

# FAST FACTS



**NOVEMBER 29, 2018**

Hi everyone,

Below you'll find news items and UMFA related information that we hope you'll find helpful. If you have information or an event that you'd like to share in an upcoming issue, please email the item to [umfa-communications@umfa.ca](mailto:umfa-communications@umfa.ca) for consideration.

## IMPORTANT TO NOTE

**WISHING YOU AND YOURS  
A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY!**

The UMFA office will be closed for the holidays  
December 17 to January 2, and we will only be responding  
to emergencies during this time.

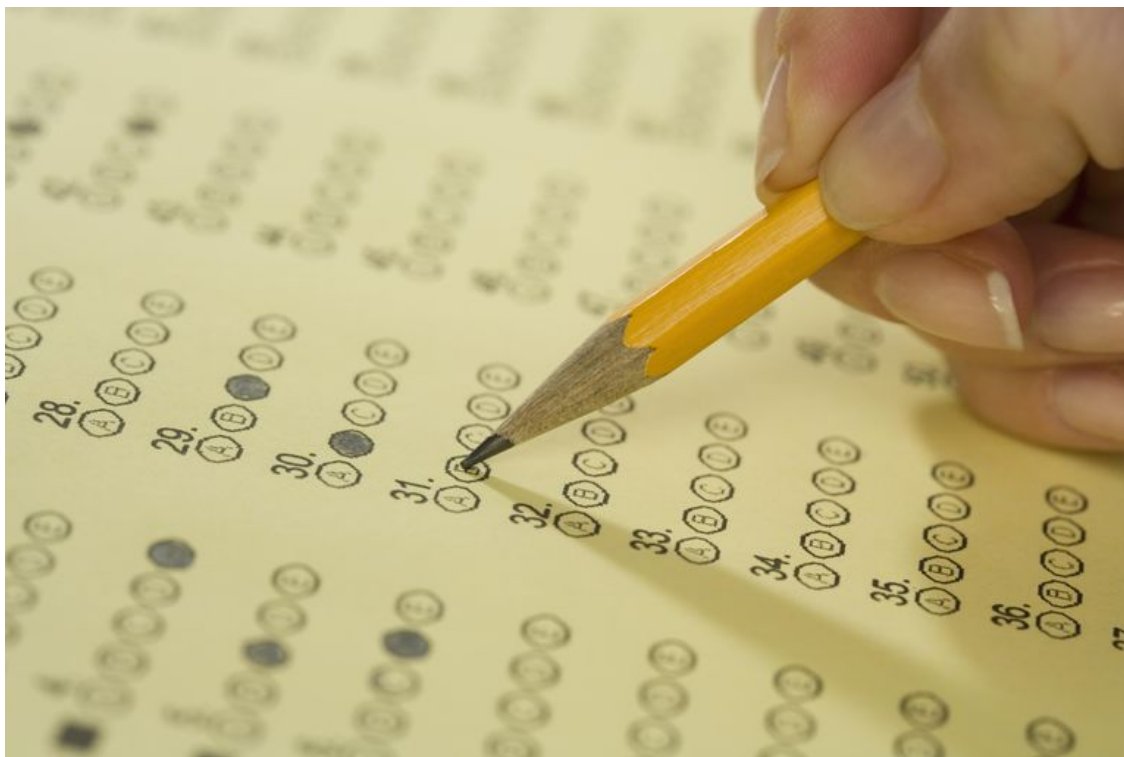
**SEE YOU JANUARY 3, 2019!**

## Should students be able to see your SEEQ scores? Tell us!

The University of Manitoba currently makes SEEQ scores available to students, but UMFA wants to hear from you as to whether or not they should: do you feel this is a privacy concern? Is it reasonable and justifiable to distribute this information? Why or why not?

The Senate has revived its Committee on Instruction and Evaluation, and among other things it's now tasked with evaluating the SEEQ instrument. UMFA has established an ad-hoc committee so the Association can make a submission to Senate, and we want your feedback on SEEQs to inform our submission.

