

Coming to Canada in 1982 from Massachusetts to pursue a PhD at the University of Toronto, Professor Graffam has quite the unusual background. Though Graffam was trained as an anthropologist, he developed an interest in technology and media. He became a musician, taught archeology and was even the vice president at a downtown marketing firm in the tech industry.

"I think that one of the things that I connect with, particularly with students in terms with their career path is that it's not a straight road all the time," he said. "Some of the times it has to take certain twists and turns and you have to be open to other possibilities."

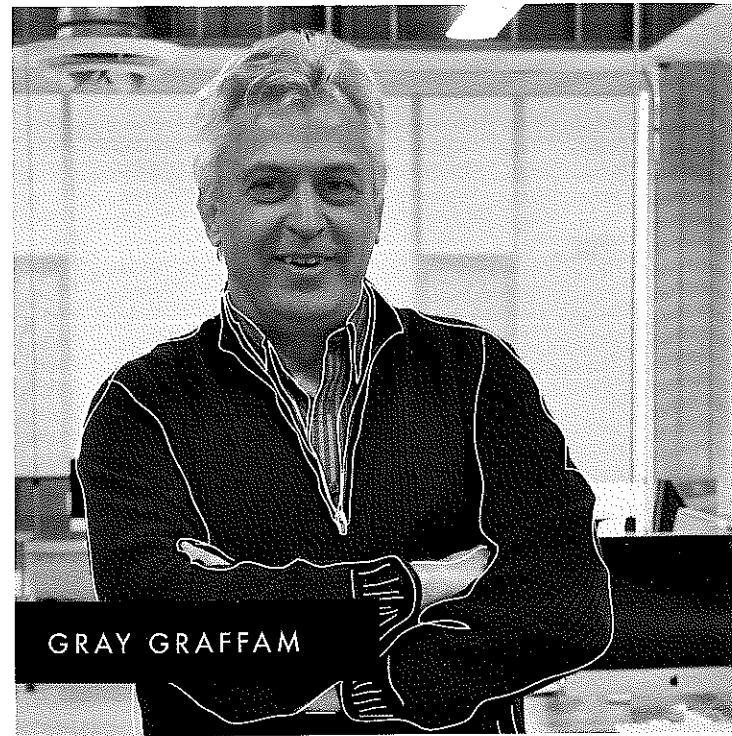
Professor Graffam joined UTSC two and a half years ago with a split role of starting The Hub for student entrepreneurial projects and helping to create a foundation for media studies. Media studies has expanded to more than 100 students within its first year. The introduction to Media Studies course, which Professor Graffam teaches, accommodates

more than 1,000 students in any given year.

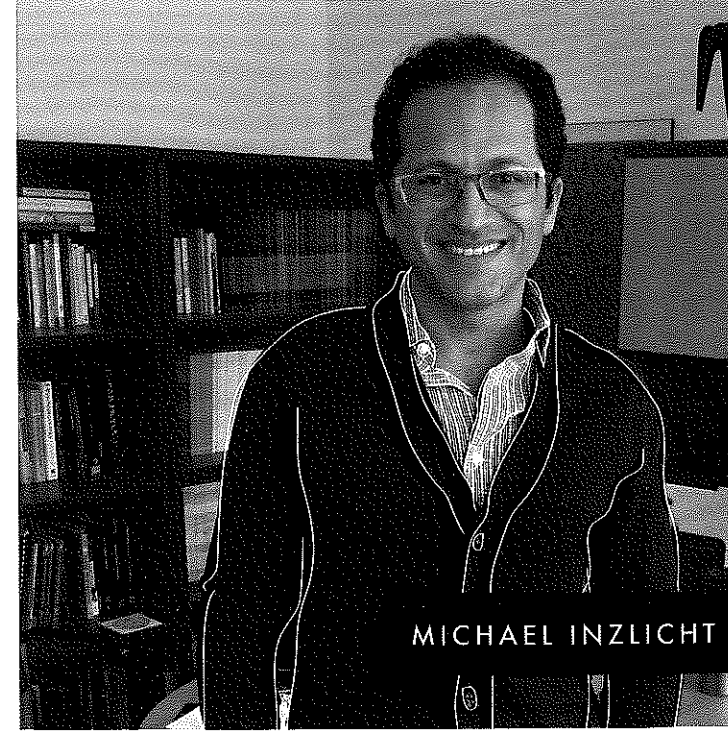
"In the future, both of these need to grow and become much more stable within UTSC," Graffam said. "For media studies, it means creating opportunity, engaging with students, outside of the classroom and with The Hub, in terms of engaging with students to help them carry their ideas further."

