



**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

**Tribute to**

**MALCOLM FREDERICK MCGRATH**

**February 24, 2021 Council Meeting**

After a successful career in construction, Malcolm McGrath, a 1954 Civil Engineering alumnus, was invited by then Dean Gordon Slemon in 1982 to facilitate alumni relations for the Faculty of Applied Science Engineering. As his responsibilities grew and expanded, he was appointed Assistant Dean and served in this role with Deans Gary Heinke and Michael Charles until his retirement in 2001. Malcolm McGrath died on January 6, 2001 in his 89th year.

In the context of alumni relations Malcolm worked closely with the then Engineering Alumni Association. He developed strong bonds with many alumni, some of whom became major benefactors. He also understood the importance of establishing strong connections with our undergraduate students since they would soon become future alumni. He worked closely with the Engineering Society and other official student groups, and even some of the unofficial ones who shall remain nameless because they don't exist!

Recognizing the importance of encouraging support from alumni, he was instrumental in establishing the Varsity Fund which subsequently became the Annual Fund. He also founded and promoted the Gratitude program in Engineering as a graduating class giving campaign. This initiative subsequently went University-wide.

Malcolm McGrath, worked with then President George Connell, to found U of T Day, which was an Open House for alumni and prospective students that took place every Fall. He was a member of the Soldiers' Tower Committee and a Warden and former Secretary of Camp One for the Iron Ring.

Malcolm is remembered for his love and appreciation of music. He was known for nurturing that interest amongst our students by helping them create performance groups such as the Skule Stage Band and Skule Brass Ring which still exist today. He was the enthusiastic lead for the Engineering holiday choir. And perhaps most memorably, thousands of students, faculty and staff will remember him as the organist in Convocation Hall, ushering the graduates and their families through on their graduation day. Many alumni also personally invited Malcolm to play the organ at their weddings, which he did with great pride and pleasure.

Malcolm McGrath will be remembered as an innovative trail blazer in our alumni and student relations to which he brought a fine sense of humour. He served our Faculty extraordinarily well. Our sincerest condolences go to his family members, many of whom have joined us remotely today.

*Prepared by Dean Emeritus Michael Charles, 1993-2001*  
*Read by Acting Council Speaker Professor Markus Bussmann*