



Inspiring excellence through community

Annual Impact Report
2023-2024

Illustrating Outcomes with Stories

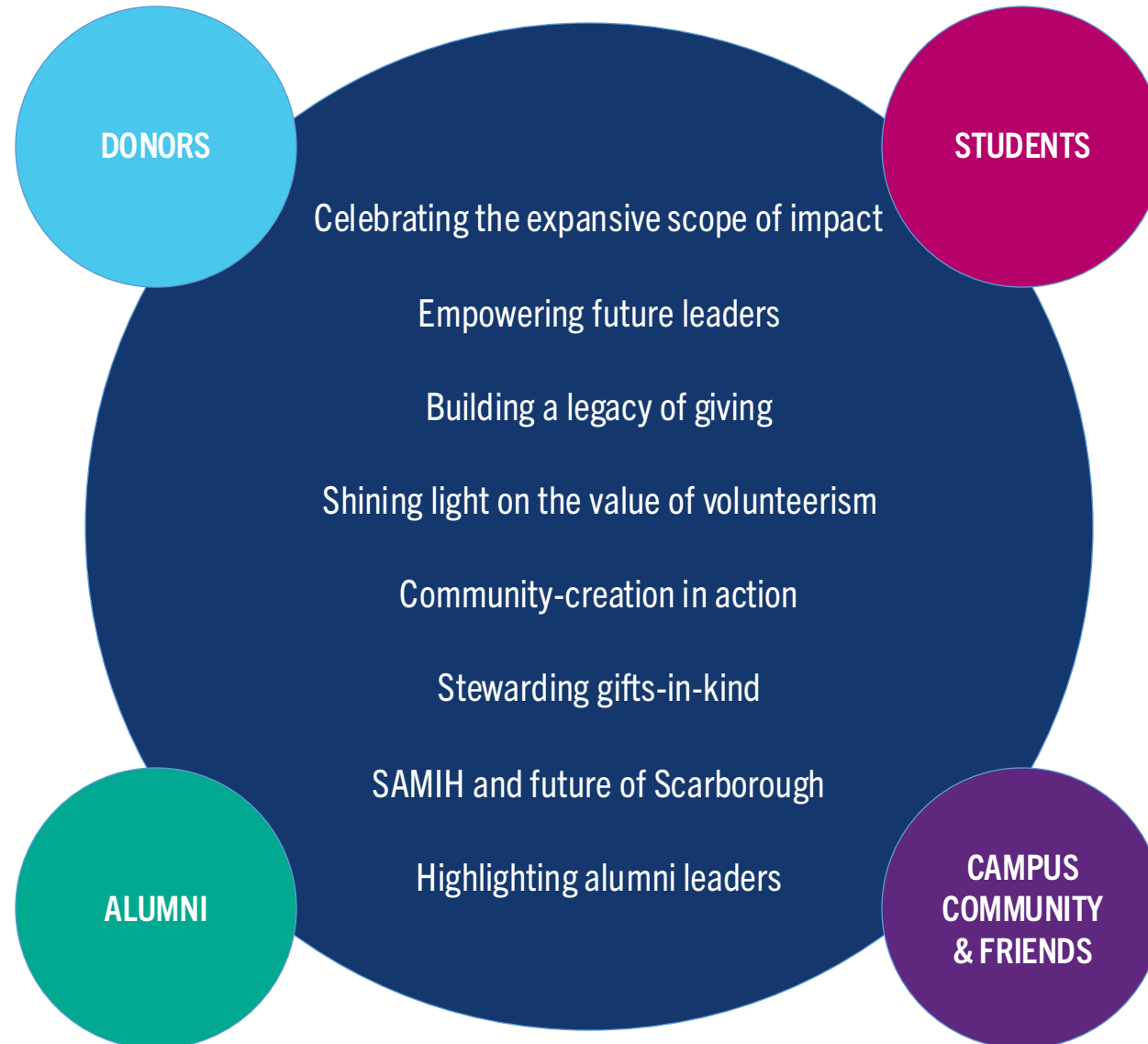
Priorities

- Impact-centred storytelling
- Highlighting voices of the community
- Prioritizing equity
- Enhanced ecosystem building

Objectives

- Showcase voices of recipients of donor support
- Celebrate student and alumni leaders
- Educate on various paths to giving
- Showcase pillars of UTSC community
- Commemorate contributions

Community foci + Thematic priorities



A year's work at a glance



The year's highlights

At U of T Scarborough, our unwavering commitment to Inspire Inclusive Excellence has been evident throughout the past year.

