THE ArtSci EFFECT
YOUR PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION 2015/16
B

used at the University of Toronto, the Dictionary of Old English (DOE) is an outstanding international research project that has made its scholarship accessible on the Internet and revolutionized how humanities research is done. Thanks to financial support from donors and granting agencies, 9 of the 22 letters have been published, most recently the letter H.

“DOE is an outstanding international research project that the Salamander Foundation has been very pleased to support for over 15 years. Old English provides the basic building blocks of the English language. The DOE is a unique project, and I hope with the Middle and Oxford English Dictionaries, and together well over 15 years. Old English provides the basic building blocks of the English language (CE 600–1150). A pioneer in the application of technology to lexicography, the DOE has made its language accessible on the Internet and revolutionized how humanities research is done. Thanks to financial support from donors and granting agencies, 9 of the 22 letters have been published, most recently the letter H.

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- NAN SHUTTLEWORTH

President, The Salamander Foundation
Front Cover Image: Artist’s rendering of a discovery image of the planet 51 Eridani b with the Gemini Planet Imager taken in the near-infrared light on December 18, 2014. The bright central star has been mostly removed to enable the detection of the exoplanet one million times fainter. Image: J. Rameau (Université de Montréal) and C. Marois (National Research Council of Canada Herzberg). Story on page 8.

Inside Back Cover Image: This past year, the A&S Effect featured some of the most fascinating members of the Arts & Science community, past and present, on our social media channels. This compilation is a sampling of alumni and faculty who have had a major impact in their field and on the world.

Back Cover Image: The 57th CE mosaic panel depicting the Parting of the Red Sea adorns a synagogue floor in the ancient Jewish village of Huqoq in Israel. The scene shows the Pharaoh’s soldiers being swallowed by large fish, surrounded by overturned chariots. Excavation of the site is led by an international team of archaeologists from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the University of Toronto. Photo: Jim Haberman. Story on page 10.

To our supporters, who help make the work of the Arts & Science community possible, our boundless gratitude.

The ArtSci Effect: Your Philanthropy in Action 2015/16

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Dictionary of Old English, the Letter 'H'
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Arts & Science Donors, 2015-16
Putting Roots on the Map: Connecting isolated villages in Africa
Boundless: The Campaign for the Faculty of Arts & Science at the University of Toronto has been building momentum in our extended community. The support of 11,126 alumni and friends to date is having a meaningful impact on some of the most critical challenges facing our city, country and planet. It has meant a substantial increase in financial support for undergraduate and graduate students, groundbreaking research, state-of-the-art facilities, as well as public education and engagement.

From the discovery of new planets beyond our solar system to the uncovering of ancient mosaics in Israel, the pace of new knowledge generation in almost every field of human endeavor has been accelerated. Our impressive students, who come from every part of the globe, are finding incredible opportunities here, and finding their own ways to contribute back to society. They are advising the UN on the responsibility to protect. They are on the international scientific team that discovered gravitational waves. They are penning original works of literature as rising stars on the Canadian literary scene. They are researching the refugee crisis in Europe and learning about successful models of inclusive citizenship in some of the poorest regions in the global South. And they have been inspired by the wisdom of our alumni, who give generously of their time and experience to mentor our students.

These are some of the stories that you will read about in the pages of this report, which is about your philanthropy in action. Philanthropy is defined as the desire to promote the welfare of others, as it finds expression in particular by the generous donation of money and time to good causes. It is the impact of that spirit—which thousands of alumni and friends, faculty and staff have demonstrated—that we want to share with you. And it is that spirit that truly overwhelms us when we think about the boundless potential that is being realized every day at this great good place that is the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Arts & Science—because of you. Thank you for your tremendous support.
An international team that includes astronomers from the Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics has discovered a first-of-its-kind “young Jupiter” exoplanet which could help explain how our Solar System formed. Called 51 Eri b, it is the first planet detected with a new exoplanet-hunting instrument called the Gemini Planet Imager (GPI).

Unlike the Kepler space telescope, which detects exoplanets indirectly, the ground-based GPI lets astronomers see and study these distant worlds directly by first correcting for the blurring of the star’s image caused by the atmosphere, then by blocking out the star’s light to reveal the much fainter planet. In addition, GPI is a spectrograph, capable of analyzing light by wavelength.

The instrument was designed specifically for discovering and analyzing faint, young planets orbiting bright stars. “This is exactly the kind of planet we envisioned discovering when we designed GPI,” says James Graham, the inaugural director of the Dunlap Institute and currently professor at the University of California, Berkeley and project scientist for GPI. Graham helped develop GPI while director of the Dunlap Institute and currently professor at the University of California, Berkeley and project scientist for GPI. Graham helped develop GPI while director of the Dunlap Institute. He and Stencil physics professor (and U of T alumna) Bruce Macintosh lead the GPI collaboration and are lead authors of the SCIENCE paper announcing the discovery. Co-authors of the paper include Dunlap fellows Jeffrey Chilcote and Jérôme Maire, as well as Max Millar-Blanchaer, who was a U of T PhD candidate at the time.

“With development spanning nearly a decade, GPI has gathered contributions from over a hundred extremely talented and devoted people,” says Chilcote, who was part of the team that developed GPI’s spectrograph. “It is simply unbelievable to see all of this hard work pay off with this exciting discovery.”

51 Eri b orbits a relatively young, 20-million-year-old star named 51 Eridani; the star is 100 light-years from Earth. Of all the exoplanets discovered through direct-imaging, 51 Eri b is the faintest and, at twice the mass of Jupiter, also the lowest-mass. It orbits slightly farther from its parent star than Saturn does from the Sun. What’s more, 51 Eri b is in the coolest of the exoplanets discovered through direct imaging. Its atmosphere is about 430°C — much cooler than most other exoplanets.

