



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

STUDENT EXPERIENCE FUND: 2007- 08 INITIATIVES

Student Study Space and Facility Enhancement:

Environment Student Centre, Centre for Environment, Faculty of Arts and Science

The recently established Centre for Environment lacks a physically consolidated space, making it difficult for students to meet each other outside of the classroom and develop a sense of community. The Student Experience Fund will be used to create a student lounge at the Centre that will be a focal point for students in environmental studies programs. The space will be dedicated for students to organize, socialize, work, share ideas, and meet people with common interests and learn about pertinent issues and projects. A regular series of events will be coordinated over the course of the year to enable students to meet faculty and peers with similar interests, learn about current issues, relevant academic and extracurricular opportunities. The lounge will be a welcoming space for approximately 600 students. It will be the first certified sustainable or “green” building space on St. George campus under the internationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) program. The LEED™ certification will represent the practical application of the sustainability principles that students are studying in the classroom.

Fitness Facilities Upgrades, 89 Chestnut Student Residence

The 89 Chestnut Student Residences serves a residential population of 1,000 students. Improvements to the student fitness facilities have been identified as a priority area based on a residence survey. Student Experience Funds will be used to upgrade and enhance the student fitness facilities, both in terms of variety of equipment available and accessibility of the fitness facility.

Going Green Student Dining, 89 Chestnut Student Residence

The 89 Chestnut Student Residence has implemented the Local Flavours Plus Certified Foods and Eat Smart programs that have received positive student support. The Student Experience Funds will support the renovation of the Student Dining Hall to become the first Green Dining Hall in Canada. Green Dining will offer a healthy way of eating and living, consolidating the existing programs and introducing New Organic Foods and full Green Program. New green products will be introduced along with educational materials on physical fitness, diet and the mind.

Innis College Student Centre and Commuter Student Lounge

The Student Experience Fund will be used to create a multi-purpose student centre and lounge, specifically aimed at the needs of commuter students. Currently, there are approximately 1,500 Innis students who do not live in residence, and hundreds of other students enrolled in INI courses that spend considerable time at Innis before and after classes. These multipurpose spaces will offer a meeting, event and communications environment as well as a place for students, faculty and staff to interact; greatly facilitating community building among non-resident students.

Material Science and Engineering (MSE) Common Room, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering

The student MSE Common Room will be renovated to enhance its environment for study and co-curricular activities for more than 200 MSE students. All MSE undergraduate students, irrespective of their place of residence or year of study have access to their departmental or divisional common room. The Student Experience Fund will be used towards new flooring, ceiling reconstruction,

replacement of the kitchenette unit, painting, additional lighting, functional seating and storage. The renovated common room will have three distinct functional areas (club and study areas, and lounge) that will provide enhanced communal space for studying, meeting, and co- and extra-curricular involvement, social events and the opportunity for students to interact and network with peers.

Political Science Undergraduate Study Space, Faculty of Arts and Science

The Department of Political Science currently has no place for undergraduate students to meet and interact with graduate students and teaching staff. Student Experience Funds will support the establishment of a student space to allow for undergraduate study space, undergraduate and graduate work space, and social space for students and faculty members. The Department anticipates a major increase in the presence of undergraduate students in the Department, assisting in fostering a sense of community between all the groups.

Robarts Library Revitalization: Expansion of Study Space and Service Enhancement

The Student Experience Fund will be used to expand study space at Robarts as well as improve access to essential data resources. This initiative will enable the library to double the seating for study in an area that is intensively used by students. It will allow for crucial reorganization of the department that will separate Government Publications from Date/Map/Geographic Information System. Government Publications reference service will be integrated with the Robarts Reference Service, thus resulting in improved service and more efficient use of staff resources. Low use collections will be moved to the new Downsview storage facility to allow for new study spaces, including group study rooms. Lighting will be improved to enhance all study spaces.

Student Computing Facilities, Faculty of Physical Education and Health

The Student Experience Fund will enhance student computing facilities in the Faculty. The new student computer lab will benefit approximately 600 undergraduate and graduate students in the faculty's degree programs, in addition to student athletes in the co-curricular intercollegiate programs. The lab will serve as a teaching environment for computer based labs and multi media presentations.

