

UC

University College
Magazine

Spring 2025
Vol. 22, No. 2

GUIDE

THE GIVING BACK ISSUE.

PAY IT FORWARD

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HELP

MENTOR

GIVE

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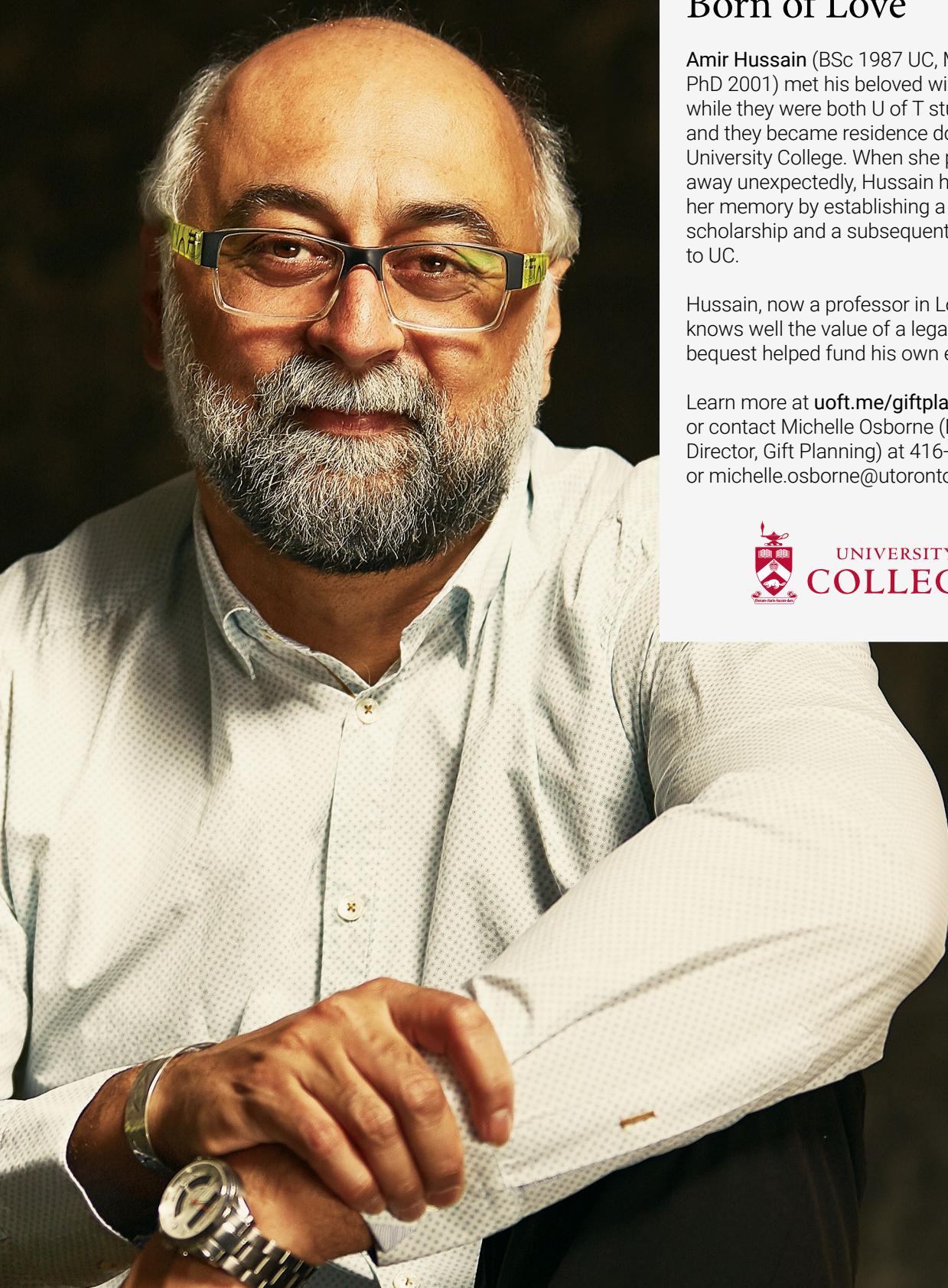


A Legacy Born of Love

Amir Hussain (BSc 1987 UC, MA 1989, PhD 2001) met his beloved wife Shannon while they were both U of T students, and they became residence dons at University College. When she passed away unexpectedly, Hussain honoured her memory by establishing a U of T scholarship and a subsequent bequest to UC.

Hussain, now a professor in Los Angeles, knows well the value of a legacy gift: a bequest helped fund his own education.

Learn more at uoft.me/giftplanning or contact Michelle Osborne (Executive Director, Gift Planning) at 416-978-3811 or michelle.osborne@utoronto.ca.





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Photo courtesy of Nick Iwanyshyn

A Message From the Principal

The theme of this issue of *UC Magazine* is ‘giving back’, a value common among University College students and alumni throughout the decades.

This College creates lifelong standards of behaviour. UC’s founding principles lay the groundwork for curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and a sense of civic duty.

As I noted in speaking to our Alumni of Influence awardees earlier this year, “collectively, in every generation, UC graduates have made contributions to virtually every cause and every enterprise there is. But for all of them, their journeys began here as undergraduates at UC.”

These contributions may be made in the course of a career — think of the brilliant scientist whose research forms the basis for a new vaccine or cure for a disease — or outside of working hours, such as those who volunteer in community kitchens.

Many of you also give back to University College in innumerable ways: through volunteer hours, by establishing bursaries, by mentoring students, or by leaving a gift to UC in your will. Each of these contributions benefits the College, but it also uplifts our spirits, because it indicates that you feel a strong connection to UC and demonstrates that we’ve succeeded in instilling the value of community.

Wherever and in whatever way you focus your passion, we applaud you when you look beyond yourselves and offer a caring hand to others. In these pages, you will find stories about some of your fellow UC graduates and others who have made the time and effort to give back, whether to UC or the larger community.

You’ll learn about artist Vivek Shraya, undertaking a residency at the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies; meet young alumna Uma Kulkar, a consultant to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; connect with Deborah Tam, a retiree who spends two days each week throughout the year preparing for the annual UC Book Sale; and get to know many other dedicated individuals. And, there are many more of you out there who are making your own unique contributions.

In these uncertain times, your steadfast willingness to make a difference in the lives of others is more valuable and important than ever.

With gratitude,



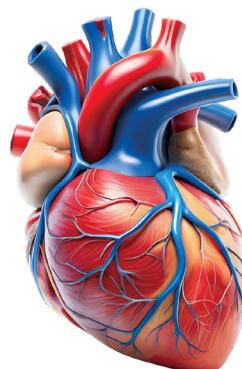
Professor Sali A. Tagliamonte
Acting Principal, University College

“Wherever and in whatever way you focus your passion, we applaud you when you look beyond yourselves and offer a caring hand to others.”

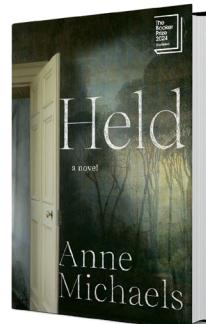
Noteworthy Alumni



2.



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1.



3.



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1. A Mighty Pen

Internationally renowned novelist and poet **Anne Michaels (BA 1980 UC)** won the 2024 Giller Prize, Canada's richest fiction prize, for her novel *Held*. The novel was also shortlisted for Britain's prestigious Booker Prize. Her books have been translated into more than 45 languages.

2. Enter Laughing

Executive producer **Lorne Michaels (BA 1966 UC, Hon. LLD 2002)** celebrated 50 years of *Saturday Night Live* at a star-studded weekend in February 2025. Michaels got his start writing and directing comedy and satire with the UC Follies while studying literature.

