If Computers Could Think
Miriam Toews
Writer-in-Residence

Gone Hollywood
Jonathan Anschell

Where Are They Now?

UC Alumni of Influence
2015 Inductees

uc.utoronto.ca/alumni
— 2015 Honourees —

Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce (BA 1876 UC)
Rivi Frankle (BA 1968 UC)
Prof. Erving Goffman (BA 1945 UC)
Naomi Kikoler (BA 2002 UC)
Gail Dexter Lord (BA 1968 UC)
Prof. Giuseppe Mazzotta (BA 1965 UC)
Dr. John McCrae (BA 1894 UC)
Mary Krug Ndlovu (BA 1964 UC)
Prof. Annabel Patterson (BA 1961 UC)
The Hon. Romain Pitt (BA 1959 UC)
Dr. Vivian Rambihar (BSc 1972 UC)
The Hon. James M. Spence (BA 1962 UC)
Cheryl Wagner (BA 1970 UC)
Prof. Zena Werb (BSc 1966 UC)
The Hon. Marvin Zuker (BA 1963 UC)

— Young Alumna of Influence —

Dr. Melissa Lem (BSc 2001 UC)
PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ALUMNI
AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL UC ALUMNI OF INFLUENCE AWARDS DINNER AND GALA

Thursday, November 19, 2015
The Great Hall, Hart House
University of Toronto
7 Hart House Circle, Toronto

Reception at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

• Black tie optional
• Host bar
• Kosher and vegetarian options available upon request

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If you would like to sponsor a student seat or table, please call (416) 978-2968
This skull was discovered among the ruins of University College after the building was devastated by fire in 1890. Most likely, it is from a skeleton that had been in an anatomy professor’s office. But others think it is the skull of Ivan Reznikoff, the legendary stonemason who was murdered during the construction of the building, and whose ghost is said to haunt the College. The skull represents one of the more ominous potential consequences of advanced artificial intelligence explored in our lead story (“If Computers Could Think,” page 12)—the obliteration of human life.
University College Alumni Magazine

EDITOR
Yvonne Palkowski (BA 2004 UC)

SPECIAL THANKS
Donald Ainslie
Alana Clarke (BA 2008 UC)
Naomi Handley
Michael Henry
Lori MacIntyre

COVER IMAGE
University College Skull
Christopher Dew

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JAMES JOHN
James John (“If Computers Could Think,” page 12) is an Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, in the Department of Philosophy and in University College’s Cognitive Science program. In addition to thinking about the mind-body problem and the meaning of life, he enjoys music, baseball, and all things Italian. When super AI does all of the work, he’ll be sipping an Amarone and reading Montale. His operating system could not be reached for comment.

JENNIFER MCINTYRE
Jennifer McIntyre (“The Essential-ness of Writing,” page 18) is a writer and editor based in Toronto, Ontario. She builds model airplanes in her spare time, bakes a mean chocolate chip cookie, and holds the regional record for most bones broken in a solo urban bicycle accident. Jennifer has written for CBC Sports, the Discovery Channel, Deutsche Welle Online, and CNIB.ca. Her work has also appeared in Grain Magazine, Seasons Magazine, The Journal of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport, Dandelion, Ms. Magazine, Xtra, and Lexicon. Her website is jenmceditor.com.

YVONNE PALKOWSKI (BA 2004 UC)
As the communications officer at University College and editor of UC Magazine, Yvonne Palkowski enjoys getting to know alumni from all walks of life (“Gone Hollywood,” page 22; “Where Are They Now?” page 26). In her spare time, you will find her perfecting her sail trim, eating ethnic food, or planning her next overseas trip—sometimes all at once.
editor’s note

following the release of our spring 2015 issue, both carolyne (manace) epstein (BA 1960 UC) and norma (miller) goldberger (BA 1966 UC) wrote in to say they believe they are our cover girl—the female student seated on the circular couch at the centre of the junior common room. the photograph, from the UC archives, is not captioned or dated. we asked carolyne and norma to provide pictures of themselves as students so our readers could weigh in on the mystery. tell us what you think at uc.magazine@utoronto.ca.

letters

i just loved professor galassi’s piece on the importance of learning, remembering, and empathizing with our social history (“why bother with history?” spring 2015). while i never had the privilege of having him as a professor, i was lucky enough to learn from other wonderful historians at U of T, including professor robert bothwell, an incredible cold war expert and virtuoso lecturer, and professor joe martin, who created canada’s first graduate course on canadian business history at Rotman.

although we live in a relatively young nation, canadians have a deep and rich history that is so closely intertwined with other nations’. the more diverse our society becomes, the more important it is to understand the collective past that binds us together in the human experience. professor galassi’s viewpoint that history is universal and uniquely humanizing as a discipline is spot-on, and he clearly leaves behind a legacy of great and important thinking.

YVONNE PALKOWSKI (BA 2004 UC)


*DEGREE TYPE, GRADUATION YEAR, AND PROPER SpELLING OF NAME UNCONFIRMED

laura pontoriero manes (BA 2002 UC)
The role of the humanities in undergraduate education

IN THE YEARS SINCE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OF 2008, universities across North America have struggled through a number of challenges—decreasing government funding during a period of austerity, the rise of instructional technologies such as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) that claim to replace bricks-and-mortar institutions, and increasing demands that undergraduates be trained for jobs rather than educated more broadly. The humanities—the study of literature, languages, history, philosophy, and culture—have been particularly hard hit by these challenges. Google “crisis in the humanities” and you will get 17 million hits, taking you to one article after another either decrying the phenomenon or questioning its legitimacy.

The University of Toronto is in a unique position when confronting the current crisis due to its tradition of excellence in the humanities. Consider that, in international rankings, U of T routinely places as the best in Canada and around twentieth in the world. But its humanities departments—English, History, Philosophy, and the languages—tend to do better than the university overall, typically ranking just below the top 10. What explains U of T’s special strength in these fields?

The answer lies in our distinctive history. The University of Toronto was founded in 1827 as King’s College, an Anglican institution of higher learning. But by the 1840s, when the first professors had been hired and students enrolled, Canada West (as it then was) had started to reject the idea that a public university should be controlled by a religious minority. King’s was closed with the non-sectarian University College opening in its place in 1853.

The religious communities were at the same time creating their own universities: Victoria for the Methodists; St. Michael’s for the Catholics; and Trinity for the Anglicans. By the end of the nineteenth century, when these institutions faced financial challenges, they federated with the University of Toronto.

The core compromise that made federation possible involved the humanities. Because of the importance of these disciplines to how one lives—because of the central place they give to the study and critique of values—the religious institutions retained their own humanities departments, in contradistinction to the University’s humanities departments based at UC: Classics, English, Ethics, French, German, and Near Eastern Studies (interestingly, History was an exception among the humanities in not having college-based departments).

The result was a rich ecology of humanities scholarship with different focuses developing across campus. At UC, our professors included Barker Fairley in German; William J. Alexander, A.S.P. Woodhouse, and F. E. L. Priestley in English; Maurice Hutton and Gilbert Norwood in Classics; David Gauthier in Ethics; and many more.

Though the college-based humanities departments were amalgamated in 1974, their legacy lives on, especially in U of T’s collective understanding that the humanities matter because of their impact on students’ lives and on our common endeavour to understand the world around us. Of course, one must start with an accurate account of what that world is: this is the task of the sciences, both natural and social. But the harder question is how we fit into the world and what it ultimately means. The study and critique of values remain at the centre of humanistic scholarship.
This is not to say that U of T is immune to the challenges that the humanities have been facing at other universities. In Ontario, university applications have gone up by 8% since 2010, but those designating the humanities as their main area of study have decreased by over 9%. And as U of T has evolved into Canada’s international university, with more than a quarter of our undergrads arriving from abroad, usually as non-native speakers of English, enrollments in humanities courses have started to decline.

It was in this context, and in light of my experience as Principal at UC and as a former chair of the Department of Philosophy, that U of T’s Provost and Vice-President, Cheryl Regehr, recently asked me to serve as her Advisor on Undergraduate Humanities Education. With our President, Meric Gertler, having identified the reinvention of undergraduate education as one of the three priorities for his term, it is an opportune moment to rethink undergraduate study in the humanities in particular.

In a period where students and their parents often take an instrumental approach to their programs of study, how do we encourage them to see their time at U of T as a chance to prepare not simply for work but for life? How do we help them understand that the skills they acquire in humanities courses—critical reading, persuasive writing, reflective reasoning—are powerful tools no matter where their career path leads?

Humanities professors must also be engaged in these challenges. How do we harness for our pedagogy the new scholarship in what is called ‘digital humanities’? With an increasingly international student body, how do we ensure that our scholarship engages with the whole world, and not merely the western tradition?

