



University
College
Alumni
Magazine

FALL 2021

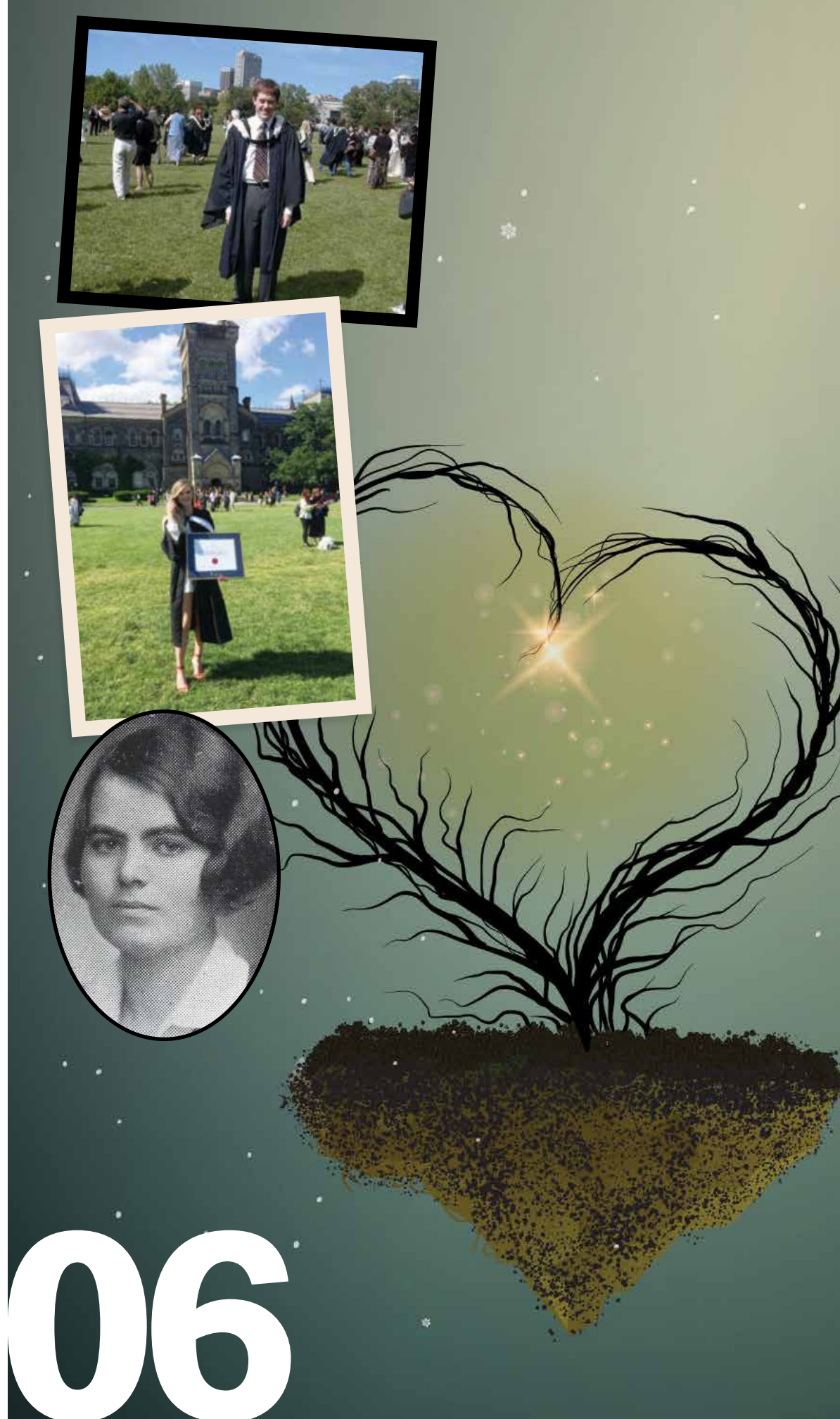


FIVE GENERATIONS

OF ALUMNI AND COUNTING

BARKER FAIRLEY:
PLAYWRIGHT BRINGS HER
ELECTRIC ENERGY TO UC

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INTO THE SPOTLIGHT



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Please note: *The Calendar of Events section will return in a future issue of UC Magazine. Information about upcoming virtual events is available at uc.utoronto.ca.*



University College
Alumni Magazine

UC Magazine is published twice a year (one print issue and one digital issue annually) by the UC Advancement Office and is circulated to 27,000 alumni and friends of University College, University of Toronto.

To update your subscription preferences and contact information, please call (416) 978-2139 or toll-free 1 (800) 463-6048 or email us at address.update@utoronto.ca.

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Amber Moon





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

AS I AM WRITING these lines, I hear familiar sounds in the hallways and outside my office window, sounds we had missed so much during the past academic year: that of students in conversation while rushing to class or to eat in the dining hall; while sitting on the grass in front of the building and in Sir Dan's quad; or while getting ready to retire to their residence or to leave campus to go home. It is these sounds that we missed most in the dark months of the pandemic, during which the liveliness of study was confined to virtuality. And while the whole institution learned a great deal about the advantages of the digital – and about our ability to keep a university going virtually during various lockdown stages – we always knew that a college, this group of students, faculty, staff, and alumni working together—functions best in person and in physical co-presence.

Students are back, and UC is operating with necessary precautions, but with determination and optimism: our residences are running at 90% capacity, ventilation in classrooms has been updated, and full vaccination is the rule now on campus. Everyone is masked indoors – I myself teach German literature with a face mask in a UC classroom – and the students, like all of us pandemic veterans, are now experts in taking the essential precautions to keep themselves and each other safe in our continuing pandemic conditions.

The halls of UC have awoken, and students have fully reclaimed the campus. One day in September, I walked toward our magnificent vestibule to exit the main doors (more on that very fact below), right behind a group of chatting students. One of them looked up and around and said: “Oh, this is good,” with the tone lingering on the last word, marvelling at our signature architecture, to then continue: “And I had my first in-person class. That was really good.” And then they left through our main doors together and had what I hope and think was a really good late summer evening – responsibly cherishing the most important aspect of student life: socializing as people, and not as tiles on a computer screen.

People say that you only know what you had once it is gone. But I can say with conviction that the newly buzzing life on campus also serves as a reminder that sometimes something has to be returned to you to make you realize how much you missed it. This is good.

The little scene I described to you has another exciting detail: the U of T community can enter and exit the building through the main doors again, after years of renovation! While health regulations don't yet allow us to celebrate the spaces with the wider community, the interior renovations are complete, and our new award-winning UC Library has opened to U of T students – of course, under clear and strict health regulations. The renovation of our UC quad, the Clark Quadrangle, is in full swing and scheduled to be completed by this winter. From what I have seen, through site visits and just by peeking over the construction zone hoarding from various windows of the College, the result will be a phenomenal multi-functional and accessible space, remaining true to the heritage character of the building, as is the case with all of our renovations. Our revitalization will not end here, of course: The part of the Laidlaw Wing that once housed the UC Library is awaiting its own turn at being reinvented in the service of UC and U of T students. Stay tuned for further updates as this next chapter takes shape.

This issue of the *UC Magazine* presents – we hope – interesting and exciting stories from all corners of our UC community: the history of a century-spanning “UC family;” information about the esteemed UC alumni who have been elected to our circle of Alumni of Influence; and news about college life and academics, including the founding of a Black Canadian Studies Certificate for U of T students, a profile of our 2021-22 Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor, and an alumnus who is honouring the legacy of his parents' social justice engagement through a new UC scholarship.

Let me close with words of thanks: The pandemic has asked a lot from every one of us and poses challenges that differ for different people. The crisis has taught me that we can rely on our UC community to lift our students up and also to look out for one another in touching ways. I'd like to ask all of you to continue to be a part in actively building UC, in order to keep the UC experience as unique for our students as it has been for generations.

Professor Markus Stock
University College Principal



FAMILY TREE

HAS STRONG UC ROOTS —
FIVE GENERATIONS' WORTH

BY ELAINE SMITH

The ever-growing Coutts family tree could also be considered a tree of knowledge, because a thirst for education is what sent five successive generations of the family to University College.

O h, there are other branches, of course – offshoots who attended other U of T colleges or other institutions altogether – but the family has maintained its UC affiliation in an unbroken line since **John Coutts** graduated in 1884.

“It’s quite a legacy,” says **Tracy Tieman**, his great-granddaughter and a fourth-generation UC graduate. “I’m not sure how many fifth-generation University of Toronto graduates there are.”

Her great-grandfather, like many UC students today, was a first-generation Canadian and the first in his family to attend university. His parents were both immigrants from Scotland who met in rural Ontario, married and had 11 children. Coutts’ father instilled in his children the value of hard work, while his mother ensured they had an appreciation for learning, reading aloud to the family regularly – both values that UC embodies.

John, the eldest son, grew up on the family farm in Kent County, but envisioned a different future for himself. He taught school to earn enough money to attend university and enrolled at the University of Toronto in 1880 as a UC student.

“Those first-generation Canadians had their struggles, too. They wanted to get off the farm and be professionals,” says **Christine Coutts Clement**, John’s granddaughter, a UC graduate and emeritus professor of astronomy at U of T. “However, it was unique for the times that John’s father didn’t feel his children had to stay on the farm; he was proud of them for going to university.”

It was while teaching that Coutts met his future wife, Katherine Ballantine, another teacher. They were attending a picnic in Essex County and Ballantine drew his eye when she won the afternoon’s spelling bee. The pair corresponded while Coutts was away at university and married after his graduation in 1884. The family has since created the Katherine Ballantine Coutts Scholarship in her name at UC, since she wasn’t able to attend university herself – women weren’t admitted at that time.

Coutts wasn’t alone in his pioneering spirit;

his oldest sister, Janet, married a minister, James Farquharson, and relocated to rural Manitoba in 1881, becoming one of the Canadians who helped open the West. His younger sister, Marion, also moved west to Calgary with her husband, a grain merchant, in 1898. John’s younger brother, Richard, emulated him by teaching to fund his university career. He, too, headed west to Saskatchewan in 1914 to serve as a school principal, then a school inspector and, finally, a vice-principal of a Normal School, i.e., a teachers’ college.

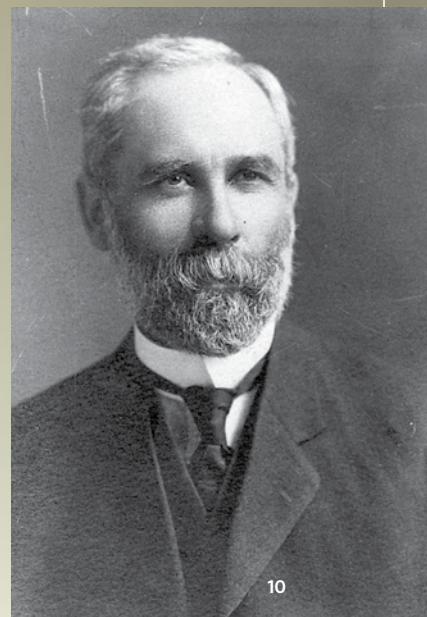
Meanwhile, after graduating from UC, Coutts apprenticed at a law office in Chatham, Ontario, and eventually settled in Thamesville, Ontario, where he set up his own legal practice and served as secretary to the local Ferguson Brothers bank. Thamesville became the family’s base. Their home is still owned by Coutts’ grandchildren and continues to be the site of many happy family Christmas celebrations.

Coutts’ youngest son, **John McDermot (Dermot) Coutts**, followed in his father’s footsteps, attending UC and returning to Thamesville to join the elder John Coutts’ law practice, eventually taking over for his father. He married another UC graduate, **Mary Ellen MacBeth**, who had moved to Thamesville to teach high school.

Dermot and Mary Ellen settled in Thamesville and had a family. The late **Janet Coutts Tieman**, **Malcolm Coutts** and **Christine Coutts Clement** all thrived, but two later children died at birth. Mary Ellen, herself, died after giving birth to the youngest, leaving Dermot to raise three children alone.

“I see my dad as a success story as a single parent,” says Clement, adding regretfully, “but my mother was in her 30s when she died and didn’t get a chance to live her life.”

Happily, Mary Ellen’s surviving children all graduated from UC and lived very full lives. Janet, a wife and mother, became very active in the Liberal party and president of the Mississauga South Federal Liberal Riding Association. She was also an active UC alumna and earned the Arbor Award for her many contributions to the College. “My sister, Janet, had ideas about going elsewhere, but Dad told her, ‘You’re going to UC,’” said Clement. “Once that happened, we knew we’d all be going to UC.”



Malcolm, a year younger, studied physics at U of T. “The education that I received at University College and the Physics Department at U of T prepared me well for a career in teaching secondary school,” said Malcolm Coutts. “For that I am thankful.”

Christine followed a non-traditional path for women in the post-Second World War years, looking toward a career in astronomy at a time when marriage was touted as the Holy Grail.

“Helen Hogg, an astronomer I met in my fourth year, made me see that women could succeed in scientific work, even though the boys in my classes made fun of female scientists,” Clement says.

“If you came from a small town, you had to succeed,

because you couldn’t go back home with nothing.”

Clement not only graduated from UC, but went on to earn her PhD and enjoyed a successful faculty career in U of T’s David A. Dunlap Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics prior to her retirement.

Both her son, **David Clement**, and Janet’s daughter, **Tracy Tieman**, also became part of what was, by then, a family tradition of attending UC. It is Tracy’s daughter, **Tessa Tieman**, who continued the UC tradition into the fifth generation, even living in Whitney Hall like her grandmother, mother, and aunt.

“I’d be lying if I said there wasn’t a little pressure to attend UC,” says Tessa with a laugh, “but U of T is a great school, I got a great education and UC is special.”

Her mom, Tracy, a Canadian Studies graduate, had many of her classes in the UC building and even held her wedding there, with a reception at Hart House.

“I do remember being in awe that so many generations of my ancestors had gone there,” Tracy says. “It struck me that they had walked the same halls and seen the same gargoyles and funky architectural details.”

With any luck – and a little encouragement from the family – one day, there will be a sixth generation of Coutts ancestors walking those halls before mounting the stage at Convocation Hall as part of the graduating UC contingent.

1 David Clement graduation 2004 **2** Dermot and Mary Ellen (MacBeth) Coutts **3** Dermot and Mary Ellen (MacBeth) Coutts **4** Janet Coutts Tieman, Christine Coutts Clement, David Clement **5** Janet Coutts Tieman, Malcolm Coutts, and Christine Coutts Clement **6** Tieman wedding UC East Hall **7** Janet Coutts Tieman, Malcolm Coutts, and Christine Coutts Clement **8** Mary Ellen MacBeth UC 1931 - John McDermott’s wife **9** Tessa Tieman UC Grad **10** John Coutts **11** Malcolm Coutts and Dermot Coutts **12** John McDermott Coutts UC 1921 **13** Dermot Coutts (seated), Janet Coutts Tieman, Malcolm Coutts and Christine Coutts Clement. Images supplied by Christine Clement

GET COMFORTABLE “NEVER”

Theatre may have stopped during the pandemic – but there’s no stopping playwright Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

BY CYNTHIA MACDONALD

COVID-19 has been especially painful for those who love live performance. Theatres closed right in the middle of one of the art form’s most exciting periods: a time when immersive theatre, multimedia, and spoken word are changing the nature of public storytelling; when conventions around criticism and authorship are being questioned; when the stage has become newly receptive to voices long suppressed by the mainstream.

But as Donna-Michelle St. Bernard will tell you, theatre never really stopped – and neither has she.

Over the past year, the highly energetic playwright, director, dramaturge, arts administrator, and hip-hop artist has been busier than ever: “Rolling with the punches is my number one skill,” she laughs.

Among other things, she ran an internet-based performance course, created a recently produced “curbside opera” for Toronto’s Tapestry Theatre, and continued work on the *54ology* – a long-term play series featuring one play set in each African country. When asked about how she juggles her many projects, she says: “A lot of the writing process is about waiting or gestating. There might be a flurry of activity around one story, while another might need to sit for a minute. But while it sits, I don’t need to.”



"As a writer you're the only one in the water, and you have to swim to where you're going. But I can see where you're going - I can shine a light on it. And you can use that light to see where you need to go."

She'll sit very happily, however, with the many students who will be seeking her feedback this year as UC's 2021-2022 Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor. In this role, St. Bernard offers critiques of performance-based or other creative writing work and answers questions about the creative life and process.

St. Bernard thinks it's most important to honour the intentions of emerging writers who seek her advice.

"I don't know more about the writer's story than the writer does," she says. "There's a whole bunch of the story that they didn't write down, and I may not know the part their heart is really beating for. I only know what I'm responding to, so it's important to know that I'm not the centre of the universe."

She likes an analogy favoured by her fellow playwright, Nina Lee Aquino: "Nina talks about being a lighthouse keeper. As a writer you're the only one in the water, and you have to swim to where you're going. But I can see where you're going - I can shine a light on it. And you can use that light to see where you need to go."

Helping writers to find their particular voice is central to St. Bernard's mission as an artist. She found hers while studying English literature at U of T at the same time that she was performing sketch comedy and developing her hip-hop alter ego, Belladonna the Blest.

Born on the small Caribbean island of Bequia, St. Bernard was attracted to words from an early age - writing stories about mermaids, unicorns, and robots. Much later, social justice became her passion: "Accountability is a huge driver for me," she says. In 2005, this led her to found New Harlem Productions, a company dedicated to intercultural, interdisciplinary work.

St. Bernard's political and social concerns have been most prominently explored in the *54ology* series. To date, she and her collaborators are "about halfway through" the gargantuan project, having produced stories from all over the African continent. Among these are the multi-award-winning *Gas Girls*, inspired by sex trade workers at truck stops in Zimbabwe; and the Governor General's Award-nominated *A Man A Fish*, about external forces impacting Burundi's fishing trade.

Next year, St. Bernard will premiere *The First Stone* at Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. The

play explores the situation of child abductees in the Ugandan civil war. "It will have the biggest cast so far, and has had the longest development track," she says. "It's all-consuming, and it's very exciting to finally be getting there." In May, she co-hosted a community justice forum while workshoping the play. Given that the play deals with stolen children taken from their communities, *The First Stone* resonates thematically with the residential school tragedy in Canada - a subject that was also explored, via discussion and film, in the forum.

St. Bernard says she is most motivated by collaborative work, which constantly means trying to understand perspectives outside her own. As general manager of Toronto's Native Earth Performing Arts, for example, she helped hundreds of Indigenous artists to develop their work, and her performance piece, *Sound of the Beast*, incorporated a strong ASL (American Sign Language) component, as performed by Deaf artist Tamyka Bullen.

In a discussion on queer theatre and performance at U of T's Bonham Centre several years ago, St. Bernard said: "My practice of art is focused on making space where there is resistance, occupying space, broadening the space, and offering it to other people, to other voices. ... If you feel that you've started outside of the brackets and worked your way in, do not get comfortable. Never get comfortable."

That's why she constantly pushes herself toward new forms and varieties of collaboration and toward stories that, while not necessarily new, have not yet been widely told. She recognizes that it's not always easy.

"I have been the beneficiary of so much generosity from senior artists and administrators," she says. "In my lifetime, some of the best learning I've had is actually from someone saying, 'That's not how you do that,' and then being receptive to furthering that conversation. I'd always like to do everything better, actually."

It's that groundbreaking feeling of discomfort that she seeks to impart to students this year - a feeling that, while initially difficult, can ultimately lead to the very best and most transformative kind of art. Perhaps another line from one of her many speeches says it best: "Let's just do it, you guys. Let's be bold."



A GIVING LEGACY

Entertainment lawyer Bill Sobel has endowed a new UC scholarship honouring his parents' commitment to social justice

BY TRACY HOWARD

As a high-powered Los Angeles entertainment lawyer, William (Bill) Sobel (BA 1984 UC) represents a who's who of show business, but the people he seems to hold most in awe are his parents.

"There are seven billion people on this planet, and if there were seven billion people who lived life the way my parents did, we'd have a different world," Sobel says.

In their honour, he's created the John and Edith Sobel Social Justice Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to undergraduates with strong academic standing who are involved in the University College Literary and Athletic Society (UC Lit), with preference given to students who participate in a UC Lit committee dedicated to equity and diversity/social justice.

When asked what Sobel hopes the scholarship will do for its recipients, he says: "Just to have a chance to pursue their dreams and their passions, whatever they may be."

Although John passed away in 1995, and, at 90, Edith (née Greenberg, BA 1952 UC) has had to curtail volunteering during the pandemic; the memory of their commitment to giving back inspires Bill to this day.

While the family lived comfortably in Toronto's Willowdale neighbourhood—his dad was a chartered accountant who served on the board of Chesebrough-Ponds—both parents remained focused on those in need.

Sobel recalls them taking him and his older brother, Mark, as kids to protests to free the "Refuseniks"—Russian Jews who

were refused visas to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

"My parents weren't political," he explains. "It's just wherever there was a chance to do right, they tried to do it."

In a 1942 article from the *Toronto Daily Star*, his mother, then 11 years old, is one of a group of children pictured who helped raise funds for wartime bombing victims in Britain.

"I think my mother was just born with a positivity gene," Sobel says. "I haven't met anybody else quite like her."

Among Edith's good works: serving as president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section; teaching English as a second language to immigrants; Jewish Camp Council board member; reading to the blind; and volunteering for United Way.

Sobel believes his father's social conscience was formed from life experience. In 1933, at age eight, he witnessed the Christie Pits Riot, in which a group of youth unveiled a swastika banner at a baseball game in the park between a mainly Jewish team and a gentile team. Violence broke out for several hours with Italians and other persecuted immigrants joining the Jewish players to fight the anti-Semitic group.

"What moved that young boy was seeing strangers helping strangers," Sobel explains. "On that day, the tribalism of that era in Toronto was suspended and marginalized minorities came together."

Sobel says his parents' social values started to rub off on

top Lisa and Bill Sobel at a 2018 Toys for Tots fundraiser at the Hollywood home of WEN hair care founder, Chaz Dean. **bottom** Edith and John Sobel at their Willowdale home in the 1960s, before attending a philanthropic event. Images supplied by Bill Sobel



him as a teenager, and the idea of becoming a lawyer took root. "Being an advocate resonated with me."

As for his post-secondary education, he says: "I was going to U of T, for sure." Both parents were alumni, and Sobel says choosing UC was inspired by his mother's fond recollections of her time there.

"It was her coming of age—being part of UC Players and Hart House. The thrill of her life, if you ask her, would be having her two children, but the independent thrill of her life would be her years at UC."

Among "the fascinating people" his mother met at UC was the late Alan Borovoy (BA 1953 UC), the longtime general counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. In the 1960s, Edith would help Borovoy by advocating on a local level for his mission to eliminate religious education from the curriculum of Ontario public schools.

At U of T, Bill studied commerce and economics, and he remains a loyal alumnus. "Giving back to University College and U of T is not a choice; it's a moral obligation," he says.

For law school, he alternated semesters at Osgoode Hall and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles—he says he "got the bug" for the city visiting his brother who was at UCLA and who later became a television director there. "It wasn't a coincidence my winter semesters were in L.A. and my fall semesters were in Toronto," Sobel quips.

A combination of not wanting to be a litigator and being in the "epicentre of the entertainment industry," which he found fascinating, propelled Sobel to stay and pursue entertainment law. After getting his start at a then-pre-eminent L.A. entertainment law firm, he moved to the firm now named Laird & Sobel, where he's been for 35 years.

The long list of boldfaced names he's represented include Dolly Parton, Mickey Rourke, Julianne Moore, Salma Hayek, and Prince. In addition, Sobel helps co-ordinate some of their charitable work and has even produced concert-tour television specials. He gained proficiency in concert touring, he says, when he worked on Michael Jackson's tour in the 1990s. But he's adamant about not taking any credit for his clients' accomplishments and remaining the ultimate behind-the-scenes man.

"So much of what I do involves standing up for people who maybe have a loud voice," he explains. "But then you have to make sure that voice is heard over other things that can be said."

When Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida and Miley Cyrus, a longtime client, wanted Miley to participate in the March for Our Lives gun control protest in Washington, D.C.—in response to the February 2018 mass shooting at the school—Sobel helped ensure she was on a plane two days later.

And when journalist Ronan Farrow asked Sobel to go



The inaugural recipient of the John and Edith Sobel Social Justice Scholarship



In describing who he hopes will benefit from the University College scholarship he's created to honour his parents, entertainment lawyer and UC alumnus Bill Sobel says, "We want to make it accessible to people who are creative and passionate, but, ultimately, people who are doers and believe in doing."

Liam Patrick Bryant (BA 2021 UC), the first recipient of the John and Edith Sobel Social Justice Scholarship, ticks all those boxes. Bryant, who uses "they/them" pronouns, was an editor and contributor at *the Gargoyle* and *the Varsity*; head illustrator at the *Goose* journal; head leader of UC Orientation; a campus tour guide; and a treasurer and archivist at Sir Daniel Wilson Residence. But since a main requirement of the scholarship is that the undergraduate be involved in the UC Literary and Athletic Society, it's Bryant's tenure as UC Lit president that's of primary importance.

"Being president was defining for the latter half of my tenure at U of T," says Bryant. "The role means working alone but not necessarily in a vacuum. I would have been nothing without my close friends and, at times, fellow council members: Andrea Estrabillo, Aniket Kali, Francesca Field, and Chloë Gorman."

Despite a stellar university career, Bryant, 22, says it was a challenging time. At 18, they moved on their own to Toronto from San Diego. While they had family financial support, they found a job "and budgeted, saved and thrifted constantly." They've also had lifelong health issues, which they struggled with at university – "though over the years my health improved—credited to my friends and support from my dons in two years living in residence at UC."

Bryant, who did a specialist in art history, is now in a graduate program for museology at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Bill Sobel at his 1984 graduation from University College.
Image supplied by Bill Sobel

on the record for a *New Yorker* article about the sexual misconduct of CBS's then-head, Les Moonves, he was the only industry business person to do so. While Sobel admits the experience was stressful, "If you're going to do the right thing, you're going to do the right thing no matter what."

When not representing clients, Sobel enjoys family life in Beverly Hills with his wife, Lisa, and his daughters on their breaks from school. Juliet, 23, is a law student at Northwestern University and a passionate advocate for women's rights; and Amanda, 20, is a junior at the same school and an advocate for animal rights. Sobel's mother, who moved to Los Angeles after his father passed away, lives nearby and remains vital.

"When I'm travelling the world with an artist and I find myself shaking hands with a head of state or in a surreal escorted police motorcade, I'll ask myself: 'How did I get here?'" Sobel says. "I realize my parents' values and the opportunities afforded me by institutions such as UC have been vital to my journey, and I owe a huge debt of gratitude."

ALUMNI of INFLUENCE

When the COVID-19 pandemic led to a widespread shuttering of UC's campus for the 2020-21 academic year, many were left wondering how our College could maintain its tight-knit atmosphere in an era of online classes and meetings. As quickly as those questions arose, however, they were answered by alumni who reached out to see how they could help. From offers of financial assistance to asking how they could get involved in mentoring current students, UC alumni stepped forward to help at a time when many people were, understandably, stepping back.