Student Communications and Engagement, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering

The Student Experience Fund will support an initiative in student communication to be executed in collaboration with the Engineering Society. The funds will be used to mount two large LCD screens at strategic locations in order to allow electronic messaging. These screens will be linked to the similar screen and server system already operated by the Engineering Society near the Cafeteria. The screens allow for communication of information relating to events and activities for the 50 clubs affiliated with the Society. The initiative will support the experiential learning that occurs for students through their engagement in co- and extra-curricular involvement, in competencies such as project management and team dynamics that has been identified as important opportunity for student development as leaders and Engineers.

24/5 Study Space Pilot Project, University of Toronto at Mississauga

'Library as place' is increasingly important in the lives of students. U of T Mississauga students have requested 24-hour safe and secure study space. Expanded study space in the new Library in the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre offers a secure and resource-rich environment to pilot an extended service. The Student Experience Fund will be used to provide 24-hour safe and secure study space to students five days per week. The pilot is planned for a three-year period.

Opening the Library 24/5, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Students are using the Library in record numbers because of its broad array of secure, supervised study spaces. The most common request made by UTSC students in the March 2006 University-wide Library User Survey was for more library study space, including quiet space, longer hours and study rooms. The Student Experience Fund will be used to provide 24-hour monitored study space at the Library five days a week during peak study periods. By extending library hours in this manner, UTSC will be able to accommodate the changing trends in student study habits. Students will benefit from being allowed to maintain their preferred study space. The Library is able to separately track extended hours usage to monitor the uptake rate among students. A minimum of three staff will be on duty during extended hours, however, no circulation or reference service will be available.

Study Space, University of Toronto at Scarborough

A survey of study space, undertaken with the Scarborough Campus Students' Union, identified 1345 study spaces for the 10,000 students on campus. More than half of these study spaces are in corridors or other noisy parts of the campus and many of the remaining spaces are in dedicated study rooms that do not enable quiet study. It is one of the most problematic aspects of student experience on the campus and results in many students studying off campus. The Student Experience Fund will be used to provide additional, quiet study spaces through a combination of design modifications and reorganization of the ways in which spaces in the Library are used. Substantial improvements will be made in the organization of space adjacent to the Library that is used by several key student services such as Teaching and Learning Services, the Writing Centre and Academic Advising. The benefits of increasing quiet study space will be enormous and will be augmented by extended library hours and improvements in related student services.

Trinity College Student Activity Space

There is a high student demand at Trinity College for space for group study and for meetings of student organizations. Trinity College will make use of Student Experience funds to convert a room in the main building of St. Hilda's College into a seminar room, thereby allowing the Adams Room in St. Hilda's College to be used as student activity space. The Adams Room is perfectly suited to serving this need by virtue of its size, furnishings and convenient location.

Student Services and Co-curricular Support:

Bike Share, University of Toronto at Scarborough

The U of T Scarborough Bike Movement, a student organization, initially proposed the establishment of a Bike Share program at UTSC. Bike Share programs are already operating successfully at both St. George and UTM campuses. Student Experience Funds will be used support a Bike Share program at UTSC that will allow students to borrow bikes free-of-charge for 24 hours. The bicycles have been for the most part donated by students, staff and the community through a campaign by the Bike Movement and Scarborough Campus Students' Union. Student experience funds will support workshops on bicycle repair and maintenance as well as for administrative costs, including insurance premiums and bicycle parts and maintenance.

Child Minding Centre Renovation Costs, University of Toronto at Mississauga

UTM student leaders have highlighted that a permanent childcare facility at UTM is one of their top student experience priorities. As a result, UTM engaged in an extensive consultative process, culminating in an independent consultant's report that proposed UTM move forward in stages. Student Experience Funds will support this initiative, beginning with the renovation of a townhouse to house a child minding service for students.

Diversity, Equity, and Leadership Programs, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The Student Experience Fund will support UTM's Diversity, Equity and Leadership office, enabling it to deliver diversity-affirming programming and initiatives to students. Students, as well as student leaders and clubs, make use of this office.

Fall Transition Week, University of Toronto at Scarborough

The Fall Transition Week (FTW) provides a timely opportunity for new students to experience some of the social, academic and residential aspects of university life with the guidance and support of UTSC administration. A key commitment for FTW is to foster the academic acculturation of students within a social environment which is developmentally supportive while affirming that they made the right university choice. The recent substantial growth of our student body has challenged the program to fulfill this commitment. The Student Experience Fund will support an expansion and enhancement of the program. Three academic clusters (Arts, Sciences, and Management), will allow UTSC to accommodate approximately three times the number of new students than in the past while optimizing students' opportunity to meet faculty and other students in their academic areas.

