



YOU CREATE THE CONNECTIONS

THAT
CHANGE
THE
WORLD



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO



TOGETHER, WE'LL BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

The support of generous donors like you connects everything we do at Waterloo.

It introduces bright students to a vast network of exceptional teachers and mentors. It links students to rich learning experiences and career opportunities. It provides Waterloo researchers with the resources to tackle big issues. And it fosters partnerships – on campus, in our local community, across Canada and around the world – that improve lives.

In this report, you'll learn how your thoughtful investment creates bridges between people and disciplines, sparking collaboration, innovation and inclusion. Among other stories, you'll see how these connections have led to environmental technology with life-saving potential, provided a refuge for students escaping conflict and funded a program that goes poolside to address racial inequity.

Thank you for helping build the connections that allow Waterloo to nurture talent, generate ideas and find solutions to humanity's most pressing problems.

Together, we can build a better future.
Together, we can change the world.

Sincerely,

Nenone Donaldson,
Vice-President, Advancement





ENVISIONING WATERLOO AT 100

“What will the University of Waterloo be known for by our 100th anniversary in 2057?”

Throughout 2022, the University set out to develop a vision that would help us answer this question and steer our long-term evolution. I am grateful to those of you who participated in the process to help shape the Waterloo at 100 vision, which will allow us to adapt, thrive and lead in a rapidly changing landscape.

In 1957, Waterloo’s founders disrupted post-secondary education in Canada with what was then an unconventional model of education. Our institution has evolved in a way that clearly differentiates our approaches from those of others. Those unique characteristics position us well to help address the seemingly insurmountable environmental, economic, technological and social challenges that the world faces. Waterloo is making an impact locally and globally through our inclusive and supportive community, our innovative research, and our collective drive to solve humanity’s most pressing threats. I invite you to learn about the five interconnected futures: societal, health, sustainable, technological and economic, that will guide this work and focus our impact.

We recognize that this is only the beginning of the discussion. In the coming months and years, we look forward to working together to make these futures a reality. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support that is enabling us to achieve so much. We look forward to continuing the journey with you. Together, we will achieve our vision for Waterloo at 100 and a better future for humanity and our planet.

Sincerely,

Vivek Goel, CM
President and Vice-Chancellor

President Vivek Goel and Nenone Donaldson, Vice-President, Advancement, chat with members of the Waterloo community.

DO YOU HAVE COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT WATERLOO AT 100?

Please contact our team:

uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-100

CONTINUING HER STUDIES DISRUPTED BY WAR



“
”

IN THE FUTURE, I WOULD LIKE
TO HELP STUDENTS IN THE
SAME WAY I'VE BEEN HELPED.

See how donor support of the Global
Emergency Student Relief Fund gave
students like Oleksandra help and hope.



Waking to the terrifying sound of bombing close to her home in Kyiv on February 24, 2022, Oleksandra Nahorna knew her life would never be the same.

“It was absolutely horrible,” she said. “I experienced a whole range of emotions that morning.”

Within a month, the master’s student in business and financial economics at the Kyiv School of Economics fled for Poland along with her mother, dog and little else.

Not knowing whether she’d be able to continue her program in Kyiv, Oleksandra was grateful to learn about the University of Waterloo’s Summer Program for Students from Ukraine, supported by the Global Emergency Student Relief Fund.

The fund ensures students from around the world whose education has been disrupted by conflict, war, changing political environments or natural disasters are able to continue their studies at Waterloo. Financial gifts help cover expenses such as tuition, academic activities including English as a Second Language courses and more.

Supported by the fund, Oleksandra came on her own from Poland to Waterloo in May 2022 and spent four months working on an artificial intelligence internship with Vijay Ganesh, co-director of Waterloo’s AI Institute.

In September 2022, she began working on her master’s degree in electrical and computer engineering at Waterloo, focusing on Central Bank Digital Currency and how it can be more broadly used in everyday life.

Oleksandra is thankful for the assistance she has received from the University and donors to the Global Emergency Student Relief Fund.

One of those donors is Sarah Tolmie, a professor

in Waterloo’s English department, who wants to make sure that Ukrainian students can continue their studies in safe conditions.

“I contribute to women’s shelters and the Food Bank of Waterloo Region for the community here, and to UNHCR internationally, but this fund allows me to help out individuals who are known and named, and who are coming here to keep studying during this specific crisis,” said Sarah who has Ukrainian family. “It’s a bit more personal.”

Instead of making a one-time gift, Sarah said she donates monthly to “keep a steady income in the fund for students and administrators.”

This past spring, Oleksandra was able to finish her graduate degree from the Kyiv School of Economics through online classes that often began at two or three in the morning Waterloo time.

After completing her Waterloo master’s program, Oleksandra is considering undertaking a doctorate. If she does, her first choice of schools would be Waterloo.