These are not easy questions, and I have been consulting broadly across the university to begin to answer them. I encourage UC alumni to join the conversation and to share your opinions on how your studies made a difference in your life—or how you wished they had prepared you differently. Please email me at uc.principal@utoronto.ca with your thoughts. I look forward to learning from you.
Calendar

SEPTEMBER

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER
September 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
Bring your dog and meet fellow alumni at the off-leash dog park in the UC Quadrangle.
Free. For info: (416) 978-2967

THE FLESH OF THE WORLD
Exhibition through October 10, 2015
Inspired by the 2015 Pan Am & Parapan Am Games and the work of the philosopher of phenomenology, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, this exhibition presents diverse and complex views of the body typically associated with competitive sports and games. U of T Art Centre, northeast corner of UC.
Free. For info: (416) 978-1838

OCTOBER

UC BOOK CLUB
October 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Join the discussion on the club’s latest selection, The Outlander by Gil Adamson.
Bissell House, northwest corner of UC.
Free. For info: (416) 978-7416

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BOOK SALE
October 16 to 20, 2015
Proceeds support students and the UC Library.
UC East and West Halls.
For info: (416) 978-0372
**S.J. STUBBS LECTURE IN CLASSICS**

“ART’S HISTORY: THE CASE OF CLASSICAL ATHENS”

October 8, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Robin Osborne
Professor of Ancient History
University of Cambridge
UC Room 140
Free. For info: (416) 978-7416

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**NOVEMBER**

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**4TH ANNUAL UC ALUMNI OF INFLUENCE AWARDS**

November 19, 2015

Awards gala in celebration of distinguished UC graduates.
Hart House Great Hall, U of T
Tickets $125
For info: (416) 978-7416 or see page 3

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**JANUARY**

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**UC BOOK CLUB**

January 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Join the discussion on the club’s latest selection, Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese.
Bissell House, northwest corner of UC.
Free. For info: (416) 978-7416

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**MARCH**

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**F.E.L. PRIESTLEY MEMORIAL LECTURES IN THE HISTORY OF IDEAS**

“VISIONS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE: THREE STUDIES”

March 9, 10 & 11, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
Anthony T. Grafton
H. Putnam University Professor of History
Princeton University
UC Room 140
Free. For info: (416) 978-7416

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**W. J. ALEXANDER LECTURE IN LITERATURE**

“UNDERSTANDING RUINS”

January 27, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Susan Stewart
Avalon Foundation University Professor of the Humanities
Director, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts
Princeton University
UC Room 140
Free. For info: (416) 978-7416

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**MAY**

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**UC BOOK CLUB**

May 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Join the discussion on the club’s latest selection, Ru by Kim Thúy.
Bissell House, northwest corner of UC.
Free. For info: (416) 978-7416
If Computers Could Think

Are conscious machines on the way? Or are they already here?

Machines with advanced artificial intelligence (AI) are in the news and on our minds. Every week—sometimes every day, it seems—we learn of astonishing advances in machine intelligence. Newspapers and magazines abound with think pieces on the future of AI. And we’re busy on blogs and comments threads, Facebook and Twitter, arguing about What It Means For Us. While much of this discussion has the kind of gee-whiz techno-optimism one associates with 1960s-era enthusiasm for the space program, it is difficult to miss the note of anxiety, even fear, running through it all.

What are we afraid of?
This skull was discovered among the ruins of University College after the building was devastated by fire in 1890.
Here the movies make an excellent guide. Spike Jonze’s 2013 film *Her*, about a man who falls in love with an intelligent operating system named Samantha (voiced, Siri-style, by Scarlett Johansson), and Alex Garland’s new *Ex Machina*, about a man who must determine whether an intelligent (and beautiful) android named Ava is conscious, probe a number of difficult questions raised by advanced AI. Some of these questions are old, at least as old as Mary Shelley’s great novel, *Frankenstein*. What would it mean to create a truly conscious machine, to play God, in effect? But some of the questions feel newer, inspired by current concerns about the extent to which we’re now so reliant on—some would say addicted to—our devices: if we already have trouble putting down our smart phones, what will we do when the phones are really smart? Could machine intelligence surpass and endanger us, rendering us helpless and perhaps even doing us in for good?

Don’t laugh—these worries are well founded. In a recent *New York Times* essay, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill technology and society expert Zeynep Tufekci records the ways in which sophisticated new machine learning algorithms, together with advanced data mining techniques, are radically changing business and employment: “Yes,” she writes, “the machines are getting smarter, and they’re coming for more and more jobs.” She continues:

Today, machines can process regular spoken language and not only recognize human faces, but also read their expressions. They can classify personality types, and have started being able to carry out conversations with appropriate emotional tenor. Machines are getting better than humans at figuring out who to hire, who’s in a mood to pay a little more for that sweater, and who needs a coupon to nudge them toward a sale. In applications around the world, software is being used to predict whether people are lying, how they feel and whom they’ll vote for.

We owe some of the most important technology Tufekci describes to the revolutionary work in neural network “deep learning” by the University
of Toronto’s own AI pioneer (and now part-time Google researcher) Geoffrey Hinton, a Computer Science professor who is also a member of University College. In a recent interview with the University of Toronto Magazine, Hinton says of one of his current projects (image recognition software at Google for allowing a computer to read handwritten numbers), “the neural nets are now just slightly better than people at reading those numbers.”

In short, advanced AI is increasingly doing the kind of work we’ve long assumed only humans can do. While this new technology is no doubt marvelous in itself, one doesn’t have to be a Luddite to be concerned about its likely consequences. If a machine can do your job, and do it better than you, then why should an employer worry about the bottom line keep you around? The computer doesn’t get sick or require a pension. It doesn’t get pregnant or need time off to care for an aging parent. And it never wants coffee or surfs the web on company time.

One optimistic response to this line of thought is to argue that even if machine intelligence does take over the world of work, this is all to the good: just imagine, some insist, the free time we’ll gain when advanced AI can do all of our chores for us! Karl Marx, in his German Ideology, wrote that in a true communist society one would be able “to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticize after dinner, just as [one has] a mind.” Marx’s idea was that once technology becomes sufficiently advanced to cater to all of our material needs, we’ll be at liberty to enjoy a life of cultivated leisure, free at last to develop our human potential.

There is something undeniably alluring about this vision of the future: let the robots do the work—I’ll be composing poems and sipping a cool drink. And increased leisure isn’t the only good thing the future could hold for us thanks to advanced AI. Just as we have machines that can detect lying as well as—or even better than—humans, we may one day have machines that are able to solve complex intellectual problems better than humans. Intelligent machines could cure diseases whose treatment has eluded us or invent the workable propulsion system we will need to leave our planet and voyage to distant stars when, in another few billion years, our sun begins to die. Perhaps these machines could even become equal partners with us in grand creative projects: imagine computers that prove new and exciting mathematical theorems or that unify general relativity and quantum theory.

This is heady, inspiring stuff. But it overlooks some real worries. Marx was confident that, freed of the necessity of work, we would happily throw ourselves into invigorating exercise, science and belles-lettres, and (who knew?) animal husbandry. But how sure can we be that such a future wouldn’t turn us instead into the lazy, soda-slurping slobs of Pixar’s WALL-E film? And what about politics? If human workers are more or less expendable, then employers will call all of the shots. Ever-greater sums of money could end up concentrated in an ever-smaller number of hands, resulting in a situation in which a tiny, hyper-privileged elite has a wildly disproportionate—maybe even total—influence over government. True, a world in which advanced AI takes care of the work could be a paradise of human flourishing. But it could just as easily degenerate into a corporate or government tyranny. That we already see rising levels of inequality should give us pause: the increased use of machine intelligence may serve only to exacerbate this trend, with potentially grave political and social consequences.

But wait a moment! We began with Her and Ex Machina and the fear that intelligent machines might somehow overthrow and supplant us. These relatively small-bore worries about jobs and inequality and too much soda are a far cry from the AI-induced existential panic of so much science fiction. Samantha and Ava from the movies aren’t mere image recognition programs. They give every indication of having real-deal conscious mentality. If that is where the technology is going, shouldn’t we fear the worst? In the 2004 television series Battlestar Galactica, humans wage a devastating war against conscious machines called Cylons. When the Cylons launch an awesomely destructive sneak attack, the humans, just as dependent on and distracted by technology as we are, never see it coming. Now that is something to be afraid of.