Enhancing and Simplifying Resource Discovery, University of Toronto Libraries

Students at the U of T have access to a vast collection of both print and electronic resources yet being able to find the most appropriate and most important items needed for research and assignments can be a daunting task for students. The Student Experience Fund will support the implementation of a new, contemporary front-end system, "Endeca", for the Library catalogue, and, potentially, for all electronic journals and all index and abstract databases available through the Scholars Portal. This implementation will enhance the experience that students have using the Library and its scholarly resources, introducing greater capability and flexibility in the resource discovery process.

Enhancing Student Engagement at UTM through Support of Academic Societies, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The Student Experience Fund will allow academic departments at UTM to support student-led academic societies on campus through providing a dollar for dollar match to a student levy as approved in a referendum carried out by the UTM Student Union. Academic departments will monitor the level of activity in their academic societies and the UTM Dean's office will evaluate the initiative's effects on student academic engagement.

First-year Students Career Goals, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The Student Experience Fund will support the development of an intervention that will help first-year students develop clearer career goals. Although career decidedness frequently predicts students' well being, students often lack the motivation to work on their career goals. To encourage them, students will take part in two intervention sessions: one session at the beginning of the fall semester and the other at the beginning of the winter semester. A final assessment of the effectiveness of these interventions will take place at the end of the semester.

Scarborough Fusion Radio FM Transmission, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Scarborough Fusion Radio is owned and operated by the student organization Scarborough Campus Community Radio Inc. (SCCR). One of the station's main objectives is to have a positive impact on the student community by producing engaging, educational, and entertaining musical and spoken word content. Student Experience Funds will provide support for costs associated with the construction, installation and administration of an FM antenna, which will enable Fusion Radio to reach listeners outside of the online digital realm that it currently uses. With FM radio transmission, Fusion Radio can reach every student on campus, via their radios or FM receptors in their cell phones. Secondary benefits will include increased awareness of student clubs and societies that regularly host shows, the promotion of student events and important notices, a greater sense of community and pride for students, and an opportunity for students enrolled in the Joint Program in Journalism to work and learn in an actual broadcast radio setting.

stepONE Student Transition Education Program, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The stepONE program is designed to help first-year students make a smooth transition from secondary school to university and maximize students' skill sets and make their first year at university successful. The Student Experience Fund will support UTM in order to bring together many of the academic support services being offered into one joint, collaborative initiative. The stepONE program will offer educational programs such as University Preparation, Facilitated Student Groups, Time Management Workshops, Exam Preparation Workshops, Summer Group Advising for New Students, One-on-One advising sessions, GPA Workshops, Program Selection Workshops, Summer Session Workshops, Mid-Week Leadership Workshops, Leadership training workshops, Global Café for international students, Library Orientations, Financial Aid sessions, and Goal Setting.

Student Conference Travel Fund, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Participation in academic conferences enhances students' academic experience and broadens contacts with others in their field. It provides real life opportunity to develop skills that they have learned from their studies. A Student Conference Travel Fund will be established with Student Experience Funds in order to assist qualified full-time students with the cost of travel to academic conferences in North America. A Selection Committee, chaired by the Vice Dean, and with both student and faculty representation, will be established to oversee the process of student funding.

Student Services Plaza, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The Student Experience Fund will support the Student Services Plaza, a centre for student recruitment, academic support, personal, health and academic counseling. The Student Services Plaza will provide integrated student services. Staff will provide leadership and diversity training, services for international students and accommodation services for new students with physical and learning disabilities.

Transition Program for New Commuter Students Extension, University of Toronto at Mississauga

UTM Steps Up fostered the “rezONE” pilot program, started in September 2005, which has grown to provide a 13-week extended orientation and transition program to 650 new first-year students in on-campus residences. The program has had a positive, significant and measurable impact on participants’ academic and social engagement. Student Experience Funds will support the next phase of the project by extending the program to new first-year commuter students, with the anticipated ability to serve over 2,000 students a year by 2009-10. The program will be tailored to first-year commuter students, supporting professional and student-peer staff, developing a comprehensive set of learning outcomes and assessments, and strengthening partnerships between academic and student service departments involved in the program’s delivery.

