



Powering Possibilities:

A Year of Giving & Growth at Huron





At Huron, we believe education is not merely about acquiring knowledge – it's about developing Leaders with Heart, students with character, who are committed to making a difference. Attending Huron equips a student to think critically, act ethically, and lead with compassion.

But this transformative experience is only possible through the generosity of those who believe in the power of education to change lives. Your generosity fuels scholarships, innovative programs, and global opportunities that open doors for students from all backgrounds. It is an investment not just in young people and their potential, but in the future of our communities, businesses, and governments.

In this report you will read of some exciting and inspiring acts of generosity that play a key role in advancing the mission of Huron, and my challenge to our students to be Leaders with Heart. Together, through education and philanthropy, we can shape future leaders and a stronger nation.

Barry Craig

Dr. Barry Craig
President & Vice-Chancellor
Huron University

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BY THE NUMBERS

\$6.3M

Total amount of student support given by Huron in the 24/25 academic year

2,094

Total number of students in our campus community

1,028

Total number of scholarships, awards, and bursaries given out

Only 10%

of Huron's budget is supported by government grants. Donor and community support is more instrumental than ever in supporting students today

DID YOU KNOW?

**476 Huron
students**

(nearly 23%) accessed
financial support this academic year



Paying it Forward to Help 'Brilliant People Achieve Their Dreams'

Judy Chang '94 has never forgotten the Huron scholarship she received. The thought that someone cared enough to help her left an indelible impact on her life.

"While I certainly benefitted from the scholarship financially, it wasn't necessarily the amount, but the weight that came with that," says Judy. "This inspired me and motivated me to give back".

Judy shares that she spent her formative education years in Canada. "I wanted to give back to the country I received such a wonderful education from," she says.

Judy says that her Huron Scholars' Electives degree provided her with a broad education to achieve her dreams. As an immigration attorney, she helps people every day, but says she knew she wanted to do more to ensure other Huron students achieve their goals. By directing her generous support to Huron's scholarship offerings, Judy is helping the university grow its student aid program at a time when more students are interested in coming to Huron than ever before.

"With my scholarship fund, I get to help real people and that is very meaningful. I get to be part of their journey. I help brilliant people achieve their dreams."

JUDY CHANG '94



CELEBRATING

ANDREW AZIZ '83



Giving Back in More Ways Than One

Andrew explains he wanted to give back to Huron in a way that he felt would help both now, and in the future. While already a member of the Board of Governors, Andrew established an unrestricted fund which could be directed towards Huron's highest priority needs. Thus, The Betsy and Andrew Aziz President's Discretionary Fund was born.

Unrestricted funds, explains Andrew, have a two-pronged success strategy. "Personally, I like that it's operational in nature and that it also provides long-term financial stability for the institution. Ensuring Huron has a large endowment is a game-changer for eliminating worry for covering operating costs."

Andrew says giving back is different for everyone, but he has found what works for him. "Volunteering is figuring out where you can make a meaningful contribution. I like to give of my time and also financially; while I know my financial contribution isn't huge, it is meaningful."

MOIRA BURKE '80 AND LARRY BRENNAN



Education is Life Changing for Those Who Can Access It

That's the belief of Moira Burke '80 and her husband, Larry Brennan. Each received financial support in the form of grants and loans when attending university which made all the difference. "I wouldn't have been able to attend otherwise," Moira shares bluntly.

The philanthropic couple say they have been very fortunate in their lives, and they wished to pay it forward. "It's our turn now," says Larry. "What goes around comes around." To that end, the couple established the Moira Burke & Larry Brennan Internship Fund for Governance, Leadership & Ethics (GLE) Students and The Moira Burke and Larry Brennan Bursary.

Why these two particular funds? "Back in the day it was fairly easy to get entry-level jobs and be able to train on the job but that's now changed. The GLE fund will offer students the opportunity to get their foot-in-the door," says Larry.

As for establishing a bursary, "it's about affording opportunities for those who may not otherwise get in," says Moira. "The bursary is an extension of our commitment to education," adds Larry.

"We asked ourselves how can we be effective," says Moira. "We don't have millions of dollars but what attracted us was that we know there are individual students at the end of the gift."

YOUR STORIES

A Legacy of Gratitude and Giving

Dr. Don Melady '81 made his first donation exactly ten years post-graduation and hasn't stopped giving since.

