



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

UC students thank you



As we begin to emerge from the global pandemic, it's nothing short of awe-inspiring to look back on how UC has weathered the storm of the past two and a half years. This is particularly true for the students featured in these pages, all of whom have persevered through circumstances that could not have been foreseen.

Students have navigated their studies between in-person and online learning, been physically isolated from peers and professors, and missed out on other in-person opportunities such as conferences and internships. Despite these challenges, our students have persevered and continued to thrive. It is a testament to both their resilience and the supportive environment at UC that has been made possible by donors like you. For all that you have done to support students and strengthen the fabric of UC during these difficult times, I cannot express my gratitude strongly enough.

Perhaps more apparent than any other time in the past, the future is filled with complex problems that require complex solutions. From growing rates of wealth inequity and social welfare needs, to combatting environmental disasters and pandemics, we're facing issues that will require expertise from the arts, sciences, and everything in between. As has always been the case, I'm confident that many former UC students will sit at the tables where solutions are devised, establishing themselves as leaders in a wide range of fields.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of these future leaders here. Our donor report is an annual highlight for our college, as it provides tangible evidence of the difference your support makes. For all that you have done to help UC maintain its close-knit and caring community during particularly challenging times, a sincere and heart-felt thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Markus Stock'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Markus' and last name 'Stock' clearly distinguishable.

Markus Stock, UC Principal

During the 2021-2022 academic year, University College donor-funded scholarships and awards contributed to:

Providing

\$1.45
million

in financial support, and

Supported

1,005
unique students

With the average UC student recipient receiving almost

\$1,500
in funding

he/him

MATT ASHCROFT



BONTE MINNEMA AWARD HONOURING SEXUAL DIVERSITY ADVOCACY

YEAR OF STUDY

3rd Year

PROGRAM

Majoring in Equity Studies and Sexual Diversity
Studies

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CLASS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN?

My favorite class was Sexuality and the Law taught by Brenda Cossman. The class was able to make me think about sexuality within the 2SLGBTIQ+ community and how we need to combat the laws to make it more equitable for us. It helped me with my advocacy, and it is one of the classes that will follow me for the rest of my life. Thank you, Brenda.



WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

"Speak your truth, even when it shakes your voice."
- Chaim Levin

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU?

Even though I make public statements about my experiences with conversion therapy, I still struggle with coming out. I can't wait to live in a day where the 2SLGBTIQ+ community doesn't have to come out, or it is safer for us to do so.

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

This award is particularly special to me because I worked tirelessly on bill C4 - An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy). I knew that the 2SLGBTIQ+ community was under threat, and I wanted to protect whomever I could because I knew the harms from a first-hand experience. This award encourages me to keep going, even when it is difficult.

DERDRE KELLY-ADAMS

L. J. FUKAKUSA SCHOLARSHIP IN HEALTH STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

YEAR OF STUDY
Class of 2022

PROGRAM
Anthropology & Health Studies

EXTRACURRICULARS

I was part of the editorial team of *Health Perspectives*, the undergraduate Health Studies academic journal, for two years, first as a peer reviewer and then as a senior editor. I also participated in U of T's Community Action Groups program, which brings students together to address community-identified challenges across Toronto.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CLASS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN?

HST209: Introduction to Health: Determinants of Health & Health Care is a course that fundamentally transformed the way I conceptualized health. It teaches students to look beyond biomedical factors and individual lifestyle choices when considering health outcomes, and instead, encourages them to identify upstream institutional forces that play out in public policy and through systemic practices, perpetuating health inequities.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

To realize your full potential, do not set your sights on what is deemed to be realistic or practical, because those things have been done before. Instead, set your sights on what you believe should be possible and undertake that which has not yet been done.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU?

I entered university with no real sense of direction, and it took me several years to find an area of study that really spoke to me. It wasn't until that point that I felt a true sense of purpose and was inspired to excel.

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

The scholarship I received from University College helped re-affirm to me that the path I have chosen is the one I should be on. During a particularly difficult past couple of years, this award provided a me with a sense of relief, security, and fulfilment, sparking a renewed determination to continue to reach new heights as a student.

