



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Faculty Council of February 28, 2020

**From:** Professor Doug Reeve  
Faculty Council Speaker

**Date:** February 1, 2020

**Re:** **Historical Record: Conclusion of the Tenure of Dean Cristina Amon, 2006-2019**

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## REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a routine matter for Faculty Council's information.

## BACKGROUND

On June 26th, 2019, the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering celebrated the leadership and accomplishments of the 13th Dean of the Faculty, Dean Cristina H. Amon, at the conclusion of her term of office from 2006 to 2019. The event was held in the Margaret & Lee Lau Auditorium within the Myhal Centre and was attended by some 400 well-wishers.

A record of the speeches and announcements delivered during the formal part of the celebratory program have been appended to this report and form the basis of this historical record which is requested to be tabled at Faculty Council on February 28th, 2020 and to be filed in the archival records of the Faculty for future reference.

Presentations were given by: Cheryl Regehr, Provost  
Paul Cadario, Alumnus and Donor  
Rayla Myhal, Donor  
Laura Berneaga, Engineering Society President  
Cristina Amon, Dean (2006-2019)  
Rose Patten, Chancellor

With the tabling of this historical report, we collectively recognize the value of our traditions and acknowledge those who, since 1873, have enabled the exciting opportunities ahead.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR FACULTY COUNCIL

For information.

**HISTORICAL RECORD**  
**Conclusion of the Tenure of Dean Cristina Amon, 2006-2019**

**Tabled by the Council of the  
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering**

**February 28, 2020**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering celebrated the leadership and accomplishments of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dean of the Faculty at the conclusion of her term of office.

A record of the speeches delivered during the formal part of the celebratory program have been assembled and form the basis of this *historical record* which is requested to be tabled at Faculty Council for information only and be filed in the archival records of the Faculty.

The University leadership has recognized the exceptional contributions made to the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering by Dean Amon, and with the enthusiastic support of donors, has chosen to establish the Cristina Amon Decanal Chair in Innovation. The Chair is to be held by all future Deans and is structured so that the annual funds generated from the endowment can be used to support new innovations. Furthermore, the main floor of the Myhal Centre for Engineering Innovation and Entrepreneurship at 55 St. George Street, opened in 2018, will be known as Cristina Amon Hall.

In conclusion, with the tabling of this Historical Report, I wish to emphasize the importance that we collectively continue to recognize the value of our traditions and those who, since 1873, have enabled the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

## A CELEBRATION of LEADERSHIP

Wednesday, June 26th, 2019

**THE PROGRAM:** Dean Cristina Amon, A Celebration of Leadership  
**DATE:** June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
**TIME:** 5:00-7:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Myhal Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship

**SPEAKERS:** Ron Venter (MC), Cheryl Regehr, Paul Cadario, Rayla Myhal, Laura Berneaga, Cristina Amon, Rose Patten

### Included in the Program:

ANNOUNCEMENT: Naming of the CRISTINA AMON HALL on Level 1 of the Myhal Centre  
INITIAL VIEWING of the DEAN AMON PORTRAIT on Level 1, Myhal Centre  
ANNOUNCEMENT: Establishment of the CRISTINA AMON DECANAL CHAIR IN INNOVATION

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### RECORD OF THE CELEBRATORY EVENT

Some 450 enthusiastic guests filled the Lee and Margaret Lau Auditorium at 5:00 pm where numerous tributes to Cristina Amon were being systematically displayed on the large overhead screen.

At 5:15 pm Ron Venter, Professor Emeritus, called the Celebratory Event to order.