Academic Programs and Research:

Caribbean Studies: Building Links, New College

Toronto is home to an incredibly diverse and rich pool of award-winning Caribbean-Canadian writers, dramatists and poets whose work is studied around the world. There are at least 3 programs at U of T that draw heavily on their material: Caribbean Thought; Caribbean Women Thinkers; and Caribbean Women Writers. Student Experience Funds will support interactive learning experiences for University of Toronto students through classroom visits by such cultural producers. The visits will bring students from different disciplines into a focused dialogue on questions of race and transnationalism in the Caribbean.

Chemistry Laboratory Development, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Student Experience Funds will be used to enhance three existing Chemistry laboratory courses and to add a new laboratory component to one of the second year Inorganic Chemistry courses. Enhancing the existing laboratories will help students better understand the applications of basic chemistry to the chemical industry, biology and environmental science. The experiments have been chosen so that students will have an exciting, hands-on experience with modern instruments and techniques, incorporating new experiments that demonstrate the fundamentals of chemistry and at the same time expose the students to real life applications of chemistry. The addition of a new laboratory in inorganic chemistry will both increase the laboratory contact hours for students in the chemistry specialist program, and it will provide necessary inorganic laboratory contact hours.

Chemistry Undergraduate Laboratories Enhancements, Faculties of Applied Science and Engineering, Arts and Science, and Pharmacy

The Student Experience Fund will support the renovation of 24,000 sq ft of the Department of Chemistry teaching labs to the same standard and exceptional level of functionality created by the Phase I renovation completed in 2003. The renovation will transform the learning experience for the approximately 7,500 individual enrollments in Chemistry lab courses in organic, inorganic, materials, analytical, physical, and biological chemistry. The labs will provide the opportunity for Applied Science and Engineering students and students in the expanded Pharmacy program to access the labs for course delivery. This is true tri-faculty initiative with significant capital contributions from all three divisions.

Digital Imaging in Forensic Science Practice, University of Toronto at Mississauga

Digital imaging has become an essential part of forensic science and practice, and recent case law demonstrates how essential it is that forensic science students be properly trained on ‘industry standard’ equipment. Student Experience Funds will support a project that will provide training in

appropriate practice using professional quality digital cameras. The project links the Forensic Science program with the Institute for Communication and Culture.

Distance Learning for Area Studies, New College

The Student Experience Fund will support the implementation of the ePrescence platform for tri-campus curriculum delivery in area studies. New College is the home of three area studies programs – African, Caribbean and South Asian. ePrescence technology will be implemented in order to take advantage of the wider range of courses currently offered on all three campuses. Students will have access to St. George, UTM and UTSC courses through interactive webcasting and web archiving. Along with other such initiatives across the University, this project will be an important pilot project that may benefit additional tri-campus programs.

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Inquiry-Based Field and Laboratory Experiences, Faculty of Arts and Science

The Student Experience Fund will support the purchase of field and laboratory teaching equipment that will significantly enhance the inquiry-based learning experience of students in courses in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The initiative will allow for students to use the advanced tools required to address leading issues and experimental challenges in modern ecology and evolutionary biology. The equipment will benefit all field courses, field trips, laboratory exercises taught in courses, and independent research projects.

Economics Study Centre, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts and Science

The Student Experience Fund will support the establishment of an Economics Study Centre that aims to enhance the experiences of two distinct study groups, those in core economics and commerce core courses who wish to improve their academic performance, and those in upper-year courses who are academically successful, and who wish to develop their economics leadership skills. Such study groups can help provide one-on-one or small group relationships with peers and allow for improved academic performance, social contact, and community and leadership building. The Centre's peer groups will complement the more problem- and test-oriented course tutorials and aid centres. There are about 3,200 students during fall-winter session that can benefit from participating in the Centre. The Centre will be open 4 hours a day and will be staffed by Peer Mentors, monitored by faculty and an administrative coordinator as needed. It will be located near the department office on the St George Campus.

Geophysical Field and Laboratory Equipment, Faculty of Arts and Science

A shared pool of geophysical equipment for field coursework and independent research will be supported from the Student Experience Fund. This pool will allow approximately 1,400 undergraduate students in six departments to gain hands-on experience with industry-standard geophysical equipment and methodologies they are likely to encounter in their future careers. The new teaching equipment will greatly assist instructors in their efforts to maintain excellent undergraduate and graduate teaching. Students intending to work in the fields of geology, geophysics, physical geography, archaeology, environmental science, and mineral and civil engineering will receive particular benefits from the new equipment.

