



UCC
UPPER CANADA COLLEGE

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&
|



BRANKSOME
HALL

PRESENT



THE INNOVATION GAME

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Aubrey De Grey

2017

ABOUT WAC

THE WORLD AFFAIRS
CONFERENCE IS
NORTH AMERICA'S
OLDEST STUDENT-RUN
CURRENT AFFAIRS
CONFERENCE.

BECOME A PART OF THIS HISTORY.



LETTER FROM THE WAC EXECUTIVE

We welcome students and teachers from across Ontario to the 2017 World Affairs Conference. WAC is Canada's oldest and largest student-run conference on global affairs and this year we gather to consider "The Innovation Game". Innovation necessitates responsibility—in the decades to come, we must address great ethical, societal and political challenges to ensure that innovations are used for the greater good.

While we live in the most prosperous and innovative time in human history, it is also a time of growing inequity and ethical dilemmas. Our aim is to connect students with each other and with these issues by presenting eminent thinkers, academics, business people and government leaders who offer insight and solutions to these issues.

Today, we have organized the following six plenaries: "Maintaining Canada's Global Presence," "Artificial Intelligence and the New World," "Roadmap to a Sustainable Future," "The New Age of Medicine: Bioinformatics," "The Future of Warfare," and "Technology in the Developing World." Our opening speaker will provide a discussion on "The Democratization of Space" and our closing speaker's talk will be centred around "The Media of Tomorrow." In all plenaries, please note that there is an opportunity to participate in polls to share your opinions on the topics before and after the discussions.

Delegates' safety, security and feedback are important to us. We will do our best throughout the Conference to ensure that all participants are welcomed in a safe, secure and inclusive environment.

To that end, please contact our student conference leaders and we will do our best to respond to any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thanks for being part of this event, and welcome to WAC 2017!