*[MC comments in italics throughout]*

*It is now 5:15 pm. Good afternoon and welcome to all!*

*Madam Chancellor, Madam Provost, Dean Cristina Amon, former Dean Michael Charles and Barbara Charles, alumni, friends of the Faculty, students and all members of the great Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.*

*As we gather today in this magnificent Margaret & Lee Lau Auditorium within the Myhal Centre at 55 St George Street,*

*“We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are indeed grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.”*

*Skule, as this Faculty is affectionately known, was founded in 1872. In 1906 our first Dean, John Galbraith, was appointed; 100 years later in 2006 Cristina Amon was appointed the 13th Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering. Today we have gathered here for one reason, which is to celebrate and recognize the legacy and significant achievements of Dean Cristina Amon over the past 13 years.*

*We have already, since 5:00 pm, been entertained with a series of slides flashing on the overhead screen from a wonderful cross-section of alumni, faculty and friends from all corners of the globe expressing their thoughts and memories of these 13 inspirational years. These many tributes are integral to today's celebration and certainly will reinforce the theme of our speakers who will address us this afternoon.*

*Before proceeding it is my pleasure to introduce to you Carmelo Parisi, spouse of Cristina and their two children, daughter **Dr. Andreina Parisi-Amon**, now also known as **Mrs. Andreina Bloom**, and their son **Gabriel Parisi-Amon**. It should be no surprise that both are engineers who flew into Toronto this morning for the day to share this momentous occasion with us. Welcome, we are delighted that you are here to celebrate this occasion with your parents.*

*Ron Venter provided an overview of the program. We have a busy afternoon so let us get started and share with you a 4+ minutes presentation of the Decade of Excellence under the visionary leadership of Cristina Amon.*

*Within the University's academic structure, Deans report to the Provost (and rumour has it that extensive report cards exist), so it is my pleasure to invite Provost Cheryl Regehr to address this gathering.*

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**ADDRESS BY CHERYL REGEHR**  
Provost

Introduced by Ron Venter

Thank you, Ron.

Professor Cristina Amon has truly re-defined the role of a "Dean" at U of T, and raised the bar through her leadership of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering (FASE).

I wanted to highlight Dean Amon's unique and historic contributions to U of T in three areas: students, faculty, and vision.

**Firstly, Cristina is driven and cares deeply in her pursuit of the best for engineering students and engineering education.**

Under her stewardship, U of T Engineering is now acknowledged as one of the world's top public engineering schools in all international rankings.

Since 2006, the Faculty's applications have doubled. The entrance average has increased, and – just as importantly – so has first-year student retention.

These successes are in large part due to Cristina's successful efforts to create cutting-edge educational programming and establish structures for student success.

The world looks to FASE to ensure engineers are prepared to develop technologies that address local and global challenges.

**This brings me to my second point, that Cristina has been tireless in supporting and championing FASE faculty members.**

The Dean's Office has become an engine for awarding and acknowledging interdisciplinary research and education. Dean Amon recruits and hires scholars and teachers in a way that fosters diversity as well as ground-breaking multidisciplinary research. She works hard to reward her faculty internally and to ensure FASE faculty are acknowledged nationally and internationally.

Based on this foundation of research strength, FASE has achieved record levels of philanthropic and research funding, industry partnerships, and increased diversity in all its forms – including tremendous growth in the recruitment of outstanding women faculty.

**Lastly, Dean Amon has provided strategic vision to make the Faculty a powerhouse for years to come.**

Professor Amon led the development of a comprehensive Academic Plan that set out a collaborative direction for the Faculty.

Innovations supported by the plan include:

- A budget model to enhance transparency, diversify revenues, contain costs, and advance the Faculty's academic aspirations;
- Undergraduate educational opportunities that complement students' technical excellence with professional competencies;
- Novel new academic programs in robotics, advanced manufacturing, engineering business and leadership;
- And new cross-Faculty research hubs.

Cristina leaves the Faculty renewed and strengthened – a sentiment well reflected in FASE's newest building, the Myhal Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

The beautiful Myhal building stands as a testament to Cristina's vision and drive, as well as her high standards of excellence in research and teaching.

It is because of her leadership over the past decade that the University of Toronto's engineering program has achieved its place as one of the very best in the world.

