UTSC appStar

UTSC's AppStar Competition: Meet the Winners

TECH GIFT GUIDE INSIDE

NGSIS UPDATE

Behold Course Finder

Course Finder

offered by Faculty of Arts & Science

ALL THINGS ONLINE + MOOC UPDATES

By: Laurie Harrison

Learn to Program: Crafting Quality Code

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THE EDUCAUSE REPORT

Highlights from EDUCAUSE 2012 - Denver

Q&A WITH THE WINNERS
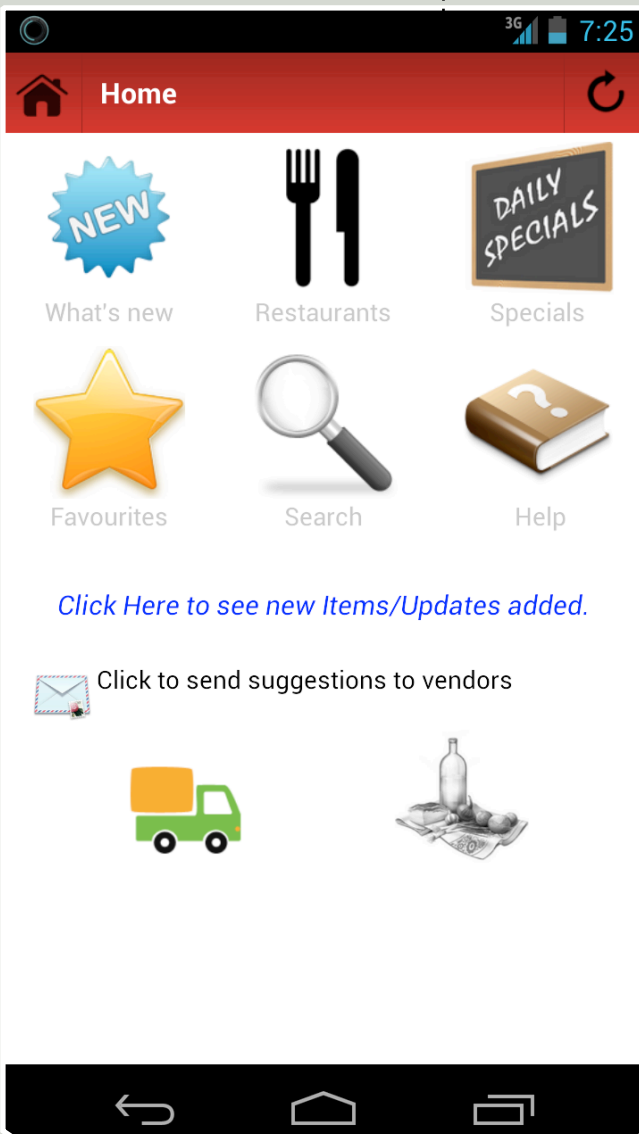
What2Eat@UTSC Team:

Waqas Nawaz
Mohammad Azmi
Neil Mendonca

What2Eat@UTSC Preview

Click Here to see new Items/Updates added.

Click to send suggestions to vendors

We sat down with the **What2Eat@UTSC** app development team to chat about the UTSC AppStar competition. They gave us advice about what motivated them to develop for the University and what it meant to be a part of this competition.
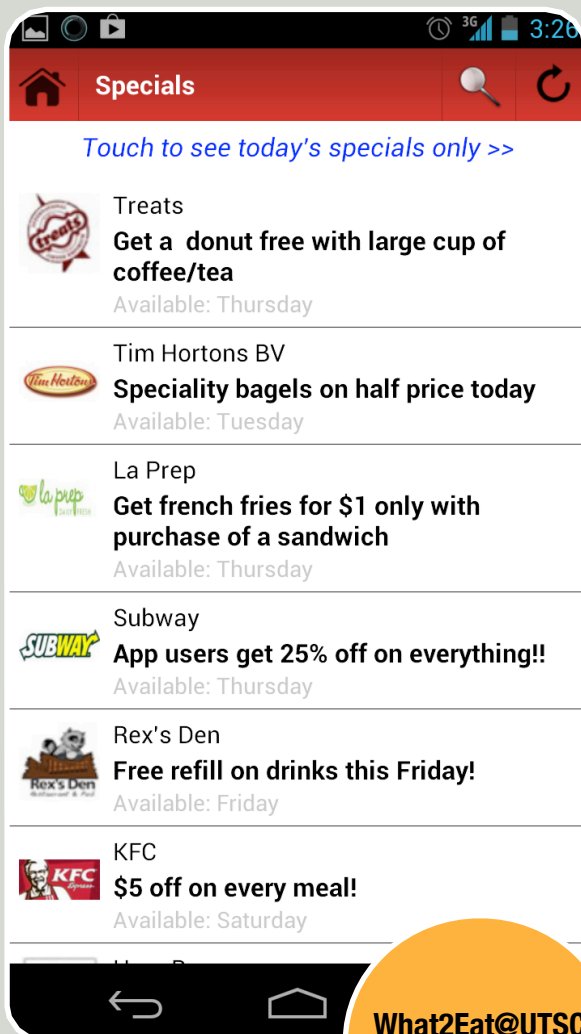
Q: How was the idea for the App born?

