

INVESTMENT » IMPACT

2013-14

# report on giving



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WATERLOO**

# creating opportunities for success



In June and October each year, I have the privilege of attending commencement ceremonies to celebrate the achievements of our newest graduates. Their generation is the most educated in our history; clearly they have thrived in the unique learning environment that is the University of Waterloo.

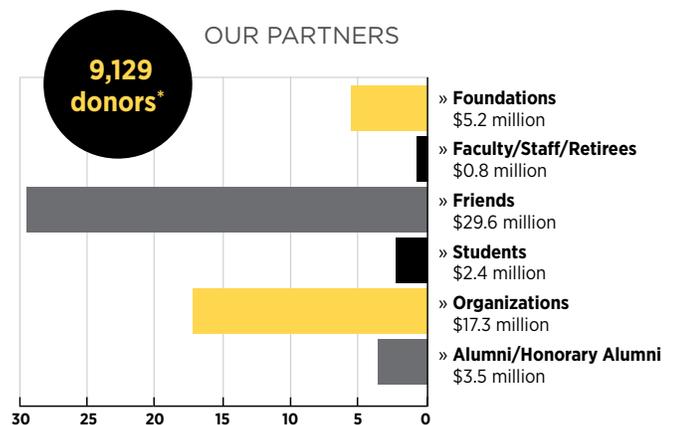
The opportunities we offer our students transcend traditional classroom walls, lecture theatres and laboratories to take advantage of our strengths in experiential learning, entrepreneurship and research. Your financial support helps make these opportunities possible.

As the charts to the right demonstrate, together our loyal donors contributed \$58.8 million last year. The impact of your philanthropy permeates every corner of our campuses, and in the pages that follow, you'll read how your investment created generous financial awards like the Engineer of the Future Trust, supported transformational research initiatives such as the RBC Water Scholars program, and allowed us to inspire excellence through scholarships such as those in knowledge integration.

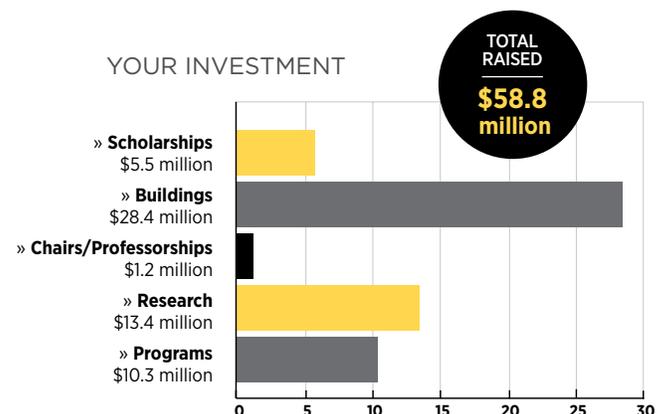
Waterloo students dream big. They have high expectations for their future, and they leave here eager to make a difference in the world. I know that, because of your support, they have the confidence, knowledge and skills to succeed. I hope you take pride in knowing you share in their success. Thank you.

Feridun Hamdullahpur  
President and Vice-Chancellor

## fiscal year 2013-2014



\* Figure does not include the thousands of students each year who make voluntary contributions.



These figures represent dollars RAISED which includes: cash, pledges, gifts-in-kind and other revenue promised or given May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014. Figures exclude payments on pledges made prior to the current year.

# solving the world's problems through knowledge integration

Many of the challenges the world faces today: climate change, poverty, technology turnover, hunger and access to health care, are too big to be solved by any one discipline. That's where knowledge integration (KI) comes in.

"With its focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, design-thinking and problem-solving, KI applies anywhere that different sorts of people work together across disciplines," explains Ed Jernigan, director of the Centre for Knowledge Integration in the Faculty of Environment.

It was this mash-up of disciplines that inspired David Cornfield (BASc '85), to make a gift in support of the program. Now retired, Cornfield is combining his two passions — education and the environment — to help make the world a better place. He established the Knowledge Integration Entrance Scholarships to support first-year students in the program. Recipients are chosen based on their extracurricular activities.

