





University of Guelph-Humber

2024/2025 Annual Report





The University of Guelph–Humber is located within the traditional and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit. Known as Adoobiigok, the “Place of the Alders” in Michi Saagiig language, the region is uniquely situated along Humber River watershed, which historically provided an integral connection for Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat peoples between the Ontario Lakeshore and the Lake Simcoe/Georgian Bay regions. Now home to people of numerous nations, Adoobiigok continues to provide a vital source of interconnection for all.

Table of Contents

- 05** Celebrating Our Successes
- 06** Our Peoples' Successes
- 11** Our University's Successes
- 20** Our Students' Successes
- 26** Our Alumni Successes
- 29** Giving Back to Our Students
– The Justin Eves Foundation
- 30** Global Learning
Opportunities
- 34** Unique to GH



Celebrating Our Successes

The University of Guelph-Humber (UofGH) is a uniquely transformative experience for students.

For over 20 years, students have studied in programs that blend the academic rigor of the discipline with immersive, hands-on experiences. This integrated approach encourages students to engage deeply within their disciplines, applying theoretical knowledge to real-world contexts where they develop a nuanced understanding of complex issues.

Whether students aspire to start their careers or continue to graduate or professional studies, they have been supported by a dynamic network of educators, staff, and peers who are deeply invested in their success. Through close collaboration with instructors, experience with industry, and opportunities for research and applied learning, students graduate with the confidence, competence, and curiosity to excel. This commitment to both intellectual and experiential growth defines the University of Guelph-Humber's distinctive academic model.

The 2024/2025 Annual Report highlights the vibrant and transformative experiences that define life at the University of Guelph-Humber. It captures the spirit of innovation and celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of our students and alumni.

In today's world of rapid change—from global challenges and economic shifts to the evolving job market and the rise of artificial intelligence—Guelph-Humber remains responsive and forward-thinking. We are proud to create and cultivate a dynamic environment where students are empowered to adapt, grow, and thrive.

Melanie Spence-Ariemma

Ph.D., Vice-Provost & Chief Academic Officer

George Bragues

Ph.D., Associate Vice-Provost, Academic

Our Peoples' Successes





Dr. Alice Kim
Chair, Psychology

U of GH Psychology Chair Dr. Kim was the recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Mentorship Award and as this year’s recipient, Dr. Kim touched the lives of many students at U of GH.

The Outstanding Mentorship Award was established as a way for graduating students to recognize a staff member for their outstanding guidance and support during their time as a U of GH student. Fourth-year Psychology student Ana Downes, whose undergraduate thesis advisor was Dr. Kim, nominated her for the recognition, with support from fellow students Kersten Dayrit and Selia Sipione.

Dr. Kim feels fulfilled when mentees thrive, including when she guides students to strategically select courses to keep doors open for possible future careers or graduate school paths. She said students often feel intimidated by the thesis course, but if they’re considering graduate studies, it’s essential to take it. Encouraging students to keep options open and providing them with reassurance that they can do it gives them a “confidence boost” to challenge themselves and take the course.

Amina Yousaf

Associate Head, Early Childhood Studies

Amina Yousaf, Associate Head of Early Childhood Studies, spearheaded the Voices of Connection initiative. At U of GH, where there's a rich tapestry of diversity, everyone deserves to feel seen, heard, and supported – and that is what Voices of Connection aims to achieve. At its core, Voices of Connection is a community.

Voices of Connection is a bi-weekly meeting in the Winter 2025 semester for ECS students, designed to foster connection, community, and a deeper understanding of equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) within the program, open to students of all racial identities.

Offering safe spaces to U of GH students for expression and to talk about racial identity was crucial, especially for students who will one day work with children of various backgrounds. There are courses within the ECS program that centre on social justice and diversity, but Yousaf wanted to extend that dialogue outside of the classroom. She believes that understanding different cultures is valuable to child development, but also to the practice of teaching, EDIB, and understanding of one's own identity.



“When we’re problem-solving, when we’re coming up with creative ideas, having a different outlook on it from someone who isn’t mirroring our exact experiences is extremely useful,” she said. “Specifically, as a Black student having other Black individuals that I can work with and collaborate with...there’s something warm and fulfilling of feeling like I’m being seen and heard in this space.”

– Savannah Munro, 3rd year ECS student, Voices of Connection participant



Onika Green Instructor, Kinesiology

Onika Green had the experience of a lifetime – attending the Paralympics in Paris during late summer 2024, working with Team Canada’s Women’s Sitting Volleyball. With her Master of Human Kinetics in applied sport psychology combined with her role as Volleyball Canada’s Certified Mental Performance Consultant (CMPC), her position on the team was to support the mental health of athletes on and off the court.

Green, who teaches Stress Management, Meditation and Relaxation, brought back aspects of her experience into the classroom. She designed her first lesson back at U of GH around sharing stress management insights from the Games. It’s important to Green that students see what is possible if a person leads with passion in their career.

