

Message from THE PRINCIPAL

The Road Ahead

I think it's fair to observe from the vantage point of the end of my first year on the job that, while the challenges facing UTS may be daunting in scale, the scope of the opportunity for UTS in the future is equally great, and the combination of the two is so interesting that I've decided to write about it.

UTS today is blessed with a thoughtful and dedicated Board of Directors who understand very well their responsibility to protect the long term viability and reputation of the school. An equally talented group of committed supporters are working to establish the Board of the UTS Foundation, and their job will be the stewardship and growth of the UTS funds. As is the case with UTSPA and UTSAA, all these people are volunteers working to advance an institution whose existence they believe to be of profound importance. UTS may have had its identity crises, its troubled times and its struggles to overcome the limitations of an old (but elegant) building, but everyone I have spoken with to date, whether volunteer, alum, employee, student, parent or friend, exudes a kind of goodwill about the school that we should all find remarkable and precious. And they share a certainty that the school will and must continue to thrive.

In 2010, UTS will be 100 years old. It will also be financially self-sufficient for the first time in its history. It will meet this challenge with the same success as it has met past challenges. The financial demands are clear – the operating budget must be entirely funded from tuition by 2010 and, in the future, the endowment must grow to preserve the commitment to be as accessible to the students we want to attract as possible, and we must continue to raise dollars for a new building.

So 2010 is a kind of milestone. We know what we have to do by then to meet the challenge of self-sufficiency on the operating side. We know what we have to do to meet the challenge of fundraising for endowment and building funds. We've made real progress in getting ready for those challenges. But the interesting thing, and the real opportunity, is that we have the opportunity and incentive at the same time to consider 21st Century principles and realities in our decisions about what a UTS education should offer. The prospect of a new space will force us to ask ourselves what kinds of learning and what kinds of relationships that space should support. The prospect of strong partnerships with U of T and other institutions

Students gave back to the global community and had fun on their Costa Rica trip, helping build homes and white water rafting.





...we have the opportunity and incentive at the same time to consider 21st Century principles and realities in our decisions about what a UTS education should offer.

MICHAELE ROBERTSON
Principal

will force us to ask how we will support both students in developing a vision of the world and their places in it and our city schools and UTS's contribution to them. The challenges we are facing globally become opportunities for education – and they must be so, or we risk handing over the world's challenges to our children who will have no skills to meet them and therefore no opportunity to resolve them.

If we seize this opportunity, then the sometimes-heard comment that UTS has nothing to contribute to the public education debate because its students are atypical and elite will disappear. UTS students will be known as students who have learned about the challenges to their city and the planet, who have learned what it means to strive to overcome those challenges, and who carry with them into university a commitment to service and the life of the mind and an understanding of the power of the individual to do good. Those are the factors that will make them leaders.

That is the opportunity before us.

MICHAELE ROBERTSON
Principal