Combined with the age of the system, this is a clue that the distant planetary system may have formed through a process called core-accretion that can also lead to smaller, rocky planets like Earth.

With its spectrograph, GPI also revealed a strong methane signal from 51 Eri b. Other exoplanets have only faint traces of methane, which makes this newly-discovered world much more like the methane-rich gas giants in our Solar System.

All of these characteristics point to a planet that is very much what models suggest Jupiter was like in its infancy. According to Macintosh, “This planet really could have formed the same way Jupiter did — this whole planetary system could be a lot like ours.”

And according to Maire, a key member of the team that developed GPI’s data pipelines, “The discovery of this exoplanet, made possible by the development of high-contrast imaging techniques implemented in GPI, provides new insights into planet formation and evolution.”

The Gemini Planet Imager is installed on the Gemini South Telescope in northern Chile and began operating in late 2013. 51 Eri b is the first exoplanet to be discovered as part of the GPI Exoplanet Survey, which will target 600 stars over the next three years.
An international team of archaeologists from the United States, Israel and Canada has discovered stunning new floor mosaics decorating the interior of an ancient synagogue dating to the Late Roman period (c. 3rd CE) in Israel. Located in the site of the discovery, located about 2.4 kilometres northwest of the Sea of Galilee—is an ancient Jewish village near the modern-day town of Migdal.

The mosaic panels decorating the floor of the synagogue’s nave (centre of the hall) portray two biblical stories: Noah’s Ark and the Parting of the Red Sea. The mosaic panels decorating the floor of the Synagogue near the modern-day town of Migdal, located near the Sea of Galilee—is an ancient Jewish village near the modern-day town of Migdal. The mosaic panels decorating the floor of the synagogue’s nave (centre of the hall) portray two biblical stories: Noah’s Ark and the Parting of the Red Sea. These incredibly decorated floors haven’t been seen since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth century and we haven’t seen them since the fifth 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Adapted by Amy Chen

This year, the Planet Artsci podcast had the pleasure of interviewing Professor Kumar Murty, the Chair of the Department of Mathematics, on how to approach mathematics, conquer the fear of it, and appreciate its creative aspects.

Murty admits, “I think Kung Fu Panda is absolutely brilliant. So brilliant that I made all my PhD students watch it.”

One of Murty’s goals is to foster this kind of thinking. There was a point in his life when he realized that conventional wisdom binds us in some ways of looking at something, the sooner that and the moment we jettison that kind of thinking the problem is still unsolved is because of the problem itself.

For many students, the fear of mathematics is not just about coming across a bunch of symbols. Yet the same may be said for music. Not everyone knows how to read or play, and compositions are made of a bunch of symbols as well. To know how to read and play a musical composition, one needs to know how to read and understand a mathematical proof, means to understand the message that the creator is trying to convey to others.

Therefore, according to Murty, no matter how the language may seem inhuman for someone who doesn’t understand it, math is an intensely human experience. Although subtle in some, these acts of creation in order to convey something new, creative, and even inspiring, are a profound expression of human creativity. Whether one is a student of music, mathematics or any other discipline, it is clear that creativity is the common denominator.

About Planet Artsci
The Centre for Applied Mathematics—Not Just “Acute” Idea
Better pedagogy and the application of mathematics, Murty hopes, will be cultivated through a Centre for Applied Mathematics that interacts with the world outside academia and, of the same vein, will make mathematics to a certain degree. To Murty, “We’re not trying to make them mathematicians. What I want to do is to talk to them or interact with them in such a way that they like the fear of mathematics. One of Murty’s goals is to foster this kind of thinking. There was a point in his life when he realized that conventional wisdom binds us in some ways of looking at something, the sooner that and the moment we jettison that kind of thinking the problem is still unsolved is because of the problem itself.

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To listen to the conversations visit: www.soundcloud.com/planetartsci

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This past summer, traveling through South Africa with the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs, Kim Skead drove past an informal settlement outside of Cape Town. The recent U of T graduate and four other student-researchers were on their way to meet government workers who were working with some of the poorest communities in the country. As the students drove past the sheath-metal huts and parched shrubs, Skead found it sobering to witness that much deprivation. She’d been raised in South Africa, and educated in Canada, but the settlement was still a shock.

“How do we alleviate such poverty?” she asked herself. “How do we reach the communities that need it most?” Skead has a Bachelor of Science in Global Health and Genome Biology and her week-long fieldwork was part of a six-country research project by Joseph Wong, the Ralph and Roz Halbert Professor of Innovation. Called “Reaching the Hard to Reach,” the project is supported by the MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth and focuses on how social services successfully reach communities that need them most.

The South Africa part of the project was a unique experience for Skead and student-researchers, who focused on how and why South Africa has been so successful in providing birth registration for its citizens. In just 20 years, the country leapfrogged from registering only 20 per cent of its population to registering nearly everyone, providing its citizens with access to health services, education, voting rights and other services. Skead and her co-researchers conducted 30 research interviews in four cities to reveal the factors that went into this success, interviewing representatives from Lawyers for Human Rights, the Children’s Institute and other groups. She and Wong explained that one reason for the success was South Africans’ newfound freedom after the end of apartheid. People wanted to be part of a democratic political process and wanted access to government services, which required birth registration.

“What really stood out for us was how the very same mechanisms used to enforce apartheid (registration) became the mechanism to ensure inclusive citizenship,” Wong explained. “It really gave us perspective on the importance of politics and the promise of democracy—and that reach is not only an administrative matter.”