3. Future Influencer

Sarika Navanathan (BCom 2020 UC) was awarded the University of Windsor's 2024 Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize as the graduate most likely to positively influence equity and social justice in Canada or globally upon graduation. Abella (BA 1967 UC, LLB 1970, Hon. LLD 1990), a former justice with the Supreme Court of Canada, is also a UC alumna.

4. A Star With Heart

The Scarborough Walk of Fame now includes **Dr. Vivian Rambhar (BSc 1972 UC)**, a renowned cardiologist with the Scarborough Health Network, an adjunct professor of medicine at the University of Toronto, and health co-chair for the Global Organization for People of Indian Origin.

5. In the Business Biz

Journalist **Richard Verrier (BA 1987 UC, MA 1989)** became the *Los Angeles Times*' business editor in March 2024. Verrier joined the newspaper as a reporter in 2001 and covered all aspects of the entertainment industry before turning to editing in 2016.

In Their Own Words:

Current UC students talk about how the college has impacted their lives.



Alptekin Goksan

My favourite thing about being a student at University College is that I get to be a part of a tradition of teaching and learning that is more than 170 years old. I feel a connection to the past as I walk through the halls, the classrooms, and the library. Thanks to the financial support provided by University College in the form of scholarships and bursaries, I had more time to focus on my studies. My current goal is to pursue a PhD in mathematics. After that, I hope to keep working toward a career in mathematical research.

Rachel Ma

UC has been integral to making me feel part of a community. Since first year, the UC Commuter Centre's events and resources have brought excitement to my long days on campus, and I still always look forward to UC Lit's activities and initiatives. I tried out for the Rotman Commerce Liquid Assets Dragon Boat Team in my first year while I was battling body dysmorphia and lacked confidence. I soon took on leadership roles, including co-director of corporate relations and director of finance. Without the team, I would have struggled to balance classes, internships and community-building while working part-time jobs without that support.

Ryan Cho

I am majoring in Ethics, Society & Law and minoring in both Literature & Critical Theory and Creative Expression & Society. I needed scholarships and financial assistance to make university possible, and I found that U of T offers a variety of programs to support students from diverse backgrounds. I hope to use my education to advocate for those who lack access to legal representation and to work toward a more equitable and just society. As president of the University College Residence Council (UCRC), I've had the chance to make a positive impact on the residence community, rebuilding its foundations after COVID.

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Meet

Our

Newest

Alumni

of

24

Influence



As the University of Toronto's founding college, University College has a long, illustrious history of welcoming students from diverse backgrounds and experiences. During their time at UC, they see the College's founding principles in action, including a sense of civic duty. This trait manifests itself in many ways as they learn, grow, mature, and embark on their individual journeys. Some choose careers in the public sector, making an impact on policies that benefit society at large, while others devote their careers to research or to professions that improve our lives through healing, education, or creating joy. Many of them learn that giving back, whether through volunteering their time or donating money to a good cause, is rewarding. One way for UC to salute their diverse ways of contributing to society is through its Alumni of Influence Awards, and we are proud to introduce you to our recent honorees.

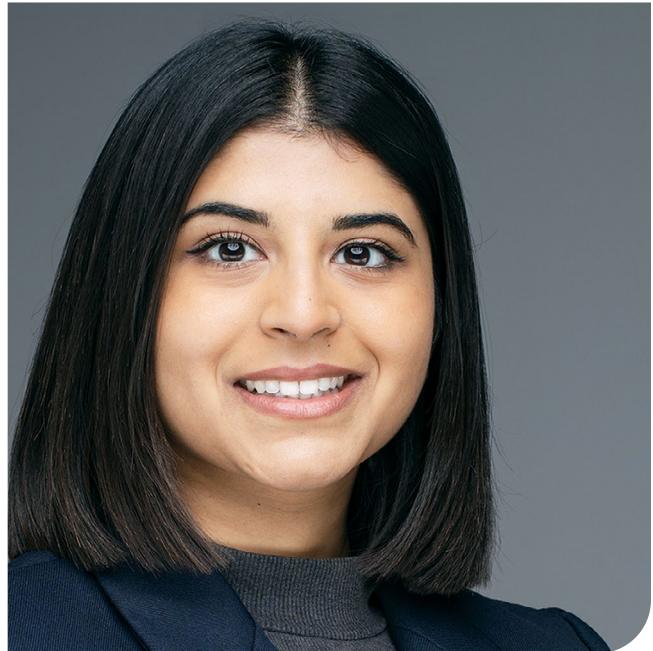


Dr. Rajiv Singal UC Alumnus 1984-86

Currently Surgeon-in-Chief at Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) in Toronto, Dr. Rajiv Singal (UC Alumnus 1984-86, MD 1990) has been a leader in surgical innovation in Toronto and helped build surgical capacity in the developing world. Once a junior don at UC's Cody House residence, Dr. Singal introduced the da Vinci® Surgical System to Toronto, which has since allowed members of the city's medical community to perform minimally invasive surgeries, improving costs and results. He is also a dedicated volunteer, sharing his expertise in Kenya, Uganda, rural Jamaica, and parts of China, as well as helping the number of qualified urologic surgeons in Malawi go from zero to an estimated nine by 2027.

The Hon. Maryka Omatsu BA 1971 UC

Born in Hamilton in 1948 to parents who had been expelled earlier that year from British Columbia, Judge Maryka Omatsu (BA 1971 UC, MA 1973) has championed inclusion her entire legal career. Omatsu began her career as a civil rights lawyer, helping Black immigrants working as nannies gain a path to Canadian citizenship, assisting First Nations people in their effort to prevent the building of nuclear reactors in James Bay, Ontario, and chairing the Ontario Human Rights Appeals' Tribunal. Before her 1993 appointment as judge, Omatsu published her family's biography, *Bittersweet Passage*, which highlighted the harsh treatment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War and the struggle of the National Association of Japanese Canadians' movement to win redress from the Government of Canada for their unjust treatment.



Uma Kalkar BSc 2020 UC

Five years after her University College graduation, Uma Kalkar (BSc 2020 UC, MGA 2022) is a policy advisor focusing on the global risks of emerging technologies through a secondment to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Looking back, she credits UC with opening her eyes to the wider world and providing opportunities to explore her interests and talents.

"UC helped me to branch out and grow up," Kalkar says, laughingly recalling a panicked call to her mother asking how to work the dorm washing machine.

"It helped push me out of my comfort zone and gave me the exploratory space and the resources and structure to innovatively investigate wicked problems. I'm grateful for the opportunities to give back as well, such as by organizing the Munk One Case Competition and being a graduate teaching assistant for the Munk One Program."

Kalkar cemented her qualifications to work as a technology policy futurist with a dual master's degree at U of T's Munk School for Global Affairs & Public Policy and Sciences Po in Paris. She looks back at UC as her launch pad.

"It was the perfect storm. My major in peace, conflict and justice studies; computer ethics research with my undergraduate mentor, Professor Emeritus Ronald Baecker; a Presidential Fellowship at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress; and advocacy work as the Strategy and Innovation Director of 18by Vote helped me find my niche. I found a way to do work I love and apply it to real life."

Maev Beaty
UC Drama Program
1995-1999

Critically acclaimed and sought-after actor, writer, creator, and voice-over artist Maev Beaty (UC Drama Program 1995-1999) was first cast in a professional acting role while an undergraduate at U of T. She has originated more than two dozen roles in Canadian premieres and interpreted lead classic roles across the country, including the Stratford Festival, Soulpepper, Crow's Theatre, Apple TV, and CBC. Once described by the *New York Times* as “the excellent Maev Beaty,” she is a Toronto Theatre Critics’ Award winner, multiple Dora Award winner, and many time nominee in both performance and writing. Beaty has come back to UC multiple times throughout her career to participate in events and was performer-in-residence at the BMO Lab for Creative Research in the Arts, Performance, Emerging Technologies and AI.