UC EXPERIENCE

University College, and particularly the Health Studies program within UC, has helped me realize the person who I aspire to be and has supported me wholeheartedly as I work towards this. I remember stepping into University College for the first time and feeling awe-struck, but also uncertain and somewhat adrift. Over time, I have grown to cherish this special place and have felt a deep appreciation for everything it has offered me as a student. Now, each time I find myself at University College, I feel a sense of gratitude and such genuine excitement for what is yet to come. Looking back, I am grateful to have been introduced to a community that welcomed me, recognized my potential, and provided me with the tools to carry out my best possible work. During my time at



University College, I have been so lucky to have met some truly remarkable and inspirational professors who were immersed in important work that really resonated with me. There were several people who made lasting impressions on me over the years, with whom I am still in touch today. I have never doubted that as I move forward, they will continue to be there to offer their guidance and expertise. For so many of us, University College is a home and a stable system of support. I am so grateful to have been embraced and encouraged by University College. With the support I have received, I aspire to continue to be involved in impactful work and will remember University College as a place that recognized me and believed in my capabilities as a student.

FRANCESCA
MONTÉ

PEGGY GALE WHITNEY HALL RESIDENCE SCHOLARSHIP

YEAR OF STUDY

3rd Year

PROGRAM

Rotman Commerce, specializing in
Accounting with minor in Economics

EXTRACURRICULARS

Varsity Blues Women's Hockey Team

FAVOURITE SPOT AT UC

My favourite spot at UC would be the soccer fields just behind the Whitney Hall residence. In my first year, I joined a lot of the outdoor Hart House workouts on the field and would occasionally go for a run there. There is almost always a pickup soccer game going on (when other sports teams aren't practicing) that are a lot of fun to join and a great way to meet new people.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CLASS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN?

My favourite class thus far has been ECO220: Introduction to Data Analysis and Applied Econometrics. I truly enjoyed learning statistics and getting an introduction to data analysis.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

The libraries are your best friend when it comes to succeeding at the U of T. They are an amazing place to catch up on regular schoolwork and study for exams away from any distractions.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU?

Although this is only really a surprise because I have yet to tell many people, my current goal is to go to law school after completing my undergraduate degree. While becoming a lawyer has been a longstanding ambition of mine, it became especially clear to me that this is a path I want to follow, having been extremely interested in my introductory law course this past year.

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

In my first year, with school being completely virtual, the scholarships I received helped me to be able to purchase technology that was necessary to my success in the online environment. In this past year, scholarships I received ensured that I didn't need to work during the school year to help pay for rent/other living expenses. Without having received this financial support, I would have potentially needed to work during the school year, which would have prevented me from participating on the Varsity Women's Hockey Team. The financial support allows me to focus on my studies, as well as the sport that I

love. I am extremely grateful to all the donors that help support us students financially as we strive to achieve the best education possible.

UC EXPERIENCE

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I was unable to spend much time living at University College. I moved home about one month into my first school year to continue with the online learning. However, during my short time at UC I met some lovely students with whom I will always stop and chat, even today, when I see them around campus. UC does an excellent job of fostering a community feeling within every member of the college. It is a testament to the work they put into ensuring students have the opportunity to meet each other and form lasting friendships that even in the middle of a pandemic that saw severe restrictions on close personal contact, I was still given ample opportunity to make friends.

The college ran numerous events designed to help students meet each other, from the Dons arranging for their groups to go to breakfast together, to movie nights with restricted capacity, and Zoom movie nights when that wasn't possible. They truly did the most to ensure that students were able to have as much connection with each other as possible. In a time when people were isolated from one another, and subsequently struggling with unprecedented levels of anxiety and depression due to the pandemic, it was so important to me and every other student that UC continued to foster this culture of community. Although I ended up living at home for the school year, just the knowledge that I had so many resources made available to me by the College was extremely comforting.



