

# 2019 annual report

University of Alberta  
Alumni Association

HIGHLIGHTS OF STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENTS





It has been a pleasure serving as president of the Alumni Association and working with such a dedicated team. This year, we had an opportunity to consult university-wide with stakeholders and alumni while developing the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. It was gratifying to hear about the strong interest in our engagement activities and the numerous opportunities to work collaboratively. I was particularly excited to see our volunteer programs grow. Our mentoring and support activities increased with the development of our Switchboard online networking platform, the Venture Mentoring Service expanded to assist more entrepreneurs, and the new Alumni Student Support and Engagement Team (ASSET) was created. This group of dedicated alumni have trained to support student mental health, a high priority for the university. Together we are creating a culture of pride and support in our alumni community.

J'ai eu beaucoup de plaisir à agir à titre de président de l'Association des anciens étudiants et à travailler avec une équipe aussi dévouée. Cette année, nous avons eu l'occasion de consulter des intervenants et d'anciens étudiants à l'échelle de l'Université lorsque nous élaborions le plan stratégique de 2019-2023. Il a été très agréable de constater le vif intérêt en ce qui concerne nos activités de mobilisation et les nombreuses occasions de travailler en collaboration. J'ai été particulièrement heureux de voir la croissance de nos programmes de bénévolat. Nos activités de mentorat et de soutien ont connu un accroissement avec l'élaboration de notre plateforme de réseautage en ligne Switchboard, le Venture Mentoring Service a été élargi afin de soutenir un plus grand nombre d'entrepreneurs et la nouvelle Alumni Student Support and Engagement Team (ASSET) (Équipe de soutien et de mobilisation des anciens étudiants) a été créée. Ce groupe d'anciens étudiants s'est formé dans le but de soutenir la santé mentale des étudiants, ce qui constitue une priorité importante pour l'université. Ensemble, nous créons une culture de fierté et de soutien au sein de notre collectivité d'anciens étudiants.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ayaz".

**AYAZ BHANJI, '91 BSC (PHARM)**

President, University of Alberta Alumni Association

## OUR VISION

A supportive, proud, global network of current and future graduates collectively making extraordinary contributions to the alumni community, the university and the public good.

## OUR MISSION

To connect, engage and support current and future alumni by: celebrating achievements and fostering alumni pride; inspiring volunteerism, advocacy and giving; and providing lifelong learning opportunities for personal and professional growth.



Our alumni relations teams, university-wide, are making strong strides to work collaboratively to connect alumni to the university in meaningful ways. In 2018-19, 57 per cent of events were offered in collaboration with university partners, resulting in engagement of 54,168 participants. In addition, our volunteer contributions continued to expand, with alumni volunteers giving 12,398 hours in support of students and university initiatives – a 31 per cent increase over the previous year. Our programs also celebrated the many accomplishments of alumni, offered benefits and support and provided compelling academic lectures that showcased the University of Alberta. In 2018-19, 353 academic staff and alumni were featured as guest speakers at our events. We have been pleased to work with our dedicated volunteers to inspire alumni to stay connected, get involved and give back to the University of Alberta.

Nos équipes chargées des relations avec les anciens étudiants, à l'échelle de l'Université, font de grands progrès pour collaborer en vue de renforcer les liens entre les anciens étudiants et l'Université. En 2018-2019, 57 % des événements ont été offerts en collaboration avec des partenaires universitaires, ce qui a entraîné la participation de 54 168 personnes. Nos contributions bénévoles ont également continué à prendre de l'ampleur, alors que les anciens étudiants ont bénévolement consacré 12 398 heures au soutien de différentes initiatives émanant d'étudiants et de l'Université, ce qui représente une hausse de 31 % par rapport à l'année passée. Nos programmes ont permis de célébrer les nombreux accomplissements des anciens étudiants, d'offrir différents avantages et mesures de soutien et de fournir de captivantes conférences universitaires mettant en vedette l'Université de l'Alberta. En 2018-2019, 353 membres du personnel et anciens étudiants de l'Université ont agi à titre de conférenciers invités à nos événements. Nous avons été heureux de travailler avec nos bénévoles dévoués afin d'inspirer les anciens étudiants à rester au fait des nouveautés à l'Université de l'Alberta et de redonner à leur Université.

