

# LIVE



4

3 Science Research Building opens

4 Program supports refugee students

6 Photo gallery of alumni events

7 Alumni profile: Wayne Lewis

3



RESEARCH, NEWS AND LIFE AT U OF T SCARBOROUGH

# Making WAVES

## Researcher studies fluid dynamics

**H**ave you ever poured coffee into a mug, added some milk, given it a good stir, and then watched the two liquids merge as one? Now imagine the coffee cup enlarged by a few thousand times, and you'll get an idea of what Mathew Wells investigates for a living.

Wells teaches in the department of physical and environmental sciences at U of T Scarborough. He calls himself a "physical oceanographer," although he admits that it "sounds odd to talk about oceanography" when your subject is a lake – even one as large as Lake Ontario.

But Wells' passion for water – how it flows, and how other things move and disperse within it – goes far beyond our local Great Lake. He's been near water, and inspired by water, virtually all his life. Born in Tasmania, Wells worked and *Continued on page 5*



# Question period with the Principal



PHOTO: PASCAL PAQUETTE

**PROFESSOR FRANCO VACCARINO**  
Principal, U of T Scarborough  
Vice-President, University of Toronto

**P**rofessor Franco Vaccarino, the ninth Principal of U of T Scarborough, spoke to *LIVE* magazine about his role and his vision for the campus.

**Q: You've been in the role of Principal for slightly more than a year. What's it like to come back to U of T Scarborough after 25 years? What's changed? What's stayed the same?**

**A:** U of T Scarborough has grown a great deal since the year I spent here as an assistant professor in 1984. It's taken on its own identity and enjoys a reputation for mounting innovative academic programs, like the Bachelor of Business Administration, our Co-op programs, the joint programs we offer with Centennial College and International Development Studies, to name a few. The campus has also become the home base for graduate student activity in a number of key areas of scholarship.

From a space perspective, we have a lot more buildings on our campus, but the buildings still haven't matched our growth in student numbers. For all intents and purposes, we are very much a comprehensive, mid-sized university based on our student size (10,000) and our faculty and staff complement (600 plus). We now need to focus on developing the full infrastructure needed to sustain the outstanding students and scholarship that we enjoy.

U of T Scarborough also reflects the rich diversity that probably makes Canada the best place in the world to live. Our faculty members are among the best scholars in their disciplines. This convergence of intellectual, human and physical capital has created a truly dynamic learning community. What's stayed the same? The close-knit learning and working environment.

**U of T Scarborough also reflects the rich diversity that probably makes Canada the best place in the world to live.**

**Q: You've recently created a strategic plan for U of T Scarborough. Why was it important to create a plan now?**

**A:** U of T Scarborough has a huge opportunity to build on the success it has enjoyed to date. In order to move ahead, we need clarity of direction and purpose in a rapidly changing academic and institutional environment. We need to be prepared to respond to the many possibilities that are presenting themselves to us. That's why the strategic planning process is so important. It brings faculty, staff and students together to address challenges, priorities and opportunities. We now have five clear areas of focus that will guide our decision-making process over the next five years and it's

a plan that reflects the input of our internal and external communities.

**Q: How will U of T Scarborough be different in 10 years? 20 years?**

**A:** We're in the midst of finalizing our campus plan. We have big ideas for U of T Scarborough, and the possibilities are truly inspiring. The campus will continue to evolve and grow, and provide leadership on a number of important levels. We can, with the partnerships that we have established, create an internationally strong university campus here in the Eastern GTA that is recognized around the world for its excellent scholarship and innovative educational programs – a destination that the local community can benefit from and be proud of. What will that look like long term? More facilities, a more targeted approach to enrolment growth, and a well-developed identity for us within the broader post-secondary landscape within and outside Ontario.

## Students volunteer in the community

**V**olunteering is a way to give back to the community, according to U of T Scarborough students who took part in Community Outreach Day this past term.

Organized by Student Affairs, the day drew a total of 72 students out to local agencies. Women's shelters, daycare centres, seniors' centres and other organizations received volunteers.

"We want people to see that university is not just about academics," said Liza Arnason, director of student life. "Universities are also places where people grow and develop into responsible citizens."

Although the event was just for a day, Arnason said that it can serve as a catalyst for future volunteering, and it helps students to forge relationships in the community. Participating agencies were: Cliffcrest Community Centre; East Metro Youth Services; East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club; Goodwill Industries of Toronto; Heart and Stroke Foundation; Juliette's Place; Momiji Health Care Society; Red Cross; Rosalie Hall; and True Davidson Acres.

"The agencies can see that they have somewhere to turn if they need extra hands or if they have a special project that requires assistance," she added. "My hope is that our students make connections and see this as the beginning of an opportunity to do more."

Students said that they gained a great deal from their experience volunteering, and that they hope to do more in the future.