"Beyond the classroom, it is the breadth and depth of a student's interests that will uniquely prepare them for the breadth and depth of the KI program," says Professor Jernigan.

Last year, eight students received the scholarship. Among them was Benjamin Persofsky, who was selected on the basis of his volunteer work in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Africa.

"On my trips abroad, I helped endangered sea turtles, blazed trails in a national park, and built new mud houses for people whose homes had been destroyed by hurricanes. I planted trees in Africa, and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. These experiences were about working with others from different backgrounds to make things better for the people and creatures who share this earth," says Persofsky. "Mr. Cornfield's donation to KI shows that he understands these are the experiences that shape who we are and who we may become."



**BENJAMIN PERSOFSKY**, Knowledge Integration, in progress

LAST YEAR, KNOWLEDGE  
INTEGRATION STUDENTS  
WERE ENROLLED IN  
320 COURSES FROM 58  
DEPARTMENTS.

FACT

*"Knowledge integration strikes a balance of knowing and doing that transcends disciplines to solve the complex real-world problems of our time."*

— **ED JERNIGAN**, director of the Centre for Knowledge Integration





At the University of Waterloo, more than 130 faculty members are focused on water research.

Now, with a \$1.75 million boost from RBC Foundation, a new graduate program — the Collaborative Water Program — will bring graduate students from every faculty together to address the long-term sustainability of our world's most precious natural resource.

“The new Collaborative Water Program includes faculty and students from a variety of disciplines, including earth sciences, biology, civil engineering, mathematics, geography, environment and development, and economics, because complex water challenges require interdisciplinary teams and approaches,” said Dr. Mark Servos, director of the program. “Traditionally, universities produce graduates who have exceptional expertise within their own discipline, but limited knowledge of related disciplines. In this innovative new program, we are creating opportunities for students to gain an appreciation for other water-related disciplines, and be better equipped to work in diverse teams.”

The first cohort of students in the program began their studies in January 2014. RBC's donation will provide scholarships for masters and doctoral students, fellowships that bring international experts to Waterloo to collaborate with faculty and students, an annual student symposium and other program enrichment activities.

The donation is part of the RBC Blue Water Project, a global effort to help provide access to drinkable, swimmable, fishable water.

“Water is one of our most valuable resources, yet one that we rarely think about. That's why we launched the RBC Blue Water Project — to get more people to understand how precious fresh water resources are, and to ensure more communities have access to clean, safe drinking water,” said Dave McKay, president of RBC. “We're excited to be working with the University of Waterloo on this new program, and look forward to seeing these students make a real difference in addressing the most serious water issues we're facing today.”

# an innovative partnership for clean, safe water

## FACT

THE COMBINED EXPERTISE OF OUR RESEARCHERS HAS PLACED THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO AMONG THE TOP 10 IN THE WORLD FOR WATER RESEARCH.

# community impact in Waterloo and

## a simple formula, a winning solution



In math, sometimes the simplest formula offers the best solution to a problem.

The University of Waterloo's Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) applies that same logic to its outreach activities.

Despite the many different ways people communicate today, nothing beats an old-fashioned face-to-face interaction. That's why CEMC faculty and staff are visiting students and teachers in public high schools in Ontario, across Canada and around the world to promote math and computer science. They talk to students about problem solving, contest preparation, and careers in and applications of mathematics and computer science.

Thanks to a generous gift from Tom Higgins, CEMC school visits will expand in the Greater Toronto Area. Mr. Higgins' gift will also allow CEMC to develop and host an annual math camp for high school students. He hopes his gift will help inspire them the way he was inspired when he was a high school student taking part in University of Waterloo math competitions.

