

**History of
The University of Toronto Women's Association
1982 - 2020**

Founded 1982

This manual was prepared by Maureen Ellis Rudzik,
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UTWA History

Excerpt from the Manual

The University of Toronto Women's Association (UTWA) was formed in 1982 under a committee set up by Marjorie Ivey to both complement and widen the scope of membership of the existing University Arts Women's Club (UAWC). It was set up specifically to foster the goals of "fellowship in the overall university community" and of "welcoming any new administrative wives and faculty women."

By 1985, the membership had broadened to include female administrators, and by 1986, when the constitution was ratified, UTWA defined membership as "all present or former members of the University of Toronto faculty and administrative staff, and their spouses, who share the interests and support the purposes of UTWA." Therefore, from its inception, all university men and women were equally entitled to join the Association.

However, since its inception, there were two attempts to change the name of the Association as it was felt the name "suggested exclusiveness" and so was "contrary to the definition of membership." In 1987, after several years of discussion, the proposed change to "Association for the University of Toronto Community" was submitted to the University Committee. The Committee found that the proposed name was too similar to the name of another University association and so turned it down. Therefore, this proposed change did not come to a formal vote before the general membership. Then, in 1989, the proposed name change to "The Velut Arbor Aevo Society" was approved by the University committee. However, it failed to receive the two-thirds majority vote from the Annual General Meeting of UTWA, the majority which would have been required to carry it. That name was chosen to be non-sexist and all inclusive, and it was taken from the University motto, "Velut Arbor Aevo".

In addition to offering fellowship to its members, UTWA became a major and consistent fundraiser for the University. There have been many fundraising projects. In 1984, there was the official opening of a gift shop which had been set up with a generous donation from the then Dean of Forestry, Dean Nordin. That gift shop reported a profit in its first year of operation. Also, the gift shop initiated the first sale of roses at the June 1985 convocation. To celebrate the first anniversary of its opening, the gift shop was able to present the University of Toronto Press with a cheque for \$5000 for scholarly publications.

In 1986, for the June convocations, the rose sale was taken over by the UTWA Executive and became the major source of its fundraising activities.

Past fundraising activities in the 1980s included a Diploma Framing project as well as Art Exhibits and sales.

By 1993, it was decided to close the gift shop as the economic climate was unfavourable.

By 2009, there were several UTWA Special Event Evenings which, in addition to the rose sale, included theatre groups and/or musical evenings as well as Cards and Conversation.

Currently, UTWA awards both scholarships and bursaries: students in nine faculties of the University receive scholarships and three bursaries are awarded to the Transition Year Programme. Each award winner is selected by the individual division.

Since 2013, UTWA no longer organizes rose sales for June convocations, therefore we are not generating funds for future scholarships or bursaries.

UTWA Donations

Between 1985 and 2020 UTWA has contributed to the following projects:

\$1,000	Seat in Robert Gill Theatre
\$1,712	Information system for Public and Community Relations
\$5,000	Faculty of Arts and Science to assist in the production of a promotional video for prospective students
\$5,000	Massey College to assist with purchase of a piano
\$4,000	Thomas Fisher Library for rare books to further their collection
\$40,000	University of Toronto Press for scholarly publishing
\$4,000	University of Toronto Mississauga to assist with rebuilding their Steinway piano
\$2,500	The Historical Atlas of Canada for reproduction of prints and illustrations
\$2,000	Margaret Fletcher Day Care Centre for teaching materials
\$3,000	Four-Track Tape Recorders
\$15,000	Toward purchase of a new piano for the President's House
\$3,000	The Margaret Fletcher Day Care Centre to assist in the purchase of a piano
\$15,000	Toward an elevator for The Faculty Club
\$2,000	Seat in the renovated Convocation Hall
\$2,500	Faculty of Music Scholarship Fund
\$5,000	School of Social Work to refurbish a classroom

UTWA Awards: Scholarships and Bursaries

UTWA scholarships were first awarded in 1989. Between then and 2023, 398 students have received support totaling \$473,058. During the 2022-2023 academic year the number of students who have received UTWA support is 18.

There are nineteen (19) perpetual UTWA scholarships and bursaries throughout the University of Toronto.

- UTWA Faculty of Music (Opera) Bursary
- UTWA Faculty of Music (Jazz) Scholarship
- UTWA New College Bursary
- UTWA University of Toronto Mississauga Bursary
- UTWA Alan and Carolyn Coman Scholarship (OISE/UT)
- UTWA Transitional Year Program Bursary
- UTWA Woodsworth College Bursary (OTSS)
- UTWA Woodsworth College Bursary
- UTWA Adele Csima Scholarship (Library)
- UTWA Adele Csima Scholarship (Museum Studies)
- UTWA Award in Computer Science
- UTWA Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Bursary
- UTWA Innis College Bursary
- UTWA University of Toronto Scarborough Lois Dove Bursary
- UTWA Faculty of Nursing Bursary
- UTWA Jane Joy Memorial Scholarship (Environmental Studies)
- UTWA Earth Sciences Scholarship
- UTWA Graduate Studies Award
- UTWA Nutritional Science Award

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