History Tutorials for Third-Year Lecture Courses, Faculty of Arts and Science

Third-year courses are a challenge to students as the course content becomes more demanding: the quantity of reading increases, research and writing projects require more advanced organizational, analytical and writing skills. The Student Experience Fund will support an increase in the number of smaller-enrolment tutorials available to the large third-year history courses. Tutorials will provide an opportunity to think and discuss readings more deeply and to relate them to course content; offer guidance in developing sophisticated research problems; and offer tools with which to evaluate a wider array of primary and secondary sources.

Holography for 3D Visualization, Faculty of Arts and Science

The Student Experience Fund will support an innovative project, involving both Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) and the University's physical scientists. Holography for 3D Visualization will be a

new course offered for the first time in spring 2008. The course will concentrate on the hands-on production of holograms by students and will be offered in collaboration with OCAD. Science students at U of T will work side-by-side with OCAD students, complementing their strengths in understanding the underlying physical phenomena, and providing expressive content. This course will provide a direct and practical understanding of many aspects of optical physics, which is traditionally taught in an abstract manner.

Iclickers for Teaching Correlations in the Social Sciences, University of Toronto at Mississauga

Iclickers allow instructors to ask multiple-choice questions and obtain immediate responses from students with a button click. Student Experience Funds will support UTM in modifying the Iclicker software to teach about correlations, which provide the basis for many findings in the social sciences, but are poorly understood by undergraduate students. Iclickers provide a unique opportunity to make correlational research more interesting and meaningful and to increase student engagement in large classrooms. The modification will allow instructors to ask two questions and display the association between the responses in real time. Responses are stored in a database to give participation marks, which is often difficult in large classes. The modification will be available to all users and a useful pilot project that will benefit the University.

Internet-based Multimedia, Faculty of Arts and Science

ePresence Interactive Media is a mature open-source software that allows classes to be captured and made available in extremely useful form – as structures, navigable and searchable web archives that can be reviewed online. The Student Experience Fund supports the development of ePresence best practices for its use in undergraduate education. This pilot project will allow the Department of Computer Science to capture and archive additional first-, second- and third-year courses. One St. George classroom will be set up with a built-in robotic camera and computer for live webcasting and to produce test webcasts to UTM and UTSC. Students who miss classes or wish to review material will be able to do so. New students may accelerate their study by studying the archival record of a past class.

Koffler Scientific Reserve Student Experience, Faculty of Arts and Science

Through the Koffler Scientific Reserve the University of Toronto is a steward of a landscape of regional, provincial and national significance. Currently, three field courses are housed at the Reserve and eight undergraduate classes (from all three campuses) visit for day or weekend field trips. Student Experience Funds will support the renovation of 3000 square feet of unfinished building space at the Reserve to be used as laboratories, dormitories, dining and washroom facilities for undergraduate education. This renovation will allow for an increase in the number of two week field courses offered; provide additional space for summer research experience students; and improve the experience of students on day/weekend visits for campus based courses.

Management Program - Career Development and Management Simulations, University of Toronto at Mississauga

A top priority for the Management Program is to improve career-related services to students by targeting them early so that they learn how to create personal development plans for themselves and are well-prepared for later job search activities. Student Experience Funds will support the development of workshops, integrative assignments and experiential activities facilitated by the Career Centre, a set of services is provided designed to answer the frequently-voiced question: "How can I get a job with this degree?" Student Experience Funds will also support the *One Stop Student Portal for Communications* that creates an interactive, online opportunity for Management and Commerce students and the integrated simulation that integrates cross-functional learning through management simulations. The aim of this simulation is to introduce first-year students to issues and decision-making in the various functions of a business. It provides practice in problem definition, analysis and problem solving.

Molecular Biology – DNA Analysis Enhancement, University of Toronto at Mississauga

All the labs offered in three large Biology Undergraduate Courses (440 students) are heavily involved with running gels for DNA analysis and taking gel photos for their lab exercises. Student Experience

Funds will support a Gel Doc system that will allow the results of the gels to be photographed and analyzed and then be digitally stored. This information will then be disseminated to the students for their lab reports via Blackboard.