Another reason for the success has been the country’s mobile outreach units and outreach workers traveling to remote areas. “Success in providing access to health care in rural environments boils down to two things: making resources more readily available and doing the legwork to make citizens aware of—and encouraging them to use—the resources,” added Aisbella Rea, another of the five researchers. She’s a recent graduate of the University of Toronto’s Department of Political Science. But the research trip wasn’t without challenges.

“Our first meeting did not go well,” Wong said. “But instead of throwing in the towel, the team regrouped, reworked our interview questions and went at it again. That’s real research, and the student-researchers got to experience that first-hand. They were tenacious, and they hustled, and most importantly they came to appreciate the process.”

Rau says that he learned a great deal when things didn’t go as planned.

Perhaps the most powerful insights we had were when we stopped asking questions and, instead, simply listened,” he says.

For more on Reaching the Hard to Reach project, listen to the Planet Artsci podcast with Professor Joe Wong, The Changing Face of Global Poverty, on www.soundcloud.com/planetartsci.
Seventeen years ago, Tina J. Park came to Toronto from Seoul, South Korea, as a shy girl who barely spoke English. Today, she is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Toronto and writing the definitive history of Canadian-Rwandan relations at the 2005 World Summit. Her PhD marks one of the first attempts to chronicle various aspects of bilateral relations through the lenses of culture, defense, trade, immigration and politics.

The Estate of Jeanne F.E. Armour.

Having read Margaret MacMillan’s The Diary of Anne Frank and became horrified by the little girl who was so deprived yet had the courage to carry on,” says Tina. In high school, she studied the Rwandan genocide. “I had seen a turning point for me,” she says, “the fact that the entire international community stood in silence while 800,000 people were killed over a period of only 100 days was so heart-breaking and unfathomable.”

When the time came to apply to universities, Park surprisingly applied across the board for the University of Toronto’s Margaret MacMillan Trinity One Program, which provides first-year students the opportunity to explore major issues and ideas pertaining to world affairs while in a small-group environment. Having read Margaret MacMillan’s Paris 1919 “at least three times” during high school, she decided to study the University of Toronto’s International Relations Program, which brought together 25 students.

Tina’s path has been fully engaged in the students’ academic experiences right from the beginning,” says Park. “Our Trinity One classes were always full of that magic that challenged how I saw the world. People talk about the University of Toronto’s ready for this work, and become an annual tradition, and have since hosted over two dozen events on R2P at the UN headquarters in New York in September 2015. Park endorsed the United Nations Human Rights Council’s recent resolution on R2P in Quito, which brought together 600 MPs from around the world. Since 2012, Park has contributed to the UN Secretary-General’s annual report on R2P and addressed the annual UN General Assembly’s dialogue on R2P at the UN Headquarters in New York in 2015 and 2016.

Today, more than 500 people are directly involved in the centre, with over 250 CCR2P fellows worldwide in the R2P Scholars Network. Indeed, the CCR2P is one of the leaders in the global R2P movement. Park advised the “the Responsibility to Protect, which, Park says, “ultimately, we want to turn debates about R2P into policy, and policy into timely and decisive action.” As Park points out, no one disagrees with the central premise of R2P—promoting human dignity and stability has been one of the most important ideals of the UN Charter.

The strength of the University of Toronto’s international education, especially providing the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, the CCR2P truly crystallized for Park in Trin One, including Professor Bothwell, who sparked her own interest in history and became horrified by the Little girl who was so deprived yet had the courage to carry on.” says Tina. In high school, she studied the Rwandan genocide. “I had seen a turning point for me,” she says, “the fact that the entire international community stood in silence while 800,000 people were killed over a period of only 100 days was so heart-breaking and unfathomable.”

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“Have a vision to keep the dialogue on R2P well on every level. Every discussion, every debate pushes the issue forward to mainstream human rights,” says Park. “Ultimately, we want to turn debates about R2P into policy, and policy into timely and decisive action.” As Park points out, no one disagrees with the central premise of R2P—promoting human dignity and stability has been one of the most important ideals of the UN Charter. But Park also argues that there is no clear blueprint for implementing R2P and fighting the worst of human crimes will take patience and persistence. “We are still seeing gross human rights violations and horrific scenes unfolding in Syria, Yemen, North Korea, South Sudan. And the UN alone will not be able to fix everything,” she says. “I feel a sense of urgency when there is a crisis and people have no capacity to protect themselves. When I look at the state of the world today, there is so much TURNING DEBATE on RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT into policy...
TALKING BACK, OTHERWISE:

Curated by Cheyanne Turions, this exhibit proposes that one way to reconcile that things can talk back to us is by talking back—in operating to Dialogue reconciliation project in witness to residential school survivor testimony as part of the Opening the Doors to Dialogue reconciliation project.

By turns playful and serious, the works in the latest collection on the making of the myth of Black dangerousness.

Case studies of book-trade prosecutions in England, Scotland and Ireland for the fall of medieval discourse of comic sanctity.


Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts events.

Events attended: 1,794 people attended Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts events.
aching landscape and notorious ambulatorious

from Bad Cowgirl
by Kieran Elise O’Brien

vast are the mountains and the canyons between which are open and red wounds what attention what reverence is owed to the horizon she pays she prays with her own body, which is a holy thing meet and right she walks her feet raw in their boots bleeds into the leather walking

Her bootprints in the dust are swept away by a gust a puff a snuff of breath like blowing out a candle when she comes to the cold river she removes her boots and soothers her feet wading not so deep soon numb up to the shins

walking

She was awarded the Avie Bennett Emerging Writers Scholarship and the Adam Penn Gilders Scholarship in Creative Writing.

Photo: Courtesy of Kieran Elise O’Brien

salmon arm

from The Dreams Weren’t Real but Were Time All The Same
by James Irwin

On the road from Salmon Arm in a tan pickup truck she drives in cut-offs and bare feet. I let my hand swim loose out the window. Where in hell is anyone at all? I watch the slow tanning of my skin. Hills sprawl in and out of lakes. I see how they have a holy god out here. Concessions cut the land into equal access to the sky. You can say something as nonsensical as holy god out the window into human silence, with no reply. You can say it and hear no contradiction, only the rolling, idle, bird-speckled, echo of the land.

For his MA in English in the Field of Creative Writing, James Irwin is writing a novel titled My Mother is a Fish. He also writes songs, poems and stories, and as a musician in Montreal, he released five albums. He was awarded the Avie Bennett Emerging Writers Scholarship.

Photo: Jackie Shapiro

kieran elise o’brien, who hails from victoria, is pursuing an MA in English in the field of creative writing. she is working on a poetry collection titled Bad Cowgirl, a sepia-toned portrait of the artist as a lawless gunslinger in Canada’s Old West, under the supervision of George Elliott Clarke, the E.J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature and Canada’s Parliamentary Poet Laureate, and author André Alexis. She was awarded the Avie Bennett Emerging Writers Scholarship and the Adam Penn Gilders Scholarship in Creative Writing.

photo: courtesy of kieran elise o’brien
DOCUMENTING THE RISE OF TRANS-GENDER RIGHTS

Interview by Barrett Hooper

By [

David S. Tanenbaum is an endowed University Professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of Toronto. He is the author of Double Threat: Canadian Jews, the Military, and World War II (2000) and Come Back for Me: A True Story of Survival and Betrayal during World War II (1999). His new book, The Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies officially opened in 2014 following a S$2.5 million campaign funded by Ken and Larry Tanenbaum, grandchild and son of Anne Tanenbaum.

The New Jewish Press is the inaugurating publishing program of The Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. Its goal is to make outstanding books on Jewish culture, history, philosophy and religion available to the broader Canadian and international community.

Its work is made possible thanks to the support of the Peter and Eleanor Daniels Charitable Foundation, Friedberg Charitable Foundation, The Taubman and Maxine Garvonski Fund, The B.H. Fell Memorial Fund, Hillel Foundation, Samuel J. & Jelaine Sable Family Endowment Fund, The Sharp Foundation, Jack Weinbaum Family Foundation and Yaffe Foundation.

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Here are the first volumes published by The New Jewish Press.

The Emancipation

Anne Bratman, Donald MacKinnon, Sanya Harrison, Robert Jan van Pelt

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From Ancient Greece to Tomorrow’s Headlines

Two graduate students research the refugee crisis and Muslim integration in the birthplace of democracy

Stories by Farah Mustafa

Unaccompanied migrant children are a crisis Greece is facing today. On a research trip to Athens, where they immersed themselves in the world of Global Affairs, two students and three graduate students led a course called “Modern Greece in the final semester of their degree, they took a course called “Modern Greece in the Global Affairs. Now best friends, the pair immersed themselves in the world of Global Affairs. This didn’t mean they would be spending all their time doing research. They would also have the opportunity for pivotal social, cultural, and political development. This was interesting having the opportunity to work with other groups involved in the migrant crisis and nongovernmental organizations. Leshchyshyn’s research focus to the impact of border closures on unaccompanied minors, and the function of the European Union. This situation put the island nation in a troubling position of being a microcosm of many of the world’s most pressing challenges. However, Greece has a rich and colourful history and has played key roles in global affairs for much of the past 100 years. It is the birthplace of democracy, which is the foundation of the Greek legal system. The country has been home to many influential figures throughout history, including Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates. Greece is the land of Archimedes, Euclid, and Sophocles. The study of mathematics, philosophy, and literature has a long tradition in Greece. The country has a rich cultural heritage and is known for its contribution to the arts, science, and philosophy. Greece has a long history of migration, with waves of refugees coming from the Balkans, Asia Minor, and other parts of the world.
In Grade 6, my teacher gave us an astronomy assignment and I started reading about stars and galaxies, what they’re made of, the legends of the constellations, learning new vocabulary like supernova, which is an explosion of a dying star.

In high school, I devoured every astronomy documentary I could find, including ones narrated by Morgan Freeman. I took my first course in astrophysics in my second year of undergrad, and I fell in love with the images from the Hubble Space Telescope.

In my third year of undergrad, I attended the Canadian Astronomical Society Conference and saw a presentation on LIGO, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, and I learned about gravitational waves for the first time. It was the coolest thing I’d ever heard. Ripples in the fabric of space-time. It gave me goosebumps.

The University of Toronto is the only university in Canada doing research on LIGO so I knew I had to come here for my graduate work. I joined the LIGO team in August 2015. We expected to spend months, maybe years, refining our work so that we might eventually detect gravitational waves. We made our first detection within the first week. Gravitational wave detection came at around 6 am Eastern Standard Time on September 14, 2015. It was such a powerful signal we didn’t think it could be real. We spent a lot of time analyzing and examining it, thinking it could have been a false signal put into the data as a test.

But it really was the collision between two black holes. It was the first-ever direct observation of gravitational waves, something Einstein only theorized about in 1916. There we were, 99 years later and we have our first direct evidence that black holes actually exist. I compare it to when Galileo looked through a telescope and saw the moons of Jupiter. For the next 400 years, we learned to see farther and more clearly with electromagnetic light, but LIGO is a different kind of observation, one based not on light but on gravitational waves, and it opens up a whole new way of exploring the universe.