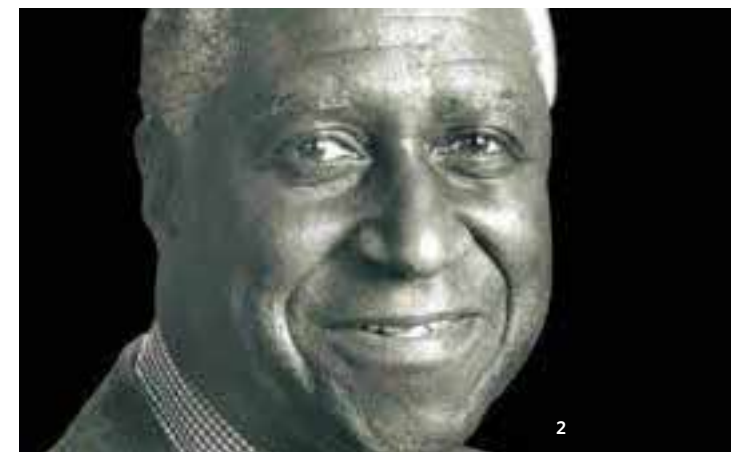
In retrospect, it shouldn't have come as a surprise. For more than 150 years, UC alumni have maintained a unique and enduring connection with their alma mater. That's why our Alumni of Influence (AOI) Awards have become such an important annual highlight for our college since being established in 2012. The awards provide an opportunity to recognize and express gratitude to our most distinguished graduates who have achieved excellence in their fields and, in the process, significantly enhanced UC's international reputation. Though we're again unable to meet in person for the awards gala this year, it has been a pleasure connecting with this year's outstanding AOI recipients and celebrating them virtually.

For full biographies of the 2021 AOI award winners, please visit our website, www.uc.utoronto.ca/aoi.



1 Dr. Alwyn Austin

WHO Alwyn Austin (BA 1968 UC) **WHAT** Longtime teacher and professor of Chinese history, most recently at Brock University (2002-07); currently retired. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Few Canadians have contributed as much to strengthen Canada-China relations." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Amongst Austin's many publications is the book *Saving China: Canadian Missionaries in the Middle Kingdom 1888-1959*, which created a new field of scholarship and is required reading for Canadian diplomats to China. He is also credited with discovering the George Leslie Mackay collection of Taiwanese artifacts, which is currently displayed at the Royal Ontario Museum. In 1974, Austin was hired as interpretation planner for the Norman Bethune House in Gravenhurst, a project commissioned by the Canadian government to help restore diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. **WHAT DOES RECEIVING THIS AWARD MEAN TO YOU?** "As a quiet, retired scholar who has spent much of my life in archives and writing books, I never know when I cast my bread upon the waters where the tides will take it. This is a wonderful gift and recognition that I have made my contribution to Canada-China-Taiwan relations."



2 Mr. John Braithwaite

WHO John Braithwaite (BA 1951 UC) **WHAT** Former city councillor with the City of North Vancouver for more than two decades; former executive director of The North Shore Neighbourhood House, which focuses on enhancing the lives of vulnerable individuals; appointed to the Judicial Council of British Columbia for nine years; currently retired. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "In 2004, the John Braithwaite Community Centre in North Vancouver opened its doors, honouring a man whose decades of social work helped the city's troubled youth and broke down barriers in the community." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** In addition to his BA, Braithwaite earned an MSW from U of T in 1956. His passion for human rights and social welfare made him a popular politician and won him various awards, including the National Black Award (1973), Canada 125 Medal (1992), and Freedom of the City award from the City of North Vancouver (2003). North Vancouver's John Braithwaite Community Centre was named in his honour. **WHAT LIFE LESSONS DID YOU DRAW FROM YOUR UC EXPERIENCE?** "First – thoughtfulness. And second, be determined to do whatever has to be done, for whatever needs to be done."





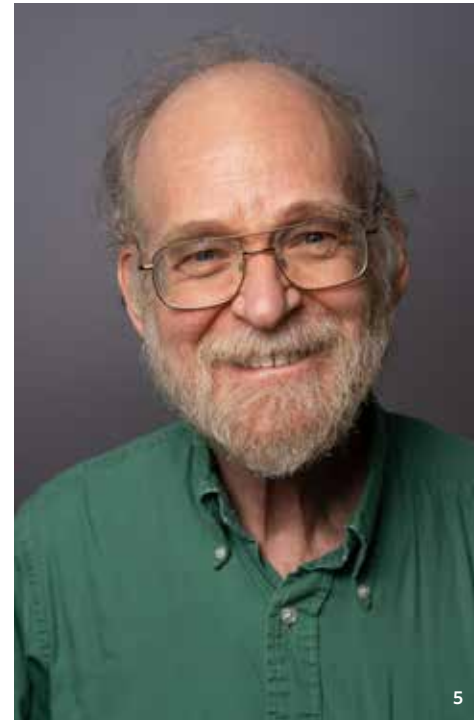
3 Thomas Fleming

WHO Thomas Fleming (BA 1974 UC) **WHAT** Professor of Criminology and Contemporary Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University Brantford (2003-present); previously taught at many other universities and colleges across Canada. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "[Fleming] is a criminologist whose pioneering work in serial and mass murder has advanced research in this area for over 40 years." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Fleming is a widely published author who led the world's first conference on mass murder (1993) and has provided expert academic information to several high-profile investigations, including the Paul Bernardo case. His excellent work as a teacher and mentor has also been recognized with several awards, including being the inaugural recipient of Ontario's Leadership in Faculty and Teaching (LIFT) Award (2007), being named to Wilfrid Laurier University's Teaching Hall of Fame, and being designated a Best Professor at the University of Windsor by *Maclean's* magazine. **ADVICE TO UC STUDENTS** "Surround yourself with those that support your goals. The majority will often be naysayers but believe that any goal is possible, and don't let negative attitudes alter your resolve to succeed."



4 Mr. Sheldon Godfrey

WHO Sheldon Godfrey (BA 1960 UC) **WHAT** Co-author of several books and author of a number of articles on Canadian history and heritage; former chair of the Heritage Canada Foundation; longtime lawyer, businessman and philanthropist. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "[The Godfreys] have been involved in several charitable, environmental, and civic initiatives ... and have played a leading role in strengthening government policies for heritage preservation." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Sheldon Godfrey and his wife, Judy, have led a wide range of award-winning projects over several decades, many of which concern the preservation of Canada's architectural heritage. Among the books they have co-authored are *Stones, Bricks and History* (Lester and Orpin, Dennis, 1984) and *Search Out the Land: The Jews and the Growth of Equality in British Colonial America, 1740-1867*, (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995). In 1998, Sheldon Godfrey was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada. **WHAT LIFE LESSONS DID YOU DRAW FROM YOUR UC EXPERIENCE?** "At University College, I learned that the essence of learning is the right to participate in a free and open society and that the essence of scholarship is documentation of facts."



5 Dr. Joseph Halpern

WHO Joseph Halpern (BSc 1975 UC) **WHAT** Joseph C. Ford Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Cornell University (tenured since 1996); formerly worked for the IBM Almaden Research Center (1982-96). **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Joe is a world-renowned computer scientist and mathematician ... [with a] stellar career in pioneering research and student mentoring." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Halpern's research interests are in the areas of reasoning about knowledge and uncertainty, security, distributed computation, decision theory, and game theory. He has coauthored five patents and three books. Some of his more recent honours include being elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering (2019), being named the Moore Distinguished Scholar at Caltech (2018-19), winning the Kampe de Fariet Award (2016), being elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2015), and being appointed the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Natural Sciences and Engineering at Hebrew University (2009-10). **ADVICE TO UC STUDENTS** "If you can afford it, don't go straight to work (or grad school) after graduation. I spent two years as a math teacher in Ghana (with CUSO) before going to grad school, and I'm really glad I did."



6 Anne Innis Dagg

WHO Anne Innis Dagg (BA 1955 UC) **WHAT** Longtime freelance writer and research biologist; former assistant professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of Guelph (1968-72); senior academic advisor for the Independent Studies Program at the University of Waterloo (1989-2013). **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Dagg is a pioneering wildlife biologist and advocate for women in science." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** An expert in the study of animal behaviour, Dagg is recognized as the first person to study wild giraffes. She has published 25 books, including the world's first monograph on giraffe biology. Her groundbreaking work has led to a wide range of awards, including being appointed Fellow of the Zoological Society of Ontario (1967), receiving an Honorary Doctorate in Science from the University of Waterloo (2019) and the University of Toronto (2020), and being appointed to the Order of Canada (2019). Her life and work were the subject of an award-winning documentary, *The Woman Who Loves Giraffes* (2018). **HOW DID UC PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE BEYOND UNIVERSITY?** "I am an explorer and adventurer at heart and UC provided the engaging atmosphere to pursue my dreams."

7 Professor Sharona Kanofsky

WHO Sharona Kanofsky (BSc 1992 UC)

WHAT Associate Professor, Teaching Stream, Department of Family & Community Medicine, U of T; a physician assistant who has practised in a variety of clinical settings and served as the founding academic co-ordinator of the PA Program. She now serves as the program's research & scholarship lead. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Sharona has made a significant impact in advancing our young Physician Assistant profession, thereby improving health care in Ontario and for Canadians overall. She has demonstrated excellent qualities of leadership, advocacy, scholarship, and teaching excellence."

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS Kanofsky is a leader in the development of the physician assistant (PA) profession in Canada. PAs help provide medical care in collaboration with physicians and improve access to health care for rural, remote, and otherwise underserved communities. As one of Ontario's first practicing PAs, her work has led to several awards including the Tom Ashman Physician Assistant of the Year award from the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (2013). **WHAT LIFE LESSONS DID YOU DRAW FROM YOUR UC EXPERIENCE?** "One special aspect of UC, and of Toronto in general, is the amazing diversity.... I feel so fortunate that we live in this society that respects diversity, allowing everyone to bring the best of who they are and where they come from."



