

AT A GLANCE

DISCIPLINES

African Studies*
 Classical Studies
 English
 French
 Global Asia Studies*
 History
 Intersections, Exchanges,
 Encounters (IEE) in the Humanities*
 Journalism
 Languages
 Linguistics
 Media Studies*
 Philosophy
 Visual & Performing Arts (including
 Art History, Arts Management,
 Drama, Music & Studio)
 Women's & Gender Studies

* proposed for 2009

RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Faculty lead in a broad range of fields, from environmental history in ancient Egypt, media and culture in contemporary China to biomedical ethics and the literacy expression of diasporic cultures.

Think: *Intersections*

Humanities



Humanities

The Women's & Gender Studies program, in collaboration with UTSC administration, hosted *A Conversation with Deepa Mehta*. The acclaimed director, producer and screenwriter spoke about her new film, *Heaven on Earth* and the issue of violence toward women.



As part of Asia Arts – a year-long series of cultural events celebrating Asian traditions – Duo Diorama soloists Winston Choi (piano) and Minghuan Xu (violin) performed at a Music of All Latitudes concert.

New connections across disciplinary frontiers are pointing to novel directions of inquiry, and with the multidisciplinary focus of our experts at UTSC, the Humanities Department is well positioned to lead the way. By bringing research innovations into the classroom, our faculty inspire students to look beyond boundaries.

Humanities is the study of the

constructs of human culture in all its aspects – aesthetic, intellectual, philosophical, religious, social and political. It is also the study of the similarities and differences between time eras, places and people.

Traditionally, humanities research had a narrower focus – on individual disciplines – but the world is changing. While humanists have always believed in the interconnectedness of all aspects of knowledge, the new emphasis is on connections, and the definitions of disciplines are blurring, be they geographic, cultural or gender. And as researchers explore these areas of overlap and intersections more and more, the global village is but one of myriad influences on humanistic inquiry.

Humanities faculty travel the world to conduct research and fieldwork, create and exhibit art, and contribute their expertise at conferences and think-tanks or as guest professors at other educational institutions. Their achievements are acknowledged in Canada through prestigious professional awards such as the Canada Council for the Arts and the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts. They have also garnered awards and fellowships from esteemed international institutions – Hamburg University’s Asien-Afrika-Institut, Canberra’s Australian National University, New York City’s Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Chicago’s Newberry Library.

UTSC’s relatively small size and youth have

worked in our favour. Our cohort of always engaged, vibrant faculty has enhanced the development of a Humanities Department that interacts on multidisciplinary levels and has fostered closer contacts between experts of different disciplines than is usually possible. Our faculty interest in multidisciplinary investigation, combined with their disciplinary expertise, creates a strong foundation on which we are building innovative programming.

Many of UTSC’s Humanities students, particularly those pursuing graduate school, enrol in double majors or a combination of a major with one or two minors, reflecting their interest in the interconnections of disciplines. As well, the cultural diversity of our student body has made them particularly open to querying those intersections.

Unique programs specific to UTSC – Psycholinguistics, for example, or the marriage of arts and business in Arts Management (see page 24) – are the offspring of multidisciplinary thinking, as is Intersections, Exchanges, Encounters (IEE), a new program in the Humanities Department.

The multidisciplinary, competitive-admission IEE is built around the shift in recent humanities research, wherein students explore topics shared across disciplines – the connected histories, the in-betweens, the liminal and the borders. In discipline-specific programs, such innovative research would normally be peripheral to teaching. Taken with a companion major, IEE allows students to gain insights >

Leading in Arts Management

Every year, students compete for places in UTSC's Arts Management program, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009. Among the first arts management programs to be offered in Canada, it is today the largest, most robust and diverse.

Unique for its requisite that students take at least one arts discipline, this program is also balanced by business courses, many of which were developed specifically for arts managers, which gives UTSC students a distinct edge. They understand the artist as well as the culture they are chartered to protect and advance.

Comprised of leading researchers, award-winning lecturers and practicing arts managers, our Arts Management faculty have placed UTSC at the forefront of research and practice in arts management, an exciting and relatively young academic field.

