Night of many tongues

Students awarded for language study at University of Toronto-Mississauga

Incentives for those deserving, in an academia that is rich in opportunities and high-level discourse, may be the key to improving the learning environment— if Friday evening at the University of Toronto-Mississauga (UTM) was any indication.

The awards evening organized by the department of language studies, presided over by Professor Michele Lettieri, acknowledged students who have distinguished themselves.

Prof. Lettieri highlighted their common denominator of dedication, enthusiasm, and self-sacrifice, also drawing attention to the work done by the various teachers (who are) “fonts of inspiration for the students.”

During the evening, the value of young minds was given high profile.

“This evening is the proper occasion to celebrate the success of students and the department of language studies,” said Amy Mullin, academic dean and vice-principal.

Also present was Professor Salvatore Bancheri, new chair and graduate chair of the Italian department of the University of Toronto who, along with teacher Teresa Lobalsamo, awarded the 12 students who distinguished themselves in the study of Italian.

Prizes were also awarded to students of French, Arabic, Chinese, German, Hindi, Latin, Persian, Sanskrit, and Spanish, and acknowledgements offered to UTM teachers.

Professor Anthony Mollica also highlighted the review Mosaic, The Journal for Language Teachers (edited in collaboration with Emmanuel Nikiema), published by the department of languages, with contributions by Kathleen Julia Perricone, Christina Hunter, Anjeza Rexha, Hardit Singh Khuman, Laura Duncan, Teresa Lobalsamo, and prof. Charles Elkabas (Language Teaching and Learning Award, Amy Mullin and prof. Charles Elkabas).

At the end of the ceremony, Professor Lettieri made special mention of the nine-week Italian course with a teacher from Florence, the cinema course with Professor Guido Pagliese of UTM, and a course offered by the Centre per Stranieri-Università degli Studi di Firenze (international students center at Florence university).