

UTM ALUMNI MATTERS

WINTER 2003

A publication for Platinum List Alumni

...from the VICE-PRESIDENT & PRINCIPAL

This past summer as I sat on stage at Convocation Hall, presiding over my first convocation ceremony as UTM's principal, I was filled with a great sense of pride and of belonging—to UTM and to the university. It also gave me time to reflect, not only on where these 900 graduates are headed but also where UTM is headed.

Just as these new graduates are filled with a sense of accomplishment, excitement, and perhaps a little trepidation about the future, so are we at UTM.

This past year has been a real coming of age for us all—faculty, staff, students and alumni. In anticipation of a surge in enrolment, we hired 22 new faculty and 16 new staff. With new student intake hitting an all-time high this September at more than 2,800 (compared to 2,200 last year), we expanded classroom hours and a number of essential campus services, opened a new science facility and first-year residence, and renovated large areas across the campus.

We now look ahead with great anticipation to the next couple of years. The Communication, Culture and Information Technology building opens in 2004, followed by a new Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre in 2005, and then a brand new Resource Centre/Library in 2006. And it's not just about new buildings. For those of you who have a real desire to keep learning, the School of Continuing Studies began offering a full range of programs on the UTM campus this fall, with new courses continuing throughout the winter and spring of 2004.

I close with a few borrowed, but none-the-less poignant words, from Canadian actor Christopher Plummer, one of U of T's honorary degree recipients. In his address to our June convocation class, he asserted that their time spent at university will forever be remembered, will have forever changed their lives, and will be forever held sacred.

KUDOS

Dave Hunter, 7T4, is a 2003 Arbor Award winner. The award recognizes outstanding personal service (by alumni and other volunteers) done in the interests of the university. Dave has been a highly effective career panelist, career fair participant, and mentor in UTM's Alumni Mentorship Program. He is joined this year by UTM volunteers Rose Chojinacki and Howard Shearer both from Hitachi Canada Ltd. and Gregg Hayter from The Associates. All of this year's winners have a long history with the university, using their considerable skills and expertise to further the efforts of UTM. Congratulations Dave and fellow 2003 Arbor winners!

Ted Henley, 9T5, recently won two prestigious broadcast journalism awards in Alberta—for best male anchor and for best live reporting. Ted works for Calgary's A-Channel, a local news-driven station, where he anchors News@Night as well as a live report for its 6:00 PM News.

Tamara Sulliman, 0T3, was this year's class valedictorian, and as a student leader was featured in the UofT's convocation publication *The Power to Change*. Tamara used her background as a bi-racial, bi-creed Trinidadian woman to show fellow students that

li'brary n. 1. Room or building containing books for reading or reference; 2. a collection of books for use by the public or by some class of persons.

THINK AGAIN...

UTM's new li'brary (2006 version) n.

1. A teaching-learning centre; 2. an information gatekeeper for the 21st century.

One of UTM's most pressing needs—a new library—will soon become a reality, thanks to the provincial government's latest round of SuperBuild funding, announced this past spring. Of the \$50+ million received by the UofT through the SuperBuild Growth Fund, it is anticipated that UTM's share will pay for a large part of the new Academic Learning Centre/Library.

According to Mary Ann Mavrinac, UTM's chief librarian, the role of the academic library in the 21st century is dramatically different from even a decade ago. "Libraries have become much more of a teaching-learning centre," she explains. "They not only help students in their academic careers, but also play a vital role in preparing them for life long learning in a knowledge-based society. Our focus will shift from an emphasis on collections space to people space."

The onset of the information technology age has already ushered in tremendous changes within the library system. UTM librarians and staff, perhaps more than any other discipline on campus, have embraced the new technology; not only expanding the services they provide but also changing forever the way in which these services are delivered. However, our library was built for another time. And no matter how good the staff, it is getting increasingly difficult for them to deliver the kinds of services students and faculty need.

Driven by an 88% growth in enrolment, the need for more study space, teaching-learning space, collections space, and better accessibility, UTM's new facility will become the information gatekeeper for the 21st century. Included in the plans are: an integrated 'Academic Learning Centre' (also known as an information commons), an Academic Skills Centre, a centre for academic technology development for faculty and graduate students, electronic classrooms, an expanded computing environment both wired and wireless, an Adaptive Technology Centre and a 70% increase in individual and group study space. In addition, specialized services in GIS & Data and instructional technology will be available, as well as a library café.

For the past year, the facility's project committee, consisting of library and facilities staff, professors, and students, has been meeting to plan essential services. The architectural firm, Shore, Tilbe, Irwin & Partners, have been selected for the design of this project. The new Academic Learning Centre/Library will be located at the north end of the campus, adjacent to the new Communications, Culture and Information Technology building, and will be open for September 2006.



UTM's chief librarian Mary Ann Mavrinac at the entrance to the 'original' Library which logged in 613,000 visits last year

strength comes from within and diversity has an impact. She sat on the Student Centre Management Board, College Council, and several diversity panels, and was editor-in-chief of *The Medium*. Tamara is also a 2003 Cressy Award and Principal's Award winner.

The first graduating class from the **Master of Biotechnology** program presented UTM with a **Gratitude Gift** on their behalf. The gift, a print depicting an ancient Roman aqueduct, is located in the MBIotech Offices at UTM. Gratitude Chairs were Daniella D'Orazio and Steve De Brabandere.

Andrew Kim, 0T0, is working at Tippet Studios in California where he just wrapped up his first job as an FX animator on Matrix 3. He is now working on Stepford Wives. Andrew graduated with a B.Sc. in Mathematics with a double major in Art and Art History. He went on to complete a Computer Animation course and Digital Visual Effects program at Sheridan College in Oakville, where he honed his creative talents.



Dave with wife Tazim and son Adam



Tamara delivering her valedictory address