"Waterloo Math has had strong connections with elementary and secondary schools across Canada for more than 50 years," said Ian VanderBurgh, director of CEMC. "We have had the privilege of working with so many bright young people and are thrilled to have made an impact on people like Tom Higgins. We are honoured that he has chosen to give back in a way that will allow us to reach out to even more young people."

EACH YEAR, ON AVERAGE, FACULTY AND STAFF FROM THE CEMC VISIT 200 SCHOOLS, REACHING 12,000 ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

FACT

## a legacy of support for people with dementia

According to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, 1 in 11 Canadians over the age of 65 has Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

The Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program (MAREP) at the University of Waterloo is combining research and education to improve dementia care practices in Canada. Although MAREP's research projects are funded by research grants, all of its educational outreach activities — aimed at getting tools into the hands of those who need them most — are funded entirely through charitable donations.

Two decades ago, Art Agajanian read a story in the local paper about MAREP. Deciding it was a cause worth supporting, Art and his wife made a donation to the program.

Art hand-delivered that first cheque and joked it was the first time he'd attended university.

When his sister-in-law was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Art's commitment to MAREP took on a very personal meaning. Art passed away in 2013, and his loyal support of the program was demonstrated once again when it was discovered he had made a bequest to MAREP in his will.

Meredith McGinnis, director of advancement for the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, says, "We were honoured and privileged to learn of Art's legacy gift. He was a good friend whose spirit lives on through his generosity to Waterloo and to people living with dementia."

EVERY PLANNED GIFT, NO MATTER THE SIZE, CREATES A LEGACY THAT WILL BENEFIT GENERATIONS OF WATERLOO STUDENTS.

FACT



## students investing in students

In 2013, Gloire Gatabazi left a refugee camp in Kenya to study International Development at St. Paul's University College.

Gloire came to Waterloo through the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Student Refugee program, which brings student refugees from war-torn countries to Canada to continue their education.

The program is funded by voluntary student levies, and in Gloire's case, students at St. Paul's contributed an additional levy to help with the cost of his meals and living in residence. For many refugees like Gloire, the Student Refugee program can change the course of their lives. "Coming to the University of Waterloo is a dream come true as far as achieving one of my goals in life," he says. "I gratefully acknowledge the kindness of students who support the Student Refugee program. Now, I aim to use what I have learned to be a change agent, not necessarily for the whole world, but for many of the people in it."

*"It soothes my spirit when I see how a small effort by many results in meaningful lives for others. This small effort can change the world."*

— **GLOIRE GATABAZI**,  
International Development, in progress

FACT

IN ADDITION TO THE STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM, VOLUNTARY STUDENT LEVIES SUPPORT FACULTY-SPECIFIC ENDOWMENTS, STUDENT SOCIETIES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS. LAST YEAR, \$2.3 MILLION WAS RAISED THROUGH VOLUNTARY STUDENT LEVIES.

# growing endowment reflects pride of alumni and faculty

*“Giving to the Alumni Excellence Fund was an easy decision for me because I want future directors of the school to have the kind of flexible financial support that I often wished for when we were establishing the school back in the 80s.”*

— **JACK HANNA**, founding director of the School of Accounting and Finance

The smallest gift can start a tradition of lifelong giving. That’s the spirit behind the creation of the School of Accounting and Finance Alumni Excellence Fund.

The fund was created in 2012 by Jim Barnett when he was director of the school. “Our graduates have gone on to very successful careers in finance and accounting. We want to encourage them to support today’s students and, at the same time, elevate the reputation of the school,” explains Barnett. “The fund provides flexibility because support can be directed to our areas of highest priority, whether that’s resources for students, faculty or other SAF projects. We felt that flexibility was critical to the school’s future.”

The school’s current director, Tom Scott, says, “This past winter, former directors of the school were invited to make a gift, and I am thrilled to report that we’ve had 100 per cent participation! Their support ensures we can stay on top of our game by delivering academic programs that will prepare our students for success in a constantly evolving industry.”

To date, more than half a million dollars has been raised by some 200 alumni and faculty. Already, students have been funded to attend an educational conference.