Dr. Julie Drolet
BA 1994 UC

A professor of social work at the University of Calgary, Julie Drolet (BA 1994 UC) has significantly advanced the critical role of social workers in long-term disaster recovery in Canada and internationally. After studying the disastrous effects of catastrophes like the tsunami in Asia in 2006 and the Fort McMurray wildfire in 2016, Drolet learned that while everyone is affected by such disasters, vulnerable populations — including women, children, and those living in poverty — bear a disproportionate share of the impacts. By founding the Social Work and Disaster (SWAD) Network, launched in 2021, Drolet is working to build capacity in the profession with training and mentorship opportunities for over 150 social work practitioners across Canada.



Prof. Amir Hussain, PhD
BSc 1987 UC

A pre-eminent scholar of religion originally from the Parkdale neighbourhood of Toronto, Amir Hussain (BSc 1987 UC, MA 1990, PhD 2001) was the first member of his family to attend university. Hussain now balances his job as professor and chair of the department of theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles with writing and editing scholarly works on understanding Islam in America. Hussain has acted as advisor on many television series, including appearances in *The Story of God* with Morgan Freeman, and *The UnXplained* with William Shatner. “This son of working-class immigrants who worked in factories is now a university professor. That makes him one of the many UC success stories,” a nominator told the selection committee.



Laurie Dennett
BA 1969 UC

An author of multiple books, Laurie Dennett (BA 1969 UC) has focused on non-fiction writing. In addition to authoring numerous corporate histories while working in London, England, Dennett wrote about her experiences completing pilgrimages across Europe, including from Chartres, France, to Santiago de Compostela in Spain; from London to Rome; and from Canterbury to Jerusalem. During these pilgrimages, she raised an estimated \$500,000 for multiple sclerosis research in Canada. Now a resident of Spain, Dennett enjoys visiting Toronto to see friends, former classmates, and family, and always stops at UC. “This is a wonderful university and a wonderful college, and I’m immensely proud of having graduated from it,” she said.



Dr. B. Ralph Chou

BSc 1973 UC

It takes a very powerful telescope to see 10491 Chou, the asteroid named in honour of Dr. B. Ralph Chou (BSc 1973 UC). It is an appropriate tribute considering the magnitude of his commitment throughout his career to solar eclipse eye safety and to astronomy, the field he first studied in depth at the University of Toronto.

“Much of what I learned at U of T, I integrated into my own research” says Chou, an emeritus professor of optometry at the University of Waterloo,” says Chou. He became an expert on the optics behind spectacle lens design and the physics of protecting eyes through eyewear, including the now-popular solar eclipse glasses. In fact, he delights in being an umbraphile — or eclipse chaser — and has viewed 30 solar eclipses from spots all over the world.

Chou is also dedicated to volunteering and has worked with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Toronto Centre, for more than 50 years. In addition, he spent a decade as a board member for the Science Teachers’ Association of Ontario and is currently a Canadian representative to the International Organization for Standardization’s technical subcommittee on eye protection.

“Giving back is very gratifying personally,” he says. “When you volunteer, you make a contribution that lasts. What you build into the structure of an organization tends to stick. I hope to inspire some students to follow this pathway.”

Diana Lam

BSc 2022 UC

A strong advocate for balancing mental health with post-secondary studies, Diana Lam (BSc 2022 UC, MEd 2024) has made a meaningful impact on University of Toronto students. As commuter orientation chair, she managed a two-day remote program for 154 first-year commuter students, ensuring they acquired the resources, community-building, and mentors they needed to ease into university life. Lam has meticulously worked to reduce barriers facing marginalized and minoritized students, connecting them to resources and opportunities to break down educational barriers. “I’m always open to opportunities where I can mentor and guide people, give them advice based on my experience.” Lam said at the January awards.



UC Alumni of Influence
winners are selected
through a rigorous
process. Members of the
UC community nominate
alumni, and winners are
chosen by a selection
committee.



Photo by Vanessa Hens

Making Art in Challenging Times

Vivek Shraya has never been shy about using her art to break new ground and explore big, challenging ideas. Over her two-decade-plus award-winning career, she's successfully taken on music, television, film, theatre, literature, teaching, visual art, publishing, and fashion. Now, as the 2024-25 artist-in-residence at the Queer and Trans Research Lab at the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies — an affiliated centre of University College — she's asking difficult questions about the relevance of art in dark and uncertain times. **By Matthew DiMera**

How has your experience as this year's artist-in-residence been so far?

I don't do a lot of residencies, but I was really excited about this particular one. It's basically a lab, and it's a group of selected individuals who are scholars, activists, and artists. Everyone's working on a different project. We meet once a month to talk about what we're working on.

Being an artist can feel very insular. You're in your own world, your own mind, your own process. Having these regular meetings with other queer people, other trans people, especially in this particular climate and cultural moment — I found it very grounding just to be around other people who are thinking about how to move forward.

What have you been working on?

I originally pitched a new album, and then, when I got accepted into the program, I pivoted. I created a graphic novel a few years ago called *Death Threat*, which was based on a series of visceral and oddly kind of poetic hate mail I'd received from an individual. The idea was to dismantle the hatefulness in these messages and poke fun at it.

This individual has continued to regularly message me for about eight years, so the first half of my

residency was looking at these messages and trying to turn them into songs for a potential musical. But then Trump got elected, and suddenly, I found myself uninterested in exploring a trans femme being harassed on a day-to-day basis. I went back to my original pitch. At the end of the residency, there'll be a sneak preview, and then, the album will come out officially in October.

As someone who has had feet in both worlds, what role do you think academia should play in supporting art?
I've worked in academic institutions for most of my adult life. There's this idea that academia is the beacon of progress where there are new ideas and fresh thinkers. In my experience, you sometimes get people who are very attached to old ways of thinking.

Artists are quite the opposite. Bringing artists into academic spaces can be super-generative and can help move things along, but only if there's a willingness within the institution. The Bonham Centre has done an incredible job of creating a space where scholars, activists, and artists are brought together. They really seem to understand what it means to work with artists. I felt nothing but a lot of support and care from them. What they're doing is so special and unique.

What do you see as your role as an artist in political times such as these?

There is such a pressure to educate when you are a marginalized artist, and there isn't always a space just to make art. I've been quite vocal about pushing to create more opportunities for trans people, queer people, and people of colour to make work that we want to make: work that's not necessarily focused on our traumas or our differences. We should have the space to pursue and explore whatever we want.

However, when Trump got re-elected, I woke up the next morning thinking the most important thing I could do was actually be as vocal, as trans, and as queer as possible.

To answer your question about the role of art? I don't know. It is something I'm still grappling with. Art doesn't necessarily need to be hopeful, but there needs to be an element of possibility. Even if it's a cautionary tale, you need to be able to see the other side.

Since the death of George Floyd in 2020, we've seen this huge boomerang effect. The backlash to diversity has been severe. For marginalized communities, I think the future feels not just uncertain, not just tenuous, but ominous. How are you dealing with those feelings?

I'm feeling the way you are. My generation has been quite protected in terms of global catastrophes and calamities and from this idea of progress reversing. To be part of a historical moment where the incredible progress that activists have fought for, for decades, has ... been undone so quickly is shocking and terrifying, to be honest.

I'm often asking, "What am I doing here?" "What are we doing here?" "What should we be doing?" "What more could we be doing?" I feel hyper-existential and hyper-unsure about even what the place of art is currently. I look at some of my friends who are trans activists, and I wonder if that is a better path right now.

I've always turned to art. But I find myself wondering if I should be doing more. It's been interesting talking to my queer elders. They tell me that it's in these times that people do rally, that people do come together, that new things are formed.

