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Message from the Vice-President and Principal

Thank you for your support. It has been invaluable in helping us make notable progress on some of our most important priorities over the course of this past year.

In December 2021, the University of Toronto launched the largest fundraising and alumni engagement campaign in Canadian history aimed specifically at supporting post-secondary education. *Defy Gravity: The Campaign for the University of Toronto* boldly defines our mission to effect positive change in our communities and the world. It allows us to support, to draw on and to benefit from the diverse talents and opportunities that foster the kinds of inclusive excellence that make it possible for us to tackle some of the greatest challenges of our time with new, courageous and transformative ideas.

In November, we broke ground on Indigenous House, an iconic space that will honour local Indigenous cultures, histories and Ways of Knowing from across Turtle Island. The inclusive space will bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. We are also nearing completion on our new 750-bed residence building, creating much-needed living and learning communities on campus for students. The residence, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2023, will feature a unique, flexible and energy efficient design.

Finally, in March 2022, plans were announced regarding a major initiative that will fundamentally alter the health care landscape in the eastern GTA. The Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH) at the University of Toronto Scarborough will address the urgent need for more accessible health care options in our region. SAMIH will be an inter-professional hub for inclusive health human resources education and health care services, such as diagnostic and clinical care. Each year, it will graduate 30 MD students, 30 physician assistants, 30 nurse practitioners, 40 physical therapists and 300 undergraduate life sciences students, while strengthening connections among health care providers in the region.

At UTSC, we are driven by a commitment to access, equity and inclusion within our diverse local communities, nation and world. It is a testament to this commitment that we partnered with post-secondary institutions across Canada to launch the *Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion* in November 2021. The Charter holds institutions accountable for delivering meaningful, concrete action to address anti-Black racism and to promote Black inclusion on our campuses and within the sector. To date, there are almost 60 signatory institutions, and we very proudly embrace being the home of the Scarborough Charter Secretariat.

I hope you will take some time to discover more of our campaign priorities at defygravitycampaign.utoronto.ca.

They include initiatives that tackle climate change, promote healthy aging, create spaces for the arts to flourish, help our students thrive and strengthen collaborations with community and institutional partners to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable communities within the eastern GTA, across Canada and around the world. I invite you to join us in realizing our vision for the future.

Warmest regards,

Wisdom Tettey
Vice-President, University of Toronto
Principal, University of Toronto Scarborough
The FCCP Supports U of T Students From All Backgrounds and Disciplines

The Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals encourages students to strive for excellence

Since 1982, the Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals (FCCP) Ontario Education Foundation has supported students across the University of Toronto. Today the organization supports 20 different scholarships at U of T—four of which are located at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

“Our partnership with the FCCP has, to date, helped more than 45 students achieve their goals of a world-class education at Canada’s leading university,” says Vice-President and UTSC Principal Wisdom Tettey. “Their dedicated support is helping us welcome students from all backgrounds—helping lift the financial burden for talented and bright students, so they might better focus on their studies.”

Founded in 1981 by Yvonne and John Chiu, the FCCP Education Foundation’s goal is to create annual, permanent scholarships and awards for deserving post-secondary students, regardless of race, religion or creed. Yvonne Chiu was an outstanding UTSC citizen who mentored students for more than three decades, particularly in the areas of genetics and microbiology. As part of her legacy, and through the foundation, the FCCP supports the higher education of young people and encourages them to strive for excellence.

At UTSC, the FCCP supports two entrance scholarships: one for a student studying cell and molecular biology and another for a student in arts management. The other two awards are for returning students—one in genetics and one in microbiology. Each of the FCCP’s awards at UTSC are named in honour of Yvonne Chiu.

“This scholarship is invaluable to me,” says Colette Richardson, a 2022 UTSC graduate and recipient of the Yvonne Chiu, C.M. Memorial Scholarship in Arts Management. “The kindness and generosity of the FCCP are monumental in supporting my studies and, by extension, young emerging female voices in the arts sector. This award has given me the financial cushion to begin my journey as an independent artist and arts manager in an increasingly financially perilous time for the arts.”

“Our foundation has been an active supporter of student success for more than 40 years now,” says David Sin, the FCCP’s Vice-President of Awards and Scholarships. “Although our membership is Chinese Canadian, we support students from all backgrounds—indeed, the majority of our recipients are not of Chinese heritage. Our overarching goal is to support bright and talented Ontario students, regardless of background. Thanks to our members, each year our level of support grows, with tangible impact for young people across the province.”

“The FCCP has long been a strong supporter of students at UTSC,” says Tettey. “We greatly appreciate their vision and leadership in helping to inspire and support the leaders of tomorrow.”
For UTSC Faculty and Staff, Giving Feels Good

Campaign attracted 60 new donors and focused on Indigenous House and student support

UTSC’s 2022 faculty and staff campaign was a great success, attracting generous gifts from 161 passionate and motivated faculty, staff and librarians—a tremendous achievement that included 60 individuals who made gifts to UTSC for the first time. In total, the campaign raised $67,453 in support of UTSC’s campaign priorities, with a focus on Indigenous House—an initiative to ensure that our campus is a welcoming place for all. Gifts to Indigenous House were matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling their impact for the first purpose-built space of this kind on any University of Toronto campus.