A: The pains of having to wrack our brains over what to eat everyday allowed us to come up with this idea. With the variety of food options and locations on campus, we thought wouldn't it be nice if you could view menus and specials, and search for food from wherever you are?

Q: What does it mean to your team to be able to develop something for the University?

A: We are proud and it gives us great joy to see the community benefit from something that we've created from scratch. Food is always an important part of everyday life and we hope it helps in making smarter, healthier, and quicker food decisions. We also hope that this encourages others to develop apps like these!

Q: Winning aside, what was the highlight of this competition for your team?

A: What2Eat's potential for expanding to other campuses is easily the highlight for us besides winning the competition.

What2Eat@UTSC Preview

Q: **Do you think the University should offer more opportunities for students to develop mobile applications and other solutions?**

A: Definitely, it is an excellent opportunity for students to explore various technologies and enhance their skills. We find that many people are "afraid" when they hear the words mobile development but it isn't very different at all compared to creating desktop applications.

Q: **As developers, what advice would you give to the University leadership in regards to mobile apps?**

A: Having more contests like this in the future is great way to engage students. The sense of competition with other students was one of the leading motivators for us as we worked on this app.

The winning team of fourth year computer science students took home a top prize of $3,000 for their <u>*What2Eat@UTSC App*</u>*.* **Second place** *and $2,000 went to J***ohn-Alan Simmons and Matt Olan for developing ResLife,** *an app that makes events, news and other information about residence life easily available to students.* **Third place** *and $1,000 went to* **Rashid Ali for Study Space Spotter,** *which allows students to find available study space on campus.* ■

Like the idea of more Apps at U of T?

Join us for an App Open Mic on November 16th.

Click here for details!

Do you have a favorite app you use for research? Collaboration? Instruction? Want to show and learn what others are using?

Come and join us for a dynamic, round-table style event open to everyone: students, faculty, and librarians, and engage in the opportunity to learn more about how to use mobile technology for research, learning, and teaching.

App Open Mic
Date: Friday, November 16, 2012
Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm (drop in)
Location: Blackburn Room, 4th floor Robarts Library

Coffee provided

THE TECH GIFT GUIDE:

$

Mini Robot Vacuum: $16.00

Messy desk? No more! Grab this handy gadget and have fun watching it clean for you.

fredflare.com

R2-D2 Soft Lunch Box: $19.99

You can get this for your kids but really, we know you want it for yourself. Show of your Star Wars pride and carry your lunch in style.

thinkgeek.com

Une-Bobine: The mighty phone cable $30.00

We never thought that a charging cable may be the next best phone accessory. This fantastic find on Photojojo.com store is simply perfect.   Une-Bobine is a mighty phone cable which turns into a tripod. We love it, you should too.

Sold for iPhone and Android. Check out the awesome ways you can use this product on Photojojo.com.

GRID-IT! Organizer - CPG10: If you already have every gadget... $9.99 and up

In case you already have every gadget under the sun, you may want to check this out!

This is the ultimate organizer. With numerous configurations you can organize all your digital devices in one place for easy access. Throw it in your laptop bag and you are good to go. Various models available for different devices and cables.