*Thank you, Madam Provost.*

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### **Naming of the CRISTINA AMON HALL on Level 1 of the Myhal Centre and the first viewing of the DEAN AMON portrait on Level 1, Myhal Centre**

*[MC comments continue in italics throughout]*

*At the first dinner hosted by Dean Amon in the ARENA of the Myhal Centre last year and attended by alumni and donors who have graciously contributed to this magnificent Myhal Centre, we announced that the University of Toronto had approved the naming of the entrance hallways surrounding this auditorium in recognition of the extensive accomplishments of Dean Amon.*

*I am really pleased to share that information with this larger audience on this occasion.*

*In advance of this formal naming and recognition, we are today unveiling a portrait of Dean Amon that will be located immediately outside this auditorium so that Cristina Amon will always be welcoming everyone into this hub of activity, which is the Myhal Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship.*

*The portrait has arrived on time, is right here and we are all certainly excited to see it!*

- The artist, Joanne Tod, is with us today and I would like to thank her on behalf of Dean Amon and all of us for creating this dynamic real life image soon to be unveiled.*
- It is my pleasure to now to invite Dean Amon, Chancellor Rose Patton, Cheryl Regehr, Michael Charles and Joanne Tod to assist with the unveiling of the portrait.*

*FYI, the painting will now be transported to the hall outside where we all can have a closer look once we leave the auditorium.*

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**ADDRESS BY PAUL CADERIO**  
Alumnus and Friend of the Faculty

Introduced by Ron Venter

Madame Chancellor, Madame Provost, ladies and gentlemen, dearest Cristina,

Many adjectives come to mind when we celebrate a great leader like Cristina Amon: Visionary, Creative, Transformative, Decisive, Elegant, Determined.

Everyone in this room has their own.

But about three years ago, when George Myhal and I started to broach with Cristina a legacy project we could put together to celebrate her transformative contribution to Engineering, and to U of T, we learned a new one: Coy.

In side meetings, over coffees, at one-on-one lunches, whenever we asked Cristina what she'd like beyond this amazing building, a reinvigorated cadre of new faculty and academic leaders, an expanding and internationalized student body, a reenergized global network of alumni and friends, and a massively successful completion of Engineering's Boundless campaign, she would smile, coyly, and really give us little guidance. None, actually!

That was unusual.

But as we all know, Cristina is a woman who doesn't like surprises, so it was with great relief, early last year, that she gave the go-ahead for the Decanal Chair in Innovation. Modeled on the Dean's Strategic Fund, this endowed fund will continue the funding for new ideas and programs, the seed money that has been the hallmark of how she's brought innovation into the labs, classrooms, and programs that use U of T Engineering to create a better world.

It took another six months or so until, with the help of our amazing advancement team, we were able to tamp the final details of the Decanal Chair in Innovation into place. I want to thank the other early donors in Canada, the United States, and Hong Kong who matched generosity with patience as the financial engineering was agreed. I want to thank Provost Cheryl Regehr; Vice President, Advancement, David Palmer; and Counsel for Business Affairs and Advancement, Tad Brown, for supporting a triple match of donated funds. And I want to thank the over 160 other donors, faculty, alumni and members of our graduating class. In total we have contributed over \$1.6M, which, with the agreed U of T match, creates a fund of nearly \$6.5M. The income from the Decanal Chair in Innovation will be used, at future deans' discretion, to propel Engineering even further along the path of excellence and global recognition that Cristina has so ably, and so decisively, set us on.

The Decanal Chair in Innovation will be renamed in honour of Cristina Amon upon her retirement, in accordance with University policy.

Cristina is a modest woman, but I know I speak for everyone here when I thank you for what you've achieved, for your dedication to everyone's success, and for letting many of us become your friend. Thank you.

Now let me turn the podium over to Rayla Myhal, philanthropist and friend and fan of Engineering, and of Cristina.

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**ADDRESS by RAYLA MYHAL**

Introduced by Paul Cadario

CHANCELLOR PATTEN, PRESIDENT GERTLER, DEAN AMON, FACULTY, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS.

IT IS WITH BITTER SWEETNESS THAT I STAND HERE TODAY TO RECOGNIZE THE REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DEAN CRISTINA AMON AS HER TERM AS DEAN OF ENGINEERING COMES TO AN END.