Sincerely,

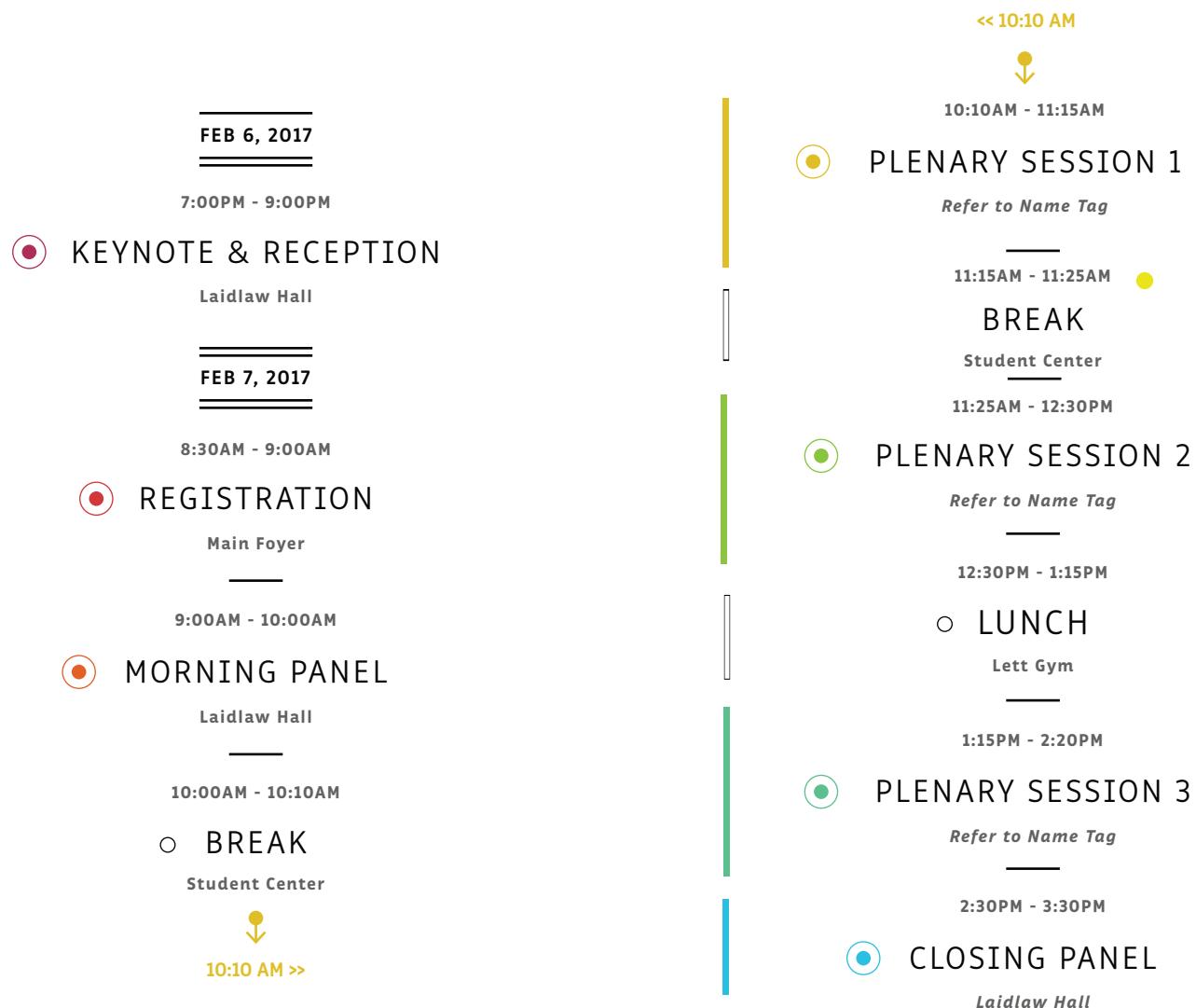
Karman Cheema
WAC Co-Chair

Katya Pollock
WAC Co-Chair

→ PLENARY TIMETABLE

A Artificial Intelligence and the New World	C Maintaining Canada's Global Presence	E Technology in the Developing World
Timeslot 1 10:10AM-11:15PM Laidlaw Hall	Timeslot 2 11:25PM-12:30PM Room 140	Timeslot 1 10:10AM-11:15PM Room 140
Timeslot 2 11:25PM-12:30PM Laidlaw Hall	Timeslot 3 1:15PM-2:20PM Room 140	Timeslot 3 1:15PM-2:20PM Lecture Theatre
B The New Age of Medicine: Bioinformatics	D Cyberwarfare: Future of Warfare	F Roadmap to a Sustainable Future
Timeslot 2 11:25PM-12:30PM Old Gym	Timeslot 1 10:10AM-11:15PM Old Gym	Timeslot 1 10:10AM-11:15PM Lecture Theatre
Timeslot 3 1:15PM-2:20PM Old Gym	Timeslot 3 1:15PM-2:20PM Laidlaw Hall	Timeslot 2 11:25PM-12:30PM Lecture Theatre

FULL SCHEDULE





OUR HISTORY

Since 1984, the World Affairs Conference (or WAC as it is affectionately known) has grown into the largest student-run current affairs conference in North America. The conference is a forum for students to nurture their global mindsets and hear opinions of leaders in the world community. WAC has welcomed delegates from North America, Australia, Russia, Europe, the West Indies and Africa.