The Convocation Planning Team

The U of GH convocation planning team, which comprises of Susan Thomas, Department Head, Student Services; John Bruyca, Acting Manager, Transitions & Engagement; Urmila Puran, Student Life Coordinator; Sandra Fazio, Alumni Advancement Coordinator; Myeisha McLawrence, Acting Administrative Assistant to the Vice-Provost; Kirsten Knowles, Alumni Development Assistant; and Oxana Bogatyrov, Coordinator Contracts and Finance, was honoured with the 2024 (Humber) President’s Extra Mile Award.

The U of GH convocation team worked to make this milestone in a student’s life better than ever. The team received an award for their efforts in moving the 2024 convocation ceremony from the Pearson Convention Center to the larger Toronto Congress Centre. This transition provided significantly more space, allowing additional guests to attend which ensured that more students could celebrate with family and friends. The team was also commended for delivering a seamless convocation experience that was meaningful and memorable for each attendee.



Giovanni Capriotti

Instructor, Media & Communication Studies

Terra Nullius* is the name of an award-winning photography project by U of GH Media & Communication Studies instructor Giovanni Capriotti. This project won him a Sony World Photography Award in April 2025.

He worked on the project for more than a decade in collaboration with the Indigenous communities on Manitoulin Island. For Terra Nullius, he wanted to listen to Indigenous voices to learn from them and collaborate with them. Reconnecting Indigenous participants to their ancestral roots and traditions helped these communities heal from intergenerational trauma.

Capriotti brings the insights he gained from creating Terra Nullius into the classroom at U of GH. He strives to teach students a structure that includes a work plan, shooting, editing, sequencing, and the visual communication implications of these actions, though he's always open to how students adjust the process to their personal approach.

Capriotti has previously won several accolades, including a World Press Photo award and Pictures of the Year International award.

*Terra Nullius is the Latin phrase for "nobody's land," a colonial construct describing land that's seen as "unclaimed" or "uncivilized" – land that was forcibly taken from its Indigenous inhabitants.



Our University's Successes





Elizabeth Bain Cold Case Files

U of GH Justice Studies students had the opportunity to work on figuring out what happened to Elizabeth Bain in 1990 after she disappeared, and possibly point out investigative avenues to Toronto Police Cold Case investigators.

Instructor John Irwin ran an independent study course at the university, where students poured over 85 boxes of authentic case materials to examine evidence and information related to the investigation. U of GH was the only school with access to these files.

Irwin said the student group found new angles and persons of interest in the case that investigators can pursue. By looking at the case through a different lens, they identified questions never asked by police. They found more than 20 points of interest. Any discoveries or tips were sent directly to police.

Justice Studies students were excited to have real-world investigative experience. Irwin emphasized that the students brought the investigation to life and made it a success.

“I wanted to be part of this project because I thought it was a great opportunity to experience how an investigation really happens, and how to work with my peers and learn from them while also trying to share everything that I’ve learned in class and apply it to this real-life case.”

–Justice Studies alum Noah Ramsammy

“Raptors 905 For a Day”

It was a slam-dunk experiential learning adventure for U of GH students who visited NBA G League team Raptors 905 on an excursion that was filled with inspiring conversations and networking off the court, and heart-pumping basketball on it. Being the Raptors 905 education partner made the “Raptors for a Day Event” possible.

Students participated in a panel discussion with employees of the parent company Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, who shared inspiring reflection on their career paths and offered practical guidance for students as they navigate life after university. Students also had the opportunity to connect and network with the panelists following the discussion.

The event also fostered a strong sense of school spirit among attending students, being part of a community connected with a major sports organization. This experience reflects the university’s ongoing commitment to engaging meaningfully with the broader community and with youth demonstrated through past initiatives such as sponsoring Camp 905 and participating in a school day game for young students at Scotiabank Arena.



“It’s not just [about offering] opportunities to prepare for the world of work. It’s also about showing students that there are other possibilities, and that we’re broadening what life after graduation can look like. We’re committed to creating pathways for our students and truly considering their readiness [for the workforce].”

-Dr. Karey Rowe, Chair, Business

Pathway from U of GH to the University of Guelph’s MBA program

Pursuing a graduate school business degree just got simpler for many University of Guelph-Humber students. In keeping with our commitment to expanding post-graduation opportunities, U of GH students now have enhanced access to the University of Guelph’s one-year, in-person MBA program through a new admissions pathway launched in Winter 2025. This opportunity broadens students’ options after completing their studies at Guelph-Humber and supports their continued growth as emerging leaders.

Typically, admission to an MBA program requires applicants to have substantial professional experience. However, the one-year, in-person MBA offers a unique advantage; it does not require prior work experience. The placement experience during each GH undergraduate program gives graduates a competitive edge in pursuing advanced business education immediately after completing their undergraduate studies.

Eligible U of GH graduates from Business Administration, Justice Studies, Kinesiology, Media & Communication Studies, and Psychology programs will receive expedited application processing and priority consideration, provided they meet the admission requirements at the time of entry.

Additionally, there are scholarships available for students who achieve a specific grade point average.



New Field Reflection and Readiness Day for CSS Students

Community Social Services (CSS) students participated in the inaugural Field Reflection and Readiness Day centered on learning, thoughtful discourse, reflection, and networking.