**SEAN PRICE**, '95 BCom, MBA  
Associate Vice-President (Alumni Relations)  
University of Alberta

*The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Metis people.*

*L'Université de l'Alberta reconnaît respectueusement qu'elle est située sur les terres du Traité 6, territoire traditionnel des Premières Nations et du peuple métis.*

# SHOWCASING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA TO ALUMNI AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY



## Lifelong Education and Discovery

Alumni programs promote the University of Alberta and share thought-provoking examples of learning, discovery and citizenship with the community. This year, 353 university faculty and alumni were guest speakers at events, including the new speaker series at Alumni Weekend, U of A in a Day.

An additional new offering was the Educated Evening. This new series profiled Curators' Choice, a chance to explore three of the university's museum collections, as well as an evening presentation on black holes – a topic that aligned with the university's latest Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). Overall, more than 4,000 alumni and guests participated in the various educational programs that showcased UAlberta's diverse discoveries. Finally, *New Trail* magazine continued to explore issues of interest to alumni and share cutting edge research. *New Trail* online achieved 142,507 web page views, an increase of 24 per cent.

353



UAlberta faculty and alumni featured as guest speakers at events around the world

142,507



web page view of *New Trail* online, a 24% increase



11,222

alumni experiences across all campuses at Alumni Weekend 2018



6,000

grocery deliveries to families in need



## Community Engagement

In Grande Prairie, the Faculty of Engineering's DiscoverE student team led family fun activities that drew the attendance of 118 participants. This new collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering was supported by an alumni owned business, Aztec Engineering, who supplied the event venue and provided company staff to serve as event volunteers. Following the success in Grande Prairie, a similar event was held in Fort McMurray, attracting 96 participants. These were just two examples of collaborations that have brought profile to the university in the community.

Community service is another way alumni demonstrate a commitment to the public good. The Grocery Run Program, a partnership between the University of Alberta's ENRICH Research Program and the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, supported 115 immigrant and refugee families weekly with deliveries of rescued, healthy foods. Alumni, staff, faculty and friends comprised 81 per cent of the program's volunteer pool. Volunteers contributed 716 hours in the last year making 6,000 grocery deliveries.



# SUPPORTING STUDENTS DURING THEIR TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



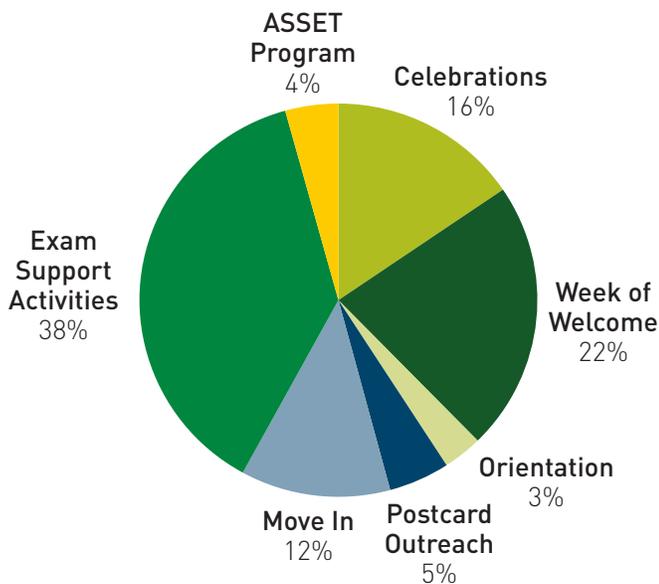
## Welcome and Support

From the first day students arrive on campus, the alumni community is present to create awareness and offer support. This past year, the Alumni Association facilitated more than 20,000 touchpoints with students by utilizing a variety of programming strategies. Nearly 60 per cent of outreach activities focused on supporting students, while the balance of efforts were geared to welcoming and celebrating students at key milestones. Alumni volunteers were on hand at residence Move In Day, provided moral support during exams as greeters, gave talks at the Career Centre and offered advice at resume and interview workshops. Alumni volunteers gave more than 1,400 hours supporting the student community in the past year.