Political Science Tri-Campus Modular Teaching, Faculty of Arts and Science

One of the continuing challenges at U of T is to find a way to link up the programs delivered on each of the three campuses so that undergraduate students enrolled at a particular campus can benefit from the resources available at the University as a whole. The Student Experience Fund will support the creation of a tri-campus modular format in selected Political Science courses in order to make teaching staff accessible across the three campuses. A group of faculty members will take turns intensively teaching a section of a course on each of the three campuses. Each faculty member will deliver lectures on each campus on a weekly basis for 4-6 weeks and then hand over instruction to another faculty member. Many students will receive contact with pre-eminent scholars with whom they have no or minimal current contact.

Physics Leaders Building Experiments, University of Toronto at Scarborough

The Physics Leaders Building program is meant to give first-year physics students a chance to work on experiments that are designed for a higher level. The current summer program includes lab reports, notebook grading and tutorials using different methods. Student Experience Funds will support the improvement of this project by having the students participate in developing new experiments in physics, which will cover topics with applications in bio- and life-sciences and environmental sciences. The selected students will be majoring in either physics or life sciences. The combination of students from these two areas will enhance their understanding of their individual topic and of science in general. Students will assist in building a data bank for quizzes to be administered at the beginning of the laboratory. This project will benefit approximately 500 students who enroll in the first year physics courses at UTSC.

Physics Practicals Redesign, Faculty of Arts and Science

The Department of Physics will make use of Student Experience Funds to undertake a fundamental redesign of the structure of tutorials and laboratories for first-year non-specialist courses. These courses have high annual student enrolments and are prerequisites for several programs of study across the University. The redesign aims to create an integrated learning environment that connects lecture and laboratory material, with combined lab and tutorial practicals reinforcing material learned in the lecture. The redesigned practicals will provide a small-group experience along with a collaborative learning environment. Enhanced training and mentoring of teaching assistants in addition to the introduction of computer simulations as a problem-solving technique will improve the learning experience for students. The “discovery-based” approach on which this proposal is based has been shown to be the single most effective means to improve student comprehension for this material.

Prime Your Math: Leveraging use of Technology, University of Toronto at Mississauga

Student Experience Funds will be devoted to resources to develop plug-ins to support and enhance mathematics instruction, including interactive software and online quizzes, and reinforcement modules for the Blackboard courseware system. Software will be developed for electronically facilitated study groups, enabling groups of students to make contact with advanced students who will act as mentors and facilitate study of the course material.

Enhancing Teaching Assistant Contact Hours, University of Toronto at Scarborough

Student Experience Funds will support additional teaching assistantships to the increased number of undergraduate students at UTSC. Additional teaching assistants will improve the educational experience for UTSC undergraduates through instruction and support and will contribute to the enhancement of the intellectual life on campus by providing increased contacts with both undergraduates and faculty.

Undergraduate Research 299Y Courses, University of Toronto at Mississauga

UTM's Research Opportunity Program has quadrupled in size in the past four years and is a central priority of UTM's *Undergraduate Advisory Committee*. The Student Experience Fund will support the 299Y Research Opportunity Courses that allow students to participate in advanced research at a very early point in their academic careers – as second year undergraduates. The year culminates in an impressive Research Fair, during which the students and their instructors present posters on the research conducted.

Undergraduate Research Enhancement in the Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Toronto at Mississauga

UTM has been successful in increasing undergraduate research opportunities in the humanities and social sciences by introducing third and fourth year courses which offer opportunities to take on research roles in these disciplines. The Student Experience Fund will be used to enhance undergraduate research opportunities through the establishment of a new fund to support undergraduate research that will finance costs related to the research opportunities but might also be used to employ students during the summer or for travel opportunities related to research.

Atmospheric and Ground Radiation Education, Weather Station, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The UTM weather station currently supports geography courses, the forensics program, and institutions around the world that require weather data for teaching. Solar radiation measurement distinguishes the UTM weather station from most others, allowing exploration of how the atmosphere filters the solar energy supply. The Student Experience Fund initiative will allow for the addition of atmospheric radiation supply data to UTM's teaching tools, data crucial to the issue of global warming. Ground radiation measurements will be included to complete the radiation environment data set.