We'd like a written account of your experiences, good and bad. Don't worry – we'll keep your information confidential and not share your name with anyone. Further details and information on how to submit your comments can be found on the [UMFA website](#).



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**Retirement Allowance Program deadline coming soon**

The date to give notice of your retirement and participate in the retirement allowance program has been **extended to January 3, 2019**. The details of the retirement allowance program are found in [Appendix F](#) of the collective agreement-the program provides a retirement allowance \$20,000 to \$100,000 if you provide irrevocable notice to retire. The amount of the allowance depends on your age at retirement and the number of years' notice you provide.

If you are thinking of retiring, we encourage you to contact the pension benefits office and request a statement of retirement benefits. This statement, which is provided upon request, gives you information about your expected monthly pension given your exact age at retirement, and an estimate of the lump sum payment you would receive if you choose to take your money out of the UM plan. Since it takes up to six weeks for the pension office to generate your statement, please contact them as soon as possible.

*Surnames beginning in:*

A to K: Please email [pension-pension-admin@lists.umanitoba.ca](mailto:pension-pension-admin@lists.umanitoba.ca)

L to Z: Please email [Dawn.Dumanske@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Dawn.Dumanske@umanitoba.ca)

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NEWS YOU CAN USE 

## Professors and Instructors Make U of M Happen!

The first two interviews in the "Professors and Instructors Make U of M Happen" are now online. As we continue to introduce your colleagues, please follow along and share them on your social media using the hashtag **#WeMakeUofMHappen**.



PROFS & INSTRUCTORS  
MAKE **UofM** HAPPEN

**DEREK KREPSKI**  
PROFESSOR  
MATHEMATICS

**Derek Krepski, Assistant Professor  
Mathematics**

*"I'm always looking for patterns within a defect of a pattern."*

**What department and faculty/school/college do you work in?**

I work in the Department of Mathematics in the Faculty of Science.

**What are some of the projects you're working on right now?**

I'm currently focused on research in an area of geometry or algebra that some people call higher structure, or higher categories. The "higher" here means more hidden. Mathematics is



all about structure and trying to understand rules and patterns. Occasionally, you come across something that you thought followed a certain pattern and you have to discover how far off it is from the pattern you thought it was going to follow. I'm always looking for patterns within a defect of a pattern. This theme is something I'm gravitating towards in a couple of projects I'm working on right now. It's all about adjusting perspectives in order to move forward.

**How did you become a professor at the UofM? What career path did you follow?**

I got my PhD at the University of Toronto and from there I did two post-doctoral fellowships, one at McMaster University and the other at Western University – I left halfway through that second post-doc because I was offered a job at the UofM.

My area of study and research has been in geometry – more specifically, symplectic differential geometry which is a mix of algebra and calculus.

*To read more of Derek's interview, and others, visit the [UMFA website](#).*

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## **Investigation into Potter case finds McGill violated academic freedom**

An investigation into the controversial resignation of Dr. Andrew Potter from the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC) has found that not only did the University fail in its duty to protect Professor Potter's academic freedom, but that its justification for his resignation has undermined the academic freedom of all academic staff at McGill.

The report, prepared by UMFA member Mark Gabbert for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), is calling on the University to develop policy to give full protection of academic freedom to academic administrators. The report can be read [here](#).

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## **Academic Freedom and International Law:**

### **A Horror Story**

Canada's extradition laws have led to an innocent Canadian academic losing his job and being imprisoned under horrendous conditions for over 2 years, and French authorities are threatening to

repeat their mistake.

On Jan. 12, 2018, after 1,154 days spent languishing in a prison in France, Hassan Diab, a dual Lebanese-Canadian citizen, was released without ever having faced a trial. French authorities finally concluded that there wasn't a case against him and ordered his release. French prosecutors have appealed that decision, and if they win, have the right under current Canadian law to request his extradition once again.

In May, information surfaced that reveals Canadian officials may have knowingly withheld evidence that would have exonerated Diab of any wrongdoing. The government has launched an internal Department of Justice probe of the allegations, and is promising a review of Canada's extradition law.