1984

First World Affairs Conference;
Turnout of ~450

2000

Theme: Human Rights
Keynote: Stephen Lewis

2001

Theme: Justice, Law and Order
Keynote: Rosalie Abella

2002

Theme: Redefining Gender - 21stc.
Keynote: Margaret Somerville

2003

Theme: Globalization
Keynote: Ken Wiwa

2004

Theme: Ethics and Health - 21stc.
Keynote: Margaret Somerville

2005

Theme: Oppression
Keynote: Gerald Kaplan

2006

Theme: Blueprint for a New World
Keynote: John Charles Polanyi

2007

Theme: Counting on the Future
Keynote: Thomas Homer-Dixon

2008

Theme: Keeping the Promise
Keynote: Jeffrey Sachs

2009

Theme: The Leadership Imperative
Keynote: Samantha Nutt

2010

Theme: Post Colonial World
Keynote: Damisa Moyo

2011

Theme: 21st Century Heroes
Keynote: Izzeldin Abuleish

2012

Theme: The Great Divide
Keynote: Marc Garneau

2013

Theme: Clashing Ethics
Keynote: John Stackhouse

2014

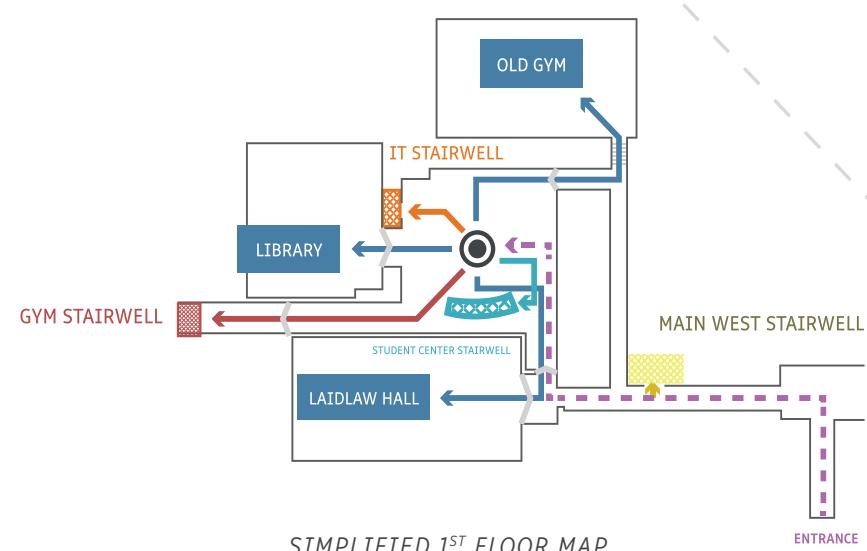
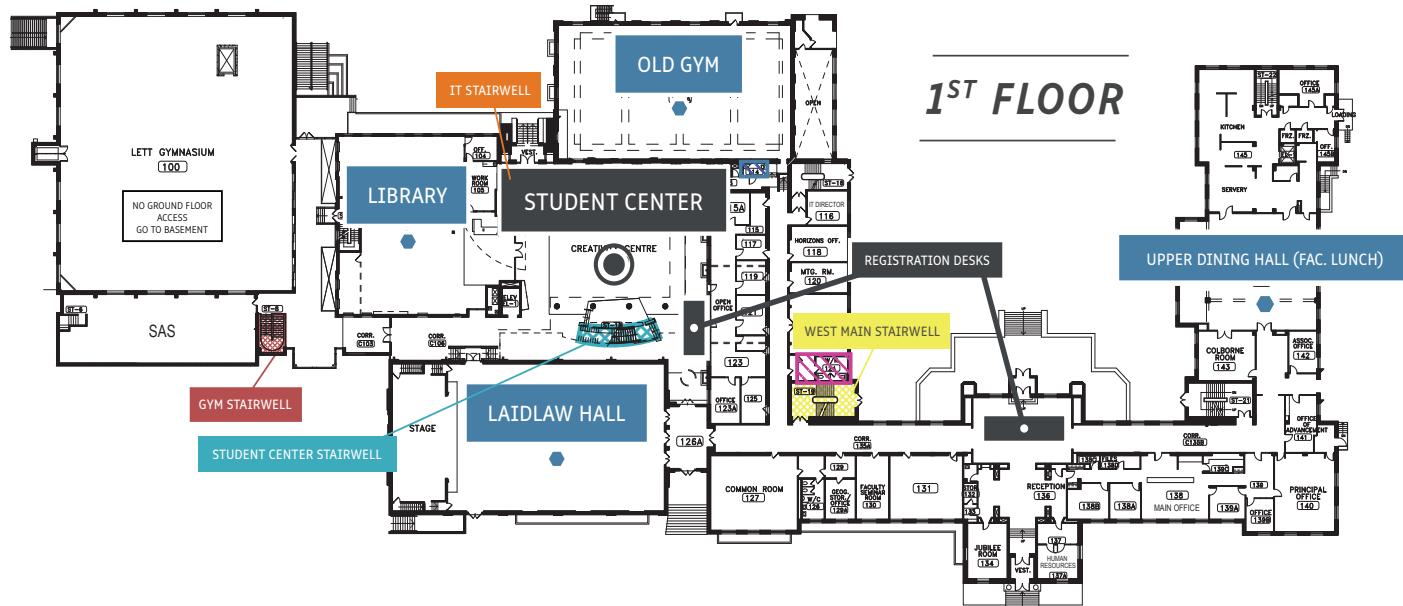
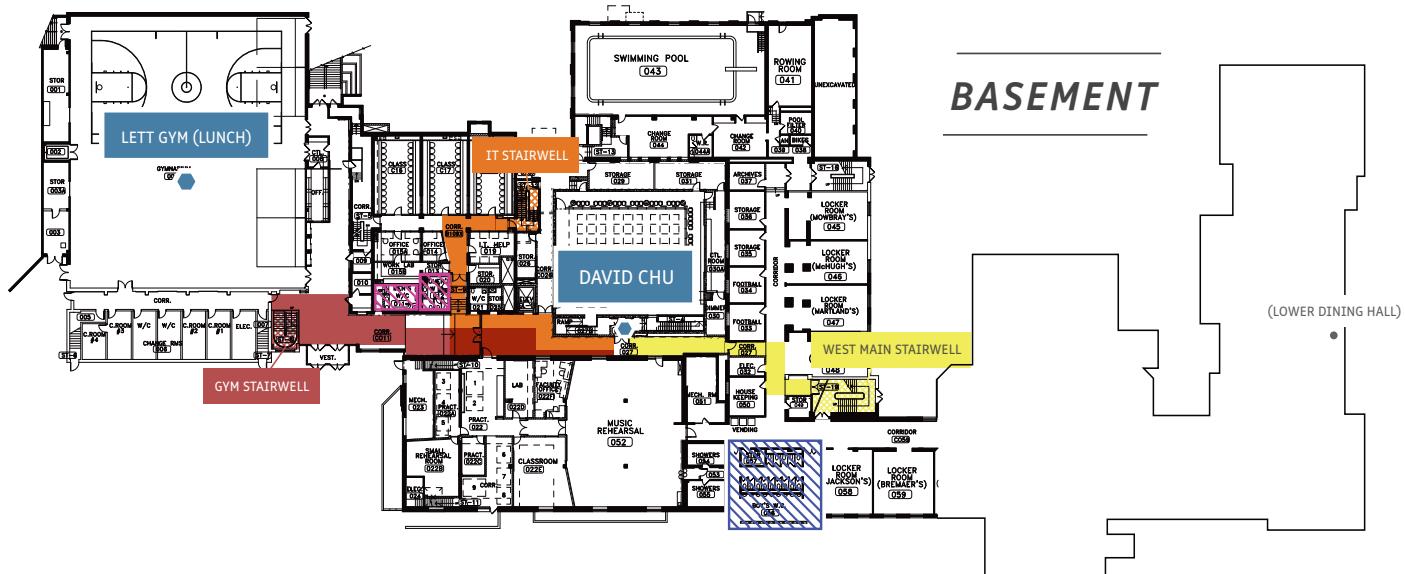
Theme: The People's Regime
Keynote: Samantha Nutt