“I’ve been given so much by the University and the local community,” she said.

With her mother now living with a sponsor family in Ontario, Oleksandra would like to become a Canadian citizen and give back to both this country and Ukraine through her research and support.

“I want to do more and figure out how I can contribute to the University and the Global Emergency Student Relief Fund,” she said. “In the future, I would like to help students in the same way I’ve been helped.”



BUILDING SKILLS AND INCLUSION IN THE POOL

The Learn to Swim program promotes swimming lessons to racialized people who have never had the opportunity to learn this important life skill.

Photo by Alicia Wynter

Mothers everywhere know how hard it can be to take time for themselves. For Faduma Nur, a mother of six daughters, swimming lessons provided a chance to connect with her daughters but also allowed her to focus on something outside her family responsibilities.

“For the first time, I was learning, not teaching,” she says.

Faduma and five of her daughters recently participated in the Learn to Swim program, hosted by The Alliance (University of Waterloo Athletics and Recreation). The program is designed to promote swimming lessons to racialized people from the Kitchener-Waterloo community who have never had the opportunity to learn this important life skill.

The Alliance is a group of staff and students working together to create positive change for the Black, Indigenous and Racialized (BIR) community and combat racism through awareness-building, education and action. The group created the program in partnership with Warriors Varsity Swimming and Adventure4Change, an organization striving to provide accessible education and learning opportunities while building healthy communities.

“THE LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM IS ONE WAY WE’RE PURSUING EQUITY FOR EVERYONE.”

Not only did the program teach Faduma and her daughters to swim, it allowed them to learn in women-only sessions where they felt safe and comfortable.

“My girls love the water but after a certain age we don’t swim with men,” Faduma says.

“I’m grateful for the staff who understood and respected our religion.”

Jacky Beckford-Henriques is one of The Alliance’s co-founders and the Waterloo Warriors Swimming head coach. “The Learn to Swim program is one way we’re pursuing equity for everyone,” she says. “And the smiles on the participants’ faces have made it incredibly rewarding.”

Funding for the Learn to Swim program was provided by a generous gift from the Astley Family Foundation, made possible through the Waterloo Region Community Foundation. Team Aquatics and the Region of Waterloo Swim Club donated caps and goggles, and Jacky, along with members of the Warriors varsity swim team, taught the sessions.

“Our foundation focuses on projects that help youth build critical life skills, positive attitudes and self-esteem,” says Jennifer Astley-Kinsey, Executive Director of the Astley Family Foundation, which she founded in 2005 with her parents Bob and Judy Astley and her brother Derek.

“We know that physical activity can promote mental health, which is a big issue for youth today. Learn to Swim helps build a sense of inclusion and community for young people – and their moms – and we are glad to support the program again this fall.”

Faduma is looking forward to getting back in the pool in September.

“When I started, I didn’t know how to swim. Now I’m almost a professional, thanks to Jacky,” she jokes.

“And my family knows that my swimming lessons are Mom’s time.”



LIVING WITH LOW VISION

BUT WITHOUT FEAR



Learn how Ida Fisher's experience with vision loss led to an award for future optometrists interested in low vision care.



“
AS MY VISION DETERIORATED, THE CLINICIANS, TECHNICAL
STAFF AND SOCIAL WORKERS AT THE SCHOOL PROVIDED
GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT ALL ALONG THE WAY.
”

In 1974, the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry and Vision Science launched its Low Vision Clinic, offering people with vision loss wraparound support through clinical assessments, technology and counselling. Ida Fisher was one of the clinic's earliest clients.

Over the years, as eye disease gradually stole her sight, Ida has taken full advantage of the clinic's services. She learned to accept vision loss and has used the skills she acquired to create a full life – including a satisfying teaching career, international travel, volunteer work and a long, happy marriage.

Now, the Ida Fisher Award for Clinical Excellence in Low Vision – established in her honour by her husband Wayne – will recognize and encourage future optometrists who want to provide the specialized care that made such a difference for Ida.

“As my vision deteriorated, the clinicians, technical staff and social workers at the School provided guidance and support all along the way,” Ida says. “They helped me learn new strategies that enabled me to continue teaching. They sent me home with assistive devices, like the machines that helped me mark my students' work, and taught me the computer skills to use Zoom Text, a text-to-speech program. Counselling has been critical in helping me accept my vision loss.”

In turn, Ida has supported the School. As a member of the Patient Advisory Board, she has shared feedback and helped to raise awareness

of the Low Vision Clinic and its services. She has allowed students, faculty and researchers to learn more about her condition as they examined her eyes over the years.

For many Waterloo optometry students, Ida became a living example of the impact of low vision care through what she affectionately called her “magic days.” Every year, Ida would meet with students over lunch. Like a conjurer pulling a rabbit from a hat, she would present an item that made her life easier. It could be her chequebook with raised dots, her sports glasses, or the business card of a support person – all provided to her over the years by the Low Vision Clinic. Then Ida would explain how each item had changed her life for the better.

Ida continues to inspire students through the award that bears her name – even as she faces an even bigger challenge than vision loss. She is currently undergoing treatment for advanced cancer. As Wayne explains, “The intent of the Ida Fisher Award for Clinical Excellence in Low Vision is to honour Ida during her lifetime. It is a living award that reflects Ida's passion for the School and the work of the Low Vision Clinic.”

“Ida was able to find comprehensive care at the School,” Wayne says, “and that's been invaluable to both of us. I felt this award was a fitting way to recognize the School's support and to honour Ida.”

“I trust this award will encourage students to pursue low vision work,” Ida adds, “so that many others can benefit just as I have.”



Linda Carson's friends helped her establish student awards to ensure this beloved instructor's legacy lives on.

REMEMBERING

LINDA CARSON – TEACHER, MENTOR AND FRIEND

As a new Waterloo faculty member, Jessica Thompson deeply appreciated the support of her friend, colleague and mentor, Linda Carson (BMath '85, BA '90, MSc '04, PhD '13). Jessica remembers how Linda – among many other things – helped her organize a field trip for her Fine Arts students, which included a visit to the Jumbo the Elephant Memorial in St. Thomas, Ontario. She still has the photo of a smiling Linda, holding a sketch of an elephant, as a memento of that trip.

Betty Bax (BSc '82) met Linda when she and her daughter took art lessons at Linda's Big Black Pig Studio. Betty later worked with her in Waterloo's Faculty of Environment, where Linda was instrumental in the development of the Knowledge Integration (KI) program, which focuses on interdisciplinary collaboration.

Both Jessica and Betty remember Linda as smart, dedicated and curious about an infinite number of topics. They reminisce about her amazing ability to connect both ideas and people. Most of all, they say, she cared deeply about the hundreds of students she taught across Waterloo.

In 2020, Linda was diagnosed with ALS, a terminal motor neuron disease. As part of her estate planning, she made a bequest to the University to endow two student awards. When she lost the ability to speak, Jessica, Betty and Craig Kaplan (another friend and colleague of Linda's) became her voice. They worked with Waterloo Advancement staff to develop the awards' criteria, conveying Linda's wishes and ensuring this exceptional teacher's support for students continues, even after her death.

The Linda Carson Memorial Interdisciplinary Award recognizes undergraduate students who have demonstrated excellence in an interdisciplinary project completed for academic credit.

The award's designation makes sense, since Linda herself earned

“
THIS IS THE
COOLEST
PERSON THAT
I KNOW. YOU
WOULD HAVE
LIKED HER.
AND YOU
WOULD HAVE
LEARNED WAY
MORE FROM
HER THAN YOU
EVER KNEW.
”

degrees from three different Waterloo faculties, taught in KI, the Stratford School, and in the Departments of Fine Arts and Psychology, and was a playwright and programmer, among many other achievements.

Linda's second award, the Belonging Award, supports students who have overcome obstacles on their road to post-secondary education. Again, the award reflects the way Linda lived her life. For example, she noticed that Black students were disproportionately represented in University 101, a course she developed to help struggling first-year students get back on track academically. Jessica remembers Linda's concern for these students and her efforts to both understand and draw attention to the challenges they faced.

It's a testament to the kind of person Linda was that after her death in November of 2021, more than 100 people from across the University community and beyond contributed in her memory, helping Linda's legacy of caring, creativity and collaboration to live on.

“Linda is somebody who changed lives, whether it was a first-year student or a colleague,” Jessica says. “She did so much for me; my donation is my way of doing something for her.”

Betty adds, “I'd like to tell the award recipients, ‘This is the coolest person that I know. You would have liked her. And you would have learned way more from her than you ever knew.’”