Field Reflection and Readiness Day brought the program community together to celebrate and recognize the Community Social Services program as well as the students' achievements. Fourth-year CSS students showcased their poster projects as part of their advanced practicum course, highlighting their insights and experiences gained during their field placements. Later that day, students participated in a networking event featuring program alumni and professionals in the field, who shared their career journeys while enriching and expanding students' understanding and ideas about careers they can pursue with their undergraduate degree and diploma.



“Participating in this year’s Field Readiness and Reflection Day has taught me a great deal about how versatile the social services field is and the different pathways that are available to us future CSS graduates. I learned to be more open to the possibilities of what the field has to offer, expose myself to new experiences and environments, and to fully embrace the unknown.”

– Rachel Balintec, third-year CSS student

Dr. Karey Rowe, Chair of Business Administration at U of GH, shared that graduates have often expressed that the opportunities U of GH provides students to join case competitions – tournaments where groups are given a business problem to solve, and think of solutions that they present and debate – elevated their business education, and partaking in a case competition was a hallmark of their university experience.



Preparing future business leaders with the CASE Society and the CASE Academy at Guelph-Humber

U of GH's Business program expanded opportunities for students through two new initiatives: the CASE Society and the CASE Academy. Together these initiatives strengthen the post-secondary experience by creating unique ways for students to broaden and deepen their business education.

Launched in Winter 2025 and becoming fully active in the Fall 2025 semester, The CASE Society, is a student-run organization dedicated to preparing students for participation in local case competitions.

Complementing this work is The CASE Academy, which is open to all U of GH students. The Academy offers a range of professional development workshops, featuring guest speakers from industry. Session topics include strategies for success in case competitions, sustainability in business, and themes that emphasize the intersections between disciplines and professions to achieve stronger business outcomes.

Early Childhood Studies students experience child welfare in action at the courthouse

The Early Childhood Studies (ECS) program introduced a new course – “Children’s Rights, Law, and Policy”, taught by lawyers with extensive experience in children’s welfare cases. The course focuses on the legal dimensions of advocating for the wellbeing of children. Students enrolled in the Winter 2025 semester offering participated in a special immersive learning opportunity – a field trip to the A. Grenville & William Davis Courthouse in Brampton, Ont., where they met legal professionals and observed a real Children’s Aid Society case, an experience typically closed to the public.

This experiential component allowed students to apply theoretical concepts from the classroom to an authentic, real-world situation as they toured the courthouse and engaged directly with the legal environment. Immersive learning experiences like this strengthen students’ understanding by situating knowledge within real contexts.

The visit also reinforced for ECS students the importance of elevating children’s voices and deepening their understanding of the intersection of children and the legal system. The experience encouraged students to reflect on their future roles in supporting children and advocating for their rights.



A. Grenville & William Davis Courthouse

Humber Arboretum field trip teaches U of GH students about on-campus food security initiatives

Through the Liberal Studies elective, Food Studies, U of GH students participated in a learning experience at the Humber Arboretum, with a particular focus on the Humber Food Learning Garden.

Fourth-year Kinesiology student Chrysanthe Nikolaidis, who joined the field trip emphasized the importance of exposing students to campus resources that help address food insecurity, highlighting the Humber Food Learning Garden as an example.

Seeing this community-centered initiative firsthand allowed students to move beyond classroom discussions and see how food security programs can be implemented in practice. With a place just steps away from the academic environment, students saw how theory, sustainability and community wellbeing intersect in a meaningful, real-world way.



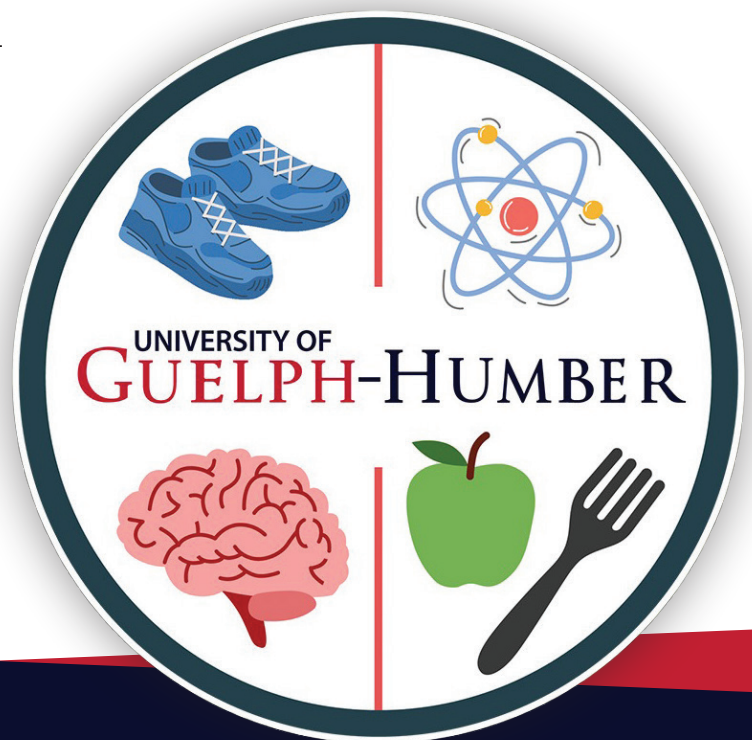
U of GH promotes healthy active living among youth in new collaboration with Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada

Learning about healthy active living sets youth up for success in forming positive lifestyle habits including moving their bodies, eating well, and focusing on mental health.