Co-op students gain practical experience from paid placements at a range of arts organizations, from Soulpepper Theatre, First Nations De-Ba-Jeh-Mu-Jig Theatre Group, the Royal Ontario Museum and the Toronto International Film Festival to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Many UTSC graduates are offered continuing positions at their placement employers.



Caitlin McKee (left) at Soulpepper Theatre and Sandy Saad at St. Mark's Coptic Museum gain first-hand experience working in an arts organization through the Arts Management Co-op program at UTSC.

that are both broad and deep. Team-taught by faculty whose research transcends traditional boundaries, the program brings leading-edge research into the lecture halls and tutorials and enhances the intellectual development of its students. The first cohort of IEE majors begins in 2009-10.

Women's & Gender Studies, another multidisciplinary UTSC program, draws on a diversity of areas – Anthropology, Social Science, Literature, History, Linguistics, Philosophy, Visual & Performing Arts, Environmental Science and International Development Studies – all of which are taught on our Scarborough campus. Focused on women as members of different communities, ranging from neighbourhoods to ethnocultural, this program aims to provide students with practical skills for working on women's issues on the community level.

The recent growth in the number of Humanities courses and programs at UTSC has been significant, along with the increase in new faculty, many of whom are launching their careers and contributing expertise at the vanguard of new research. This has enabled UTSC to shape curriculum in new directions, and to be nimble and responsive to modern-day world issues.

At UTSC, we refer to “the world” both in general and in particular, with a burgeoning international perspective. In Humanities, this has meant more than a move away from the conventional Euro-centric or Anglo-American

focus. Our new Global Asia Studies (GAS) program, for example, views Asian cultures as they thrive worldwide, not just as they exist in Asia.

As languages are of prime importance to our internationally focused students, UTSC offers numerous options for study, ranging from Latin, French and Spanish to Arabic, Hindi, Mandarin, Sanskrit and Tamil. An example of the popularity of language programs is how the Tamil course – among 28 language offerings in summer 2008 – filled within minutes. We are now preparing to launch a Living Languages summer institute, which will provide total language immersion programs that will mark UTSC as the international destination for intensive language acquisition.

From the arts and culture perspective, we have also integrated co-curricular initiatives such as gallery space under our departmental umbrella, resulting in student life being enriched by cultural experiences that range from theatre to music and art. Since the opening of our Doris McCarthy Gallery in 2004, for example, 22 exhibitions have connected UTSC students to the international community of contemporary art.

Equipped with multiple language skills, a critical understanding of diverse cultures and the ability to analyze complex information, our Humanities students will be well prepared for the realities of the workplace and will be poised to meet the challenges of the global economy and culture of the future. ●

UTSC visual artist wins Governor General's Award

Tanya Mars, Senior Lecturer and Program Supervisor in Visual and Performing Arts at UTSC, won the prestigious Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2008.

Recognized as one of Canada's most innovative multidisciplinary artists, Mars has been active in the Canadian alternative-art scene since the 1970s and a role model and mentor for emerging artists. In 1973 she helped found one of the country's first feminist art collectives, was editor of *Parallelogramme* magazine for 13 years and co-edited *Caught in the Act: An Anthology of Performance Art by Canadian Women*, published in 2005.

Mars's *Pure Virtue*, selected for an exhibition by six artists at the National Gallery of Canada, depicted Mars as a fire-breathing Queen Elizabeth I.

Notes the artist: "I'm trying to create strong images and positive images of women, [but] I like to have a healthy dash of humour."

Tanya Mars as Queen Elizabeth I in *Pure Virtue*, performance, 1986. Dress: Elinor Rose Galbraith. Photograph is courtesy of George Whiteside.



Carving out a new branch of research in African art

For Professor Elizabeth Harney, it all began in the backrooms of Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, when she was an undergraduate on a work placement. There, she became intrigued by African objects crafted in the colonial period, in the mid-19th century. "I was fascinated by the slippages between what was seen as traditional and what might be modern or indicate a connection beyond Africa."

Harney wrote her undergraduate thesis on these "slippages" and started investigating a phenomenon that had been dismissed from the art canon by curators and academics. Later, at the University of London, on a Commonwealth Graduate Fellowship, she embarked on groundbreaking research on the link between African art and the modernist movement.

"Modernism has been seen as an early-20th-century European phenomenon," says Harney. "Except for the tired narrative of primitivism, luminaries like Picasso looked to African art and were inspired. But other types of modernist themes were happening later in Africa when independence came."