The Alumni Student Support and Engagement Team (ASSET) program was established to deepen

## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS THERE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

### Student Outreach and Support



20,535  
*connections  
with students*

involvement and offer needed support. Through a partnership with the Office of the Dean of Students, a group of 22 highly engaged alumni received 379 hours of training, including a two-day Mental Health First Aid Course, to become a mental health resource on campus. Aware of the stress students feel about life after university, ASSET volunteers have focused on engaging students in conversations at various events.

Alumni Student Council adjudicated 71 grant applications from student groups and awarded \$26,506 to support activities that enhance student life. Grants in 2018-19 supported a variety of student-led initiatives such as the TEDxUALberta lecture, a digital cookbook project for students and alumni, a pop up shop for student design work, a speed-friending event and a PositiviDay designed to share goodwill among students.



**886**

conversations with students about mental well-being

**\$24,506 SUPPORTED**

**26 STUDENT INITIATIVES.**



# ENGAGING ALUMNI AT EACH LIFE STAGE



## High Touch Engagement Strategies

Providing high touch engagement experiences promotes lifelong connections with the University of Alberta. Alumni who recently moved to Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary or Lethbridge were invited to welcome receptions where they met other local alumni. Since its inception three years ago, the welcome program has involved 244 alumni, 80 per cent of whom attended their first ever Alumni Association event. Of those participants, 89 per cent were recent graduates. The Alumni Association also worked to build relationships with alumni on a one-to-one basis. In

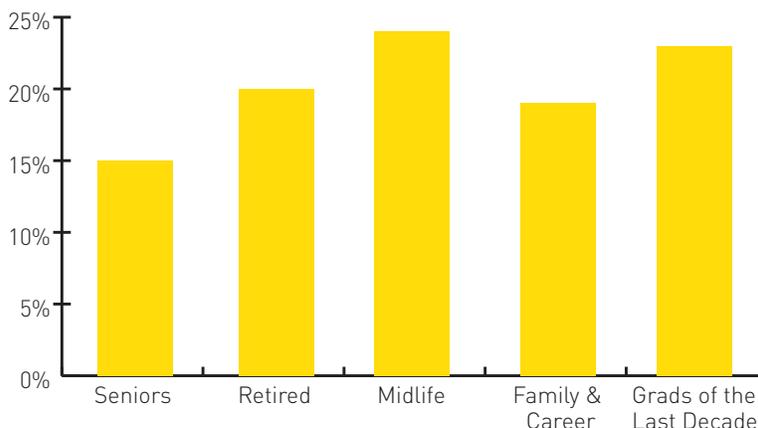
2018-19, staff conducted 179 personal scheduled visits in key regional markets throughout Asia and North America. Volunteers in the regions contributed to the development of relationships with alumni by planning 31 per cent of the events hosted outside of Edmonton.

Another customized outreach effort by the Alumni Association involved distribution of Do Great Things cards. These handwritten notes have been sent to grads to recognize special achievements. In the past year, 429 recognition cards were shared with alumni.

## Offering Career Support

To support the transition from student to graduate, the Alumni Association created a suite of career services. In 2018-19, the Professional Development Grant program provided \$9,067 in financial support to 24 alumni. The Alumni-to-Alumni Mentorship program initiated their first intake, matching alumni career mentors with alumni looking for help in developing business and interpersonal skills. This mentorship program also expanded to Calgary. The Alumni Association also launched Switchboard, an online networking platform that has connected 1,861 students, alumni, staff and faculty across all campuses and to alumni living around the world.