My role was to calculate estimates of how many binary black holes we can expect to observe. I was just in Japan for the summer doing research at the University of Tokyo with Professor Kipp Cannon. He was the person who gave the presentation at the conference about LIGO that first excited me about gravitational waves.

Heather Fong’s doctoral research has been supported by the E.F. Burton Fellowship in Physics.
Godfrey Njoroge was born and raised in a little town called Kiserian, in Kenya, about 20 kilometers south of Nairobi, but he always dreamed of attending school in Canada. He dreamed of Canada because of the better educational opportunities, because of the people and the diversity of cultures, and, perhaps surprisingly, because of the land and snow. “I have always been fascinated by the great lands of Canada and the idea of snow,” he says. “It’s something I had never experienced.”

Growing up, Njoroge always looked up to his father, who was a logger and who was passionate about Canada’s vast expanse of land and its resources. “That’s something that the geosciences, especially minerals, I might work in the oil industry, and I think that’s what we should look for at universities,” he says. After his father died in a road accident, Njoroge promised himself that he would not only do well in high school to have a chance to attend school in Canada but also fulfill his promise to his father and make a dream come true. “One of the last things I remember my dad saying to me before he died was that he was really excited for me to come to Canada and continue my education. He said if I got a B+ in high school, he would do his very best to help me go to university.”

Njoroge had three younger brothers and one sister, and he is the first of them to attend university. When he made it to Canada and the University of Toronto, he immediately fell in love with the buildings, the architecture, the cold weather and, of course, the land and snow. At first, Njoroge found the experience of conversing with so many people from so many different places strange and overwhelming. “It was too new to me. But I was really friendly and willing to help. It really opens your eyes and allows you to see the world from a different perspective,” he says.

Njoroge is building friendships as he does his very best in high school to have a chance to attend school in Canada and the University of Toronto. “That’s something that the geosciences, especially minerals, I might work in the oil industry, and I think that’s what we should look for at universities,” he says. After his father died in a road accident, Njoroge promised himself that he would not only do well in high school to have a chance to attend school in Canada but also fulfill his promise to his father and make a dream come true. “One of the last things I remember my dad saying to me before he died was that he was really excited for me to come to Canada and continue my education. He said if I got a B+ in high school, he would do his very best to help me go to university.”

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A YEAR IN EVENTS

1. New Rhodes Scholars Reception
2. Arts & Science Group Award Winners reception
3. Announcement of gift to establish the Richard Charles Lee Directorship of the Asian Institute
4. Psychology professor Nick Rule speaks at U of T in Your Neighbourhood (UTN)
5. ‘Be Awesome’ Faculty and Staff Campaign
6. Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies Lehitraot Party
7. Cheque presentation by Veterans of the Polish Second Corps of the 8th Army to Polish studies
8. Bringing New Perspectives on an Old World: An Evening with MacArthur Fellow Dmitri Nakassis
9. It’s All About Math, a panel with Fields Medalist Manjul Bhargava
10. U of T in the World evening with A&S alumnus Dr. Liu Chao-shiuan in Taipei
11. Special guided tour of the Aga Khan Museum
12. Dunlap Institute director Bryan Gaensler speaks at UTN
13. A&S stamps Kids Passport to U of T during Spring Reunion
14. Bikila Barefoot Challenge in support of Ethiopian studies
15. Next Steps Conference
16. Signing of Hellenic Heritage Foundation gift agreement for Hellenic studies
The Arts & Science global alumni community now numbers 248,000. Our alumni are among our most passionate ambassadors and ardent supporters. Over this past year, many have given generously of their time and expertise to our students as part of our signature mentorship programs. For students, being able to talk openly with our alumni, ask questions, receive guidance and make genuine connections has been immensely valuable as they think about life after university. And our alumni have shared how much they’ve gotten out of the experience, whether it’s reconnecting with their alma mater and making new friends, or meeting prospective employees and discovering a meaningful way to give back. From industry nights to mentorship meals, speed networking evenings to career panels, one-on-one mentoring to job shadowing, “networking without borders” to student recruitment events—Arts & Science alumni around the world are giving our students the tools and the wisdom to confidently face their futures. This past year, our signature Backpack to Briefcase program won GOLD for Best Alumni Initiative from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education—District II.

### By the Numbers

- **46** academic units
- **97** events
- **1,187** alumni volunteers
- **1,658** b2B LinkedIn members
- **2,530** students
- **2,623** mentor hours

Figures represent participation in Backpack to Briefcase, Explore It, Mentorship Programs and the Next Steps Conference, as well as international student recruitment events, in 2015-16.

### Aknowledgements:

- **Hi thank our alumni, donors, university partners as well as MBNA, TD and Manulife, our Pillar sponsors, for their support of our programming.**

### Making Connections:

- **Students and alumni come together for one of our many career-focused networking events.**

Photo: Jackie Shapiro

A NEW WAY of LEARNING

Arts & Science student-alumni mentorship.
It was helpful to give some insight to those who are exactly at the point I was at a year ago! I look forward to getting more involved as an alum.

RYAN  
(2nd-year student, Mathematics)

I appreciated being able to talk about students’ struggles and other matters that are of great interest. This program also provides a new way of learning.

ALYSSA-MARIE DOPPF  
(BA History and Carribbean Studies)

Talking with the alumni was extremely reassuring and energizing in gaining an understanding of how their full-need career paths unfolded. Before meeting people who are already in their respective industries, we see their credentials and think how extraordinary they are. This event helped show that they were once students with aspirations and with the same fears and uncertainties we face, and some probably faced the same, if not worse challenges.

– CÉLINE CHEUNG  
(BA English and Art History)

It was nice to speak to them in a social environment. I liked that there was a diversity of alumni, including those who had recently graduated because they are most familiar with the system today. At the same time, having older graduates was very meaningful because it is a great resource to have a different type of wisdom.

HALEY  
(1st-year student, Environment)

I was at a year ago! I look forward to getting more involved as an alum.

– JAMES GIFFORD  
(PhD English)

The alumni were so open to share with the students their disappointments or failures in their post-graduate experience and how they overcame them. They told us not to be afraid of failure, to be open-minded and put ourselves out there, to volunteer. These were really tangible and practical forms of advice. I also appreciated that the faculty were so warm and friendly. It was nice to speak to them in a social environment. I liked that there was a diversity of alumni, including those who had recently graduated because they are most familiar with the system today. At the same time, having older graduates was very meaningful because it is a great resource to have a different type of wisdom.

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(PHD Candidate, Italian Studies)

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(4th-year student, Sociology)

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Ethnographer Makes History at Warsaw Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Interview by Diana Kuprel

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, who studied at the University of Toronto, is the program director of the core exhibition for POLIN Museum in Warsaw in 2014. In 2016, POLIN was awarded Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which opened in the heart of Jewish Warsaw, an area that is extraordinary—standing in what was once the Ghetto to the death camp in Treblinka in April 1943. BKG: The building itself is inscribed with the spelling out the word “Polin”—the Hebrew word for Poland, but also of Poland. In a word, the legacy of the civilization that they created has vanished with them. Our mission is to recover that world and to transmit the significance of the museum’s physical context. CS: The exit of POLIN Museum is quite extraordinary—standing in what was once the heart of Jewish Warsaw, where the Nazis turned the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II into a place of forced labor, the exhibits in the Ghetto to the death camp in Treblinka in 1943, and on the other the lighters in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in April 1943. The museum completes the memorial complex we go to the museum to honour those who died by remembering how they lived. The museum has become a symbol of the new face of Warsaw. DK: What is the museum’s curatorial strategy? BKG: We wanted to create an open narrative told in multiple voices and to avoid a master narrative. Our approach is predicated on an active learner and pedagogy of inquiry, exploration, discovery and critical thinking. Most important, we have aimed to create a zone of trust, a safe place for dangerous ideas, a space where visitors will be better informed and more open to engaging difficult aspects of history. A colleague with Facing History, an organization that helped create POLIN Museum, questioned our approach: “Are you prepared for visitors to create their own emnart narratives?” she asked. Yes, we are. Our approach is an open strategy. We believe that dialogue and debate are a vital role to play as a watchdog and advocate for local communities, and in promoting sustainable peace understood by human rights and socio-economic justice. CS: What is the museum’s curatorial strategy? BKG: We wanted to create an open narrative told in multiple voices and to avoid a master narrative. Our approach is predicated on an active learner and pedagogy of inquiry, exploration, discovery and critical thinking. Most important, we have aimed to create a zone of trust, a safe place for dangerous ideas, a space where visitors will be better informed and more open to engaging difficult aspects of history. A colleague with Facing History, an organization that helped create POLIN Museum, questioned our approach: “Are you prepared for visitors to create their own emnart narratives?” she asked. Yes, we are. Our approach is an open strategy. We believe that dialogue and debate are a vital role to play as a watchdog and advocate for local communities, and in promoting sustainable peace understood by human rights and socio-economic justice. CS: What is the museum’s curatorial strategy? BKG: We wanted to create an open narrative told in multiple voices and to avoid a master narrative. Our approach is predicated on an active learner and pedagogy of inquiry, exploration, discovery and critical thinking. Most important, we have aimed to create a zone of trust, a safe place for dangerous ideas, a space where visitors will be better informed and more open to engaging difficult aspects of history. A colleague with Facing History, an organization that helped create POLIN Museum, questioned our approach: “Are you prepared for visitors to create their own emnart narratives?” she asked. Yes, we are. Our approach is an open strategy. We believe that dialogue and debate are a vital role to play as a watchdog and advocate for local communities, and in promoting sustainable peace understood by human rights and socio-economic justice. CS: What is the museum’s curatorial strategy? BKG: We wanted to create an open narrative told in multiple voices and to avoid a master narrative. Our approach is predicated on an active learner and pedagogy of inquiry, exploration, discovery and critical thinking. Most important, we have aimed to create a zone of trust, a safe place for dangerous ideas, a space where visitors will be better informed and more open to engaging difficult aspects of history. A colleague with Facing History, an organization that helped create POLIN Museum, questioned our approach: “Are you prepared for visitors to create their own emnart narratives?” she asked. Yes, we are. Our approach is an open strategy. We believe that dialogue and debate are a vital role to play as a watchdog and advocate for local communities, and in promoting sustainable peace understood by human rights and socio-economic justice.

CS: What are your thoughts about the role Canada should play in the current refugee crisis? DK: The need is vast and acute. But Canada also has a lot to gain. That’s how I became interested in the Middle East. And it was an opportunity to become fluent in Mandarin.

CS: Tell us about your current work with the Canadian Trade Office.

DK: Tell us about your current work with the Canadian Trade Office.

CS: What is your relationship to the Syrian opposition.

DK: I was in the middle of my PhD and thought I didn’t have time for a full-time job. But a friend of mine said there was a job opening in the foreign service, and she urged me to apply. So I applied. I was accepted to the Foreign Service. I was lucky enough to be selected.