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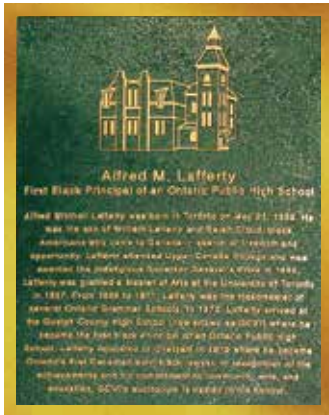
8 Ms. Deirdre Kelly

WHO Deirdre Kelly (BA 1983 UC)

WHAT Editor of *The York University Magazine*; former dance critic, reporter, investigative reporter and columnist for *The Globe and Mail* (1985-2017); longtime mentor to students considering a career in journalism. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "[Kelly is] known as a champion of dancers' rights and is an early advocate of diversity in the arts." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Kelly also earned an MA from U of T in 1984. She is the best-selling author of two nonfiction books, *Paris Times Eight* (2009) and *Ballerina: Sex, Scandal and Suffering Behind the Symbol of Perfection* (2012). She also has a long list of accolades, including winning two Nathan Cohen Awards (2014 & 2020) from the Canadian Theatre Critics Association. **ADVICE TO UC STUDENTS** "Maximize your university experience; try things even when you don't think you're suited, as you just might surprise yourself. As Lewis Carroll, author of *Alice in Wonderland*, once said, 'If you don't know where you're going, any road will do.'"



7



9

9 Alfred Lafferty

Born in Canada to parents who fled slavery in the United States, Alfred Lafferty forged an incredible career that included numerous firsts. Known as an excellent student, Lafferty won several academic awards and graduated from UC in 1863 with a BA in Mathematics and Classics, later earning a master's degree. Following his post-secondary education, Lafferty worked as headmaster at numerous schools and, in 1872, he moved to Guelph and became the first Black principal at a high school in Ontario. Lafferty would later move to Chatham to work as principal at a new school for Black settlers in the area. During this time, he began studying law. A few years later, he became the first Canadian-born Black lawyer in Ontario. Lafferty passed away in 1912, leaving behind a rich and lasting legacy.



10

10 Ms. Liviya Mendelsohn

WHO Liviya (Liv) Mendelsohn (BA 2001 UC)

WHAT Executive director, Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence (present); director, accessibility and inclusion at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (2016-2021); artistic director at ReelAbilities Film Festival (2015-2021). **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Liv lives by the principle of 'nothing about us without us,' and is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth with disabilities to contribute, to lead, and to advocate." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Mendelsohn is well-known for her work to advance equity and accessibility in Ontario. She was recently awarded a Mandel Fellowship in Executive Non-Profit Management (2021-23) and has won several awards, including Programming Excellence Awards from the Jewish Community Centre Association of North America (2016, 2018, 2019 & 2020) and the City of Toronto Access, Equity and Human Rights Award (2019). **WHAT DOES RECEIVING THIS AWARD MEAN TO YOU?** "For me, this award represents recognition of the importance of the work of community building and of creating more equitable community networks and spaces."



11

11 Dr. Carol Nash

WHO Carol Nash (BA 1980 UC) **WHAT** Scholar-in-Residence with the History of Medicine Program in the Department of Psychiatry at U of T (2012-present); founder and facilitator of Health Narratives Research Group at U of T; volunteer mentor in various on- and off-campus programs **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "As I embark on my entrepreneurial journey and come across life's firsts, it's a warm and empowering feeling knowing that I have a wise, experienced, and compassionate mentor like Carol whom I can always count on for providing perspectives and guidance." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Nash is a compassionate facilitator and mentor who has devoted her career to inclusive education, developing many programs that encourage self-directed learning, including co-founding Alpha II Alternative School with the Toronto District School Board. Nash is a recipient of the Leaders & Legends Innovation Award from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the U of T (2020), the Arbor Award from the U of T (2015), and various mentorship awards. **ADVICE TO UC STUDENTS** "The most important piece of advice to students is to take advantage of the many opportunities available from the larger campus. There is no other time in your life that in being part of an organization you immediately have access to such a vast array of resources and various ways to meet and interact with other people, all for no additional cost."





12 Professor Peter Oliver

WHO Peter Oliver (BA 1981 UC) **WHAT** Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa (2007-present); formerly held various government and academic positions around the world. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "It is no exaggeration to say that Peter Oliver graduated University College to become one of the people who guides Canada to be a country that other countries point to as an exemplar of civilization." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Oliver is a widely recognized expert in the area of constitutional law who, in addition to his prolific academic career, has served as a special advisor to the Privy Council of Canada. Included amongst his many honours and awards are an appointment as Chair in Constitutional Law at King's College London (2005), an appointment as Scholar in Residence at Justice Canada (2005), a Christensen Visiting Fellowship from St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford (2015), and the Peter Birks Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship (2006). **WHAT LIFE LESSONS DID YOU DRAW FROM YOUR UC EXPERIENCE?** "My experience at UC taught me to deepen friendships and keep my interests and activities wide even as I pursued my chosen career in a more focused way."



13 Ms. Ruth Richardson

WHO Ruth Richardson (BA 1992 UC) **WHAT** Executive director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food; former positions include being the inaugural director of the Unilever Canada Foundation, founding chair of the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network, and the first environment director at the Metcalf Foundation; she also served as the lead consultant to establish the Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Ruth believes strongly in the critical need for transformative change, in our ability to create the change required of us today, and in the power of narratives to help make those shifts." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Richardson has more than two decades of experience in the philanthropic sector and is recognized as a dynamic leader on the global stage regarding food/agriculture sustainability, security, and equity. She sits on various advisory and steering committees and was the founder of Small Change Fund, an online vehicle for micro-philanthropy. **ADVICE TO UC STUDENTS** "The future needs you. You have so much to contribute. Step up and change the world."



14 Ms. Donna Young

WHO Donna Young (BSc 1987 UC) **WHAT** Founding Dean of the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Ryerson University (2020-present); formerly a longtime professor of law at Albany Law School and a joint faculty member at the University of Albany's Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; appointed as Albany Law School's President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy (2018-20) **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Donna has broken barriers and charted a promising future for female leaders in law. She is empowering the next generation of lawyers to meet the changing demands of the legal economy while increasing diversity and inclusion in the sector." **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS** Young's research and work has focused mainly on criminal and employment law, as well as gender and race studies. She is only the second Black woman law school dean in Canada. Recently, Young was selected as one of the Top 25 Women of Influence (2021) and won the 2021 Female Trailblazer Excellence Award from the Canadian Law Awards. She has also served as keynote speaker at numerous conferences and events. **WHAT LIFE LESSONS DID YOU DRAW FROM YOUR UC EXPERIENCE?** "Balancing the social opportunities with the academics helped to prepare me for the rigours of law school and eventually for a career in academia. It's all about balance and remembering to nurture all aspects of who you are."



Young Alumni of Influence

15 Dr. Natalie Galant

WHO Natalie Galant (BSc 2010 UC) **WHAT** CEO and co-founder of Paradox Immunotherapeutics Inc. and a post-doctoral research fellow with the University Health Network. **IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS** "Natalie is a role model for the women in the science community in terms [of her] contributions to heart failure ... and she is a trailblazer among Canadian female entrepreneurs in tech." **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS** Just over a decade removed from her undergraduate education, Galant has already founded a company that develops novel immunotherapies to stop and reverse organ failure. She has won numerous academic awards, including the Mitacs Accelerate Post-Doctoral Award (2021), the ECHO PITCH competition Ignite Funding Award (2019), and the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research Education Fund Post-Doctoral Award (2020) **ADVICE TO UC STUDENTS** "Your degree doesn't define your career or path to success. When in university, especially in a college as prestigious as University College, take the time to learn about yourself, meet people, make connections, and most important, have fun."



BLACK SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES IN CANADA

FOCUS OF
NEW UC CERTIFICATE

BY DANE SWAN



Funké Aladejebi

More and more communities are unearthing their Black history and finding ways to celebrate it.

In Canada, the discussion of Black Canadians is often framed in terms of suffering and anguish. The few conversations that are had about the Black experience in the media, or academically, often begin with slavery and then follow its cultural echo. Repeatedly, we discuss the African Slave Trade, what happened after its abolishment in the British Commonwealth and how Canada became a respite for some as the final stop of the Underground Railroad.

That legacy of suffering continues as the centrepiece narrative of Black Canada even in self-educated circles, as Caribbean-Canadians teach one another about the injustice of Canada's treatment of the Maroons: Promising them a return to Africa from Jamaica after working the fields in the Maritimes for a season, instead being left to die in Canada's frigid winters.

However, we rarely discuss the successes of Blacks in Canada. For instance, those Maroons survived. There were also Black Loyalists who fought for Canada in the War of 1812 and thriving Black communities from

sea to sea, from Africville to Hogan's Alley. Even Canada's national pastime benefited from Black players in the Maritimes' Colored Hockey League, where slapshots and sprawling goalies were introduced to the game before those techniques were used in white Canadian hockey leagues.