I find myself a little bit unsure and anxious about that, only because I think the past five years have really worn people out. But the other thing that I'm trying to hold [in my mind] simultaneously is that trans people in particular have never been condoned by the law, and still, we've always existed. Even as executive orders get passed to attack us, non-binary and trans children around the country are still coming out every day. Culturally, we've moved forward in a way that we can't actually move backwards, no matter what new laws get passed.

You've talked about how your art and your process have changed during your residency. What kind of mark do you think you've made on campus and what do you hope to leave behind?

I think that there's a kind of mystery around art making, and artists can be kind of inaccessible. My approach as an artist has always been, How do I demystify? I hope that by the time the lab is done, if people in the cohort feel they've had questions or confusion about what it means to be a working artist, my presence in the lab has helped open some of those spaces that have felt confusing or unknown.

This interview has been edited and condensed for length and clarity.

Matthew DiMera is a Toronto-based freelance journalist and editor whose work focuses on the intersections of identity, media, and power.



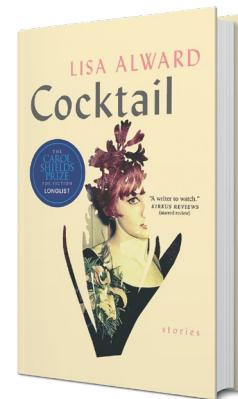
“Art doesn’t necessarily need to be hopeful, but there needs to be an element of possibility.”

News From Fellow Alumni



1

Photo by Paul Alexander



2

Celebrating Order of Canada Honourees

Three alumni were named Members of the Order of Canada by the Governor General, recognizing their outstanding achievement and distinguished service to Canada: **William Fox** (BA 1970 UC, MA 1971), a research fellow and adjunct professor at Trent University; sleight of hand artist **David Ben** (BA 1983 UC); and **Karen Levine** (BA 1977 UC), who was named in recognition of her decades-long career at CBC Radio and her novel *Hana's Suitcase*.

Kudos to ...

Author **Lisa Alward** (BA 1984 UC) was named to the shortlist for the 2023 Danuta Gleed Literary Award for her short fiction collection, *Cocktail*.

Attorney **Tanya Bertler** (BSc 2019 UC) has joined the Toronto office of law firm Dickinson Wright as an associate. Her legal practice focuses on insolvency matters and commercial litigation.

Attorney **Rachel Bond** (BA 1995 UC) was named a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals in November 2024 by Gov. Tim Walz.

Financial executive **Angela Brown** (BA 1981 UC) was named to the board of directors for Deluxe, a payments and data company. She will serve on the audits and finance committee and the corporate governance committee.



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In Nov. 2024, **Rachel Chernos Lin** (BA 1995 UC) was elected to Toronto City Council representing Ward 15 – Don Valley West. Previously, Lin was a trustee and chair of the Toronto District School Board.

Attorney **Ola Craft** (BA 2007 UC) has joined the Washington, D.C., office of the law firm Lowenstein Sandler as a senior trade advisor.

Adam Dobkin (BSc 2014 UC, MA 2015, JD 2019) joined the Toronto law firm of Corman Feiner LLP in September 2024 as an associate.

Wendy Freedman (BSc 1979 UC, MSc 1989, PhD 1984, Hon. PhD 2013), a professor at the University of Chicago, received a U.S. National Medal of Science in 2024 for her work in cosmology and astronomy and her research on the Hubble Constant. The medal is awarded for "outstanding contributions to knowledge ... in service to the Nation."

1. David Ben
2. *Cocktail* by Lisa Alward
3. Angela Brown
4. Karen Levine
5. Wendy Freedman

UC Books is a volunteer-run book shop and annual book sale that raises nearly \$40,000 annually for UC students. The shop is open in UC Mondays to Fridays, and the book sale happens in the early fall.

Do you love books and want to help? Contact the UC Books team at ucbooks@outlook.com to hear more about the volunteer roles available, or visit the site at www.uc.utoronto.ca/booksale.

GIVING BACK

A Book Lover's Delight

Deborah Tam



As she walked through the University College quad daily, former U of T research technician Deborah Tam (BSc 1976 UC) would look fondly at the UC Bookstore and think, "when I retire, I'll volunteer there."

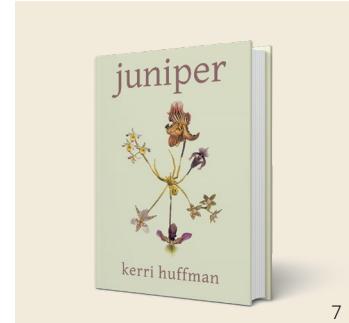
Thirty years later, the chair of the UC Book Sale instead steered the book-lover toward the workroom, the basement space where the real work for the annual sale takes place. Volunteers sort and price all of the donations that arrive throughout the year.

Initially, Tam volunteered for two hours each week, but the work was seductive. Eventually, she was there all day twice a week.

"I loved it," Tam says. **"When you open a donation box, it's like Christmas or a birthday; you never know what you'll find."**

The past 12 years have flown by as Tam took on increased responsibility, serving as chair of UC Books, overseeing the sale and the bookshop, and being the chair of the sale and workroom lead.

"I feel a real sense of duty and responsibility," Tam says.



Cohere, a startup co-founded by **Aidan Gomez** (BSc 2018 UC), was named one of the top 10 startups to watch at U of T's 2025 Entrepreneurship Week.

Alexander Green (BA 2006 UC, PhD 2013), a scholar of Jewish thought and ethics, joined the faculty of the University of Florida's Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Daniel Honciuc Menendez (BSc 2024 UC) became the youngest graduate of University College and the Faculty of Arts & Science since recordkeeping began in 1979.

Susannah Howard (BA 2003 UC, JD 2007) has joined the Palo Alto, Calif., office of the law firm Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati as a partner in the litigation department and employment and trade practice.

In May 2025, **Kerri Huffman** (BA UC 1993, MEd 2011) published her debut collection of poetry, *Juniper*, which charts the final months in the arc of a thorny, corrosive, yet transformational, relationship.

Michael Kater (BA 1959 UC, MA 1961) was awarded the 2024 Irving Abella Award in History, one of the annual Canadian Jewish Literary Awards, for his book, *After the Nazis: The Story of Culture in West Germany*. The late historian Abella (BA 1963 UC, MA 1964, PhD 1969, Hon. LLD 2014) was a graduate of UC.

Geophysicist **Alan King** (BSc 1976 UC) has been appointed to the advisory board for Benton Resources Inc., a Thunder Bay, Ont., company that engages in the acquisition, exploration, and development of mineral properties.

Barry Kuretzky (BA 1973 UC) was recently recognized in the 2025 edition of *The Best Lawyers in Canada*. Attorneys on Best Lawyers® lists undergo an authentication process where their colleagues designate a consensus opinion of leading lawyers.

Labour lawyer **Rebecca Liu** (BSc 2009 UC, JD 2012) became a partner at Hicks Morley where she works in the Toronto office, primarily representing unionized employers.

In November 2024, **John Lorinc** (BSc 1987 UC) released his new book *No Jews Live Here*, a deeply personal account of his family's history in Hungary, surviving in wartime Budapest, and their eventual move to Canada.

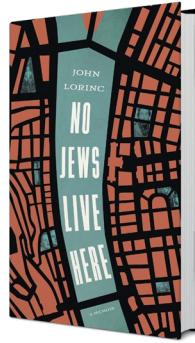
Jesse Manna (BSc 2016 UC, MSc 2017) has been appointed to investor relations for Tectonic Metals Inc., a mineral exploration company based in Vancouver, B.C.



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Paul McIvor (BA 1996 UC) is the new director of strategic communications and public affairs for Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care in Penetanguishene, Ont.