"As soon as I got a full-time job, I felt it was important I started contributing," he says. Don, an emergency physician at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, says that he firmly believes generosity changes lives.

"I received the Colonel Ibbotson Leonard Scholarship which paid for all of my tuition and three-quarters of my residence fees. I was a farm kid, the last of 8 kids to leave high school, and there certainly wasn't much money around," remembers Don.

Receiving that scholarship and graduating without debt enabled him to teach abroad, attend medical school, and then proceed with a specialization, he says. It's also what made him determined to pay it forward.

"Financial support allows students to make smart, informed decisions. Not only does this benefit the students themselves, but ultimately, benefits society as well."

Don's story is a powerful reminder that annual giving adds up to something extraordinary. It sustains scholarships, supports innovation, and ensures that future generations of students can access the same life-changing opportunities he did.

DON MELADY '81



TWO TRANSFORMATIVE DONATIONS FROM THE HURON COMMUNITY

THE FAIRFAX CENTRE FOR FREE ENTERPRISE



The Impact of a \$10 Million Investment

In February 2025, Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited committed \$10 million dollars to establish The Fairfax Centre for Free Enterprise. As Huron President, Dr. Barry Craig, says, "We believe (our students) can both be successful in their chosen careers and contribute to the creation of a better world for others. This new Centre will help inspire our students and promote the value of entrepreneurship for all of Canada."

For Prem Watsa, Chairman and CEO of Fairfax, helping students succeed is close to his heart, as he arrived in Canada from India over five decades ago as a student with only \$8 dollars to his name. Helping students prosper and giving them the tools they need is part of the Fairfax mission to give back to Canada.

"We believe that Huron University can help lead a revival of the entrepreneurial spirit that is key to our shared future," says Mr. Watsa. "With the creation of the Fairfax Centre for Free Enterprise at Huron University, we are making a statement: that we believe in Canada, and that it can be the land of opportunity for everyone, and that the free enterprise system

that has helped to make the country what it is today should be recognized, maintained and cultivated for the benefit of all Canadians. "

Staying true to Huron's Leaders with Heart mission, the Centre will foster a community that is aware of the connection between economic growth and social progress and the vision, philosophies and values essential to the success of private enterprises in Canada and the free market system. The centre will:

- Drive student-focused programming with an outward facing view to foster communication and collaboration between business, academia, and government
- Offer new funding for related scholarly activity
- Support scholarships for students pursuing a related area of study
- Host think tanks, summits, and other events
- Provide mentorship and incubator / accelerator support for students' entrepreneurial concepts
- Foster discussion and the sharing of free enterprise perspectives

A \$5 Million Academic Enrichment Initiative

Shortly after the transformative gift from Fairfax Financial Holdings, The Schulich Foundation, one of Canada's largest foundations focused on higher-ed philanthropy, graciously committed a \$5 million donation to create the *Nation Builder Program*, an academic enrichment initiative to help Huron students understand how Canada really works through access to experts and prestigious internship opportunities, new courses, and co-curricular workshops and activities.

"This generous gift from the Schulich Foundation endorses our mission to educate pragmatic, thoughtful future leaders, and, in doing so, aligns with our vision to help build a stronger country," says Dr. Craig. "This program is going to broaden views and open doors by offering exceptional learning and networking opportunities, thereby

enriching students' understanding of economic, political and civic life."

Helping students succeed while also ensuring the nation's – and the world's – future leaders are ones with business acumen and heart, was what inspired The Schulich Foundation's gift.

"We are proud to partner with Huron University, a leading liberal arts institution," said Judy Schulich, President of The Schulich Foundation. "We see a tremendous opportunity with the Nation Builder Program to help develop analytical, pragmatic and driven leaders who will make great contributions to improve our national productivity and prosperity."

The prestigious Nation Builder Program and elements of the exciting new Fairfax Centre for Free Enterprise will launch in September 2025.