Giving as a staff or faculty member is truly going above and beyond. Thanks to the remarkable commitment of our faculty and staff to the success of UTSC, students will have an amazing campus experience and an exciting future.

“Support from our faculty, staff and librarians goes so far to change the lives of our students by empowering them to have a life-changing education,” says University Professor Maydianne Andrade of the Department of Biological Sciences. “I know I speak on behalf of fellow faculty, staff and librarians when I say that it feels immensely gratifying to know that I’ve had a role in helping UTSC students secure their current and future success.”

University Professor Maydianne Andrade
Hugh Hibbert on Supporting the Next Generation

Monthly donations add up to large investments

Hugh Hibbert (BA 2007 UTSC) believes in giving back. “It’s important to fund our institutions of higher learning so they can continue to thrive,” he says. “Giving back supports students in developing their curiosity and creating opportunities to be creative and express themselves the way they want to.”

That sense of responsibility towards the next generation is largely why Hibbert became a monthly donor. He knows firsthand what it feels like to flourish in post-secondary education. Graduating from the sociology and city studies programs, he spent his extracurricular time playing sports, where he developed close bonds with many of his fellow athletically inclined peers—friendships that continue to this day. Today, he works as Manager, Customer Orchestration and Decisioning at Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Hibbert’s love of sport inspired him to ensure that future intramural athletes have the same opportunities he had as a student. From 2016 until the pandemic shut things down, Hibbert volunteered as a soccer coach for the tri-campus and United University leagues. More recently, he mentored a student through UTSC’s Partners in Leadership program.

Ultimately, Hibbert wants his fellow alumni to recognize how easy it is to give back through small monthly amounts and that those donations have a lasting impact. “Monthly giving programs are important and show support for future generations,” he says.

Samantha Barr, senior development officer at UTSC, says that monthly donors are often surprised to hear how little it takes to make a difference. A gift of $10 per month, for instance, adds up over time. And those donations make a direct impact. “Gifts of all sizes support students in a variety of ways. Examples include the Food Centre, which provides students with fresh, nutritional food; the laptop program, which gives students the tools they need to succeed in their studies; scholarships and bursaries, so students can focus on their work instead of their finances; as well as travel funds, which support students studying abroad,” she says.

“It’s important to fund our institutions of higher learning so they can continue to thrive.”

—Hugh Hibbert (BA 2007 UTSC)
An Inclusive Space: Indigenous House

UTSC’s new Indigenous House will be dedicated to learning about Indigenous cultures and Ways of Knowing

Following years of concerted collaboration with Indigenous Elders and community members, Indigenous House at UTSC will open its doors in fall 2023. Steeped in Indigenous Ways of Knowing and designed using the latest sustainable technology, the space will honour the lands, traditions and knowledge systems of the Peoples on whose traditional territory the UTSC campus is located. The journey to build Indigenous House has been made possible by the generous contributions of UTSC staff, faculty and librarians through various channels of giving and with foundational support from alumni Erwin Psotka (BA 1979 UTSC) and Linda Cahill (BA 1979 UTSC), as well as Charles Brown (BA 1979 UTSC).

The design of the building draws on a traditional winter wigwam and its large gathering room will open into a garden including plants with cultural significance to local Indigenous communities. It will be a gathering space to support intercultural dialogue and learning, while helping foster partnership and reconciliation as part of UTSC’s strategic plan, Inspiring Inclusive Excellence.

When they heard about the project, Linda Cahill and Erwin Psotka stepped forward. Both graduates of the University of Toronto Scarborough, they met while working the evening shift at the UTSC library in the 1970s. They’ve lived close to UTSC since then and share a lifelong connection with the campus.

“We were looking for something to support at the Scarborough campus and Indigenous House really appealed to us,” says Cahill. “Indigenous House is being built with a vision for equity, reciprocity, mutual trust, understanding and respect.”

Already donors to an endowed Boundless Promise student award, Cahill and Psotka have given to UTSC for four decades. Their recent donation is supporting the building’s construction and will be recognized by one of Indigenous House’s gardens. “We didn’t
want the garden to be named after ourselves, though,” adds Psotka. “We have no direct connection to Indigenous Peoples and this project is about them.” Cahill and Psotka recognize the broader importance of this building and how it might contribute to reconciliation and understanding. The University and its Indigenous advisors are working together to establish a name for the garden that truly recognizes the overarching promise of Indigenous House within this community.

Alanna Pasche and Deanne Hupfield perform at a U of T pow-wow in June 2021.
A Long-lasting Commitment to Learning

Alumna Maureen Somerville's gift follows a long tradition of giving back to U of T

When Maureen Somerville (BA 1969 UTSC) first walked through the doors of UTSC in the 1960s, it looked significantly different. In fact, the Scarborough campus was not yet open at the start of her first year. Since then, both the campus and Maureen have come a long way, and each has contributed to the other’s growth over the past five decades.

One of the few female students pursuing an undergraduate degree at Scarborough at a time when women weren’t encouraged to pursue higher education, Somerville wasn’t one to be shy of taking the road less travelled.

After graduating from UTSC, Somerville went on to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) and enjoyed a career as a high school teacher in English and dramatic arts. She retired in 2001 and has volunteered extensively at U of T since. “I started by volunteering at events, which led to involvement on the St. George campus,” she says. Somerville has served on numerous committees and boards, including three terms as an alumni governor and a volunteer for Hart House’s music committee. She has also been a regular donor to U of T and a member of the Presidents’ Circle.

As a sign of her ongoing commitment to bringing about positive change, Somerville generously included a legacy gift for UTSC in her will. She then decided she wanted to start helping students right away and created a student award that will be supported eventually by her estate gift.

The Somerville Family Bursary supports undergraduate students at UTSC who are the first in their families to attend university. “I wanted to establish a bursary for this unique type of student who is in need of support,” she says. “I hope it will lessen the burden by helping with books, transportation and other necessities.” The award is available to recipients for four years, and a new student is chosen every year.

One of the bursary recipients, Andy PhyLim, is a fourth-year computer science student. “The bursary has helped a lot with anxiety related to the financial burdens of university,” he says. “It also gave me the opportunity to explore different ways of using money such as building a sticker business and buying tools to aid with my career. I am grateful for the improvements the bursary had on the quality of my life.”

When asked about what motivates her to give back to UTSC, Somerville says: “Scarborough is my alma mater. I love coming out to the campus. Seeing the growth gives me joy. I’m proud of the achievements of the students and staff.”

"The bursary has helped a lot with anxiety related to the financial burdens of university.”

—Andy PhyLim, fourth-year student
I wanted to establish a bursary for this unique type of student who is in need of support.”

— Maureen Somerville (BA 1969 UTSC)
Defy Gravity: The Campaign for the University of Toronto

The University’s new campaign provides a robust framework for advancing inclusive excellence across its three campuses

Defy Gravity: The Campaign for the University of Toronto aims to harness the power of U of T’s global community to solve some of the biggest challenges facing our world today.

“This new campaign, Defy Gravity, will help UTSC inspire our community and join with U of T as a whole to work on solutions to complex and urgent problems,” says UTSC Principal Wisdom Tettey.

In an inspiring virtual event in December 2021, University of Toronto President Meric Gertler and Chancellor Rose Patten shared U of T’s two ambitious goals to meet today’s challenges. For the first time in U of T history, the campaign includes a goal for alumni engagement: to inspire 225,000 alumni to get involved and encourage them to contribute their time and talent to the University one million times collectively. The campaign concurrently seeks to raise $4 billion for the University’s highest priorities, a goal commensurate with the global footprint of its faculty, students, alumni and donors, and its potential for life-changing impact.

Achieving this goal will generate new opportunities for talented students from every financial background, strengthen U of T’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, spark exciting interdisciplinary research initiatives and help build new facilities that create community and enhance world-class teaching, research and innovation across U of T’s three campuses.

With its own goal of raising $75 million as part of the campaign, University of Toronto Scarborough will increase the number of awards for talented and bright students in need, support vital initiatives and help create new, inviting spaces such as Indigenous House. It will support a new arts building on north campus, the Literatures, Arts, Media and Performance (LAMP) building; the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH); and the Environmental and Related Technologies Hub (EaRTH), a net-zero vertical farm that aims to transform the eastern GTA into a hub for green-tech innovation.

The campaign theme, Defy Gravity, resonates with UTSC’s long history of discovery, advancing the frontiers of knowledge and opening life-changing opportunities to foster a more caring and inclusive world through its faculty, students, alumni and supporters.

“Defy Gravity will be crucial in helping UTSC to address racial injustice, climate change, technological disruption, pandemic recovery and more,” says Tettey. “Fundamentally, it helps us engage with our community to express our vision for our future with the world.”
Architectural renderings of the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health
Donor and Volunteer List

Thank you to each of our generous donors and association volunteers! Your contributions over the last year have been indispensable to our efforts to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time and allowed us to pursue our goal of a more equitable world by striving for inclusive excellence.

The following donor list represents the reporting period of May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022 and includes all donors over $1,000. We made every effort to ensure the accuracy of our listing as of press time.

In the event of an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact Mary Stangolis at mary.stangolis@utoronto.ca or 416-208-5185 to ensure our records are accurate.

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Graduate student Adriano Roberto studies green roof designs.
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