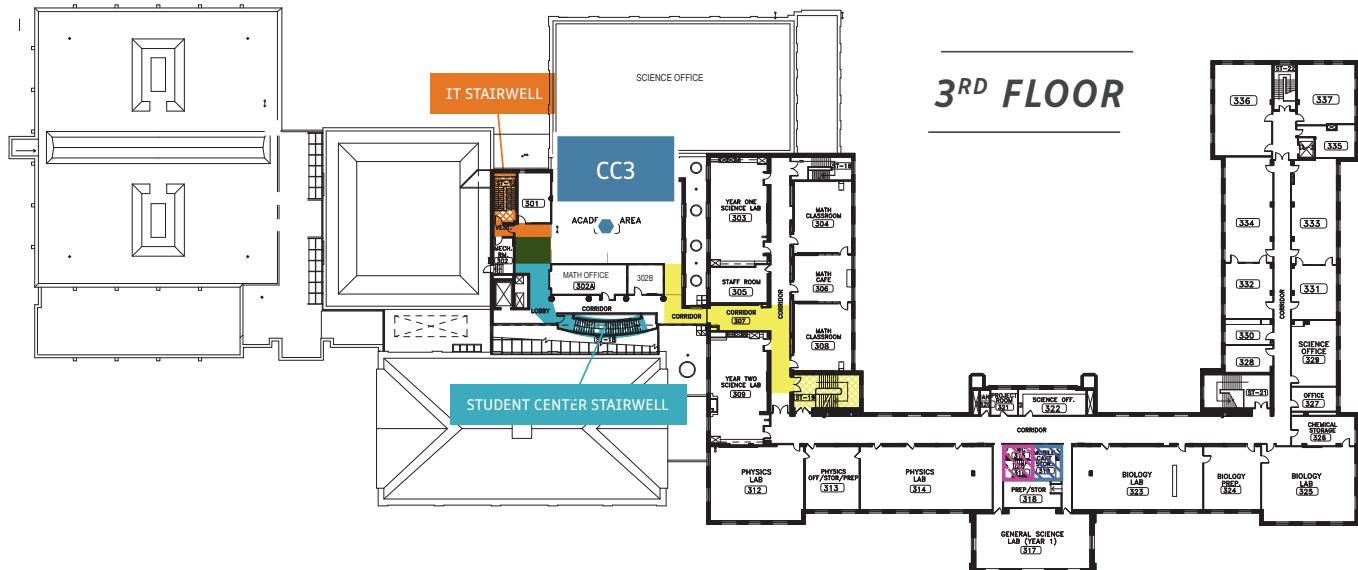
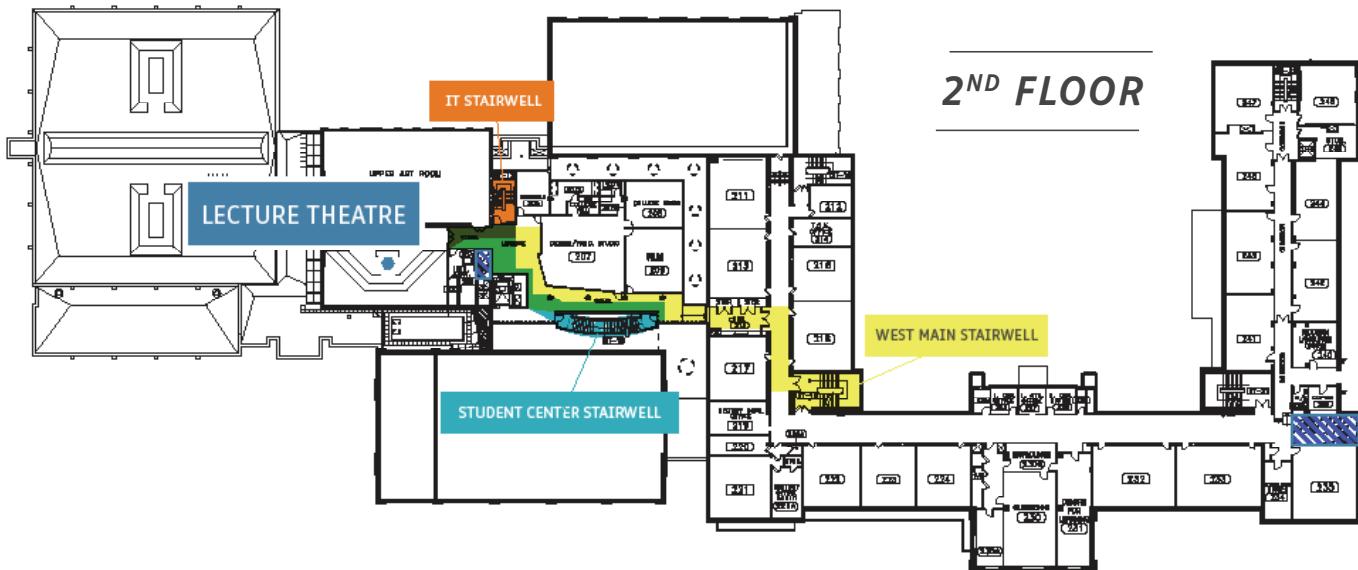
2015