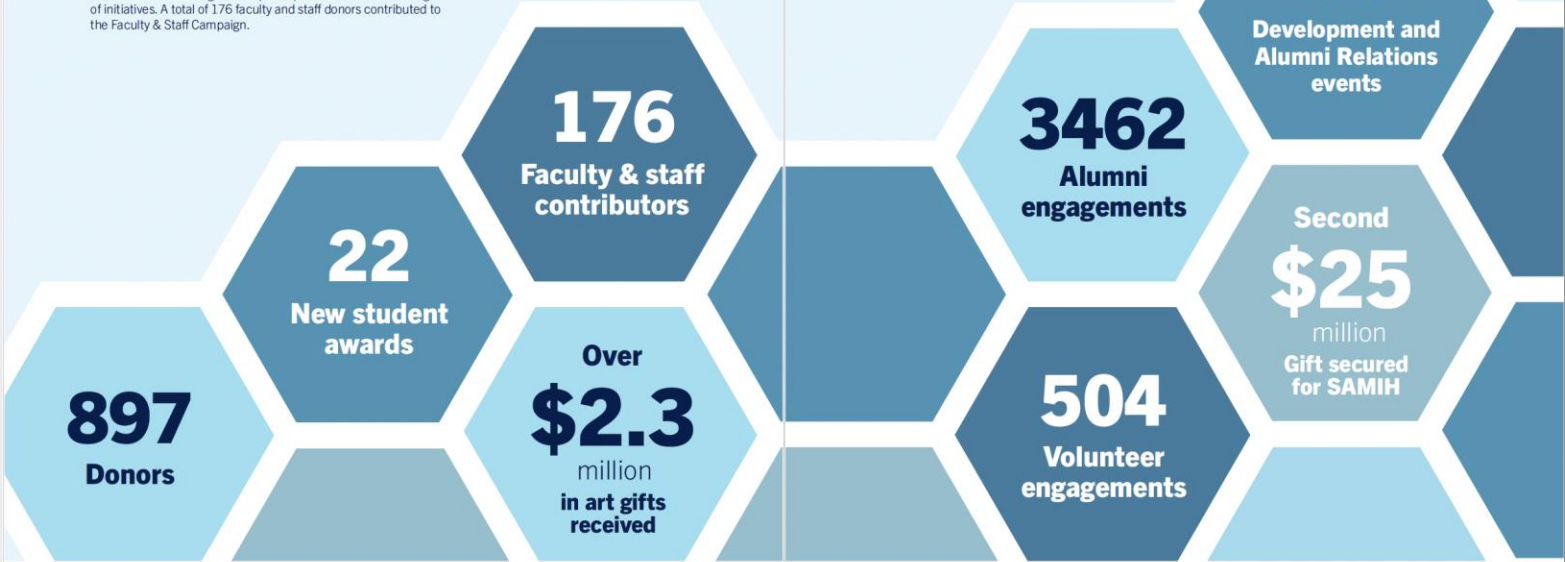
The introduction of 22 new student awards reflects the ongoing generosity of our community, providing an increased number of U of T Scarborough students with critical financial support. These awards open new opportunities for students to enhance their educational experiences and engage more fully with the many resources available across campus, helping them make the most of their time here.

Our faculty and staff have demonstrated their commitment to U of T's mission through active participation across a wide range of initiatives. A total of 176 faculty and staff donors contributed to the Faculty & Staff Campaign.

897 donors contributed to campus priorities and 504 volunteers participated in furthering the institution's mission, which facilitated almost 3,500 interactions with alumni, donors and friends.

In a meaningful endorsement of our shared vision, we also secured a second major contribution of \$25 million toward SAMIH and received over \$2 million in gifts of art, each enriching the campus environment and providing diverse experiences for all.

Together, these milestones reflect the potential of a united U of T Scarborough community, shaping a supportive and forward-looking environment for generations to come.



Creating bridges to access

Empowering
future
leaders



U of T Scarborough student award recipients 2023-24 (left to right): Ifedinma Idono Agwatekwe, Alexis Lynne Borczyk, Kishanni Alfred

Enabling excellence through student awards

Education remains one of the most powerful means to uplift individuals and change lives. This unparalleled impact of higher education is supported by our compassionate community, which generously establishes student awards.

Distinguished benefactors of U of T Scarborough, like yourself, enable and empower our students to achieve their academic and professional goals. Financial aid mechanisms, particularly student awards, ensure that the university can uphold its promise that no domestic student offered admission will have to withdraw from their studies due to financial constraints.

Over the past two decades, the university has dramatically increased financial aid from \$8 million to \$308.6 million in 2022-23. However, the demand for support has also risen significantly due to rising costs and inflation. With over 14,000 students now at U of T Scarborough, the need for financial aid continues to grow.

The impact of student awards is reflected in the journeys of the recipients; a notable one is that of **Ifedinma Idono Agwatekwe**, a second-year student double majoring in Human Biology and Molecular Biology, Immunology, and Disease. At just 17, she worked at a pharmacy during the pandemic, where she saw firsthand the impact a pharmacist can have. Agwatekwe, the first recipient of the **Inclusive Excellence Award in Biological Sciences**, now balances lab work in immunology with volunteering for the IMANI Black Academic Mentorship Program, supporting future Black scholars. "The impact of this award goes beyond financial assistance. It has provided essential technology that enhances my coursework and enriches my academic journey," she says.

A unique aspect of Agwatekwe's award is that it was funded by contributions from the **staff and faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences**. Ivana Stehlik, a professor and chair of the department's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee, explains, "We know Black and Indigenous students are underrepresented in our biology student population due to systemic racism and limited access to resources." Seeing the impact the award has on students inspires staff and faculty to continue to support students in their academic journey like Agwatekwe who aspires to one day become a community health advocate.

Our alumni community is also going above and beyond by establishing awards not just to facilitate support for students following in their footsteps, but to build a legacy at their alma mater, strengthening the connection with the university where they started their own professional journeys.

U of T Scarborough alumnus Graham Knope (BA 1984), who generously established the **Global Development Studies Award** in 2021 to help later-year students with financial needs complete their degree, underscores this point: "I have seen firsthand the difference access to education can make. University fees are much higher now and if I can help a student complete their studies in this field, for their own education and for furthering global development and access to education worldwide, I am honoured."

