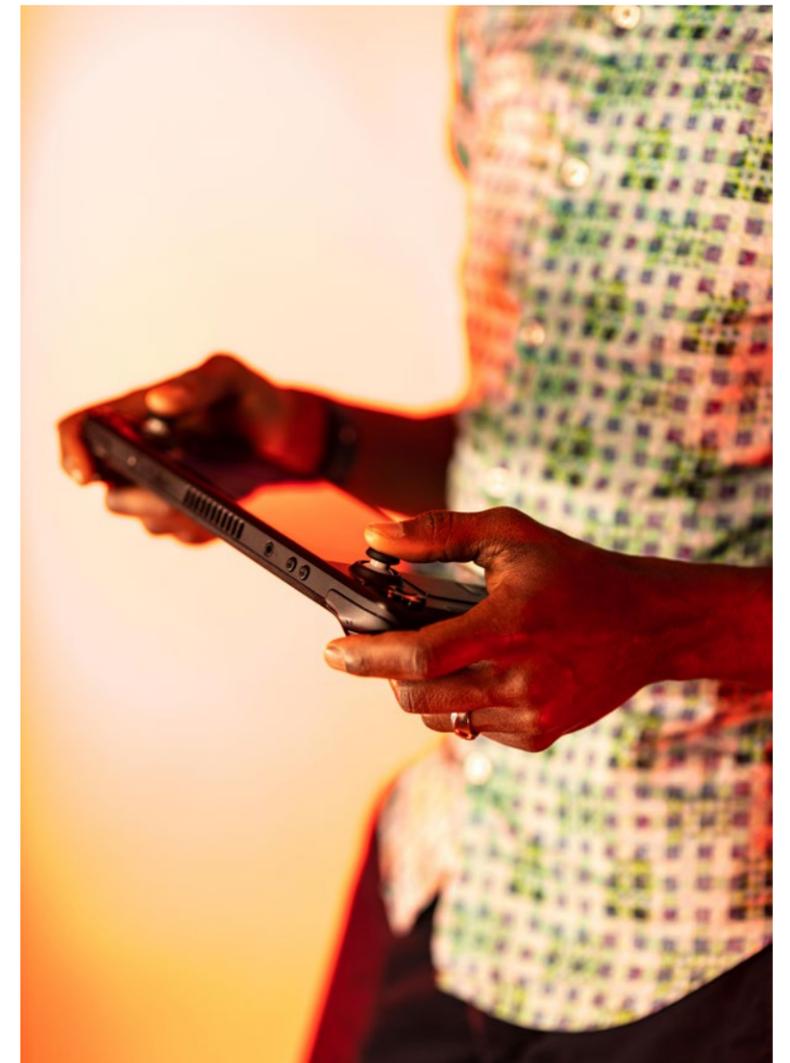
the site to see history unfold before their eyes.

“In person, we see modern buildings, then suddenly a world opens up, and you can see that 100 years ago, different people were living here and you start to learn how it evolved,” Gammel said.

AVATAR CLIENTS

As Faculty of Community Services Professor Jennifer Martin’s work shows, immersive VR is advancing the training of health-care professionals too.

Martin developed a graduate course, Online Relational Child and Youth Care Practice. It’s designed to provide students with immersive VR experiences to help inform clinical practice, the integration of



trauma-informed principles, and to consider how interventions might be adapted to incorporate virtual reality. Using Oculus Quest VR headsets, students are taken through fully immersive digitally simulated situations with avatar clients.

“Students can engage in therapeutic encounters in ways that would be impossible in a typical classroom-based simulation,” Martin said. “VR enables students to interact with the environment and virtual characters in a way that feels real, helping them engage in self-directed exploration, which fosters autonomy during decision-making.” And that’s not all. David Chandross, faculty member of the Master of Digital Media program, is teaching a project management course in serious game design – that is, how to design video games to help solve real-world problems.

Chandross’s work is so impressive, he’s now working for the World Health Organization (WHO), helping prepare those in the WHO Academy, the organization’s lifelong learning centre, for crisis situations. “Using serious video game design, students at the academy are learning everything from how to do surgery in the field to mass casualty management,” he said, explaining that the video games are ‘storified,’ with users having to make difficult decisions in challenging circumstances quickly to progress. “Each story has a different ending depending on the choices you make,” he said.

Chandross says the possibilities in education are endless, noting that anti-racism training and other socially

Dan Hawes: virtual classrooms offer creative opportunities.



conscious topics can be taught in the same way, creating a more effective, engaging experience for the learner. “I encourage all of my students to build games to repair the world,”

he said. He supervises about 10 master’s thesis projects on serious game design each year for The Creative School with most of his students focused on issues related to health, business and social justice.

Chandross is also working with Joanne Okimawinew Dallaire, TMU’s Elder (Ke Shay Hayo) and senior advisor, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, to build the first immersive game which gives players the chance to experience Indigenous history in 3D. This project will bring the teachings of Indigenous elders to Indigenous youth, provide training in game design and help preserve cultural heritage.

No matter the discipline, TMU Instructor and Campus VR Producer Dan Hawes says there are countless benefits

to teaching and learning in a virtual environment. Hawes recently built an entirely virtual lecture hall for students in an upper-year management course at TMU. Students joined from all over the world, either in 3D format with VR headsets, or via Twitch or YouTube stream.

“We even put a sunroof in the classroom, because why not?” Hawes said, noting that they added an ocean view to the side of the room to create a calming experience. Each student created a customized avatar – “I have purple hair when I teach,” he laughs – and they used the arrow keys on their computer or a VR headset to move through the space.

The virtual classroom also offered real-time, anonymous feedback from students to professor. “Students can hit a happy

face, which appears on a dashboard as green, but if they’re not understanding something, they can hit a sad face, which appears as red,” he explained. “If the metre goes from green to yellow, as a professor, you think, ‘Hmm, maybe I should slow down,’” he said.

He also noted that engagement when using a VR headset is particularly high. “In-person, you always see students checking their phone, but in the VR classroom, they don’t have that option,” he said. “Plus, as avatars, people are actually more responsive. In-person, they’re a bit more shy.”

He also cautions that the use of VR should be carefully considered in the context of the material being taught. “If you’re getting people in a room to discuss things, it’s a wonderful

“Now, students can walk through their design and say, ‘Do I need to add lights here? Should I put a door here instead?’ There is so much value in this immersive quality.”

– PROFESSOR VINCENT HUI

mechanism. VR creates an increased sense of presence and elevates the student experience.”

Alexander, who has long been using the same technology to teach his courses, couldn’t agree more. Pulling up a video of a child learning to play the piano by viewing lights shining on the keys, he said, “Video games and video game technology are a vehicle to teach anything. This world is going to explode.” ●

GAMES BY THE NUMBERS

> 23 million people

More than half the population of Canada plays video games. Worldwide, that number jumps to more than 3 billion.

\$5.5 BILLION

Value of national games market. Canada is the third-largest producer of games in the world.

US\$200 billion

The market worldwide is expected to generate around US\$200 billion (about \$264.6 billion CAD) in 2022 alone.

BORDERS & BELONGING

A new podcast from CERC Migration

Researcher Maggie Perzyna debunks myths about migration with the help of experts from around the world.

torontomu.ca/borders-and-belonging



Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration & Integration

openDemocracy free thinking for the world



Listen on your favourite podcast player

Migrants walk along a road near Juan Rodriguez Clara, Veracruz state, Mexico, on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021.

**NEW
MIGRATION
NARRATIVES**

Research into the complexities of migration could provide answers to a challenging global issue

By
MICHELLE GRADY
with files from
TAYO BERO

Migration has been in the news cycle in a big way throughout the last year. Our news feeds have been filled with images of millions of people on the move because of increased or ongoing national and global conflict (in the case of Afghanistan, Haiti and Ukraine), climate-related migration (the flooding in Pakistan which displaced upwards of 33 million people), or the need to find temporary work abroad to support families back home (as in the case of agricultural workers in Canada, for instance). ➤

PHOTOGRAPH BY PEDRO PARDO/GETTY IMAGES

➤ Even when the COVID-19 pandemic pumped the brakes on migration for many, 2020 still saw 281 million people leaving their countries, representing 3.6 per cent of the world's population.

And as conflict, climate-related crises and economic inequality surge and threaten people's ways of life, Anna Triandafyllidou, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration, and her team at Toronto Metropolitan University are looking at the issue of migration from every angle. Since Triandafyllidou joined the Faculty of Arts in 2019, she and her growing international network of scholars have been researching migration and post-migration processes, forced and voluntary mobility, internal and international migration, and the role of countries of origin and transit. Their work is helping to establish TMU as a globally recognized leader in migration, integration, refugee and diaspora studies. The CERC in Migration and Integration is a \$21-million, seven-year research program.

In 2022, Triandafyllidou and an international coalition of 37 researchers and 28 partners were awarded \$2.49 million from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to undertake the Complex Migration Flows and Multiple Drivers in Comparative Perspective (MEMO) project. The team is investigating the drivers of different types of migration and examining the journeys of migrants and refugees through different systems across three continents.

"To fully understand migration, we need to consider the range of experiences and challenges across the world," says Triandafyllidou. "We know that drivers of migration and motivations are mixed, which make it impossible to clearly distinguish between economic migrants and refugees. Someone may be looking for protection, but also trying to build a better life." Triandafyllidou says we continue to see this with migrants from Syria and Afghanistan, and she believes we will see it again with Ukraine.

The team is also paying attention to migrant agency – looking at how migrants are making their decisions. "In the West, we tend to think the decisions people make are entirely rational. But people are rational in very complex ways. And there are many culturally defined perceptions, around risk and uncertainty versus

security and safety, as well as gender roles and obligations towards family."

The MEMO project team spans the globe but is focused in three regions with three different migration systems: Central America, West Africa and South and Southeast Asia. "They have socio-economic drivers, political drivers like conflict or ethnicity, they have environmental issues like significant flooding," says Triandafyllidou. It also means the team can investigate internal migration, short and medium distance cross-border migration, as well as long distance, including to Canada.

With so many partners, Triandafyllidou says the MEMO project represents a commitment to de-centre the production of knowledge. "We cannot just be Canadians going and studying what is happening in those places, we need to really valorize the knowledge and expertise of our colleagues there," she says.

MEMO'S OUTCOMES

Triandafyllidou has ambitious hopes for the project's outcomes. "I hope we can showcase how migration isn't just impacting affluent, destination countries of the global North. There's a lot of migration that happens within a world region: 80 per cent of immigration in West Africa happens within the region."

Triandafyllidou also hopes we may see that we need to broaden the definitions we're using. "If you say refugees also have economic motivations, you're endangering the status of refugees without doing anything positive for migrants," she says. "There's no clear cut line between who is a refugee, *prima facie*, and a migrant – it's much more complex than this."

STUDYING TECHNOLOGY USE CASES

Besides the massive MEMO project, Triandafyllidou and her team are looking at migration through other lenses. One is technology. "We recently launched the Migration Tech Tracker, an interactive tool that presents all the policies that we could find around the globe that use AI or other advanced technology to govern migration," she says. "We're seeing more experimentation to support information and data gathering and processing, and decision-making" – including biometric passports and visitor triaging systems.

And while advanced technology does have positive use cases, including making the provision of welfare payments more efficient to refugees, Triandafyllidou says there's also the concern that when automated learning is used, biases are replicated. "When a machine processes data and decisions made in the past and tries to replicate those, we know that these past

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (LEFT) DANIEL MIHAIL ESCUJETT; IMAGES; (TOP RIGHT) GRACE ESFOURD; (BOTTOM RIGHT) MARGARET MULLIGAN



decisions probably include biases, so the machine may not be objective in its judgment," she says. "As these technologies become even more pervasive, we need to ask how we can build the necessary checks and balances."

The team's research around technology also includes more user-focused work like the Virtual Bridge project, which investigates how newcomers use social media, and then shares this knowledge with service providers so they may develop strategies and services that help immigrants find the jobs that match their skills and experience. "We know migrants use social media to find information or prepare themselves and plan where they want to go," says Triandafyllidou. "So we're working with settlement organizations to use social media to distribute information and training, and to help them get their word out."

The team is currently in the first phase of implementation, measuring and mapping the volume, density and reach of the social media networks of the partner organizations; assessing their capacity to deliver services through social media; and completing a comparative analysis of partners' online accounts with their offline client information. A social media toolkit will be available to assist service providers by winter 2024.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING AS A MEANS TO CONNECT

While the country was in lockdown because of the pandemic, the CERC team sought other ways to continue their research. They landed on digital storytelling, and launched two projects: *I am...*, which explored identity and belonging in Canadian society and featured 28 short films, and *Under the Tent*, which included 18 multidisciplinary works from across Canada that explored "multiculturalism not as a destination but as a journey towards many destinations." This is particularly so in the case of migration and diversity issues as those narratives tell stories about who belongs and who does not and the projects make explicit hidden barriers in society.



Left: MEMO project team meeting in November 2022. Below: Anna Triandafyllidou.

election of anti-immigration parties, Canada appears to be an outlier in the West, says Triandafyllidou, and is poised to provide lessons on inclusion for those around the globe. "We see far-right populism rising in many countries, including our neighbours to the south," she says. "So the question becomes what is it that we're doing well in Canada?"

Through 2021 and 2022, her team of researchers worked with Environics to study public views on immigration in Canada and what shapes them. And unlike other western countries, the report showed that Canadians' attitudes have trended more positively.

Canada, Triandafyllidou says, is often seen as a land of opportunity and solidarity. "The Canadian welfare system and Canadian multiculturalism help to create an inclusive background where people can find their space to belong," she says. "It also seems like immigration is now part of the national narrative, with the growing awareness around Canada's status as a settler colonial country. "I think the secret behind the success of Canada is that actors at all levels – government leaders, policy makers, civil society, researchers – are constantly working towards success. It's not perfect in Canada, there are still many things to work on. But by taking the pulse of the situation regularly and asking if we are doing well and how we can do better, we keep alive the promise of a truly inclusive and welcoming society." ●

"It was this idea to highlight how dynamic and complex identities are, how diverse the country is and also have people express their experiences of discrimination and how they sought to overcome this," says Triandafyllidou. "The idea wasn't to use documentary or photography to disseminate findings or make findings known, but rather as a way of investigating to uncover thoughts and viewpoints that are much harder to get at with traditional research."

CANADA PROVIDES A PATH FORWARD

When it feels like nearly every day we're hearing about new crises generating ever more refugees and economic migrants, and some key countries are seeing the

➤ IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

The WES Mariam Assefa Fund supported the CERC Fair Work project with a grant of \$191,000. The project aims to improve the conditions of migrant workers in the agricultural sector by developing a coalition of employers (including farmers/producers and supermarkets), migrant worker associations, local authorities and consumer organizations in Ontario, and providing guidelines to set up fair-labelling for vegetables and meat that comply with non-exploitative labour practices.



MAKING CHILDREN'S VOICES COUNT

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
PARTNERSHIP IS CREATING
SPACE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

BY DANA YATES

ILLUSTRATION BY TSJISSE TALSMa

It's a simple fact that many countries are better at talking about children's rights than implementing them.

"We hear a lot of rhetoric from leaders about the importance of young people," says Tara Collins, a researcher at Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Child and Youth Care. "But in so many ways, children and youth are made to feel as if they don't matter."

It's a sad situation that Collins has come to know well. She has worked at universities across four continents during her career. Along the way, she has become a highly connected expert on the rights of children and youth, and today, she is principal investigator of the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) at TMU.

Supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the partnership was established after TMU held an international conference on children's rights in 2015. At the heart of the partnership's research is the belief that children's participation in society is a human right.

The ICCRP's work is conducted in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, which was adopted more than 30 years ago to protect children's civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights. All UN member countries, apart from the United States, have ratified the treaty and are bound by international law to act in accordance with the principles of the convention.

Ignoring children's perspectives leads to serious consequences, Collins says. For instance, Black and Indigenous children face discrimination in schools and are tremendously overrepresented in the Canadian child welfare system.

Consequently, the ICCRP is asking how intergenerational relationships can transcend current barriers to implementing children's rights in research, policy and practice. Policy-makers and service providers can lose track of how their efforts affect young people and are not meaningfully engaging with them, often because they are unsure of how to engage with youth. Through its current research, the partnership will share with organizations, practitioners and governments evidence, models and best practices for including young people's perspectives to guide new policy and frameworks for child rights realization.

"Young people across our governance, working groups and case studies benefit from having platforms to contribute their knowledge and lived experiences and be respected," says Collins. "We have an international and Canadian advisory committee with members from the ages of 14 to 92 years."

Key policy areas that benefit include anti-violence, child rights education, child protection, international policies/conventions on child rights, evaluation and impact assessments, organizational governance and priorities, and early childhood education.

"We see children as our research partners instead of our research subjects," says Collins.

That spirit of equality and collaboration, she continues, is typically missing from discussions about children and what's in their best interest. To remedy the situation, adults must fully embrace their role as implementors of children's rights in partnership with children and youth, challenge discriminatory worldviews and address power imbalances that disadvantage children and youth, especially those from racialized communities and low-income countries.

Doing so will increase children's participation in society, and in turn, positively affect the quality of their lives, says Collins. "When we create space for children and give them the support they need, they will say what they need to say, rather than what adults want to hear." ●

Ready to make a boss move?

Let's talk.

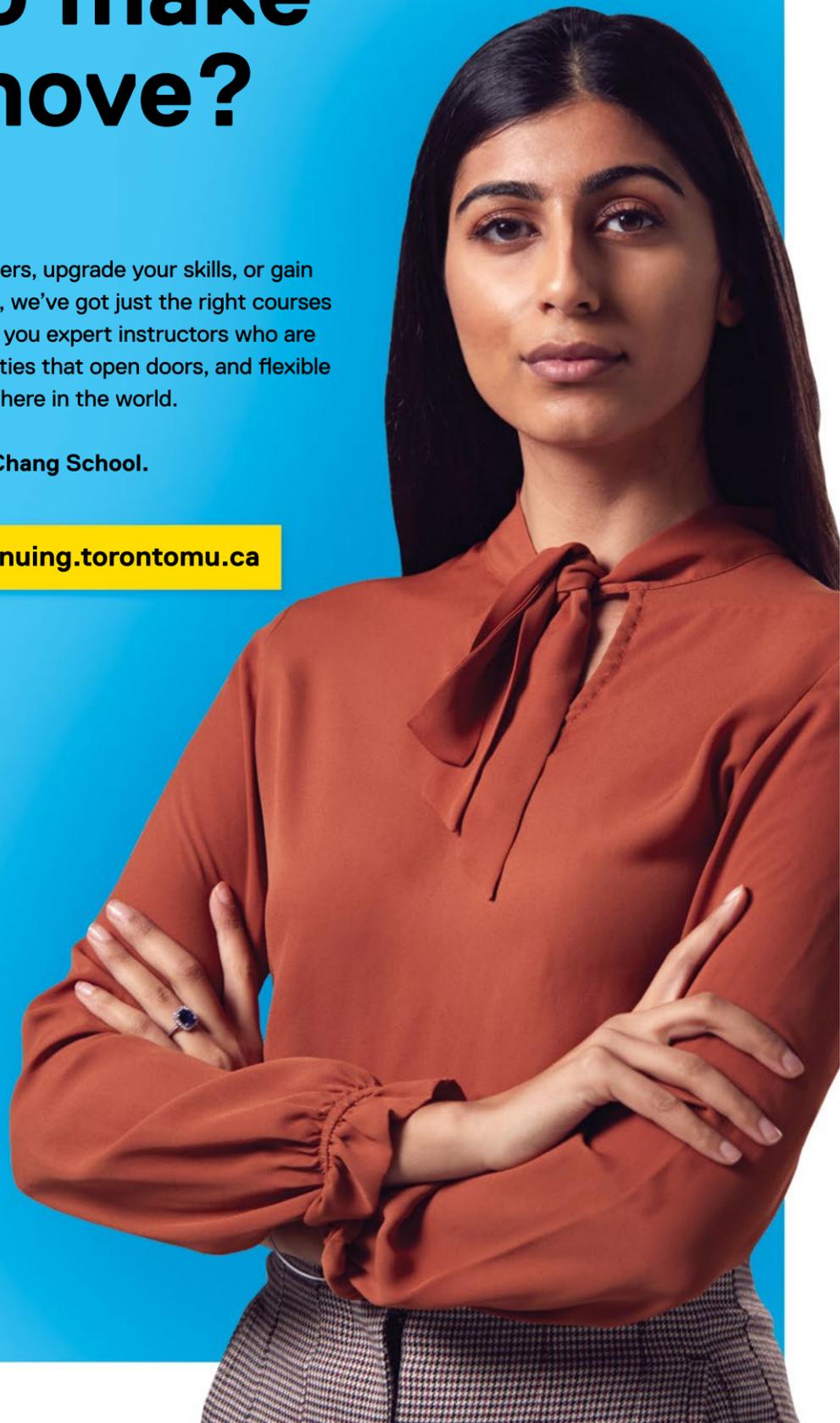
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ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS

alumni diary

/ ALUMNI MONTH RECAP / GRADS AROUND THE WORLD / TATTOO TRENDS /



ALWAYS ALUMNI

A year for reconnection

A new year. A new beginning. For many of us, 2023 represents the opportunity to set new goals and aspirations. For me, this year serves as an opportunity to affirm something we have been missing after a long period of uncertainty and change: connection.