Novelist and poet **Anne Michaels** (BA 1980 UC) won the 2024 Giller Prize, Canada's richest fiction prize, for her novel *Held*. The novel was also shortlisted for Britain's prestigious Booker Prize. Michaels' books have been translated into more than forty-five languages and have won dozens of international awards, including the Orange Prize, the Guardian Fiction Prize, the Lannan Award for Fiction and the Commonwealth Poetry Prize for the Americas. She is the recipient of honorary degrees, the Guggenheim Fellowship and many other honours. From 2015 to 2019, she was Toronto's Poet Laureate.



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- 6. Daniel Honciuc Menendez
- 7. *Juniper* by Kerri Huffman
- 8. Alan King
- 9. Alexander Green
- 10. *No Jews Live Here* by John Lorinc

GIVING BACK

Promoting Higher Education

Shanley Lee BCom 1981 UC



Growing up in Toronto, Shanley Lee, the son of Chinese immigrants, saw how deeply his parents valued education.

Today, the successful entrepreneur and managing director of a market research company based in Greater China, Lee has honoured both his parents (above) and his alma mater through the Bing and Jane Lee Leadership Award at University College. He created the annual award named after his parents in 2021 to provide a year's tuition to a student who demonstrates both leadership and scholarship. Recently, Lee has established four additional UC awards based solely on academic merit in the sciences, the arts and commerce, slated to make their debut this fall.

"I want to reward scholarship and leadership over time by building a community of the award winners," says Lee, who meets with the awardees each year during visits to Toronto. **"I want them to exchange ideas and make connections."**

Photo courtesy of Alamy



- 11. Lorne Michaels
- 12. Alison Nankivell
- 13. Sarika Navanathan
- 14. Andrea Ormiston
- 15. Dr. Nav Persaud
- 16. Dr. Vivian Rambihar
- 17. Lynn Posluns

Executive producer **Lorne Michaels** (BA 1966 UC, Hon. LLD 2002) celebrated 50 years of *Saturday Night Live* at a star-studded weekend in February 2025. Michaels got his start writing and directing comedy and satire with the UC Follies while studying literature. He began his professional career as a writer and producer for the CBC. He has been the executive producer of TV shows that include *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* and *30 Rock* and has produced films that include *Mean Girls*, *Wayne's World* and *Three Amigos*. He has won 13 Emmy awards. Michaels was honoured with the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for lifetime artistic achievement and was inducted into the Order of Canada in 2002.

In January 2025, Mary Ng, federal minister of export promotion, international trade and economic development, named **Alison Nankivell** (BA 1986 UC) as the president and chief executive officer of Export Development Canada.

Sarika Navanathan (BCom 2020 UC) was awarded the University of Windsor's 2024 Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize as the graduate most likely to positively influence equity and social justice in Canada or globally upon graduation. Abella (BA 1967 UC, LLB 1970, Hon. LLD 1990), a former justice with the Supreme Court of Canada, is also a UC alumna. Navanathan, valedictorian of her University of Windsor Faculty of Law graduating class, has received numerous awards for her international law, social justice, and leadership work within and outside school. She is also a singer who is passionate about the arts and community-building.

Photo by Roger Mahler



14

Photo by Ron Fanfair



16



15



17

In 2024, the Hon. **Andrea Ormiston** (BA 1997 UC) was appointed a judge of the British Columbia Supreme Court in Abbotsford. She had been a judge for the provincial court since 2017.

Dr. Jeffrey Perl (BSc 1999 UC, MD 2003), an associate professor of medicine at U of T and staff nephrologist at St. Michael's Unity Health in Toronto, is the 2025 recipient of the National Kidney Foundation's J. Michael Lazarus Distinguished Award for best exemplifying the foundation's efforts to enhance the lives of patients.

Dr. Nav Persaud (BSc 2002 UC, MD 2009) was named chair of the Government of Canada's National Pharmacare Committee of Experts in November 2024. Persaud is an associate professor of family and community medicine at U of T and physician and Canada Research Chair in Health Justice at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

Lynn Posluns (BCom 1981 UC, MBA 1983) was named a 2024 recipient of one of the Top 25 Women of Influence® Awards, an annual award that recognizes women's contributions to their respective fields. Posluns is the founder, president and chief executive of Women's Brain Health Initiative, a charity established in 2012.

The Scarborough Walk of Fame now includes **Dr. Vivian Rambihar** (BSc 1972 UC), a renowned cardiologist with the Scarborough Health Network, an adjunct professor of medicine at the University of Toronto, and health co-chair for the Global Organization for People of Indian Origin. Rambihar began practising at SHN's General Hospital in 1980, and over the past 40+ years, has made contributions to the medical, scientific, and humanitarian fields.

GIVING BACK

A Helping Hand, Present & Future

Stan Griffin BA 1972 UC



Stan Griffin (BA 1972 UC) grew up on an Ontario farm in a family of modest means. Government loans, grants, and summer job savings made it possible for him to attend U of T.

"I was very fortunate," Griffin says. "I benefited greatly from the assistance of others."

Griffin earned a master's degree at the University of Chicago, thanks to a full scholarship from the Ford Foundation. Once back in Toronto, he joined the Insurance Bureau of Canada as a researcher. More than 30 years later, he retired as the chief executive officer.

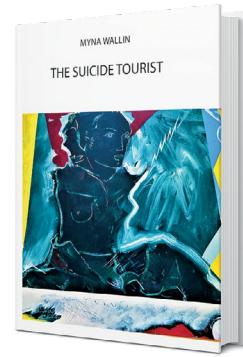
Griffin has designated UC in his will as a partial recipient of his assets, and he recently established the Stanley Griffin Award to assist Black and Indigenous UC students in their second and third years to reach their academic potential.

"I benefited from grants and scholarships in my education, and it was time well spent," Griffin says.

"I feel a responsibility to give back and support others who are in need."



Photo by Mitro Hood Photography



Sara Seager (BSc 1994 UC, Hon. PhD 2023) was recently awarded the 2024 Kavli Prize in Astrophysics from the Norwegian Academy of Science.

Nuha Siddiqui (BSc 2018 UC) was recently awarded a 2024 Governor General's Innovation Award for her startup *erthos*®, which she co-founded with fellow U of T alum Kritika Tyagi (BSc 2019 VIC).

Christine Szustacek (BA 1992 UC), vice-president, communications for the University of Toronto, was inducted into the College of Fellows of the Canadian Public Relations Society in December 2024.

Mining executive and geologist **Nick Tintor** (BSc 1980 UC) was named a director of Purarium Energy Ltd., a uranium exploration company, in August 2024.

Professor **Jacob Tsimerman** (BSc 2006 UC), a mathematician at the University of Toronto, received the Royal Society of Canada's 2024 John L. Synge Award for outstanding research in the mathematical sciences.

Journalist **Richard Verrier** (BA 1987 UC, MA 1989) became the business editor of the *Los Angeles Times* in March 2024. After stints at the *St. Petersburg Times* and the *Orlando Sentinel* in Florida, Verrier joined the paper as a reporter in 2001 and covered all aspects of the entertainment industry for many years before becoming an editor, where he previously guided and edited investigative and enterprise reporting across the entertainment team.

Alumna **Myna Wallin** (BA 1995 UC, MA 1997) recently published a collection of poetry, *The Suicide Tourist* (Ekstasis Editions, 2024).

Cecilia Wichmann (BA 2007 UC), a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland, became the curator of contemporary art for the Baltimore Museum of Art in October 2024.

In 2024, **Catherine Yiu** (BCom 1992 UC) became executive director and a member of the executive committee of Reliance Global Holdings Ltd., a Hong Kong-based investment holding company.