Apart from caring about his student's experiences, Professor Graffam also tries to create teachable moments, where he engages students with humour or current and shocking news.

"I have found that things that create barriers tend to prevent that flow, so I work at lowering those barriers in any way I can," he said. "I encourage students to call me by my first name and I try to learn theirs. I try to understand what it is they are passionate about in their life. I try to engage. I try to create the feeling in the classroom where even if I'm lecturing to 250 students that everyone in the room thinks I'm speaking to them individually."



GRAY GRAFFAM



MICHAEL INZLICHT

PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR 2013 - 2014

KAREN CHOW, NEWS EDITOR

Entering her fifth year as a resident of Canada, Professor Todorova was born in Bulgaria and completed her PhD in cultural studies in the U.S. She currently teaches graduate courses in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in the downtown campus and also journalism courses at UTSC.

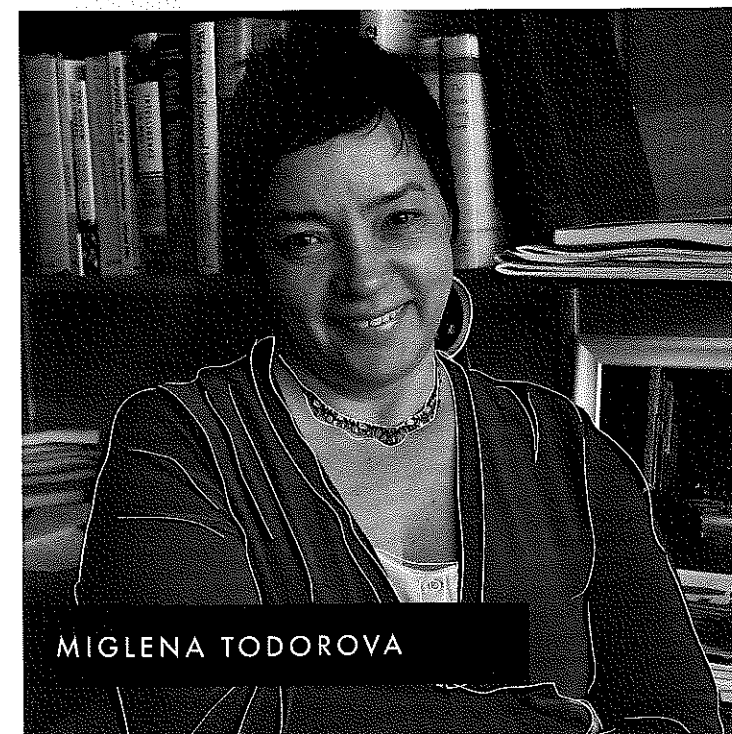
When asked why she's interested in teaching, Professor Todorova points to politics. "I can't be just indifferent to the world," she said. "And I cannot imagine living my life without at least trying to change what I perceive is injustice and have a sense that our country would be a tiny little bit better to the world."

Professor Todorova puts in a great deal of time to prepare for every teaching session and tries her best to help her student's education and inspire them. "Teaching is an extraordinary privilege," said Professor Todorova. "I burn into my teaching and I just take it so seriously. Teaching is sharing and that means a lot to me. It makes me happy."

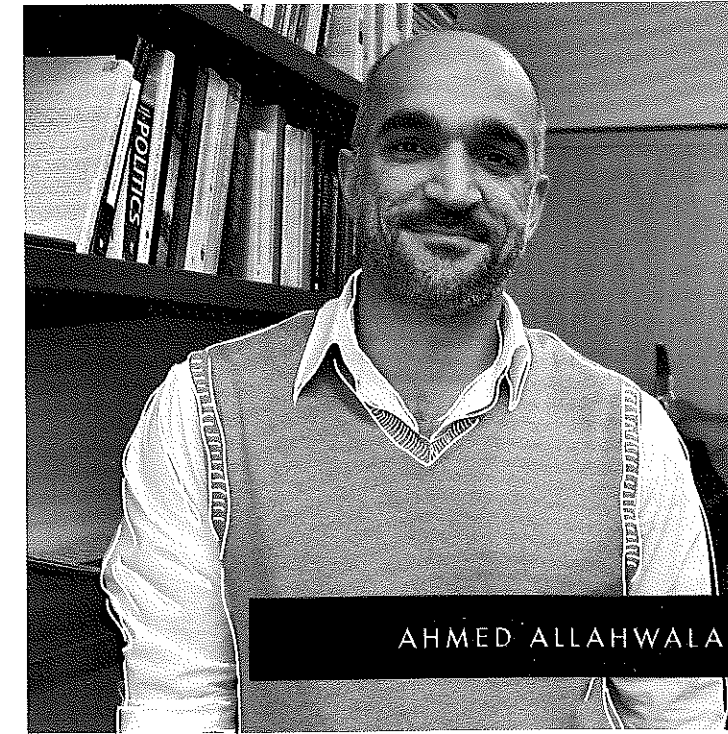
"In my teaching, I truly strive

to foster critical thinking and create learning environments that encourage students to ask difficult questions and sometimes these questions are unsettling," she said. "My teaching philosophy is to create even moments of discomfort in the classroom by tackling these questions. But within this pedagogy of discomfort, I can also see the emergence of new consciousness and new awareness."

Professor Todorova believes that a sense of community is needed to be a good teacher. "It is only in such a supportive community that you can flourish as a teacher. I don't know what distinguishes me from colleagues, but I do know that without them, I cannot be the teacher that I am." Professor Todorova believes that hope is a key component in teaching. "Without hope there is no future," said Professor Todorova. "One of the most important things about teaching is teaching hope. As much as you are critiquing, you are breeding hope, or else there is no future."



MIGLENA TODOROVA



AHMED ALLAHWALA

KAREN CHOW & DIANNE KHAYE RUAYA/ THE UNDERGROUND

Originally wanting to become a dentist, Professor Inzlicht pursued his education towards psychology after realizing that's where his interest lied. He became part of the UTSC faculty in July 2015 and has loved his job ever since.

"I could not imagine a better career for me personally, someone who likes to explore ideas. I'm curious about ideas, I like talking about ideas with students, undergraduates, graduate students and colleagues. You have so much flexibility on when you work on. I could not imagine a better job for me," he said. "Some people say thank god it's Friday, I say thank god it's Monday."

Professor Inzlicht brings in different mediums into the classroom, such as examples from pop culture and gets students interested in the topic by seeing the relevance of the topic in real life.

"You can talk about something enthusiastically and passionately because you love it, but also making it relevant to students," he said. "Another thing is I try to rep-

resent materials in diverse ways, because people have different learning styles, so I try to bring in different media that students can engage with, tackling topics with multiple modalities, and getting students to become active learners."

With a large number of undergraduate students working in his lab, Professor Inzlicht provides an opportunity for students to understand the work of a researcher. In the future, apart from the possibility of writing a book on willpower, Professor Inzlicht also hopes to bring in a research hub.

"At some point, I thought about maybe bringing in a research centre and bringing in people who study social psychology, emotion, cognition and neuroscience together," he said. "And getting a big centre grant, bringing in collaborations from across the three campuses of U of T, and maybe more broadly, in Ontario and Canada." Professor Inzlicht lives by the motto, "if you can't do the thing you love, love the thing you do."

Born and raised in Germany, Professor Allahwala came to Canada in 1999 as an exchange student. He finally settled in Canada after returning to Germany for a year and a half. He completed his PhD in political science at York University and became a lecturer in city studies at UTSC in 2010.

Apart from the one-on-one personal context and the sense of community that is allowed by a smaller and more intimate campus, Professor Allahwala also enjoys the community UTSC. "It is a very diverse student population. You can integrate that diversity into the classroom," he said. "When talking about social issues, the diversity is really an asset and I really value that."

Being the associate chair of the city studies program and the department of human geography, Professor Allahwala has been successful in building an important applied urban planning program. He has added to growing enrollment numbers, the addition of interesting programs and helping students acquire basic ac-

ademic skills. He also strives to integrate UTSC students in community-based research projects, such as the youth friendly community initiative. "I really try to create a community of learners, where everybody is equal, everybody has something to contribute and different perspective are valued," he said.

Professor Allahwala tries to make himself available to students and has an open-door policy. He also makes the trek out to Scarborough more than once or twice a week. "The essence of my teaching is creating a space for mutual learning and giving voice to the student to ask their own questions," he said. "And giving them the tools and skills to find their own answers, rather than looking to me to provide the answers." **UG**