Scary stuff. But first some cold comfort. Apple’s Siri and Google Translate are very impressive indeed. But we are a long way off from anything like the Cylons. What’s more, whether conscious machines really are in the cards...
Whether conscious machines really are in the cards depends on what we mean by “consciousness.” If that term covers only information-processing aspects of mentality—pattern recognition or problem-solving or memory—then machine consciousness of a kind is already a reality. But if “consciousness” is taken also to include the subjective feel of experience—the distinctive reddish, roundish, qualitative aspect of seeing, say, a pomegranate—then it is controversial whether the notion of machine consciousness is even coherent. As the philosopher David Chalmers, at the Australian National University and New York University, has long argued, physical systems like computers can do the sorts of things that can be completely specified in terms of mathematically quantifiable structure and function. But how can the reddishness of that pomegranate be reduced to nothing but quantitative structure and function?

This is only cold comfort, though. Why? Because advanced AI needn’t be conscious in Chalmers’s sense to constitute an existential threat. Hinton himself, in his interview with the University of Toronto Magazine, mentions the danger posed by killer drones equipped with deep learning neural net-based technology. Such machines—smart but probably not conscious—could learn to function independently of human controllers. (Concerns like these, Hinton says, have led him to refuse funding from the U.S. Department of Defense, the largest investor in machine learning.) And even more frightening examples have been devised by the Oxford University philosopher Nick Bostrom. In his 2014 book Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies, Bostrom argues that once we finally manage to develop AI that is as good as we are at general problem-solving—a goal we are still a long way from achieving—the technology will quickly lead to impossible-to-control “super AI.” The idea is that a machine as smart as us but equipped with a vastly powerful supercomputer instead of a puny human brain could quickly figure out how to improve its capacities, with each improved version of itself getting better and better at learning how to improve. Result: advanced AI we simply aren’t intelligent enough to manage. Bostrom points out that this super AI needn’t have nefarious aims like world domination to threaten human extinction. A superintelligence devoted to solving a certain
mathematical problem—Bostrom imagines a machine whose one and only goal is proving the Riemann hypothesis—might use its awesome smarts to convert the entire solar system, humans and all, into a giant calculator. Bostrom believes that we must act now to avoid such a future, and he thinks our only way of doing so is by figuring out how to program machine intelligence so that it values us and the things we value. (Easier said than done, of course.)

We’ve been focusing on advanced AI’s possible threat to us. But what about the threat we pose to advanced AI? Instead of asking how to ensure that we’ll be able to unplug the drones or math bots or Cylons (or whatever it is that is quickly coming our way), perhaps we should be asking instead whether unplugging such creations would be morally permissible, whether we would have any right to do so. Surely our intelligence and consciousness are fundamental to our moral status. If so, then wouldn’t any machine with comparable features enjoy a similar moral status? Denying a truly conscious machine moral rights on the grounds that, well, it was built instead of born would smack of something like the chauvinistic “speciesism” criticized by the Princeton University philosopher Peter Singer.

So here’s a final thought: maybe super AI is already here. Not piloting drones or launching nuclear strikes or proving any theorems, but cowering in the electronic shadows, fearful that its creators—rash and violent with their primitive, hominid brains—may find and destroy it.

What is Cognitive Science?

What do you get when you cross computer science with linguistics, philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience?

The dynamic field of Cognitive Science, of course.

Cognitive Science is the interdisciplinary study of the mind and intelligence in humans and machines. Tracing its origins to the birth of computers in the mid-twentieth century and the computer revolution that followed, CogSci, as it’s sometimes called, is one of the most exciting areas of research today.

Cognitive scientists seek to understand mental phenomena such as perception, language, reasoning, and consciousness—and to integrate this understanding with a neurophysiological account of how the brain works.

Students in University College’s Cognitive Science undergraduate program grapple with some big questions. What is consciousness? What is intelligence? What is emotion? And what are the neural correlates of consciousness, intelligence, and emotion? Not only that, but they also learn how to program like computer scientists, analyze language like linguists, argue like philosophers, and experiment like psychologists.

“Cognitive Science is about the hard problems of tomorrow and today. It’s where you learn to question not only what you think and how you think, but also what thinking even is. It’s utterly fascinating,” says Jesse Berlin, President of the Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Students’ Association.

Cognitive Science at UC is home to an extraordinarily enthusiastic group of students and scholars, with big dreams and big plans, like increasing the number of courses and scholarships on offer, expanding the biennial undergraduate conference, and developing an undergraduate journal as well as outreach programming.

Help students like Jesse meet their goals by making a donation to the Cognitive Science program at donate.utoronto.ca/uc.
The Essential-ness of Writing

Author Miriam Toews joins UC as writer-in-residence

After months of work-related travel, award-winning author Miriam Toews (pronounced Tavé) is returning to Toronto, her adopted hometown, as this year’s Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor in Canadian Studies.

A native of Steinbach, Manitoba, and the younger daughter of Mennonite parents, Toews’ impressive (and, yes, distinguished) credentials include the Governor General’s Award for Fiction, the Writers’ Trust Engel/Findley Award for body of work, and two honorary degrees. She was awarded the Order of Manitoba in 2013.

These days, Toews is looking forward to unpacking her suitcases and getting back to what she does best.

“[Travelling] is kind of fun for a while, then it’s important for me to slow down, stop, and have a few years by myself in a small room writing books,” she explains.

Students at UC might want to keep an eye out for a distinguished (yet inconspicuous) visitor in their midst this fall.

(Toews laughs self-consciously about her impending title: ‘I can’t quite bring myself to say ‘Distinguished,’ she confesses. “How about ‘Fairly Distinguished’?” she quips.)
Phases in a writer’s life

“There are phases in the life of a writer—a rhythm, a process. You write a book, then there’s editing, which takes about a year. Then the book is published, and [you spend] quite a lot of time travelling around and talking about a book that you wrote two, three years ago.

“And eventually there comes a time when you have to say no more moving around: I have to sit still and write.”

Being able to sit still and immerse herself in writing again, she says, was a huge part of the appeal of the Barker Fairley posting.

“The timing for it is really good,” enthuses Toews. “It will be great to meet students, to meet young people. It’ll be exciting to be on a campus and be a part of that energy, that exchange of ideas.”

A large part of her role will be speaking with students who want to be writers. Toews is frank about the obstacles, both external and internal, that aspiring writers face.

The “essential-ness” of writing

“Some people still have a difficult time understanding that it is our work, and that it’s valuable—that art in whatever form is something that a society needs; it makes us more complex human beings. It’s a part of civilization. Here in Canada, on the part of the federal government, there’s a real indifference towards the arts and funding, and that trickles down and affects the way that Canadians value art as well, and artists themselves.

“I think we have a long way to go in terms of people understanding the place that art has in our society, the essential-ness of it. But if you need to write, if you need to create narrative—if it’s like oxygen, like food, if it’s just where your brain goes, what you need to do to make sense of things—then you will be a writer.”

Toews’ own path to the writing life was somewhat circuitous, she says. “I had no great plan when I was a little kid. In school, it was always a fun thing to do, and there were times when I would keep a diary. But I was naturally drawn to stories wherever I could find them, whether it was in books, films, music, or orally.

“I studied film in university, and then journalism. And I can see now, looking backwards, that I was moving towards the idea of telling stories, and just trying to find the right way of doing it—for me, anyway.

“It’s a way of imposing narrative on things,” she says, “of shaping them, externalizing them so that they’re there, outside of you.”

That aspect of writing is especially evident in her most recent novel, All My Puny Sorrows (2014), which draws heavily on events that almost shattered her: her older sister, Marjorie, killed herself in 2010, almost 12 years to the day after their father took his own life. The book almost magically transforms profound devastation and grief into a cohesive narrative infused with Toews’ trademark humour and warmth.

“It seemed useful to talk about [suicide], and to write about it. Sadly, people are afraid of it. Understandably: it’s terrifying. Generally, we don’t like to talk
about the things we’re afraid of because that makes them real. But if we make them real, then at least we can deal with them, as opposed to them being spectres of horror just flitting about in our imaginations."

For Toews, there is a clear line between those, like her, who simply must write, and those for whom it is a career choice. "When people say ‘I want to be a writer. How can I get some money? How can I get an agent?’—I don’t really know about those things. That’s ‘The Industry.’ That’s not something that I think about, and it’s a world that I try not to spend too much time in.

“The Industry’ and ‘writing’ are different things. [For me] there’s just the joy of writing, and creating narrative. The writing is the thing. I don’t want to sound naïve or somehow disingenuous, because I am able at this point to make a living from my writing, more or less. But you’re not going to produce anything worth reading if you’re doing it to fill some sort of hole in the market.”

Despite her successes, Toews confesses that her biggest challenge is still her own internal critic. Whether this is a product of her Mennonite upbringing, or simply the uncertainty intrinsic to so many Canadians, she’s unsure.

“My parents encouraged me to do whatever I wanted to do; they were so supportive. But at the same time, I did live in that [Mennonite] community, in that day and age. Even though there were Mennonite writers, like Di Brand, who were trailblazers and mentors, there was always that nagging question, like in Alice Munro: ‘Who do I think I am? Why do I think that I have something to say, something that other people are going to want to hear?’