The award's 2023 recipient, **Alexis Lynne Borczyk**, was recognized on the Dean's List from fall 2021 to 2023 for her strong academic results. She shares how the award was critical to completing her degree. "I am in my

New student awards

We thank the donors who have set up these awards to advance U of T Scarborough's commitment to inclusive excellence.

- The Anusuya Selvarajah-Nadesan Award in International Development Studies
- APGO Education Foundation Bursary
- Aramark Entrance Award for Mature Students at the University of Toronto
- Black Excellence in Tech Award
- Black North Initiative Computer and Applied Science Award
- The Delicia Milani Raveenthirarajan Memorial Award
- The Honourable David C. Onley C.M., O.Ont. Award
- Earl E. Campbell Music and Culture Award
- The Frances B. Pearson Food Science Award
- Healthy Planet Award at the University of Toronto Scarborough
- Jason G. Glover Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award at the University of Toronto
- Joy Hughes Cedar Ridge Studio Gallery Award
- Kevin Wright Memorial Award
- The Manogaran Family Management and International Business Admission Scholarship
- Pui Yuk Suen Memorial Award
- Shawn Allen Award in Management and International Business
- Shirdi Sai Mandir and Cultural Centre Award
- Snow Angel Foundation Scholarship
- Sprott Award for Women in Environmental Geoscience
- The Srinarayanathas Foundation Award in Political Science
- UTSC Black Alumni Milestone Award
- Waheed Hussain Award

Key takeaways:

- ❖ Student awards shape futures
- ❖ Motivations behind creating student awards
- ❖ Fueling inclusive excellence
- ❖ Variety of equity-oriented student awards and the opportunities created

A unwavering commitment to change

Legacy of Giving

fourth year of the International Development Specialist program and have been specializing in culture (specifically Indigenous knowledge) and environmental governance studies. I am from Treaty Six territory in Saskatchewan and moved to Toronto to complete this degree." After graduation, she hopes to continue uplifting communities through culturally appropriate development practices.

Another prime example is the **BPP Preet Banerjee Award**, created by **Preet Banerjee (BSc 2001)**, a dedicated UTSC alumnus and volunteer. This award honours Banerjee's fond memories of U of T Scarborough and was granted this year to **Kishanni Alfred**, a student in the Psychological & Health Sciences Co-op program.

Kishanni, whose parents fled civil unrest in their home country, is pursuing higher education and following her passions thanks to this award. "The financial aspect of attending university was a significant concern for my family. This award alleviated the financial strain and opened doors for me to explore my passions without burdening my family, who have struggled to support me throughout this journey," she says. Now in her second year, Kishanni actively participates in initiatives aimed at destigmatizing mental health in the South Asian community and aims to become a clinical psychologist.

These stories bring home the transformative power of opportunity and support. At U of T Scarborough, we are committed to ensuring that as many students as possible receive the financial aid needed to shape them into architects of a more equitable reality. Join us in our mission!

Learn more about student awards at uoft.me/awards-at-utsc.

The foresight to give back: An interview with Branko Vojnovic

Generosity broadens one's horizons by revealing the impact a single person can have in changing someone else's world.

Branko Vojnovic's (BA 2000) care for others became clear when he established the Branko Vojnovic U of T Scarborough AccessAbility Award, when he was a student himself. After more than 20 years of supporting this award, he has now ensured his legacy will continue for generations through a planned gift. We spoke to Branko about the foresight and compassion that fuel his vision for a better world.

You've supported the Branko Vojnovic U of T Scarborough AccessAbility Award for over two decades. What keeps you motivated to continue this philanthropy?

Over the decades, I have had the chance to meet the recipients of the award or read impact letters about what this award means to them. And for all of them this has been such a meaningful award. The purpose of this award was to provide meaningful, positive recognition of the growth a student is making.

Is there a personal story or experience that inspired your commitment to accessibility?

We all have challenges and hurdles to overcome and sometimes these can make us feel overwhelmed. However, when we really step back and look at the bigger picture, some individuals truly have more hurdles to overcome than others. I often get asked what inspired me to set up this award. I can say that two decades ago, my inspiration was different than it is today. Now, I see it as a legacy to remind individuals that we should really be giving back to our community.

In order to fund the award in perpetuity, you've also pledged a planned gift to U of T Scarborough. What led you to plan so far into the future?

Very simply, I've seen the positive impact this award has had on many students' lives. Until recently, I funded this award alone. I have worked with U of T Scarborough to develop an online portal for friends, the business community and others to join me and donate in support of this award. However, I want this award to outlive me and continue bringing positive change to students even after I'm gone. Now, with a \$50,000 gift in my will for U of T Scarborough to establish an endowment, I'm ensuring this award continues long after I'm gone.

You too can join Branko Vojnovic in his quest to support the journey of students with accessibility needs by learning more about the award at uoft.me/accessibility-at-utsc.



Branko Vojnovic (left) with Christopher Luongo (right), the recipient of the 2022 U of T Scarborough AccessAbility Award

How would you describe your giving philosophy and your desire to create a positive impact on people's lives? Do you have a motto or words of wisdom that guide you?

My desire to create a lasting impact is a part of me and my daily life. My interactions with family, friends, colleagues and strangers are all about intentionally developing rapport. Making a person laugh, whether at home, work, or in public, makes for a better day. For me, giving is not just about financial contributions, but also about giving personal time or creating positive interactions. And I try to find enjoyment in everything I do. My motto: Highs don't last forever and similarly lows don't last forever.

