

2022 Environment Advancement Report

2022 was a year of both transition and great success for the Faculty of Environment. As we transitioned our Faculty leadership we continued to intentionally build a stronger culture of philanthropy across the Faculty and with our stakeholders. We increased our fundraising capacity through increased donor and alumni engagement, focused activities linked to fundraising priorities, and collaboration with our partners.

Alumni Engagement & Strengthening our Student Alumni Bridge

Alumni engagement by the numbers:

17,000+ Environment Alumni from 90+ Countries, including graduates joining the alumni community in Summer and Fall 2023 convocations. Approximately 7,500 contactable alumni	3500+ Hours shared by Alumni Volunteers mentoring students and giving back to Environment in calendar 2022	500+ ENV alumni Volunteered their precious time away from family, early mornings and after a long day at work on more virtual screen time to support our students.
25 Virtual office hours with 501 unique students attending multiple events – over 200% increase in student participation!	93 Class Champions (1968-2022) have stepped up to keep their class connected – to one another and to the Faculty at Waterloo	6 June Class reunions from across the Faculty organized by 11 class champions

Our [Class Champion Program](#) saw continued growth in its fourth year. The program, which enriches alumni engagement by supporting volunteer class representatives an opportunity to celebrate their milestone reunions by reconnecting with one another and the Faculty at Waterloo, grew from 67 to total 93 class champions.

Our alumni's involvement with this program is a testament to the impact our community has in furthering the Faculty's brand and reputation, and impacting the lives of our students while at Waterloo, while showcasing Environment's strong and connected community.



Annually we celebrate the immense contributions and accomplishments of our alumni and friends through our Faculty of Environment [Alumni Awards Program](#). Our 2022 recipients' outstanding contributions to their community, society and our planet are exceptional:

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award



Dr. Chris Derksen (BES '97, MA '98, PhD '01)

Research Scientist, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Chris is a world-leading expert on snow with expertise spanning conventional observations, remote sensing, and climate model analysis. His research activities focus on the role of snow cover in the climate system and the implications of climate change on snow, including freshwater availability, Arctic ecosystems, and the carbon cycle. [\[Read more\]](#)

Friend of the Faculty Impact Award



Intact Financial Corporation

Being received by: Carla Smith Executive Vice President & Chief People, Strategy and Climate Officer, Intact Financial Corporation

Intact Financial Corporation is Canada's largest property and casualty insurer and one of the University of Waterloo and Faculty of Environment's strongest and most impactful partners. Intact's partnership with the university spans more than a decade. Their foundational donation in 2015 helped establish the [Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#), a renowned applied research centre that helps homeowners, communities and businesses reduce risks associated with climate change and extreme weather events while working with government to advise on policy and action. [\[Read more\]](#)

Young Alumni Inspiration Award



Laura Maxwell (MDP '17, Development Practice) Manager, Sustainability and Social Impact, Deloitte

Laura co-leads Deloitte's social impact offering, working with environmentally minded and impact-focused organizations and their leaders as they advance progress on pressing societal challenges. This includes leading sustainability initiatives for clients in a broad range of sectors to build and evaluate impact-driven programs and strategies that created shared economic and societal value. [\[Read more\]](#)

Alumni Ready Students

ENV Connect, the Faculty of Environment's community on the Ten Thousand Coffees platform grew by 385 to 1,638 verified members. With 1199 student members and 439 alumni and industry partners, 2,726 introductions have been made in FY22 to date.

The resoundingly positive responses and feedback from alumni and students alike demonstrates the community-building power of this valuable networking tool.

Environment also joined our colleagues in the Faculty of Engineering and Central Alumni Relatins in piloting a new alumni engagement tool called Graduway. This tool is being reviewed as a future potential University wide platform where alumni from across campus would connect and provide their support.



An extension of the ENV Connect platform, our Alumni [Office Hour](#) series saw 25 alumni from diverse backgrounds, programs and career fields share their advice and experience with over 500 students and recent alumni, with 291 attending more than one session, and an average feedback rating of 92% by attendees! These results highlight the immense value of these interaction between alumni and our students. This year we have seen a significant increase in graduate student attendance at these events.



In June we bid farewell to our Dean Jean at her Send Off reception honoring her contributions and inspirational legacy. With over 136 staff, faculty, students and alumni we announced the [Jean Andrey Environmental Leadership Award](#) (valued at \$7,500) which will support Environment students in perpetuity.

In September we hosted a food truck social to connect our students, faculty and staff and provide an opportunity for our students to meet our new dean Bruce Frayne.

More than 430 students and nearly 60 staff and faculty joined the celebration!