18. Nuha Siddiqui (right)

19. Sara Seager

20. Cecilia Wichmann

21. *The Suicide Tourist* by Myna Wallin

Have news you'd like to share? We'd like to hear about your personal and professional lives. Email us at uc.alumni@utoronto.ca

Follow us and stay connected
instagram.com/UC_alumni/

Echoes from the Archives

Hidden in Plain Sight: The Intricate Carvings of UC

Visitors to University College often remark on the varied and numerous forms of stone and wood carvings seen throughout the building, such as the unique roundels in the Clark Reading Room and the wooden corner blocks that mark many of the doors. Carvers (below) commissioned by Wilson Newton Roberts Duncan architects in the 1970s, rebuilt and replaced a number of these corner blocks. However, most of them in the building date back to the 1890s when D.B. Dick was commissioned to restore UC after a fire that destroyed much of the building on February 14, 1890.



GIVING BACK

Sharing Her Expertise

Samina Sami BSc 1994 UC



Samina Sami (BSc 1994 UC, MEd 2004) was honoured to be invited to serve as the alumni representative to the University College Council beginning in January 2025. She credits UC with opening her eyes to the myriad of possibilities life has to offer, professionally and personally. “UC and U of T were formative places for me during my undergraduate years,” says Sami, a seasoned public sector executive. She has held leadership roles in government, higher education, and not-for-profits.

“My undergraduate years became my place of exploration. Although I was a science student, I joined clubs and engaged with all kinds of opportunities. Campus life and academics together shaped me. As I approached graduation, I knew I wanted to work in public service.”

Sami is looking forward to having an impact through the UC College Council.

“I am eager to assist the College in determining how best to serve students, especially commuter students like I was,” she says.

Faculty & Staff Announcements



1

2



Professor **Dimitry Anastakis**, who joined the Faculty of Arts & Science as the L.R. Wilson/R.J. Currie Chair in Canadian Business History in 2019 and is cross-appointed to the Rotman School of Management, has been appointed director of Canadian Studies.

Leanne De Souza-Kenney, PhD, joined Health Studies as assistant professor, teaching stream; she has taught in the program for three years. This is a joint appointment with Human Biology & Global Health.

Maria Papaconstantinou, associate professor of human biology, will serve as acting program director of Health Studies/Public Health during Professor Colleen Dockstader's research leave from January 2025 to December 2025.



3

4

Three-time U of T graduate **Temitope Adefarakan, PhD**, was cross-appointed as an assistant professor, teaching stream, Black Canadian Studies and at the University of Toronto's Transitional Year Programme.

Six new faculty members were appointed as fellows of the College: **Funké Aladejebi**, **Dirk Bernhardt-Walther**, **Colleen Dockstader**, **Lance McCready**, **Sali Tagliamonte**, and **Alan Verskin**. Each fellow brings unique expertise and contributions to respective fields.

Aladejebi is a scholar of the twentieth century with a specialization in Black Canadian history. Her research and teaching interests focus on oral history, the history of education in Canada, Black Canadian women's history, and transnationalism.

Bernhardt-Walther, an associate professor of psychology, is chair of Cognitive Sciences at UC. His research focus is on the neural and computational mechanisms that underlie the perception of complex real-world scenes.

Dockstader, director of Health Studies/Public Health, is an associate professor of human biology who previously worked as a researcher at the Hospital for Sick Children using neuroimaging to investigate how brain structure and function underlies cognition and behaviour.

McCready is an experienced community-based researcher of the education, health and welfare of Black families, youth and adults. He is an associate professor in the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Learning at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and is currently serving as the Director of the Transitional Year Programme.

Tagliamonte, acting principal of the College, is a renowned linguistics expert. She has recently had her Canada Research Chair in Language Variation and Change renewed. Awarded by the Government of Canada, Canada Research Chair positions are designed to reinforce academic research and training excellence.

Verskin is the Samuel J. Zacks Chair of Jewish History. His areas of research include religious, legal, and social history in both Jewish and Islamic contexts, from the Middle Ages through the nineteenth century.



5



6

1. Dimitry Anastakis
2. Leanne De Souza-Kenney
3. Maria Papaconstantinou
4. Temitope Adefarakan
5. Funké Aladejebi
6. Alan Verskin

On Campus



7

After an extensive search, **Manda Vrklijan** was appointed University College Head Librarian. Vrklijan has presented conference papers on graphic fiction, professional development, and the value of research support to students.

The 2024-2025 academic year brought Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor **Richard Fung** to UC. He co-founded Gay Asians Toronto, the first organization for racialized LGBTQ+ people in Canada, and his tenure included screening his new film *The Enigma of Harold Sonny Ladoo*.

Tamara Trojanowska will remain as Vice-Dean, Faculty & Academic Life through June 30, 2027, thanks to an extension to her appointment. Trojanowska is a graduate of the Drama Centre at the University of Toronto (PhD) and of Theatre Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków (MA).



8

UC Professor Emeritus **Geoffrey Hinton** was awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics. Hinton, known as the "Godfather of AI," shared the prize with Princeton University Professor John J. Hopfield. They were cited "for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks." Hinton created a new network, called the Boltzmann Machine, that can autonomously find properties in data and perform tasks such as identifying specific elements in pictures. A Companion of the Order of Canada, he is also co-founder of the Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

Former UC Principal and Professor Emerita **Sylvia Bashevkin** was recognized twice by the Governor General: first, as one of six recipients of the Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, and then, as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Emerita Professor **Tania Li** was also named Officer of the Order of Canada, as well as being awarded this year's Killam Prize in Social Sciences for her research on land, labour, capitalism, development, politics, and Indigeneity in Indonesia. Killam Prizes are awarded to Canadian scholars who have distinguished themselves through sustained research excellence.



9

Congratulations to Instructor **Vikki Visvis** from the UC Writing Centre for winning the Superior Teaching Award, Sessional Instructor, one of the Faculty of Arts & Science's prestigious Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Simon Lewsen, who is currently serving a one-year appointment as Interim Director of the UC Writing Centre, won a Canadian Association of Journalists award for outstanding investigative journalism.

Professor Jesook Song was appointed as Chair of the Department of Anthropology for a five-year term. She also released a new book, *Mediating Gender in Post-Authoritarian South Korea*.

Wesley J. Hall, business leader and champion of equity, diversity, and inclusion, was elected by U of T's College of Electors to serve a three-year term as chancellor of the university effective July 1, 2024. Installed at the fall 2024 University College convocation ceremony, Hall is the university's 35th chancellor since its founding in 1827.

- 7. Manda Vrkljan
- 8. Geoffrey Hinton
- 9. Tania Li
- 10. Simon Lewsen



GIVING BACK

Mystery Solved

Door Handles 1859–Present



There are so many ways alumni have given back to University College, but none quite as unique as a mysterious package sent to the Office of Advancement in 2020.

Inside were two heavy, rusty rings and an anonymous letter that told the tale. One night in the mid-sixties, a UC student was out for a walk after a light snowfall. The main entry was under renovation, and the large front doors were lying under a light skiff of snow. In a moment of self-professed "undergraduate silliness," the writer pulled a prank and removed the ornate door handles from the doors.

Now, some 55 years later, that anonymous, silly undergraduate decided it was time to give them — the braided, metal rings pictured below — back to the College, proving the old adage "better late than never."



Have an interesting story? We'd love to hear from you and maybe feature it. Email us at uc.alumni@utoronto.ca

In Memoriam

People we've lost in the past year

As we honour the lives of those alumni who have passed away this year, we celebrate the impact they left on University College and beyond. They were innovators, mentors, dreamers, and doers — each leaving behind a legacy shaped by their passions and contributions. Though they are no longer with us, their influence endures in the lives they touched and the knowledge they shared.