What advice would you give to someone considering creating a student award or including a planned gift in their will?

Openly talk to U of T Scarborough about your ideas. It took me over a year to set up this award because I had an idea and collectively, we developed a vision.

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The financial assistance this award provides aids me in the completion of my degree and the accomplishment of my goals here at UTSC...I am grateful for the assistance, inspired by the selection, and will continue to work hard in my studies.”

– Emily Marie Mammoliti,
Third-year, Biology and Mental Health Studies
Recipient of the 2023 AccessAbility Award



A donor with their student award recipient – experiencing one's impact first-hand

Key takeaways:

- ❖ Value of consistent giving
- ❖ Felicitating donor commitment
- ❖ Compounding impact of giving
- ❖ Appreciating the power of planned giving



Creating a circle of care

Volunteering as a mentor: Bridging the past and present with care

"It's important to give back to create the place you want to live in," says alumna Caroline Watling about her experience mentoring U of T Scarborough students.

Caroline Watling (BSc 2019) has experienced both sides of mentorship — first as a student mentee in 2017, and now, by returning to mentor students herself in 2024. Currently a digital marketing manager at SAP, Caroline began her journey as a Human Biology and Theatre Performance major at U of T Scarborough. She credits the skills she learned outside the classroom, through programs like the Partners in Leadership (PIL) mentoring program and the Get Hired conferences, as key factors in helping her pivot professionally during the pandemic.

"As an undergrad, I wasn't able to see beyond my little piece of the world. It's really hard to understand the greater context of your life when you're in the middle of exams and midterms," she reminisces.

It was then that Caroline applied as a mentee to the PIL program, where she found a mentor to discuss her ideas with and gain insights on how to prepare for her future.

"I joined the PIL program in my second-last year of undergrad. I had some ideas, but I really didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. The program was a great starting point. It helped me focus not just on coursework or technical skills, but on broader aspects of life. To be honest, that's how I got to where I am in my career now — I don't do anything related to my undergrad in my daily life," she shares.

The program had such a lasting impact on Caroline that when she saw a call for PIL mentors, she was excited about paying it forward. "The skills and workshops I participated in through the PIL program significantly influenced my career progression. So, when I saw a call for volunteer mentors, I was thrilled to share my experience of how I got to where I am, hoping it could be advantageous for someone else at that crucial point in their life."



Alumni mentors at the launch of the PIL program in 2023

Following the example set by her mentor, Caroline emphasizes the importance of nurturing soft skills in her mentees. "In my final year, there was immense pressure to do everything right. People would say that if we didn't get into med school, we wouldn't get a job. But I have a great career, so for me, mentoring is also about giving someone hope that it's going to be okay. I guide them to think outside the box and not feel confined to their major."

Paired with a Neuroscience major through the PIL program, she was able to counsel her mentee, evaluate their applications and connect them with industry professionals who had completed master's degrees in similar fields. She helped them understand that careers can shift and that adaptability is an advantage. As a Human Biology major who transitioned from recording data analysis of fruit flies to analyzing end-user marketing journeys, Caroline is a prime example of how to reframe skills to align with evolving life goals.

A longtime advocate of volunteering, Caroline beams as she says, "I've been volunteering since I was 17. I ran the entire social media strategy for a local music festival as a volunteer. No one would have hired me to do that with no experience!" She has also been involved in fundraising with many organizations on campus, which helped her secure her first real job as a fundraiser for theatre. "Volunteering is a great way to meet new people. Networking is difficult for everyone and so is setting boundaries at the workplace. Volunteering can be a safe place to practice that. Also, I've made some of my best friends while volunteering, so I am a big fan! I highly recommend mentoring a student to anyone searching for a fulfilling experience."

Partners in Leadership mentorship program provides crucial support by connecting students with alumni to tap into their vast professional expertise and experiences to support our graduate's transition from student life. Consider supporting a student mentee by exploring the program at uoft.me/pil-at-utsc.

Value of
Volunteerism

Key takeaways:

- ❖ How volunteering rewards the volunteer
- ❖ The circle of care created by giving back to spaces that nurture one

“

PIL helped me focus not just on coursework or technical skills, but on broader aspects of life. To be honest, that's how I got to where I am in my career now..."

From mentee to mentor
— the volunteering journey
from both ends



Arts on Campus

Investing in UTSC through the arts

Recent gifts made to the campus highlight the growing importance of art as a means to bring the community together.

In a world that often feels disconnected, the arts offer an unparalleled way of bridging divides. Art addresses social isolation, especially in marginalized communities, by providing a reason for people to come together, share experiences, express complex emotions, and find resolution through the process of creation. At U of T Scarborough (UTSC), this belief in the transformative power of art has recently found new champions.

One such champion is the Bank of Montreal (BMO), whose generosity has sparked new possibilities. With a gift of \$250,000 – matched dollar-for-dollar by the university – BMO is supporting Indigenous House, a space dedicated to Indigenous Ways of Knowing, culture and voices. Part of BMO's gift will help fund the commissioning and installation of artwork by Indigenous artists, with these pieces displayed in the building's atrium.