"As students, we probably take a lot from the community and have many people helping us," said

**LUNCH TIME: Students from U of T Scarborough volunteered in the community for a day this past fall. Student Christie Au Yeung helps out at lunchtime at a local daycare centre on Community Outreach Day.**



Ann Tulalian, a fourth-year student in psychology and biology. "This day is our chance to give back to others."

"Volunteering is a whole new way of learning outside of school," said Christie Au Yeung, a fourth-year management student. "It's important to get involved in something outside of school. It's a great experience, and I got to meet a lot of wonderful people."

The day also provides firsthand learning that can help in a particular career later on, said Chantal Yang,

a fifth-year life sciences and environmental science student.

"I love children and want to pursue a career in child care or teaching, so volunteer opportunities like today give me experience in the field," she said from a daycare site at which she volunteered.

— by Mary Ann Gratton

PHOTO: KEN JONES



PHOTO: KEN JONES

**GENE SPLICING:** Officials from U of T and the city of Toronto cut a ribbon that resembles a strand of DNA at the opening of the new Science Research Building. From left are: Toronto Mayor David Miller, U of T Governing Council Chair Jack Petch, U of T Chancellor David Peterson, Principal Franco Vaccarino and Psychology Department Chair John Bassili. (Not clearly visible are Professors Greg Vanlerberghe and Don Cormack).

# Science Research Building opens on campus

**W**ith a swish of scissors that cut through a ribbon-made strand of simulated DNA, the University of Toronto Scarborough unveiled its new Science Research Building this past fall.

Local officials joined with faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends to celebrate the opening of the new three-storey facility that provides vibrant, collaborative space for interdisciplinary teaching and research. Toronto mayor David Miller, U of T chancellor David Peterson, and U of T governing council chair Jack Petch, were among those on hand. They joined with U of T Scarborough principal Franco Vaccarino and Professor John Coleman, vice-president (research and graduate studies) and others who celebrated the opening of this cutting-edge building and the ongoing excellence of research on campus.

Coleman conveyed the excitement of the campus community, not only for the new building but also for the vitality and global relevance of the research inside. "I hope you'll be as impressed as I am with the quality of this dynamic space," Coleman said. "The scientific enterprise at this campus has undergone a truly transformative phase. This building has been constructed specifically for research, and it represents a maturation on this campus, ushering in a new reality and the fact that we are positioning ourselves as a strong research centre with a place on the world stage."

Toronto mayor David Miller (pictured at right) described the building as a wonderful facility. "You have state-of-the-art standards and labs, but more importantly, this is about people. These scientists here will be able to pursue important research. Toronto has great universities, and we don't recognize and celebrate their

strengths often enough. Educational institutions like this one enable us to succeed economically and socially, and to support the incredible promise of our young people who are students on this campus."

The 6,080-square-metre structure is home to 16 principal investigators and their graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Research teams will explore questions that matter to the whole planet. On the first floor, researchers examine the impact of the physical and social environment on brain function and response. Second floor researchers study plant form and function, with the ultimate aim of improving crop productivity and value. Third floor researchers are using sophisticated technologies to identify and track the impact of dangerous contaminants on the environment.

Designed by Moriyama & Teshima Architects, the facility is organized into research clusters in a more open-concept setting than is traditionally used in science buildings. "This design will stimulate collaborative activity between groups of researchers and increase opportunities for innovation," said Coleman.

"This building makes a vital contribution to the vibrant intellectual life of this campus," said Vaccarino. "State-of-the-art facilities are essential for attracting world class experts who enrich undergraduate and graduate life with crucial knowledge and research. This building represents U of T Scarborough's 'coming of age' as an important centre for research and discovery."



PHOTO: KEN JONES



# U of T Scarborough student wins Governor General's Silver Medal

**U**niversity of Toronto Scarborough graduate Michael Misch has won the Governor General's Silver Medal for science, earning the top marks among all U of T science students who graduated in 2008.

These awards are given annually to the top graduating students at each university in the country. At the University of Toronto, three Governor General's Awards are given out annually – one to a science student, one to an arts student, and one to an engineering student.

The co-op neuroscience student said he was “really surprised and joyful” at the news he would receive the science award. Misch, 22, spent the last three summers working in the lab of psychology professor Suzanne Erb at U of T Scarborough's Centre for the Neurobiology of Stress – which examines the way stress affects the nervous system.

“What has always impressed me the most about Mike is his modesty,” said Erb. “He is an exceptionally bright and talented student, but his unpretentious demeanor and genuine hard work make this recognition of his accomplishments seem especially satisfying and well deserved.”

When he first heard the news about the award, Misch was busy entering numbers into a computer from his experiments investigating the brain pathways that underlie drug addiction. The research involved observing how rats react to cocaine by analyzing their brain matter.

“When I told my friends that I was studying cocaine addiction in rats, that was definitely a conversation starter,” said Misch. “Essentially, rats' brains react to cocaine in a similar way to brains of many other animals,

including humans. There's a lot of information about the dangers of drug abuse, and this work definitely reinforced my view that recreational drugs are not a viable pastime.”

