During the 2022-2023 academic year, University College donor-funded scholarships and awards contributed to:

Providing

$1.99 million
in financial support, and

Supported over
1,200
unique students

With the average value of each individual award being

$1,300
Why the University of Toronto? I came to U of T from British Columbia because I believed the institution offered top-notch professors, programs, and experiences I wouldn’t be able to find outside of Toronto. With my experience here thus far, I feel that my beliefs have been affirmed.  

**Proudest Accomplishment** My proudest accomplishment is reviving the UC Residence Council (UCRC), especially after the challenges the council faced during COVID-19. I am in the process of enacting several important initiatives, such as the house TV initiative, the new UCRC house cup system (with an annual trophy and a planned awards display case in the residence), a re-designed UCRC committee system, and hopefully, inspiring new students to be excited about leadership opportunities and involvement. These and other things have been essential in re-establishing both the foundation and identity of the UCRC, and I have high hopes for its continued presence and impact within the residences.

**Favourite Spot at UC** My favourite spot at UC is the Junior Common Room. It has a lovely atmosphere for studying, but it is also carefree in the sense that if you wish to relax on the couches, you can do so freely.

**Favourite Class** My favourite class is LCT304H1: Praxis and Performance. It really challenged me to question beliefs I held that I assumed to be normal when, in fact, they were actually historical occurrences that had been normalized in my life.

**Favourite UC Memory** I planned and organized a massive open mic in the residences to present the first winner of the UCRC house cup. I was desperate for people to come and perform, and I recruited outside Fung for a week to get people to sign up, bribing them with free pizza at the event. I even brought my ukulele to attract more people. The event was a resounding success, with all sorts of amazing performances, and it was the most fun I’ve had at UC.

**Best Advice** I was once told by a mentor that one of the most difficult parts of being president of a student council is building community. Though her words were brief, her actions were the most impactful advice I had ever received. Seeing her actively reach out to members of her council, build relations with people in the college, and create a sense of family was moving, especially during the moments when I was new to the council. It inspired my perspective on my own council and has been the catalyst for several initiatives within the UCRC that aim at building a closer, more welcoming community.

**How Awards and/or Scholarships Supported Me Through My University Journey** I am deeply grateful for the help that scholarships provided to me, both as a student living off student loans, and as a person navigating the waters of university life. The choice to come to Toronto was full of risk. I moved far away from my parents in British Columbia, had to take on substantial student loans, and threw myself into an unknown environment with high hopes. When I came here, I made the choice to become the president of the UCRC because I had big ambitions to improve the student experience in residence. I did this knowing there was no monetary benefit. My time as president has been incredibly fulfilling and life-changing for me, and I hope for the residents as well. I pay for school and housing each year with no substantial income, so every dollar becomes that much more impactful. There have been times when I’ve had issues with student loans and struggles with personal finances, and scholarships have been fundamental in giving me breathing space to navigate these challenges on top of other responsibilities. I love being a student at UC, and every scholarship has allowed me to continue that journey, opening the door for me to make greater contributions to the community through leadership.

**What UC Means to Me** In September of 2022, I was voted in as the new president of the UCRC via the by-election. Although I would never have admitted it then, I was terrified. I don’t think I understood how much this would impact my experience at UC and U of T. The first few weeks of my presidency were a blur; I held several meetings regarding the goals of the council and the steps we needed to take to establish ourselves. Feeling everyone’s eager eyes on me was daunting at times, and I lacked the guidance of the previous president to feel confident in my role. There was, however, one thing that I thought was necessary: re-establishing the foundations of the UCRC that were lost over the COVID-19 years. We were in a uniquely challenging position because our residence life coordinator (RLC), the main support for the UCRC, had recently stepped into her position. In essence, we were all working together to rediscover what the UCRC had been before our term. I want to thank the hard work and dedication of Gillan, our RLC, who gave me the resources and support to navigate my role as president. From the 2019-20 Redbook to the constitution, he also provided me with documents I could fall back on when I was unsure of what to do. Since then, I have had countless fruitful experiences. I found a community in the UCRC, the UC Literary and Athletic Society, and the residences. I witnessed and was a part of several initiatives that I hope changed the outlook on the residences, through the enriched experiences of the students. I was told that it was important to find your niche when applying to U of T, and I believe that I truly found a place I can call home.
Why the University of Toronto? After moving to a small town in southern Ontario, my aspiration to return to the vibrant city of Toronto led to my decision to choose U of T. The University of Toronto’s assurance of a world-class education truly captivated my interest. Specifically, I was drawn to the exceptional breadth and depth of opportunities and learning experiences that I would gain, and the flexibility to take a variety of courses, which I believe is important to broaden my horizons and diversify my skills. Moreover, U of T’s commitment to producing cutting-edge research by world-class faculty further solidified my decision. Having the opportunity to work on such projects with diverse teams and contribute to different fields was a compelling reason to choose the University of Toronto. Finally, the university’s commitment to a comprehensive education aligned with my ambitions and goals to broaden my horizons and enhance my academic journey.