That's why U of GH and Let's Get Together collaborated with Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada. This included the creation of a special Guelph-Humber badge that each troop can earn through creating healthy habits. Fourth-year Kinesiology students and U of GH Kinesiology Interim Associate Head Dr. Robert Gumieniak delivered a virtual presentation to over 200 youth about healthy eating and nutrition, the importance of fitness, and understanding mental health and mindfulness.

Kinesiology students created a slideshow organized into three topics: nutrition, physical activity, and mental health. Their presentation introduced Girl Guides and Scouts to practical concepts such as Canada's Food Guide, planning meals for camp, different forms of exercise and strategies for mindfulness. By blending evidence-informed content with interactive examples, the students aimed to engage, inform and inspire youth by bringing knowledge to life in a community setting.

After the virtual presentation, Dr. Gumieniak said that about 211 youth participants enthusiastically joined in getting up and moving together demonstrating how quickly health education can spark real action and engagement in enabling healthy habits.



"I'm very proud to be part of a community that wants to give back and share what we're learning,"

-Rita Yacoub, Kinesiology student

Our Students' Successes





Larissa Muise

2024 Graduate, Early Childhood Studies (ECS)

Since graduating from the ECS program last year, Larissa Muise has started a career that reflects her passion for child development and community care.

Larissa secured full-time employment as a Lead Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) in a toddler classroom at a play-based, for-profit centre in Grimsby. In this role, she leads curriculum planning and facilitation, conducts documentation and observation, and builds strong relationships with children, families, and colleagues.

Beyond her professional work, Larissa volunteers bi-weekly as a group facilitator at Lighthouse for Grieving Children in Oakville, where she provides compassionate support to children coping with loss.

Her dedication to fostering emotional well-being and meaningful connections exemplifies the values at the heart of early childhood education.



Anthony Moncada

Fourth year student/2025 Graduate, Kinesiology – Governor General’s Academic Medal Recipient

The University of Guelph-Humber is a participant in the Governor General’s Academic Medals, one of Canada’s most prestigious student awards, recognizing top academic performance across four levels—Bronze (secondary studies), Collegiate Bronze (post-secondary diploma), Silver (undergraduate studies), and Gold (graduate studies). These are awarded solely on marks to graduating students.

Recognized for exceptional academic achievement, U of GH Kinesiology graduate Anthony Moncada received the prestigious Governor General’s Academic Medal from the Canadian government.

He earned the silver medal for achieving the highest-Grade Point Average at the University of Guelph-Humber which was just under 98 per cent.

When asked about how he reached this level of academic achievement, Moncada emphasized the importance of consistent effort and refusing to cut corners, noting that “you get what you put into your studies.”

In addition to the silver medal, Moncada received the University of Guelph-Humber Vice-Provost award for earning the highest GPA in the Kinesiology program. Moncada has been accepted into the MSc Anatomy & Cell Biology, Clinical Anatomy at Western University beginning fall 2025.



Ana Downes

**Fourth year student/2025 Graduate,
Psychology – Michael Nightingale Community Enrichment
Award Recipient**

Michael Nightingale, U of GH's first Vice-Provost and Chief Academic Officer (2001–2005), envisioned a vibrant and connected campus community. To honour his legacy, the Michael Nightingale Community Enrichment Award is presented annually to one outstanding student who exemplifies community building.

This year, fourth-year Psychology student Ana Downes, received the award for her remarkable contribution to fostering a strong sense of togetherness at Guelph-Humber, embodying the values and vision Nightingale championed.

"Your impact is not just determined by the positions you hold, but also by the impact you make through being a kind, inclusive and compassionate person who uplifts and inspires others day-to-day," she said.

Throughout her time at Guelph-Humber, Ana participated in numerous initiatives outside the classroom that helped make the University a welcoming and connected place. Her involvement included participating in various student societies, serving as a Student Transition and Resource Team (START) Leader, founding and running the GH Book Club, and volunteering at the Science Rendezvous event. She also engaged in student advocacy through roles on the IGNITE Board of Directors (student government) and Humber Polytechnic Board of Governors. She also served as vice-president for the Psych Society acted as a Psi Chi International Honour Society ambassador and participated in the Sophia Forum and Agora Fellowships.

The Michael Nightingale Community Enrichment Award includes a certificate of honour, a permanent plaque displayed in the University of Guelph-Humber building, and a cash prize of \$1,000.



Nathania Ebegbare

Fourth year student/2025 Graduate, Community Social Services

Nathania Ebegbare received two graduation awards: an Outstanding Achievement in Field Placement and a Gold Medallion for Leadership Excellence.