Another gift to support the beautification of our growing campus comes from Pomerleau, a construction company that made a donation of \$10,000. This contribution helped ignite the imaginations of students by allowing them the opportunity to add to the campus's artistic landscape. These funds allowed Department of Arts, Culture and Media (ACM) students taking the Curatorial Perspectives course to step beyond their usual academic focus. They visited studios, conducted research, and ultimately selected a piece of art to be displayed at Harmony Commons, the new student residence on campus. This collaborative process – engaging both students and the curatorial team at the Doris McCarthy Gallery (DMG) – offered learners a unique experience while enabling visitors to Harmony Commons to connect with the selected

artwork. This shared experience of acquiring artwork for the campus is an annual iteration built into the course and made possible this year through Pomerleau's gift, enriching the entire UTSC community.

The timelessness of art also makes it a uniquely valuable space for giving, and this is evident in the recent donation of works by Canadian landscape painter Doris McCarthy (BA 1989) by Wendy Wacko. Wacko, a close friend of McCarthy and an artist herself, had collected McCarthy's works over the years, their friendship blossoming from a shared love of nature and the creative process. Timed with the 20th anniversary of the DMG – the space dedicated to celebrating McCarthy's legacy – Wacko made an extraordinary gift to UTSC, donating 180 pieces from the celebrated artist's estate. This generous addition, valued at \$1.5 million, enhances an already remarkable collection of McCarthy's work, providing new examples that span the full spectrum of her artistic career. Ann MacDonald, the gallery's executive director and chief curator, welcomed Wacko's gift for its "astoundingly comprehensive" look at McCarthy's art.

Wacko's gift, like those from BMO and Pomerleau, is about more than money or recognition. It's about ensuring that the next generation of artists, thinkers and dreamers have spaces where they can connect, create and be inspired. In a world that can feel divided, these gifts remind us that art is a powerful unifier – bringing people together and nurturing the human spirit. Through their generosity, these donors are investing not only in the arts but also in the future and wellbeing of Scarborough's communities, ensuring that the power of creation is invigorated, celebrated and shared.



A guest observes artwork at the DMG's 20th anniversary event



Cecily Wolowich, curator, Doris McCarthy exhibit, New Light (left) with Ann MacDonald, chief curator, DMG



Alexander Irving (Prof ACM) and guests discuss one of McCarthy's iconic iceberg paintings, "Iceberg Fantasy #43"



Wendy Wacko (left) with Doris McCarthy (right)



"Synchro Thoughts 1" supported by Pomerleau on display at Harmony Commons

Stewarding
gifts-in-kind

Key takeaways:

- ❖ Celebrating the legacy of a legend - Doris McCarthy
- ❖ Bringing together gifts of art across the campus community
- ❖ Shining a light on how art is intrinsic to UTSC

Interweaving visual narratives
from across the campus



Connecting after the classrooms

With a little help from our friends: How alumni networks keep us connected

Current alumni group presidents share insights of how alumni associations and networks keep graduates connected with U of T Scarborough long after graduation.

To explore what inspires alumni to stay engaged, we spoke with leaders from U of T Scarborough's (UTSC) alumni networks: the UTSC Alumni Association (UTSCAA), Management Alumni Association (MAA), Geography and City Studies Alumni Network (GCSAN) and the UTSC Black Alumni Network (UTSCBAN). Across these groups, one theme stood out: a shared desire to give back and foster connections across generations.

"We wanted to create a sense of community among alumni and equip graduating students with the skills to support their transition to postgraduate studies and careers," explained Da Chen (BA 2017, MScPi 2020), the president of GCSAN, which was founded in 2022 to meet the needs of students graduating during the pandemic. "Our network hosts fun social events like hikes, mini-golf and snow tubing. We find people are more likely to network when there are activities to share." These events are well-attended and the smile on participants' faces say it all.



Presidents of UTSC alumni associations and networks (left to right): Dr. Melanie Ratnam (UTSCAA), Chevon Riley (UTSCBAN), Da Chen (GCSAN), Sabrina Fanelli (MAA)

The president of the UTSCAA, Dr. Melanie Ratnam (BSc 2007, PhD 2018), echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of building solidarity among alumni. "The solidarity among UTSCAA members is nurtured by the leadership of the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO), which hosts events throughout the year – both in-person and virtual, across regions. Over time, these efforts have been highly successful in creating a strong sense of community among alumni and current students."

This sense of belonging and connection transcends geographic boundaries, allowing alumni around the world to stay engaged and involved no matter where their lives take them. For some, these networks provide not just a sense of community but also platforms to advance shared goals and causes. The recently established UTSC Black Alumni Network (UTSCBAN) exemplifies this.

"Our network fosters a sense of solidarity and affirmation, uplifting voices through targeted initiatives and collaborative programming that resonate deeply with the Black community," shared the president of UTSCBAN, Chevon Riley (BSc 2020). A core part of their outreach involves integrating their efforts with existing programs like the UTSC Partners in Leadership (PIL) alumni mentorship program and adapting them to specifically support Black students through the involvement of Black alumni.

"Whether through mentorship programs that connect recent graduates with seasoned professionals or panel discussions addressing challenges Black professionals face, UTSCBAN ensures its members receive the support they need to thrive," said Riley. "This environment allows us to share resources, advice and successes in a way that uplifts the entire community."

Many alumni associations also highlight the role these groups play in fostering leadership. "Being part of the UTSC community helps cultivate leaders who are grounded in shared values and experiences, which ultimately leads to the betterment of society," explained Dr. Ratnam. These networks provide crucial support systems that amplify members' achievements and contributions.