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Seeing the Best in Humanity

Interview by Emily Johnpulle

Safet Cakiraj (BA International Relations and Peace, Conflict & Justice) worked as a protection assistant for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malta, which was part of the fundamental right of refugees to seek asylum. As a young Bahamian, Cakiraj was one of the few brown faces in the Bledsoe-Bridge Institute staff.

Q: What is the nature of your work?

A: Protection ‘measures’ ensure that the fundamental human rights of refugees are respected—especially the right to not be returned home after claiming asylum, the right to seek asylum, and the right to have a lawyer. As a protection assistant, my job is to make sure that these rights are respected by meeting and interviewing refugees and connecting them with various legal aid centres and in the community. My work ‘on the ground’ helps us identify the issues we do an office with the government of Malta by providing evidence for the positions we take. Of course, an important part of my work is to try to solve the problems individual refugees are facing by bringing up their specific cases and problems individual refugees are facing.

Q: How has working with refugees influenced your life?

A: I have become a bit more optimistic about humanity than I used to be. Although people often think about refugees acting out of fear after the conflict of various aspects of war—worry and fear, for example—my experience is that their stories are more often about love, courage, nobility and the will to live after tragedy.

A: What are the most prominent barriers currently facing refugees?

A: The biggest barriers facing refugees are the laws, policies and practices created by states to prevent people from being able to access the UNHCR’s protection and border control and the criminalization of migration itself. Recognizing refugees is not enough for the whole world. It needs to plan a response to this problem—one that respects the rights of refugees, is fair to the whole world—not just Europe, but Canada, and many other countries which have long failed to respond effectively to the refugee crisis in Europe. That means going into refugee camps and offering people protection and needlessness on the spot so they don’t have to make a dangerous journey. I would also be better for European governments, who would be able to take more control over the manner in which the people are arriving and also more equitably the number of refugees each state welcome.

That’s why my personal opinion is that the whole world—not just Europe, but Canada and the USA and many other countries which have long failed to respond effectively to this problem—needs to plan a response that respects the rights of refugees, is fair to the whole world—not just Europe, but Canada, and many other countries which have long failed to respond effectively to the refugee crisis in Europe. That means going into refugee camps and offering people protection and needlessness on the spot so they don’t have to make a dangerous journey. I would also be better for European governments, who would be able to take more control over the manner in which the people are arriving and also more equitably the number of refugees each state welcome.

A True Global Citizen

Interview by Dana Kopel

Shawn Shing (BA International Relations) is the founder and CEO of Yiqiao China, a Beijing-based organization that connects students and professionals around the world to serve. Coming from different fields and countries, while getting systematic training in the social sector, so we’re filling this gap. The synergy created among the volunteers has great potential.

Shing held a summer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem studying the Middle Eastern conflict, I was extremely fortunate to develop this sense of identity which means so much to me.

Near the end of my undergrad, I started thinking that there was not yet experience in a global citizen who doesn’t really understand his or her own roots still has some limitations. I was born in China, and my family emigrated to Canada when I was nine.

So, in my fourth year, I had a chance to study some international relations and the foreign policies of China, Canada and the world with Professors Robert Blackwill, Stephen Clarkson and Bill Graham. It was an incredible intellectual experience, so I started exploring what these relationships meant and how I could be a bridge between these worlds.

What was it like to re-visit China after so many years?

When I was an undergraduate at the University of Toronto, I was really lucky to have a chance to explore the world. I did some development work in Kampala, an exchange year in Paris, and spent a summer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem studying the Middle Eastern conflict, I was extremely fortunate to develop this sense of identity which means so much to me.

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What was it like to re-visit China after so many years?
The overwhelming support during our faculty and staff giving campaign has us all shook up.

Story by Barrett Hooper

THANK YOU, Thank You

VERY MUCH

The overwhelming support during our faculty and staff giving campaign has us all shook up.

Story by Barrett Hooper

There’s a large plastic bust of Vegas-era Elvis perched prominently on a shelf at the Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS). While a relic of a certain kind, the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll isn’t quite old enough to be the subject of study at the Centre. Instead, he’s presiding over Graceland, as the office of the graduate administrator, Grace Desa, is popularly known. Desa has been at CMS for 29 years and is, by all accounts, the heart of the Centre. She’s the first person new students meet and likely the last to bid them farewell upon graduation. She counsels them on their admissions and financial issues, and she consoles them when they do poorly on an exam. “I’d love to say that the best part of the job is helping students, but we all help students in our own way, don’t we?” says Desa. “I’m like a mother and they are all my babies. I feel sad when they leave the nest. Proud, but sad.”

In 2016, Desa was rewarded for her contributions at CMS with the Dean’s Distinguished Service Award. But her giving to CMS doesn’t end when office hours are over. A few years ago, Desa decided she wanted to do something more, so she became a donor. She’s given several times in recent years and she was one of the hundreds of staff and faculty who participated in the 2016 Be Awesome Faculty & Staff Giving Campaign. “I believe in the work we do and I believe in helping our students as much as we can,” she says. “Being a donor is so fulfilling. So I’ll keep giving whenever I can.” Desa made her first donation after a colleague’s mother passed away. In lieu of flowers, she gave to the Dictionary of Old English. “One of our dear projects,” she says. She’s since made several gifts to both the DOE and student scholarships. “I give what I’m able to now,” says Desa. “I haven’t made out my will yet, but I’m considering leaving something to the university.”

The 2016 Be Awesome Campaign was the most successful faculty and staff campaign in Arts & Science history. Overall participation among faculty and staff was up 96% over the previous year and one-third were first-time donors to the Faculty.

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With support from 11,126 alumni and friends, Boundless: The Campaign for the Faculty of Arts & Science is having a meaningful impact on some of the most critical challenges facing us—from addressing environmental sustainability and championing of human rights, to confronting social inequality and spurring economic prosperity.

