

## UTAA President's Annual Report

### University of Toronto Alumni Association Alumni Celebration and Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm at Convocation Hall

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The University of Toronto Alumni Association's mission is to strengthen the bonds amongst alumni and between the University and its community of more than 575,000 alumni living all over the world.

Before I report on some of the activities of the past year, I would like to express my considerable thanks to my fellow members of the [UTAA Board of Directors](#). They are a committed group who have consistently dedicated their time and energy to fulfil their duties and obligations as directors and to furthering our mission. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with this outstanding group of volunteers, to engage with their ideas, and to benefit from their counsel and diverse perspectives.

#### **UTAA Gift to the Landmark Project:**

U of T's historic [Landmark Project](#) will revitalize the heart of the University's St. George campus and restore its natural beauty. By reclaiming the space for pedestrians through the use of people-centric and people-friendly spaces, it will significantly enhance the U of T experience for students, alumni, visitors and the entire community. At last year's UTAA AGM, I was proud and honoured to [announce](#) that the UTAA, in partnership with the University, was providing a [lead gift](#) to the Landmark project. The UTAA committed \$1M, matched by \$1M from the University using unrestricted gifts to the Boundless Campaign, bringing the total gift to \$2M. The UTAA's gift continued a century-long tradition of alumni support for the St. George campus. To date, more than 1,300 donors have supported the Landmark Project, and I encourage you to consider ways in which you can also participate. Information on how you can get involved is available on the [Landmark website](#).

#### **UTAA Strategic Priorities:**

The UTAA continued to work this year on our two previously identified strategic priorities, mentorship and community engagement:

**Alumni Mentorship Initiative:** This initiative focuses on promoting alumni mentorship programs across the University to both alumni and students via the work of a [committee](#) comprising volunteers and staff. This year the UTAA, in partnership with Alumni Relations, hosted the fifth annual University-wide recognition event for alumni mentors. Mentors from all divisions were invited to this event, which was attended by 482 guests including mentors, divisional mentor program coordinators, senior U of T administration and alumni leadership.

**Community Engagement Initiative:** This initiative brings together alumni interested in having a positive impact in their communities, recognizes our everyday heroes and celebrates their collective impact on their communities. The cornerstone of this initiative is the [Carl Mitchell Community Engagement Award](#), which recognizes an alum who has made outstanding contributions to their community at a grassroots level, and in doing so has enriched the lives of others through their community service. The award recipient is formally recognized at the annual [Alumni Celebration](#) during [Alumni Reunion](#) weekend.

We are proud to support these initiatives that are central to our efforts in building a community of actively engaged alumni who are passionate and supportive of the University. Additional information on these and other UTAA activities can be found on the [UTAA website](#).

#### **Supporting Our University**

Over the last year, the UTAA has sponsored and supported many programs and initiatives. We are proud to play a role in recognizing the accomplishments of so many outstanding members of the University community.

The UTAA is proud and honoured to have partnered with the University on the annual [Awards of Excellence](#) since its inception. This prestigious program promotes and celebrates the achievements of some of the University's most outstanding faculty, staff and students. The Awards of Excellence program consists of seven awards and two student scholarships. This year there were 21 recipients in total and their citations may be viewed [online](#).

In 2018, the UTAA's annual [Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Awards](#) ceremony recognized 233 outstanding graduating students for their extra-curricular contributions to their faculty, college, or to the wider University community. In total, more than 3,800 students have been recognized since the award was established in 1994.

As part of its ongoing commitment to help the University of Toronto recruit some of the most outstanding high school students from across the country, the UTAA hosted its annual reception welcoming the 2018 National and Arbor Scholarship finalists to campus. In addition, the UTAA contributed towards financially supporting a current National Scholar.

#### ***Soldiers' Tower Committee***

I would like to express our gratitude to the [Soldiers' Tower](#) Committee for their ongoing commitment to preserving the memory of the University community's contributions to the war efforts. I would especially like to thank Matthew Jurczak for his leadership as new Chair of the Committee. The Memorial Room inside the Soldiers' Tower received close to 3,000 visitors over the past year. The Committee is now preparing for the Service of Remembrance in November 2018 which will mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

#### ***Senior Alumni Association***

I would like to acknowledge the [Senior Alumni Association](#) for the active involvement of senior alumni as volunteers throughout the U of T campus, as well as the ongoing efforts of the SAA to provide lifelong learning opportunities for all alumni and friends through the popular [Canadian Perspectives Lecture Series](#). There were 796 registrants for the 2017-2018 lecture series; these offered wonderful opportunities for alumni to connect with each other and with their alma mater while hearing fascinating lectures by academics and industry professionals.

I would particularly like to thank the SAA's President, Ihor Prociuk, for his outstanding leadership and his support of UTAA activities and initiatives over the past year.

The UTAA is grateful for the ongoing commitment and dedication of the Soldiers' Tower Committee and the SAA, and look forward to their continued engagement in the activities of the University.

#### ***Our Extended Alumni Volunteer Community***

I would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the other members of our alumni volunteer community, especially the Council of Presidents, the College of Electors, the Alumni Governors, the members of the Awards of Excellence selection committees, and the members of the UTAA's committees, for their commitment, expertise and active engagement over the past year. The guidance and leadership provided by these volunteers in their respective spheres is greatly valued by both the UTAA and by the University.

In closing, I would like to express my deep thanks to all of the staff of the Division of University Advancement for their support over the year, and, in particular, Barbara Dick, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations, and her colleagues Anne Cobban, Satpal McCaughey and Olga Klenova. Much of what the UTAA lends its name to would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of Alumni Relations staff and other colleagues within DUA.

I would also like to thank you for your attendance at the UTAA's AGM as well as your ongoing involvement with and passion for the University of Toronto.

Sincerely,



R. Scott MacKendrick, President, UTAA