2022-2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2,211

first-time donors
contributed
more than

\$10.3M

60

new bequests
confirmed



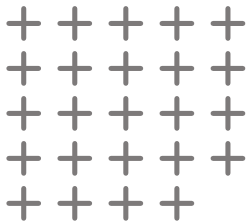
\$7.7M

new contributions
to endowments



8,203* DONORS IN 39 COUNTRIES

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



24

new endowments
established

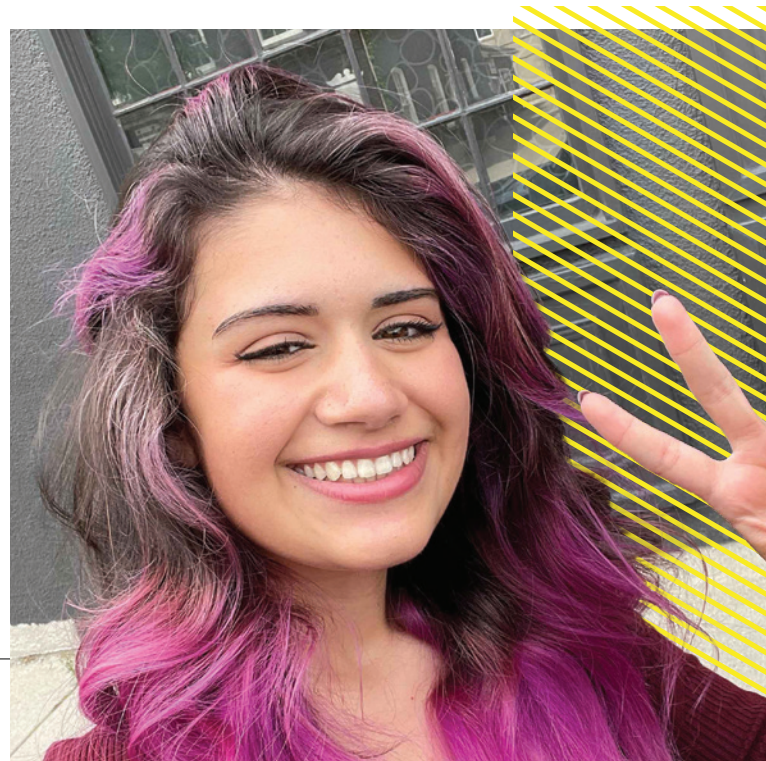


1,573

monthly donors

“Arts education is all about breaking down barriers and making sure students can pursue their passions. I want to remind [kids] that there are spaces where they can express themselves.”

Arts student **Hanna Freitas**' first co-op term at Drayton Entertainment was funded, in part, through the donor-supported Co-op for Social Good Fund.










As a student, you have a lot of things you're thinking about. Having financial support eases those worries. You know you don't need to worry about paying next month's rent.


PhD candidate **Kay Awe** is able to concentrate on his research and family thanks to support from the Retirees Bursary Fund.



-  Programs \$22.7M
-  Research \$9.3M
-  Scholarships \$8.9M
-  Buildings \$0.8M
-  Chairs/Professorships \$0.5M

These figures represent dollars raised from the following groups:



-  Foundations/Corporations/Organizations \$21.9M
-  Honorary Alumni/Alumni \$10M
-  Parents and Friends \$6.1M
-  Students \$3.2M
-  Faculty, Staff and Retirees** \$1.0M

These figures represent dollars RAISED and include cash, pledges, gifts-in-kind and other revenue promised or given May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023. Figures exclude payments on pledges made prior to the current year. All figures are unaudited.

** Overall, Waterloo's Faculty, Staff and Retiree campaign raised in excess of \$2.4M. This figure comprises gifts from all sources, including the Board of Governors, faculty, staff, retirees and alumni who work for Waterloo.

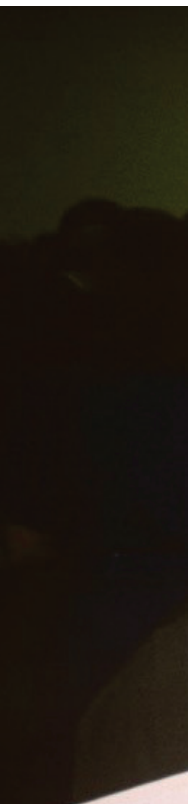
YOU CONNECT PEOPLE AND POSSIBILITIES

This report holds just a few examples of how together, you and Waterloo are building prosperity, equity and hope.



**WE INVITE YOU TO READ
MORE OF THESE STORIES AT**

publications.uwaterloo.ca/report-on-giving-2023



MAPPING THE FUTURE OF FLOOD RESPONSE

Donor support enables student Robert Chlumsky (BASc '15, MASc '18) to pursue his PhD and explore a new method of floodplain mapping that could impact flood mitigation – and save lives.



DIGITAL STORY

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

BY SUPPORTING ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

Staebler Insurance celebrated 150 years in the community with a gift that will democratize knowledge by supporting the development of affordable open-access education materials.



DIGITAL STORY

HELPING NEW GRADUATES

DREAM BIG

His mother’s encouragement, along with his experiences at Waterloo, inspired Robert Madej (MMath ’94) to fulfill his entrepreneurial dreams. Now he’s helping new graduates achieve their own “anything.”

THANK YOU

Your generosity connects people and ideas across campus and beyond. Together, we're building a better future.

**SEE MORE OF YOUR IMPACT.
EXPLORE EXPANDED STORIES AND VIDEOS HERE:**

publications.uwaterloo.ca/report-on-giving-2023



The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is co-ordinated within our Office of Indigenous Relations.



OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT
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