Proportion of Event Participants by Life Stage



## Creating Lifelong Bonds

Through the variety of programs offered in 2018-19, the Alumni Association drew 54,168 participants from all stages of life. To target recent grads, the Alumni Association piloted a Pop-Up Perks program, a new alumni benefit that promoted exclusive discounts at alumni-owned businesses. The award-winning program reached 10,218 alumni and successfully promoted alumni-owned businesses.

Alumni with children, another active cohort, were engaged through group family activities. Throughout 2018-19, more than 2,100 alumni and their families attended Alumni Association programs such as Kids Create and Family Day at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden. In addition, family involvement was facilitated through faculty initiatives such as Science FUNDay. Connecting with families cements a lifelong bond while also creating an early interest in children to follow in their parents' post-secondary footsteps.

Reunions, lectures and the alumni travel program remain popular with our more senior alumni. In 2018-19, 147 travellers participated in group travel, with more than half being first-time travellers. These group excursions connected alumni from universities across North America and featured faculty study leaders. University of Alberta professor Natalie Van Deusen shared her Scandinavian expertise on a trip through the Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords.



# 54,168

PARTICIPANTS IN  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

93% rate programs  
as good to  
excellent

# DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM



## Giving Time

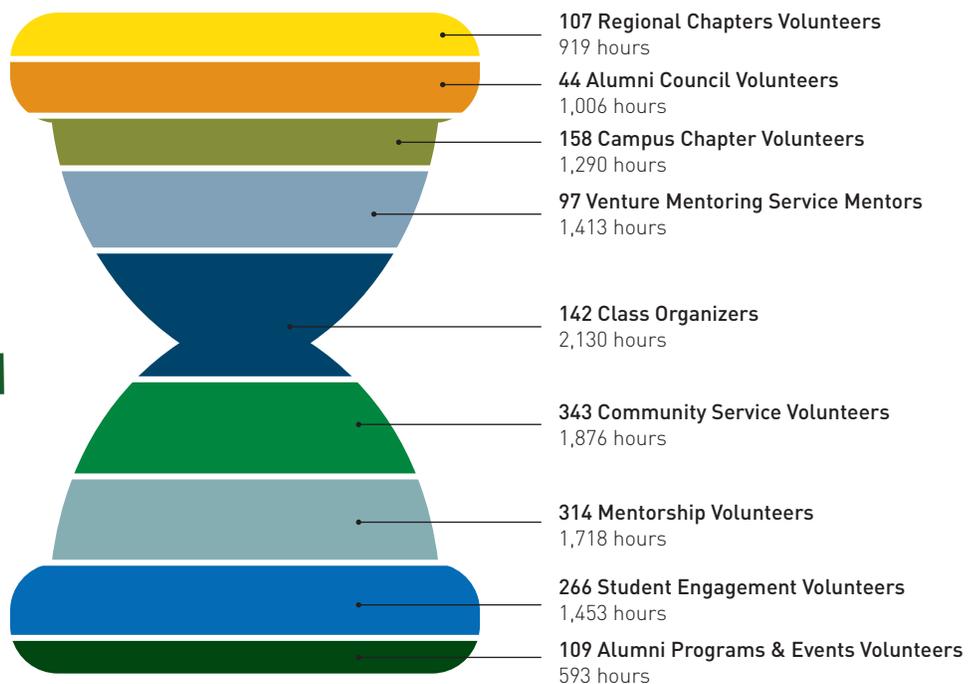
University of Alberta alumni volunteers gave 12,398 hours of their time in 2018-19, an increase of 31 per cent over the past year. These contributions were crucial to the operation of many Alumni Association events; for example, 91 volunteers gave 237 hours to make Alumni Weekend a success, with another 142 volunteers giving 2,130 hours toward organizing class reunions. Alumni also played a critical role in supporting students. Volunteers gave 1,453 hours to student program supports such as Unwind Your Mind with the Healthy Campus Unit and Exam Greeters with Accessibility Services. Alumni were also passionate about community service, donating 1,876 hours to various initiatives including the Grocery Run and Root for Trees. The volunteer experience is highly rewarding, and has resulted in 85 per cent of alumni volunteers repeating their involvement.

## VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

# 12,398

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

**31%** increase in volunteer hours



## Volunteer Leadership

Each year, groups of dedicated volunteers contribute leadership and service to the alumni community. Throughout 2018-19, 97 Venture Mentoring Service (VMS) volunteers devoted 1,413 hours to provide advice and guidance to 29 alumni-founded ventures, making a significant impact on the careers of 44 budding entrepreneurs. Recently, VMS celebrated the success of one of its early ventures, Pogo Carshare, which was acquired by Canada's largest car sharing organization.

Alumni Association Chapters located in Edmonton and around the world provided a vital link to the alumni community. These volunteers contributed 2,209 hours to growing and supporting alumni programming, representing a 14 per cent increase over the previous year. In particular, Campus Chapters have expanded, with 21 new volunteers actively contributing to Chapter programming. Chapters provide tailored programming of particular interest to their alumni audience, such as the full-day symposium on mental health and wellness put on by the Law Alumni & Friends Chapter at Alumni Weekend.

Over the course of the year, Alumni Council members gave more than 1,000 volunteer hours to the university. These volunteers were instrumental in contributing to the development of a new strategic plan and assisted with 72 consultation meetings with stakeholder groups such as alumni, the Senate, faculty partners and deans. Through committee work, volunteers helped with the creation of the Alumni Student Support and Engagement Team, chose award recipients, granted professional development funds and adjudicated grants for student initiatives. Committee work was foundational to the Ambassador Toolkit and Pop-Up Perks, two initiatives that were recently recognized with a Prix d'Excellence award by the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education.



# ALUMNI RELATIONS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY



## Collaborative Engagement

Alumni Weekend is the largest annual gathering of alumni coordinated university-wide. In 2018, 48 per cent of Alumni Weekend events were planned in collaboration with campus partners. These partnerships resulted in 11,222 participants across multiple campuses. Cross-promotion was emphasized. Attendees at Kids on Quad were encouraged to check out Let's Discover Science and Family Fun at the Engineering Carnival, which combined involved more than 3,100 alumni and their families. Another university-wide event, U of A in a Day, featured 10 lectures that profiled researchers from across a range of faculties.

Partnerships with faculties are a priority in Edmonton and throughout the regions. For example, the Toronto Alumni Chapter held an event at the Bata Shoe Museum, which was hosted by a UAlberta grad who is the museum curator. The event included Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences staff who met with various alumni interested in possible gifts to the university's clothing and museum's collections.

