

IN THEIR
OWN
WORDS

MESSAGE



IN WHAT HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR, our University College students have weathered the unprecedented storm of the global pandemic with poise and determination. There is no doubt that studying remotely and in isolation, whether from laptops in their residence rooms or from their homes all across the globe, has been daunting for our students. That they have met this challenge and discovered that they are both strong and resilient makes us proud.

This has certainly also been a year of other upheavals. Instances of racism have served as a call to our College community to reaffirm that it does not tolerate hate and is committed to

learning and growing in our understanding of the roots, effects and prevention of such discord and hostility.

In this endeavour, education is a beacon; and just as UC's motto and crest signify, knowledge shines light into the dark corners of our humanity and encourages UC students to understand and combat injustice.

UC continues to attract the best and brightest students from Canada and the world, and we are grateful to you, our donors, for helping us to nurture their talent and potential. Your assistance has allowed them to put financial considerations aside and focus on excelling as students, broadening their minds, and discovering their passions. Thanks to your generosity, they have grown, not only as students, but as people.

This year, more than ever, we thank you for your commitment to our amazing students and your connection to the College. Your caring helps keep our UC community strong and we can't express our gratitude strongly enough.

Join us as we applaud our UC students from a distance. We eagerly anticipate better times ahead when we can celebrate their successes together in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Markus Stock'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light blue background.

Markus Stock, UC Principal

During the 2020-2021 academic year,
University College donor-funded
scholarships and awards contributed to:

Providing

**\$1.1
million**

in financial support, and

Supporting

**875
unique students**

The average UC student received almost

\$1,300

in support from donor-funded
scholarships and awards.



**LIAM
PATRICK
BRYANT**
(he/they)

SCHOLARSHIP

John and Edith Sobel Social Justice Scholarship

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Specialist in Art History, Minor in Latin

GRADUATION

Class of 2021

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The UC *Gargoyle*, section editor and contributor

The Varsity, associate section editor and contributor

The Goose journal, head illustrator

The UC Lit as president and mid-year representative

UC Intramural Dodgeball

The Gardiner Museum, studio assistant

UC Orientation, head leader and leader

The U of T Office of Student Recruitment, senior tour guide

The University College Residence Office, residence tour guide

Sir Daniel Wilson Residence, Hutton House treasurer and archivist

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

They've made my degree possible. I would not have been able to achieve my program requirements without them. Having funding allowed me to put food on the table and save up for graduate school while working and staying focused on my undergraduate degree.

University was one of the most challenging periods of my life. I was often at odds with my health, and when I first came to Canada, I had no support system or financial infrastructure to act as a safety net. As a result, I really dug into my college community to find individuals that could and would support me. I had the privilege of affording residence, and a combination of my housemates and Residence Don gave me the social currency to be involved in community conferences, volunteering, and events. I was also able to make my first friends in the country while being involved in the residence community briefly, nearly all of whom persist to this day.

From there, I joined intramurals and used facilities at the University to teach myself lifestyle skills alongside my friends. I met with the folks at the Registrar's Office more times than I can count for questions about funding and academics, and their advice pointed me in the right direction when I felt at a loss. As an upperclassman, I decided to join UC's student governance, and I worked gladly within the UC Lit as representative and president, hoping to give back what I had been gifted in my earlier years. In many ways, University College was the catalyst for many of my most important -- and certainly also memorable -- experiences at the University of Toronto. Every opportunity I had in my later years could be traced back to the support and resources I had been given when I first moved to Canada and the people I had met during my time at UC.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO.



**NAOMI
BUTTERFIELD**

SCHOLARSHIP

Fletcher-Clark Scholarships in Science and Economics

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Double major in forest conservation science and international relations, with a minor in political science

GRADUATION

Class of 2021

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Munk One, case competitions

Outreach Director and Co-External Advocacy Director, University of Toronto Environmental Action group (UTEA)

Hart House Farm committee

Effective Altruism, University of Toronto chapter

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

As a self-supporting student, I have been required to seek financial assistance outside of what OSAP provided. The grants and awards I have received from University College over the course of my undergraduate career have been instrumental in allowing me to focus on my studies and not worry about additional employment.