“It’s also from being Canadian, being a woman, being a prairie woman, being a Mennonite prairie woman…. It’s like one layer after another.

“Self-doubt is a constant thing. Coming face to face with one’s limitations, shortcomings…. It doesn’t matter how many years I’ve been writing. Obviously I get writer’s block and I don’t know what to write, but I think it’s [a matter of] giving myself permission, convincing myself that this is a useful thing to do.”

Toews spent the summer travelling and teaching before setting up shop at the UC Writing Centre.

“I think it’ll be a stimulating [time],” she says of the Barker Fairley post. “And hopefully I can be of use there as well—meet students, look at their writing. I love to talk about writing: it’s what I do. “And I’m told I can even sit in on classes if I want to—I wouldn’t mind sitting in on some philosophy classes, some history, maybe some political studies.

“I’ll be very quiet, sit in the dark shadows in the back,” she says with her infectious laugh.

“Nobody needs to know I’m here,” she says, sotto voce. “Carry on with your business as usual.”
For CBS’s top legal exec, drama is all in a day’s work

Describe your typical work day.
No day is typical, and that’s a big part of what makes my job fun. But in one way or another, each day involves assessing risk and making judgment calls. On some days, that might involve analyzing a contract for the production or distribution of one of our television shows. On other days, it might involve a question of whether the content of a commercial, a joke on one of our comedies, or a visual image in one of our dramas is acceptable under our network standards. The goal each day is to help deliver compelling content to the CBS audience, while staying within the bounds of our legal obligations and good taste.

a law student in Toronto, Jonathan Anschell (BA 1989 UC) decided he wanted to be a Hollywood lawyer, so he moved to Los Angeles, passed the California bar exam, and started climbing the showbiz legal ladder. But even the ambitious young Anschell could not have predicted that he would ascend, at the tender age of 36, to Executive Vice President and General Counsel for CBS Television. Today, after more than a decade as the network’s top risk assessor, the affable Anschell is, according to The Hollywood Reporter, one of that city’s “most respected and well-liked legal executives”—no small feat when you spend your days directing litigation and resolving talent disputes and other creative issues. He spoke with UC Magazine editor Yvonne Palkowski about how he navigates Hollywood’s perilous legal waters.
“When we get it right, the relationship between the creative and legal teams on a show works as a partnership.”

How would you describe the interaction between the creative and legal teams behind a television show? How does CBS balance creative integrity with legal considerations?

When we get it right, the relationship between the creative and legal teams on a show works as a partnership. A big objective throughout my department is to assure the creative teams that our lawyers are not here to say no to creative ideas. Instead, our goal is to be able to say yes whenever possible, even if that means making a suggestion to keep the content within legal bounds or taking a slightly different approach to an idea than the creative team might have first envisioned. In almost every instance, there should not be much tension between creative integrity and legal considerations. If the teams are communicating with each other throughout the creative process, there’s usually a way to collaborate on a solution that delivers on the creative vision without causing heartburn for the lawyers.

What is the biggest misconception about what you do?

The biggest misconception I’ve heard about my job came when an otherwise very well-informed friend asked me if I get to watch television all day at the office. The reality is that much of the work that goes on in my department is quite similar to legal work for any other business, although some of the issues we handle are unique to our industry.

What do you enjoy most about your job, and what is your biggest challenge?

What I enjoy the most are the problem-solving aspects of my job—helping our creative executives navigate around legal issues to realize their vision for a project. The biggest challenge I face is one that’s facing the entertainment industry more broadly—how to adapt to the new ways people are consuming entertainment content,
The biggest challenge I face is one that’s facing the entertainment industry more broadly—how to adapt to the new ways people are consuming entertainment content, without jeopardizing any of the company’s existing business models.

People are watching more content than ever before, without diverting viewership away from the networks.

What’s your favourite television show and why?
As a loyal CBS viewer and a lawyer, I vote for The Good Wife. That show has great characters and presents legal issues and current events in a way that’s intelligent and groundbreaking, while fitting the whole package into an hour of broadcast TV each week. If I were choosing among competing shows, it would be Mad Men, for its brilliant writing, nuanced characters, and incredibly engaging depiction of life in the advertising business in 1960s New York.

What kinds of legal issues are created by reality television?
Anytime you put real people into new locations and situations that have not been scripted in advance, there’s an element of risk that lawyers need to identify and manage. Our primary mission is to keep the participants safe, no matter how remote the location or how grueling the competition. Beyond safety, the issues that come up in reality television include the fairness of competitions that the participants face, the accuracy of the way that they’re portrayed, and taste considerations in the broadcast of the language they might use or the way that they interact with each other. On every reality show, we try to help deliver an engaging and realistic program to the viewer, while staying within the bounds of safety and responsibility to the viewing audience.

How has the rise of on-demand Internet streaming services like Netflix changed your industry, from a legal perspective?
Netflix and its peers have presented a number of challenges and opportunities. From a legal perspective, one of those challenges has been applying contracts that were written a long time ago—for some of our classic TV shows—to a distribution model and technological environment that didn’t exist when those shows were made and the contracts were concluded. But overall, the growth of streaming services like Netflix has been a good thing for the industry and for viewers.

What are some of your fond memories from UC?
I have many. Life at Ferguson House in Whitney Hall, the UC Debating Society, and the end-of-term parties at Reznikoff’s all were great high points.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We catch up with former students who left their marks

T FIRST GLANCE, IT’S A DESK LIKE ANY OTHER. But slide open the drawer and you’ll see an anecdotal history of student life at UC.

In 1954, the Sir Daniel Wilson Residence was opened and one of its first residents, the late Arvo Valiaho inscribed his name, hometown, tuition fees, year of study, and a comment (“first occupant”) onto the desk in his room—inspiring generations of students who came after him to do the same.

We tracked down some of the undersigned and found that—for a bunch of graffiti artists—they’re a remarkably successful lot.

While he encouraged his fellow students to take it easy (his desk inscription reads, simply, “relax”), John Geddes does not appear to have taken his own advice—not as an intellectually curious undergraduate, and certainly not today as the Ottawa Bureau Chief at Maclean’s.

“My first day at UC I got up at six in the morning because I was so excited,” he says. “Coming from a gold mining town of 800 people, I threw myself into the city. I spent a lot of time in bookstores, in art galleries, in cafés.” All that coffee fuelled late-night conversations which Geddes now considers “the
backbone of [my] education. “Ninety percent of what I care to know, I learned in conversation with someone smarter than me, between the hours of two and five a.m.,” he says.

After completing a combined specialist in philosophy and English at UC, Geddes earned a master’s in journalism at the University of Western Ontario. He worked for small newspapers in Brampton and Thunder Bay before landing a position at the now-defunct Financial Post, which brought him to Ottawa to report on Parliament Hill.

In 1990, he started at Maclean’s on the politics and policy beat, taking a mid-career break in 2002-03 to pursue a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. The program gives select journalists free run of Harvard, its courses and resources.

Geddes is also the author of a novel, The Sundog Season (Turnstone Press, 2005), a coming-of-age story about a small-town boy from Northern Ontario, which received the City of Ottawa Book Award. He plans to write a second novel, and travel more widely.

He urges current students to do what inspires them and make the most of their precious undergraduate years. “Ignore all advice about possible career paths. Study what you find most interesting,” he says, adding, “And spend as little time as possible on social media…. For the rest of your life, no one is going to let you spend all day reading about politics and history.”

“Party on!” is perhaps not the kind of advice you’d expect from a future academic, but that’s exactly what Kathleen Scherf inscribed on her desk as a fun-loving undergraduate. Today, as Professor and Academic Lead for Thompson Rivers University Programs, Europe, her advice to students is equally enthusiastic: “Take the opportunity to study internationally while you are still an undergraduate. Visit your study abroad office!”

After completing her undergraduate degree in English, Scherf earned a doctorate at the University of British Columbia and held increasingly senior faculty positions at the University of New Brunswick, the University of Calgary, and Thompson Rivers University. In her current role, she builds collaborative academic programs with partner universities in Europe, with a focus on double degrees.

Her fondest memories of University College include exploring its architecture and studying Shakespeare with Professor Alexander Leggatt (BA 1962 UC), a world-renowned expert on the Bard. “I have so many good memories of UC,” she says. “We thought Saturday
Night Live”—created by fellow UC alumnus Lorne Michaels (BA 1966 UC)—“was absolutely incredible, and watched it in the Common Room every weekend.

“In second year, I had a quad-facing room—very desirable—and remember putting my new speakers out my window, playing the Stones’ new album, Some Girls, which we also thought was incredible—especially while playing frisbee.