1940s

William A. R. Atkinson / BA 1949 UC of Toronto, ON; Sept. 30, 2024

Lita-Rose Betcherman (Vineberg)
BA 1948 UC, of Toronto, ON; March 9, 2024

James Bleiweis / BA 1945 UC of Toronto, ON; Dec. 6, 2024

Walter G. Cassels / BCom 1949 UC of Toronto, ON; Aug. 13, 2024

Helen A. Cowan (Hooper) / BA 1948 UC of Toronto, ON; Dec. 3, 2024

Margaret "Francesca" Fullerton (Harrison)
BA 1947 UC, of Cobourg, ON; May 14, 2024

J. K. Gibson / BCom 1948 UC of Toronto, ON; May 8, 2024

Barbara A. Greer (Brooks) / BA 1946 UC of Clarksburg, ON; July 30, 2024

Sally Hastings (Vandersluis) / BA 1949 UC of Toronto, ON; Aug. 14, 2024

Florence Hertzman (Swartz) / BA 1947 UC of Toronto, ON; April 19, 2024

Billy E. Lossing / BA 1948 UC of Flint, MI; Jan. 7, 2025

Mary Willan Mason / BA 1943 UC of Toronto, ON; Sept. 24, 2024

M. E. McAvoy (Robinson) / BA 1948 UC of Port Colborne, ON; Oct. 17, 2024

Georgina McCance (Davey) / BA 1940 UC of Toronto, ON; Oct. 4, 2024

Christine M. C. McMillan (Zumstein)
BA 1948 UC, of Thorold, ON; Aug. 10, 2024

Bernard S. Pike / 1946 UC of Toronto, ON; May 27, 2024

Eric J. Preston / BA 1946 UC of Nepean, ON; April 8, 2024

Nancy Robinson (Higginbottom) / 1949 UC of Toronto, ON; May 17, 2024

Mary-Susanne "Dickey" Singer (Thomas)
BA 1947 UC, of Toronto, ON; June 20, 2024

1950s

Prof. Edmund R. Alexander / BCom 1953 UC of Willowdale, ON; April 13, 2024

Prof. Henry E. Beissel / BA 1958 UC of Gloucester, ON; Jan. 10, 2025

Naomi Bell (Socol) / BA 1952 UC of Toronto, ON; April 5, 2024

Norman N. Bergstein / BA 1958 UC of Thornhill, ON; March 25, 2024

Fae Cait (Cooper) / BA 1954 UC of Downsview, ON; Sept. 16, 2024

Joseph G. Casse / BA 1950 UC of Toronto, ON; June 26, 2024

Gerald J. Charney QC / BA 1959 UC of Toronto, ON; March 29, 2024

George Cihra / BA 1957 UC of Toronto, ON; July 22, 2024

Barbara E. Cooper (Lipson) / BA 1954 UC of Toronto, ON; April 26, 2024

Rosemary D. Crawford (Coates) / BA 1956 UC of Mahone Bay, NS; Sept. 6, 2024

W. C. H. Eckersley / BA 1955 UC of Willowdale, ON; Sept. 6, 2024

Sylvia G. Fair (Shapiro) / BA 1950 UC of Victoria, BC; Sept. 12, 2024

Dr. Edwin A. Gaviller / BA 1950 UC of Kemble, ON; Jan. 2, 2025

Ann J. Gibson / BA 1953 UC of Etobicoke, ON; Dec. 27, 2024

Catherine W. Goddard (Graham)
BA 1954 UC, of Calgary, AB; April 7, 2024

Miriam Green (Halpern) / 1955 UC of Toronto, ON; Dec. 2, 2024

Margaret J. Holmes / BA 1951 UC of Toronto, ON; Oct. 29, 2024

Charles E. Houghton / BA 1950 UC of Toronto, ON; Aug. 1, 2024

Anne C. Innis Dagg / BA 1955 UC of Waterloo, ON; April 1, 2024

Prof. M. E. Irwin (Gray) / BA 1959 UC of Algonquin Highlands, ON; Jan. 9, 2025

Gerald F. Jonas / BA 1955 UC of Toronto, ON; Dec. 10, 2024

Thomas D. Kent / BA 1953 UC of Mississauga, ON; Oct. 7, 2024

Robert Klymasz / BA 1957 UC of Winnipeg, MB; March 17, 2024

Richard H. Krempulec / 1958 UC of Toronto, ON; Aug. 23, 2024

Leslie G. Lawrence / BA 1956 UC of Toronto, ON; July 8, 2024

H. D. Lee / BA 1956 UC of Willowdale, ON; Jan. 3, 2025

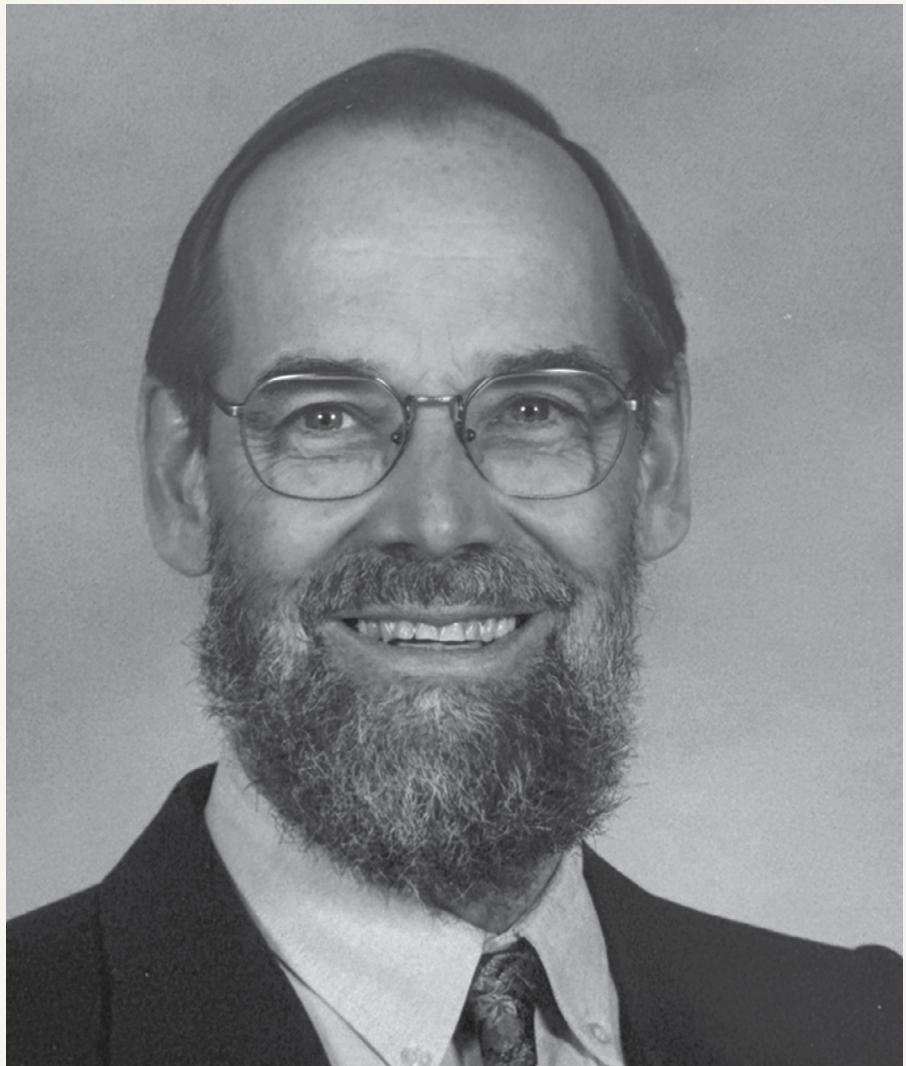
John H. Lindsay / BA 1956 UC of Kingston, ON; Nov. 21, 2024	Deborah Vigoda (Shulman) / BA 1950 UC of Toronto, ON; Aug. 4, 2024	Allan Salsberg / BSc 1965 UC of Toronto, ON; March 16, 2024
John F. Logan / BA 1950 UC of Cobourg, ON; July 12, 2024	Patricia A. Walton (Smith) / 1950 UC of Carlsbad, CA; March 15, 2024	Eric P. Salsberg / BA 1966 UC of Willowdale, ON; May 2, 2024
Jean W. Long (Johnson) / BA 1951 UC of Scarborough, ON; Aug. 28, 2024	Robert J. Widdicombe / BA 1954 UC of Toronto, ON; Dec. 7, 2024	Marilyn S. Salutin / BA 1963 UC of Thornhill, ON; April 1, 2024
S. V. Martini / BA 1958 UC of Woodbridge, ON; Dec. 8, 2024	Prof. John W. L. Winder / BCom 1954 UC of Toronto, ON; Oct. 23, 2024	Marion C. Soloway (Grosman) / BA 1961 UC of Toronto, ON; Feb. 25, 2025
Nancy L. Matheson (Webster) / BA 1951 UC of Salt Spring Island, BC; July 5, 2024	B. Anne Wood (Tolmie) / BA 1959 UC of Vancouver, BC; Nov. 21, 2024	Marianne Torza (Wien) / BA 1964 UC of Lewisburg, PA; Jan. 21, 2025
John D. McKellar / BA 1955 UC of Toronto, ON; Nov. 5, 2024	Prof. John H. Woods / BA 1958 UC of Vancouver, BC; Aug. 15, 2024	Mara Van Proosdij (Bekeris) / BA 1965 UC of Campbellford, ON; Aug. 22, 2024
Bessie McKinlay / BA 1954 UC of Thornbury, ON; March 20, 2024	Gloria Wunder (Borden) / BA 1959 UC of Toronto, ON; March 19, 2024	Samuel G. Zaltz / BA 1962 UC of Windsor, ON; May 17, 2024
Elizabeth V. T. Milton (Dutton) / BA 1956 UC of Victoria, BC; Dec. 17, 2024	1960s	1970s