Theme: Threats to Humanity
Keynote: Edward Snowden

2016

Theme: Fixing the 21st Century
Keynote: Nanor Balyozian





LEGEND



***PATH TO PLENARY**



*STAIRWELL



PLENARY ROOM



STUDENT CENTER *

MAIN WEST *



IT STAIRWELL



STUDENT CENTER *

MAIN WEST *



IT STAIRWELL



WOMEN'S WC



MEN'S WC



STAFF@WAC

WAC owes its existence to dozens of committed volunteer students and faculty working tirelessly to perfect every last detail and ensure the conference runs smoothly. Creating a conference of such scale and complexity is an accomplishment in itself. Alongside the students and faculty listed below, WAC would also like to thank the UCC Advancement team for all their support in helping organize the Keynote event along side IT, facilities, housekeeping, and food services. We would also like to thank the UCC Press for their contributions.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Gregory McDonald	Faculty Supervisor
Jarrod Baker	Faculty Supervisor
Tracy Dalglish	Faculty Supervisor
Karman Cheema	UCC Conference Chair
Katya Pollock	BH Conference Chair
Matthew Wang	Head of Technology
Matthew Jagdeo	Head of Programs
Anika Khemani	Head of Programs
Komahan Paramaanantham	Secretary
Philip Nicoletti	Head of Operations and Facilities
Scotty Andrade	Head of Security
Kathy Liu	Head of Security
David Niddam-Dent	Head of Registration and Media
Emma Lozhkin	Head of Registration and Media
Kathy Kim	Head of Registration and Media