## INSPIRING UNIVERSITY-WIDE ENGAGEMENT

57%

of all events were done in collaboration with campus partners



2,014

engaged through Campus Chapter programs



10,363

participants attracted to Faculty Engagement events

126

campus partner volunteer opportunities supported



## Coordination

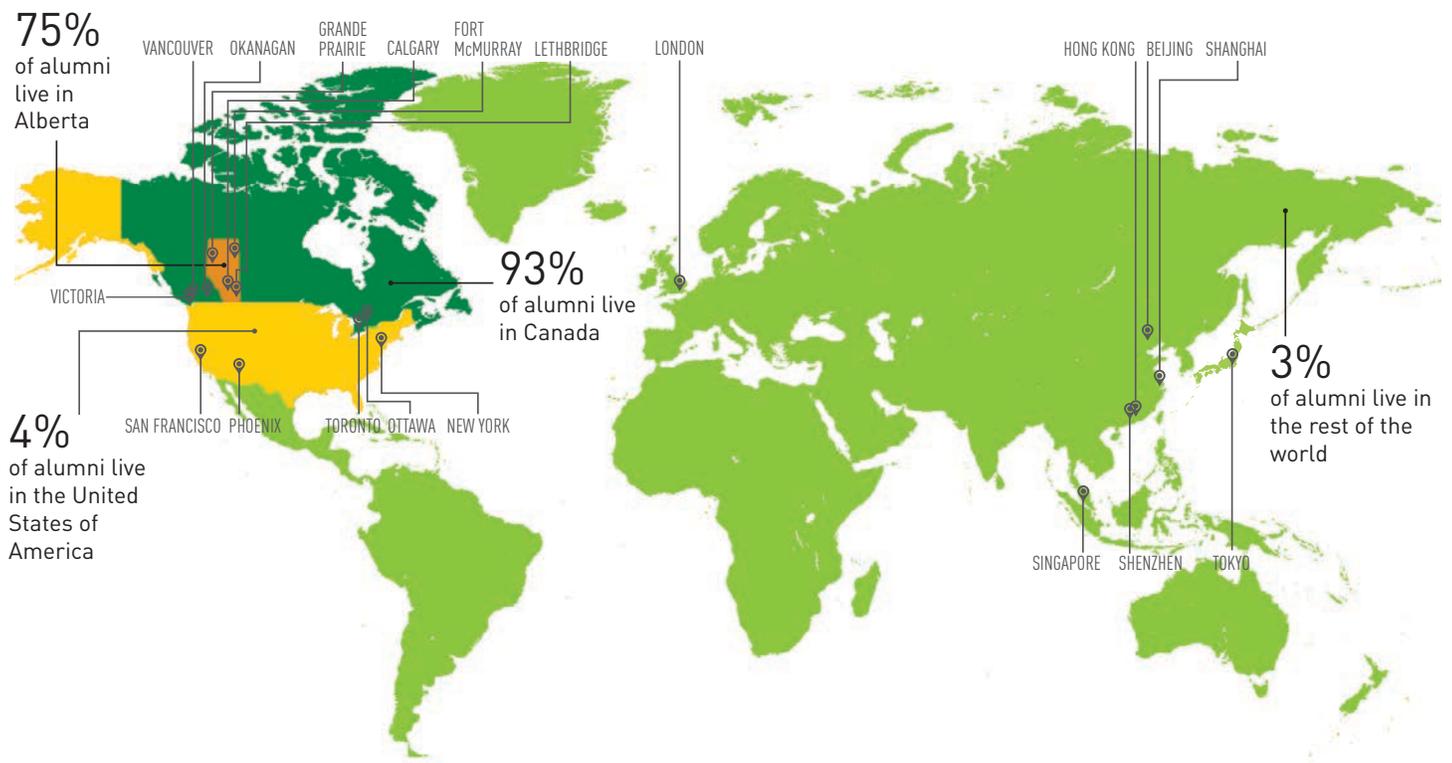
This past year, two new faculty-based partnerships were initiated. The Alumni Association worked with the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to collect feedback from 233 preceptors to better understand their volunteer commitment to the university and to create a strategy for future volunteer engagement and recognition. Similarly, there was an opportunity to work with the Faculty of Nursing to pilot a professional development bi-annual lecture. One such lecture, "Legal Issues in Professional Practice," brought together 60 nursing alumni, faculty and students to learn from a panel of Edmonton's top medical malpractice lawyers about roles and responsibilities. To facilitate partnerships, plan strategy and learn from each other, the Alumni Association hosted conference-style professional development days to bring together alumni relations staff from across the university.

Another important way faculties and the Alumni Association work together is through the Alumni Awards program. Diverse nominations have been received from all faculties. Now in its 25th year, 624 alumni from across all faculties have been honoured award recipients.