Her PhD thesis examined the vibrant visual arts scene in Senegal under the patronage of cultural theorist Léopold Sédar Senghor, the country's first post-independence president, and led to her award-winning book *In Senghor's Shadow*.

During her four-year tenure as curator of contemporary arts at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian, Harney proceeded to correct the omission of African art from the story of modernism. Since arriving at UTSC in 2003, she has maintained her two-pronged career as curator and academic.

"Professor Harney has established herself as a pioneer and leader, shaping the conceptual framework for the discourse on modernity and African art."

– Professor William Bowen,
Chair of Humanities

“University of Toronto Scarborough was one of the first universities to offer a course on the history of food. We are still the only one to bring food into the classroom. We ‘eat our homework,’ cooking something in every class.

When you’re trying to understand the Columbian Exchange – the global process in which food, people, germs and ideas were transferred across the Atlantic – it isn’t enough to talk about it. Potatoes, chili peppers and chocolate were native to South America; yet, chili peppers made their way across the globe within a few decades.

So, in one class we make chocolate: first, the kind the Aztec might have been eating when Europeans arrived; then, a version that shows how Europeans were changing it. How much closer can you get to history? You are there, holding it in your hands and tasting it.”

– Daniel Bender, Canada Research Chair, Urban History, and Professor, Department of Humanities



“UTSC is building up a program in Humanities, conscious of where the boundaries are and willing to critique them. It’s about creating conversations across the humanities. That is our real strength. We can create those conversations in a way that other universities cannot.”



Artist Glynis Humphrey exhibits her work *Breathing Under Water* at the Doris McCarthy Gallery. Since opening in 2004, the gallery has become an important hub at UTSC for showcasing contemporary art in all media.



In November 2008, the Tung Lin Kok Yuen 東蓮覺苑 Public Lecture Series presented *Sound and Silence in Buddhist Ritual*. The audience learned the traditions of silent meditation and mantra while experiencing ritual music performed by Buddhist practitioners and monks.



Beginning in fall 2009, the University of Toronto Scarborough's Global Asia Studies (GAS) program will offer students a new way to engage their interest in Asia, through intensive study of that continent and its diasporas, past and present.

The last few decades have witnessed the growing importance of Asian countries – such as China, India, South Korea, Japan and Singapore – within the world's geopolitical, economic and cultural spheres. Asians migrating around the world have also added to the multicultural fabric of communities, well exemplified by Scarborough in the Greater Toronto Area. UTSC's Global Asia Studies program couldn't be more timely and pertinent.

With its global, transnational and interactive approach, this cutting-edge multidisciplinary program builds on courses currently taught at UTSC, notably Language Studies, by providing dynamic new programs in Asian history, media, religion, law, literature, political and visual culture, social development, gender and women's studies.

Fostering a global perspective of Asia

The GAS program will extend its reach beyond the classroom through a variety of co-curricular programming, such as the Global Asia Colloquium Series, and events organized through Tung Lin Kok Yuen Hong Kong's Buddhist Studies initiative or in partnership with UTSC Arts & Events programs and our Summer Language Institute.

Meanwhile, a new network of relationships with local community associations and businesses will flourish through the creation of co-op and student internship opportunities, as will connections to institutions of higher education in East and South Asia.

A \$4-million gift strengthens cultural pluralism at UTSC

Our stature as a centre of learning and research in Asian culture is growing. In 2006, UTSC received its largest-ever endowment, a \$4-million donation from non-profit organization Tung Lin Kok Yuen 東蓮覺苑 (Hong Kong) to fund a visiting professorship program, lectureship program, conferences, public lectures and student scholarships in Buddhist studies.

By supporting opportunities for international scholars to teach, confer and lecture at the UTSC, this generous gift has enhanced ongoing dialogues on cultural pluralism and diversity on campus.

The first major initiative made possible by the donation was the conference "Visualizing and Performing Buddhist Worlds." This global symposium in November 2007 focused discourse on Buddhist religion, performance, visual culture and art, and featured high-calibre international participants and keynote speakers, including Eugene Wang, an art professor at Harvard, and Phyllis Granoff, a professor of world religions at Yale University.