REGISTRATION & MEDIA

Matthew Wang	Lead Web Developer, Graphic Designer
John Mace	Web Developer, A/V Team Lead
Nicholas O'Brien	Web Developer, A/V Team
Simon Guo	Web Developer, Registration Team
Michael McGovern	Web Developer, Registration Team
Shaan Hooey	Web Developer
Aidan Harradence	Lead Graphic Designer
Gorden Kung	Lead Package Designer, Graphic Designer
Aidan Lizzola	Graphic Designer
Alexander Kazakov	Graphic Designer
Ambrose Chan	Package Designer
Tyler Tam	Package Designer
Carson Lau	Package Designer, A/V Team
Vladimir Chindea	Video Crew Lead
Alexander Hwang	Video Crew Lead
Takoda Kemp	Video Crew
Blake Thorburn	Video Crew
Emilio Elia	Video Crew
Daniel Reid	Video Crew
Robert Wong	Video Crew
Alexander Corelli	Photo Crew
Taso Daskalakis	Photo Crew
James Yerestisan	Photo Crew
Jack Tanembauem	Photo Crew
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Gaurav Dogra	Registration Team
Brent Leung	Registration Team
Rohan Monga	Registration Team
Geoffrey Jiang	Registration Team
Aryan Pasricha	Registration Team
Cooper Pryde	Registration Team

PROGRAMS

Emerson Braithwaite	Opening Address Head
Hayley Kedwell	Opening Address Head
Miles Hoaken	Closing Address Head
Alex Phillip-Reeves	Closing Address Head
Hilli Goldhar	Plenary Head
Eve Cavanagh	Plenary Head
Aryan Paliwal	Plenary Head
Jacqueline Amoranto	Plenary Head
Adam Rothman	Plenary Head
Katie Chan	Plenary Head
Kohilan Paramaanantham	Plenary Head
Ahed Zakaria	Plenary Head
Conrad Mahony	Plenary Head
Nicole Melchoir	Plenary Head
Julian Samek	Plenary Head
Claire Waldie	Plenary Head

SECURITY

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AJ Springer	Security Team
Alexander Romundt	Security Team
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Benjamin Broer	Security Team
Campbell Burgess	Security Team
Faiz Khwaja	Security Team
Hugh Smith	Security Team
Jackson Purchas	Security Team
James Yeretsian	Security Team
Jamie Wilson	Security Team
Jeffrey Ing	Security Team

Jonathan Clinton

Security Team

Loic Martin

Security Team

Marko Sarenac

Security Team

Maxime Barbeau-Di Meo

Security Team

Michael Spiegel

Security Team

Milad Fard

Security Team

Muhammad Ali

Security Team

Nicholas Czegledy

Security Team

Norman Struthers

Security Team

Olivier Mugabo

Security Team

Rahim Baird

Security Team

Rasheed Tucker

Security Team

Reid Humphrey

Security Team

Robert Wong

Security Team

Sarosh Waheed

Security Team

Surya Pandiaraju

Security Team

Takoda Kemp

Security Team

Todd Joy

Security Team

Tristan Vaillancourt-Gauthier

Security Team

Will Stevens

Security Team

William Lee

Security Team

Pauline Su

Security Team

Maddy Minnes

Security Team

Kaitlyn Lee

Security Team

Morgan Headrick

Security Team

Kaya Chaddah-Marcus

Security Team

Ani Marcus

Security Team

Shannon Smith

Security Team

Bess Russett

Security Team

Mary Langill

Security Team

Emma Hristov

Security Team

Jessica Zheng

Security Team





The Democratization of Space

OPENING PANEL:

So far, the final frontier has been dominated by large government agencies and corporations. As the technology continues to advance, what role will consumers play in investigating the unknown? How will the companies in charge be forced to adapt to space technology becoming a market good?



Zachary Manchester is a Ph.D. graduate and researcher in aerospace engineering. He is the founder of "Kicksat", a service that aims to allow any civilian to put a small satellite into orbit on the scale of a few hundred dollars. The purpose of this is to put space exploration in the hands of anyone who is interested as opposed to being exclusively owned by scientists, engineers, and astronauts. Currently, he develops optimization-based algorithms for robust control and system identification with applications to agile flight of small wing-morphing aircrafts at Harvard University.

Zachary Manchester

Closing Speaker

Why are media sources such as Vice and Buzzfeed taking over our newsfeeds? What does that say about our generation and the future of media? What is next for these new forms of media? The closing speaker will address the future of the media and how we will consume news tomorrow, next year, and the next decade.