Cocoon Innovations

[4]

THE TECH GIFT GUIDE:

$$

Clap USB Digital Camera: $40
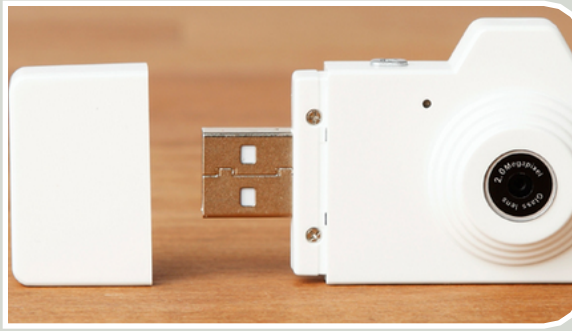
Photo and movie capable, this practical gadget is a great buy. Windows and Mac ready. Designed by clap, a great gift for kids!

thefancy.com

Just Mobile AluRack: $59.95

The ultimate laptop mount for AppleiMac and ThunderBolt Display. Keep your desk clutter free without compromising the slick Apple design.

just-mobile.com

Uboard Smart USB Multiboard: $69

The U Board provides an easiest way to organize your work space. It is made for hiding a keyboard not in use and for putting gadgets on its glass plate. The device also has a cup holder that can be installed on the right or left and three USB 2.0 ports.

amazon.com

Lomography: FishEye 2 RipCrul: $79

Sometimes it's good to get in touch with your analogue side. Get a Fisheye lens at a fraction of the cost and print your pictures, old school style!

lomography.ca

THE TECH GIFT GUIDE:

$$$

AppleTV: $109

Watch 1080 HD movies, connect your home network and enjoy your content live or on demand.   Mirror your iPhone or iPad straight to your TV. Seamless!

Now more affordable than ever.

apple.ca

iPod Nano: $149

iPod Nano is the triple threat: Fantastic size (same as a credit card), plays videos and music with a built in radio tuner and it will act as your personal fitness assistant.   How can you go wrong?

apple.ca

GoFlex Satellite: $199.99

This portable hard drive stores your entire media library--photos, music, and videos--and wirelessly streams it to as many as three iPads or other wireless devices. With about five hours of video-streaming, it's a great way to keep the kids quiet on a long car ride.

seagate.com

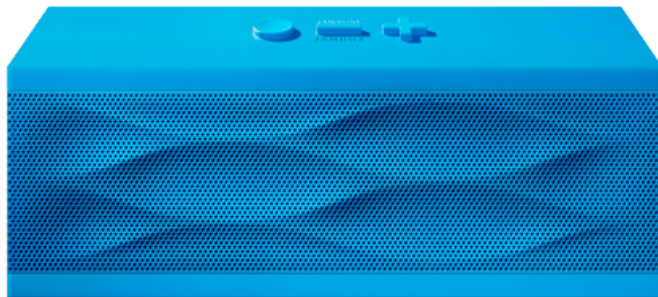## NEXUS 7: $209 and up

A great alternative to an iPad or iPad mini.   This 7" Android Powered tablet is a fierce competitor and a worthy gift for someone who is looking for something more than an e-reader but not ready for the Apple price tag.

play.google.com

JAMBOX: $199.99

Need to take a conference call on the fly? Or just want to liven up the room with some good tunes? JAMBOX is for you.   This beautifully designed portable bluetooth speaker from Jawbone.   Powerful and palm-sized.

jawbone.com

THE EDUCAUSE REPORT

Highlights from the 2012 EDUCAUSE Conference in Denver, CO

At EDUCAUSE 2012 the following ten issues were ranked as the most pressing issues for most higher education institutions

1 **UPDATING IT PROFESSIONALS' SKILLS AND ROLES** to accommodate emerging technologies and changing IT management and service delivery models

2 **SUPPORTING THE TREND TOWARD IT CONSUMERIZATION** and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

3 **DEVELOPING AN INSTITUTION-WIDE CLOUD STRATEGY**

4 **IMPROVING THE INSTITUTION'S OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY** through information technology

5 **INTEGRATING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** into institutional decision-making

6 **USING ANALYTICS** to support critical institutional outcomes

7 **FUNDING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** strategically

8 **TRANSFORMING THE INSTITUTION'S BUSINESS** with Information Technology

9 **SUPPORTING THE RESEARCH MISSION** through high-performance computing, large data, and analytics

10 **ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING IT GOVERNANCE** throughout the institution

Source: EDUCAUSE Review 2012

BEHOLD COURSE FINDER

A new course lookup tool is set to greatly enhance the way students search for courses at U of T.

