

We have our eye on Eugenia Kumacheva

by Elaine O'Connor



Eugenia Kumacheva's motto could be "better living through chemistry." The University of Toronto professor's passion is polymers – the study of how minute molecules bind together – and her work has far-reaching implications for cancer treatments, stem-cell research and even national security.

Among her team's discoveries? A "smart" nano-particle that's attracted to cancer cells (and largely avoids healthy ones). A polymer surface that can control the growth patterns of stem cells – a boon to research scientists. And a type of polymer film that can encrypt photos, fingerprints and signatures, which could greatly improve passport security.

"Proving that a seemingly crazy hypothesis actually works is a really great feeling," says the Ukrainian-born mother of two. Last November, she became the first-ever Canadian to win the prestigious L'Oréal-UNESCO award For Women in Science, which marks her as one of the top female scientists in the world. But advanced chemistry comes easy to Kumacheva: The toughest thing about her work, she insists, is leaving it at the office. "Science is not something that you can forget about when you close the door of your lab."



HAVE YOU HEARD?

by Anna-Kaisa Walker

The Museum of Broken Relationships in Croatia puts the artifacts of lost love on display: Exhibits range from the kinky (a pair of fuzzy handcuffs) to the quirky (an axe used to chop an ex's furniture). The show is now accepting submissions: Finally, a home for boyfriend sweaters everywhere.

From the headlines

The New York Times
"Ex-Prostitutes Say South Korea and U.S. Enabled Sex Trade Near Bases" by Siri Agrell

A group of former South Korean prostitutes has come forward to claim that their government encouraged them to have sex with American soldiers during the Korean War. The women were not forced into prostitution but say that their leaders acted as "one big pimp for the U.S. military." One expert believes the government was motivated, in part, by the fear that the American army would abandon them; the country also purportedly used prostitution to boost its economy. While at the time, the women were praised as "dollar-earning patriots," today, many live in squalor and are shunned by society. They're asking the South Korean government for money and an apology; a small price to pay, in our opinion, for decades of suffering.

It's time to...

by Tralee Pearce

START

re-reading the classics.

Do you really remember how *The Great Gatsby* ended, or why you were once so obsessed with Mr. Darcy? (Of *Pride and Prejudice*, not *Bridget Jones's Diary*.) Us neither. And if you can't find a tempting tome to revisit on your own shelves, there's a slew of newly redesigned classics. We love Random House's pretty set of Austens, while Penguin just released an anniversary edition of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, with cover artwork by the Brit art sensation Damien Hirst. Talk about breathing new life into evolutionary theory.

STOP

hanging out with your toxic friend.

Jodyne Speyer, the author of *Dump 'Em*, has sage advice for making your escape. Begin with a warning in which you lay out your concern (such as her constant negativity) and then explain that this needs to change if the two of you are to stay pals. If she continues her bad behaviour, it's time to call it quits. Start off on a kind note – "You have a great sense of humour" – then tell her you no longer want to be in the friendship. After that, stand firm, Speyer says. Otherwise, you'll be right back where you started.

Crush of the month

by Siri Agrell



Jon Hamm If any man is worthy of wooing Tina Fey's Liz Lemon in *30 Rock*, it's Jon Hamm – the actor who plays dapper Don Draper in the AMC hit *Mad Men*. The Golden Globe-winner recently did a guest stint on the sitcom, playing a dashing doctor who lives in Lemon's building. We already find Hamm incredibly sexy despite his constant cigarette smoking and 1960s misogyny; in *30 Rock* – with Fey's jokes coming out of his mouth – he's even hotter.