Nancy M. Moffat (Danby) / BA 1950 UC of Toronto, ON; April 13, 2024	Dr. Francis Bobik-Orchard / BSc 1966 UC of Priceville, ON; July 17, 2024	Hillar Auksi / BSc 1972 UC of Canmore, AB; March 8, 2024
Rev. David Murphy / BA 1953 UC of Ajax, ON; Sept. 14, 2024	Erica H. H. Bouhenic (Buykes) / BA 1966 UC of Toronto, ON; Jan. 9, 2025	Dr. Rosanna Honig / BSc 1975 UC of Toronto, ON; Sept. 21, 2024
Martin Myers / BA 1951 UC of Toronto, ON; March 28, 2024	Catherine A. Court-Simms / BA 1966 UC of Toronto, ON; Oct. 30, 2024	Mark G. J. Jurychuk / BA 1976 UC of Etobicoke, ON; July 16, 2024
Dorothy M. Nesbitt (Sherriff) / BA 1950 UC of Thunder Bay, ON; Aug. 7, 2024	Judith Cowan / BA 1965 UC of Trois-Rivières, QC; Jan. 14, 2025	Frank W. Lowery / BA 1975 UC of Toronto, ON; May 21, 2024
Reginald Nighswander / BA 1952 UC of Scarborough, ON; Dec. 22, 2024	William S. Dart / BA 1968 UC of Scarborough, ON; March 16, 2024	Monika Stegmann / BA 1977 UC of Toronto, ON; Jan. 2, 2025
Greta J. Ogden (Tienkamp) / BCom 1955 UC of King, ON; Sept. 19, 2024	Jeffrey C. Fine / BA 1966 UC of Ottawa, ON; Jan. 15, 2025	1980s
Ralph S. Prentice / BA 1955 UC of Toronto, ON; Oct. 20, 2024	Roger F. Glazin / BA 1961 UC of Stouffville, ON; March 29, 2024	Janine Leibtag (Hart) / HBA 1980 UC of Thornhill, ON; May 12, 2024
Dr. Harry Schachter / BA 1955 UC of Toronto, ON; April 17, 2024	Paul J. E. Green / BA 1969 UC of Toronto, ON; May 2, 2024	Karen G. Newman (Daffern) / BCom 1986 UC of Orillia, ON; Aug. 29, 2024
Carol Schipper (Mendelson) / 1956 UC of Toronto, ON; June 26, 2024	Albert C. A. Greer / BA 1960 UC of Orillia, ON; May 9, 2024	1990s
Ralph Shiff / BA 1953 UC of Toronto, ON; May 9, 2024	Anna L. Henderson (Ponte) / BA 1967 UC of Toronto, ON; March 15, 2024	David Cieslowski / BCom 1993 UC of Toronto, ON; June 16, 2024
Sheldon Silver / BA 1957 UC of Toronto, ON; June 18, 2024	Dr. Byron Hyde / BA 1961 UC of Ottawa, ON; Nov. 17, 2024	
Anne Sinclair / BA 1952 UC of Toronto, ON; Oct. 25, 2024	Susan Jackel / BA 1964 UC of Sechelt, BC; Oct. 12, 2024	
Richard M. B. Small / BA 1952 UC of Ancaster, ON; April 25, 2024	David L. Lavine / BA 1961 UC of Toronto, ON; Dec. 12, 2024	
Patricia D. Smyth (Corcoran) / BA 1955 UC of Kitchener, ON; Oct. 3, 2024	Donald C. Lillow / BSc 1964 UC of Gravenhurst, ON; July 13, 2024	
Sydney Steiner / BA 1955 UC of Dallas, TX; Jan. 5, 2025	Richard R. Neville / BA 1964 UC of Mulmur, ON; May 31, 2024	
Mary K. Swanson (Horner) / BA 1955 UC of Toronto, ON; Jan. 3, 2025	Melvyn L. Pelt / BA 1962 UC of North York, ON; Aug. 3, 2024	
Marian L.T. Thomson (McIntyre) / BA 1950 UC of Kanata, ON; Oct. 10, 2024	Harvey Poss / BA 1961 UC of Toronto, ON; Nov. 14, 2024	
Thomas Timusk / BA 1957 UC of Hamilton, ON; Jan. 12, 2025	Olga Zorzi Pugliese / BA 1963 UC Toronto, ON; March 23, 2025	

Notices of death published in this issue were received between Feb. 8, 2024 and March 7, 2025. 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 update@utoronto.ca

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 Adam Hess, Director, Advancement, at adam.hess@utoronto.ca

In Memoriam

G. Peter Richardson
1935–2025



Remembering a
UC Principal Emeritus,
Researcher, Architect,
Professor, Scholar, and
Author.

University College lost a member of its family on Jan. 6, 2025, when G. Peter Richardson, principal of the College from 1977 to 1989, passed away on his 90th birthday.

Richardson earned an architecture degree from the University of Toronto in 1957. Changing course, he received his master's of divinity at Knox College and his PhD in theology at the University of Cambridge. His academic career included time at both the U of T Scarborough and University College, the latter from 1977 until his retirement in 2000.

As principal, Richardson presided over the restoration of the main University College building, ensuring that its character was maintained. He was both an expert on the building's architecture and the College's unofficial historian.

Richardson was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, an Honorary Member of the Ontario Association of Architects, and a recipient of U of T's prestigious Arbor Award.



GIVE BACK.

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4. Update Additional Information

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 Please call me to discuss how to leave a gift for the college in my will.
 Please do not publish my name in donor listings.
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15 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3H7