Canada never celebrates the fact that conferences held on the northern side of the Niagara were pivotal in the founding of the NAACP members initially calling themselves the Niagara Movement. Nor does Canada properly recognize how Jamaican maids revolutionized labour and immigration laws on this side of the border.

Until recently, as a country Canada has rarely celebrated Black Canadian individuals and their successes. For example, the Town of Essex's own Elijah McCoy's inventions had a pivotal impact on the modern railway, but attempts to have a park renamed after him there failed. Many of us know of Oscar Peterson, but what of 1920s jazz great Mynie

Sutton? Caribana has become an international tourist attraction for Toronto, but few discuss founder Charles Roach's influence in Canada's halls of justice. Even now, where is the public recognition for (the Hon.) Jean Augustine, Canada's first female Black member of Parliament?

Karel Peters, a recent UC Canadian Studies graduate, shared similar concerns when discussing the importance of University College's new Black Canadian Studies Certificate, "Most often, when Blackness is taught through a North American or western lens, there is a hyper focus on slavery, pain, and exploitation. While these emotions run deep within the experience of the Black community, there is so much to be celebrated! When we uplift Black bodies and accomplishments, we humanize the Black experience—we are just like you; we feel empathy, joy, happiness, and pride."

Since the 1800s, Black Canadians have had a positive impact on Canadian life. From the stage to the halls of parliament, from union halls to Bay Street, Canada has always benefited from its Black inhabitants beyond the role of inexpensive manual labour. Those achievements are often dismissed, not recognized, erased from texts or left undocumented, creating a vacuum which is often filled with negative, fictional tales. However, recently, things have begun to change.

In 2010, Nova Scotia apologized for the destruction of Africville. There's now a museum commemorating the lost Maritime community.

In Ontario, the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum celebrates the first Black community to hold the right to vote in North America. There's also the Guelph Black Heritage Society, currently housed in a church that was part of the Underground Railroad. More and more communities are unearthing their Black history and finding ways to celebrate it.

In Toronto, you can see the changing tides in the fight to save Eglinton's Little Jamaica community. You can hear it in the calls to rename streets that share names with slave masters. Even in the arts, the under-construction Nia Centre for the Arts will soon be Canada's first Black Arts Centre.

It is with this groundswell of social awakening that the University of Toronto launches its Black Canadian Studies Certificate at University College.

In our recent interview, author, editor, and faculty member Funké Aladejebi, PhD, agreed that Canada's current zeitgeist was influential in the certificate being founded.

"This program exists as a result of increasing calls to action for a better understanding around anti-Black racism and the experiences of persons of African descent in Canada. Students and the general public are asking for sustained and engaged conversations that highlight the lived experiences of Black Canadians, and this program considers this increasing interest over the past decade. Ultimately, this program is long overdue for considering the peculiarities and specificities of Black life in Canada."

Aladejebi points to student advocacy as a cornerstone of the new certificate and argues that student support and the opportunity to learn from similar programs established before the certificate give the Black Canadian Studies Certificate at University College a strong cultural and academic foundation.

"When we uplift Black bodies and accomplishments, we humanize the Black experience—we are just like you; we feel empathy, joy, happiness, and pride."



Karel Peters

"I believe this is one phase in a series of ongoing processes seeking to expand knowledge and learning about Black experiences across the diaspora."

"U of T's program is largely a result of the advocacy work and knowledge of students and academics engaging in the field of Black Canadian studies. However, the program also builds on the experiences of programs housed at institutions such as Dalhousie and York Universities. As a result, this program is learning from the evolution and development of the field, as well as responding to contemporary debates and conversations around Black life in Canada. Perhaps most pointed in the development of the University of Toronto's program are the ways it considers counter-narratives and forms of resistance and empowerment enacted by Black Canadian communities.

"In thinking through the ways in which the historical and current experiences frame Blackness in Canada, this program is both broad in its scope and offers depth in its examination of a number of themes, including politics, judicial systems, and the arts."

Professor Aladejebi hopes that the program eventually grows across all three campuses.

"I believe this is one phase in a series of ongoing processes seeking to expand knowledge and learning about Black experiences across the diaspora. It is hoped that the certificate program considers expanded collaborative projects that support a Black Studies program, adopted across all three campuses."

BIOGRAPHY FOR DANE SWAN

Bermuda born, Toronto based Dane Swan is a Black, immigrant author and editor of poetry and prose. Author of five books, his second poetry collection, *A Mingus Lullaby*, was a finalist for the Trillium Book Prize for Poetry in 2017. Editing projects include the Best New Poets in Canada anthology, which he co-edited with Kate Marshall Flaherty for Quattro Books, and *Changing the Face of Canadian Literature* for Guernica Editions, which was listed on CBC Books' Best of 2020 list. His most current book is *Love and Other Failed Religions*, published by Mansfield Press in 2021.

CLASSnotes

NEWS FROM CLASSMATES NEAR AND FAR



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Recently retired Canadian Supreme Court Justice **ROSALIE SILBERMAN ABELLA (BA 1967 UC)** is the first Canadian jurist to be appointed to a named chair at Harvard Law School. Abella will serve as the Samuel LL.M. '55 S.J.D. '59 and Judith Pizar Visiting Professor of Law effective July 1, 2022, serving an initial three-year term.

ANITA AGRAWAL (BSc 2000 UC) and a colleague won three international jewellery design awards in *INSTORE* magazine's annual 2021 design competition: second place in the judges' selection and Retailer's Choice Award in the "Best Earring Over \$5,000 Category" for their Spring Goddess Earrings and the Retailer's Choice Award in the "Colored Stone Jewelry Over \$5,000 Category" for their Blue Flame Pendant. Agrawal's jewellery brand is called Jewels 4 Ever.

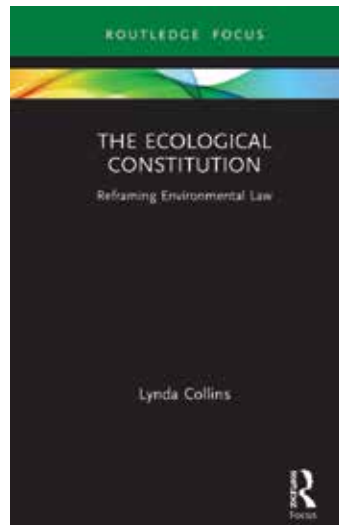
1 Anita Agrawal, Blue Flame Pendant
2 Anita Agrawal, Spring Goddess Earrings
3 Justice Abella 4 Ed Clark 5 Book Cover
Courtesy of Lynda Collins 6 Book Cover
Courtesy of Francis Gilbert 7 Bruce Kidd
8 Bing and Jane Lee



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ED CLARK (BA 1969 UC) was chosen in May 2021 as deputy chair of the board of directors for Spin Master Corp., a global children's entertainment company. Clark, the CEO of TD Bank Group prior to retirement, and his wife are the generous donors behind UC's revitalized Ed and Frances Clark Reading Room.

LYNDA COLLINS (BA 1997 UC), a professor at the University of Ottawa, is the author of a new book, *The Ecological Constitution*, which considers whether a constitution should try to protect the ecological foundations of society. Her book integrates the insights of environmental constitutionalism and ecological law in a concise, engaging and accessible manner.



5

Physician **ARMIN FOGHI (BSc 1994 UC)** has joined La Jolla Vein Care in California. Dr. Foghi is a vein specialist and recognized invasive/non-invasive cardiologist.



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Children's book author **FRANCES GILBERT (BA 1992 UC)**, the New York-based vice-president and editor-in-chief for Doubleday Books for Young Readers, gave a special reading of her book *Too Much Slime!* especially for UC alumni and their families on its Alumni Instagram page in August.

SABRINA HAO (BSc 2007 UC) was appointed as Head of Asia and member of the advisory board for GameSquare Esports, an international gaming and esports company headquartered in Toronto. Hao is a seasoned entrepreneur with deep expertise in global business development.

BRUCE KIDD (BA 1965 UC) was named a recipient of the 2021 Vivek Goel Faculty Citizenship Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has served the University of Toronto with distinction in multiple leadership capacities over many years,



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SONIA LAWRENCE (BA 1995 UC), a professor at Osgoode Hall at York University, received a 2021 Osgoode Hall Law School Teaching and Service Award. The awards honour those who, through innovation and commitment, have significantly enhanced the quality of learning at Osgoode.

UC is pleased to announced that **SHANLEY LEE (BCOM 1981 UC)** has established the Bing and Jane Lee Leadership Award at University College. This endowed award honours the legacy of Shanley's parents, Bing and Jane Lee, who exemplified humility, curiosity, and scholarship during their lives. It will reward UC students who make outstanding leadership contributions to University College and the University of Toronto community. Recipients will be UC student leaders with high academic achievement and peer mentoring experience. The award will cover a year's tuition and will be granted on

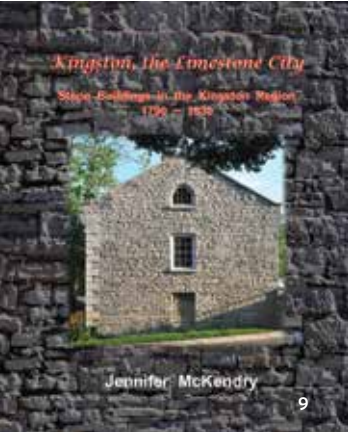


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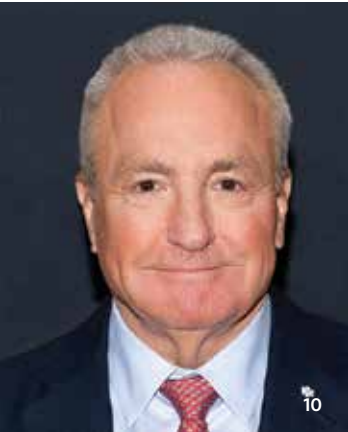
and Kidd certainly fits that bill. He joined the U of T's Department of Physical Education as a lecturer in 1970. In 1990, Kidd earned his PhD and was named Dean of the faculty in 1998. In 2014, he was appointed the 10th principal of the University of Toronto Scarborough. Throughout his illustrious career at the U of T, Kidd has been a constant proponent of inclusion and the former Olympian is also a leader for inclusion in sport.

an annual basis. A heartfelt thank you to Shanley Lee for this exciting and thoughtful award!

