

THE GATEWAY

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SAMBROOKS

GREEN SPEED MACHINE Spring is here and the bikes are coming out. If you want to make this year the one where you put away the car keys and pick up a U-lock, turn to page 16 for some tips on bike commuting.

Student-developed database connects med students through quiz questions

Plans to expand the popular service to other universities are in the works

CAROLINE LEE
News Staff

With a user base of over 400 members, approximately 900 questions, and over 16 000 responses, QuizMD has become one of the most frequently used resources among the University of Alberta's medical students.

Daniel Kozan, a second-year medical student and the creator of QuizMD, designed the online bank of multiple-choice practice questions to allow students the opportunity to evaluate their level of understanding in various topics while reinforcing their own knowledge by adding their own questions. With the goal of expanding its services to be endorsed by all universities, Kozan hopes to establish the website as an international medical resource.

"I have a liaison, so far, in Australia and the United Kingdom," he explained. "I would really like to see it become the Wikipedia of practice exam questions, but along with that, I want to make it a legitimate medical resource."

Completely run by students, Kozan developed the website based on an

existing exam question bank called Germ Zappers, which is used as a medical learning tool in a first-year infectious disease course. However, he wasn't content with its existing features, as he felt that there were additional features that could be added to benefit medical students.

"I wanted to be able to discuss the question, to have explanations for each one. I wanted to be able to submit my own questions because I find writing material for myself and for others to quiz ourselves is a great way to learn," Kozan explained.

Dr David Rayner, the U of A's associate dean of undergraduate medical education, is among one of several professors who have used QuizMD as a learning resource for the purposes of their course. While Rayner has only logged onto the website once or twice to upload questions, he believes that QuizMD is a great addition to the available learning tools for medical students.

"Some of our students were really thinking outside the box when they put this together," Rayner said. "The obvious benefit is that it gives you

practice questions that you can use as a measure of your learning. The less obvious thing is that writing a good exam question takes considerable depth of knowledge. It's actually quite difficult to write a decent exam question, so if students are putting questions together, then that's real depth learning. It means that they have to know the material pretty well."

While Kozan views the rapidity at which the medical resource is changing as an important advantage, there's concern that some of the user-submitted content may be of subpar quality. To combat this, he has designed a system where peers are able to comment on questions to identify inaccuracies and inconsistencies in content or to praise those that are beneficial and particularly well written. In addition, Kozan has added a voting system where users can acclaim questions they found helpful. Through this peer-evaluation process, students learn how to improve questions and develop a greater grasp on the course content, while allowing for maintenance of high quality material.

PLEASE SEE **MED QUIZ** ♦ PAGE 4

Samuel saga ends with letter of apology

KIRSTEN GORUK
JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

An unprecedented motion to dismiss Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel from office was withdrawn from the agenda of Tuesday's Students' Council meeting at the last minute.

"I think it was no surprise that over the course of the campaign and this semester that Council was very upset with the activities that had happened."

MICHAEL JANZ
SU PRESIDENT

The motion, which was brought forward by Business Councillor Scott Nicol, would have seen Samuel removed from his position as VP (Academic) and all related responsibilities. Nicol explained that he

brought up the motion due to a lack of action previously taken by Council to deal with Samuel's election-related misconduct.

"I think it was no surprise that over the course of the campaign and this semester that Council was very upset with the activities that had happened," SU president Michael Janz stated in response to the proceedings. "Council reacted angrily when there were multiple breaches of [the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement] Board and that they felt that Council and the rule of law had been disregarded."

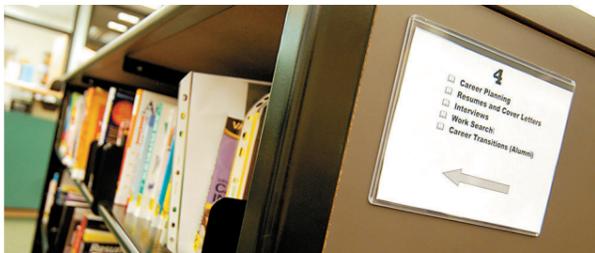
Nicol's decision to make the motion came as a result of actions taken by Samuel and his brother Chris—who served as SU president in 2001/02—during a hearing in front of the DIE Board on 4 March.

However, Nicol was quick to withdraw his motion at Tuesday's meeting after an agreement was reached between himself and Samuel that saw the VP (Academic) submit a formal letter of apology to Council detailing his position regarding the actions taken by his brother on his behalf.

PLEASE SEE **SAMUEL** ♦ PAGE 3

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Everybody's working for the weekend

The boom continues in Alberta, and there are jobs to be had left and right. But while students may be able to easily find employment for the summer, some employers are feeling the crunch.

FEATURE, PAGES 13-15

Thanks for all the fish

That's it, the last real Gateway of the year. But fear not, for we'll have a surprise on newsstands next Thursday, and our summer publishing schedule starts on 8 May. Thanks to all our readers and volunteers!