Here at your alma mater, we recently held Alumni Month, which showcased a broad range of in-person and virtual events for all career stages and interests. We made the decision to expand our schedule to a full month, knowing how important it is for alumni to be seen and valued. We also held networking events where I had the great pleasure to meet many of you in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, Montreal and Washington — just to name a few cities in the 135 countries where TMU alumni reside.

Our geographies may be different, but what never changes is our shared commitment to strengthening our community. We're responsive and resourceful, and we're reaffirming the bonds that connect us. You are #AlwaysAlumni and we're family.

Krishan Mehta
Assistant Vice-President, Engagement



NOTEWORTHY

Face time

Alumni events in Montreal, San Francisco and Los Angeles brought us together post-lockdown. Clockwise from top: Montreal grads, San Francisco meet-up, and Los Angeles connection.

PHOTOGRAPH BY I.L.A. JOHN SCIULLI



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Established? Time to give back

For Jason Fung (Master's of Architecture '11), who founded Jason Fung Architect Inc. in 2016, volunteering means giving back.

"The architecture industry is very much one of mentors and apprentices," he explains. "School is often theoretical, so having someone in the industry talk about their work or show what makes up a good portfolio is an important way of giving back."

Fung is a frequent guest lecturer and helps with student portfolio reviews, both virtually and in person. He's been a mentor to a recent graduate through the Discover Mentorship program, helping her find a career path and job. And he virtually mentored students designing projects for the Timber Fever competition in 2020.

He's also giving back with the Jason Fung Architecture Diversity Award, created in 2020 to support students who identify as BIPOC, and promote diversity within the architectural science program.

"As established architects, we should be fostering the next generation," Fung says. "Toronto Met got me into a career that I love, and I can't emphasize enough how fruitful my education was. In return, it's refreshing to see what students come up with, and it keeps me relevant."
—Sue Horner

Globetrotter grads

These three alumni prove that distance has only made their hearts grow fonder. #AlwaysAlumni

TMU GRADS LIVE AND WORK IN 135 COUNTRIES

Cassie Mitchele
THEATRE, '13
KOBE, JAPAN
Cassie Mitchele takes the "shinkansen," Japan's high-speed train, to get to cities across the country where she performs as a children's entertainer.

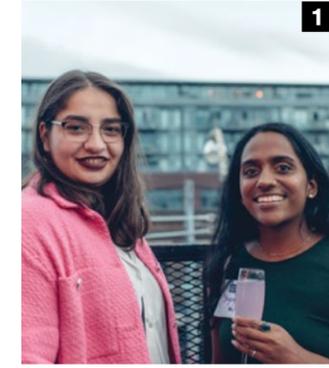
Sofia Paska
HUMAN RESOURCES '19
KILLARNEY, IRELAND
Sofia Paska is a professional basketball player and coaches for the Limerick Celtics Basketball Club.

Ridzki Samsulhadi
SOCIAL WORK '16
BALI, INDONESIA
When Ridzki Samsulhadi isn't helping kids in his role as a school counsellor you can find him on White Sand Beach.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX TRAM PHOTOGRAPHY; ILLUSTRATION BY PATERSON HODGSON

Celebrating Alumni Month

In fall 2022, more than 1,000 alumni came together for in-person and virtual events. Here are scenes from Out at the Broadview; Flourishing: A Mixer for Black Alumni and Friends; and the Alumni Achievement Awards.



1-3 A mixer for 2SLGTBQ+ alumni and friends at The Broadview Hotel.

4. Grace-Camille Munroe, manager, projects and operations, Presidential Implementation Committee to Combat Anti-Black Racism, at mixer for Black alumni.



5. TMU honorary doctorate recipients The Hon. Justice Gregory Regis, Journalism '77, and The Hon. Jean Augustine with Frank Walwyn, Business Administration '89.



6. Master of Social Work '10 grads Michele Peter and Aditi Deonarine.

7. Curtis Oland, Fashion Design '17, received the Isadore Sharp Outstanding Recent Graduate Award.

8. Alumni Achievement Award recipients from left: Gregory Regis; Sabrina Craig, Business Technology Management '19; Curtis Oland; Andrew Young, Business Technology Management '11; Amorell Saunders N'Daw, Journalism '88; Christina Kramer, Business Management '90; Sangita Patel, Electrical Engineering '02; and Timothy Muttoo, Chemical Engineering '96.

9. From left: Ian Mishkel, vice-president, University Advancement; Amorell Saunders N'Daw, Journalism '88, partner, KBRS, and Chancellor Janice Fukakusa.



LIFE STORY

From movie usher to a TIFF premiere Luis De Filippis brings her experience as a trans woman to her first feature film

Luis De Filippis says showing the support of a trans person's family is important in cinema.



a conservative beach town for a summer holiday. It's a film about family, being there for each other and support. I felt the same way growing up: when I came out as trans, my family was there for me, and they didn't judge me. There aren't many trans films about that kind of support; too often films focus on the decision to transition, and the drama that comes from that decision.

The role of family has featured prominently in my films. For example, my short film, *Nonna Anna*, which debuted in 2018, is about how a trans woman navigates her relationship with her ailing grandmother. I've always thought it's important to show trans characters engaging with their families in positive, supportive ways. Ren is a sister, daughter and granddaughter first and foremost.

Viewers of the film will notice that I've included many long pauses, because I think some moments shouldn't rely solely on dialogue. It also speaks to my experience as someone who isn't a big talker, but more of a people watcher who likes to step back and really study interactions between people. So much can be said with little nuances in a glance, or how someone fiddles with their collar.

While in the production phase of *Something You Said Last Night* in September 2021, I launched a mentorship program to give five trans youth training and work experience on set. This was a key facet of the process for me.

The whole idea of the mentorship was to set up a space to have the mentees feel safe and be surrounded by trans people. They were selected to work in production management, the art department, costume design, makeup and cinematography.

This film isn't trying to tell all trans stories, but by including the mentees and giving them this opportunity to ensure they gain experience in the film industry, perhaps they can one day tell their own stories, too. —Interview by David Silverberg

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAR MARRIOTT

➔ WHILE STUDYING AT the Image Arts program at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), I helped pay off my tuition costs by working as an usher at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). I was that person ripping tickets, sweeping popcorn in aisles, directing movie-goers to their respective cinemas for each film.

Now, my story has come full circle: in September, my film, *Something You Said Last Night*, debuted in the same theatre I used to clean.

This film tells a story that's similar to mine. It features a main character named Ren, played by Carmen Madonia, who travels with her Italian-Catholic family to

Call for nominations: Toronto Metropolitan University Board of Governors

Serving on the Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) Board of Governors is an exciting opportunity to participate in shaping the financial and strategic priorities of the university. Board members are asked to contribute to decisions that affect the university's current and future achievements.

In June 2023, TMU alumni will elect one of three alumni-member representatives on the 24-member Board. If you'd like to get involved in guiding TMU's strategic direction, this is your chance.

The nomination period opens on February 2 and closes on February 10, 2023, at 12 p.m. (EST).

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

For more information about the nomination and election process, please visit torontomu.ca/governors/elections

Call for nominations: Toronto Metropolitan University Senate

You can help ensure that the quality of a Toronto Metropolitan University education continues to rise.