Furthermore, awards and grants I have received from UC have been instrumental in creating a true international learning experience for me. With the Elizabeth Brown Travel Award, I was able to take part in a three-week intensive learning course in Israel—titled Coexistence in the Middle East—at Hebrew University during the summer after my first year. In the fall of my third year, I attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP25, as part of a University of Toronto/UTEA delegation and was granted a travel award by UC. Without this assistance, neither of the two trips would have been possible and they have both been significant in truly understanding how much of what I learn works in practice.

University College will always be central to how I remember my time at the University of Toronto. I spent my first year in Whitney Hall residence where I connected deeply with fellow UC students, many of whom have become life-long friends, and recognized the importance of local community. This inspired and continues to motivate my in-depth engagement with the campus community through a great variety of extracurricular and social endeavours.

After leaving residence, I still spent much of my on-campus free time within the halls of UC, making use of the residence dining hall, the Junior Common Room (JCR), Café Reznikoff, Laidlaw Library, and other spaces to both socialize and study with my peers. In particular, the JCR has been central to my engagement with the UC community; I was always sure to stumble upon an old friend or meet someone interesting whilst sipping on my Diabolos coffee.

In particular, I am thankful for the Registrar's Office, where I was always provided with top-level mentoring and guidance when necessary. Both socially and academically, UC has been central in my success and well-being as a student. The spaces and resources provided, both while living on and off residence, have allowed me to feel recognized and secure on the large campus. Toronto was daunting and large when I arrived, yet the welcoming community of University College has, over the years, made it feel like home.



Naomi Butterfield in Israel, funded partially by UC travel award

Naomi Butterfield at COPS25 with UC conference travel funding. Photo by Grace Ma





**CATHERINE
CHEN**

SCHOLARSHIP

Louis Savlov (UC '37) Scholarships in Science, Social Sciences and Humanities

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Life sciences; chemistry and physiology

GRADUATION

Class of 2021

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Hart House Orchestra

U of T Festival of Dance

U of T UNICEF x OHDC Dancing for the Future event

Work-Study program – clinical research assistant

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

I am grateful for the donors who have generously provided the awards and scholarships that have supported me throughout my university journey, especially those from University College, which has been there every step of the way. The Dr. James A. & Connie P. Dickson Scholarship in Science and Mathematics and the Louis Savlov (UC '37) Scholarships in Sciences and Humanities at University College have not only served to reduce the financial burden of pursuing a post-secondary education, but have also served as motivation for me to continue striving for the top in my studies. These scholarships have also opened doors to opportunities such as clinical research positions that have helped me in my pursuit of a career in health care.

University College will always hold a special place in my heart. My first university tutorial session was held in the basement of the building, and while I did get lost on my way to class, it was that day that I found the group of friends who would overcome the lows and celebrate the highs with me during my university journey.

But my friends are far from the only people to support me these past four years. I still remember the enthusiastic UC orientation leaders who welcomed me into the family and made me feel like I belonged. I appreciate the kind librarians of the Laidlaw Library who provided the guidance to find the resources and information that I needed to develop my research skills and excel in my courses. I am grateful for the registrar's staff at UC who patiently answered my questions and provided me with academic advice. It is this comprehensive support network (social, academic, financial) that has helped me thrive in my courses and opened doors to unique opportunities.

Due to the financial support from UC, I have had the chance to conduct clinical research and take on leadership roles in the development of a hospital volunteer program aimed at reducing delirium in the transplant population, valuable experiences that have helped me grow as both a scientist and a person.

Another fond memory of mine is the UC awards ceremony I was fortunate enough to attend a few years back. It was a rewarding opportunity to not only celebrate the hard work of the UC community, but also to catch up with friends from different fields of study I had met during orientation and network with new students. My experiences at UC have shaped me into the person I am today and have helped me develop the skills necessary to contribute to society, and for that I am grateful and honoured to be a graduate of UC.

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**SOPHIA
LUCY
FAN**

SCHOLARSHIP

J. S. McLean Scholarships

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Ecology and evolutionary biology
specialist, biodiversity and conservation
biology major, environmental biology
minor.

GRADUATION

Class of 2021

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

UC Lit, sustainability commissioner
(2019-2021)

Leap Chapter U of T, organizer
(2017-2021)

U of T Environmental Association, internal
advocacy director (2020-2021)

UC Intramurals, captain - Co-Ed Ultimate
Frisbee and Basketball (2018-2020)

UC Orientation, leader and head leader
(2018-2021)

Other:

Royal Ontario Museum, facilitator, Schad
Gallery of Biodiversity (2018-present)

Hart House Singers (2017-2020)

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

Awards and scholarships have taken much financial burden off me and my family, allowing me to pursue both my studies and extracurricular interests. Without this financial support, I would not have had as memorable a time as I did during my four years here at UC and U of T. I was able to devote all my time outside of classwork to furthering my interests in climate advocacy and biodiversity and in conservation communication, both of which have helped inspire my career path and are the driving forces behind my intent to continue on to graduate school.

Right from the very first moment I stepped foot into UC, the college community welcomed me with open arms. Whether it was life in residence, being on the UC Lit, socializing in the JCR, or grabbing a coffee at Diabolos, each of these small moments is a warm and cherished memory I will surely look back upon with nostalgia. UC was where I found friends and community, hobbies, and leadership opportunities.

My experience on the UC Lit was eye-opening, and I got the chance to further my ambitions in climate advocacy by being the sustainability commissioner for two terms, allowing me to work with some amazing people and initiatives. Intramural sports gave me an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals and the summers spent running after a frisbee with the UC Gryphons make up some of my favourite memories.

Getting to be a part of college-wide traditions like orientation and Fireball are still some of the best moments I've experienced in university; nothing says community more than when you spend almost 24/7 with your leaders and first-year students going from activity to activity during orientation, or when you spend 16 hours trapped in a building together, decorating a Shrek-themed Fireball room!

Through UC, I also got to be involved with campus-wide advocacy initiatives and truly learned what it meant to work collaboratively with others at the college and even the university level. UC is also home to many fantastic individuals, whether those be students or staff or faculty, who have continued to inspire me academically and spiritually throughout my degree. These experiences helped me build knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills that will certainly help me as I move forward after graduation. UC was my home for four years, and I am sure that its impacts will last for much longer than my stay here.



Photos by Hao Cheng (Lucas) Wang



**RUBY
GAUDETT**
(she/her)

SCHOLARSHIP

Nancy E. A. Main Scholarship

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Sociology

GRADUATION

Entering my 4th year in September 2021

**UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

Treasurer, residence house council (2018)

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

I have been very fortunate to receive a generous number of awards or scholarships through the university. Being an independent student who is financially responsible for funding my own way through my educational endeavours, at times I am in financially insecure positions. Fortunately, anytime I am suffering financially, the university points me in the right direction to find available financial supports. I am very grateful, as it has made it possible for me to be able to stay in school and not have to drop out due to lack of financial support.

Having just recently finished up my third year of university, now I am reflecting on my time being spent at University of Toronto, specifically being part of University College. We are just over a year into living through a pandemic, and because of this, I can honestly say being part of UC has been such a blessing, both before and during this life-changing experience.

When I first began university back in 2018, I lived in residence in McCaul, which is part of Sir Daniel Wilson Residence. This was one of the most exciting experiences ever. Living in UC, I was able to meet so many like-minded people. I even had enough confidence to run for house council and to be elected house treasurer. Being on the house council allowed me to take part in many skill enrichment opportunities. Many of my residence peers are people I still remain in contact with and I am very fortunate to have their support throughout this crazy year.