Women and Gender Studies Institute: *What We Create*, Faculty of Arts and Science

The *What We Create* series will provide undergraduate students with significant examples of the innovative and productive work of graduates of the Women and Gender Studies program. The Student Experience Fund will support the engagement of alumni as role models of what is possible for students after graduation. Alumni of Women and Gender Studies will visit the program to discuss their work in a wide variety of contexts such as law, fine art, music, film, international relations, urban planning, health, community organizing, etc. as marked by innovation and derived from experience as a women's studies student.

Writing Centre Communication Café, University of Toronto at Scarborough

The Communication Café uses an innovative approach that engages students by developing their critical-thinking, academic vocabulary usage and creativity, presentation skills and writing skills through the use of specially designed pedagogical games. Student Experience Funds will be used to enhance and expand this English Language Development program's successful pilot project, filling an existing support gap for students who need to improve their academic communication skills. The Café will be open to all UTSC students, over 50% of whom speak English as a second, third or fourth language. Many of these students face multiple challenges with meeting university expectations due to their lack of proficiency and confidence in their use of more formal English. Evaluation of the pilot project showed that students perceived the Café to be very valuable in increasing in their participation in class discussions, expressing their ideas critically in speech and in writing, coping with academic reading and writing assignments and relating to peers who do not share their mother tongue. Student Experience Funds will allow the number of sessions to be increased, a website to be developed, competitions to be conducted and more confident student peer mentors to be engaged.

Writing Centre On-line Appointment Bookings, Woodsworth College

Enhancements to the Arts and Science College Writing Centre booking- and record-keeping system will benefit almost the entire St. George Arts and Science campus student body. Student Experience Funds will support the development of data collection and reporting functions for the system that will enable analysis of student usage (appointments offered, booked, cancelled, missed, etc.), as well as information on the courses for which students bring in work and the issues or concerns students

identify as the reasons for their appointments. Such analysis will enable the writing centres to support students more effectively and provide statistical information about student issues that will be of value to all academic units in the development of future initiatives.

Writing Development Initiative, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The improvement of students' writing skills had been identified by UTM's *Undergraduate Advisory Committee*, composed of students and faculty, as a pressing priority. The Student Experience Fund will be used to support UTM's *Writing Development Initiative*, building on a highly successful first year of pilot projects. UTM has decided to encourage and fund a program of ground-up pilot projects, in which every department at UTM will develop specialized writing initiatives suited to the objectives of its discipline. Many of these projects will involve criteria-based assessment, a resource-intensive method of providing feedback to students on how to improve their writing.

Student Community Engagement / Outreach and Research:

The Media Generator @ UTM, University of Toronto at Mississauga

The Media Generator @ UTM, launched in Fall 2006, provides students the opportunity to explore new ways of creating digital content and shaping their media experiences with a broadcasting and production studio, that is open for the generation of all types of media. Student Experience Funds will support the next phase of this co-operative project between the Institute of Communication and Culture and the Knowledge Media Design Institute. The goals for the student-led, faculty-supported project for 2007-2008 include: a) consolidation and sustainability of the project within the Institute of Communication and Culture; b) extension to other UTM campus student groups, and c) the creation of campus media partnership projects to fund students to work on pilot productions.

Music Counts: Outreach and Community Engagement Project, Faculty of Music

The Student Experience Fund will support a community outreach program in which music students will be involved in a number of outreach initiatives that provide music service to the community; aid in the growth and education of our music students; and assist to train arts leaders by inculcating artistic citizenship among our students. Through outreach and engagement, students receive valuable lessons in translating their talents and interests to larger audiences; they learn to interact with diverse populations and audiences; they come to internalize the importance of effective communications; and they improve their craft, their resumes and their life experiences. The Faculty of Music is reshaping its curriculum in order to make service to the community an essential part of the student experience.

Southern Africa Health and Humanities Exchange (SAHHE) Program, New College, Faculties of Arts and Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Education and Health

The University of Toronto has participated in an exchange program for over ten years with universities in southern Africa. The Student Experience Fund will support the expansion of this program and become interdisciplinary by supporting undergraduates from the Faculties of Arts and Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Physical Education and Health. Exchange opportunities with two universities in southern Africa, University of Namibia (UNAM) and University of Zambia in Lusaka (UNZA) will include service placements with non-governmental and governmental organizations and research components. During the exchanges, U of T students will be partnered with students from African universities. The students will be co-supervised in country by faculty from U of T and the partner institutions. In addition, lectures taught by faculty at the University and southern African universities will be presented via video-conferencing in first- and second-year undergraduate courses in the participating faculties.