The Toronto Metropolitan University Senate holds academic authority and is responsible for maintaining, communicating and implementing institutional policies pertaining to: the content and quality of all programs and courses of study; the standards for admission to the university; and the qualifications for obtaining degrees, diplomas and certificates.

In June 2023, two alumni Senator seats will be up for election for the 2023–2025 term.

The nomination period opens on February 2 and closes on February 10, 2023, at 12 p.m. (EST).

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

For more information about the nomination and election process, or to register a nomination, contact the Senate Office at senate@torontomu.ca or visit torontomu.ca/senate

Co-owner Braden Handley sold Inkbox Tattoos to BiC for US\$65 million.

PROFILES

Making an indelible mark with semi-permanent tattoos

Inkbox reached new heights through collaborations with high-profile artists

BY MARY TERESA BITTI

→ “LET’S BUILD THIS and see where it goes,” was the mindset of Braden Handley (Business Management ’12) and his brother Tyler as they launched Inkbox Tattoos in 2015.

This confidence allowed them, over the course of just seven years, to develop the world’s first two-week tattoo, raise millions

in venture capital, pitch *Dragons’ Den*, have their products appear in TV shows such as *Stranger Things*, collaborate with poet Rupi Kaur, K-Pop phenomenon BTS, *House of the Dragon* and Marvel Studios, and hit US\$27 million in sales.

Their success caught the attention of Société BiC SA (aka BiC). In January 2022, the Handley brothers sold Inkbox for US\$65 million to the France-based pen manufacturer.

As part of the acquisition, the brothers will stay on and continue to run and grow Inkbox. “We are an online, direct-to-consumer business,” says Handley. “The sale opens up new distribution channels for us.”

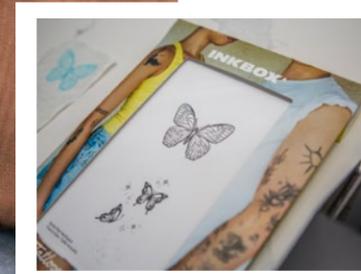
The brothers started the business — first in Braden’s 500-square-foot apartment then in TMU’s Fashion Zone — to create semi-permanent tattoos that looked and felt real. Their research led them to Panama where they met Indigenous people who had been using an ink derived from fruits to dye their skin for thousands of years.

There have been many evolutions of Inkbox’s patented ink since then to make it more user-friendly and scalable, and they’ve worked with some of the world’s top tattoo artists, graphic designers and fine artists who receive a percentage of their designs’ sales.

Soon the brothers started seeing Inkbox’s designs on TV shows. This visibility opened the door to high-profile collaborations and licensing agreements with culturally relevant artists.

In July, Inkbox introduced its *Thor* tattoo collection with Marvel at Comic Con. *Black Panther* and *Spider-Man* collections are next.

Handley’s advice to other entrepreneurs: “Don’t focus on perfection. Get something out there and continue to work on it. That’s the first step to creating something great.” ●



PROFILES

The politics of food

Veronica Summerhill is striving to address food security across Canada

BY MICHELLE GRADY



Veronica Summerhill believes food equality is within reach.

→ VERONICA SUMMERHILL (Nutrition and Food '13) has always worked in the food sector in one role or another, but it was during her time at TMU that she really figured out her path.

"TMU's nutrition program was super well-rounded," says Summerhill. "You got in-depth science courses, but you also had courses like professional practice where you learned how to work with people." During her third-year professional practice course, she started digging into the environmental impacts of food and our food systems. "I started thinking of food as a holistic system and not just as nutrition or for enjoyment. Food is also political and social."

Summerhill now works with Second Harvest, Canada's largest food rescue organization, as director of product. Second Harvest's vision for Canada is no waste, no hunger. "We rescue good, surplus food and get it to people who need it: this could be other charities and nonprofits across Canada, including breakfast programs at schools or children and senior centres."

Diverting food from landfills can also help reduce Canada's carbon footprint, because, Summerhill says, food waste is a major contributor to climate change. "When food is wasted, all of the resources used to create it are also wasted." This includes the farming and production practices as well as

the greenhouse gas emissions necessary to transport it to where it will be sold.

"That's one factor of food waste, but also when food and organic materials go to a landfill, they create methane." Methane has an accelerated warming effect, with 80 times more warming power over CO₂.

Seeing food equality across Canada is possible, says Summerhill, and she remains optimistic about the future. "Ultimately I am a bit of an idealist and I do think that if we work together, the great challenges become a lot smaller. I see more collaboration happening across sectors. And I think the work Second Harvest does is one of the amazing examples of this." ●

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYAN DICKIE



Two TMU degrees gave Nima Feizi skills to build a growing startup.

PROFILES

The healing power of wearable tech

Smart socks invented by engineering grads can help athletes improve performance and recover from injuries

BY SHARON ASCHAIK

→ AS WEARABLE technologies such as fitness trackers, smart clothes and augmented reality headsets continue to emerge, Nima Feizi (Master's of Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship '20) sees an opportunity in the sports and health-care technology market.

Feizi has co-created smart socks that can help athletes heal from leg injuries by determining how the wearer moves and makes contact with the ground, which produces valuable biometric data that can be used to support their recovery.

"This technology is going to be exciting for those in elite athletics, because the data can be used to help improve movement and performance techniques," says Feizi, who, along with fellow Bachelor's of Engineering - Biomedical '18 graduates Gordon Gray and Branavan Yasabala, leads Advanced Rehabilitation & Intelligence System of Electronic-Textiles (ARISE) Wearables. During their undergraduate years, he and his business partners began consulting with local doctors to see if they could apply their scientific analytical skills to medicine. One shared how difficult it was to portably analyze the gait of his patients with a fractured leg.

That meeting kickstarted ARISE Wearables, where they've created socks equipped with biosensors that capture and provide real-time information about weight bearing, cadence, balance distribution between feet and foot strike, which assesses how the foot touches the ground. This rich data can augment clinical observation, enabling athletes, doctors and coaches to make more informed decisions about rehabilitating and preventing injuries.

ARISE Wearables has won funding from Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada, the DMZ Sandbox startup incubator and the Norman Esch Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards.

As they continue developing a functional prototype and refining their business plan – a process that has included enlisting champion sprinter Donovan Bailey as an advisor – the goal is to launch beta testing in 2023.

"Having the engineering skills to build something that benefits people, and the business knowledge to sell it within a sustainable business model – it's the best of both worlds." ●

Class Notes

UPDATES FROM ALUMNI ON PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES

1960s

David Cooper

Business '65
David earned his CPA in 1970 and worked 39 years for Royal Trust and RBC, as CFO for Royal Trust and as president and COO for RBC Insurance. He has served on 36 boards, including three years on the board of governors for Toronto Metropolitan University. "My wife Donna and I have five children, eight grandkids and one great-grandchild. Retired for 18 years, we've travelled to 86 countries and on 60 cruises. Just celebrated my 80th birthday."

David Kiff

Mechanical and Industrial Engineering '68
"I worked 30 years in a metals research laboratory in Ottawa. Retired in 2002 and moved to Kensington, PEI, with my islander wife Sylvia; our daughter lives in Ottawa. I'm still active — playing golf, tennis and swimming."