Favourite Spot at UC The Commuter Student Centre, located at the heart of the St. George campus, became my second home and my go-to place to hang out with friends.

Favourite Class PSY405: Individual Projects. My project was titled “Bicultural Blendedness and its Relatedness to Academic Performance, Motivation, Mental Health, and Parenting Style.” This research project holds personal significance, as it was the experimenter collecting data from PSY100 participants. It was my favourite course, as it encapsulated all the courses I took in my undergraduate journey. I applied the skills and knowledge I learned in my psychology and education classes to work on this empirical study. Moreover, this course furthered my professional development by enhancing my understanding of the research process, creating a study, conducting effective literature reviews, statistical analysis, utilizing tools like RStudio, public speaking, and dissemination of findings in a cumulative scholarly paper. In addition, one of the most rewarding aspects of this course was the chance to create a research poster about my findings and present it at a conference in California. Additionally, I had the opportunity to have my manuscript published in a journal. I believe this course had several learning curves and challenges, but it was undeniably fulfilling. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to take such an all-encompassing class to finish my undergraduate studies.

Best Advice Work hard in silence, let success be your noise.

How Awards and/or Scholarships Supported Me Through My University Journey Awards such as the Bing and Jane Lee Leadership Award have immensely supported my university journey. This award covered my fourth-year tuition fees, as it was the experimenter collecting data from PSY100 participants. It was my favourite course, as it encapsulated all the courses I took in my undergraduate journey. I applied the skills and knowledge I learned in my psychology and education classes to work on this empirical study. Moreover, this course furthered my professional development by enhancing my understanding of the research process, creating a study, conducting effective literature reviews, statistical analysis, utilizing tools like RStudio, public speaking, and dissemination of findings in a cumulative scholarly paper. In addition, one of the most rewarding aspects of this course was the chance to create a research poster about my findings and present it at a conference in California. Additionally, I had the opportunity to have my manuscript published in a journal. I believe this course had several learning curves and challenges, but it was undeniably fulfilling. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to take such an all-encompassing class to finish my undergraduate studies.

my personal growth into a more well-rounded person. This recognition has supported a culture of excellence that I continue to strive for in my undergraduate journey and beyond.

What UC Means to Me My time at UC was an enriching experience, as it fostered a supportive community that left a positive impact on my academic and personal journey. Starting with orientation in my first year, UC created a supportive community where I was able to bond and grow with different people, many of whom I am still friends with today. Seeing those leaders create a supportive and inclusive environment compelled me to make a positive impact during my time at UC. This led me to embark on a path of involvement as a mentor and wellness ambassador, aligning myself with like-minded individuals who share the same passion. As a mentor, I ensured incoming first-year students had the academic and social tools needed to thrive at UC and U of T. This experience was fulfilling in that I could support a diverse group of students. Moreover, as a wellness ambassador for UC, I planned wellness events and initiatives for the UC student population. This opportunity was memorable, as I could see the visible impact of our efforts. These experiences reinforced my commitment to foster well-being within UC, but also resulted in the formation of lifelong friendships with my fellow wellness ambassadors. Through my academic journey at UC I grew personally, but I was also able to contribute to the growth of other students’ well-being and success. My experience at UC has shaped me into who I am today, and I will continue to be a positive leader going forward.