# ALUMNI DO GREAT THINGS IN EDMONTON AND AROUND THE WORLD

THERE ARE 19  
ALUMNI REGIONAL CHAPTERS  
AROUND THE WORLD



281,140  
*living alumni*

Building Support  
for the University  
of Alberta

\$168 million

total fundraising achievement in 2018-19

58%

of donors were alumni who  
gave 22% of the total gifts



# ALUMNI COUNCIL 2018-19

## Executive Committee

### President

Ayaz Bhanji, '91 BSc(Pharm)

### President-Elect

Heather Raymond, '82 BEd, '86 Dip(Ed), '95 MEd, '02 PhD

### Board of Governors

#### Representatives

Glenn Stowkowy, '76

BSc(ElecEng)

Mary Pat Barry, '04 MA

### Senate Representatives

Charlene Butler, '09 MBA

Tyler Hanson, '00 BSc(MechEng)

### Alumni Student Council

#### Committee Chair

Ashlyn Bernier, '06 BSc, '11 PhD, '13 MBA

### Alumni Awards Committee

#### Chair

Ryan Thompson, '03 BSc(Hons), '13 MA

### Alumni Career Services

#### Committee Chair

Christy Ciezki, '02 BSc(Spec), '09 MEd

### Priority Programs Committee

#### Chair

Phil Wong, '85 BSc(Spec)

### Strategic Planning Committee

#### Chair

Bill Werry, '73 BA(RecAdmin)

### Volunteerism with Students

#### Committee Chair

Kate Young, '07 BScN, '15 MBA

## Faculty Representatives

### Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

Chris Kallal, '14 BSc(Forest)

### Arts

Jim Gibbon, '85 BSc, '87 BA, '06 MBA

### Augustana

Jeff Behrens, '10 BA

### Business

Hayat Kirameddine, '09 BCom

### Campus Saint-Jean

Bruno Mercier, '97 BSc

### Dentistry

Hafiz Damani, '93 BSc(Dent), '95 DDS

### Education

Ken Shields, '69 BEd, '84 MEd

### Engineering

Gail Powley, '84 BSc(ChemEng)

### Extension

Melissa Myskiw, '05 BA, '17 MA

### Graduate Studies

Olena (Alyona) Shynkaruk, '16 PhD

### Law

Simon Foxcroft, '99 LLB

### Medicine

Beverly Wilson, '83 BMedSc, '85 MD

### Native Studies

Chancy Black Water, '10 BA(NativeStu), '10 Cert(AborGov/Ptnshp)

*Awakasi'ikitstakiaki* (Deer Offering Woman)

### Nursing

Eric Martin, '09 BSc, '13 BScN

Kate Young, '07 BScN, '15 MBA

### Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Ron Pohar, '95 BSc(Pharm)

### Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Bill Werry, '73 BA(RecAdmin)

### Public Health

Salima Thawer, '03 BSc, '05 Dip(DentHyg), '06 BSc(DentHyg), '13 MPH

### Rehabilitation Medicine

Grant Irwin, '75 BSc, '79 BSc(PT)

### Science

Ross Lockwood, '08 BSc(Hons), '15 PhD

## Members at Large

Robert Agostinis, '86 BMedSc '88MD

Yasmin Barre, '09 BSc, 12 MSc

Ramesh Bhambhani, '66 BSc, '68 MSc, '72 PhD

Maxine Clarke, '03 BCom

Rick Dowell, '03 BSc(MechEng), '09 MBA

Vivian He, '08 BCom

Joel Johnston, '16 BA(RecSpoTourism), '16 Cert(AboriginalSpo/Rec), '16 Cert(CommEngage/ServLearn)

Mark Korthis, '07 BA(RecSpoTourism)

Andre Prefontaine, '85 BCom, '88 BSc(Spec)

Eli Schrader, '12 BA(RecSpoTourism)

Ruth Spetter, '94 BCom

Jessica Vandenberghe, '00 BSc(ChemEng), '03 MSc

## Ex Officio

### Honorary President

David Turpin

### Interim Vice-President (Advancement)

Kelly Spencer, '97 BA

### Associate Vice-President (Alumni Relations)

Sean Price, '95 BCom, MBA

### Dean of Students

Andre Costopoulos

### Dean of Students Designate

Bryce Meldrum

### Graduate Students' Association

Zhihong Pan

### Students' Union

Adam Brown

## Alumni Student Council

Aleefa Devji

Idara Effiom

Isha Godara

Simran Gulati

Jason Li

Rory Storm

Alana Tollenaar

Maggie Wang