CLOSING SPEAKER:



Phelan is responsible for overseeing all aspects of VICE Canada's sponsored content initiatives across VICE platforms. Phelan has been with VICE Media for over 10 years, beginning in Montreal before founding the VICE office in Toronto.

Shawn Phelan



Artificial Intelligence

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

After decades of speculation and justifiable anxiety about the implications for humankind, the era of artificial intelligence is finally here. In this plenary, speakers will identify what they believe to be the future of AI, discussing the impacts of artificial intelligence on business, government policy and the ethics of it all. Artificial Intelligence has been called the defining revolution of our generation, but with every breakthrough, there emerges concerns that must be addressed and analyzed through every lens.



Matthew Zeiler

Matthew Zeiler is an expert well versed in the artificial intelligence field. In 2013 he founded Clarifai (a startup with over 40 million dollars in funding), shortly after completing his PhD in machine learning at NYU. Before that he gained invaluable experience working alongside renowned machine learning pioneers Geoff Hinton, Rob Fergus, and Jeff Dean.



Igor Jurisica

Igor Jurisica is a Tier 1 Research Chair in Integrative Cancer Informatics as well as a Professor in the departments of Computer Science and Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on integrative computational biology in the context of Cancer Informatics. It involves the representation, analysis, annotation, and visualization of high-dimensional data generated by high-throughput biology experiments. Working at the nexus of computer science and biology, he develops and uses algorithms to interpret the deluge of information being gleaned from cancer-related experiments. Jurisica's work aims to unravel the molecular mechanisms of cancer, and aid in the development of more sensitive and improved diagnostic, prognosis and treatment approaches.

Bioinformatics



In the world today, jobs have become increasingly dependent on technology. This could mean that you having your eye scanned when you walk into work, or that your genetic makeup is the pass-code that lets you into your computer. It could even mean that doctors will know exactly what illnesses you'll get, thanks to just a hair from your head. But having access to this information is controversial. Should we be able to have access to this information? Should we be using this data in our everyday lives, let alone the job market? Should this topic even be ethically explored? Who else will get access to our information? There are many benefits to having this information, including being able to save lives with genetics, but the drawbacks include an intrusion of privacy and many more. It's up to you to decide where you stand on the line.

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:



Adrian Thorogood is a coordinator for the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health where he works with the Regulatory and Ethics Working Group, an academic associate at the Centre of Genomics and Policy at McGill University, as well as a member of the Ontario Bar. His work focuses largely on professional health care responsibility in genetics, the privacy of health information, and the promotion of data sharing in genomic research. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Adrian is a jurist on the research ethics board of Montreal's Jewish General Hospital.

Adrian Thorogood



Dr. Zheng is a professor from the University of Texas (Houston), and the associate director of the Centre for Computational Biomedicine. He has done research into genomics and computer ethics, and specializes in biomedical informatics. He also developed Genome3D, the first model-view framework to integrate and visualise 3D genomes.

Dr. Jim W. Zheng



Maintaining Canada's Global Presence

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

Inspired by Canada's 150th anniversary, this plenary will explore Canada's global presence in an ever-changing world. With a focus on Canada's foreign policy and relations, speakers will bring an outlook into Canada's history, present role, and future on the global stage.



Jack Cunningham

Jack Cunningham holds a BA in English and an MA in History from the University of Calgary and a PhD in History from the University of Toronto. His dissertation dealt with Anglo-American nuclear relations in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Jack's research and teaching interests include nuclear strategy, counterinsurgency warfare, and American, British, and Canadian foreign policy. He has been Program Coordinator of The Bill Graham Centre since 2011, and has contributed numerous book reviews to the International Journal. His current projects include a collection of conference papers comparing the Australian and Canadian experiences in Afghanistan.



Nancy MacDonald

Nancy Macdonald is a writer for the national section of Maclean's. She is from Winnipeg, but has relocated to Vancouver. She has written on a variety of topics such as the government's relationship with indigenous communities, the Fort McMurray Fire, and the RCMP.

Future of Warfare



Technology has always been the main factor in the evolution of warfare. However, as governments and industries occupy increasing amounts of cyberspace, a new, international war front is introduced.

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

Lucan Gregory

Lucan (Luke) Gregory's work straddles legal, political, and ethical issues. As a lawyer for the Federal Department of Justice (Canada), his practice includes national security related litigation. Luke also teaches philosophy (Ryerson University), where courses have included the "Philosophy of Punishment" and the "Philosophy of Law". He holds two law degrees from McGill University (LLB/BCL), and a PhD in legal and political philosophy from the University of Virginia. Luke has presented papers on national security, human rights, and supreme emergencies (in the context of the 'Laws of War'). He tends to have more questions than answers... this could well be an occupational hazard. Outside of his legal and philosophical pursuits, Luke enjoys paddling a canoe. Many moons ago he graduated from Upper Canada College.