The Markham, Ontario native believes that the brain is a fascinating subject of study. “The brain is the most complex and diverse organ in the body, responsible for the processes of perception, cognition, and behaviour that are central to the human experience – and despite many years of research, so many questions about the brain have not yet been answered.

A straight-A student, Misch received several other academic awards and scholarships during his undergraduate years. For years he has dreamed of going to medical school. That dream recently became a reality, when he was accepted into the MD program at the University of Toronto's St. George campus.

— by Kwok Wong

**“What has always impressed me the most about Mike is his modesty.”**



**HEAVY MEDAL:** U of T Scarborough graduate Michael Misch earned the top marks in science from among all graduates across the University of Toronto, and earned the Governor-General's Award for science.

PHOTO: KEN JONES

## Student levy supports refugee students

**L**uciano Moro says he is grateful to each and every student at U of T Scarborough who supported him in his first year of university.

All students on campus – whether they realize it or not – pay for the student refugee program operated through World University Service of Canada (WUSC) through a small levy deducted from their fees.

Originally from Sudan, Moro was living in a refugee camp in Uganda where conditions are harsh. He and his parents and seven siblings fled their native country torn by civil war when he was 14 years old. His family members are still in the camp, but Moro was given the chance to participate in the WUSC program and to pursue an education free of violence and fear.

Seventy-five cents off the tuition of all full-time students and 25 cents off the tuition of all part-time students, goes into a fund that each year supports a student fleeing war or persecution. The WUSC program funds their tuition and enables them to live and study in Canada. It is rare for loose change to go such a long way.

Education in the refugee camp was very basic, he said, with teaching done by fellow refugees, donated books shared by several students, a lack of facilities and resources, and no education beyond a high school level.

“Sometimes the teaching involves scraping a stick on the ground instead of chalk and a blackboard.



**STUDENT LEVY:** Pennies deducted from each student through a levy at U of T Scarborough help refugee students such as Luciano Moro, (left), to come to Canada and study at university. He is pictured with Stacey Platt of International Student Programs and Services at U of T Scarborough.

PHOTO: KEN JONES

No opportunity exists there for university education, and you don't think you have any future. This program gives us hope that we never had before.”

He arrived at U of T Scarborough in 2000 as a participant in the campus WUSC refugee program, which has since accepted refugees from several countries in subsequent years.

“Without that levy from the students, I would have had to put aside my dreams,” said Moro. “I would never have had a chance to go to university, and I would really, really like to thank the students. People here may not even know about the program and may have no idea what it's like in a refugee camp, but I want to tell them that this program is wonderful, and it can change people's lives.”

When he first came to Canada, Moro said he felt very lonely. “It was a very big adjustment because I had never been on my own before, but I soon got to know many people.”

An International Development Studies major, he quickly became involved in many activities on campus, and worked part-time in various departments, as well as getting involved in student life. He is a current member of the local campus chapter of WUSC and wants to help raise awareness of its vital work.

Moro hopes to graduate in June 2009 and then go on to do humanitarian work, perhaps in the policy area. He also wishes to return to Sudan at some point. “I feel strongly that I can play a role in redevelopment and advocate for people who don't have a voice.”

For more information, visit [www.wusc.ca](http://www.wusc.ca) or contact Stacey Platt, coordinator, International Student Programs & Services, at [splatt@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:splatt@utsc.utoronto.ca)

— by Mary Ann Gratton  
(with files from Aurora Herrera)



# Making waves: Mathew Wells mixes it up

*Continued from cover*

studied in Australia before taking a university position in the Netherlands and then at Yale. The geophysicist moved to Toronto and his current job at U of T Scarborough in 2006.

“I’ve always loved the outdoors, so when I went on to do graduate studies, I was really keen to not be stuck in a lab,” he says.

He now specializes in making mathematical models of how the water in lakes and oceans mixes, and how other liquids disperse within it. He conducts blackboard calculations and computer simulations – along with a healthy dose of field work. He was out on Lake Ontario with graduate students this past fall, measuring the water temperature at different depths from their instrument-laden boat. They found, among other things, that the temperature remains at a fairly steady 17° degrees Celsius down to a depth of 30 metres, and then drops off sharply, down to a frigid 4° C.

But getting that data wasn’t as easy as it sounds. “It was really quite choppy,” he says. Wells is used to rough water by now – he once sailed from Australia to Antarctica – but his students had to adapt; most of them had never been on the lake before. Just keeping one’s balance is hard enough, let alone doing a scientific experiment amid the waves. “It’s hard to read a laptop when the deck is moving,” he says.

His recent project involved water not far from campus – Frenchman’s Bay, near Pickering. The city has been looking at strategies to improve the bay’s water quality, and Wells became interested in helping to tackle the challenge, choosing to conduct research there because it is a good site to study general processes with potentially relevant applications for the future. “The bay could be a really beautiful asset to the city,” he says, if the water was cleaner. But at the moment, the bay is thick with algae, fertilizer, and natural sediment, and it’s not unusual to see dead fish floating on the surface.