She was part of the inaugural cohort of CSS students to participate in the new fourth-year thesis course, an experience that sharpened her research skills and prepared her for graduate studies. Nathania completed her thesis on youth substance use prevention in Canadian federal law, conducting a policy evaluation that examined harm reduction and abstinence-based approaches and proposing an integrated model.

Nathania is set to begin her Master's in Public Policy and Administration at the University of Toronto (U of T). U of T was one of several graduate programs that offered her admission. She was also accepted into Toronto Metropolitan University and Cornell University in New York. This achievement acknowledges her dedication and work ethic, as well as the strong support and mentorship provided by the CSS program.

Annabelle Vetro, Jada Wallace, Kiana Skaf, Khiana Gutierrez, and Reese Pocock

**Fourth year students/2025 Graduates,
Media and Communication Studies**

A group of five U of GH Media & Communication Studies students organized Ecoblitz as a part of the final capstone project, developing and producing creative content and promotional materials for CEED (Circular Environmental Education and Design) Canada, the charitable organization chosen as their client. Fourth-year students Annabelle Vetro, Jada Wallace, Kiana Skaf, Khiana Gutierrez, and Reese Pocock designed the initiative to raise CEED Canada's profile through a comprehensive marketing and communications campaign.

The team collaborated closely for several months with Zamani Ra, CEED Canada's founder and executive director, to understand her marketing needs, challenges, target audience, and overall brand voice. Ra's mission to provide culturally relevant environmental education to diverse, low-income communities deeply resonated with the students and informed the direction of their work.

Journalists from CBC’s What on Earth with Laura Lynch podcast attended the Ecoblitz event at Guelph-Humber to highlight Ra’s efforts in promoting greener living in low-income and highly diverse communities. This opportunity allowed the students to facilitate conversations between Ra, CBC and the University offering them valuable hands-on experience in managing real-world public relations interactions.

In representing CEED Canada and hosting Ecoblitz on campus, the students gained extensive insights into community engagement, environmental communications and client-centered campaign development. Ecoblitz served as one key component of their broader marketing and communications initiative for CEED Canada.



Alexia Velez
Second year student, Justice Studies

Justice Studies student Alexia Velez was one of only six recipients across Canada to receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Canadian Security Association (CANASA) – a recognition that reflects her commitment to the field, strong academic performance, and community involvement. CANASA is a national not-for-profit professional organization for security and safety professionals that provides industry advocacy and continuing education to support its members.

Applicants for the scholarship were required to complete a detailed questionnaire outlining their academic achievements, community engagement, career aspirations and broader contributions. As a U of GH student and an active community member, Velez has been involved in numerous initiatives on campus. Most recently, she was elected to the 2025–2026 IGNITE Board of Directors student union, representing students through the U of GH and Humber Polytechnic.

Velez is passionate about helping others demonstrated through her work as a co-founder and Vice President of SpotLight for SickKids, a student-run group supporting SickKids Hospital. She also serves as an ambassador for Cam’s Kids, a not-for-profit organization supporting youth mental health, and volunteers with Crime Stoppers of Halton as a Community Engagement Coordinator.

Entering her third year of the Justice Studies program in Fall 2025, Velez plans to put the scholarship toward her education at U of GH, bringing her one step closer to achieving her dream of becoming a police officer.



Yul Guia

Fourth year student/2025 Graduate, Business Administration

Immediately after graduating from Business Administration, Yul Guia (class of 2025) launched his career as a Marketing Coordinator at KeyData Cyber.

Yul worked diligently through his time at the University of Guelph-Humber to build the foundation for this achievement. From donning Swoop the Great Horned Owl mascot costume, to competing in case competitions, serving as an executive member of ACE U of GH, and taking on leadership roles as both a First Year Experience (FYE) Leader and a Student Transition and Resource Team (START) Leader, Yul embraced every opportunity. He believed that the key to making the most of university was to “be open to new experiences.”

In his final year, Yui chose to complete a for-credit placement, a decision that he said helped him transition from an academic environment into the professional world.

He applied for a role at KeyData Cyber on LinkedIn, successfully navigating two rounds of interviews before being hired. Yul’s hard work paid off because after his placement concluded, he was hired in the Marketing Coordinator role permanently, securing a job fresh out of university.

Yul may have earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Guelph and a Diploma in Business Administration from Humber Polytechnic, but it was his time at Guelph-Humber – the experiences, the mentorship, and that opportunities that truly shaped him for this moment.

Our Alumni Successes

First Alumni Ambassador Council aims to connect Guelph-Humber graduates by giving back to the school community

U of GH created new ways for alumni to connect, engage and contribute to the university community by launching the first-ever Alumni Ambassador Council.

The Alumni Ambassador Council was formed as a dedicated group of volunteers, who elevate the university's profile through regular presence at university events, sharing their unique career journeys and bringing fellow alumni together. The Council strengthens alumni engagement and fosters meaningful professional connections. This volunteer opportunity enables graduates to network with other professionals, reinforcing the vibrant and collaborative Guelph-Humber community.