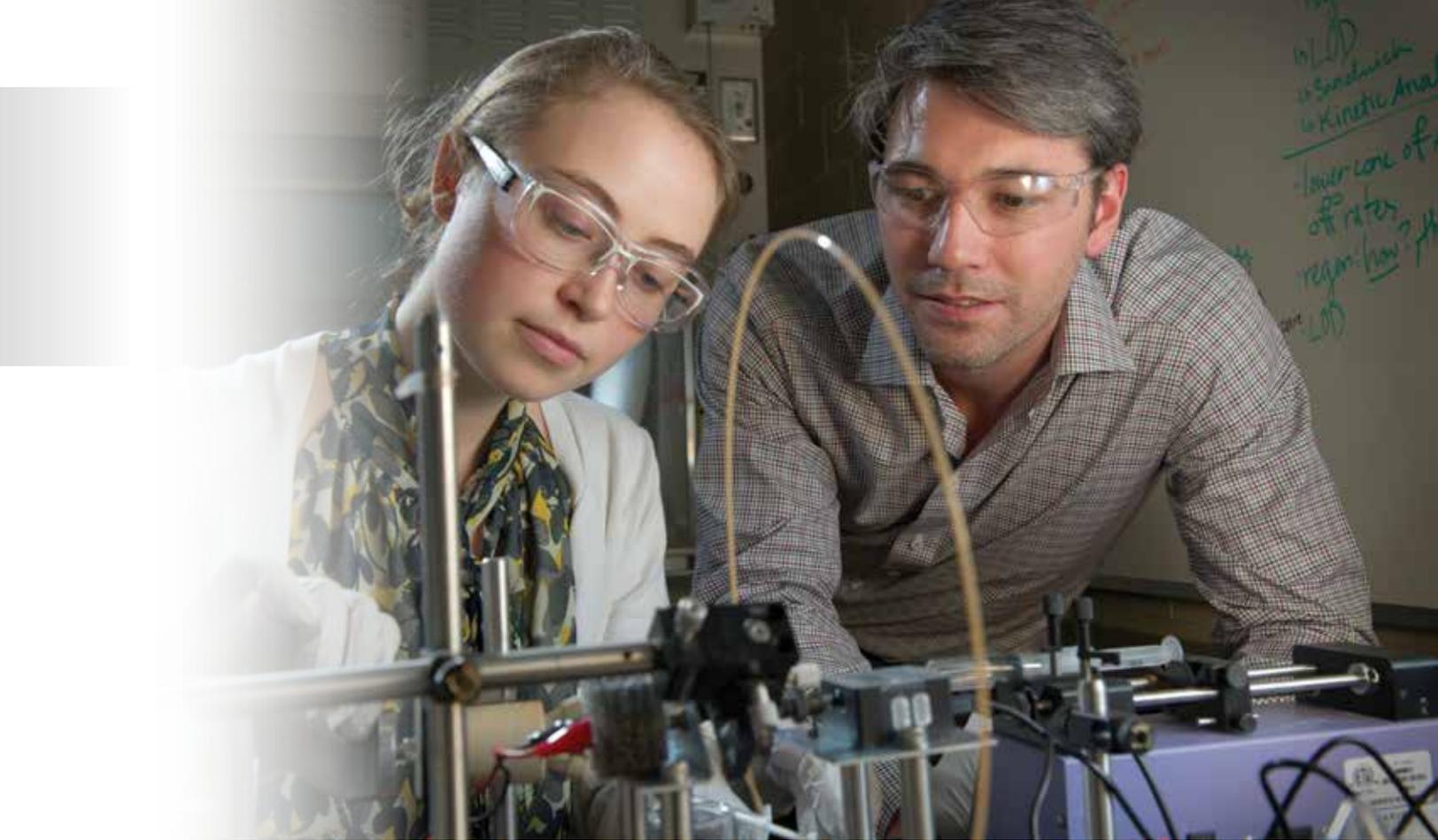
“Our goal for the fund is to reach \$1 million by 2015. Based on the level of support from alumni and faculty so far, I have no doubt we’ll get there,” said Scott.



