

## The Law of Conservation of Chatter

Welcome to the first issue of Chestnut's official newsletter! Since the establishment of our residence in 2004, this publication has informed students on university and residence life and served as a written communications medium between the residence office and residents. Created by students for students, the Chestnut Chatter features all forms of reader-submitted printable content, showcasing the creative energies of the literally tons of talented people in this building. The Chatter team hopes you enjoy reading and welcomes you to send feedback and submissions to [naeem.ordonez@utoronto.ca](mailto:naeem.ordonez@utoronto.ca).



## Photo of the Month Competition

For each new issue, The Chatter will be asking for submissions from students. Show off your photography skills and send submissions to: [brigitte.toppin@utoronto.ca](mailto:brigitte.toppin@utoronto.ca)



This month's winner: Sherry Cui

## Update From The Chestnut Residence Council: Halloween Mania

The Council has been working hard to bring you, the students, well-planned events and a variety of services to improve your Chestnut experience this semester. Tickets were recently sold for The Haunt at Canada's Wonderland and the turnout has been amazing! The Halloween spirit grew like a well-watered plant.

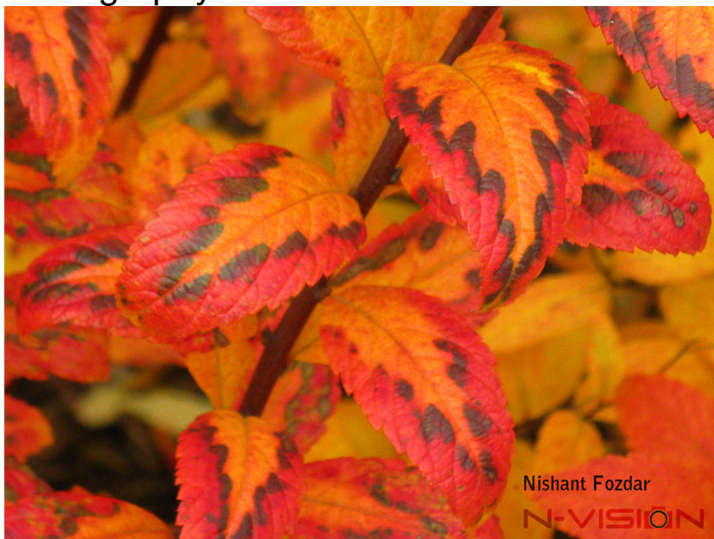
The excitement didn't end with The Haunt, however. Chestnut's Scream Team worked hard to conjure up and fabricate horrors beyond your worst nightmares. Judging for the Halloween floor decorating competition occurred on Monday, October 31st. Floor members got in the spirit by decorating their floors and scaring the judges senseless. First place went to Floor 23.

Finally, Council has included Executive Council office hours, which are posted on the window of the Council office (in the hallway across from the Residence Life Office and La Perla Salon). Transparency and communication are two highly valued traits within this year's Residence Council. To make it easier on all students, you now have the option to come see an Executive member at different periods during the day. Feel free to voice your concerns, pitch ideas and suggestions or just come in for a chat.

From your Creative Director,  
Claire Scherzinger



## Photography Profile: 17th Floor Don Nishant Fozdar



## The Life of a Music Student at UofT

By Ali Cameron

Chestnut is full of a variety of different students. There are those that study engineering, others computer science, and many are in the realm of arts and science. However, there are only a handful (if that) of music students, and even though the university has a very prominent music program, there aren't many people outside the faculty who know what goes on in a day in the life of a music student.

Maki Ishida is currently a second year vocal student in the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto. Hidden away in the music faculty building (located opposite Victoria College and close to the ROM), music students like Maki tend to have the majority of their classes there. This term she has course-load that consists of 20 hours (more than many Arts and Science students)! Passionate about her studies, she has a variety of courses that consist of far more than one would imagine. Her studies range from the mandatory theory classes that both analyze and try to understand the use of tones and harmonies (amongst many other things), to music history. From courses on musical education, including a course on how to teach children the study of music, to specific cultural courses like African drumming. Apart from all her courses, as a vocal student, Maki also has to participate in one of the many choirs - in her case, the Women's Chamber Choir - which practice twice weekly. The same applies to instrumental students and the many bands within the faculty.

Often confronted with the question, "what are you going to do with that?" Maki is interested in pursuing the study of music therapy in her post-graduate studies, a track that music students can follow aside from teaching or performing music.

The music faculty is always hosting a variety of performances – both internal and external – and there is always something taking place in their performance hall within the main building. For those interested in classical music (and any other type really) I encourage you to attend any of these events, as they are all fantastically performed. I myself attended one of the choral performances last week, and was impressed by the overall quality of the three faculty choirs that performed.