Our follow up social in January 2023 had more than 300 students, staff and faculty participate. Students, Staff and Faculty were invited to write a note and take a note of encouragement. In the coming year we will continue to build on these two events to bring our community together.

Alumni Ready Students by the numbers:

600+

Students have attended Alumni-Student Bridge events, with more than 500 joining this year's virtual events

7,941

Introductions have been made on ENVConnect, with 13% connections related to Planning and ERS between student and alumni members

302

Connections between Masters students and Mid Career Alumni!

53%

Of Alumni Office Hours attendees are Undergraduate Students

32%

Of Alumni Office Hours attendees are Master's Students

15%

Of Alumni Office Hours attendees are Ph.D. Students



Transitioning from student to alumni is a memorable and rewarding milestone. Organized in May by our talented coop students, the 2023 Grad Send Off was a resounding success, lending an especially festive and lively atmosphere for the 250 students and guests in attendance. Sincere thanks to the 30 staff and faculty who joined the festivities to showcase their support for our graduating class. As our students close this chapter of their story, we are proud to welcome them to be part of our Environment alumni family for life.

The saying goes, “*it takes a village to raise a child*” and at Environment, every student is an integral part of our family. Investing in alumni ready students with strategic programming not only supports their growth and strengthens their network, but also allows them to feel more confident about the journey they are on and feel further connected to the Environment community! We look forward to inviting our new Environment students in Fall 2023 and providing focused networking and mentorship opportunities to our first year grad and undergrad students in partnership with our various student societies!

Furthering the Faculty’s Reputation & Brand

This year we continued to increase our efforts to build more digital assets including video, photography and social content that could be shared with our alumni and donor community across the globe. We continued to leverage Thankview, a digital video sharing platform that allows us to share more personalized communication with our community and showcase the impact of our donor’s generosity. We were also able to share this platform with our incredible recruitment teams to communicate with our incoming students.

Some key highlights include our collaboration with Creative Services to develop the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Aeronautics (WISA) video, news and marketing assets, stewardship reports and videos to showcase the impact of donor giving, as well as strategic content within our bi-annual e-newsletter [ENVision](#).

In June we welcomed back to campus [Amber Wutich](#), President's Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Global Health at Arizona State University and our 2021 TD Walter Bean Professor to meet with faculty and students and partake in the workshop hosted by [Dustin Garrick, Associate Professor & University Research Chair](#) to discuss cutting-edge research on water conflict and cooperation in the context of water and food security objectives.

The workshop addressed three themes:

1. How do agricultural trade and urban transitions affect patterns of water conflict and the prospects for cooperation to enhance food and water security outcomes?
2. What are the scope and limits of water markets to value water and navigate food water security trade-offs?
3. How can we broaden the potential pathways for enhancing food and water security across scales and over time?

The goals/objectives were to:

1. Incubate early-stage collaborations on research papers and proposals.
2. Accelerate existing studies and collaborations through intensive discussions and feedback from leading researchers in water sustainability and the commons.
3. Integrate insights and knowledge across different studies and disciplines in relation to key concepts, variables, hypotheses, and outcomes relevant to two or more studies.
4. Buildin a foundation of partnerships and shared research infrastructure to enable cross cultural, long-term studies.



“TD’s support enabled me to grow a new global network to understand modular, adaptive, and decentralized water solutions. The support led to significant progress in this area – including special issue of the journal Water Security devoted to this topic. The legacy of this professorship includes a new convergence field of scholarship spanning social scientists, economists, engineers, data scientists. Under Waterloo Professor Dustin Garrick’s leadership, I am to build a network focused on informal water vendors as part of the new convergence field. My sincere gratitude for the wonderful experience at Waterloo.” **Amber Wutich**

You can view the 2021 TD Walter Bean Public Lecture [here](#). This opportunity would not have been possible without the generous support of [TD Canada Trust](#).



In December, we welcomed [Dr. Shari Fox](#), as this year's TD Walter Bean Visiting Professor in Environment. Dr. Fox delivered two lectures on [The Meaning of Ice: Co-production of knowledge and community action in a changing Arctic](#) and connected the lecture to the work of her colleague, friend, and photographer [Robert Kautuk](#), whose photography exhibition accompanied the public and high school lectures. Drawing on experience from over two decades of close collaboration with Inuit communities in the Arctic, Dr. Fox illustrated the powerful ways our understanding of the changing Arctic climate can be advanced when we link Inuit knowledge and visiting science. She used examples from community-led research, land-based programs, and harvesting to show how co-produced knowledge, Inuit self-determination in research, and supporting community-based action are fundamental to addressing climate and environmental challenges in the Arctic and beyond.