1970s

Robert Durette

Environmental Health '78
"I retired from Health Canada and am living in Ottawa and volunteering for theatre groups, football, soccer, festivals and live music events. Enjoying biking, walking, Tai Chi, great food, lots of travelling and the wonderful life of Ottawa. Retirement is awesome. Like they say: 'Time flies, but like a fine bottle of wine we get better with age.'"

Patricia Maloney

Urban and Regional Planning '77
While officially semi-retired, Pat continues to volunteer, teaches at Vancouver Island University in the master of community planning program and takes on small contracts for policy, housing and airport planning projects. She and her husband Chris live in Nanaimo; both her children, their spouses and four grandchildren live on Vancouver Island.



1980s

Ed Burtynsky

Image Arts '82
Ed received the Outstanding Contribution Award at the Sony World Photography Awards last spring — the award recognizes a person who has had a significant impact on the medium. In accepting his award, he shared his prize with photographers in Ukraine documenting the devastation of the Russian invasion. "Their dedication to their art is a bravery that humbles me." Ed, whose father is Ukrainian, has raised \$700,000 for Ukraine by providing prints of his photographs to donors supporting the Red Cross. He has earned international acclaim for his large-scale photographs of humanity's impact on the planet; his photographs are featured in the collections of more than 60 major museums around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



Alumni Spotlight

↑
Chester Krupa-Carbone won his first Juno nomination and has had his music streamed more than a billion times.

Dan Dzikewich

Business Management '80
Dan recently retired from his role as sales executive at IBM.

Margaret Harrison

Nursing Science '87
"My last employment position was with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board as a clinical nurse specialist. Upon retirement, I started volunteering in the field of cancer until five years ago when I started volunteering at the local hospice. COVID foiled my plans for a solo trip

to Belize as well as attending my oldest daughter's wedding and my first grandchild's birth. Who knows what the future holds with the COVID virus so I just make the best of every day."

Eric (Rick) Lane

Electrical Engineering Technology '79
"Would like to hear from my fellow Power Grads from 1979." Eric can be reached at relicrick51@gmail.com.



Sandra Lee

Fashion Merchandising '83
"I'm retired and living at the lake! I'm teaching yoga and doing a bit of HR consulting. Exploring fabric art through weaving, crocheting and sewing. I would love to hear from other Fashion alumni from 1982! Diane Evans? Isabella Briatico?"

Chris Morren

Retail Management '86
Chris is president of Great Outdoor Advertising in Toronto.

Diane (Falzon) Muscat

Nursing '85
"After graduation, I started working as a staff nurse on a busy medical/surgical unit at St. Joseph's Health Centre. I graduated from TMU with a bachelor in nursing, and then went on to complete a master's degree at the University of Toronto in nursing health administration. Having the opportunity to further my education gave me the chance to work with so many dedicated health professionals, and advance my career, working at multiple levels within the health care setting. After 36 rewarding years of nursing, I made the decision to retire a year ago and have been enjoying an active retirement life so far."

Todd Ternovan

Early Childhood Education '84
"After 33 years in law enforcement, I retired as a detective constable with the Ontario Provincial Police. My first book, *Gas of Tank*, has been published and it's a personal police

memoir examining the surreal, upside-down, unbelievable, description-defying experiences police in Ontario face daily." Visit gasoftank.com.

Wendy Wilson

Journalism '82
Wendy recently retired after 34 years with TSN and the Discovery Channel.

1990s

Bruce Avery

Aerospace Engineering '92
Bruce worked in the military and manufacturing industries for 25 years in south-western Ontario and is presently running a startup, marketing and licensing several patent-pending products in the North American property maintenance industry. Bruce has two grown sons — Alexander, 27, and Brendon, 29. He and his wife Sandra live in Chatham, Ont.

Robert Baird

RTA School of Media '92
Robert is a screenwriter for Pixar, Disney and Blue Sky, and co-president of Blue Sky Animation Studios. He served as executive producer for the Netflix feature *Nimona*.

Lori Kittelberg

Journalism '97
Lori is a communications officer with the Assembly of First Nations.

Michelle Leone Huisman

Image Arts '95
Michelle is an award-winning photographer from Vancouver who seeks out beauty in everyday surroundings.

The pandemic inspired her to create two exhibitions. The first, "An Unexpected Collection," features photographs of spoons broken during the 7 p.m. cheer for first responders and has been shown across Canada. The second exhibition, "Global Pandemic," presents photographs of discarded face masks juxtaposed with objects from nature and paired with children's fables. Visit michellehuisman.com.

Paul McAuley

RTA School of Media '97
"I worked in administration for my religious congregation, Spiritans, The Congregation of the Holy Ghost, for the past 26 years. Used what I learned at TMU to collaborate with Villagers Media on a few TV programs and commercials."

John Sullivan

Ted Rogers School of Management '97
Technical sales director for Microsoft Business Applications at Microsoft Canada, John was named Technical Sales Manager of the Year for the second time in 2022.

Peter Wheatley

Architecture '95
"I moved to B.C. in 1995 to work in Vancouver's expanding construction industry. My wife and I married in 2000 and are raising two teenage kids who are starting to think about careers of their own. We settled in Coquitlam and enjoy the great outdoors year-round. I'm working as project director for a very busy construction firm and try to stay in touch with classmates from my years at the university."

Katherin Zabehlicky

RTA School of Media '96
Katherin wrote and produced BravoFACT winning shorts, moved into advertising and then communications in the non-profit sector. “I lived and worked overseas in film and writing for an expat magazine in Prague. I met my husband while working on *Hostel I* in Prague. We lived there for two years before coming back with our first child and started growing our family north of Peterborough, Ont. My career focuses on helping under-resourced individuals and utilizing my film background with marketing and video skills.” Visit bridgespeterbough.ca.

2000s

Nina Aning

Journalism '03
Nina is a seasoned professional in Toronto’s broadcast TV and media industry, with a 20-year career spanning principal creative and editorial management roles for Omni TV, Chum Ltd., Global Television, Shaw Media and Bell Media. She is currently a production manager for CTV News. Along with being a proud mother to two boys, Nina, a self-professed “proud Ghanaian” (Canadian-born of direct Ghanaian descent), spends her free time working as an emerging video artist. Her first collective project, *In the Black Canada*, was featured at Toronto’s Hot Docs in 2015 and then in 2017 at the Art Gallery of Canada where it was curated for the institution’s permanent cultural arts collection.

Lynn Deiulis

Child and Youth Care '02
“Following my retirement from North Eastern Ontario Family and Children’s Services, I wrote a resource for children and families travelling an adoption, kinship, customary or alternative care journey.” Visit whatisyourstorybook.com.

Sara Furlong

RTA School of Media '06
Sara is a writer, author, story editor and creative director with 20 years’ experience. She was a script doctor and story editor for the feature films *Milton’s Secret* and *Little Italy*. She also helped create and develop the television series *Our Family Vacation*, and, as an advertising writer and creative director, has created hundreds of commercials with her company WhirlyGig Creative Inc. Along with working in film and television,

Sara is also a published author. Her first children’s novel, *The Purple Raccoon*, is out and her second novel, *Do You Know Who Killed Me?*, will be coming out in early 2023. Sara also created and self-published a line of mystery activity books for kids called *The Junior Detective Agency*.

