Civility guidelines reminder of standard for conduct on the job

BY ELAINE SMITH

As part of U of T’s commitment to providing a safe and inclusive work environment where everyone feels respected and valued, the university’s Guideline on Civil Conduct (www. humanresources.utoronto.ca/Assets/news/civilitypdf.pdf) establishes the standard for behaviour in the workplace. These guidelines were developed because we were seeing some situations where people did not feel safe and we needed to make our workplace a respectful and inclusive environment.

The guidelines cover many areas, including (human resources). The guidelines highlight the standards that were previously implicit and provide avenues to resolve concerns. They are a simple way of articulating what we all think of as standard workplace conduct.

Move over ROSI — U of T students are developing their own resources

BY KELLY KARIN

For Joel Koronik and Sean McNeely, it’s a sweet gig. The pair have launched their career as software entrepreneurs at U of T, even before earning the doctorate in computer science.

Koronik and McNeely have already started working with Frank Borzoff of U of T’s enterprise, startup and solutions innovation (EASI) group to develop a prototype for a student services with applications of their own.

Their web application, known as Project Augur, is designed to help students search for courses and mapping out their degree. It also reflects the principles of a larger effort underway, the Next Generation Student Information System (NGSIS) program.

Their project introduces a new approach to providing services to students, faculty and staff by using the Repository of Student Information (ROSI). Imagine a bulletin board set of services that makes recommendations for students about opportunities such as scholarships or assistance in their field of study — along with clubs and organizations — and suggests employment opportunities by comparing profile information with available data.

"We know this data is available, we just need to find a way to make it more accessible to people," said Ian Martin, director of policy, governance and assessment, which is why Project Augur is so interesting," said Koronik and McNeely.

Koronik and McNeely came up with the idea for Project Augur after Koronik observed McNeely tracking his course marks and his progress using a feed of course selection data from various sources.

The two realized McNeely’s system would make a great application for all students and began to talk about their idea. They asked other students what they would like to help them make course selections and discovered that students often turn to their registered offices or use ROSI and Degree Navigator. Neither of these systems provide anything to help guide students with course selection; they make it an arduous process, Koronik said.

The difference between ROSI and Project Augur is that ROSI simply provides information about enrolment transactions, while Project Augur assists students in making course selection decisions.

"We have a number of students who are interested," Koronik and McNeely noted. In contract, their project proposal attracted students to use the tool to make informed course selection decisions. Eventually, it will also make course recommendations to students in real-time as they browse books and make course recommendations to booksellers.

Any ideas on how to follow the progress of Project Augur, go the project blog, http://projectaugur.com/.

U of T honours Giant of Biomedical Science

BY ELAINE SMITH

The launch of a new biography of Dr. Fraser Mustard, Canada’s first Children’s Commissioner, at the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Molecular Research will be a highlight for former colleagues to both praise and gently roast the celebrated biomedical researcher and agent for social change.

The biography, written by retired University Professor Marian Packham, focuses on the U of T’s medical school graduate’s ability to achieve results, no matter to which field he applied his talents. Mustard’s list of accomplishments is a lengthy one and includes:

- a founding member of McMaster University’s Faculty of Medicine (1966), serving as executive director of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR) (1992)
- being co-chair of a 1999 Ontario government report on early learning, the Early Years Study — Reversing the Real Pain Drain: a study that led to the establishment of Ontario Early Years Centres
- being named one of U of T’s 10 Giants of Biomedical Science.

"Fraser Mustard is a national treasure," said President David Naylor. "He has been a stellar success as a biomedical scientist, translator, policy advisor and a leader in public health and social policy.

In the laboratory, Mustard was equally accomplished. Among the studies for which he, Packham and other research team members are remembered is an investigation of the inhibitory effect of aspirin in platelet aggregation and a demonstration that platelet aggregation could lead to heart attacks and strokes.

Today at 83, age hasn’t slowed Mustard from going ahead. He now devotes time to The Founders’ Network, an international organization that promotes CIAR science and technology and its economic determinants of health and human development. His former colleagues paid tribute to his indomitable spirit and energy, as well as his unique style, in their comments during the book launch.

He had the remarkable ability to identify innovative opportunities and to seek out and attract the very best people to exploit them," said Dr.基准 Boursin, former McMaster University president.

Former Toronto Star business editor David Crane noted that Mustard could always see the big picture, without ignoring details, if they were relevant.

"He was the person, more than anyone else, who carried through the creation of the CIAR and the CIARM," he said.

"His focus were limits on the way universities addressed research issues, so he created a new institution that allowed people from different universities and organizations to work together on one of his big ideas.

U of T alumnus Gerald Heffernan, who worked closely with Mustard, had a more personal point of view.

"What I didn’t know about Fraser is that he tends to very quickly become his slaves," he said, especially as the crowd chuckled.

Mustard gamely joked right back.

U of T Faculty have won 28.3 per cent of all Sloan Fellowships awarded to Canadian universities between 1980 and 2009.

Sloan Research Fellowships seek to stimulate fundamental research by early-career scientists and scholars of outstanding promise.