Michael Walma is the Cyber Foreign Policy Coordinator at the Global Affairs Canada. His previous assignments include positions as Director of the Foreign Policy Planning Division, of the International Crime and Terrorism Division, of the Defence and Security Relations Division, and of the Canada-US Defence Relations Division at Global Affairs. He has served abroad in Romania, South Africa, and at the United Nations in New York. He is an expert at the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

Michael Walma





Technology in the Developing World

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

This plenary will look at how technology can help developing countries and hinder more developed nations. Speakers in this plenary will discuss the comparative between these two different situations: how technology can decrease quality of education and make it harder for students to learn, as well as the potential technology brings to countries to improve basic human rights. This balance should provide students with a unique opportunity to broaden their horizons by learning about how technology impacts the rest of the world, while also bringing up a topic that is relevant to their current and near future experiences in high school or post-secondary education.



Joseph Wong

Joseph Wong is the Ralph and Roz Halbert Professor of Innovation at the Munk School of Global Affairs, Professor of Political Science, and Canada Research Chair in Health, Democracy, and Development. He has written many academic articles and books about global innovation, and his current research focuses on poverty and innovation. He has also worked with the World Bank, the United Nations, and advising governments on global public policy.



Douglas Mann

Douglas Mann is a contract professor at Western University. He is the author of *Structural Idealism, Philosophy: A New Introduction, Understanding Society: A Survey of Modern Social Theory, and Great Power and Great Responsibility: The Philosophical Politics of Comics*, along with over a hundred articles in academic journals, newspapers, and on professional websites. Over the last fifteen years he has taught a wide variety of courses at UWO, including those on social theory, mass media, technology and values, advertising, comics, science fiction TV and popular culture.

Roadmap to a Sustainable Future



The importance of achieving a model for sustainable development and energy production stems from the rapid growth of human population coupled by a culture focused too heavily on excessive goods, sourced through unsustainable means. Our actions are expediting natural processes, leading the future of our planet as we know it, down an ever darker path. As citizens of this world, it is our responsibility to find a sustainable process that can be maintained, or as the Brutland Report famously says, “meets the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This plenary explores the several implications of this problem and practically innovative solutions that have been put forth to help combat this cause.

PLENARY SYNOPSIS:

Tom Szaky

Kenneth MacDonald is involved with the University of Toronto's Centre for South Asian Studies. He is an associate professor of Critical Development Studies and Human Geography with the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Ethics Review Committee, and his major interests are in nature, society and environmental change, holding a PhD, MS, and BA from the University of Waterloo. *



A writer, blogger and poet. The founder of www.verybadapple.com, a blog focusing on sociopolitical themes relevant to both local and international arenas, and a regular contributor to the Express Tribune Blogs. Mr. Zafar is a staunch Marxist and a member of Socialist Alternative Canada. *

Ravi Karkara



POLICIES

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining order, both in and out of sessions, so that we may provide a professional, safe and educational conference. Please feel free to approach any member of the WAC executive Committee to discuss any questions or concerns. Throughout the conference, please be aware of the following:

1

Delegates are expected to be respectful of others. Harassment in any form will not be tolerated. In order to maintain an open forum for discussion, discrimination due to race, religion, sex, age, disability, socio-economic status or sexual orientation will result in immediate removal from the conference.

2

Delegates found in violation of the Criminal Code will be immediately required to leave the conference and may face criminal charges.

3

The use or possession of illicit drugs will result in removal from the conference and relevant authorities will be notified.

4

There is no smoking on the UCC campus.

5

The legal age to purchase and consume alcohol in Ontario is 19. Delegates must comply.

6

Individuals will be liable for vandalism or damage to UCC property.

7

The WAC Executive reserves the right to expel delegates from the conference for inappropriate behaviour including, but not limited to, the use of foul language and/or obscenity.

8

If delegates must leave prior to the conference closing, they are requested to time their departure at the beginning or end of a session.



WORLD AFFAIRS CONFERENCE



2017 World Affairs Conference

February 6th and 7th 2017

Upper Canada College

www.world.ac

Design by: Ambrose Chan, Carson Lau, Gorden Kung, Matthew Wang, and Tyler Tam