Extracurriculars • Mentee/mentor for the Medical Sciences Student Union, Psychology Students’ Association, and UC • Wellness ambassador • Co-founder and co-president of the University of Toronto BTS ARMY Club • Marketing assistant for the U of T Hatchery team • Participant in cutting-edge research projects at laboratories on campus, looking at diverse topics such as university leave policies in the context of mental health challenges, stigma transfer, and the relationship between estrogens and cognition • Volunteer as a math and English tutor supporting newcomer and vulnerable students • Volunteer as an administrative assistant at a counselling centre in Toronto

Something people would find surprising about me is my personal growth into a more well-rounded person. This recognition has supported a culture of excellence that I continue to strive for in my undergraduate journey and beyond.

What UC Means to Me My time at UC was an enriching experience, as it fostered a supportive community that left a positive impact on my academic and personal journey. Starting with orientation in my first year, UC created a supportive community where I was able to bond and grow with different people, many of whom I am still friends with today. Seeing those leaders create a supportive and inclusive environment compelled me to make a positive impact during my time at UC. This led me to embark on a path of involvement as a mentor and wellness ambassador, aligning myself with like-minded individuals who share the same passion. As a mentor, I ensured incoming first-year students had the academic and social tools needed to thrive at UC and U of T. This experience was fulfilling in that I could support a diverse group of students. Moreover, as a wellness ambassador for UC, I planned wellness events and initiatives for the UC student population. This opportunity was memorable, as I could see the visible impact of our efforts. These experiences reinforced my commitment to foster well-being within UC, but also resulted in the formation of lifelong friendships with my fellow wellness ambassadors. Through my academic journey at UC I grew personally, but I was also able to contribute to the growth of other students’ well-being and success. My experience at UC has shaped me into who I am today, and I will continue to be a positive leader going forward.
Why the University of Toronto? I chose U of T because it was a prestigious school, and I knew I would be surrounded by students who were also motivated to learn and grow in their respective interests. I also chose U of T because it was in Toronto, a city where I knew I would be able to expand my horizons.

Favourite Spot at UC Either the Junior Common Room, because it’s a great hangout and I’ve gone to a few great events there, or Whitney Hall, because I had a bunch of fun goofing around there with my friends in first year.

Favourite Class Dr. Trimble’s women and gender studies class about pop culture, which ended up being about a lot more than pop culture. It gave students a new critical lens to trace cultural productions back to their core values and assumptions.

Favourite UC Memory Winning the division 1 basketball intramurals in 2022 and being named the MVP of the team. All of the MVPs and team captains then got to attend a fancy, catered event in the distillery district, which was an awesome time.

Best Advice When I was in second year, I had what felt like ground-shattering revelations about the world we’re in, and I had so many ideas about how I needed to be a part of the change I wanted to see. I was contemplating a degree change and trying to determine what the best academic route would be to effect change. I had an after-lecture conversation with Prof. Caron, my sociology teacher at the time, on his way to his office. I told him about how I was feeling and what I was contemplating. He told me it ultimately doesn’t matter what you choose right now (law school, the academy, community work, etc.), what matters is the passion that you have for your work, for your dream. This advice has served me very well and helped me move forward despite not having all the answers and helped me listen to myself and adjust throughout the years.

How Awards and/or Scholarships Supported Me Through My University Journey Awards and scholarships helped me a lot during my time at U of T. Throughout high school and during my degree, I worked to be able to live in this expensive city. In my fourth year, my apartment burned down in one of Toronto’s biggest house fires of 2021. I reached out to UC to see if they could support me with emergency funding, since I lost many of my belongings and needed financial support to get back on track, buy a computer, and finish my studies. The college generously supported me, which removed a lot of stress and allowed me to finish my degree without having to go into a ton of debt. Because of the financial support from UC, I’m in a much better position to advance my career and personal dreams now that I’m out of school, since I’m not tied to a load of debt.

What UC Means to Me In the Junior Common Room in early 2019, a collaborative event was held by the Equity Studies Student Union, the African Studies Course Union, and the Caribbean Studies Students’ Union, where they shared the work they do on campus. After the information session, members of the groups shared poetry and songs in an open mic. The room was decorated so well, and the energy was so generous and hopeful, that it made for a very special evening. I really value that night and some of the folks I met then. It was inspiring to see the power of students organizing and creating spaces to work, celebrate, create, and so much more. In my 6 short years at the university, I’ve seen the social atmosphere change a lot, especially with more online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were isolated and not coming to school with the necessary social skills. I think it’s really important to continue making space available where students can build community.
THANK YOU

The donors listed below made leadership contributions to University College between May 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023.

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