DAMIAN SINGH



LORNE TEPPERMAN PRIZE

YEAR OF STUDY

Class of 2022

PROGRAM

Political Science and Philosophy

EXTRACURRICULARS

I was involved with several different student organizations during my time at University College. In my second year, I served as the University College representative on the board of directors for the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) and sat as a representative on the University College Literary and Athletic Society (UC Lit) council. I went on to serve as vice-president of the UC Lit and then vice-president, operations of the UTSU. After my time at the UTSU came to an end, I served as the chair and speaker of both the UC Lit's board of directors and the University College Residence Council's general council. I also served as a student representative on a number of university administrative bodies, including on the University Affairs Board of Governing Council, the Council of Student Services, the University of Toronto Libraries student advisory committee and the University of Toronto IT student advisory committee.

FAVOURITE SPOT AT UC

The "Orange Room" in the Commuter Student Centre was my home on campus for many, many years. Some of my closest friends are folks I met there.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CLASS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN?

My favourite class was definitely PHL342: Minds and Machines with James John who teaches in both the Department of Philosophy and in University College's Cognitive Science Program.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

Make use of the University's and College's wide range of resources and services.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU?

I've never participated in any winter sports! I've never been skiing, snowboarding, ice skating or anything of the sort, despite being born in Canada and living here my whole life.

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

I simply would not have been able to attend the University of Toronto or remain in my studies without the financial assistance of the awards and scholarships that I received. While the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) provided me considerable financial support, the awards and scholarships I received were crucial in ensuring I was able to afford my studies. Moreover, scholarships – particularly those awarded based on non-academic achievements – help to incentivize and make possible the sorts of activities that allow university students to grow into well-rounded graduates. For example, the Lorne Tepperman Prize in Public Writing encourages students to engage in a form of public, democratic discourse that offers a critical analysis of real-world problems. This opportunity is rarely offered in the traditional university education, which focuses instead on scholarly works that are rarely meant to be shared.

UC EXPERIENCE

My time at University College was fundamental in shaping the person I am today. As a first-generation Canadian and the first in my family to attend university, it was often very difficult to shake the anxieties and worries that came with being a university student. In my first year, I was quickly able to find a home at University College and became integrated into the commuter community here. Many of the most

important people in my life are folks I met during my time in this community. Without this network of friends and peers, I would never have been able to finish my undergraduate studies. The friends I made in this community continue to play an important role in shaping me and my values. The time I spent involved in extracurricular activities also provided me with an understanding of real-world problems and provided me the skills needed to solve these problems. I developed a broader understanding of the values I hold and how these values can and should shape the decisions I make about myself and my future.

Moreover, the resources and services offered at University College – particularly the Academic Advising & Registrar's Office and Accessibility Services – were crucial supports when I was dealing with a number of severe medical issues as a student. Without these supports, it is unlikely that I would have ever completed my degree. My most memorable experience from my studies is a memory of sitting in the Registrar's Office and having a sudden realization that the folks working in the office had genuine and deep care for me and my wellbeing, beyond just how I was doing in school. I think of this moment often as it reminds me that even in large institutions where it is easy to forget about the individual, there are real people offering real support who really do care about the work that they are doing. It is clear that both the University of Toronto and University College – as well as the individuals who make up these institutions – genuinely care about the wellbeing and success of their students, both in their academic lives and in their personal lives.

she/her

TEAGAN SMITH

HARRIET E.C. TUNMER SCHOLARSHIP

YEAR OF STUDY
4th Year

PROGRAM

Double major in Animal Physiology through the Department of Cell and Systems Biology and in Biodiversity and Conservation Biology through the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

EXTRACURRICULARS

I have participated in executive roles in the UC Lit council, UC intramurals, and clubs of personal interest – like UofT's Vegetarian and Vegan Association (Veg Club). Most recently I had the opportunity to take on a supporting role in a Hart House play.

FAVOURITE SPOT AT UC

The Junior Common Room is by far my favourite spot on UC's campus!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CLASS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN?

My favourite class I've taken at U of T and UC was the first-year seminar course, SMC198H1: How to Study Video Games, taught by Professor Felan Parker.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

Always ask questions! Ask for what you want and need or about what you do not understand. Self-advocacy and learning go hand-in-hand.



SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

Scholarships have been the backbone of my financial security while facing the rapidly growing costs to live in Toronto and attend U of T. I come from a working-class background and I am the first generation within my family to attend post-secondary school. As a student with permanent disability with no additional financial support from family, without the scholarships I have received, I would have had to delay progress to my degree. I am and forever will be so grateful that I have the opportunity to focus on my education during this critical point in my life. I have faith these scholarships have supported my ability to complete my degree at a full-time capacity and successfully propel me into my career.