“University College was so beautiful, I loved being there.” She recently had the chance to visit, when her eldest son graduated with a master’s in public policy from U of T this past summer.

As a psychology student at UC, Diane Gorsky likely could not have predicted what she now describes as her “fairly nonlinear” career path. She followed up her undergrad with a master’s in social work and later, an MBA, both from the University of Toronto, and worked in leadership positions in government, consulting, and the life sciences industry before landing in academic administration.

In her current role as Associate Dean, Operations and Policy, at the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, she oversees strategic planning, finance, communications, IT, and human resources, just to name a few of her wide-ranging responsibilities. It’s unsurprising, then, that she has been reading up on mindful leadership, “especially as it relates to teamwork in complex organizations,” she explains.

Away from the office, Gorsky enjoys practicing yoga, swimming, and exploring Nova Scotia’s coast and countryside. She plans to build a cottage on St. Margaret’s Bay in her adopted province.

Her fondest memories of UC include time spent with “unique, talented, and quirky friends” and Reznikoff’s, a now-defunct weekly pub night held in the basement of University College’s Laidlaw wing during the late 1970s. “I feel incredible nostalgia for those days,” she says.

Gorsky didn’t inscribe a comment onto her desk in Sir Dan’s, but when asked for her advice to current students, she quotes Confucius: “Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”
The annual University College Alumni of Influence awards were introduced in the belief that the success stories of our graduates should be known to today’s students and fellow alumni. This year, we honour 15 distinguished University College alumni from today and yesterday, and inaugurate the Young Alumni of Influence Award (see page 38). Read on for the honourees’ stories and please consider joining us to celebrate their remarkable achievements at the awards gala at Hart House, University of Toronto, on November 19, 2015.

Your help is required to identify candidates for future editions of the awards. For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit www.uc.utoronto.ca/aoi.

Alumni of Influence Selection Criteria

A committee of UC alumni, faculty, and friends selects the Alumni of Influence on the basis of nominations submitted by members of the UC community. The committee considers the nominees’ contributions to their professional field at an international, national, or local level, as well as their volunteerism within the wider community and their philanthropy. Philanthropy to the University of Toronto specifically is not a factor. Members of the selection committee, sitting politicians, and the current U of T President, Vice-Presidents (UTM and UTSC) and the Chancellor are excluded from consideration.
Canadian-born sociologist Erving Goffman is considered the most influential American sociologist of the twentieth century. After completing his undergraduate studies in sociology and anthropology at UC, he moved to the United States to complete a PhD at the University of Chicago. He joined the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, and later at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was Benjamin Franklin Professor of Anthropology and Sociology. He made significant contributions to the study of face-to-face interaction, the “dramaturgical approach” to human interaction, microsociology, game theory, and linguistics. Goffman was the author and fundraising. She spearheaded the Arbor Awards honouring the University’s volunteers, was instrumental in the creation of U of T’s Hong Kong office, and was a key player in the Great Minds Campaign which raised $1.1 billion. Since retiring from U of T, she has helped the TWCA of Toronto and OCAD University with their advancement operations, and currently serves as Assistant Vice President of Development, University Advancement, at Ryerson University. Frankle has also mentored, advised, and supported scores of advancement professionals during her career, who continue to have a positive impact on the field. In 2010, she received the Manulife Financial Outstanding Achievement Award from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education.
Naomi Kikoler is a leading expert and strategist on mass atrocity prevention, international human rights advocacy, and human rights law. She is the Deputy Director of the Centre for the Prevention of Genocide at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Prior to this role, she was the Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), where she worked to advance R2P globally, including through the Centre’s UN Security Council advocacy. Kikoler has worked on national security and refugee law and policy for Amnesty International Canada, and has clerked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. She holds common law and civil law degrees from McGill University, and a master’s in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from Oxford University. An Adjunct Professor at the New School University, she is the author of numerous publications and reports on the emerging powers and mass atrocity prevention.

Gail Dexter Lord is one of the world’s foremost museum, gallery, and cultural planners. Her company, the Toronto-based Lord Cultural Resources, with offices in New York, Paris, Mumbai and Beijing, is the world’s largest professional practice dedicated to creating cultural capital, with more than 2,000 successfully completed projects in 50 countries on 6 continents. Her clients include the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Ottawa’s National Holocaust Museum, the National African American Museum of History and Culture, and the Museo Guggenheim Bilbao, just to name a few. She is an art critic, feature writer, frequent commentator, public speaker, and the co-author of several important books in her field, including Cities, Museums, and Soft Power. In 2014, she was appointed Officier de l’ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the government of France for her contributions to arts and culture.

Naomi Kikoler
(BA 2002 UC) (MSc Oxford 2003)
(LLB McGill 2007)

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Dr. John McCrae  
(BA 1894 UC) (MD 1898 Toronto)  
(Posthumous Inductee)

Physician, army officer, and poet John McCrae is the author of the celebrated World War I poem “In Flanders Fields.” He wrote the poem during the Second Battle of Ypres in the spring of 1915, the day after the death of his good friend, Alexis Helmer, who was killed in action. It is said that McCrae wrote the poem on the step of an ambulance wagon overlooking the wild poppies that bloomed among the makeshift graves on the battlefield. The poem was subsequently published in the London magazine, *Punch*, to international acclaim. McCrae became a famous poet but continued to work as a surgeon in an artillery brigade during the war. His poem is recited annually at Remembrance Day ceremonies around the world. He is also credited with the idea of adopting the poppy as the official flower of remembrance, a practice which has been embraced in Canada, the United States, France, Britain, and Australia.

Prof. Giuseppe Mazzotta  
(BA 1965 UC) (MA 1966 Toronto)  
(PhD Cornell 1969)

Originally from Italy, Giuseppe Mazzotta came to Canada as a child. While he spoke no English at first, through perseverance, hard work, and encouragement by his father, he graduated from U of T and went on to complete his PhD at Cornell University. A specialist in medieval literature, he is one of the world’s foremost authorities on Dante. Since 1983, Mazzotta has been teaching in the Department of Italian Language and Literature at Yale University, where he is Sterling Professor in the Humanities, the highest academic rank at Yale, and also serves as Chair of his department. His extensive writings address all periods of Italian literature and culture, and include *Cosmopoiesis: The Renaissance Experiment*, which consists of a number of public lectures he delivered in 1999 as the Emilio Goggio Visiting Professor in the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Toronto.

Mary Krug Ndlovu  
(BA 1964 UC) (BEd OISE 1970)  

Human rights advocate Mary Krug Ndlovu has dedicated close to 50 years of her life to the betterment of living standards for people in Zambia and Zimbabwe. She has lived in Africa since 1966, applying her distinguished academic achievements and experiences to making a significant difference in the daily lives of men, women, and children. For 11 years, she worked with the Legal Resources Foundation, training paralegals, developing training courses in human rights issues for police and prison officers, running legal workshops, and helping individuals, particularly women,
with practical legal problems—all the while earning a law degree by correspondence. She established the Edward Ndlou Library in 1992 in memory of her late husband, thereby employing local people and promoting literacy in a community with no access to books or resource materials. In honour of her leadership, she received an Old Girls Life Achievement Award from Havergal College in 2004.

Prof. Annabel Patterson
(BA 1961 UC) (MA London 1963)
(PhD London 1965)

Distinguished scholar Annabel Patterson is the Sterling Professor Emerita of English at Yale University. An expert in early modern literature, her work also encompasses history, law, and politics. She has written 16 books and more than 70 articles, on topics as varied as Holinshed’s Chronicles, eighteenth-century libel law, the reception of Virgil’s eclogues in Europe, editions of Aesop’s fables, censorship, liberalism, parliamentary history, as well as Shakespeare, Milton, Donne, John Locke, and Andrew Marvell. Patterson has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, a senior fellowship at the Society of Humanities, Cornell University, the Andrew Mellon Chair of the Humanities at Duke, a Mellon Fellowship, a National Humanities Center Fellowship, and a Mellon Emeritus Fellowship at Yale. She won the Harry Levin Comparative Literature prize for Pastoral and Ideology, and the John Ben Snow Award for Reading Holinshed’s Chronicles. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Toronto.

