



The PAC Express

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A Newsletter for Members of the Principal's Advisory Council
University of Toronto at Mississauga

UTM Academic Learning Centre Honours Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion

... from the October 4, 2004
PAC meeting ...

The new **Communication, Culture and Information Technology Building** opened for classes this academic year. The facility houses a joint interdisciplinary program, between UTM and Sheridan College, for the study of the art and science of human communication.

Using U of T's *Stepping Up* academic plan as a framework, UTM has developed an academic plan for the campus - *UTM Steps Up* - that focuses on quality and growth. The plan outlines UTM's strategic priorities over the next six years: strengthen faculty, enrich the student experience, build upon academic programs, extend the campus' reach, and strengthen UTM's infrastructure and resource base. Inherent in these priorities is a focus on research and building a student-centred research community. Read the *UTM Steps Up* academic plan online: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/~w3acapln/pl an/>.

UTM & the Rae Review: Accessibility is a key issue in the Rae Review. Universities must increase access to post-secondary education through financial aid programs. Since tuition increases, more students from low income families have attended the university because of the availability of a financial aid program.

John Challis, vice president (research) and associate provost, U of T: The university needs to enhance research resources and facilitate the development of individual researchers and research teams including interdisciplinary, intercampus and international teams. Over \$3-million worth of research is conducted at U of T daily. This equates to \$1-billion annually.

AS MAYOR OF MISSISSAUGA FOR MORE than 25 years, Hazel McCallion has built an outstanding record of achievement for the city and for UTM. She has made UTM a key element in the economic growth and social development of the city, and has championed its evolution to a top-tier institution of higher learning in Canada.

To honour Mayor McCallion's outstanding contributions to the City of Mississauga and to UTM, the university will name its new library and learning centre for her -- The Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre.

"Mayor McCallion is our champion and greatest booster," says UTM vice-president and principal Ian Orchard. "She promotes UTM in the global arena, has aligned us with the successful economic engine of this city and has created numerous opportunities for us to expand our network of corporate partners. We are delighted her name will grace our academic learning centre."

The centre will take a unique approach

to library design. According to chief librarian Mary Ann Mavrinnac, the focus of the facility will shift from collections space to people space. "It will play a unique role in 'humanizing technology,'" says Mavrinnac.

Designed by Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners, the \$34-million facility will house the entire collection of print material on compact shelving. It will also feature an adaptive technology centre for people with disabilities, an Academic Skills Centre and one "smart" classroom with state-of-the-art teaching and learning technology.

"The University of Toronto at Mississauga plays a crucial role in the reputation and success of the City of Mississauga," says McCallion. "A dynamic facility such as this will have significant benefits to the academic community and city as a whole. The economic, cultural and social advantages gained by building such a library are tremendous and I am honoured to offer my name, as mayor of Mississauga, to such an exciting project."

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- Hazel McCallion



At the groundbreaking ceremony for The Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre: Dr. Robert Bennett (U of T), Ian Orchard (UTM vice-president and principal), Mayor Hazel McCallion (City of Mississauga), The Honourable David Caplan (Minister of Public Infrastructure and Renewal), Mary Ann Mavrinnac (UTM chief librarian) and Michael S. Cloutier (CEO, AstraZeneca Canada Inc.).

CAMPUS NEWS

On January 10, the UTM community gathered at a memorial service to remember the victims of the **tsunami** disaster in Southern Asia and parts of Africa. The service gave UTM students, faculty and staff an opportunity to reflect on the tragedy and how it has affected the world. Students have joined the global spirit of generosity toward the tsunami victims. The Tamil Students Association and the Sri Lankan Students Association established the *Ribbons for Rescue* campaign on campus. The proceeds of ribbons purchases go toward the tsunami relief effort. U of T's St. George and Scarborough campuses also held services in memory of the tsunami victims.

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UTM's Erindale Hall Student Residence won the **2004 Mississauga Urban Design Award**. This award recognizes building projects that achieve Mississauga's highest standards in building design excellence. The architects on the project are Baird

Sampson Neurt Architects and Janet Rosenberg & Associates (Landscape Architects).

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The Centre for Research on Biological Communication Systems at UTM has won the **2004 Award for Innovation in Graduate Education in Psychology** for its interdisciplinary and inter-university strategic training program in communication and social interaction in healthy aging. The award is sponsored by the American Psychological Association's Board of Educational Affairs in cooperation with the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology.

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UTM students, faculty and staff participated in a **Rae Review** town hall meeting in advance of the university's official submission to the review. The townhall focused on improving the university system in terms of accessibility, quality, system design, funding and accountability.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18, 19

Communication and Aging Symposium
<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/crbcs/events/>

March 15 to April 12

The School of Continuing Studies' University Lecture Series continues weekly at UTM. For more information, contact SCS at www.learn.utoronto.ca or 416-978-5527.

March 23 to May 2

UTM/Sheridan Art and Art History Graduating Students Exhibition at The Blackwood Gallery: The exhibitions present work realized in a broad range of subjects and media. For more information, contact The Blackwood Gallery at 905-828-3789.

April 28 to May 26

Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series

May 5

Annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament at Lionhead Golf and Country Club

Next PAC Meeting

May 31, 2005

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY & STAFF

UTM has a new chief administrative officer (CAO) – **Ray deSouza**. Although deSouza isn't new to the university – he started at U of T in 1988 – he is new to UTM. As CAO, deSouza plays a vital role in establishing the strategic direction and vision for UTM. One of his foremost priorities will be implementing the campus' academic plan, which outlines strategic priorities over the next six years. His other responsibilities include managing the business administration and operations of the campus and developing and maintaining internal and external relations. DeSouza brings over 30 years of experience in education to UTM. Most recently, he spent 11 years as assistant dean and director (infrastructure and information technology) in U of T's Faculty of Arts and Science.

The Office of Advancement welcomes **Jane Stirling** as Director, Marketing and Communications. Stirling joined U of T as a writer for *The Bulletin* in 1988 and most recently held the positions of associate director, news services (2001) and acting director of public affairs (2004). Her new mandate will include overseeing campus communications such as media relations, publications, website content and visuals, and media training for faculty and staff. She will also develop an overall marketing strategy for UTM that will include evolving the UTM brand to match the *UTM Steps Up* academic plan and the campus' unprecedented growth and expansion.

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Congratulations to the recipients of this year's **Teaching Excellence and Staff Service Awards**: Prof. Wagih Ghobriel of the Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences (Teaching Excellence Award), biology professor Angela Lange (Teaching Excellence Award), history and classics teaching assistant Ariel Beaujot (Teaching Excellence Award) and Carolyn Moon of the Department of Biology (Staff Service Award).

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Prof. **Linda Kohn** of the Department of Biology has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This prestigious honour, shared by only a handful of U of T faculty, recognizes Kohn's efforts to advance science and its applications.



The PAC Express is produced by the Office of Advancement, University of Toronto at Mississauga. Questions should be directed to Kathy Chadder, executive director of advancement, at (905)828-3746 or kchadder@utm.utoronto.ca.