Young to Become VP of Research

By Maria Saros Leung

Professor Paul Young has been appointed U of T’s new vice-president (research) beginning Nov. 1.

Young is currently chair of civil engineering and holds the Rick Chair of Soil Mechanics and Rock Mechanics. An outstanding scientist and teacher, Young was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada earlier this year in recognition of his scholarly accomplishments.

“I am delighted that Paul Young has accepted this pivotal appointment,” said President David Naylor. “Professor Young is a first-class scholar with extensive administrative and research policy experience in the U.K. and Canada. He is strongly committed to interdisciplinary research and education and is an excellent team-builder. Paul is also keenly interested in understanding and advancing the full range of scholarship at the University of Toronto.”

Young was recruited to the university in 2002 as the founding director of the Lasonde Institute — an international centre of excellence that draws on expertise across multiple disciplines. As chair of civil engineering, he led the development of the department’s new framework for urban engineering — building cities that work for people. His leadership of the department was singled out for high praise by external reviewers in 2005 and 2006.

He was previously chair of earth sciences at the University of Liverpool and head of earth sciences at Keele University. He also established the Geomechanics and Rock Physics Laboratory at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ont.

Naylor noted that Young’s enthusiastic and inspirational leadership of multinational and multidisciplinary research teams will be important in the University of Toronto’s new framework for urban infrastructure.

Protecting Students’ Privacy in Class

By Rafael Enderwez

The university will soon welcome new and returning students and collect and use some of their personal information. Faculty and staff can collect personal information necessary for university functions if they notify individuals of intended uses of their information to help them make informed choices.

The university’s general notice of collection (on ROSI; www.rosi.utoronto.ca) covers most uses of personal information, as follows: “The University of Toronto respects your privacy. Personal information that you provide to the University is collected pursuant to section 2(4) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. It is collected for the purpose of administering admissions, registration, academic programs, university-related student activities, activities of student societies, financial assistance and awards, graduation and university advancement, and for the purpose of statistical reporting to government agencies. At all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have questions, please refer to www.utoronto.ca/privacy or contact the University Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinator at 416-946-7303, McMurrich Building, room 201, 12 Queen’s Park Crescent West, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A8.”

Activities not covered by this notice require additional notice to affected individuals. Additional notice can be given in media such as calendars, syllabuses, course outlines and descriptions or initial course lectures.

Activities requiring additional notice may include:
- student evaluation of each others’ work
- group work where students receive the same grade
- disclosure/sharing of students’ personal information
- video recording/photographing of students
- sensitive information; immunization status, criminal record, security clearance
- surveys/questionnaires
- online communities, discussion groups
- information for non-university bodies; professional colleges, honour societies.

For mandatory program activities, notice alerts individuals that participation requires disclosure or use of their personal information. Notices must describe the personal information and its expected uses and provide a contact person for questions. Where course lectures will be videotaped, the syllabus might indicate: “Lectures will be videotaped for remote learning use. The camera will not cover the entire class. You can elect to sit in an area to be videotaped or one that is not. Please address questions about…”

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Pan Ams Golden for Woodsworth Student

Alexandra Orlando, a commerce student at Woodsworth College, won three gold medals in rhythmic gymnastics at the 2007 Pan Am Games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, making her the most decorated athlete on the Canadian team.

Orlando gave exemplary performances in three categories of rhythmic gymnastics — rope, clubs and hoop. The wins meant vindication after a devastating set-back. During the all-around team preliminaries, her ribbon became detached from its handle. The equipment malfunction meant an automatic zero score and elimination from both the individual all-around final, where she was favoured to win gold.

For her grace and resilience, Orlando was bestowed the honour of flag-bearer for Canada’s team during the games’ closing ceremonies.

Orlando is considered Canada’s pre-eminent rhythmic gymnast. She brought home six gold medals from the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games and set a record for being the first person at a single Commonwealth Games to earn a gold medal in each discipline within rhythmic gymnastics — rope, ball, ribbon, clubs and all-around as well as in the (national) team category. She was also chosen to carry the Canadian flag at the closing of the games. In 2006, she co-authored Alexandra Orlando: In Pursuit of Victory, a book chronicling her competitive career from her start in rhythmic gymnastics to the record-setting win.

Wind-Powered Dreams

By Rafael Enderwez

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led to the establishment of two research consortia for the European Union funded within the EURATOM program.

"I feel privileged and honoured that I have the opportunity to serve this great university as vice-president of research," Young said. "The landscape for our research enterprise is evolving. We need to sustain our momentum in basic research while capitalizing on new opportunities for strategic research and knowledge transfer. Fortunately, we have a university rich with exceptional professors, staff and students who can rise to the interdisciplinary research challenges of the 21st century."

Protecting Students’ Privacy in Class

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the videotaping to your professor."

Instructors can explain complex requirements in early lectures to give students so inclined the opportunity to make a different course choice.

For optional activities, such as providing student information to honour societies, students should be allowed to opt in or opt out. Students should be informed which activities are course or program requirements and which are optional. Students should be unequivocally assured that participation or refraining from optional activities has absolutely no impact on academic or other official university outcomes. If an optional activity is useful or helpful, for example, to support academic performance, that information should be clearly conveyed.

FIPPA resources are posted on the provost’s policies website: FIPPA Q & As for Instructors and FIPPA — General and Administrative Access and Privacy Practices, which describes notice. You can link to them from the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FIPP) office site at www.fippa.utoronto.ca. The FIPP office can be reached at 416-946-7303.

PERSONAL NOTICE INFORMATION CHECKLIST

- Is collection / use of personal information reasonably covered by general Notice of Collection?
- Is collection / use of personal information required or optional?

Required
- Clearly set out expected uses of personal information, provide a contact for questions.

Optional
- Clearly indicate activity is optional, allow no-prejudice opt out.

For more information, please contact the FIPPA office at 416-946-7303.