Over the course of adapting to virtual learning, it has been extremely difficult both academically and on my mental health. Being a part of UC, I have been able to have access to mental health resources that have really been vital to my academic success this school year. I also was able to get connected with accessibility services to make sure I was getting the support needed to stay on top of my academics throughout this challenging year. Being a financially self-reliant student, sometimes I cannot afford to keep up with the cost of living and academics, especially this year, due to COVID-19 impacting income. UC has always helped me seek out extra grants, scholarships, and funding I can apply to. I've found that there are a plethora of resources that want to help you succeed, you just have to seek them out and be persistent. I will forever be thankful for the friends, opportunities, experiences, and support UC has given me. They have proven to me time and time again that I am worth believing in and that my future is worth the investment.



**HANNAH
GENICH**

SCHOLARSHIP

Gordon H. Southam Scholarships

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Sociology, education, and mental health

GRADUATION

Class of 2021

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Varsity Blues women's swimming

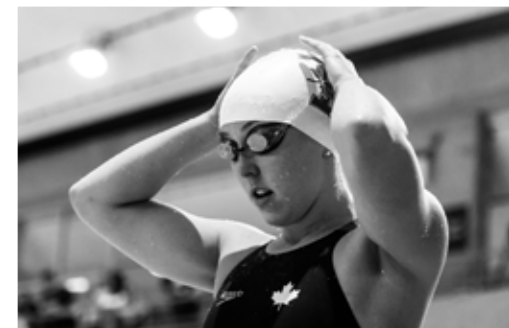
SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

As a varsity athlete on the swim team, I have represented the University of Toronto provincially, nationally, and internationally. Some of my accomplishments include being named the Ontario University Female Athlete of the Year, claiming multiple national titles at the Canadian University Championships (USPORTS), and leading Team Canada to a podium finish at the World University Games. The financial resources and support systems that I have accessed as a UC student have translated into a self-motivated, passionate and boundless individual.

University College encompasses a unique student-centered environment where diverse learners have equitable opportunities to excel and prosper. UC students are provided with ample opportunities, resources, and supports to achieve their personal, academic, and athletic goals and future endeavours! Additionally, as a University College student, I have been encouraged to chase my dreams until they have become my reality.

During my time as an undergraduate student, I frequently benefited from the resources that were graciously made available to me. The kind and compassionate individuals working at the University College Registrar's Office are devoted to ensuring that all students have the necessary supports to unlock and reach their full potential. Whenever I had an academic question or concern, I knew that the team at UC would do everything in their power to assist me. As an undergraduate student, it was comforting to know that I had a support system of people who cared and wanted to see me flourish scholastically and athletically. I am forever grateful for this department at University College as they have made an everlasting impression on my life. UC has seamlessly cultivated a family-like environment where inclusivity and acceptance are primary concerns.

Being a part of the founding college at the University of Toronto is something I am extremely proud of. While representing Canada at the World University Games, I was also representing the University of Toronto and University College, which is something I will continue to cherish. As a varsity athlete with a demanding workload and various other responsibilities and commitments, I never felt alone throughout this process. Having access to an accessibility advisor made this portion of my educational journey much less stressful. Additionally, these support systems allowed me to prioritize my academics and athletics. As a graduating UC student, I am eternally grateful for the support I have received. Thank you, University College, for believing in me!





KERRY-ANN JAMES

(she/her)

SCHOLARSHIP

William and Sheila Cowan (UC '41)
Scholarships in Humanities

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Cinema studies specialist with a minor in
French

GRADUATION

Class of 2021

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Student ambassador at the 2021
convocation

Film programmer at the Cinema Studies
Student Union

E-mentor at University College

Former high-performance varsity track &
field athlete

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

Awards and scholarships have helped me stay focused on my academics in ways that allowed me to give back to my U of T community. I was more available to participate in on-campus and off-campus leadership roles and events. The relief of not worrying about tuition or other expenses made my experience more enjoyable; it allowed me to produce meaningful work and figure out how I wanted to continue contributing to my community after completing my degree. Now, I will go on to graduate school, and I wouldn't have gotten into the prestigious schools I did without the financial support of our generous donors.