**TOM SCOTT** (far right) with students from the School of Accounting and Finance

## FACT

IN THE PAST YEAR, CLOSE TO 1,000 FACULTY, STAFF AND RETIREES MADE A GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO THROUGH THE KEYSTONE CAMPAIGN, AND HUNDREDS DONATED THEIR TIME TO SUPPORT KEYSTONE COMMITTEES AND EVENTS.



# no restrictions, just impact

Being innovative requires the ability to react to an ever-changing environment. When alumni and friends make unrestricted gifts to the University, they provide us with the flexibility to respond to the most pressing needs of our students and faculty.

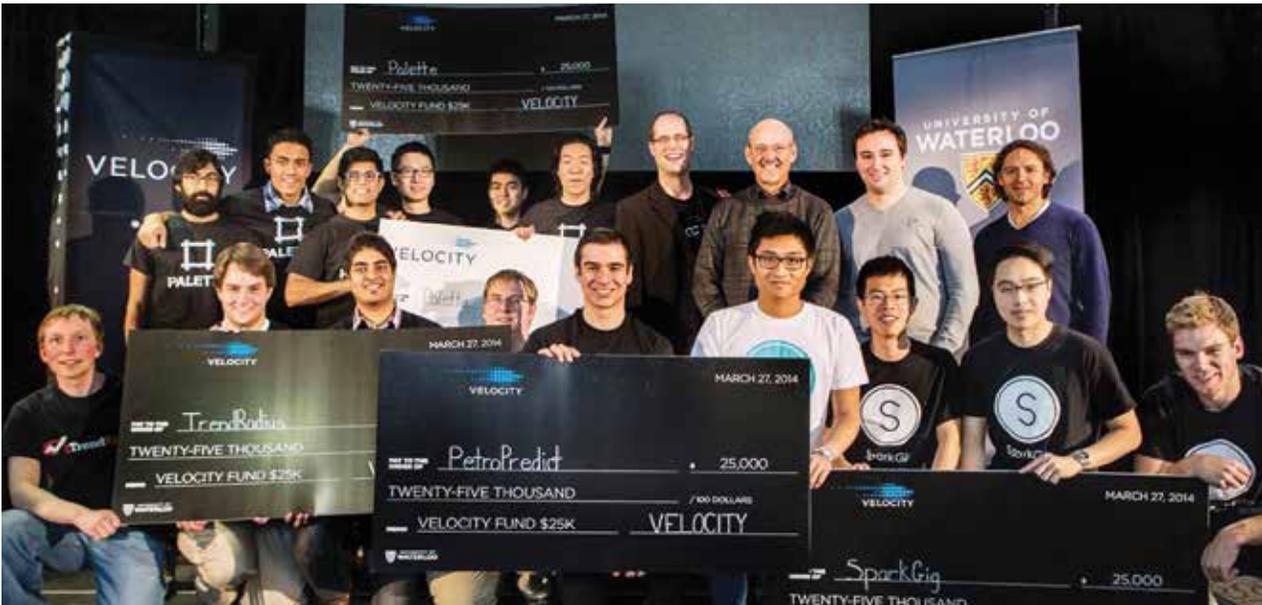
Terry McMahon, dean of the Faculty of Science, explains how this kind of support impacts teaching, learning and research. "Discovery in science is realized by giving students the support they need to explore their curiosity. This support is made possible through unrestricted gifts that collectively provide the scholarships, lab equipment and space to share and collaborate. I want to thank donors to the University of Waterloo for their investment in helping us continue our tradition of excellence in everything we do."

The impact of unrestricted giving goes beyond resources for teaching and learning, to encompass the entire student experience including student space, libraries, athletics and student services. One example is health services; thanks in part to funding provided through unrestricted gifts, the newly expanded Health Services Centre now serves approximately 40 per cent more students annually.