I CAN RECALL THE FIRST TIME I HAD HEARD ABOUT CRISTINA FROM GEORGE. HE WAS RECOUNTING THIS MEETING WITH AN AMAZING NEW DEAN WHOM HE HAD JUST MET. SHE WAS CHARMING, BRILLIANT AND HAD SUCH GRAND IDEAS FOR THE DIRECTION OF THE ENGINEERING FACULTY. I BELIEVE HIS EXACT WORDS WERE "A VISIONARY OF CHANGE". HE WAS LITERALLY BUZZING WITH EXCITEMENT AND COULDN'T WAIT FOR ME TO MEET HER AS HE KNEW WE WOULD ABSOLUTELY HIT IT OFF.

WELL, I DID EVENTUALLY MEET CRISTINA, AND SHE DID NOT DISAPPOINT. SHE WAS EVERYTHING GEORGE HAD MENTIONED, AND SO MUCH MORE: SMART, FUNNY, COMPASSIONATE, FULL OF IDEAS AND ENTHUSIASM. (SO BASICALLY, SHE REMINDED ME OF MYSELF)

OVER THE COURSE OF HER DEANSHIP, I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE HAD A FRONT ROW SEAT IN WITNESSING ALL THAT IS DEAN AMON.

I HAVE HEARD HER PUT FORTH GRAND IDEAS AND VISIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND WATCHED HER IMPLEMENT THE PLANS TO MAKE THEM COME TO FRUITION.

I HAVE SEEN HER BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH DONORS AND ALUMNI, ENCOURAGING THEM ALL TO DO MORE, EACH ONE BELIEVING IN HER VISION FOR AN ENGINEERING FACULTY THAT WOULD SIT AT THE PINNACLE OF ALL UNIVERSITIES.

I HAVE WITNESSED STUDENTS ENGAGING WITH HER AS SHE SPEAKS TO THEM. IT'S AS IF SHE KNOWS EVERY STUDENT PERSONALLY AND CAPTIVATES THEM, DRAWING THEM IN ON A PERSONAL LEVEL.

THE LEVEL OF CARE SHE TAKES TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, LIFT WOMEN IN ENGINEERING, AND ENVISION SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY FUTURE FOR THE SCHOOL IS ADMIRABLE TO SAY THE LEAST, BUT THAT'S CRISTINA.

ONE OF THE MOST HUMBLE PEOPLE I KNOW (ASIDE FROM GEORGE), CRISTINA HAS BEEN A GREAT FRIEND AND SUPPORT TO MYSELF AND GEORGE THROUGHOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY. IF IT WASN'T FOR A LUNCH THE TWO OF US HAD TOGETHER, SOME ENCOURAGING WORDS AND HER WHOLE-HEARTED BELIEF IN GEORGE, WE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN STANDING IN THE MYHAL CENTRE TODAY.

IT WAS CRISTINA WHO ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED THE IDEA TO NAME THIS BUILDING AFTER GEORGE AND OUR FAMILY. SHE ALSO SUPPORTED ME WHEN I WENT BEHIND GEORGE'S BACK AND AGREED TO DO IT.

CRISTINA, GEORGE AND I ARE SO PROUD OF ALL YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAS TRULY FLOURISHED UNDER YOUR WATCH. THIS SCHOOL WILL NEVER BE THE SAME BECAUSE OF YOU, NOR WILL IT BE WITHOUT YOU.

*WE WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNWAVERING LEADERSHIP AND ABOVE ALL ELSE, YOUR FRIENDSHIP.*

*WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.*

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**ADDRESS by LAURA BERNEAGA**  
President of the Engineering Society

Introduced by Rayla Myhal

Thank you so much to Rayla Myhal for your kind words on behalf of the alumni community.

Good evening everyone. My name is Laura and I am the President of the Engineering Student Society. It is my distinct pleasure and honour to welcome you all this evening to this extremely distinguished celebration.

Tonight is a very special occasion, one that allows us to celebrate our Faculty and the progress we have made. And we have one key player to thank for all the growth and development we have been so lucky to observe within our Faculty over the past 13 years: our beloved Dean Cristina Amon. Tonight is all about shining the spotlight on her and on all her achievements, but more importantly, taking a moment to appreciate all the effort that she has put in, because saying that she has done a lot for us is a gross understatement.

Our Faculty would not be where it is today had it not been for her. That is very obvious when we compare U of T Engineering in 2006 versus 2019 in numbers: We have heard about the impressive strides in increasing the proportion of women in our classes, and I also want to point out that our first-year retention rates have increased by almost 15% (from 81% to 95%). I'm presenting you these numbers because as engineers, we like quantifying everything, but more than that, these numbers speak to Dean Amon's incredible leadership and drive to make U of T Engineering better.

On top of that, Dean Amon has made it a point to dedicate her time to enhancing the student experience, one very prominent example being the services offered in the Myhal Centre, such as dedicated space for student clubs and teams, access to amazing facilities, and flexible design and meeting rooms, to name a few. The design of the building was made with the students' input and based on their needs. Moreover, Cristina has made it a personal commitment to listen to the students and has sought to create opportunities for dialogue between the administration and the students, one example being the Dean's Town Halls, which have given our students a forum to raise their voices.

Finally, she has always made a point of working closely with my predecessors and with the other members of the Engineering Society. From setting up the Godiva's Hymn Contest to encourage students to write verses for the hymn that reflect the engineering community today, to putting together the Joint Mental Health Task Force in this past year to discuss mental health concerns, the collaboration between EngSoc and Dean Amon has always led to fruitful projects for the betterment of the students and the U of T Engineering community at large.

Dean Amon has definitely left her mark on our Faculty and on our community and we are eternally grateful for everything she has done. Her initiatives will stick around for generations to come and I feel honoured to be a student in the university that she has shaped.

With that, I would like to welcome one of my biggest inspirations, Dean Cristina Amon.

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**ADDRESS by CRISTINA AMON**  
Dean, 2006-2019

Introduced by Laura Berneaga

Thank you, Laura. Good evening to all and welcome.

I find myself moved by the words of each of our speakers; moved that we have arrived at this momentous occasion.

It is tremendously meaningful for me to share this moment with each of you, some of whom have travelled from as far as Hong Kong and San Francisco to join us here.

Today I reach the culmination of a remarkable journey — a journey we have taken together over the past 13 years.

For more than a decade, we have been united in our shared ambition to continue to build an engineering school that is truly an international leader in engineering education and research, and a destination of choice for brilliant minds.

Today I invite you to join me in celebrating all we have accomplished together — the results we have achieved collectively are so much greater than the sum of our individual contributions.

In 2006 when I joined this great Faculty as Dean, I was truly inspired by our rich history, our strong traditions and, most importantly, our commitment to excellence.

That commitment has only strengthened over the past decade and as the world has changed rapidly, our definition of excellence has likewise evolved and transcended.

We set goals for ourselves that, frankly, seemed out of reach at times, but with creativity, collaboration and tenacity, we have met and surpassed many of the objectives that had once seemed ambitious dreams.

Today, I am proud to say that we have truly set a new global standard in engineering education and research.

We did not arrive here by chance. Together we set clear objectives, reached consensus (most of the time) and delivered on those objectives, while building a vibrant and strong community.

We have elevated our standing as Canada's #1 engineering school and truly one of the very best in the world — and these efforts were driven forward by the unwavering commitment and relentless dedication from each of you in this room.

Let me share with you just a few of my personal highlights:

As engineering educators of this great institution, it is our responsibility to prepare our students to take their places as leaders in a complex international environment.

And so, we added to the landmark of strong technical foundations, the opportunities for students to develop competencies such as multidisciplinary collaboration, leadership, entrepreneurship, and global fluency, creating rich opportunities for our students to customize their degrees and broaden their knowledge.

With our newly established ISTEP — the Institute for Studies in Transdisciplinary Engineering Education and Practice — we will continue to strengthen the integration of these competencies into our curriculum. And through the Troost Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering, we further empower our students to discover their leadership potential. These efforts have been championed by Bill and Kathleen Troost, to enable each student to explore and realize their immense promise.

We have also fostered a thriving entrepreneurial culture, evident in our two entrepreneurship accelerators. This has been fueled by Gerald Heffernan, who will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday next month, and is as sharp and inspiring as ever.

We also have a strong record of translating research from the lab to the marketplace: our graduates and faculty members have launched more than 140 research-based spin-off companies.