My time at University College has been nothing short of amazing. The faculty and staff at University College are incredibly supportive and have encouraged me to be the best I can while providing the space to do so.

Surprisingly enough, the summer of 2020 and this past academic school year have been the most fulfilling. Last summer, through UC's mentorship program, I was an e-mentor for incoming first-year students. Serving my community has proven to be such a rewarding experience. As a mentor, I got to put my leadership and organizational skills to use, which influenced my overall growth! The role inspired a lot of self-reflection and opportunities to establish incredible relationships with incoming students. Last year was a period of substantial uncertainty; however, as a mentor, I cultivated a safe space and was a reliable resource for students. I learned that I wasn't required to have all the answers; I just had to be prepared to point students in the right direction.

As someone who plans to complete a PhD and become a professor, everyone at UC has modeled the pinnacle of excellent teaching, research, and community. There is an abundance of opportunities to grow at University College, especially within the work-study positions. As the equity and diversity assistant at UC Student Life, I organized and facilitated bi-weekly conversations with Black and Indigenous activists and artists and created the Queering the Future Summit in collaboration with the Sexual Diversity Student Union. It featured law and sexual diversity scholars, artists, and activists and incorporated a film screening to make the topic of transformative justice accessible. For fulfilling this role, the college commended my efforts. They emphasized that I set a high standard for future programming, inspiring them to revamp their approach to equity and diversity, something that perfectly illustrates UC's commitment to continually improving students' experiences.

I wouldn't have had the time to do so much without awards and scholarships. I'm profoundly grateful for the abundance of guidance and support that I've been blessed to have experienced with the faculty and staff at UC. I am incredibly proud to be an alum – and it's thanks to all the progress and care I've had the privilege of experiencing. I have achieved so much more than I could've imagined as an undergraduate, and I cannot wait to pay it forward one day as well.

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WITH THE FACULTY
AND STAFF AT UC.**



**VARUN
LODAYA**
(he/him)

SCHOLARSHIP

Donald C. Ainslie Leadership Awards at University College

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Computer science specialist and statistics major

GRADUATION

Finished third year spring 2021; currently on my Professional Experience Year Co-op (PEY Co-op)

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-President of the UofT Undergraduate Artificial Intelligence Group - 2021

Undergraduate researcher at People, AI, and Robotics Group at U of T - 2020/2021

Community co-ordinator at University College - 2020

Vice-president at University College Residence Council - 2019

Middle-year representative at University College Literary and Athletic Society - 2019

President's deputy at University College Literary and Athletic Society - 2019

Deputy director of community and outreach at University College Residence Council - 2018

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

As an international student, awards and scholarships have always served as a statement of recognition and motivation for me to continue contributing to the communities that I'm a part of. Knowing that there are systems in place to recognize the volunteer efforts and academic excellence of students turns what is usually a thankless job into something that is more sustainable and a pleasant experience overall.

To me, the core part of the University College experience was coming here as an international student, not knowing a lot about the country, the city, or the university, and yet still being able to find a home here. The only way that was possible was through the various leadership opportunities and other kinds of engagement that I had with University College; whether it was being the vice-president on the Residence Council at University College or being a part of the oldest democratically elected student government in Canada, the University College Literary and Athletic Society (UC Lit), I was able to feel like I was a part of this community. The University College experience is taking a group of people who wouldn't normally hang out together and giving them the tools, the motivation, and the incentive to be a part of something bigger than themselves and watching them grow into passionate leaders of their communities. Most of the friends I've made at UC have come from these groups of people.

My experience with University College has impacted me because it has made me a more involved member of this community, which can sometimes be hard for international students to do. The most memorable events have been the various meetings I've had, and the events I've planned alongside peers whose sole objective is to improve the experience of the people around them. I've been inspired, supported, and guided by these people during my time here, and it would not have been possible without the opportunities that I had.