For management graduates, MAA is proof of the lifelong relationship that the department and the university intend to build with alumni. "MAA has evidenced that the support of Department of Management extends beyond the time as a current student," said the president of the association, Sabrina Fanelli (BBA 2019). "Through MAA initiatives I've experienced the Management department's support and engagement from current and past professors, department staff, current students, alumni of all ages and career paths, and even alumni located internationally! It's been very impressive to see the Management community span generations, geographic borders, and interests."

These networks not only foster personal connections but also provide alumni with the support and guidance needed to reach their full potential. Whether it's through mentorship programs, professional development, or cultural identity initiatives, they offer alumni the tools they need to succeed in both their personal and professional lives.

By advancing professional growth and a sense of community, these alumni networks have become essential spaces for mutual support, intellectual exchange, and shared learning. They allow members to navigate the challenges of the modern world while staying connected to the values they gained during their time at UTSC.

We recognize the vital role these networks play in fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose. Together, they form a web of interconnectedness that directly links UTSC's success to the ongoing achievements of its alumni. Through these lasting connections, we are building a legacy that strengthens both the institution and the alumni who contribute to it.

Being part of alumni associations and networks is an excellent way to stay connected with the university and share your expertise to enhance the experiences of students both within and beyond the professional realm. Explore various associations at uoft.me/alumni-associations-at-utsc and consider volunteering.

Community-creation in action

Key takeaways:

- ❖ Alumni associations as spaces of togetherness in a post-pandemic reality
- ❖ Connecting with peers who share a common ground can open doors to a myriad of experiences
- ❖ Networks of support created by alumni associations

Enhancing access to care

Making a healthier Scarborough

Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health: The next frontier for public health in the eastern GTA

The new academy aims to train clinicians in Scarborough to strengthen public health in a diverse and fast-expanding community.

Currently, over two million Ontarians do not have access to a family doctor. This number could grow to over four million by 2026.

Scarborough and the eastern GTA, while being some of the most densely populated areas in the city, are also the most underserved in terms of healthcare. According to Ontario Health at Home, the poorer health outcomes experienced in these localities, compared to provincial averages, can be attributed to some of the lowest ratios of family physicians and specialists in Ontario. The need for comprehensive healthcare and clinical training in this region has never been more pressing and cannot be overstated.

Born from a visionary partnership between U of T and key healthcare institutions including Michael Garron Hospital, Scarborough Health Network, Lakeridge Health and Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH) will address these disparities by creating a robust healthcare hub in Toronto's east end. By expanding the number of health providers trained through U of T's world-class education, it will enhance access to care for patients in the region,



Inspiring Excellence Through Community



Renderings of the SAMIH building's ground floor (continued on next page)
Images courtesy of Diamond Schmitt Architects and MVRDV



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broaden the range of health care services available through its public clinics, create opportunities for local students to explore careers in healthcare and boost the chances that health professionals trained in Scarborough will choose to practise locally.

With the recent transformational gift of \$25 million from Berna and Myron Garon, together with \$25 million from the Orlando Group, and a pledge of \$1 million from Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences towards an MRI machine, we are closer to our goal of making SAMIH a reality through the generosity of our donor community. The building is slated to open as soon as 2026. SAMIH will build upon the university's proven success with the Mississauga Academy of Medicine, where over 50% of graduates remain in the region to practice. It will equip diverse cohorts of physicians, especially those from marginalized identities, to reside in and serve the vastly multicultural communities that make Scarborough unique.

Apart from preparing future physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and physical therapists, SAMIH will also increase residency positions and create 300 new undergraduate spots in the life sciences, ensuring a steady pipeline of healthcare talent.



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The academy will serve as a central institution for health professionals across specializations, collaborations and work toward enhancing both the quality and accessibility of care for underserved communities.

With experts from the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy curating the pedagogies and curricula, UTSC is uniquely positioned to lead this project as an anchor institution deeply embedded within the Scarborough community and committed to its long-term growth and well-being.

Beyond healthcare, SAMIH is expected to have a profound economic impact on the region. Not only will it create employment opportunities, but it will also stimulate local economies and improve overall access to public health, making the region more attractive for further development and investment.

With its recent groundbreaking, the establishment of SAMIH represents a transformative moment for Scarborough and the surrounding communities. By supporting SAMIH, you too can play a vital role in realizing a dream that will have lasting benefits for generations to come. Your contribution will help ensure that every resident in the eastern GTA has access to the high-quality healthcare they deserve as Canadians. Learn more about SAMIH at uoft.ms/samih-at-sbsc.



Attendees celebrate the groundbreaking for the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health

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Inspiring Excellence Through Community

Key takeaways:

- ❖ The urgent need for SAMIH and the impact to expect
- ❖ How SAMIH will elevate access to healthcare for all of Scarborough and Eastern GTA
- ❖ UTSC's role as an anchor institution is at the heart of this vision.

UTSC Alumni Awards

Highlighting
Alumni
Leaders

U of T Scarborough Alumni Awards: Spotlighting exceptional alumni

If we can see further by standing on the shoulders of giants, it is our duty to make room on our shoulders for the giants of the future.

The U of T Scarborough Alumni Awards celebrate and honour our exceptional alumni and their accomplishments.

These awards reconnect U of T Scarborough with its alumni, inspiring current students and showcasing diverse paths to positive change. The 2023 recipients demonstrated that one person's self-belief can indeed change the world.

A barrier-breaking pioneer The Honourable David C. Onley, C.M. (BA 1975)

David Onley (1950-2023) was a man of many firsts. He started the first radio station at U of T Scarborough. He was one of the first Canadian broadcasters featured in a wheelchair, advocating for on-screen representation of mobility devices, and becoming a trailblazer for people with disabilities across Canada and globally.

As the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (2007-2014), David worked to create inroads for people with disabilities to access housing and employment. Later, while a senior lecturer of Political Science at U of T Scarborough, he consulted on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Decorated with the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario among other laurels, David received the **U of T Scarborough Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement** posthumously, celebrating his dedication to his country, community, family and alma mater.



A transcontinental visionary Efosa Obano (BBA 2018)

When he first landed in Scarborough in 2013 from Nigeria, Efosa Obano knew no one. Today, he can be credited for creating a thriving community of Black-identifying business leaders, the Black Founders Network, and an expansive pan-African partnership, African Impact Initiative, that allows U of T to extend entrepreneurial opportunities beyond Canada.

From reviving the African Students Association to facilitating the African Impact Challenge, which enabled 1000+ African innovators through capacity-building and/or funding, Efosa creates systems of encouragement, engagement and exposure for Black and African founders. Efosa's work has earned him many honours, including the **U of T Scarborough Young Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement**.

A star leads from behind Sumudini Saathi (BSc 2006)

Born to refugee parents, Sumudini Saathi challenged oppressive cultural practices and began her anti-racism activism quite early in life. Currently, a labour relations specialist, she co-founded the BIPOC Collective Human Rights Committee with CUPE905. She was the first woman and Person of Colour elected to represent 4,000 public servants as Chair for York Region Unit & Long-Term Care.

Sumudini's social justice passion rivals her love for the arts. A body-positive model, theatre actor, dancer, and poet, she deeply values intersectionality in representation. Her fight against systemic discrimination earned her the **U of T Scarborough Alumni Inclusive Excellence Award**.



Nurturing a community Dr. Béatrice Lego

Dr. Béatrice Lego, coordinator of the UTSC Campus Farm, received the **U of T Scarborough Faculty & Staff Award for Alumni Engagement** for her thoughtful initiatives to engage alumni with the campus farm. Through digital and in-person events, Béatrice provides alumni with lifelong learning experiences, from pedagogy and research to cross-disciplinary networking. She builds strong ties with students at various stages of their UTSC journey, embodying the university's commitment to go above and beyond in supporting all learners.

Learn more about the recipients of the 2024 U of T Scarborough Alumni Awards at uoft.me/utsc-alumni-awards-2024. Nominations for next year's awards open in Spring 2025.

Key takeaways:

- ❖ Alumni Awards are a meaningful way to celebrate the diverse and distinguished journeys of notable UTSC alumni.
- ❖ They honour graduates at every stage of success—across industries, communities, and contributions.

