

## **University Affairs Board 2005-06 – Vice-Provost, Students' Report # 1**

**Residences** on all three campuses are full. The percentage of first year students in residence is approximately 40% on St. George, 45% at UTSC and 55% at UTM.

**Student Services** - The Career Centre hosted 4 days of Career Information with over one hundred employers in attendance. In the first week of classes, FYI and GSI registrations were over 1,200 each and Student Service Fest saw over 4,000 students in attendance.

**U of T Initiative on Creative & Performing Arts** - Interdisciplinary activity is one of the key aspects of the university's vision which is articulated in the University's academic plan, Stepping UP: 2004-2010. Supporting greater collaboration and synergy across the university's important creative and performing arts programs, centres and facilities has been identified as a focal area for support at the institutional level. It has been proposed that a Council on Creative and Performing Arts be established to facilitate the development and implementation of strategies and structures to create programmatic synergies and collaborations among the creative and performing arts programs. This will enhance the student experience, raise the profile of the activities and programs, and create opportunities for dynamic and important partnerships with cultural organizations in the Greater Toronto Area. The first step in achieving these goals is to identify the cultural community that the Council on Creative and Performing Arts might represent. To that end, during the summer Hart House began a cultural mapping of the University of Toronto, encompassing all three campuses. An online survey has been created to gather information about artistic and cultural spaces, organizations, programs and student groups at the university. The information will form the basis for a website for the Creative and Performing Arts on the new University of Toronto website with a link directly from the homepage. The university will have a full page advertisement in the Globe and Mail's special section on the performing arts on September 29th with links to relevant campus websites. The advertisement will introduce readers to the wealth of arts and cultural activities and galleries on campus which they are invited to explore.

**Hurricane Katrina** - The University of Toronto has offered academic placements to five students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Two of the students are Ph.D. students from Tulane University (one in Pharmacology and one in International Development Studies) and three are undergraduate students. The undergraduate students have been admitted to the Faculty of Arts and Science - one from Tulane (psychology/political science), one from Dillard University (communication studies) and one from Xavier University (biology). Three of the students have Canadian citizenship, one has US citizenship and one has Chinese citizenship. The University has waived tuition fees for these students. Accommodation has been found for all the students. We have received wonderful support from the University of Toronto community. Many individuals have

volunteered to house students and have offered to donate supplies. Given that we were able to house all students requesting on-campus housing, we did not need to take up these kind offers. In total, we received over a dozen inquiries. One PhD student was unable to take up her offer as her Nigerian passport was lost and she was unable to travel to Canada. She took an offer to attend Cornell (her first choice was Toronto). Another PhD student was unable to travel to Toronto as his wife has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress and requires treatment in the US. There has been tremendous media interest and one of the Tulane students has appeared on Canada AM and CityTV news.