Gaby Hanna

Electrical Engineering '06
“My wife Heidi (who is also an alumna) and I met while she was studying at the university. We now have three children, a boy and twin girls, and a dog. We love travelling and always try to travel at least twice a year. Besides our full-time jobs, my wife and I each have a side gig: I’m a wedding photographer and she’s a real estate agent.”

Jeff Lieberman

RTA School of Media '00
Jeff is joining CNN. As

a senior producer on the program development team, Jeff will be leading producers, writers, videographers and editors in a new unit specializing in longform feature content with an emphasis on pop culture. An award-winning journalist and filmmaker, Jeff directed, wrote and produced the feature documentaries *The Amazing Nina Simone*, *Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria*, and *Bella!*. All three films were produced under the mantle of his Harlem-based production company, Re-Emerging Films. Jeff also previously worked as a producer for CBS News and a video reporter for the New York Post.

2010s

Stephanie Bergeron

Theatre Performance – Dance '10
“I have published two dance history books to inspire young dance artists in their arts education! *#30SecondBallets* and *#30SecondBallets: Act Two* are filled with important details and story basics, along with fun facts, curated video highlights and historical photos to bring each classical ballet to life. The books have already been used by dance teachers and students across Canada and the U.S., as well as in New Zealand, Japan and the U.K. With less and less time devoted toward arts education, it’s my hope that the *#30SecondBallets* series can spark a new interest in the history of dance, and an interest in participating in its future!” Visit 30SecondBallets.com.

Stephanie Bergeron has published two dance history books.



Amulya Gurtu

PhD, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering '14
“I have been promoted to a full professor of supply chain management at the Cofrin School of Business at the University of Wisconsin.”

Adam Jenkins

RTA School of Media '18
“I am in my fourth year as an on-air talent (play-by-play announcer, host, reporter) with Canada’s soccer-specific network, OneSoccer. I work as an announcer for the Canadian Premier League, Canadian Championship and women’s national team, and as a reporter for the men’s national team.”

Chester Krupa-Carbone

RTA School of Media '18
After graduation, Chester pursued his passion of making music. Today, his work has been streamed more than a billion times on various platforms, can be heard in blockbuster movies including *The Suicide Squad* and *Fast and Furious*, as well as *Riverdale*, and has seen corporate placement for many brands. Chester also earned his first Juno nomination for alternative album of the year.

Aaron Labbe

RTA School of Media '18
Aaron is co-founder and CTO of Lucid, a startup that has created an app combining AI, neuroscience and music to provide therapy for people suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. The app offers personalized, AI-curated playlists of songs to alleviate symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress and burnout. Lucid has secured \$3-million



Sanjay Padhiar is making a transition to business owner.

in seed financing to support further clinical research and the development of a prescription digital therapeutic music.

Sue Lam

Master of Social Work '18
Sue is a retired social worker and HR professional, and current Tai Chi Gong and therapeutic touch practitioner.

Marty Lampkin

Social Work '14
Marty is a registered clinical social worker and a strong advocate for individuals and families living with developmental disabilities, mental health diagnoses and autism spectrum disorder. She is also a professor and an



educator on anti-oppressive practice and anti-Black racism. Marty is the founder, developer, and facilitator of the first group created in Toronto called *RacismAffectsMeToo*, a program created and designed to meet the needs of Black community members living with disabilities. Visit martylampkinspeaks.com.

Abigail Miller

Criminology '19
“From a small town in Costa Rica to the midnight sun in Whitehorse, life since graduation from TMU has been an adventure. In 2021, I received a master’s degree in international law and human rights from University for Peace. This past year has brought me closer to my ultimate career goal, when I landed my dream job as a human rights officer for the Yukon Human Rights Commission. When I graduated from TMU, little did I know I would be investigating complaints of discrimination, helping individuals and groups learn about their human rights, kayaking in crystal clear water overlooking the mountains, and camping under the northern lights.”

Sanjay Padhiar

Ted Rogers School of Management '11
“After 12 years in the corporate world, I will finally be making the transition to being a full-time business owner as the principal consultant at IMA Consulting! I had always planned to own a business since starting Seneca College and then finishing my undergrad at Toronto Met University. I’m proud to say that I’m finally



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following my dreams, but I don't regret the journey I took to get here. We're all on our own unique journey and we need to be grateful for everything we've accomplished. Maybe you haven't been writing your own story in the past, but starting today you can."

Erica Marie Regala

Early Childhood Studies '14
"I'm a proud registered early childhood educator (RECE), child care manager for the not-for-profit sector and advocate. I've dedicated my life to working with children and families, and have worked at the same place for eight years following my final-year placement at TMU. I am looking to start a family soon and planning to write a business plan in the near future."

Gavin Seal

RTA School of Media '10
"I travelled to Los Angeles to be featured in a delegation of Canadian filmmakers, for my latest film, presented in partnership with the Consulate General of Canada in Los Angeles, the Québec Government Office in Los Angeles and Telefilm Canada. I also won the Writer's Guild of Canada Prize from SODEC for my latest screenplay. The film projects I'm developing revolve around mental health in Canada, through my unique lens of South Asian, Quebecois and Canadian heritage."

Michelle Yu

Business Management - Accounting '14
"Got my CPA, got promoted, and got married in 2021. I've now moved to the Ottawa area. Exciting stuff!"

2020s

Raffaella Lala Keshishian

RTA School of Media '20
"I just started my second job out of college in New York City with The Walt Disney Company and ESPN, working in college football playoffs, ESPYs, ESPNw and more events in sponsorship activation! My first job out of college was with the New Jersey Devils and Philadelphia 76ers in ticket sales. I put together a group night on March 14, 2022, when the Denver Nuggets came to play the Philadelphia 76ers and surprised Nuggets rookie Bones Hyland with the fire department marshals who saved his life."

Mallory Maynard

TRSM '20 and
Sabrina Gomez Vila
Aerospace Engineering '16
Mallory and Sabrina are co-founders of Ripple Studios, an education technology company dedicated to inspiring all students to consider a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through video games and other digital media.

Maria Portillo

Business Management '21
Maria is the founder of Sōmi, a sustainable personal care brand with a mission to reduce the single-use plastics that enter oceans and landfills. Sōmi features a collection of products that no longer need bottles, including shampoo and conditioner bars. Founded during the pandemic, Sōmi's goal is to save one million plastic shampoo bottles by 2025.

In memoriam



↑
Carla Cassidy of the Faculty of Arts at an awards event in 2013.

Carla Cassidy

Dean Emerita, Faculty of Arts
Carla Cassidy passed away on Sept. 30, 2022. Over an impressive 33 years at TMU, Carla led in a number of roles, serving as interim vice-president of research and innovation, dean of the Faculty of Arts, and chair of the Department of Politics and Public Administration. During her tenure as dean, she ushered in nine undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts, and many graduate programs.

Marvin M. Freeman

RTA School of Media '58
Marvin passed away on Sept. 6, 2022, in Phoenix, AZ. He leaves behind Pearl Mandel Freeman, also an RTA student, two sons and six grandchildren. A promotion manager in Canada and the U.S., he opened an advertising agency in Phoenix in 1980 and won awards for his radio and TV work. He also volunteered with many charities.