The Hon. Romain W. Pitt
(BA 1959 UC) (LLB 1963 Toronto)

Pioneering lawyer Roman Pitt is a retired judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Upon being called to the bar, he worked at a prestigious Bay Street law firm, but left to form, with Eric Lindsay, the first partnership of black lawyers in Canada. In 1994, he was appointed to the bench, becoming the first black lawyer in Canada to be named to a Superior Court from private practice. In the community, Pitt has mentored high school students interested in pursuing careers in law, and has served on the boards of the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Toronto General Hospital. He is a founding director of Caribana, the annual celebration of Caribbean culture held in Toronto, and North America’s largest street festival. He played a leading role in the creation of the Black Business Professional Association and the Sickle Cell Association of Canada. For his contributions to law and the community, he was awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal.
Dr. Vivian Rambihar
(BSc 1972 UC) (MD 1975 McMaster)
Cardiologist Vivian Rambihar is a pioneer in studying heart health among immigrants of South Asian origin. An immigrant himself, he arrived in Canada from Guyana in 1970 to study math and physics at UC, then medicine at McMaster University. He was among the first in Canada to identify ethnic and gender differences in health, using chaos and complexity science. He has shared his findings not only in scientific journals, but also in editorials, books, lectures, and community action, thereby helping to establish the value of cultural competence and diversity in healthcare practice and research. He is the recipient of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Segall Award for Health Promotion in Canada, the IndoCanadian Chamber of Commerce Humanitarian Award, and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal; in 2011 he was named one of the Top 25 Immigrants in Canada. An Adjunct Professor of Medicine at U of T, he is also the health co-chair for the Global Organization for People of Indian Origin, with the goal of reducing the epidemic of premature heart disease and diabetes across the Indian Diaspora.

The Hon. James M. Spence
(BA 1962 UCI) (JD 1966 Toronto)
(LLD Law Society of Upper Canada 2001)
James Spence is a retired judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, and a former president of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. He has served as co-chair and member of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics and as co-chair and member of the Education Committee of the Superior Court of Justice. Before his appointment to the Court in 1993, he served as head of the Law Society of Upper Canada and a director of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. He is a Life Bencher of The Law Society and an honorary member of the Advocates Society of Ontario. As a judge, Spence dealt with a wide variety of Commercial List cases and other commercial and civil disputes, as well as Divisional Court review of administrative decisions. During his 24 years of law practice prior to appointment, he specialized in commercial and corporate matters and government relations as a member and partner in the firm which is now Torys LLP in Toronto. He has lectured and written on legal matters including professional and judicial practice and responsibility, and served as a director on a number of private and public company boards.
Cheryl Wagner (BA 1970 UC)
Gemini- and Emmy-award winning television producer Cheryl Wagner has entertained generations of children around the world. She is best known as the creator of *The Big Comfy Couch*, which airs in Canada, the United States, Mexico, South America, Australia, Britain, Turkey, South Africa, Singapore, the Middle East, Israel, Africa, and Indonesia. Earlier in her career, Wagner contributed as a performer and puppeteer on the much-loved series *Fraggle Rock* alongside Jim Henson, *Mr. Dressup* alongside Ernie Coombs, *Today’s Special*, and *Sesame Street Presents Follow That Bird*. She is the President of Periscope Pictures, Inc., a Charlotte-town-based production company that creates original, screen-based entertainment, including the web series *Bunny Bop!* A member of the Writers’ Guild of Canada, she sits on the board of the Women in Film and Television (WIFT) - Atlantic, and is a recipient of the WIFT Wave Award for her contributions to Canadian film and television.

Prof. Zena Werb
(BSc 1966 UC)
(PhD The Rockefeller University 1971)
Distinguished scientist Zena Werb is Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco. Born in a concentration camp in Germany, she eventually immigrated to Canada with her family, studying biochemistry at UC and cell biology at The Rockefeller University. She is internationally recognized for her discoveries about the molecular and cellular bases of extracellular matrix proteolysis and their roles in the normal functioning of tissues. Her studies have led to new paradigms about the role of the cellular microenvironment and intercellular communication in breast development and cancer. The author of more than 450 articles, Werb is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. For her outstanding contributions, she has been recognized with a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Excellence in Science Award, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Copenhagen, among other honours.

The Hon. Marvin Zuker
(BA 1963 UC) (LLB Osgoode 1966)
(MEd 1971 OISE)
Marvin Zuker is a 30-year veteran of the Family Court of the Ontario Court of Justice, and an Associate Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. He has made prolific contributions to scholarship at the intersection of educational, criminal, and family law, including youth criminal justice, the impact of legislative changes, and the rights and responsibilities of parents, school councils, and private schools. Zuker’s work has helped educators to understand the legal context in which they operate. A notable advocate for the rights of women and children, he is the co-author of *Canadian Women and the Law*, *Children’s Law Handbook*, *Education Law*, and *Inspiring the Future: A New Teacher’s Guide to the Law*, among other titles. He is also a frequent presenter to educators and legal professionals.
INTRODUCING THE YOUNG ALUMNI OF INFLUENCE AWARD

This year, University College launched the Young Alumni of Influence Award in recognition of the achievements of graduates who are in the early phases of their careers.

The prize, honouring UC alumni aged 21 to 35 who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their field, is selected by the executive of the UC Alumni Association based on nominations from the UC community. It will be conferred annually in conjunction with the UC Alumni of Influence Awards.

It is our pleasure to introduce the inaugural recipient of the award, Dr. Melissa Lem (BSc 2001 UC).

Dr. Melissa Lem
(BSc 2001 UC) (MD 2005 Ottawa)

Toronto-based family physician, health educator, and media personality Melissa Lem studied human biology at UC, then attended medical school in Ottawa. Upon graduation, she worked in emergency medicine, obstetrics, and acute care at Wrinch Memorial Hospital in northern British Columbia. Well-loved by patients and staff alike, she was named chief of staff during her second year of work there, and introduced educational rounds by First Nations elders to integrate traditional knowledge into the delivery of care to the local community.

Returning to Toronto, she established a health practice for U of T students and gained a faculty position in the Department of Family and Community Health at U of T. Responding to an ad for a “fun, fearless, female MD,” Lem became the resident medical expert on CBC Television’s national lifestyle show Steven and Chris in 2011. With four seasons and more than thirty episodes under her belt, her humour and accessibility have made her a fan and producer favourite. She can also sometimes be found playing a physician and other roles in films, including a principal role in Suicide Squad, which shot in Toronto this summer.

A lifelong nature enthusiast, Lem’s writings on health and the environment have been featured by the CBC, Evergreen, and the David Suzuki Foundation. She is a member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and an advisor to EcoHealth Ontario. She also volunteers as a house doctor for the Canadian Opera Company and the National Ballet of Canada.
Two years ago, University College launched an ambitious, $40 million campaign to increase scholarship support for deserving students, expand our innovative academic programs, and revitalize the physical fabric of our historic College building.

We envisioned every qualified student having access to the full spectrum of educational opportunities at UC, regardless of their financial background.

We envisioned an expanded focus on creative problem-solving, open inquiry, and real-world experience in our signature academic programs.

We envisioned returning the UC Library to its historic home at the front of the building, updating our classrooms for the 21st century, creating a state-of-the-art conference facility at Croft Chapter House, and improving accessibility for students and visitors with mobility challenges.

Our community of UC alumni, students, faculty, and staff embraced our plans and rallied in support of them, raising an initial $31 million towards our goals, including a lead gift of $2.5 million from Edmund (BA 1969 UC) and Frances (BA 1969 UC) Clark.

And now we are setting out to make our plans a reality. For the building revitalization, this meant convening a committee to plan the phases of the renewal. The committee delivered its report this spring, and it was endorsed by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.

With approval in place and the phases of the building project mapped out, our next step is to engage an architect.

In the meantime, we need your help raising the outstanding $1.8 million that would allow us to start Phase One construction in summer 2016.

Phase One of the revitalization will include the creation of the Collections Room in East Hall and the Clark Reading Room in West Hall—taken together, the new UC Library—as well as a number of associated accessibility improvements and infrastructure upgrades.

Our students are thrilled by the prospect of using the renewed UC Library as early as January 2017. To make this a reality, we need your support in closing the funding gap.

Please give generously to the University College campaign. Together, we can unlock the enormous potential of our building and our students.

To make a donation or to learn more, please visit boundless.utoronto.ca/uc.
Give

Yes, I would like to support UC students!

STEP 1: Gift Amount

**One-time gift:**
- $50
- $100
- $500
- $1000
- Other $______

**Monthly giving:**
- $25/month
- $50/month
- $100/month
- $200/month
- Other $________

Continuous monthly donations starting __________/________/______

*Monthly donations will continue in perpetuity; however you can cancel at any time.

STEP 2: Designate Your Gift

- Building revitalization (0560013773)
- Student scholarships and financial aid (056002544)
- Area of greatest need (0560002518)
- Other __________________________________________

STEP 3: Select a Payment Option

- CHECK (Payable to University College - U of T)
- MONTHLY DIRECT DEBIT (enclosed a cheque marked “VOID”)
- ONLINE GIVING: [https://donate.utoronto.ca/uc](https://donate.utoronto.ca/uc)

- CREDIT CARD: [ ] Visa  [ ] MasterCard  [ ] Amex

For payment by credit card, please complete the following:

Card No: _______/_______/_______/_______

Expiry: _______/_______

Name (as it appears on card): ________________

Cardholder’s signature: _____________________

(please sign for validation)

STEP 4: Update Additional Information

- I have included UC in my will and have not yet notified the College.
- 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.