Naturally, city planners would like to see clean water and live fish, and have considered various ways to improve the harbour – but, as Wells discovered, none of the proposals are as simple as they seem. One possibility is to widen the channel connecting the bay to Lake Ontario. That would increase the rate of mixing between water in the bay and in the lake, but it would also lower the water temperature in the bay.

“The fish won’t go there if it’s too polluted or if there’s too much sediment,” Wells explains. “But they also won’t go there if the temperature fluctuations are too great.” In other words, widening the channel would improve water quality, but wouldn’t make life any easier for fish living in the bay. “So you’d solve one problem but you’d create another problem – they’re all kind of related,” Wells says. “It’s a real-world problem.”

Another option is to construct a “settling pond” somewhere upstream from the bay, allowing sediment and fertilizer to settle further away from the bay itself. (He notes that this idea was proposed by his colleague, Professor Nick Eyles, of U of T Scarborough.) As with widening the channel, such a project would cost millions.

With Wells’ expertise, the town will have an edge in the tough decisions that lie ahead. “Choosing the best plan is a political decision,” Wells says, “but it should be informed by good science as well.”

Another issue that Wells is currently tackling has worldwide implications: the problem of “invasive species.” The problem is of particular concern in the Great Lakes, where tiny zebra mussels may be the most famous invader. These diminutive mollusks are native to rivers of southern Ukraine, but have been turning up in the Great Lakes since the late 1980s. How did they get here? The most likely explanation is that they were accidentally transported to North America in the ballast water that giant freighters use in their hulls for stability. (The water is pumped in when the ship unloads, and pumped out when the ship takes on cargo.)

Wells wants to know exactly how these invasive species get distributed – a problem that demands both mathematical modeling and hands-on field work. He’s currently collaborating with a biologist from Fisheries and Oceans Canada in attempt to see just what happens to ballast water when it’s released. This past summer they injected a fluorescent red dye into the ballast water of a ship near Goderich on Lake Huron, and carefully tracked its spread as the water was released from the ship. Next summer they’ll do similar research on the St. Clair River near Windsor.

“How far and how fast do invasive species disperse? That’s a practical question,” he says. “But there’s also some neat mathematics and physics in how you model that... It’s very non-linear. So even though people have been studying it for a really long time, it’s still an urgent problem.”

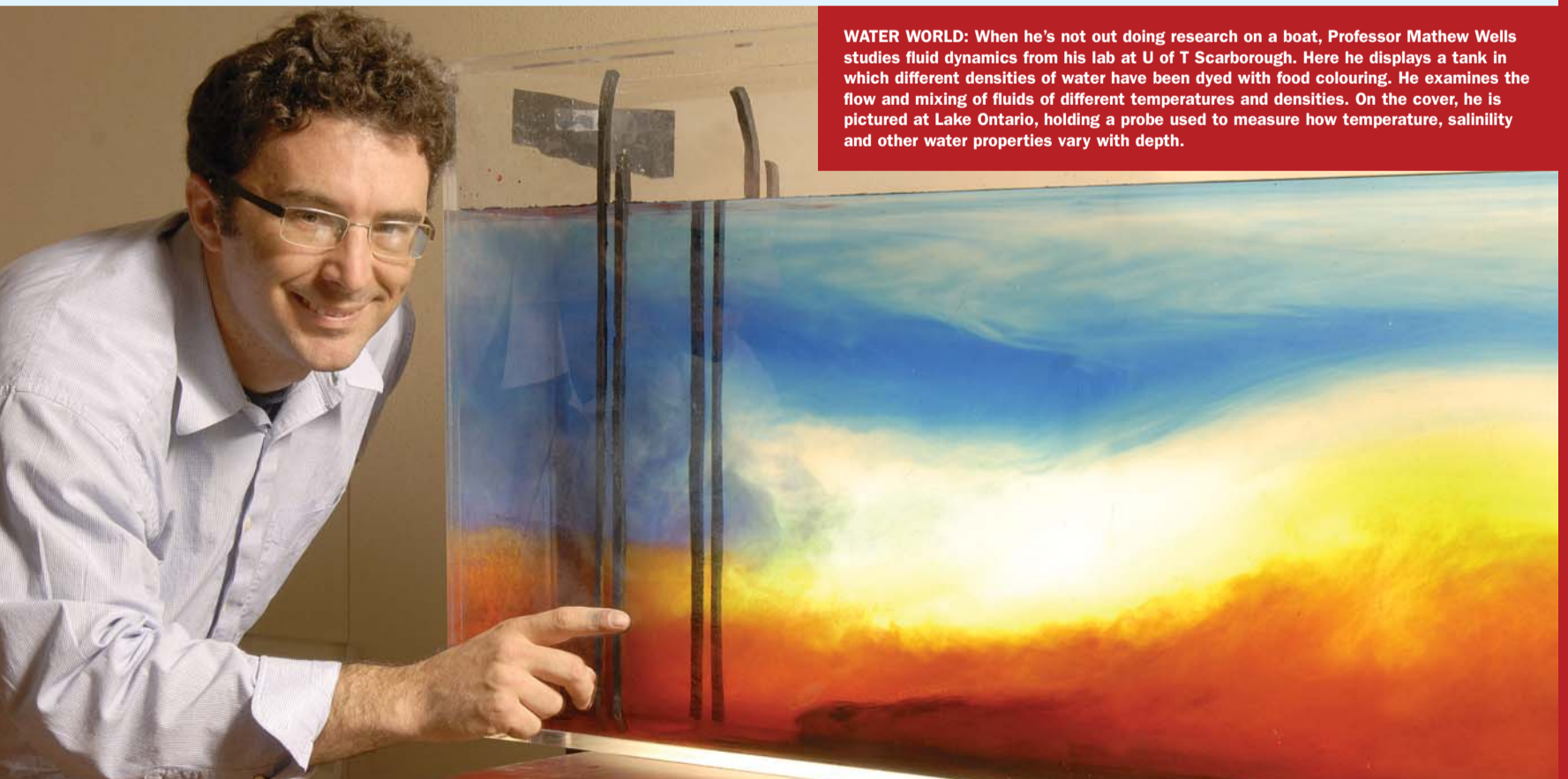
Professor Don Cormack, chair of the department of physical and environmental sciences, praises Wells’ research and his efforts to include students. “Mathew’s work is a great example of how good science can shed light on some of the most important environmental problems facing society today,” says Cormack.