John "Jack" Hallam

Architectural Science '55
Jack was born in Windsor, Ont., in 1931 and died in Stratford in 2021. He designed buildings and bridges for Gaffney & Logan Construction throughout Ontario and Québec during his career and, as a founding member of the Stratford Festival, worked on the foundation of the original tent. Jack was a devoted husband to Nancy for 56 years. Over the years, Jack and his close university friends travelled extensively and enjoyed relaxing at Balm Beach cottage.

John Kyle Hewitt

Architectural Science '55
John was born in Midland in 1931. He graduated from Beck Collegiate, then after graduating from Toronto Metropolitan University, worked as chief draftsman, finishing as director of design for National Trust. He was a devoted husband to Margaret

for 56 years, and together they travelled to many parts of the world. He enjoyed drawing, painting, theatre, music, sailing, gardening and photography and ran the Boston Marathon. John was a proud father of three sons and seven grandchildren, and a long-time friend of his university colleagues, John "Jack" Hallam, Bruce Holmes, Robert Flack and Jack Clark.

Glen Holmes

Chemical Technology '59
Glen passed away on May 3, 2020, at age 83. He is survived by his wife, Elaine, his son and daughter, four grandchildren, and one great grandson. Following graduation, he spent six years in Ottawa with the Defense Research Board, National Health and Welfare, and the National Research Council. In 1965, he moved to Kincardine, as the first health physics technician with Ontario

Hydro at the Douglas Point Generating Station as a radiation control supervisor. Later he worked at Bruce Generating Station "A." He retired in March 1993, then travelled widely, including three mission trips to South America with Elaine. His love of the natural world was evident in his interest and expertise in photographing flora, fauna, birds and sunsets.

William (Bill) Kilborn

Interior Design '73
William passed away January 13, 2022, at age 84. He studied at both the Ontario College of Art and Design and Toronto Metropolitan University. He ran a design business for years and taught at TMU's School of Interior Design. A member of the St. James Masonic Lodge Shriners, he enjoyed volunteering with youth hockey. He is survived by his wife, Tama - they were married for 60 years.

Alice Wanda (Jagiellicz) O'Connor

Geography and Environmental Studies '78
Alice passed away on July 5, 2022, after a courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Shane, and youngest son, David. She dedicated her life to taking care of others. For more than 28 years, Alice was the loving mother of a child with Down syndrome. She always believed in doing her best for other families, including working as an educational assistant for special needs children and volunteering to support after-school activities.

Paul Pope

Image Arts '80
Paul died April 14, 2022, at age 63, in St. John's, N.L., following a short illness. As a producer, director and mentor, he helped shape hundreds of projects including the current TV series *Hudson and Rex* and

the feature film *Rare Birds*. In addition to working on individual productions, he also helped launch organizations vital to the growth of the industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. He co-founded the dynamic Newfoundland Independent Filmmakers Co-operative (NIFCO) in 1975, serving as its president for more than 20 years. Paul leaves his wife, Lisa Porter, his partner in many film productions, and sons Simon and Alex.

Les Smith

RTA School of Media '72
Les passed away suddenly on April 2, 2022, at age 72. He was a member of the Rho Alpha Kappa Alumni Association and served on the executive committee. Les was always eager to help out and participated in many of the Rho fundraising events. —Compiled by Christine Julien-Sullivan



PHOTOGRAPH BY CLIFTON LI

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Martha and Rick are giving students another chance to pursue their dreams. You can too.

"Education is a core value in our lives," says Martha Lee-Blickstead, retired director of the Community Services program at The Chang School. "So in our estate plan, my husband Rick and I made sure we could take care of our family and leave a legacy for students getting a second chance at post-secondary education."

"The university is a great place for someone looking to improve their future and follow their dreams," Martha adds. "This is just a small gesture toward making that happen."

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REMEMBER WHEN?

The first North American gay and lesbian history conference

The Wilde '82 conference at TMU marked a turning point for queer studies

→ THE WILDE '82 History Conference, the first in North America dedicated to the recovery of 2SLGBTQ+ histories, took place in June 1982 at Toronto Metropolitan University, then Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

The event marked TMU as an early site of gay and lesbian resistance, bringing together gay and lesbian theorists and historians from across North America to share research and strategies.

English Professor Craig Jennex is developing a digital exhibit on the Wilde '82 conference in collaboration with the director of TMU's Centre for Digital Humanities, Professor Jason Boyd, slated to open in 2023.

Conference presenters played a critical role in the development of queer studies as an academic discipline. "Wilde '82 was one of the earliest manifestations of collective

gay and lesbian studies," says Jennex, explaining that the topics covered shared a common theme of homosexual identity as culturally constructed. It is this shift in thinking about gay identity that becomes a hallmark of queer theory and subsequent understandings of queerness.

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of Oscar Wilde's visit to Canada, the conference was organized by the Canadian Gay Archives (now The ArQuives), and was part of Pride events that year.

Participants convened at the university to build a foundation for an important field of study and offer a model for community-engaged scholarship today, says Jennex.

"It's a great reminder of what is possible when activists, academics, community historians and archivists bring their different skill sets together for the project of queer liberation." —Tania Ulrich

Body Politic collective members Sue Golding (left) and Chris Bearchell were among trailblazing scholars at Wilde '82, a significant event in queer history that marked TMU as an early site of resistance.



PHOTO BY GERALD HANNON, COURTESY OF THE ARQUIVES

I LOVE CONNECTING STUDENTS' PASSIONS WITH WHERE THEY WANT TO GO.

Dr. Kristopher Alexander, Professor, Master of Digital Media

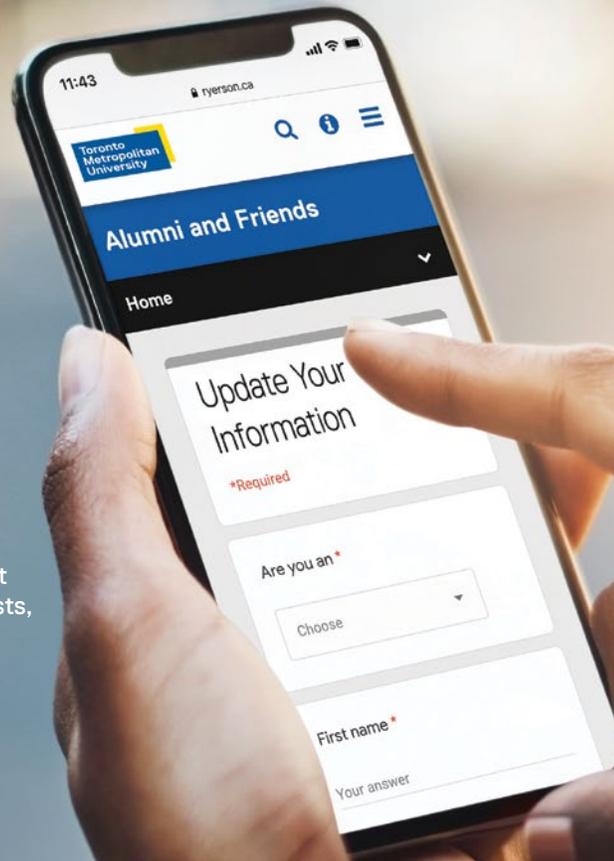
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