"Course Finder", a web-based course calendar containing course offerings for four university divisions, went live in mid-November 2012. The tool allows students to search through an all-inclusive record of courses that includes meeting time, section and prerequisite details. Students can search by subject, term, course code and even breadth & distribution requirements. Students have the ability to create a list of favorites of courses they have found and e-mail them to themselves, or share them with their peers over Facebook or Twitter.

A Next Generation Tool

"Course [Finder] is going to make the lives of so many students better. It really shows U of T's dedication to improving convenience, by offering such a centralized tool."

These are the words of Tony Ding, a first year Arts & Science student based out of Innis College. Tony recently had a chance to witness a short demonstration of Course Finder in a student focus group. He was struck by the commitment to accessibility as well as what he described as a fresh and more organized user interface. He is very excited for the tools' release.

Course Finder's first release pulls information from four divisions for undergraduate courses, making cross division course search a breeze.

Big Impact

There is, of course, room to grow. Course Finder currently houses only undergraduate courses for four divisions (**Arts & Science**, **Applied Science**, **UTM** and **UTSC**). It will be gradually expanded upon based on the feedback the development team receives.

A simple, user-friendly search engine that organizes vast quantities of data.

Course Finder, the University of Toronto's *official* course lookup tool, will be released in mid-November of 2012.

Try it out here.

*Course Finder is part of the **A**ccessible **C**ampus **O**nline **R**esource **N**etwork (ACORN) suite of student services. For more information on ACORN,* click here.

All Things Online + MOOC Updates

By; Laurie Harrison

Online Undergraduate Course Initiative

Funding from the Office of the Provost is now available through the Online Undergraduate Course Initiative (OUCI) with a growth target of ten new courses per year. Each of the participating instructors and educational technology leads are invited to attend a two-day intensive Course Re/Design Institute in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation. Their design teams may include educational technology professionals, TAs and librarians and IT staff. The resulting online course formats vary widely, depending on the discipline, target learning outcomes, audience and available resources. An ongoing evaluation process across all courses developed within the OUCI program assesses the quality and effectiveness of our institutional support, infrastructure and services and informs future planning.

Update on MOOCs

Learn to Program: Crafting Quality Code

Since the Provost's announcement regarding University of Toronto entering into a partnership with Coursera in mid-July we have had much interest and many discussions regarding the ideas and implications of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs). Our work with Coursera is part of a larger landscape of openness at UofT, as reflected in the newly launched Open UToronto initiative. A Provostial Committee has been established to guide the development of Open UToronto principles and practice.

Currently five Coursera MOOCs are in various stages of of design, development and delivery of Coursera, supported locally within the division or department of the MOOC instructor(s) along with community round tables held to facilitate information sharing among faculty and their teams. Most recently we have been discussing design strategies for social science MOOCs currently under development at OISE and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

Continued...

BY THE NUMBERS

Degree Program Online Courses

63 fully online graduate courses

15 undergrad courses last year

11 of the graduate level courses are synchronous

4 "open" registration undergrad courses with enrolment from each of our 3 campuses

1500+ registrations in online courses

A new **"online course"** indicator recently implemented in ROSI is helping us gather and aggregate this data. Special thanks to the EASI team for their assistance.

MOOC Enrolments as of mid-November:

MOOC Offerings Fall 2012	Registrations as of November 12, 2012
Learn to Program: The Fundamentals – Computer Science	**86,606**
Neural Networks for Machine Learning – Computer Science	**37,287**
MOOC Offerings Winter 2013	
Learn to Program: Crafting Quality Code – Computer Science	**28,084**
The Social Context of Mental Health and Illness – FSW	**16,338**
Aboriginal Worldviews and Education – OISE	**12,314**
Total	**180,629**

Please feel free to contact me by email at laurie.harrison@utoronto.ca if you are interested in learning more about online course development. For general information about Open UToronto contact ati@utoronto.ca. ■

Be social...

ITS is on Facebook and Twitter. Connect with us for the latest updates!

CONTRIBUTORS:

Alex Dault, NGSIS
Laurie Harrison, ITS
Tamara Adizes, ITS

EDITOR:

Tamara Adizes, Portfolio Communications Officer

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