She returned in March with [Carolina Behe](#), Researcher / Practitioner with a focus on Indigenous food security/sovereignty, climate change, co-production of knowledge, and overall equity for further engagement with our faculty and students.

Over 150 people attended the public lecture in person (the event capacity was significantly reduced to accommodate the art exhibition) while over 500 joined online from across the globe.

The High School Lecture hosted over:

- 7 schools, with 350 students joining in person
- 20 schools joined virtually
- 198 views to date of the high school lecture on YouTube



Furthering the Faculty's Brand and Reputation by the numbers:

650+

Attendees in person and virtually at the 2022 TD Walter Bean Virtual Guest Lecture by Shari Fox in collaboration with her colleagues Robert Kautuk and Carolina Behe

72

Thankview Campaigns reached donors and alumni and had an open rate of 97%

1.8K

Views of the 2022 TD Walter Bean Public Lecture from across the globe!

35

High Schools participated in the TD Walter Bean High School Lecture virtually from across the globe as far as Ireland!

7,500+

Alumni and friends in 62 countries received our bi-annual newsletter ENVision

2.1K

Views of the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Aeronautics marketing and launch videos!

Philanthropic Support

We have been humbled by the generosity of our Environment community who have continued to invest in the future of our students, our innovative programs, and ideas, aligned with our Faculty's [Strategic Plan](#).

This year more alumni gave back to Environment than ever before, and industry partners hard hit due to the Pandemic continued to invest in Waterloo Environment. Through their generosity, our students will benefit from 5 new Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries.

This year more than \$16K was raised from 88 donors through the Giving Tuesday campaign doubling the amount of funds raised in comparison to the previous year.

To date, the [Global Citizen Internship](#) Program has raised more than \$375K in support of over 31 student placements with over 20 non profits. In the coming year this program will become our priority fund for our Giving Tuesday and Annual Giving campaigns.

Environment Advancement partnered with colleagues in the Faculty of Arts and the School of Accounting and Finance (SAF) Advancement to build the case for support for our joint Bachelor of Sustainability and Financial Management (BSFM) program and the Sustainable Finance Center. To date \$2M has been raised in support of this priority fund in collaboration with SAF and Central Advancement.

In total over \$3.1M has been raised this year through philanthropy to support the Faculty's priorities.

Philanthropic investments at Waterloo have direct impact for our community members.



Hear from [Raphael Anammasiya Ayambire](#)

Ph.D., School of Planning '22

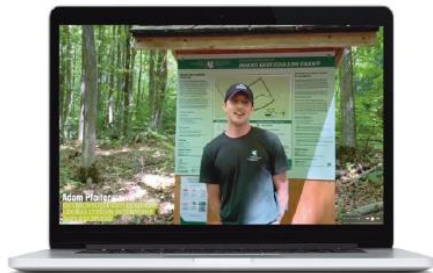
Caivan International Experience Postdoctoral Fellowship Recipient 2021



Hear from [Mahyar Masoudi](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Planning

Caivan International Experience Postdoctoral Fellowship Recipient 2022



Hear from [Adam Pfeifer](#), Spring 2022 recipient and Nature Conservancy Canada

Watch Adam's KEEN Internship Video

Philanthropic Support by the numbers:

\$3.1M

Raised through Philanthropy in support of Environment Priorities

\$2M

In Support of the BSFM Program!

33

Students, 20 Nonprofits benefited from the Global Citizen Internship Program

24

New donors to the Giving Tuesday campaign!

22%

Of Giving Tuesday Funds were donated by Staff, with 7% contribution by faculty, 54% by alumni, 5% from students and 12% from friends/parents and corporations!

1

[Jean Andrey Environment Leadership Scholarship](#) will in perpetuity support Environment students joining our community

Our strategic priorities have and will continue to guide our work. As we expand our activities towards Waterloo's comprehensive Campaign, we rely on the strength of our community and the urgency and importance of the work at hand at Waterloo Environment.

We want to thank and acknowledge the people we serve, and our stellar team and partners for their patience, kindness, creativity, and teamwork. The unwavering dedication of everyone including our partners have translated in support for our students, a stronger bond with our alumni and student community, and transformative initiatives and investments that will lead change and impact for our planet.

It is an honour to serve this incredible community, and a privilege to work with our Environment and Waterloo family and friends in support of the most pressing cause and challenge of our time – educating the next generation leaders and innovation towards sustainable communities and a sustainable future.

Vestiana Powell, Advancement Coordinator

Lana Dadson, Development Officer

Dheana Ramsay, Senior Alumni Advancement Officer (on leave)

Maryam Latifpoor-Keparoutis, Director, Faculty of Environment Advancement