Wells’ research is also making waves. It is supported by various grants, including a five-year discovery operating grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada, along with an NSERC Research Tools and Infrastructure Grant, equipment awards from the Ontario Innovation Trust and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, funds from the U of T Connaught Committee for research, and an award from the Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species Network.

As important and practical as this line of research is, Wells admits he’s drawn to it for another reason, too – and one can see a hint of it in his eye-catching demonstrations of different coloured liquids mixing in small-scale laboratory experiments. “It’s also very beautiful,” he says.

— by Dan Falk

**“Mathew’s work is a great example of how good science can shed light on some of the most important environmental problems facing society today.”**



**WATER WORLD:** When he’s not out doing research on a boat, Professor Mathew Wells studies fluid dynamics from his lab at U of T Scarborough. Here he displays a tank in which different densities of water have been dyed with food colouring. He examines the flow and mixing of fluids of different temperatures and densities. On the cover, he is pictured at Lake Ontario, holding a probe used to measure how temperature, salinity and other water properties vary with depth.

PHOTOS: KEN JONES



# Alumni News...



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

PHOTOS: KEN JONES AND REGAN TIGNO

**S**ocial, educational, athletic and networking events are organized for our alumni at U of T Scarborough on a regular basis. These events make it easy for our alumni to stay connected with peers, faculty, students and community members. Reunions, dinners and other special events have made for an exciting collection of photos. This photo gallery gives a glimpse of what's been happening on campus over the past year.

**1** East-West Hockey Classic: Students and alumni cheer on the Scarborough Campus hockey team in a match against UTM last fall at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga, fall 2007.

**2** SHAKER Networking Event: This event is part of an award-winning program and is a landmark series for young professional alumni at U of T, held at Sagano Restaurant, Toronto East Delta Hotel, fall 2007.

**3** Spring Reunion: More than 200 alumni, family members and friends attended the Principal's Spring Celebration at Miller Lash House in spring 2008.

**4** Spring Reunion: Graduates from the class of 1983 were presented with 25-year pins at the Principal's Spring Celebration. From left: Laurie Barber-Severo, Mary Georgieff-Stepaniuk, Anthony Glover, Principal Franco Vaccarino, Patricia Harcourt, Eva Kent, Anne Leon, and Nancy Lu. Missing: Ada (Ho) Welsh, Seng Kue Ng and Lucy Ng. Spring 2008.

**5** Alumni Reception and Chancellor's Visit: (From left) Student Andre Vashist and alumna Vinitha Gengatharan chat with U of T President David Naylor at the event in Bluff's Restaurant, spring 2008.

**6** Alumni Reception and Chancellor's Visit: Principal Franco Vaccarino (left) and U of T Chancellor David Peterson (right) congratulate Jemy Joseph, a 2008 graduate and winner of the John H. Moss Scholarship for outstanding academic and extracurricular leadership at the event in Bluff's Restaurant, spring 2008.

**7** Leadership Perspectives Speaker Series: Alumnus Charles Cutts (BA '69), President and CEO of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, presents to a roomful of students, alumni and faculty, fall 2007.