Every program U of GH is represented by an Alumni Ambassador on the council who each serves a one-year term.



“Our alumni are an incredible resource, and we wanted to create an opportunity where they could connect not just within their graduating class, but across the entire U of GH network,” said Sandra Fazio. “This initiative is about building relationships that support professional growth and keep our community strong.”

–Sandra Fazio, Alumni Advancement Coordinator at U of GH, a 2016 U of GH graduate, and founder of the Alumni Ambassador Council

The 2024–2025 Alumni Ambassador Council:

Jonathan Zarb

Business, Class of 2010

Olivia Detmers

Community & Social Services,
Class of 2023

Bahaa Zouki

Early Childhood Studies, Class of 2021

Tommy Ho

Justice Studies, Class of 2023

Lianna Montanari

Kinesiology, Class of 2023

Kirsten Knowles

Media & Communication Studies,
Class of 2009

Razia Gill

Psychology, Class of 2023

U of GH Alumni Award of Achievement

The Alumni Award of Achievement honours the excellence of University of Guelph-Humber graduates. The award is presented to an alumnus who has achieved distinction in their field and through outstanding contributions to their community, profession or industry or through exceptional achievements in scholarship, teaching, research or creative work they have inspired fellow alumni, faculty, staff and students.

The 2024 recipient, Prince Khan, is a graduate of the Business Administration program and is an exceptionally engaged member of the Brampton community. Khan supports local entrepreneurs in his role as Supervisor, Brampton Entrepreneur Centre and teaches as a contract instructor at U of GH. He received the 2024 Scotiabank Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of his significant volunteer work mentoring entrepreneurs and supporting their business goals and aspirations.



Giving Back to Our Students – The Justin Eves Foundation

\$1-million gift creates scholarships for U of GH and U of G students with learning disabilities

Since its inception in 1996, the Justin Eves Foundation was the only organization in Canada dedicated to supporting post-secondary students with learning disabilities across Ontario. The Eves family – Ernie Eves, Justin’s father, chair of the foundation and former premier of Ontario, Justin’s sister, Natalie, who is a U of G OVC graduate, and his mother Vicki – created the foundation to make a difference in the lives of these students. The foundation helped nearly 1,000 students, honouring what was important to Justin during his lifetime – helping other young people with learning disabilities to fulfill their potential.

In 2024, with a \$1-million gift from The Justin Eves Foundation, the University of Guelph (U of G) and University of Guelph-Humber (U of GH) created two endowment funds to establish new scholarships for students experiencing learning disabilities. U of G received \$600,000 and U of GH received \$400,000.

Three U of GH students received \$7,000 each as the first recipients of this new scholarship, while six U of G students also received awards.

The scholarships were made available to students registered with Student Accessibility Services and enrolled in any program. Selection was based on academic achievement and community leadership through volunteering and/or extracurricular activities. Preference was given to students with demonstrated financial need and a diagnosis of ‘dyslexia’ or ‘dyslexic characteristics’.

“A post-secondary education opens doors for students to shape their future, whether it be through a career or future further studies. We are deeply honoured to receive this gift from the Justin Eves Foundation, which will expand opportunities for our students to pursue their academic dreams,” says Dr. Melanie Spence-Ariemma, U of GH vice-provost and chief academic officer.

After nearly 30 years of supporting students with disabilities, the foundation itself has wound down its operations, but these scholarships offered by U of GH and U of G will continue in perpetuity due to the generosity and foresight of the Eves family.



Global Learning Opportunities

U of GH student researchers take a “life changing” trip to Japan to further the dialogue on nuclear disarmament

For students serving as research assistants (RAs) for U of GH’s Soka Education Research Centre on Global Citizenship (SERC-GC), lessons about nuclear disarmament and world peace – topics their research focuses on – took on a whole new life during their winter visit to Japan.

Ashnaa Narumathan, Deborah Gonzalez Bello, Nathania Ebebare, Linniah Williams, Beatrice Abiog and Julia Howe visited Tokyo, Osaka, and Hiroshima with SERC-GC Director/retired Community Social Services (CSS) Chair Dr. Paul Sherman and CSS Interim Chair Dr. Olivia Boukydis.

Students gained a first-hand understanding of the legacy of the 1945 atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, seeing how the nation continues to reflect and respond to these devastating events. As a part of the experience, the SERC-GC Research Assistants (RAs) also met in person with the high school students from Osaka-based Kansai Soka High School, with whom they had been collaborating virtually throughout the year through the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) initiative.

Throughout the academic year, SERC-GC RAs engage in monthly virtual exchanges with Kansai Soka students to explore themes of nuclear disarmament and global peace. They also meet bi-weekly on campus to research these topics deepening their understanding of these complex global issues. In fall 2024, the RAs presented their work at the Youth Nuclear Peace Summit in Winnipeg, sharing research on how nuclear disarmament and peace education could be addressed and meaningfully incorporated within Ontario school curriculum.

For many students, the opportunity to participate in this type of research and international collaboration is transformative. In fact, this work is one of the reasons Williams chose to apply to U of GH when she was a high school student.