To date, our donors have contributed more than $250 million toward the Faculty’s highest priorities. The effect of this philanthropy is benefiting every aspect of our Faculty and helping to empower the talent, ideas, discoveries and innovations needed to tackle the issues we care about most, and to inspire the global citizens of tomorrow.

To all of you, our heartfelt thanks.

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**“The University of Toronto is one of the world’s leading research universities. Our ability to attract outstanding international doctoral students is crucial to our ability to make a major contribution in meeting the global challenges of our time, in which the social sciences are a vital part. By supporting this scholarship, I hope to help maintain and strengthen our ability to make that contribution for years to come.”**

- PROFESSOR MERIT GERTLER, President of the University of Toronto and donor to the PPEF-Meric Gertler Graduate Scholarship in Arts & Science

**“At the Bikila Awards in Toronto, I was being honoured for my work on Ethiopian culture. I thought, this was a perfect moment to try and make something happen. I gave the Ethiopian community a challenge. I said that I would contribute $50,000 of my own money to launch a course in Ge’ez, the historical and liturgical semitic language of Ethiopia, at the University of Toronto if they could match it. They accepted the challenge.”**

- PROFESSOR MICHAEL GERBERS (PhD)

**“Sharing our brilliant and ancient history of Ethiopia. Proud to support the studies in our home town through @UofT and @bikilaaward.”**

- THE WEEKND, donor to Ethiopian studies

**“We have some phenomenal students here in the Department Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, but many of them are struggling financially. Fellowships allow them to take a field course, which enhances their understanding, broadens their horizons and, most of the time, completely changes their attitude and experience towards learning.”**

- PROFESSOR DON JACKSON (BSc, MSc, PhD), donor to the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**“It’s one thing being an alumnus. It’s one thing being a donor. But it’s whole different thing being engaged with students. For me, the best part is getting to know the recipients of the scholarships I established, watching them grow and be successful, and being able to see that impact firsthand. Scholarships are the best way to make a positive impact because you know that 100% of your support goes to the students. The scholarship that I received as a student made a great impression on me: it gave me confidence, which meant a lot at that time.”**

- DAVID SCRIMGEOUR (BCom) established the Scrymgeour Scholarship in Entrepreneurial Management and the Building Canadian Leaders Matching Fund

**“Making a difference—that’s cliché, but it’s true. We all want to make a difference, even a small one. Money is not enough. Being an active donor, being someone who gets involved will add more value to the act of giving. I think that seeing what that money can do is really exciting.”**

- PROFESSOR TAMARA TROJANOWSKA (PhD), donor to Polish studies

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The Faculty of Arts & Science is grateful to all our donors for their generous support of our students, faculty, programming and special projects.

This list captures donations of $25,000+ during the period May 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016.
There were times in the summer of 2015 in Rwanda while Quan Le was making maps for a World Bank road project that he wondered what some people might think if they knew the cartography was being done by an undergraduate student from the University of Toronto. He needn’t have worried. A short while later, his professor reported he had visited the office of a Rwandan government official and spotted one of Le’s maps hanging prominently on the wall.

“That was pretty cool,” says Le, who came to Canada from Vietnam in 2010 when he was still in high school and just four years later became a research assistant for U of T economist Marco Gonzalez-Navarro through Ontario’s work-study program when he got this chance to do economics field research in Rwanda. It’s also a pretty cool demonstration of the boundless impact a donor can have. Le is the recipient of the Ramsay Scholarship in Political Economy, which was established in 1892, through a bequest by the late William Ramsay, Esq. of Bowland, Scotland, that has supported a top economics student annually ever since.

Gonzalez-Navarro was charged with evaluating the impact of a five-year project to connect isolated villages to the rural road system in Rwanda, funded by the World Bank and Innovations for Poverty Action, an American non-profit. Le became part of Gonzalez-Navarro’s team, serving as the professor’s eyes and ears in Rwanda for six weeks in July and August 2015. Overall, Le’s been working on the project since 2014, and after graduation this year, will begin a two-year contract as a research assistant at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research.

“During that interview, the professors at Stanford expected me to be very knowledgeable about this Rwanda project, because I’m part of the team that’s running it,” says Le. “I think if I didn’t have this position, I would never have gone to Stanford.”

The only undergraduate on the project, Le’s field research experience in Rwanda was the highlight of his work collecting data to create algorithms showing the impact of constructing better feeder routes for isolated villagers trying to get to national markets.

The opportunity to actually go to Rwanda helped make all those numbers very real for Le.

“Even putting the market just 500 metres closer makes a big difference when you’re carrying 20 kilograms of bananas or sweet potatoes back and forth on the road every day. I was able to make those numbers concrete, because it’s kind of hard to interpret data if you don’t know what it really means,” says Le.

“You can read papers and you can look at pictures of the roads, but there’s always the value of experience—nothing beats being there.”

The trip also helped Le understand how rural surveys and field research are organized and conducted by agencies like the World Bank, with their vast experience in development economics.

Le plans to focus on development economics in his future career and is interested in how “poverty traps” such as a lack of market access impact poor people in terms of income, opportunity and the costs of goods and services. Most Rwandans in rural areas have to walk or ride bikes to reach the markets in the hilly African nation.

“There are people in these jacked villages with no viable transportation to the general highways, because the existing feeder roads are so bad, but if you have a better road, the cost of trade is lower, and that facilitates access to national markets,” says Le.

“This experience in Rwanda helped provide a lot of context for that kind of situation, because I want to be able to run one of these studies myself one day.”