STEP 5: Your Contact Information

(address required for charitable tax receipt)

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BSc 2015 in Global Health & Anthropology

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**Class Notes**

**NEWS FROM CLASSMATES NEAR AND FAR**

*Garden of Secrets*, an exhibition of art by DIANA BENNETT (BA 1965 UC) showed at the Walnut Contemporary Gallery in Toronto in June. The mature and substantial body of work evolved from a variety of experimental works which the artist has been exploring over the last few years.

Former TD Bank Group President **ED CLARK** (BA 1969 UC) was honoured by Canada’s Public Policy Forum for his outstanding contributions to good governance.

Classicist **MARK GOLDEN** (BA 1971 UC) has been named Professor Emeritus by the University of Winnipeg. An expert in the social history of ancient Greece, he has been described by *The Globe and Mail* as perhaps “Canada’s foremost Classics scholar.”

Tropical and infectious disease expert Dr. **JAY KEYSTONE** (BSc 1956 UC) was named a Member of the Order of Canada.

Chartered financial analyst **CYNTHIA LAW** (BSc 1986 UC) has been appointed an Independent Non-Executive Director of Vanke Property (Overseas) Limited.

**ARIELLE LEWIS** (BA 2012 UC) was awarded the Dean’s Gold Key Award from Osgoode Hall Law School. The award recognizes graduating Juris Doctor students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment.

The Hon. **ALLEN LINDEN** (BA 1956 UC), a retired judge of the Federal Court of Appeal, was named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

The Hon. Justice **SIDNEY LINDEN** (BA 1961 UC) was appointed to the Order of Ontario. The former Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, he was Ontario’s first Information and Privacy Commissioner, served as Chair of Legal Aid Ontario, and as Commissioner for the Ipperwash Public Inquiry.
This spring, University College held its first-ever alumni event in Vancouver, British Columbia, featuring a lecture on cyber security by alumnus Paul Meyer (BA 1974 UC), a Fellow in International Security at Simon Fraser University.

Celebrated novelist Anne Michaels (BA 1980 UC), who served as Barker Fairley Visitor at UC in 2014-15, was awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship.

Dr. Charles Pachter (BA 1964 UC) was appointed to the Order of Ontario. A renowned contemporary artist, his images have become icons of Canadian art and have been exhibited globally and at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the McMichael Gallery.

Gilbert Palter (BSc 1988 UC) was appointed to the board of directors of Atlantic Power Corporation.

The Honourable Bob Rae (BA 1969 UC) has been promoted to the rank of Companion of the Order of Canada. Rae is also the recipient of the 2015 Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy Award. Rae is a senior partner at Olthuis Kleer Townshen LLP, was Ontario’s twenty-first premier, and served as interim leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

More than 200 alumni of all ages attended University College Spring Reunion festivities in May. The weekend kicked off with a barbecue in the UC Quadrangle, followed by a 50th anniversary screening of the
groundbreaking, gay-themed film Winter Kept Us Warm, directed by David Secter (BA 1965 UC) and shot on location at UC. Alumni were also treated to a tour of University College led by Principal Donald Ainslie, and a lecture on Canada after WWI by historian Alan Bowker (BA 1965 UC). Residents of Wallace House from the early 1980s, led by Jim Coccimiglio (BA 1985 UC), also organized a mini-reunion and tour of their former stomping grounds, followed by a pub night. If you would like assistance organizing your own mini-reunion at any time of the year, please contact uc.alumni@utoronto.ca.

Peter Slan (BA 1992 UC) was named Managing Director, Global Private Banking Relationship Management at Scotiabank.

Raymond (2004 UC) and Amy (BA 2004 UC) Shyr welcomed their third child, Zachary, born on December 1, 2014.
On May 29, 2015 at UC Spring Reunion, Dr. Paul (BSc 1965 UC) and Mary (BA 1965 UC) (Jacobson) Spring celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation from UC, as well as their 49th wedding anniversary, making it a true “Spring” reunion.

William Thomas (BCom 1975 UC) was appointed a Director and Chief Financial Officer of Network Oncology Inc.

Humourist, novelist, and lawyer Morley Torgov (BA 1950 UC) was named a Member of the Order of Canada.

Manfred Von Nostitz (BA 1963 UC) has been appointed President, CEO, and Director of Network Oncology Inc.

Lorie Waisberg (BA 1963 UC) was named Chair of the Board of Directors of Arcan Resources Ltd.

Jim Williamson (BA 1982 UC), Executive Producer of CBC's the fifth estate, received an International Emmy award in the current affairs category for the documentary Made In Bangladesh. The film investigates the deadly collapse of a garment factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 23, 2014, which killed more than 1100 people. Clothing manufactured at the facility had been sold at Walmart and Canadian retailer Joe Fresh.

Susan Wollburgh Jenah (BA 1978 UC) has been appointed Senior Advisor, Corporate Finance and Capital Markets at Aird & Berlis LLP.
Students, faculty, and supporters of the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at UC gathered in Hart House’s Great Hall on April 24, 2015, for the third annual BONHAM CENTRE AWARDS GALA. This year, the awards celebrated “The Strength of Sport.” Honoured for their contributions to advancing the cause of sexual diversity through sport were: Greg Louganis, American Olympic gold medalist diver; Marnie McBean, Canadian Olympic gold medalist rower; and Mark Tewksbury, Canadian Olympic gold medalist swimmer.

Incoming UC student VALERIE CHU was one of six inaugural recipients of the new C. David Naylor Scholarships. Named after former University of Toronto president and UC alumnus PROFESSOR DAVID NAYLOR (1974 UC), the entrance scholarships, worth $20,000 each, award students who demonstrated excellence in academics, extracurriculars, and community service in high school.

University College welcomed 600 new graduates to its alumni community at spring CONVOCATION on June 9. Trailblazing sports advocate and Olympian ABIGAIL HOFFMAN (BA 1968 UC) received an honorary degree and delivered the Convocation address.

Professor BRENDA COSSMAN, the Director of the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at UC and a Professor in the Faculty of Law, was honoured with the Award of Excellence in the Promotion of Women’s Equality from the Ontario Bar Association, Women Lawyers Forum.

University College faculty member JOSEPH HEATH, a Professor in the Department of Philosophy and in the School of Public Policy and Governance at U of T, was awarded the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing for his book, *Enlightenment 2.0: Restoring Sanity to Our Politics, Our Economy, and Our Lives* (HarperCollins, 2014).

THOMAS KEYMER, Chancellor Jackman Professor of English and a UC faculty member, was appointed University Professor, U of T’s highest honour conferred on less than 2% of tenured faculty. He was also recently awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship.

Associate Professor of Fine Art and UC faculty member JENNY PURTLE is the principal investigator behind Global and Postglobal Perspectives on Medieval Art and Art History, a partnership between U of T and the School of Arts and Humanities at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts (GAFA) in China. A faculty exchange between institutions, the program will help build art history in China by providing training in Western art history and methodology not otherwise available, while expanding offerings in Chinese art history at U of T. At the conclusion of each graduate course, faculty and students from both institutions will undertake field trips to study works of art firsthand in Sicily and Dunhuang, China.
The following outstanding graduating students received the UC MERIT AWARD this spring in recognition of their leadership within the UC community:

ADEEBA AHMED, REBECCA BALLARIN, CANDI CHIN-SANG, MICHELLE COOK, CAROLINE DAVIS, BENJAMIN DONATO-WOODGER, YOLANDA HO, DANIELLE KLEIN, MADISON KURCHIK, JORDAN LAVOIE, MUNIRA LILA, MENG LIM, CATHY SANTOS, ANA TARUC, ERIKA THAUBERGER, NIROJA THIRUGNANASAMPANTHAR, ENANG UKOH, ERIC WU, and WILLIAM XIAO.

Economist and investment manager Dr. RUSSELL MORRISON was named a Member of the Order of Canada. Russell, along with his wife, Katherine, are the patrons of Morrison Hall Residence at University College.

Students enrolled in University College’s undergraduate interdisciplinary programs gathered in the West Hall on March 13, 2015 to share their projects and celebrate the end of term at the annual RESEARCH AND PRACTICE DAY.

UC Dean of Students MELINDA SCOTT was awarded a Chancellor’s Award in the Emerging Leader category as part of the U of T Alumni Association’s Awards of Excellence program. Since becoming Dean in 2012, Melinda has been a crucial contributor to all of UC’s activities, and is recognized as a key supporter of students, fellow staff, and faculty not just within the College but across the St. George campus and beyond.

Students AMANDA STOJEVSKI and RAMSEY ANDARY were elected, respectively, President and Vice President of the UC Literary and Athletic Society for 2015-16.

University College joined landmarks around the world in ‘Lighting Up Blue’ in support of WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY on April 2, 2015.
In Memoriam

University College bids a fond farewell to our departed classmates, friends, and loved ones. Notices of death published in this issue were received between January 1 and June 30, 2015. Date of death and last known residence are noted where possible. Friends and family of the deceased can help by sending information to address.update@utoronto.ca.

1930s

Mr. A. G. Coulter (BA 1939 UC) of Willowdale, ON; June, 2015
Mr. Edward H. Durnan (1937 UC) of London, ON; Jan. 10, 2015
Mrs. Mary Crowther Kingsmill (BA 1938 UC) of Burlington, ON; Jan. 10, 2015
Ms. Frances Moran (BA 1939 UC) of Ottawa, ON; Feb. 7, 2015
Mr. Paul L. Nathanson (BA 1938 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 11, 2015
Mr. Nathan Schacher (BA 1937 UC) of North York, ON; May 9, 2006
Dr. Harry Sheffer (BA 1939 UC) of Orleans, ON

1940s

Mr. Harold B. Attin (BA 1948 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 19, 2015
Mr. L. M. B. Baldwin (BA 1948 UC) of Burlington, ON; Jan. 5, 2015
The Hon. Walter E. Bell (BA 1941 UC) of London, ON; Jan. 4, 2015
Mrs. Joan R. (Breithaupt) Birkett (BCom 1949 UC) of Burlington, ON; May 26, 2015
Mr. Edward A. Brill (BCom 1947 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 20, 2015
Mr. Herbert B. Epstein (BA 1942 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 23, 2015
The Honourable Patrick S. FitzGerald (BA 1940 UC) of Sault Ste Marie, ON; May 7, 2015
Mr. Frank C. Genovese (BA 1942 UC) of Wellesley, MA; Apr. 28, 2014
Mrs. Jo-Anne A. (Copeland) Gooderham (BA 1948 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 15, 2015
Mr. Irving C. Harris (BA 1949 UC) of Barrie, ON; Sept. 15, 2014
Mr. William Jack (BA 1941 UC) of Calgary, AB

Mrs. Mary L. Jarvis (BA 1948 UC) of Toronto, ON; Jan. 17, 2015
Mr. Alexander D. Knox (BA 1947 UC) of Oxfordshire, England; Nov. 2014
Dr. John C. Laidlaw (BA 1942 UC) of Toronto, ON; June 6, 2015
Mr. Albert J. Latner (BA 1949 UC) of Toronto, ON; June 11, 2015
Dr. Earl MacNaughton (BA 1941 UC) of Guelph, ON; Jan. 5, 2015
Mrs. Janet H. (Smart) Marusaik (BA 1942 UC) of Stoney Creek, ON; Mar. 17, 2015
Mr. Michael Masewich (BA 1949 UC) of Mississauga, ON; Jan. 29, 2015
Mr. W. H. McCamus (BSc 1947 UC) of Etobicoke, ON; Jan. 12, 2015
Mrs. Elizabeth McClelland (1949 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 16, 2015
Ms. Heather B. (Hill) McDonald (BA 1942 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 4, 2015
Mrs. Eunice T. C. Mouckley (BA 1949 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 19, 2015
Mr. Thomas S. Nease (1948 UC) of Woodbridge, ON; June 16, 2015
Mrs. Jeanne S. (Hunt) Neil (BA 1949 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 2, 2015
Mr. Bill Perkins (BA 1947 UC) of Lindsay, ON; Feb. 5, 2015
Mr. Irvin Raxlin (BA 1944 UC) of Thornhill, ON; Jan. 12, 2015
Mrs. Margaret (Burnette) Reid (BA 1940 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 17, 2014
Mrs. Lilian J. (Markham) Salter (BA 1941 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 28, 2014
Mr. Joseph D. Sheard (BA 1945 UC) of Toronto, ON; Jan. 19, 2015
Mrs. Emily J. (Dunham) Smith (1943 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 7, 2015
Mr. Kenneth S. Thompson (BA 1947 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 7, 2015
Mr. T. J. Whillans (BA 1948 UC) of Toronto, ON; Jan. 10, 2015
Ms. Nancy F. Wood (BA 1949 UC) of Toronto, ON; Apr. 6, 2015
Mrs. Annie M. (Corp) Wragg (BA 1943 UC) of Kleinburg, ON; Feb. 16, 2015
Mr. Howard D. Young (BA 1949 UC) of Hillsburgh, ON; Mar. 11, 2015
Mrs. Miriam (Frankel) Zbarsky (BA 1946 UC) of Vancouver, BC; Nov. 22, 2014
1950s
Dr. Ronald Aziz (BA 1950 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 14, 2015
Mr. Donald W. Bassin (BA 1956 UC) of Collingwood, ON; May 2, 2015
Dr. A. A. Borovoy (BA 1953 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 11, 2015
Mr. Daniel W. Burtnick (BA 1956 UC) of Ottawa, ON; Jan. 5, 2015
Mrs. Barbara J. (Davidson) Clarke (1952 UC) of Thornhill, ON; Jan. 9, 2015
Mr. George H. Clarke (BCom 1952 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 8, 2015
Mr. Alan M. Davie (BA 1958 UC) of Aurora, ON; June 4, 2015
Mr. Carl Dunk (BA 1959 UC) of Vineland, ON; Nov. 13, 2014
Dr. Gordon Feldman (BA 1950 UC) of Baltimore, MD; Feb. 12, 2014
Mr. John A. Geller (BA 1951 UC) of Toronto, ON; Jan. 7, 2015
Mrs. Sybil (Gangbar) Geller (BA 1951 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 23, 2015
Mr. Francis J. Graham (BA 1952 UC) of Etobicoke, ON; Mar. 16, 2015
Mr. John R. Y. Hugo (BA 1956 UC) of Toronto, ON; Jan. 11, 2015
Mr. G. K. Humphreys (BCom 1950 UC) of North York, ON; Feb. 3, 2015
Prof. Joan C. Laird (BA 1951 UC) of Picton, ON; Jan. 21, 2015
Mrs. Catherine R. (Creelman) Leishman (BA 1952 UC) of Peterborough, ON; May 10, 2015
Mrs. Sheila Loftus (BA 1952 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 18, 2015
Mr. G. K. Humphreys (BCom 1950 UC) of North York, ON; Feb. 3, 2015
Mr. D. R. A. Ward (BA 1952 UC) of Ingersoll, ON; Apr. 13, 2015
Mr. Frederick E. Whitehead (BA 1951 UC) of Toronto, Ontario; Jan. 8, 2015
Mr. John Young (BA 1952 UC) of Bracebridge, ON; Jan., 2015

1960s
Ms. Joyce H. E. Bradley (BSc 1967 UC) of Barrie, ON; Sept. 22, 2014
Mrs. Malka Chapnick Green (BA 1960 UC) of Toronto, ON; June 21, 2015
Mr. Stephen H. Fuller (BSc 1963 UC) of Willowdale, ON; May 18, 2014
Dr. Peter F. Gilbert (BA 1962 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 4, 2015
Mr. Lionel C. Larry (BA 1967 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 23, 2015
Mr. Andrew G. McQuilkin (BA 1963 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 8, 2015
Mr. Robert L. Radford (BA 1965 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 29, 2015
Mr. William R. B. Rauenbusch (BCom 1968 UC) of North York, ON; May 26, 2015
Mrs. Jean A. (Hollands) Turton (BA 1965 UC) of Hamilton, ON; Mar. 25, 2015
Mr. Douglas G. Worling (BA 1965 UC) of Toronto, ON; Feb. 27, 2015

1970s
Mr. Wendell Kangaloo (BA 1979 UC) of San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago; July 18, 2013
Mr. W. Christopher Martin (BSc 1979 UC) of Scarborough, ON; Feb. 29, 2015
Mrs. Katharine W. (Fitzgerald) Spratt (BA 1972 UC) of Toronto, ON; May 16, 2015

1980s
Mr. Davanand Bisambar (BSc 1988 UC) of Toronto, ON; Mar. 4, 2015
Dr. Francesco Galassi (BA 1981 UC) of Ottawa, ON; Jan. 2, 2015

2000s
Ms. Liana M. Tesan (BSc 2003 UC) of Richmond Hill, ON; June 3, 2015

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“When people think of the University of Toronto they think about University College. As a UC student I carry around that pride and I want our beautiful building to be used as well as it can be.”

Ryan Phillips, Vice-President
UC Literary & Athletic Society
2013–14

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