Guelph–Humber students virtually collaborated with international universities to analyze U.S. election results in a competition

U of GH students joined peers from around the world to form a fictional government ministry to examine the global implications of the 2024 U.S. presidential election. As representatives of a newly imagined nation called *Atlantis* students analyzed how the historic election results might affect the country's policies, priorities and international relationships.

From November 4 – 7, 2024, U of GH students participated in *Project Atlantis*, a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) competition that brought together students from Avans University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, Dania Academy in Denmark, and St. John's University in the United States. Working virtually across time zones and political perspectives, teams were tasked with assessing real-world reactions to the U.S. election within their home countries. Their goal was to develop five policy recommendations to ensure that Atlantis remains prosperous, safe, and democratic.

The winning team included fourth year U of GH Media and Communication Studies (MCS) student Tori Wanzama.

The COIL competition also featured guest lecturers and notable experts, including John Northcott, host of CBC's World Report and U of GH MCS instructor Brigitte van den Berg, a member of European Union Parliament. These sessions provided students with deeper context on global media, diplomacy, and international political dynamics.

Beyond the academic challenge, *Project Atlantis* encouraged students to engage meaningfully with diverse political viewpoints in a respectful open-minded way. It also allowed students to gain a deeper insight of their teammates' cultures – an understanding that influenced how each group navigated tasks, decisions, and communications over the four-day experience.

"The Atlantis project gave our students a great opportunity to stretch their wings in real time – that is, as the 2024 U.S. election was unfolding, but I think the really valuable learning was in working with students around the world. Even 'simple' things like scheduling meetings is tough when you're working in multiple time zones, not to mention cultural and language differences. Now our students have a true sense of that as they head out into their careers."

– Kathy Uilyott, Chair, Media and Communication Studies

International Study Abroad Courses

Liberal Studies oversees the Spring/Summer Study Abroad courses each year, offering students the opportunity to step out of the traditional classroom and immerse themselves in diverse cultures. Participants choose from a range of courses offered in various countries, allowing them to tailor their experience to their academic interests while engaging with global perspectives. Students earn 0.5 academic credits while applying theoretical concepts in real-world settings, exploring new environments and forming meaningful connections

In 2024, a wide selection of courses was offered. In total, 91 students, 9 course directors and 9 administrators participated in programs that took them to Austria, France (Cote d’Azur and Paris), France & the Netherlands, Greece, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland & England, and Singapore & Bali.

Spotlight on the Study Abroad course in France (Cote d’Azur & Paris): La Bonne Vie – French Economy and Society

North American and European conceptions of the good life (“la bonne vie”) and of society differ in significant ways. Europeans generally place a higher value on leisure than on work and tend to support a greater role for government in the economy. This course explored those contrasts by taking students to France, where they examined the country’s recent history and several of its leading industries. These included the cultural, financial, gaming, tourism, entertainment, and wine sectors, with site visits in Paris, Nice, Cannes, Saint Tropez, Monaco, and Monte Carlo.

“The France 2024 study abroad trip changed my perspective on the world, especially as it was my first time outside Canada. Experiencing a new culture pushed me to adapt, gain independence, and embrace unfamiliar ways of life. The travel bug is contagious, and I would encourage anyone curious to take part in this amazing opportunity at GH.”

– Alisha Sattaur, Business
4th Year Student and 2025 Graduate



Unique to GH



CURIOUS ABOUT AI?

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All About AI Kahoot
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Demystifying artificial intelligence with Guelph-Humber's AI Hub

With the rapid advancement and expanding adoption of artificial intelligence, numerous myths and misconceptions continue to surface. At U of GH, a group has been working to ease concerns and build confidence around using these emerging tools.

The AI Hub was created to inform the school community about artificial intelligence, including novel applications, its ethical and responsible uses, and its practical implications for teaching, learning and daily work. Each session focused on a specific theme and offered opportunity for students, faculty and staff to ask questions and explore the technology. The AI Hub was led by founder Dr. Victoria Chen (U of GH Academic Technology Specialist), and two student research assistants (RAs), Ashnaa Narumathan and Siobhan O'Donoghue.

Throughout the academic year, work was done to create opportunities for instructors and staff to better understand AI, reduce misconceptions, and integrate authentic learning practices into their courses. Their efforts included interactive events, workshops and podcasts.

The RAs played an essential role, developing resources on AI for students, instructors, and staff while emphasizing principles of ethical, responsible and informed use.

"You can use AI properly and for good. You're not copying and pasting [generated] text out of AI; that's not what we're encouraging here. We're trying to encourage the ethical practices of using it because it's such a beneficial tool that we have in post-secondary nowadays. I just really hope that students learn how to properly use it and learn all the different abilities that AI has."

Siobhan O'Donoghue, fourth-year Media & Communication Studies student and RA



International Women’s Day: Celebrating female empowerment with 2nd-annual GH Women of Distinction event

U of GH’s second-annual GH Women of Distinction event held on March 6, 2025, celebrated exceptional female leaders in honour of International Women’s Day. Nominated by members of the Guelph-Humber community and then selected by a committee, these remarkable staff members, instructors, alumni, and students were recognized for the unique, positive, and meaningful contributions they have made.