Photo by Brenda Gomes



NATASHA STOJANOVA

SCHOLARSHIP

Louis Savlov (UC '37) Scholarships in Science, Social Sciences and Humanities

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Rotman Commerce

GRADUATION

Class of 2022

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Rotman Commerce Sales Group

Association of Macedonian Students at the University of Toronto

University College intramural tennis team

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

Awards and scholarships have lessened my financial burden. They have allowed me to focus more on my studies and devote time to extracurriculars. The scholarships have mainly been used to purchase textbooks for my classes.

My time with University College has been a critical part of my university experience. During my first week of orientation, I was immediately welcomed into an inclusive and supportive environment. The transition from high school to university can be challenging; however, the orientation leaders and students at University College made it a very enjoyable experience. Being a part of University College allowed me to gain a sense of community within a very large university.

My most memorable experience was playing on the University College intramural tennis team. With an extensive background in tennis as a formerly nationally ranked player and tennis coach, I worked with the team to determine strategies and set team goals. I collaborated with the team to accomplish our goal of qualifying for the intramural playoffs. Throughout the season, I won the most matches on the team and was awarded Most Valuable Player Award by the University College Athletics Commission for my contributions. During my involvement with intramurals, I balanced academics and athletics, developed strong commitment and dedication to a team, and created a tight-knit community within University College. Weekly matches served as opportunities to connect with my peers, stay active, and have fun. My teammates were extremely encouraging and supportive and fostered an overall positive experience.

My involvement with University College has shaped my university experience by enabling me to connect with students outside of my program and expand my network at the University. The lasting friendships and memories that I have made will stay with me beyond my time at University College.

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UNIVERSITY**

A black and white portrait of a young woman with long dark hair and round glasses, smiling slightly. She is wearing a dark top and a light-colored cardigan. The background is a solid yellow color.

**XINYANG
(AMBER)
YE**
(she/her)

SCHOLARSHIP

Malcolm Wallace Scholarships

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Anthropology

GRADUATION

Class of 2021

UNDERGRADUATE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I have been involved in student journals throughout undergrad – both academic journals and creative ones.

Anthropology Students' Association

International students' mentor

Hart House Chamber Strings

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

Awards have motivated me to study subjects I am passionate about and to make the most out of my academic experiences. They encouraged me to achieve and maintain academic excellence, to pursue opportunities confidently, and to be a well-rounded member of the student community.

I moved into University College residence as soon as I arrived in Toronto four years ago; being in a living-learning community, I enjoyed all the activities and just being part of a large, supportive student group. Throughout first year in residence, I got acquainted with all the opportunities UC offered – from the physical facilities like the library and the coffee shop to the services like the Writing Centre, UC Lit, the Registrar's Office, and the academic departments located at UC. From Orientation to Open Mic, I became impressed by the lively scene of student activities at the college; living in the center of the campus, I felt free and empowered to explore campus activities and find a sense of belonging.

At the Fireball in my second year, I met new friends who are still an important part of my life to this day. To figure out my academic passion, I took UC classes in everything from Drama to Canadian Studies and was inspired to venture more into the social sciences. With the help of the writing instructors, the registrar's staff, and academic advising, I managed to complete my degree to my satisfaction and find inspiration to acquire new knowledge post-graduation. I also attended the UC Leadership Conference and learned a great amount about my personality and leadership style, as well as the importance of resiliency in personal, academic, and professional journeys.

Being an Orientation Leader in my third year, I realized that I had gathered the experience and skills to be a mentor and leader for others. I met a passionate team and a great group of students; I felt more comfortable speaking about my experiences, answering people's questions, and sharing advice. It was personally rewarding as I learned to take on active roles in my community. Overall, UC has provided me with the tools and opportunities to make the most out of my university experience. My time here made me realize the significance of leadership and interdisciplinary communications, and I'm inspired to realize my potential as a person, leader, and public scholar.

**UC HAS PROVIDED
ME WITH THE TOOLS
AND OPPORTUNITIES
TO MAKE THE
MOST OUT OF
MY UNIVERSITY
EXPERIENCE**



THANK YOU

The donors listed below made leadership contributions to University College between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021

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(\$25,000 - \$999,999)**

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