Gifts without restrictions benefit all our students, ensuring their years at Waterloo provide both an excellent education and an enriching campus life experience to help them reach their full potential.

FACT

IN 2013-14, THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO RECEIVED ALMOST \$1.4 MILLION IN UNRESTRICTED GIFTS.



**MIKE STORK**  
 (back row, third from right) joins winners of the March 2014 Velocity Fund Finals

# educating the entrepreneurs of tomorrow

Mike Stork understands well the highs and lows of being an entrepreneur.

For more than a decade, he's been investing in local startups, and now, he's investing in the students who will create the startups of tomorrow.

His recent \$1 million gift to Velocity, a program for students interested in pursuing entrepreneurship, will provide support for the educational and research activities at this unique hub. Together, the programs at Velocity equip students with the knowledge and tools to take their ideas and turn them into commercial successes.

In addition to his generous financial support, Stork lends his considerable business and industry knowledge to Velocity as a mentor and advisor.

One of newest early-stage startups in Velocity is Palette. Boosted by a \$25,000 win at the Velocity Fund Finals earlier this year, founders Ashish Bidadi (BASC '12) and Calvin Chu, (BASC '13) are hard at work filling orders and promoting the company. Palette uses physical buttons, dials and sliders that snap together like Lego to help creative professionals such as disc jockeys, music producers, photographers and film editors manipulate their work.

"As a successful business person, community leader and a member of Waterloo's Board of Governors, Mike Stork understands the importance of financial investment in entrepreneurship. It's one of the University's key strengths, and Mike's contributions to Velocity help position Waterloo as a leader in entrepreneurial innovation, not just in Canada, but in the world," said University of Waterloo president and vice-chancellor, Feridun Hamdullahpur.

IN ITS FIRST 6 YEARS,  
 84 COMPANIES WERE  
 STARTED IN VELOCITY.

FACT

# from rooftop to table — a new spin on urban farming

*“I personally want to ensure that Waterloo remains the school of choice for the world’s best engineers by promoting the essential synergy between technical training and entrepreneurship.”*

— **TERRY CUNNINGHAM,**  
BASc '83

Victoria Suen and Carrie Cheng (both BAS 2014 expected) share a passion for bringing together agriculture, architecture and urban living to promote vibrant, healthy communities.

“Canadians are becoming more aware of what they eat and where it comes from,” explains Carrie. “With more people living in urban areas, Victoria and I see a real need for communities to grow enough of their own food to be self-sustaining. Right now in Ontario, there are no commercial food systems that take advantage of the wasted space on institutional and commercial rooftops. So we designed a system that combines hydroponics and aeroponics to grow food from these spaces year round.”

Their idea is one of nine projects that received a financial boost from the Engineer of the Future Trust, which supports young entrepreneurs in the Faculty of Engineering to move their ideas from concept to full-scale prototype. The trust was created when alumnus Terry Cunningham issued a challenge to fellow engineering alumni.

Victoria and Carrie used their award to design a prototype which is now growing arugula, kale, spinach, lettuce, tomatoes and more. “We’ll sell our first harvest to local restaurants, and then we’re hoping to ramp it up to sell to the entire community,” said Victoria. “We’re very excited about the project, and proud to play a part in promoting a healthy lifestyle for our friends and neighbours.”



Architecture student **VICTORIA SUEN** proudly displays vegetables growing in the prototype

## FACT

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 2013, MORE THAN 500 ALUMNI HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ENGINEER OF THE FUTURE TRUST.



## with our thanks

The University of Waterloo is grateful to our generous community of donors for their pivotal role in shaping our past and future.

We are proud to publish lists of our generous donors for the May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014 fiscal year at [uwaterloo.ca/support/donors](http://uwaterloo.ca/support/donors).

To view the digital version of this Report on Giving, go to [uwaterloo.ca/support/Report-on-Giving](http://uwaterloo.ca/support/Report-on-Giving).