Page 6 (clockwise):

1) Huron students at the Fairfax gift celebration 2) Huron Chancellor and Fairfax Chairman & CEO, Prem Watsa 3) President Barry Craig

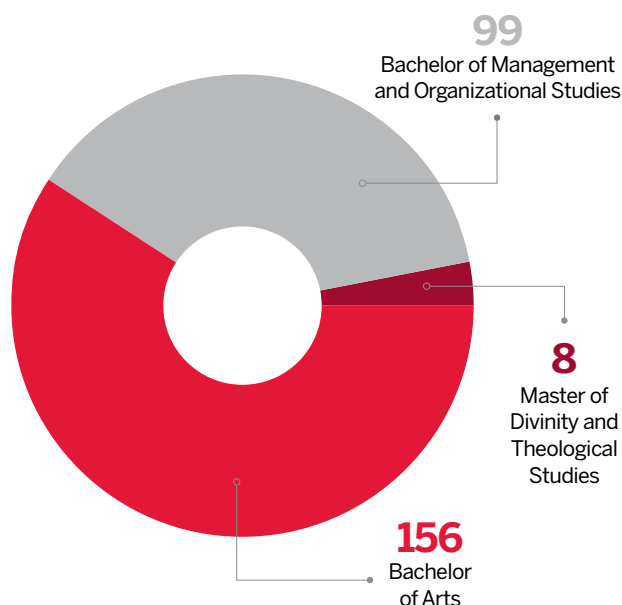
Page 7 (clockwise):

1. (left to right) Huron's Chief Advancement Officer Jeff Wright and President Barry Craig with The Schulich Foundation's Judy Schulich, David Stein, and David Goodman
2) Vice President & Executive Director of the Schulich Foundation, David Goodman, chats with Huron Faculty members at the Nation Builder gift announcement
3) Judy Schulich listens to President Barry Craig's remarks

MEET THE CLASS OF 2025!

With pride and admiration, we celebrate the extraordinary Class of 2025 – resilient, compassionate, and driven Leaders with Heart who have left an indelible mark on our campus and community. They are now stepping boldly into the world with the courage to lead, the vision to inspire, and the power to transform the future for the better.

As we wish the Class of 2025 well on their next chapter, we are preparing to welcome 750 new first year students to Huron this fall — the largest intake in the history of Huron.



Total graduates
263

International
48

Domestic
215

2024 ALUMNI AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

Each year, the Alumni Awards of Distinction shine a spotlight on the extraordinary accomplishments of our graduates. Chosen by Huron's Alumni Association Board following a community nomination process, these honours celebrate bold leadership, meaningful impact, and the enduring spirit of Huron's alumni community. **Congratulations to our winners!**



Natalie Biderman '03
The Alumni Award of Distinction



Jaxson Khan '15
Young Alumni Award of Distinction



Dr. Don Melady '81
The Beverley Paterson Wood Alumni Award of Distinction

A GLIMPSE INSIDE **BURNLEA DINING HALL**



CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE? **CHECK.**
WOOD-FIRED PIZZA OVEN INSTALLED? **CHECK.**
COFFEE MAKERS AT THE READY? **CHECK.**

When so much of our time is spent online, welcoming and inspiring spaces matter more than ever. In January 2025, Huron's new dining hall, located in the recently unveiled Burnlea Residence, officially opened its doors to hungry students, staff, and faculty.

The space is designed to welcome 350 people at a time and boasts expanded dining options, including double the serving stations, a larger salad bar, along with a state-of-the-art kitchen. A range of dietary requirements can be accommodated, and sustainability is at the forefront with enhancements such as a composting station off the main dining room.

The dining hall was designed not just with nourishment in mind, but also with the intention of fostering community and friendship.

"Building relationships and community has always been central to the Huron experience," says Steve Prisco '95, President & CEO of Aramark Canada, which owns Brown's Fine Food Services, Huron's food service provider. "From the old Refectory to the new Dining Hall, that tradition continues. Today, Leaders with Heart gather in a vibrant space to build meaningful relationships that last a lifetime."

WINTER SEMESTER 24/25

Over
4,000
lbs of chicken

4,120
lbs of bananas

14,688
portions of tofu

Over
85,000
slices of pizza

Over
200,000
cups of coffee

PHILANTHROPY: SUSTAINING OUR MISSION TOGETHER

Philanthropy plays an important role in Huron's mission to develop Leaders with Heart. This includes endowed gifts, which are strategically invested in a professionally managed, diversified portfolio to provide long-term, sustainable support for Huron and our students.

Huron is fortunate to steward over 261 endowed funds in support of student scholarships, awards and bursaries, and other initiatives across diverse areas of the University. Distributions from endowed funds are reviewed annually and are currently calculated using a 4% payout (plus fees) based on a five-year rolling average of the endowment capital balance. We are grateful to those donors and community members who continue to invest in our students —and the University's future — through endowed gifts.