CAUT is calling for an independent and public inquiry into the treatment of Diab.

"Full disclosure of the evidence, presumption of innocence, and the duty of the state to establish the reliability of the evidence should be the basis of any new law. This is the only way to ensure we do not extradite innocent Canadians to rot alone in foreign jails away from their families and from any meaningful human interaction based on evidence that would not withstand scrutiny in Canada," Diab said.

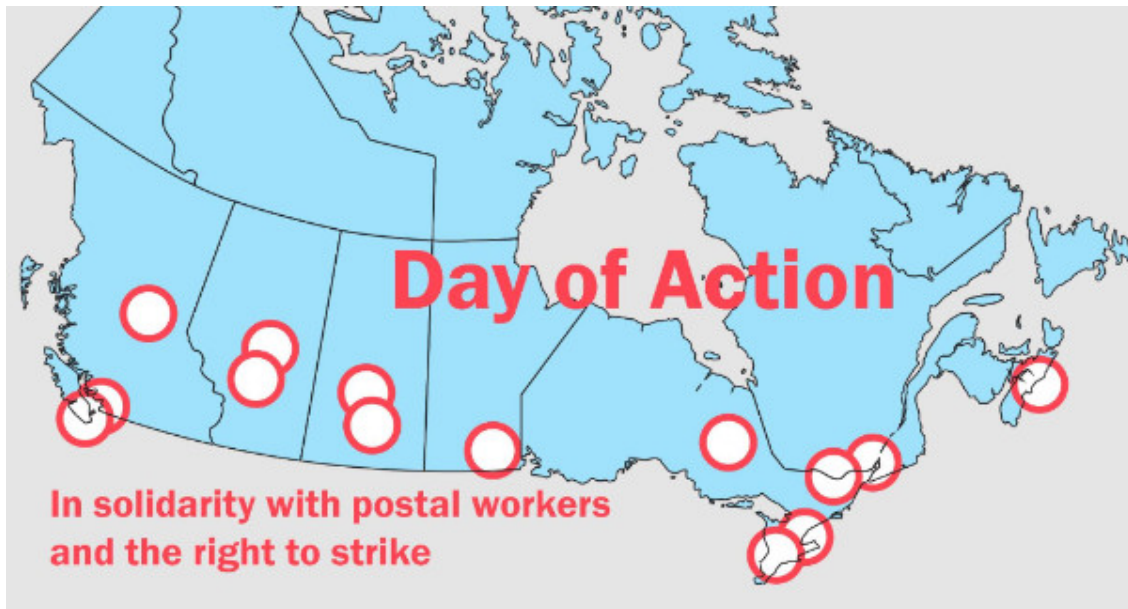
For a fuller account of his terrifying experience, click here: <https://www.caut.ca/bulletin/2018/05/interview-hassan-diab>.

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**New on the UMFA website:** [Labour and education in the news](#). This is a daily compilation of news articles on education and labour issues.

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**MEETINGS & EVENTS** 



A day to rally in solidarity with postal workers and send a clear message: we support everyone's right to strike – for better working conditions, and a better world.

**Saturday, December 1**

**12:00 pm. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Canadian Museum for Human Rights, 85 Israel Asper Way**

This is part of a national day of action. Over 10 cities are participating, with more being added: [http://www.deliveringcommunitypower.ca/day\\_of\\_action](http://www.deliveringcommunitypower.ca/day_of_action).

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**DECEMBER 6, 2019**

## **LABOUR ON FILM**


**BRING YOUR LUNCH AND ENJOY A SCREENING OF  
STANLEY KUBRICK'S SHORT FILM "THE SEAFARERS"**

**(PSST...THERE'S POPCORN TOO!)**

**12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
ELIZABETH DAFOE LIBRARY  
ROOM #160**

**RSVP: [UMFA-COMMUNICATIONS@UMFA.CA](mailto:UMFA-COMMUNICATIONS@UMFA.CA)**

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
Faculty Association**

**We make  happen**






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For a list of upcoming UMFA meetings, please visit our website:

<http://www.umfa.ca/news/meetings-events>.

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