Dr. Melanie Spence-Ariemma (Vice-Provost & Chief Academic Officer of the University of Guelph-Humber), and Dr. Ann Marie Vaughan (President & CEO of Humber Polytechnic), attended the event and delivered inspiring remarks. Both leaders reflected on the influential women in their lives as well as the male allies who helped shape and support their journeys.

Fourth-year Justice Studies student Naisha Suthaharan served as moderator for the two panel discussions. During these conversations, the 2025 Women of Distinction shared what motivates them, the lessons they have learned on their path to leadership, the ways they uplift others, and their visions for empowering future generations.

2025 GH Women of Distinction Recipients:

Ashnaa Narumathan

(fourth-year Kinesiology student)

Kelly Skinner

Staff Superintendent with the Toronto Police Service (Justice & Public Safety alum)

Dr. Laelie Snook

(Kinesiology instructor)

Sandra Fazio

(Alumni Advancement Coordinator)

Susan Thomas

(Department Head, Student Services)

Paulina Siczka

(second-year Psychology student)




Wellness@Work Grants – Guelph-Humber Initiatives

In alignment with the University of Guelph’s Wellness@Work Grant Program, and for the first time, the Office of the Vice-Provost allocated dedicated funds to support wellness grant initiatives specifically for the Guelph-Humber campus.

This grant program encouraged staff and instructors at U of GH to promote campus wellbeing by implementing initiatives that promote health and wellness.



**Wellness
@Work**



The 2024/2025 Wellness@Work Grant Recipients for Guelph-Humber were:

Discovering Optimal

Coordinated by Zena Cashmore, Program Support Coordinator in Media and Communication Studies, and Bobby Karmakar, Program Support Coordinator in Kinesiology, the Discovering Optimal workshop was led by Kinesiology instructor, Joseph Gibbons. The initiative was designed to increase the health, wellness, happiness, and sense of life fulfillment for its participants.

GH Staff Crochet Club

Coordinated by Brenley DiFranco, Academic Advisor, the GH Staff Crochet Club ran weekly on Wednesdays at lunch year-round. Crocheting provided a creative outlet for experienced crocheters or individuals who were interested in learning a new skill.

GH Book Club

Coordinated by Angelisa Hatfield, Information Officer, this initiative brought staff and instructors together once a month to engage in thoughtful discussions, share literary experiences, and promote a culture of continuous learning and connection.

Sunshine Therapy Dogs

Coordinated by John Bruyca, Acting Manager, Transitions & Engagement, and Zena Cashmore, Program Support Coordinator for Media and Communications Studies, this initiative had students work with a local charity, Sunshine Therapy Dogs, to have their dogs visit the Guelph-Humber campus to interact with students, faculty, and staff during high-stress periods.

Teaching and Learning Conference Bursary Recipients

U of GH instructors were invited to apply for a conference bursary to participate in one of two major teaching and learning conferences. Applicants could choose to attend either the Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching at the Taylor Institute (University of Calgary) or the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) conference held in Saskatchewan.

The purpose of this bursary was to support instructors in deepening their subject matter expertise in the scholarship of teaching and learning, while also encouraging the exploration of new ideas and innovations that would be brought back to enrich the U of GH academic community.

This year's recipients were Elaine Chan-Dow, an instructor in Media and Communication Studies, and Dr. Nalini Ramlal, an instructor in the Community Social Services and Psychology programs and in the Liberal Studies department. They were awarded the bursaries in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to enhancing teaching pedagogies, fostering fair and equitable access for all learners in the classroom and developing and culturally responsive teaching practices.



“My time at the STLHE conference afforded me the opportunity to better understand how to ethically integrate AI into our classrooms, further my implementation of diverse and inclusive teaching and learning strategies, and enhance my professional growth and communication within the academic community.”

- Dr. Nalini Ramlal, Instructor

“The University of Calgary Teaching Conference offered valuable insights into sustainable, inclusive, and accessible pedagogical and assessment approaches. I brought these ideas back into my teaching and integrated them into my Fall 2025 course syllabus to support more equitable student learning with favourable results.”

- Elaine Chan-Dow, Instructor



The First U of GH Retro Pop-up Shop

Held on campus for one day in March 2025, the first ever U of GH Retro Pop-up Shop was a resounding success. All students were invited to visit the shop in the Atrium and select two vintage U of GH-branded items – completely free of charge.

All the items were donated by U of GH's academic programs and administrative departments across the university. Each area contributed vintage university-branded merchandise that students could enjoy and put to good use. In doing this, the event also supported sustainability, by clearing out unused inventory and ensuring that all items were redistributed rather than left in storage.

Designed also to support student wellness in the lead-up to final exams, the Retro Pop-up Shop provided a break from studying. Students browsed more than 800 donated items, selecting everything from hoodies and tote bags to coffee mugs and umbrellas.

Remarkably, every one of the 800+ items was claimed within just a few hours – a clear sign of the event popularity and impact.





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