Highlighting contributions – big and small

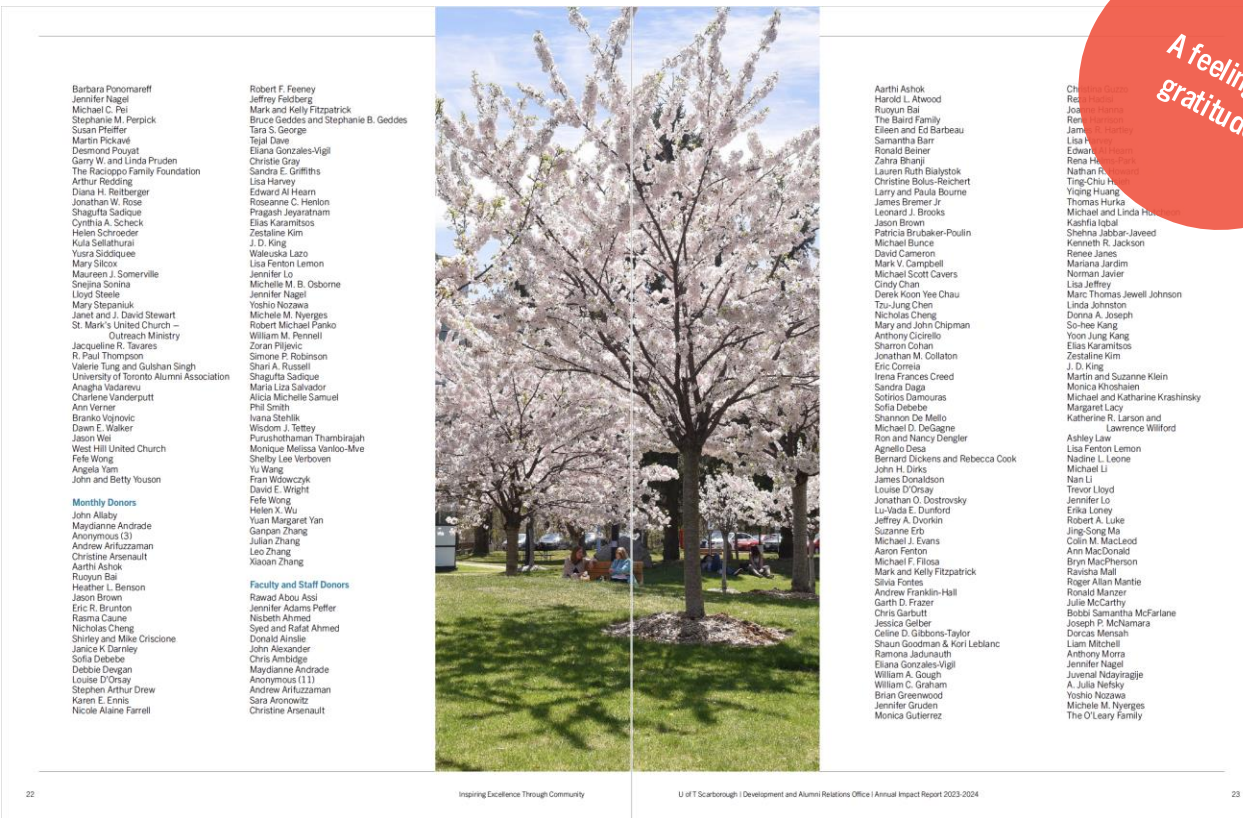
Donors & volunteers list

Thank you to each of our generous donors and alumni association/network volunteers!

The following donors and volunteers list represents the reporting period of May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024 and includes all donors over \$1,000 who made new gifts or pledge payments.

In the event of an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact Mary Stangolis at mary.stangolis@utoronto.ca or 416-208-5185 to ensure our records are accurate.

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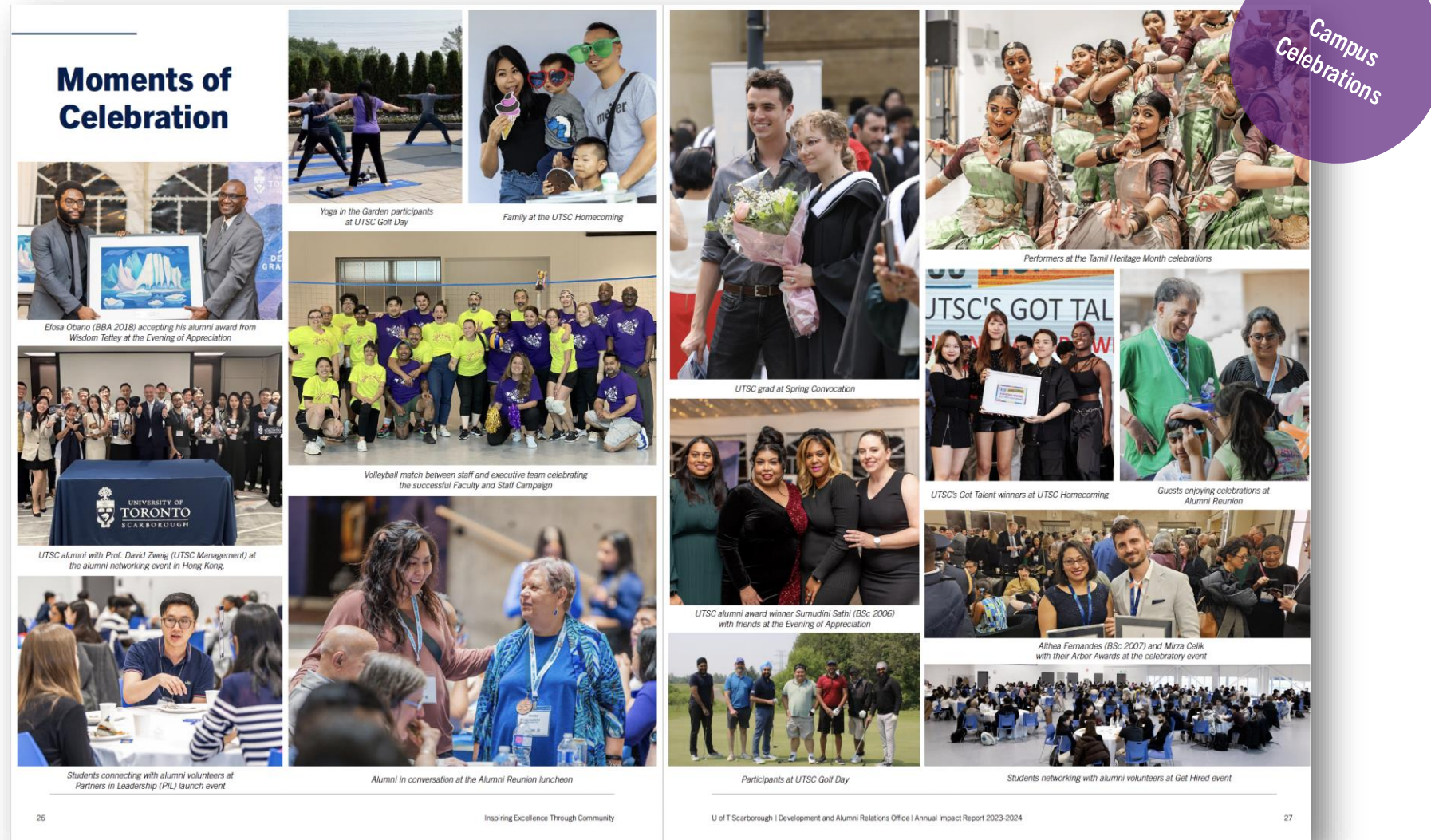


Donors and Volunteers lists:

- ❖ Ensuring donors and volunteers feel seen and acknowledged
- ❖ Thanking everyone who supports our goals

A feeling of gratitude

Visuals of community-in-action



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