UC EXPERIENCE

University College has welcomed me with open arms and warm hearts in a time of my life where I felt at a loss for a community to call my own. These years at UC have provided a community for me and the resources I need to succeed in undergrad. From completing a Transitional Year Programme (TYP) that allowed me to pursue a post-secondary education after illness prevented me from completing high school to now coming to my final year of undergrad in the life sciences, I am proud of my progress both academically and personally. I credit this growth in part to the support I have received from UC: scholarships, extracurriculars, professional networking, and friendships. I will forever be fond of the connections and memories created during my time at UC.

JESSICA
VUKATHERINE BALLANTINE COUTTS
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

YEAR OF STUDY

2nd Year

PROGRAM

Double major in Immunology and Human Biology

EXTRACURRICULARS

I was a former competitive swimmer pre-pandemic, and I participated on the UC dodgeball and water polo intramurals teams during my first year at U of T. I am a fashion model, and I was Miss Teen Calgary for 2021. I also volunteered a great deal as an emotional support hotline volunteer, as well as with various other ECSEN charity volunteer events. In this first year of undergrad, I was the vice-president of my house council (Langley House).

FAVOURITE SPOT AT UC

Our fifth-floor common room has been a favorite spot for me throughout the year to take a break from studying and hang out with friends. The couches are particularly comfortable!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CLASS THAT YOU'VE TAKEN?

My favorite class I've taken so far was BIO120: Adaptation and Biodiversity.

WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

It is just as important not to underestimate yourself as it is not to overestimate yourself. You won't know if you have what it takes to rise to the occasion unless you put yourself in positions that challenge you. Don't be afraid to fail and learn from it.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU?

For all that I love having people around, I'm really a bit of an introvert at heart. I definitely consider a good book as good company, and I'll happily stay up to 4 or 5 a.m. binge-reading ... as long as I don't have a 9 a.m. calculus class to look forward to!

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

I'm an out-of-province student from Alberta, so travel expenses have been a concern for me and my family. I'm very grateful to have received the various U of T scholarships that I have, as they help relieve a great deal of the financial burden of my studies, and they allow me to fly back to see my loved ones over winter break. Furthermore, they serve not only as financial support, but as moral support, too, encouraging me to continue working hard and reaffirming my confidence in myself as a student.



UC EXPERIENCE

The community I found at University College was essential to helping me establish a sense of belonging, in Toronto and at university in general. First year of university can be a daunting transition for anyone, but I felt the challenge all the more keenly for attending school half a country away from home. Toronto isn't a city in which I had any friends or family when I first moved into residence in the Fall of 2021, but by the end of the year, the network of friends and

community I found at University College made it truly feel a bit like home. I was amazed by the sheer amount of opportunities UC provided for students to engage with their classmates, pursue their interests and develop their leadership skills alongside their education.

Whether it was something as simple as walking into the common room to find a few friends to grab bubble tea with, or something as complex as helping to organize house-wide or residence-wide events, UC allowed me to develop a sense of connection with the people around me. Their experiences as part of this College mattered to me, and in turn, they cared about my experience as well. In a campus of thousands, this was not something I had been expecting from my university experience. Nonetheless, I'm so grateful I was able to find this sense of community.

The UC residences' locations at the heart of campus truly allowed me to immerse myself in the U of T culture. It feels like everything you could need is within walking distance, from the convenient Café Reznikoff located just downstairs to the assortment of restaurants and shops along Bloor and Spadina. I'm not ashamed to admit that living within a block of Robarts saved my life for some of those last-minute assignments I forgot to print out. Overall, being a part of University College was essential in making my first year at the University of Toronto an enriching and fulfilling experience.

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The donors listed below made leadership contributions to University College between May 1, 2021 and April 30, 2022

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Anonymous (3)
Robert Boeckner

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University College gratefully acknowledges bequests received from the estates of the following individuals between May 1, 2021 and April 30, 2022.

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a long way.**

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