## Benefits and services offered to alumni

**I**f you need help looking for a job, a deal on your insurance, a place for an athletic workout or a chance to participate in some fun social activities – look no further than your alma mater.

As a member of the University of Toronto Scarborough Alumni Association (UTSAA), you are eligible for a number of exclusive, useful and cost-saving privileges. In addition to being invited to a rich program of alumni events, you have access to various services and perks. They include access to athletic facilities, alumni travel programs, email for life, discounted home, auto, health and life insurance, and much more. The UTSAA is pleased to offer many benefits at special alumni rates – some are even free. Here are details.

Alumni Relations, through a program of services at Google called Apps for Education, can offer to all alumni a U of T-specific email address. An alumni email account is similar to an ordinary gmail account, but with two differences: No advertising, and instead of having an account name that ends with gmail.com, yours will end with @alumni.utoronto.ca. The great news is that it's free. You get: 6+ gigabytes of e-mail storage; easy access from any computer anywhere, including any computer using the user-friendly web interface, from your home computer using a desktop client such as Microsoft Outlook; or from your cell phone or personal digital assistant; instant messaging with Google Talk; excellent spam filtering; a 20 MB attachment limit, and more. To get an alumni email account, visit [www.alumni.utoronto.ca/email](http://www.alumni.utoronto.ca/email).

All graduates become members of the UTSAA after convocation or after completion of at least one full-time year of study. You are also entitled to: a free subscription to *LIVE at U of T Scarborough* and *University of Toronto* magazines; free listings in the Tell Us Your News section of the website; opportunities to volunteer and to join the UTSAA and get involved

in alumni programs; plus invitations to U of T Scarborough alumni events.

The alumni card is your permanent alumni I.D. You can use it to get reduced alumni rates for a limited time at the Athletics Centre, the Faculty Club and Hart House. The alumni rate for the U of T Scarborough Athletics Centre is \$355 per year.

Now that university is done, counselling and employment services are available for two years after graduation. You can also access limited-time career services at the Career Centre, and use the library stacks at the U of T Scarborough Library and Roberts Library.

Alumni can also obtain access to university transcripts, and affinity programs, including home and auto insurance, extended health insurance, the U of T alumni affinity MasterCard®, and alumni travel programs, featuring deluxe travel tours designed for university alumni.

For more information please contact the Alumni Relations Office at (416) 287-5631 or [alumni@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:alumni@utsc.utoronto.ca).



## Alumnus and lawyer pursues diverse interests

**W**ayne Lewis came sideways into a career in law. When he first enrolled in life sciences at U of T Scarborough, his plan was to become a doctor, at the urging of “my dear mother,” he laughs.

He took neuroscience and psychology courses before completing his Honours BSc in 2001. But throughout his life, he has enjoyed music, film and the arts. Along with drawing, he spent a lot of time writing hip hop songs as well as recording a few of them with friends.

A friend gave him the book, *All You Need to Know about the Music Business*. “It was by an entertainment lawyer, and his story inspired me. After trying for a few years to pursue a music career, I realized it would be hard to make a living as a rapper. I started looking at law as a way to combine my interests. My passion for music and entertainment, as well as for the business and legal side of them, took me down this road.”

Fueled by a diverse range of interests, Lewis was accepted to Osgoode Hall Law School, after which he founded his own sole-proprietor law firm. As a barrister and solicitor, he now works with a range of clients, including small businesses, musicians, and filmmakers, and he enjoys a career that mixes arts and business.

“Entertainment and business law allow me to help others achieve their dreams, and I feel like I’m part of something bigger than myself. When I hear a song on the radio and I worked on that artist’s agreement, it’s satisfying to know that I was part of making it happen.”

Lewis describes himself as a “big picture guy” who buckles down and does what is needed. When he is bogged down with a case, he focuses on the end result, and coaxes clients through the negotiations. “Sometimes clients may need to give up a little bit to get a deal or agreement. You’ve got to make sacrifices to achieve your goal. My work involves lots of contracts and negotiations, drafting and redrafting of documents, and phone calls back and forth.”

His favorite part of the job is “when the deal is done,” he laughs. “My father was a cabinet maker, and he did interior work when the old Warden Woods Mall was built. He felt proud to be part of that, and when I drive by a commercial business or see my client being interviewed on TV, I feel like my father did – like I’ve helped build something special.”