## Secrets of Success...

By Simon Watson

The strategies you used to achieve academic excellence in high school will need to be adjusted if you are going to succeed in university. You should, for instance, become skilled at prioritizing. There simply isn't the time anymore to do everything, nor can work be left until the last minute. There is far too much to do, and the competition for grades is too fierce to allow for sloppy work habits. Thus, university is a place where your success is dependent upon your willingness to take responsibility for your own learning. Get organized. This means determining those periods in the day when you study most effectively and scheduling your work accordingly. Keep on top of your readings. Prepare for class. Get your assignments in on time. Become an active learner. In class, listen carefully for key points, take notes strategically, and know why you are taking notes in the first place. This will dictate what kind of notes you will take. Are you writing notes to help you concentrate on the lecture? Are you writing notes in preparation for a multiple choice exam? Do you need notes to make sense of course readings? The same is true for reading. Ineffective reading wastes time! Never read anything without knowing what you're reading for. What information do you need? What is the question you hope to answer? Take notes. Record page numbers. Develop your learning skills. Working harder isn't necessarily the answer. Think quality versus quantity. Look to those who are succeeding for advice and encouragement. Talk to your classmates. Find people who want to be successful and avoid those who are cynical and have a negative attitude. Talk with your professor and/or T.A. Take advantage of a professor's office hours and appointment times early on. In a one-on-one appointment there is a very quick back and forth, and a professor can see what you don't understand and tailor an explanation. E-mail is not very efficient. Moreover, you might need letters of reference in the future, and if you meet with a professor, they will likely be able to write a better letter. However, prepare yourself beforehand. Avoid really big questions like "How do I write an essay?" A good question might be, "What is the purpose of this assignment? What do you want me to learn?" Take advantage of resources like Robarts library and University of Toronto writing centres. That way, rather than approaching a professor with "I know nothing. Teach me," show you've done foundational work so your questions are realistically answerable. Finally, know your supports. Your friends and family may help to keep you grounded. The university also has a wide range of support services, such as Health and Wellness, located at 214 College Street ( <http://healthandwellness.utoronto.ca/>). Get to know these services and how they may help you. Speak with your don for more information.

Sources:

Perret, Nellie. "But, will it...be harder?" *The Student Body, Mind, and Spirit*. University of Toronto Health Service 1, no. 2 (November 2008): 1.

Bridges, W. *Transitions: Strategies for coping with the difficult, painful and confusing times in your life*. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1980.

## Chestnut Soccer Team

By Ali Cameron

This year, the Chestnut soccer team – formed by a variety of players who both currently live in Chestnut and a few who lived here in the past – has already played a total of three games.

They started off their season by tying against Med Sci 3-3, after being down 3-1, with an amazing team effort affected in part by an extremely muddy and slippery field. Once the team got used to the awful field conditions – as anyone who has walked across Front Campus will have experienced – the team managed to pull themselves together and deliver two more goals to prevent a loss.

The second game was against Dentistry, and Chestnut came out on top with a distinguished 4-0 victory on the 15th of October in which they displayed a great attack, solid passing, and a strong defense that did not let a single ball in.

Unfortunately, on the 17th, the team lost against the Pharmacy team 2-1, although the effort and the goal kept the Chestnut fan base (the largest in the division, I might add!) cheering for the team and hoping for a win.

Hoping to go through to the next stage, Chestnut played against Woodsworth College on Sunday the 23rd of October, and the Commerce team later on in the month. We wished them all the best in both games and hope for their success!

Go Chestnut!

Have an idea? Want to contribute to The Chatter?

Contact: [naeem.ordonez@utoronto.ca](mailto:naeem.ordonez@utoronto.ca)

### Contributors and Staff:

Naeem Ordonez

Peter Leimbigler

Claire Scherzinger

Simon Watson

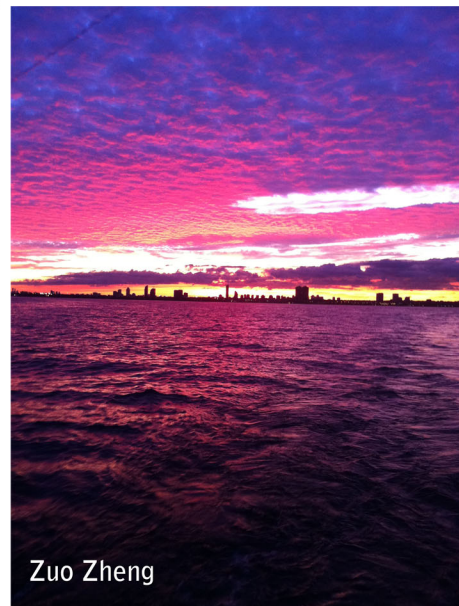
Nishant Fozdar

Sherri Cui

Zuo Zheng

Brigitte Toppin

Ali Cameron



Zuo Zheng