Multidisciplinary collaboration now lies at the core of our research activities, enabling us to address challenges that transcend the boundaries of traditional disciplines, and develop new technologies in fields from robotics and artificial intelligence, to sustainability and water engineering.

In recent years, we have established 22 collaborative centres and institutes to catalyze innovation among students, faculty and industry.

Many of these thriving hubs are housed in this building, including the Centre for Global Engineering, the Institute for Water Innovation, our recently restructured Robotics Institute, and the newly-created Centre for Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Engineering.

These clusters are attractive beacons to our 400-plus industry partners, highlighting our role as an engine of today's innovation economy.

Our place at the heart of the University of Toronto's downtown campus speaks to the rich history of Skule™.

I am personally proud of the community we have built together: one that celebrates diversity, values inclusion and welcomes a wide range of perspectives, abilities, backgrounds and cultures.

For the past three consecutive years, we have welcomed 40% women into our first-year class, and I am pleased to share with you that we are tracking toward more than 42% for the class joining us in the fall.

Our students work alongside and learn from professors who are renowned as international leaders in their fields, 55 of whom are women, which has almost tripled over the past 13 years.

Today, our students, staff and faculty come to us from more than 100 countries around the world, and their contributions make each of us better at our work, inspiring us to consider different cultural and social contexts.

Enhancing inclusion within our community, identifying and eliminating barriers to our programs, and improving representation of historically under-represented groups is not easy to achieve — nor does it happen overnight.

Much has been achieved but much remains to be done, and I strongly believe that our Faculty's leadership and ongoing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion will continue to be a hallmark of the next several years.

As Dean, I have cultivated close relationships with students and with generations of alumni around the world. One message I hear consistently echoes the strength of our community: once we join U of T Engineering, we belong here forever — and that belonging stays with us, wherever we go. The bond that joins our Skule™ community is deep and lasting, and I feel that it has never been stronger.

This remarkable building, the Myhal Centre, we are standing in embodies our Faculty's values of inclusion and collaboration. By design, it fundamentally transforms the way we teach, learn, conduct research, and translate innovations into new products and technologies. It is also a testament to the strength of our collective will to build a world-class facility for the 21<sup>st</sup> century engineer:

Some of you will remember that when we first shared our hopes of constructing a new engineering building, Simcoe Hall challenged us with five years to raise the necessary funds to complete construction. This site, at 55 St. George, was the third location we had pro-actively pursued. The first two, both on College Street, attained Governing Council approval and yet did not crystalize.

Our community immediately rallied behind our vision, including our Chairs and Directors and hundreds of alumni. Led by Professor Ron Venter, we brought our dream to reality, brick by brick, never losing sight of our grand ambition for the space.

Ron, my deepest gratitude for your unfaltering dedication and tenacity.

And to Rayla, George and the Myhal family, I am so proud that this building carries your name. You have long shared our determination to create a facility that reflects the greatness of our Faculty.

And so, the space where we celebrate today stands as a testament to our monumental collective will.

For the past 13 years, it has been my honour and privilege to work alongside each of you — I have gained immeasurably from your advice, your insights and, in many cases, your friendship. Your commitment to our pursuit of excellence has been an inspiration to me.

I would like to name just a few who have been vital in bringing us to this moment in our history:

Vivek Goel — for your foresight and courage to break new ground with such an unconventional hire, which it seems, paid off.

Rose Patten — as Chair of Governing Council then and now our Chancellor, you have been a supreme champion for women in leadership positions across this University and in many business sectors.

Cheryl Misak — we worked together to secure the land for this fabulous building, the Myhal Centre. You consistently supported our ambitious concept.

Cheryl Regehr — You gave us the flexibility and encouragement to innovate and forge new initiatives. My gratitude to you and the University leadership for backing us during a period of transformative growth.

To each of the Chairs and Directors I have been so fortunate to serve alongside during my time as Dean, my thanks for your collaboration, collegiality and commitment to excellence.

Much of the invisible work of running Canada's top engineering school is carried out by our administrative staff and leadership, some of the most capable, dedicated and resourceful administrators I have had the pleasure to work with.