JANE LIPSON (BSc 1978 UC), the Albert W. Smith Professor of Chemistry, was appointed an Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Dartmouth College, beginning July 1, 2021. She will oversee six academic departments; the Neukom Institute for Computational Science; and the research and fellowship operations of Undergraduate Advising and Research.



JENNIFER MCKENDRY (BA 1968 UC) has just published *Kingston, the Limestone City: Stone Buildings in the Kingston Region 1790-1930*, a book that explores Kingston's reliance on the stone forming its bedrock, a practice that mainly occurred during the 19th century.



CARMEN ROSSITER (BCOM 1979 UC), a member of the Senior Advisory Panel to the Auditor General, was named to a one-year term as one of the first three non-physicians ever chosen as members of the Ontario Medical Association's board of directors.



Television producer and screenwriter **LORNE MICHAELS (BA 1966 UC)**, executive producer of *Saturday Night Live*, has been named as one of the 2021 recipients of the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors. His 93 Emmy Award® nominations are the most ever for an individual and his television executive producer's credits include *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *30 Rock*, *Portlandia*, and *Kids in the Hall*. Michaels received UC's Alumni of Influence Award in 2012.

UC Special Events Supervisor **MAHEESHA RAMESSAR (UC 2011)** and her husband are the proud parents of a potential future UC student, Jasmine Ayrane Ramessar, born in May 2020.



PIRANAVAN SELVANANDAN (BSc 2003 UC) was named as vice-president of engineering for FlowSpace, a leading fulfilment technology platform. Selvanandan has a decade of experience leading engineering teams.

STEVE SKURKA (BA 1978 UC) has written his first legal thriller, *Pharo and the Clever Assassin*, a historical novel focusing on the assassination of former United States President William McKinley in 1901. Skurka's debut novel is published by Atmosphere Press.



PAULA SMELLIE (BSc 1993 UC), business manager for the Department of Physiology, was the recipient of U of T's Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize, Emerging Leader, for 2021. She contributes to many initiatives, including co-chairing the Department of Physiology's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and co-chairing the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine's Group on Business Affairs.



Financial services professional **MICHAEL TEES (BA 1989 UC)** was appointed for a four-year term to the board of directors of Farm Credit Canada, a federal Crown corporation. Tees has more than 25 years of experience in corporate banking and risk management.



Global News co-host **LIEM VU (BA 2009 UC)** interviewed fellow alumnus **PAUL SUN-HYUNG LEE (1994 UC)**, a star of *Kim's Convenience* and *The Mandalorian*, about how the film and entertainment industry has contributed to Asian racism's roots in the Western world, as part of an in-depth Global News report regarding the rise of anti-Asian racism since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviews are available on Vu's Instagram feed.

Geologist and mining executive **NICHOLAS TINTOR (BSc 1980 UC)** was named executive director of the board for Bald Eagle Gold Corp., which focuses on mining, exploration, and development. Tintor is president and CEO of RG Investments Inc, a private investment company.



NADIA TODOROVA (BA 2009 UC) was named executive director of the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO), a leading industry advocate for infrastructure investment and labour management. Previously, Todorova headed up the government relations efforts at the RCCAO.

Certified accountant **MING BUN DAVID WONG (BCOM 1995 UC)** was named an executive director of the board for Goldbond Group Holdings Ltd. He joined the company as chief executive officer in 2019 and has more than 20 years of professional capital market, financial investment and asset management experience.

Actuary **ELAINE YEDLIN (BSc 2008 UC)** was appointed vice-president of corporate benefits for the Corporate Benefits Division of Johnston Shaw Inc, an insurance and financial services provider. Yedlin is an associate of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and the Society of Actuaries.



9 Book Cover Courtesy of Jennifer McKendry 10 Lorne Michaels 11 Carmer Rossiter 12 Jasmine Ayaree Ramessar 13 Piranavan Selvanandan 14 Paula Smellie 15 Michael Tees 16 Nadia Todorova 17 Liem Vu 18 Elaine Yedlin

UCAA CHAIR'S ADDRESS

FALL 2021

I AM GRATEFUL to serve the UC Alumni Association in the capacity of Chair this coming year. As I work with the UCAA executive committee to plan for the year ahead, I bring the wonderful influence of my two predecessors with whom I have had the pleasure of working: Ho K. Sung (BSc 1980 UC) and Erika Bailey (BA 1997 UC).

I begin with introspection and reflection. Looking at where I am today in my life, as an individual and as a community member, I marvel at the threads that weave us together through space and time. In our pursuit of fostering community, I highlight the connections and disconnections that we have set in motion over the course of our history as UC. The College operates on the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and volunteer on this land. In acknowledging this truth, we can do a better job at representing and celebrating the diversity of our community. While we are stronger united, we are more authentic when nuanced. The UCAA is committed to community building with open hearts, open minds, sincerity, and humility.

We are so excited to begin the year by picking up from last year's project of fostering community. You may recall the many conversations and collaborations in which the UCAA listened to what "UC alumni community" means to you. This year,



we are committed to building a long-term strategy that will act on these insights. With your continued engagement, we will set forth on a path centred around alumni voices. We will increase our reach through accessible engagement. While in-person events may not be in the cards for this year, our internet and phone lines are always open!

On behalf of the executive committee – Sharda Angl, Erika Bailey, Chris Girard, Julie Jo, and Florence Narine – we wish you a healthy and inspired year ahead. We look forward to representing UC alumni and working in the College's best interests.

Dayna Waltman (BA 2011 UC)
Chair, UCAA

Want to chat?

We are here for you and with you!

Send us a note at ucaa@utoronto.ca

NOTA**bene**

A collaboration between Associate Professor **ANTJE BUDDE** and Assistant Professor **JILL CARTER** at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies has been selected as one of the inaugural projects for the Critical Digital Humanities Initiative's Emerging Project Fund for their project, "Streaming Life: Storying the 94!" They envision the project as a collaborative, live-streamed, live-performed digital transmedia intervention provoked by the 94 Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

THE DIGITAL DRAMATURGY LAB_SQUARED OR DDL²,

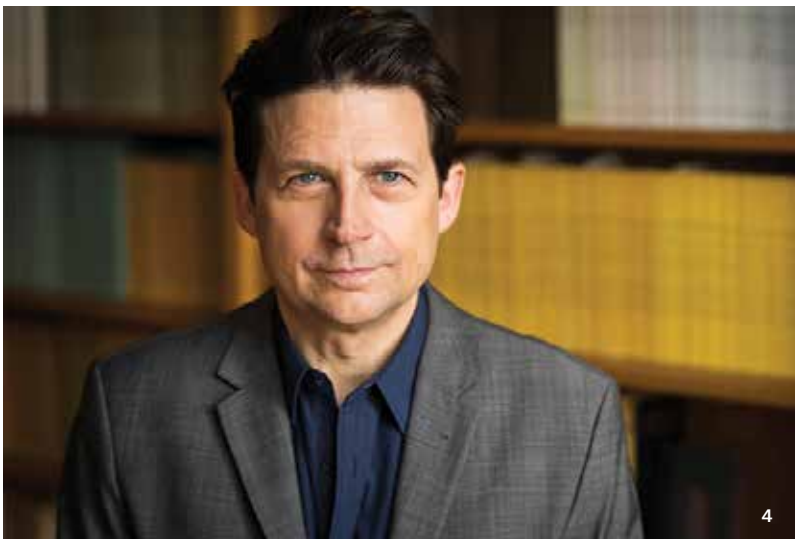
headed by Antje Budde, and the Interactive Media Lab were jointly successful with their application for XSeed funding (\$120,000 CDN) with their highly innovative project: "PLAYStrong – Promoting Student Resilience through Interactive Prototypes for Embodied Self-learning." The project aims at building interactive environments that help students in everyday stress situations in a competitive university context to assess the situation and explore alternative scenarios and game plans in a playful and embodied way.

Antje Budde Photo Credit: Vojin Vasovic





Professor **JOSEPH HEATH**, a UC faculty member who teaches in the Department of Philosophy, won the 2020 Donner Prize for the best book on public policy. *The Machinery of Government: Public Administration and the Liberal State* examines how much power rests in the hands of the public service and how bureaucracy is vital for creating public policy and delivering public services. The Donner Prize recognizes and rewards the best public policy thinking, writing and research by a Canadian and considers its impact.