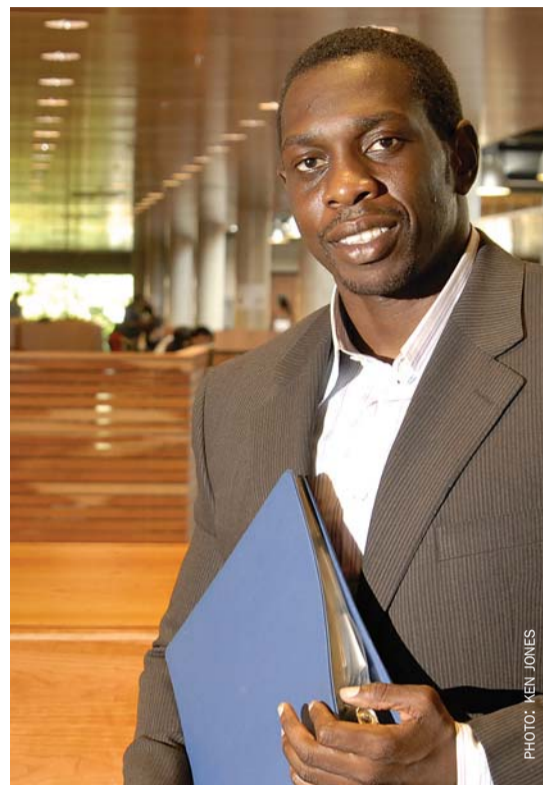
Art was always a favorite subject for Lewis. Although he grew up in a low income home and initially had low marks in school, he credits his mother’s persistence and belief that he could do better if he tried. He believes that if parents in low income neighborhoods work to expose their children to positive influences and successful professional adults, they can succeed and overcome the challenges. “Parents who work to build a positive environment and to expose their children to more highly educated people can really help their children in this way, but both parents and children must work hard to achieve these goals.”

Now 33, Lewis says his undergraduate days prepared him for law school. “Being in sciences involved a lot of research, and lawyers also do a great deal of research. At law school, I had a comfort level with research that others may not have had.”

His favorite memories of U of T Scarborough involve “hanging out with friends at the Meeting Place. I still stay in touch with the same group I met back then. I remember us all studying in groups up until three o’clock in the morning and looking over at one another to say, “Remind me, why are we doing this?”

Lewis chose U of T Scarborough because it was close to home, but he stayed because of the atmosphere. “I found the professors were helpful and accessible,” he says. “I also appreciated the cultural diversity of the campus.”

“Wayne Lewis is a dynamic young alumnus with enthusiasm and drive,” says Kim Tull, manager, alumni relations. “His energy and determination to succeed are a great example to both students and alumni alike.”



**LEGAL EAGLE:** Wayne Lewis (HBSc 2001) went on to law school after graduating from U of T Scarborough and says he enjoys a career that mixes arts, business and law.

When not working, Lewis unleashes his inner artist. On Sundays, he tries to devote time to writing. He’s currently working on two movie scripts and a novel. He also volunteers as an online legal commentator for a business and entertainment web site, *Afrotoronto.com*. Lewis’ column, *RED/TAPE*, can be found under the heading “Money and Business.”

“Although I’m working a lot, I love being a lawyer. I stick to areas of law that hold my interest so that I’ll stay engaged. I have the fire in me for it, and I wouldn’t do it if I didn’t enjoy it.”

— by Mary Ann Gratton

## Our legacy is our participation



**I’m** often asked what the alumni association does. While I can clearly convey why we get involved, communicating what we do is not always as easy. We often discuss the messages that we want to deliver to alumni about who we are, what we do and why alumni should participate.

Coming from Sri Lanka, a country whose educational system is influenced by the British, I have seen a strong level of affiliation for one’s alma mater. In some nations such as my birth country, alumni associations are not called such – instead they are called Old Boys Associations or Old Girls Associations connected with a given school, many of which offer same-sex education only.

A person’s school is a source of lifelong pride in many countries. If people leave that country, their educational institutions maintain connections that span the globe, and people stay close to their alma mater through these associations.

Growing up in Canada, I witnessed my aunts and uncles continuing to connect with their schools even into middle age. They attended events as often as possible, competing in sports tournaments, going to dinner dances, participating in fundraisers, buying textbooks, funding scholarships and mentoring the next generation. Even if we only attended a given school for six months (as I did at Sri Lanka’s Vembadi College before moving to Canada) we were always made to feel welcome at association events, and participation was encouraged. Each class is considered a “batch”. When I meet my parents’ friends, no matter where they live, they feel a connection to their “batchmates,” even after 40 years.

I had always assumed that this same level of connection was part of high school and university in Canada, but I’m not sure if this is true to the same degree. I’m interested in your opinion on this subject. I believe it is the norm to give back to the institutions that have shaped us. The concept of alumni legacy, giving back or paying it forward, is about engaging the community that has given us so much – the gift of an education that enables us to think critically, analyze and engage the world.

The University of Toronto Scarborough enjoys a history of giving by the students, who have given their time, whether it was in protest to the government so that new residences could be built, or who have given their money, to support a new building. While we were students, we had the foresight to leave a legacy to those coming behind us.

The university is looking at transforming itself and is planning towards 2030. Our campus has just developed a strategic plan for the next five years. We now have 10,000 students and more buildings, but the spirit remains, and we are still the same innovative and imaginative campus we have been for more than 40 years.

Now that we are alumni, how do we engage with our alma mater? How would you like the alumni association to engage you? I’d like to hear from you about your university, your experiences here and how you’d like to participate with the alumni association. Please contact us at [utsaa@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:utsaa@utsc.utoronto.ca).