To our alumni — the backbone of our global Skule community — your contributions have been invaluable. Your success is our success, and you are an inspiration to generations of students who have followed you.

To our brilliant professors, whose commitment to world-leading research and passion for engineering education is truly unparalleled.

And our students, who have always amazed me with their capabilities, work ethic, optimism and creativity, I continue to be energized by you, and to learn from you every day.

To my children Andreina and Gabriel who flew in this morning for one day to share this momentous occasion with us, and to my husband Carmelo. Your amazing support — over the past decade and always — has enabled me to balance a rewarding academic career with my greatest joy: our family life.

I am deeply grateful for the generous and breadth of support of the Decanal Chair in Innovation. This endowed Chair will seed new innovations and catalyze the pioneering initiatives for which we are known the world over, and I feel immensely honoured that this will become a pillar of my legacy.

Paul Cadario played a vital role in the creation of this Chair by providing the lead gift towards its realization. Thank you, Paul. This is just the latest symbol of your exemplary devotion to our Faculty.

Dean Chris Yip, I am delighted you will be the first chair-holder. With the stellar talent and momentum we have built, combined with your vision and drive, the coming years for our Faculty promise to be the brightest

I am tremendously proud of all we have accomplished together. Each triumph enabled by the community we have built, and by our dedication to working together to achieve something of lasting significance. Today, we reflect on how far we have come and we grasp the enormous promise of the future ahead of us.

At our Faculty's convocation ceremonies last week, I was struck again by the boundless potential of our graduating students. They will go out and make profound contributions to our world — their greatest achievements are yet to come, and so are ours.

That is the power of our work here, the power of this Faculty.

I truly believe there has never been a more exciting time for U of T Engineering, and look forward to witnessing, with all of you, as our Faculty continues to flourish and soar.

My warmest thanks.

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**ADDRESS by CHANCELLOR ROSE PATTON**  
Chancellor, University of Toronto

Introduced by Ron Venter

Thank you, Ron.

And, on behalf of the entire University of Toronto, let me add my thanks for your brilliant leadership as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.

Good evening, everyone.

I am delighted to join in celebrating this milestone in the history of the Faculty and of the University.

And it is wonderful to do so in the company of our student representatives, senior faculty and administrative leaders, and some of our most generous volunteers and donors.

Today we have looked back on Professor Amon's many accomplishments in the course of her historic tenure as Dean.

By way of a conclusion, I would like to look forward, at just a few of the ways her leadership will resonate, for many years to come.

We are all immensely proud of the sustained increase in the number of women in our undergraduate entrance classes.

These brilliant, emerging leaders will go on to make a great impact for the better on our society.

And they will further increase the visibility of women in the Engineering profession, inspiring new generations to follow in their footsteps.

Of course, Dean Amon's legacy will also endure, in the landmark building in which we stand today, at the historic heart of the University.

And her influence will extend through the purposes to which this building is dedicated – innovation and entrepreneurship.

She has been an outstanding champion of the role of engineers in driving progress in every sphere in our society.

She has created an environment in which our students learn from the beginning that engineers are crucial collaborators in solving the greatest problems – and seizing the most exciting opportunities – of the 21st Century.

And she has cultivated the role of the Faculty as a global hub of interdisciplinary excellence in education, research, and innovation.

This in turn has contributed to U of T's prominence as Canada's leading university and as one of the top 10 public universities on the planet.

Cristina, it is an absolutely marvellous record, and you deserve to be so very proud of it.

Thank you, again, for all that you have achieved – and for all that you have enabled us to achieve together – through your remarkable, and yes, historic leadership.

This ends the formal portion of our program – but I encourage you all to stay to enjoy some refreshment and to continue our celebration.

Thank you, everyone.

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*[MC comments]*

*Thank you, Madam Chancellor.*

*Thank you to Dean Amon and to all our speakers today.*

*This concludes the event. It is now my pleasure, on behalf of Dean Amon, to invite everyone to stay a while and to mingle and chat in the Cristina Amon Hall and to enjoy a refreshment or cocktail and a fine selection of finger foods in celebration of this very special occasion.*

*Thank you.*

*Ron Venter, MC.*