

LET'S TALK SCIENCE

Teaching hands-on environmental lessons to elementary school students

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Clubs crowd campus

Clubs on campus come together to showcase UTM's diverse social life

BERNERINE LUCZYNSKI

During the week of September 14 to 16, the Student Centre buzzed with music and excitement as club booths filled the area. The annual Clubs Week, where social and academic organizations have the opportunity to show students what they are all about, was once again a success. Over 100 booths lined the passage way of the Student Centre, the main entrance to the Presentation Room. Talk and music filled the walls of the building as students learned about organizations of their interest.



support for a particular club. OUT@UTM, a club geared toward the campus' LGBTQ population, sold \$2 fruit smoothies on Monday as part of the club's Queer Orientation.

Clubs such as the UTM Badminton Club, a new organization hoping to take off, "allows students to socialize and have fun without much stress on students," according to its literature. Other clubs hold social gatherings where students can meet, mingle and eat. And Caribbean Connections, which gives its members "a taste of the Caribbean with events for cultural expression" will host an Afro Fusion event jointly with other clubs next

Features

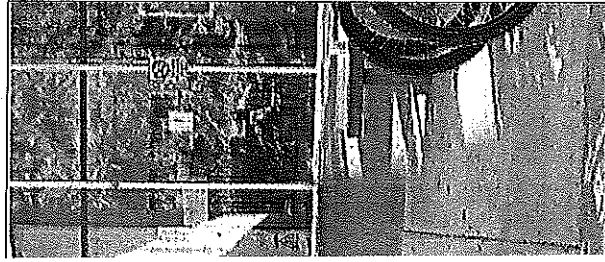
Amir Ahmed, Editor | features@mediumonline.ca

at UTM

ity by loaning

ages are the responsibility of the student riding the bike. Share also offers repairs by a BikeShare for students who own bicycles and be equipped with knowledge on how to maintain them.

ast year, BikeShare has a fleet of bikes by 18 and e repairs to the older, ged ones. They have also



Matthew Filipowich/The Medium
bikes in the past year.

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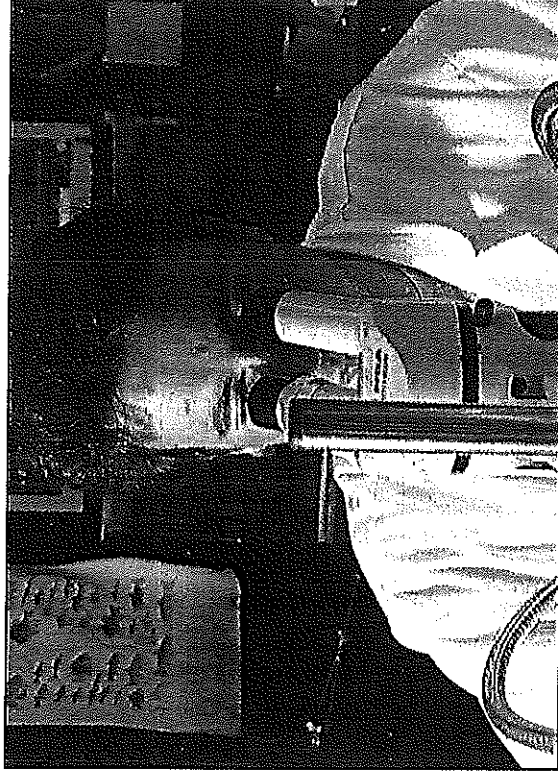
Let's talk science

Teaching children about the environment

ANAM ALI

"The Magic School Bus" - a television program aired years ago to teach children about the world - has today gone the way of the Power Rangers and Pokemon. To the best knowledge of anyone in *The Medium*, children's television now revolves around four ungendered plushies with antennas sticking out of their head. This is all well and good - the plushies are hilarious - but it doesn't teach us, or our younger brothers and sisters much about the world. Let's Talk Science, though it doesn't appear on television, or involve enchanted automobiles, takes on that role.

Let's Talk Science is non-profit charitable organization, funded mainly by the principal's office at UTM and the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council for the Erindale campus. It's a nationwide program, but is run independently by participating universities and institutes, 22 of which are 2 in Canada,



Matthew Filipowich/The Medium
Let's Talk Science coordinator Shidan Murphey examines specimens.

UTM among them.

At UTM, Let's Talk Science runs two unique projects: the Atlantic Salmon Restoration

Program and the Green Roofs Project.

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Let's talk about science, baby

Science continued from page 7

Both of these projects address current environmental issues facing Canada and the world.

The Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program strives to sustain the salmon population in Lake Ontario, which was fished to extinction during the late 1800s. Let's Talk Science visits participating elementary schools and provides fish tanks and fish eggs to each classroom, where the salmon are hatched, raised and then released to the Credit River.

"The students find the program exciting and learn many skills from these hands-on activities," says Shidan Murphy, the current LTS coordinator. Recently a sixth grade class designed and sewed a quilt emblazoned with their science projects and presented it as a gift to Murphy.

The Green Roof Project strives to improve the water quality in

Canada and reduce carbon emissions. In this project, schools are provided with garden sheds to be run and monitored by students. They incorporate the project into their math classes by measuring temperatures and performing calculations based on garden shed data. According to Murphy, the volunteers do an amazing job by not only teaching science to the students, but by also instilling environmentally conscious attitudes in them.

When Shidan Murphy and Sara Chavelazaro, the coordinators of LTS, were asked what keeps LTS running, both of them unhesitatingly gave all the credit to their volunteers without claiming any for themselves. Murphy and Chavelazaro will not be with LTS next year, but are confident that the volunteers, along with the new coordinator, will continue reaching out to youths with LTS.

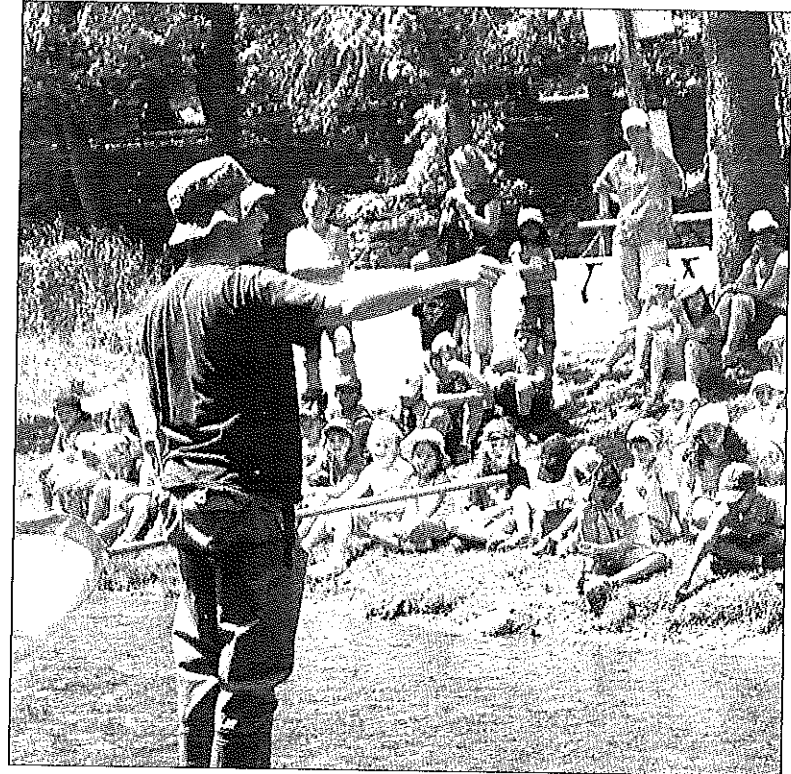
When asked about their volunteers, Murphy and Chavelazaro stated that most of the volunteers

are graduate students who come from various scientific fields, ranging from physics to psychology. Murphy mentioned that he would love to see more involvement from the undergraduate students of all academic backgrounds.

Volunteers for LTS are trained using a program called Science with Impact. The program teaches these volunteers to deal with children at different age levels and to communicate scientific information in simple terms, allowing the children to learn through application and analysis of ideas rather than through rote memorization.

The experience may prove to be an adventurous one, as Shidan says, "You never know where LTS will end up next, the next thing you know we're taking the kids ocean hunting and diamond picking or up north into Nunavut."

Murphy and Chavelazaro will be attending the Get Experience Fair on Wednesday, September 24 to recruit volunteers. They can be reached at Itsutm@letstalkscience.ca.



Sarah Chavelazaro/Photo

PHD candidate Shidan Murphy has fun teaching kids science.

Creative Corner

Hey Baby...

ANAM ALI

It's been a while,
You've been outta town baby.

I can't take it,
I can't take it,

A little insight, a lot of love

CHRISTINE LAW

I closed the bathroom stall. As I expect-

asked her where she was originally from to which she replied, "Nigeria."

"You have a beautiful accent! What brought you here? Do you have family

on the same level and I felt every emotion running through her.

Then in an instant, her arms were wrapped around me as she sobbed and

was alone in this country, without family, or as if her job was any lower than mine. I didn't want her to feel hopeless