*Vinitha Gengatharan, President,  
U of T Scarborough Alumni Association  
Class of ’99*



## The joy of mentoring: New program to launch

**T**he U of T Scarborough Alumni and Student Mentorship Program is gearing up to launch in early 2009. It is part of the university's continued efforts to promote and encourage student development through leadership. The aim of this program is to assist our student body in their pursuit of personal goals, academic achievements and career success.

Mentoring is a process of one-to-one learning that works with the experience of our alumni to ensure the successful transition of the upper-year student into the work environment.

Who becomes a mentor? Why do they do it? The answers are as varied as the people involved. Some of us were lucky enough to have had a mentor and want to give back as a result. Others just want to help out, be a positive influence, or work to enhance the student experience here at U of T Scarborough.

We are basing our program on a collaborative model. Upper-year students and alumni are formally matched so that they can collaborate on the transition from university to the work world. The departments of Student Affairs, the Academic Advising & Career Centre and Alumni Relations will work together to ensure that the best program is developed and executed.

Mentors will assist in developing our students' leadership potential for the work force. Through phone conversations, in-person meetings and emails, and information interviews, alumni and students will interact through this program that will help to ensure our students success with an increase connection to the university and their personal development.

In order to coach or be coached, both mentor and protégé must develop a common understanding and a mutual respect for the reasons each person is involved, as well as agreeing on the goals for the relationship. Protégés will benefit from the opportunity to grow as a student and as a person through guidance, communication, and leadership from a supportive alumni mentor. In turn, mentors will be able to enhance their leadership, teaching, and coaching skills while assisting in developing the talents of new professionals.

Whatever your reason for being a mentor, you will find it a unique experience. Mentorship is intrinsically satisfying (it makes you feel good) for helping a student, an emerging professional, to develop to his/her potential. There is a wonderful feeling you get from sharing your experience to benefit others, especially when it's a student from your alma mater!

We are always looking for mentors. Alumni who are interested in being a mentor or who have questions about the program can contact the Alumni Relations Office at (416) 287-5631 or [alumni@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:alumni@utsc.utoronto.ca). Upper-year students who are interested in participating as protégés can contact the Division of Student Affairs at [hudani@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:hudani@utsc.utoronto.ca) or (416) 208-4796.

— by Kim Tull

## What's Happening

### FEBRUARY

Feb. 10 — Lecture by Dr. Bill Ruddiman, renowned paleoclimatologist and professor emeritus at the University of Virginia, on the topic of "Pre-industrial agriculture prevented present day glaciation". Organized by Prof. Nick Eyles of physical and environmental sciences, 5 p.m., AC223.

### MARCH

March 8 — International Women's Day  
March 21 — Sounds of Change: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### APRIL

April TBA — Year End Concert, Cultural Affairs

### MAY

May 28 – May 31 — Alumni Spring Reunion. Visit [www.springreunion.utoronto.ca](http://www.springreunion.utoronto.ca) or [www.utsc.utoronto.ca](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca)

### JUNE

June 13-19 — Convocation. Visit [www.utoronto.ca/convocation](http://www.utoronto.ca/convocation)

— compiled by Hilda Seedanee

All the events listed here take place at U of T Scarborough unless otherwise stated.

For more details, keep watching [www.utsc.utoronto.ca](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca)

## Watts Lecture draws a crowd to campus

**A** full-house crowd was on hand this past fall for the 33rd Watts Lecture, which featured Madame Justice Louise Arbour. Students, staff, faculty, and local community members came out to hear about the topic of "All Human Rights for All: A Broken Promise."

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and Arbour noted that the promise of universal, indivisible rights, of equality and dignity for all in the declaration is still not a reality in many countries. A lively audience raised many questions about human rights. Arbour was asked about diverse topics related to all corners of the globe. One student asked how a young person who is well-meaning but uninformed could make a difference. Arbour advised him to choose his battles wisely and to continue his education. "We need people with a good heart but also with excellent technical skills of all kinds," she said. "You cannot be at the forefront of every good fight. Get an education, pick a battle, and show support and solidarity for those people who are fighting all of the other battles that you can't."

The Watts Lecture series was established in 1970 in memory of F.B. Watts, a distinguished geography professor, and aims to provide lectures with a broad range of appeal that feature speakers from all walks of life.



**WATTS LECTURE:** Louise Arbour, an internationally renowned judge and lawyer, was the speaker at the 33rd Watts Lecture held at U of T Scarborough in October. A former member of the Supreme Court of Canada, Arbour served as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and gained world attention for her role as chief prosecutor during war crimes trials related to Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

## Leading Research, Outstanding Faculty, and Vibrant Student Life – Experience U of T Scarborough.

LIVE is published twice a year and is available online at [www.utsc.utoronto.ca](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca) (click on News and Events)

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