SIMON LEWSEN, an instructor at the UC Writing Centre, has won a 2021 Digital Publishing Award from the National Media Arts Foundation, earning gold in the Best Feature Article (Long). His award-winning piece, "A Long-Term Tragedy," illustrated how the myriad and tragic COVID-19 deaths in seniors' homes resulted from decades of indifference and neglect, part of our shameful history in handling long-term care. The feature was published in *The Local*.



2 Streaming Life Jill Carter Photo by Antje Budde **3 Streaming Life Jill Carter and Trina Moyan** Photo by Antje Budde **4 Joseph Heath**
5 Simon Lewsen **6 Shawn Micallef**
7 Siobhan O'Flynn

SHAWN MICALLEF, an instructor for UC One's Engaging the City program, earned a 2021 Faculty of Arts & Science Superior Teaching Award for his work with the course Citizenship in the City. Micallef, who writes about urban issues for the *Toronto Star* and other publications, says, "I want the students to see how they can be involved with their city and understand how it works; We're in the centre of a municipal democracy that's messy and argumentative and it's a living thing that is happening in front of us."



Professor **SIOBHAN O'FLYNN** will continue to serve as director of the Canadian Studies Program at University College through June 30, 2023. O'Flynn will also serve as UC Experiential Learning and Online Teaching advisor for the 2021-2022 academic year. She is an accomplished university teacher and expert in digital technology and a champion of public humanities. Collaborative digital apps created in her courses have twice in recent years been honoured with the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award.



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Two paintings from the **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE COLLECTION** were recently on display at the SCHIRN in Frankfurt, Germany, a vibrant exhibition space. Ontario Hill Town by Lawren Harris and Evening Silhouette Georgian Bay by Arthur Lismer are on loan from the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, which houses the University College Collection. The Group of Seven paintings were a gift to University College in 1947-48 by H.S. Southam in memory of **GORDON H. SOUTHAM** (BA 1907 UC).

Professor **MICHAEL WIDENER** has been named director of the Health Studies Program at University College from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2026. Widener is an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Planning and holds the Canada Research Chair in Transportation and Health. Meanwhile, UC gives thanks to Professor **PAUL HAMEL**, who served as the program's interim director for the 2020-2021 academic year. UC is very appreciative of his excellent service, especially in the face of a pandemic.



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The Ontario Library Association (OLA) named the revitalized **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LIBRARY** as one of the three winners of its 2021 Ontario Library Association Architectural and Design Transformation Award. "The new elements of the library are considerably designed to draw on and respect their context in the fabric of the carefully restored existing building," said the jury in a unanimous vote. UC and the project's architects, Kohn, Shnier + ERA Architects in association received the award virtually July 14.

8 Ontario Hill Town by Lawren Harris
9 Evening Silhouette Georgian Bay by Arthur Lismer **10 Guests View Ontario Hill Town (R)** from UC Collection Photo by Frank Rumpenhorst **11 University College Library** **12 Michael Widener**

IN MEMORIAM

Notices of death published in this issue were received between March 1, 2021 and August 31, 2021. Date of death, last known residence, and name at graduation (if applicable) are noted where possible. Family and friends of deceased alumni can help by sending information to *address.update@utoronto.ca*.

1940s

Mrs. Dorothy K. (Brown) Beckel (BA 1947 UC) of North Vancouver, BC; July 16, 2021

Mrs. Alice E. (Cochrane) Cardy (BA 1946 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 27, 2021

Mrs. Patricia J. (Grant) Clark (BA 1945 UC) of Aurora, ON; July 20, 2021

The Rev. Dr. Charles W. Eddis (BCOM 1948 UC) of Westmount, QC; May 22, 2021

Professor Donald J. Forgie (BA 1949 UC) of Ottawa, ON; May 21, 2021

The Honourable Paul T. Hellyer P.C. (BA 1949 UC) of Toronto, ON; Aug. 8, 2021

Dr. Muriel (Libin) Kovitz (1948 UC) of Vancouver, BC; May 30, 2021

Mrs. Margaret I. Little (BA 1947 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 9, 2021

Miss Margaret MacKay (BA 1942 UC) of Toronto, ON; Aug. 21, 2021

Mrs. Enid M. (Ferrier) Raymond (BA 1949 UC) of Etobicoke, ON; Apr. 17, 2021

Mr. Terence G. Sheard (1947 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 30, 2021

Mrs. Joyce I. M. Warren (BA 1949 UC) of Iroquois Falls, ON; Apr. 11, 2021

Dr. Marvin Weintraub (BA 1947 UC) of Vancouver, BC; Apr. 2, 2021

Mrs. Shirley G. (Goodman) Wolfman (1949 UC) of Willowdale, ON; Aug. 18, 2021

1950s

Ms. Ellen L. (Martin) Bell (BA 1956 UC) of Denman Island, BC; June 17, 2021

Mrs. L E. Bernstein (BA 1952 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 10, 2021

Mrs. Joanna H. (Galkin) Bewley (BA 1953 UC) of Willowdale, ON; Aug. 11, 2021

Mrs. Patricia J. (Bagwell) Catalano (BA 1954 UC) of Toronto, ON; June 8, 2021

The Honourable William G. Davis P.C., C.C., O.Ont., Q.C. (BA 1951 UC) of Brampton, ON; Aug. 8, 2021

Mrs. M. E. (Wood) Duff (BA 1950 UC) of North York, ON; June 3, 2021

Dr. Bruce Earhard (BA 1959 UC) of Halifax, NS; Apr. 23, 2021

Mr. Marvin Givertz (BCOM 1955 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 8, 2021

The Rev. J. P. Hanna (BA 1951 UC) of East York, ON; Mar. 16, 2021

Mrs. Ethel S. Harris (1951 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 1, 2021

Mrs. Zoe I. Heal (BA 1956 UC) of Markham, ON; Apr. 4, 2021

Mr. Irving Kwart (1952 UC) of Thornhill, ON; Mar. 10, 2021

Dr. John C. L. Lee (BA 1957 UC) of El Dorado Hills, CA; May 5, 2021

Mrs. Joyce I. (Randall) Lepage (1950 UC) of Etobicoke, ON; Aug. 23, 2021

Mr. Charles A. Logue (BA 1957 UC) of North York, ON; Mar. 3, 2021

Miss Nancy E. A. Main (BA 1956 UC) of North York, ON; Apr. 28, 2021

Miss Kulli Milles (1958 UC) of Toronto, ON; July 1, 2021

Mrs. Barbara R. Milligan (BA 1951 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 29, 2021

The Rev. James B. Milne (BA 1954 UC) of Calgary, AB; Apr. 20, 2021

Mr. William C. Rankin (BCOM 1952 UC) of Guelph, ON; Mar. 6, 2021

Dr. Marjorie L. Reynolds (BA 1953 UC) of Knoxville, TX; May 19, 2021

Dr. Carl R. Riehm (BA 1958 UC) of Dundas, ON; Mar. 16, 2021

Mr. Hartley Robins (BA 1952 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 31, 2021

Mrs. Evelyn M. Tomlinson (BA 1952 UC) of Toronto, ON; July 11, 2021

Mr. Edward F. Wenger (BCOM 1950 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 12, 2021

Mr. George Yerich (1953 UC) of Niagara Falls, ON; June 20, 2021

Mr. A. G. Yorke (BA 1950 UC) of Toronto, ON; June 7, 2021

1960s

Mr. John C. Banks (BA 1962 UC) of Stratford, ON; July 12, 2021

Mr. Victor J. Bunker (1962 UC) of Edmonton, AB; May 26, 2021

Mr. John Joseph Collins (BA 1966 UC) of Tehkummah, ON; Aug. 29, 2020

Mrs. Enid F. D'Oyley (BA 1961 UC) of Vancouver, BC; Apr. 1, 2021

Mr. Philip M. Epstein (BA 1964 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 4, 2021

Miss Fern F. Jackson (BA 1963 UC) of Toronto, ON; June 18, 2021

Mrs. Elizabeth R. (Barnes) Kiddle (BA 1964 UC) of Milton, ON; July 27, 2021

Mr. Mitro Makarchuk (1960 UC) of Innisfil, ON; July 24, 2021

Ms. Wanda H. Matuszkiewicz (BA 1962 UC) of Toronto, ON; June 20, 2021

Ms. Glenda J. Mercer (BA 1963 UC) of Unionville, ON; July 26, 2021

Mr. George K. Morton (BA 1967 UC) of in Stanford Bridge, UK; Aug. 26, 2021

Professor Julia (Maniates) Reibetanz (BA 1966 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 4, 2021

Mrs. Patricia A. (Stollard) Sindholt (BA 1969 UC) of Cranbrook, BC; Mar. 19, 2021

Mrs. Donna H. (Cooper) Spiegel (BA 1965 UC) of Sudbury, ON; Aug. 1, 2021

Mr. Stanley B. Stein (BCOM 1966 UC) of Toronto, ON; Aug. 20, 2021

1970s

Mr. Craig R. Carter (BSC 1974 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 4, 2021

Mr. Richard L. Prial (BA 1976 UC) of Etobicoke, ON; May 10, 2021

Mrs. Ellen Rosemond (BA 1970 UC) of Toronto, ON; July 5, 2021

University College can be designated as a beneficiary in your will. If you wish to designate your bequest to a specific program or project (UC Annual Fund, scholarships and financial aid for a UC student, area of greatest need, etc.), please contact

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Director of Advancement,
at (416) 978-7482
or naomi.handley@utoronto.ca