Total pledges and gifts raised in the 24/25 fiscal year:

\$15,654,813

\$7,523,058.75

Endowed

\$8,033,444.98

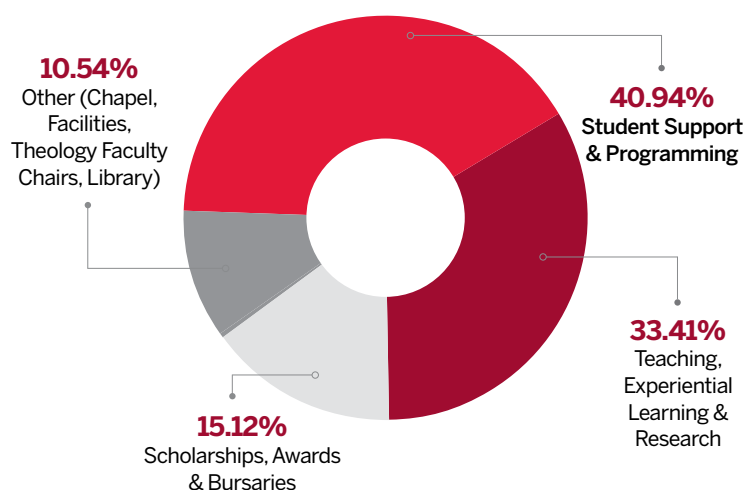
Expendable

359

Total Number of donors

While endowed funds provide lasting support for future generations, expendable gifts offer immediate, flexible funding that directly addresses students' most urgent needs today. These one-time contributions are essential to fueling our mission.

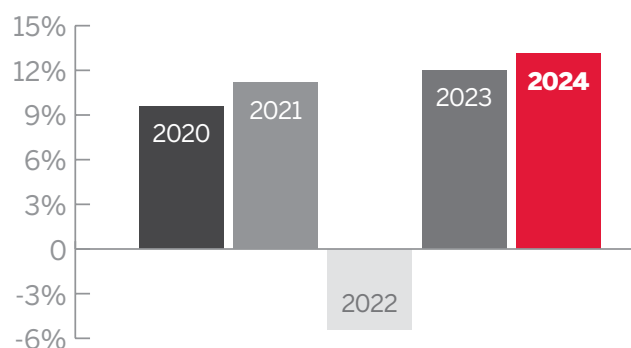
Actual dollars in, actual impact out— here's how \$5,175,819 in cash received this year breaks down:



2024 Endowment Market Value:

\$21,106,911

Investment Returns over the last 5 years:



THE IMPACT OF THE **GIFT OF TIME:**

Our mission is made stronger every day by the incredible generosity of our volunteers. Their time, energy, and unwavering commitment help bring our mission to life in countless ways. We are profoundly grateful to every individual who chooses to give back — your generosity strengthens our community and inspires lasting impact. **Thank you!**

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. Barry Craig | **PRESIDENT & VICE CHANCELLOR**

Prem Watsa | **CHANCELLOR**

Brian Porter | **CHAIR**

Yola Ventresca '02

Leigh Allen '92

Andrew Aziz '83

Jane Caskey '91

Catherine Claydon '86

Al Donald '80

Susan Farrow '85

Suzanne Fleming '90

Caleb James Hayhoe '85

Frank Holmes '78

Michael Medline '84, D.D (h.c.) '19

Jason Melbourne

Melinda Rogers-Hixon

Chelsea Smith '11

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd Townshend

'92, D.D (h.c.) '22

Andy H. Truong

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Dr. Barry Craig

Prem Watsa

Caleb James Hayhoe '85

Frank Holmes '78

Andrew Aziz '83

Jane Caskey '91

Darren Rough

Richard McLaren D.D (h.c.) '17

Erica Willick

Jeff Wright

Peter Furlan

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION (US)

Grant Beggs | '96 **PRESIDENT**

Michael Whiteside '92

Jon Webster '00

Erica Willick | **TREASURER**

HURON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Chelsea Smith | '11 **PRESIDENT**

Trevor Sookraj | '20 **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Emily Addison '16

Grant Beggs '96

The Rev. Dr. Grayhame Bowcott '08, '10

Katy Boychuk '10

Vern Fernandes '86

Sherry Freund '85

Curtis Jenken '17

Natalie Pierce '14

Laura Ross '85

Drew Sussman '17

The Rev. Andra Townshend O'Neill '18



Connect with us!

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Inspired by what you've seen?
Support our mission with a simple scan:

