

Dear Members of the UTM Community,

I am writing to let you know of the passing of Dr. Ignat (Iggy) Kaneff this past Sunday, July 12—a sad day for UTM and the City of Mississauga. Dr. Kaneff—Iggy, as he was fondly known—was a longtime friend and benefactor to our campus. Born in Bulgaria, he arrived in Canada in the early 1950s with virtually nothing. Through hard work and determination, he became an entrepreneur. He began his career with the development of single-family homes, high-rise residential apartment units, retail and commercial properties, all the while establishing his name and reputation as a respected and quality builder. His efforts led him to found Kaneff Properties Limited. Dr. Kaneff was also well-known for his love and dedication to golf. Later, he branched out into golf-course development, creating six impressive Kaneff courses in Ontario. In 1986, he launched the Ignat Kaneff Charitable Foundation.

A noted philanthropist, Dr. Kaneff was a highly regarded figure in the community. At UTM, his generosity contributed to the campus's infrastructure growth. His gifts supported a number of capital priorities including the UTM Student Centre, the Kaneff Centre for Management and Social Sciences, the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre, the William G. Davis Building, and the Innovation Complex. He was involved as a volunteer, lending his time and name to several UTM fundraising efforts, most recently as honorary co-chair of UTM's Boundless Campaign Cabinet. He also served as a member of the Principal's Advisory Committee from 1996 – 2009. Over the years, Dr. Kaneff was recognized several times by the University of Toronto, including an honorary degree in 1994. He received an Arbor Award in 1996, and most recently UTM's Paul W. Fox Award in 2016, both for his dedicated service and contributions to the University.

Beyond his work with the University of Toronto, Dr. Kaneff was engaged with many charitable organizations across the GTA. He was celebrated by many for his generosity, receiving countless accolades and awards, including the Order of Ontario in 2011 and the Order of Canada in 2016.

Dr. Kaneff's impact at UTM will be enjoyed by generations to come. Our deepest condolences go out to the Kaneff family.

Sincerely,

Alex Gillespie
Vice President & Principal